THE GEELONG COLLEGE

Ad Astra

Issue No 146 | **July 2024**

50 YEARS of Co-Education - Stories of Change -

Stories of Change

The Geelong College through the decades

From the Editor

Welcome to this special edition of Ad Astra, where we commemorate 50 years of co-education at our school. We hope you enjoy the articles that reflect on these past five decades and the profound stories of change they hold.

The decision to embrace co-education, led by then-Principal Peter Thwaites and supported by the College Council, was a pivotal moment seen with foresight towards the future. Even our youngest learners, when asked about the school's past, express surprise that there was a time when girls were not part of our community.

In his reflections, Council Chair, Richard Page draws parallels between our school's evolution and broader societal changes at the time.

Interviews with our inaugural and current boarders underscore how traditions and values continue to define the boarding experience in a close-knit community. While times have changed, the essence of boarding remains the same.

The OGCA Committee invites nominations for the OGCA Notables Gallery, housed in the historic 1872 entrance. Currently, 16 women are represented for their extraordinary achievements. Details on how to nominate candidates for the 2025 induction can be found in this edition. Additionally, they also extend an invitation to celebrate our co-education milestone at a Gala Event on Saturday 7 September.

As our school continues to evolve, we eagerly anticipate the official opening of the new Belerren Sport and Wellbeing Centre on 26 July. This brings with it much excitement as we look forward to the next 50 years of educating our young people. In closing, we congratulate Angus Widdicombe, who will proudly represent Australia in rowing as stroke of the VIII at the Paris Olympics.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating this landmark milestone. Here's to continued growth, learning, and achievement in the decades ahead.

Mike Howell

Director of Community Relations

Editorial Team

Emma Chandler
Mike Howell
Nicole Roache
Niki Nurnaitis

Contributors

Jon Anderson
Tessa Bahen
Barwon Drone Photography
Julie Bickett
Brad Carr
Scott Chirnside
Mardi Deller-Pugh
Leanne Earl
Jeremy Edwards
Caroline Fairlie
Bruce Harwood
Sally Hawkins
Annabelle Hutchings
Vivienne Lewis
Kylie Mackey
Hugh Mason
Helena Metzke
Peter Miller
Suzanne Mockridge
Nathan Morton
Stuart Olsen
Richard Page
Meg Read Photography
Richard Kumnick Photography
Zephyr Seignior
Rod Slattery
Sally Stanford
Caroline Stok
Caroline Stok
Iain Wallace
Kellie Winters
Sondra Wolfenden
Claire Wood
Andrew Wood

COVER IMAGE: The first day of co-education. Students Jo Mallick (nee Chisholm) and Catherine Black being greeted by teacher, Joan Sweetman, on their first day of school in 1974.

Ad Astra

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Image: Jenny George with the 1974 Foundation class

It is no easy feat to keep 163 years of history curated and catalogued and accessible. We recognise our Archivist, Caroline Stok for her continued efforts, and especially for gathering the information for our 'Stories of Change'. Credit, too, must be given to our former Archivist, Con Lannan for his invaluable contributions during his time here. Caroline and Con's work enables us to know, and be able to share, our College story.

50 YEARS of Co-Education
-Stories of Change-

Stories of Change

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR
& CAROLINE STOK, ARCHIVIST

In celebrating 50 years of Co-Education, we also celebrate our many "Stories of Change," reflecting on the remarkable journey our College has taken over the past five decades.

From embracing diversity and fostering social change, to enhancing facilities and evolving the curriculum - the College has continually adapted to meet the needs of our community.

The following pages feature some of the most significant milestones from each decade. We celebrate these stories of change and growth, and as we look to the future, look forward to continuing to set a progressive path for generations to come.

We hope you enjoy these stories. It will be a trip down memory lane for some, and an opportunity to learn more about the College for others.

