

School years up to Senior (1984)



While I pursued mathematics and physics at tertiary level, I loved technical drawing at school and in year 12 received the school's 1984 graphics (geometrical and perspective drawing) award. As a school student I also dabbled in art and calligraphy, and at age 14 undertook an (external-to-school) weekend art course with a school friend artist. My sketch to the left, which is my version of a master (as one undertakes when learning),



is from that art class and was published in our school's 1982 year book. My only remaining water colour is shown below, I painted this in 1998, mostly on site and then completed at home as one does. While I enjoyed art and graphics, the decision to follow a mathematical career path was the correct decision, also facilitated at the time by winning a Certificate of Distinction in the Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards as a year 12 student.

The mathematical pathway decision was probably also facilitated by my year 10 work experience placement at the

old Queensland Museum near the Ekka. It was still operating as a museum then and my allocated duty was to catalogue artefacts of the Pandora ship wreck, so it was a very enjoyable/interesting placement.



I mainly focused on studies and working at home rather than sport – there was always much to do around home living on an acreage with my Father growing small crops (aside from his main work) as well as building our house (we lived in a shed that my Father built for a few years during this time). The main sporting gong received over my schooling was captaining the school B soccer team in grade 7 (the pendent is still on a wall at my parents' house as per most Families) and possibly in one or more other years as well, since I recall one year there being a deliberation of either going in the B soccer team photo as Captain or in the A soccer team photo as reserve. Regrettably, since I was mostly friends with the B crowd, the latter was decided upon.



My Sister Jeannie-Maree was the best teacher I had (a brilliant Chemistry teacher for all of her career) – was never home schooled, just mean that she helped me a lot. Brother Joachim was an inspirational Senior school teacher and friend in later life. While it is sadly now revealed that the memories of some Brothers are now tainted, Brother Joachim is from my experience an exception – a good and Holy soul of untarnished reputation who played a major role in the establishment of the San Miguel Family Centre for troubled Families in NSW. Brother Joachim was one of the early heart transplant recipients at St.Vincent’s Hospital and he carried out

amazing charity and fundraising works, sometimes recruiting the help of “old boys” such as Andrew Ettingshausen, Brian Brown, Roy & H.G (one of), etc. The photos of Brother



Joachim and I here were taken in 1994 (left, at a school-associated reunion) and 1996 (right, at the San Miguel Family Centre). Brother Joachim was an avid Canterbury (rugby league) fan and I was a Cronulla supporter (more so at school before the introduction of Queensland teams to the National competition) so we often had friendly related jibes.

The photo here shows senior school year best mates (Ryan on left and Victor on right) and I on the Redcliffe Peninsular (Margate), with other best mate Mic unfortunately not shown (simply due to my lack of photos from the period).

