De La Salle College
389 Port Hacking Road,
Caringbah
P.O. BOX 185
PHONE 524-9163

8th April 69.

To whom it may concern.

7th Dec. 1941. St. Bernard's Merriwa ST. officially opened. - Pearl Harbour Day.

7th Dec 1947. (1) Junior College" Clairvaux"- to house primary boarders plus day-pupils from around the area was completed on the present site. [built to contain 80 resident students 4th grade to 6th grade. poor facilities - due to finance and war-time restrictions]

(2) Pre Clairvaux days - a number of houses ... "Coughlins" - staff quarters in De La Salle days at rear of building. Also with this house were a number of fowl-house runs on the approximate site of the present building. The other - Bros. staff room was wrecked in the new buildings by the dept.

(3) The stone work and grotto is the work of a retired Brother - one Bro. Silverius R.I.P. - a former stonemason before joining the Congregation in Ireland. He shaped and rolled into position every stone on the property. The retaining wall at the rear of the building

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is his pride and joy. Brother at this time was in his late 60's. He died in the Katoomba Hospital - 4th May 1964. and is buried in the Brothers cemetry at Castle Hill. N.S.W.

(4) The concrete road from the main gate - Golf Links entrance, to the lower gate - Scenic Railway is the work of the trainee brothers over a Christmas period in 1950. The storm waters were excessive and drains had to be constructed under the present buildings to carry away seepage prior to the somewhat shaped road just below the Scenic Drive at the back of the main bilding

(5) The swimming pool is "historic" - a Lithgow contractor - Mr. Brown built it and five springs feed the water supply - This supply dwindled later on due to the Council sewerage pipe line interfering with the natural spring flow. To Mr. Brown's credit this was observed by him and for years adequate water poured into

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the well to be pumped into the pool.
Later on it was pointed out by
the Council that the "pool" was in the
centre of two roads - they had
approved the project now the error
was noted Ficus and acacia Streets
join in the centre of the pool.
To preserve the baths, land had to be
exchanged and an auxiliary drainage
system - a pipe line had to be
financed by the Brothers along the
edge of Violet Street. Later decisions
of the Crown Law Dept. showed that
this expense was not the burden of
the Brothers but there the matter was
allowed to rest.

(6) The Oval area was a natural
drainage system - covered with
blackberry briars, but bulldozers,
an early use of them at the time,
plus blasting gave the area as is
available now. The goal posts

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disappeared after the closure and must have been extremely difficult to remove as they had purposely been well and truely cemented into position by me against this happening. They are now at the "Academy" Lithgow — a De La Salle day school.

I The name "Clairvaux" over the main gates is a natural after the Merriwa property. The Mountains probably suggested to the founders ST. Bernards .... due to the climate, mist and snow experienced by St. Bernard himself and old monk of very much pre-reformation days who lived in 1090. This St. Bernard founded his first Monastery and called it Clairvaux and he is buried there having died in 1153.

The College Motto was the

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same at St. Bernard's college as the junior residents and day pupils naturally looked to Morrowa ST for the completion of their education and they took part in all sporting activities as the junior section of S.B.C.

The Motto or watch word, was Sola Nobilitas Virtus. virtue or manliness only is noble. i.e be a man. or other simpler meanings.

S. I'm indeed pleased to learn that at last boys are living in the Clairvaux area as I've always felt it is an ideal spot for a School - bush, views, space, everything for healthy youngsters. God bless you and your workers in this great endeavour-

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educating boys for Australia and the future. I trust the enclosure is an outline of what you wanted. Should I ever be able to help do not hesitate to ask as a great part of myself is still in Clairvaux.

Yours faithfully,

Brother Leo Beasley F.S.C. J.P.

Principal