Watch online

Take a look at our new video 'The Stories of Change: Celebrating 50 Years of Co-Education' - a touching depiction of our rich history, as told through personal narratives and symbolic imagery.

Scan the QR code or visit:
bit.ly/TGC50years

In the year we became 'co-ed'

PROF. RICHARD PAGE, CHAIR OF COUNCIL

This year marks 50 years of co-education at The Geelong College, an anniversary to celebrate as a milestone for diversity. To understand the significance of this for the school and the community at the time, it is worth considering what was happening 50 years ago in a social context.

In 1974, hairstyles were long, the Whitlam Government was just re-elected, and the number one music hits in Australia that year included The Rolling Stones (Angie), Grahame Bond (Farewell Aunty Jack), Terry Jacks (Seasons in the Sun). To top it off, ABBA won Eurovision.

Pop culture covered Beatlemania, flower power and disco, on the big screen were 'The Godfather Part II' (winner of the Academy Awards' Best Picture), 'Chinatown' and Mel Brooks' 'Blazing Saddles'. A young author named Stephen King released his debut book, Carrie, and the Rubik's Cube was invented.

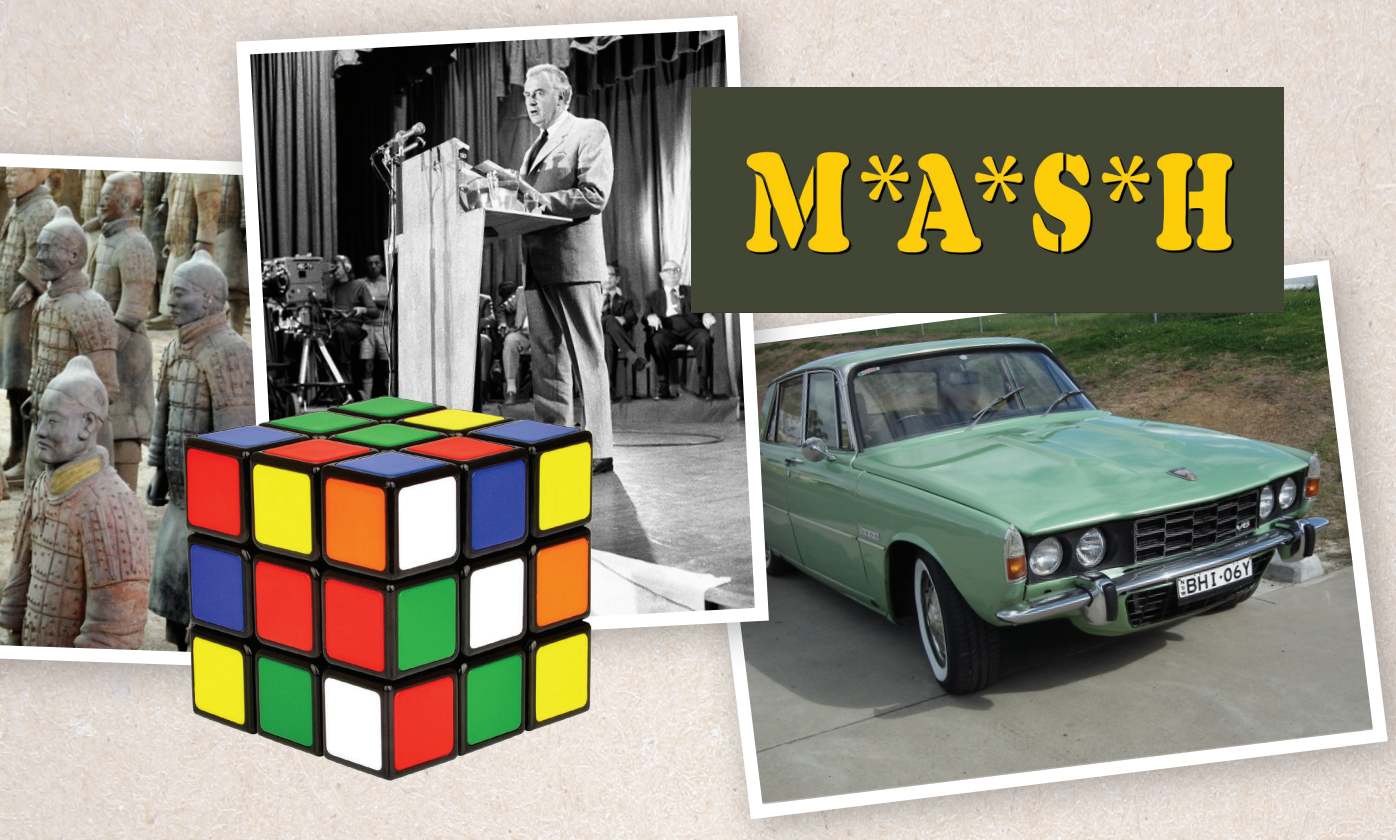
Outside of entertainment news, Richard Nixon became the first US President to resign following the Watergate affair, the Terracotta Warriors were discovered in Xian, China and the fossil of one of the oldest known humans, an Australopithecus afarensis specimen nicknamed 'Lucy,' was found in Ethiopia.

