

Michael Howard (LC 1965) writes in about a trip he and three other classmates made to see **Br Lionel Charlton** in December last year (Br Lionel was at the school from 1960 to 1966):

'I had heard from Brother Norman that Brother Lionel had recently moved from Brisbane down to a Marist Brothers Retirement Centre at Campbelltown. 2015 being 50 years since our 1965 LC, I thought it more than timely to try to catch up with Lionel. His teaching had always been an abiding and invigorating memory - chalk flying off the blackboard, as he drove us through maths and physics concepts and equations, fresh from a a midnight-to-4am stint on the UNSW IBM computer (his Masters in Chemistry on 'crystals!'), and this after the usual long labour the day before.

I asked **Tom Pinzone** along and he told me: "I came up from Victoria at the beginning of 1964, I had never studied Physics and Chemistry. Lionel gave up Saturday mornings in 1964 to bring me up to speed; without his help, I would never have passed the 4th Year exams". I also asked **Luigi Genua** and got the same reaction: "Lionel persuaded me to do Maths1 Honours. I didn't get Honours but the extra marks I did obtain just got me over the line into Medicine at Sydney Uni". Tom and Luigi went on to long and successful careers in Engineering and Medicine. We three were also readily joined by **Michael O'Leary**, another with a long post-school career in engineering.

We journeyed down to Campbelltown for afternoon tea and found a very fitting location for what was to follow, overlooking the Campbelltown plain. We found Lionel a bit slowed down physically but in all other ways quite undimmed. We learnt of his demanding but creative role as Deputy Director of the Queensland Board of Senior Secondary School Studies. In charge of overseeing and moderating school-based matriculation assessment in the 1980s and '90s. We also learnt of his post-retirement forays into China, Cambodia and the Philippines helping out with teaching of English as a second language and diverse practical projects. Lionel told us too, a little of his early period as an industrial chemist prior to joining the Brothers.

For me, the dynamic and imposing intellectual sharpness was familiar but the sense of humanity and engagement with many levels of the world was an extra dimension. For Michael O'Leary, it was "an emotional afternoon, with four 'old boys' thoroughly enjoying the company and anecdotes of Br Lionel, just as we had done, as pimply faced students, some fifty years earlier. I want to pay tribute to such a dedicated and excellent teacher who also taught us a strong work ethic". For **Luigi Genua**, the afternoon "brought back to me his great teaching skills".

I think we all found it a compelling experience, underlining to us just our fortunate we had been to have figures like Lionel at a pivotal time in our education'.