

31 August 2018



THE
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Dear Old Collegian

Many of you will be aware that our Loud Fence Installation Ceremony was held in the College Chapel on 3 March 2018. The ceremony was attended by approximately 50 people and publicly addressed, and offered an unreserved apology for, the school's failure to adequately protect past students who were the victims of abuse while in our care.

You may have also recently received the June 2018 edition of Ad Astra which includes transcripts of some of the speeches made at the ceremony. Copies of the speeches can be accessed at <http://www.geelongcollege.vic.edu.au/community/our-community/community-correspondence> if you have not had an opportunity to read them.

Some of the speakers at the ceremony are survivors of sexual abuse perpetrated against them while they were students at our school; they provide a very powerful voice for others who were harmed. The Principal, Dr Peter Miller, spoke of the school's current efforts to educate students, staff and the broader community in ways to keep our present and future students safe. Our independent facilitator, Pauline Ryan, who also spoke at the service, observed that it may in some instances take many years for the victims of past abuse to come forward and tell us of their experience.

Through our Reach Out program, and since the Loud Fence Installation Ceremony in March, new concerns have been brought to light which originate from the early days of co-education at the College. These concerns primarily relate to the behaviour of some former male members of Senior School teaching staff who engaged in inappropriate relationships with some female Senior School students.

We apologise unreservedly to those who were directly affected and harmed by these events. We also recognise the wider impact on other members of the school community who may have witnessed, or otherwise been distressed by, them.

The school stands ready and willing to provide support and assistance to all Old Collegians affected by instances of serious misconduct by members of staff against students in the past. We encourage those affected to contact our independent facilitator, Pauline Ryan on 1800 260 038. Alternatively, anyone with concerns is encouraged to communicate with the school through Dr Miller or with the Geelong Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) who can be contacted on (03) 52468101.

Dr Hugh Seward
Chairman of Council

Dr Peter Miller
Principal

Ms Thane Joske
President OGCA

*Old Collegians were emailed correspondence on Friday 31 August. If you did not receive these emails, please update your details with us at: communityrelations@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

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