For the sports fans: Australia drew with Chile in the World Cup, Evonne Goolagong overcame sweltering heat and Chris Evert to pull off an inspiring victory to win the Australian Open and Richmond beat North Melbourne in the VFL Grand Final.

I think you will agree that 1974 seems a long time ago (though: hands up, those of you who remember it!). The 70s were a time of great change, and much has changed again in the years since.

But while all of this was occurring in the wider world, big changes were also underway at The Geelong College. Under the leadership of then-Principal, Mr Peter Thwaites, and with the support of the College Council, it had been determined that the school would become co-educational. Initially, we accepted enrolments from girls from Prep (now 'Foundation') and Year 1, 2 and 3.

In February 1974, four girls made history as they began their educational journey at Campbell House. They were followed by another three girls later that same year. Enrolment was extended to



girls at all year levels from February the following year.

To become co-educational was a big, bold decision given the long history of the College as a standout boarding school for boys. However, it was a necessary decision, enabling the school to achieve a social balance, reflecting the social changes in the wider society. The increase in student numbers also enabled the College to expand upon the available liberal education offerings.

As a school community, we benefit from the vision of those who came before us. A decision that may have seemed 'bold' at the time has since become the new normal.

From a personal perspective, a dinner table poll one night at home has confirmed this. Each member of my family reported that they significantly appreciate the positive, balanced educational experience the College offers today, and found it difficult to imagine this same experience being possible without co-education. The strength of lifelong friendships (for students and parents alike) was noted, as were the benefits of the wonderful balance we have across the gender spectrum.

From a College Council perspective, it is my hope that we may continue to advance the College's legacy by paying forward and contributing to the rich evolution of education and opportunity.

As the Greek proverb goes – 'a society grows great when we plant trees whose shade we may not personally benefit from'.

This leads me to our most recent College 'tree'. It grew from a seed planted a number of years ago, has now grown to maturity and is about to bear fruit: the amazing sport and wellbeing centre, Belerren, due to open next term.

Our entire College community played a role in bringing this project to reality and deep gratitude must go to all those involved. Designed by John Wardle Architects, constructed by Bernie Henry's team at Lyons Construction, and overseen by the College's Project Manager, Brad Carr - the result is something we can all take a great deal of pride in.

Acknowledgement, too, must be given to those who supported Belerren's funding. The Belerren Campaign Committee, headed up by Dr Hugh Seward, provided a great deal of support to Campaign Manager Peter Moran and his team at the College's Community Relations, as Peter led the campaign to reach a most ambitious fundraising target. Of course, this target could not have been reached without the support of the wider College community, whose generous contributions made the construction of Belerren possible.

