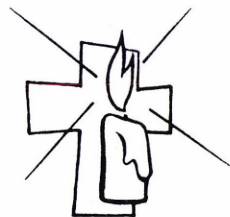


BRO. PAUL HANNABERY

(1943-1984)



DON BOSCO
715 Sydney Road
BRUNSWICK, VIC. 3056



The Brunswick community wishes to share with you its sorrow at the death of a much-loved confrere, and its joy at his entry into heaven.

We had celebrated Holy Week and Easter in an atmosphere of great joy, taking part in the Holy Thursday Liturgy with the many confreres gathered at Lysterfield, and the rest in our parish church of St. Margaret Mary's. Our community does not have the luxury of being able to be all together very frequently, but Easter Sunday saw us all gathered around the festive table in a delightful atmosphere of peace and joy.

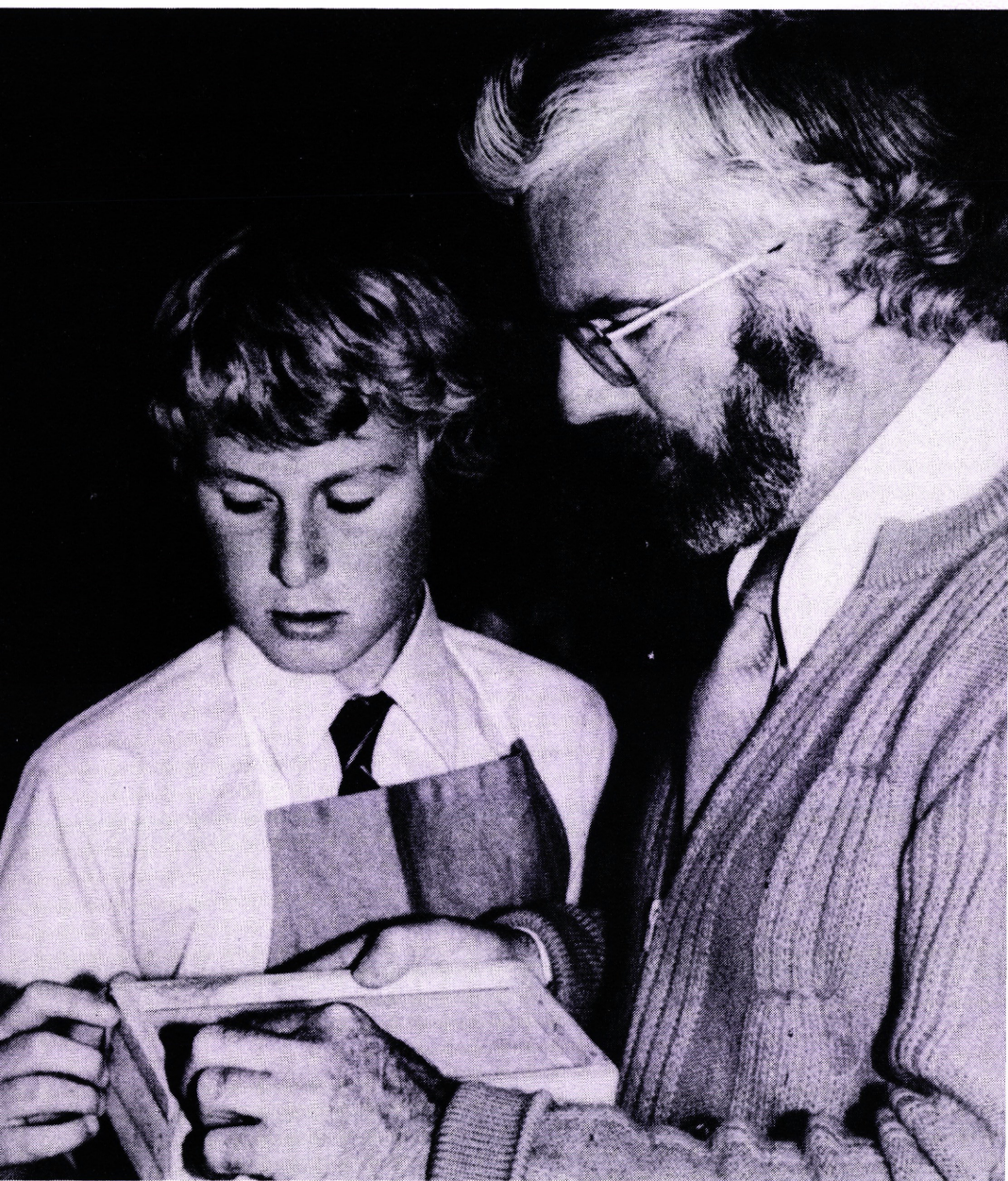
On the evening of the following day, various confreres had called into Paul's office as he prepared to post to Glenorchy the photographs he had taken of the recent Tasmanian Schools' Head-of-the-River, which he had attended, and in which his beloved rowers had performed so well.

