

De La Salle Secondary School Bomana



Caribou Crash

48th Commemoration

On this 48th anniversary the school gathered in the new Assembly Shelter at 11am for a simple but moving ceremony. The students of 10 Raphael led the customary daily devotion before the Principal, Brother Antony Swamy fsc, welcomed all, including the special guests: Cardinal Sir John Ribat (Catholic Archbishop of Port Moresby), the two surviving cadets (Mr Joe Fraghi, Rev Patrick Gau), Commander Peter Philip (Training Commandant, Bomana Police Training College), Lt Colonel Jo-

seph Reu (SO1 Protocol Officer HQPNGDF), Mrs. Maureen Duang (De La Salle Secondary Board Chairperson), Mr Vincent Tapungu (Police Forensic Officer and De La Salle Secondary Board Member), Brother John Pill fsc (Principal, Hohola Technical College), Ms Grace Wrakia (National Lasallian Family Coordinator), Mr Michael Eluh (PNG Lasallian Alumni Chairman), Mr Simon Siki (De La Salle Alumni Chairman), Mr Stanley Nahua (Boroko Motors Service Manager).



Lt Colonel Joseph Reu paying respect.

Next was the turn of the students who gave stirring renditions of the national anthems of Australia and Papua New Guinea followed by a recitation of the national pledge. Simultaneously the flags of PNG and Australia were raised, together with the 24 Provincial flags, a strikingly colourful salute!

On behalf of himself and Rev Patrick Gau (the two remaining survivors), Mr Joe Fraghi stepped forward and shared his memories of that fateful day 48 years ago, of gathering what resources they had and go in search of a clearing where they might attract the attention of a search party. Miraculously on the fourth day they were spotted and a rescue was mounted.

Unfortunately, one died of his injuries the next day but the other four boys recovered and lived healthy lives until just a few years ago when two died. Joe urged the students to appreciate God's gift of life and to do their best for themselves, their families and the school.

The guest party then moved, flanked by an honour guard of Grade 12 students, to the Caribou Crash Monument where wreaths were laid and a moment of silence was observed.



Two Survivors saluting in front of the monument after laying their wreaths.



Blessing of Water.

In the second part of the day's ceremony Cardinal Sir John Ribat blessed the renovated school chapel. This work was begun by a group of sixteen Year 12 students and four staff from De La Salle College Malvern in November last year and was completed on time for this day by a capable team led by Mr Rasty. Strategically positioned by the entrance gate and set in a well-tended garden, the Chapel will become an even more beautiful worship space.

The guest party returned to the assembly stage for the final part of the day's service while the students sang the school song. Brother John explained the significance of what was about to happen, the presentation of the MOU Certificate being a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between De La Salle Secondary School and the Lasallian Mission Council (LMC), a body responsible to assist Lasallian works throughout the

ANZPPNG District be true to their identity and notable in their effectiveness.

Thanks to all, especially Brother Thomas and the Special Events Committee, for an impressive ceremony which gave prominence to a piece of history that is unique to De La Salle Bomana, a memory which dares the students and staff of today to always live the school motto – for God and Country!



Presentation of MOU