Father Rector chatted with Paul in his office from 9.45 to 10.30 p.m., when Paul went to carry out the usual routine of locking up. He then rejoined Father Rector in the community lounge, where they watched the football replay. They exchanged occasional comments. Suddenly, Father Ledda heard a gasping, gurgling sound. Paul collapsed, and despite the efforts of confreres and ambulance men, one of whom was passing the door, he gave no further sign of recognition. He died of cardiac arrest surrounded by all the confreres who live at Don Bosco.

It is difficult to describe the sense of shock and sudden loss.

In the few months he had been at Brunswick, Paul had earned the affection and respect of all, both for what he was doing, and for what he was striving mightily to do, against what he saw as great odds.

Paul's humility was very real, and he was over-awed at the task he had been given, Bursar and Hostel Co-ordinator. He was anxious to honour the trust that had been placed in him. He feared he was not equal to it. In particular, he was afraid he might place his Rector in a position of having to step in, when he might not be able to cope.



Bruv was one of those rare people who could make and retain friendships with seemingly effortless ease . . .

The College celebrated the life of this great man in the Chapel soon after his death. The huge crowd that gathered was made up of teachers, parents, old scholars, present students and the Dominican and Salesian Communities.

During that special Mass the warm and moving atmosphere was a reflection of the gathered people's feeling towards the man who only spent a short time on this earth but really made his presence felt in his unobtrusive way.

Truly a man of presence! It is striking how in every written tribute, Paul's availability and readiness to serve are especially mentioned.

Between his term at Dominic and his appointment to Brunswick, Paul spent a year of renewal with our theology community at Oakleigh, a time he enjoyed very much. There, he made a substantial contribution to the revamped Salesian Bulletin. It was the Rector of that house, Father Frank Moloney, who, as Acting Provincial, presided over Paul's requiem in a packed Sunbury chapel, and preached so eloquently of Paul's witness to human and religious values. The presence of parents, students and confreres from Glenorchy was a moving tribute to his 'golden years' there.

It is, however, a salutary thought that the year of renewal Paul spent at Oakleigh, intended as it was to launch him into new apostolic endeavours, was in fact his 'Exercise for a Happy Death'. Indeed, God moves in mysterious ways!

Nonetheless, our faith prompts us to pray for the forgiveness of his sins. We do so with great confidence: as one confrere wrote, he will enjoy the forgiveness of One who has loved much.

Paul Hannabery's life centered about those basic Salesian virtues of presence, joy, work, temperance, humility, trust. May the shock of his sudden going help us to learn the lessons of his life.

The Community of Brunswick.

BROTHER PAUL D. HANNABERY SDB

Born:	21 October, 1943
Professed:	31 January, 1962
Perpetual profession:	31 January, 1968
Died:	23 April, 1984

At no time did this self-distrust show itself in regret or criticism. On the contrary, he quickly gained the respect and affection of the Hostel residents. He was open and relaxed with his community. He was generous with his time, and showed his concern for the needs of all, be it the getting of some small object for a confrere, or attending to the very real wants of the many needy people of the area. Just days before he died, a young woman, cruelly rejected by her parents, whom the community had been helping with food and counsel, asked Paul to 'give her away' at her forthcoming wedding. It was a rare tribute, and Paul's typical reaction was to enquire from one of the priests as to what responsibilities he might assume in carrying out this act of charity.

He was a man of genuine humility. He was aware of his limitations, and longed to do more. When death took him, he was growing daily in the mastery of his duties. In fact, he was already achieving far more than he was giving himself credit for.

Paul Debney Hannabery was born on October 21st, 1943, of a solid Catholic family, in the Melbourne suburb of Essendon, cradle of so many vocations to the priesthood and religious life. He was educated locally by the Sisters of Charity and the Christian Brothers. His older brother Noel was already a Salesian and Paul too was attracted to our life; after a year's aspirantate, he entered the Novitiate at Oakleigh in 1960, making his first profession on the Feast of St. John Bosco, 1961.

After teacher training and further technical studies, he spent a year teaching at Sunbury, and then four years at Brooklyn Park. Then followed twelve years at Dominic College in Hobart, Tasmania. It is with this community and this school that Paul was most strongly identified, and where he spent half of his years in religion. It was to this community and school he returned providentially only days before his death, a visit which, though short, gave him much happiness because of the achievement of Dominic in the Schools' Head-of-the-River.

At Glenorchy, Paul was known affectionately as 'Bruv'. He enjoyed the enviable reputation of knowing every student by name. Writing about him, a senior student of the College pays him a tribute of which any Salesian would be proud:

He was always around to give a helping hand, and whatever sport was being played, 'Bruv' was there; rain, hail or shine to cheer and give his support. His students, too, knew he would assist them freely in his own time if they had any difficulties . . .

The College rowers would remember Bro. Paul for the unceasing encouragement and coaching he gave to build up the sport to the standard that has been achieved this year . . .



Bro. Paul with woodwork
students at Dominic College,
Glenorchy.