Together, we have delivered a generational asset that will be enjoyed by all who pass through the gates of The Geelong College for many, many years to come. How appropriate, too, that the first teams to enjoy these world-class courts and playing surfaces will be both girls and boys - the perfect way to celebrate our 50 years of co-education.

‘Change’ in a College context

DR PETER MILLER, PRINCIPAL

As we celebrate 50 years of co-education, I would like to take a moment to consider ‘change’ in the context of the College’s identity and purpose.

For over 160 years now, The Geelong College has been firmly established as more than simply ‘a school in Geelong’. The strong place we hold within the Geelong community, and the abundance of connections we have created beyond the bounds of our city mean we are more accurately described as ‘a Geelong school’ or a ‘school from Geelong’.

A small distinction, but an important one. It conveys the importance of the place we hold in our city, and the responsibility we have as a result - something not necessarily expected of other schools located in Geelong.

We are not solely an academic institution.

The footing for the College’s direction was laid at the time of our foundation in 1861. The original ambitions were clear: The Geelong College was to be a place to educate young boys of Geelong so they might be aspirational in their goals, good citizens and productive in their endeavours. These ambitions guided the school’s direction in its early days and have remained throughout our evolution.

This only serves to demonstrate the robust resilience of our founding principles - we have a cornerstone so strong that we can adapt and grow without losing our direction. At the heart of our Stories of Change, the core elements of College embedded in our organisational DNA have prevailed.

We have continued the same steadfast commitment to educating our students that we started with 160

"As a College, we have greatly enjoyed exploring our more recent history in preparation for these celebrations. So numerous were the stories we unearthed that it was not possible to give a voice to them all. However, I hope you enjoy the 'snapshot' of College life over the past 50 years that we offer in this edition of Ad Astra."

- Dr Peter Miller, Principal

years ago, fostering a love of learning, a sense of social responsibility and aspiration. In speaking with our current students, it is clear that we are succeeding. Their strong sense of collective aspiration and engagement are clear - both of which are products of these values.

However, this is not to say that The Geelong College is the same place it was over 160 years ago. The ways in which our relevance and presentation are enacted have changed and evolved greatly since 1861, as they will continue to do into the future.

As you turn (or scroll) the pages of Ad Astra, you will see many examples of the extraordinary opportunities we are able to offer today: in creative and performing arts, curriculum, sport and social groups within College. Experiences, both academic and co-curricular, that shape a student's development. The breadth of options on offer, while still informed by our core elements, has expanded greatly over time - a further reflection of our commitment to our students.

The founding ambitions of the College have been expanded upon and inform our published values: Integrity with Compassion, Community with Diversity, Aspiration with Humility, Respect with Grace and Endeavour with Courage.

At each step, our evolution has been influenced by wider societal changes; it is also a reflection of these changes. An accurate example of our fifth value (Endeavour with Courage) was the move to co-education in 1974. A bold step by the College Council, it was a decision made with a clear view to the future. It ensured the ongoing relevance of College to our community and also facilitated further opportunities for evolution.

The Geelong College was not alone, with a number of other single-gendered schools also exploring the possibility of co-education in the mid-1970s. However, the College was among the first in Australia to bring the change into action. Once again, leading the way with courage and conviction.

The Geelong College we know today is a result of this decision 50 years ago, and many other developments that have followed. Our College is a place where our young people can thrive as they live, learn and grow together. It is a more diverse and very rich place, full of life and energy. It is, in fact, a sunny place.

As you read through this edition of Ad Astra I hope you enjoy exploring the Stories of Change from the most recent 50 years of our history. I hope, too, that you can get a sense of the enduring essence that guides us. I think we have struck a wonderful balance - a school able to grow and evolve with time, able to remain relevant and serve our community, whilst being guided by the original founding values that prevail at our heart.

1970s

Number of students: 737

Principal: Dr Peter Thwaites (1960-1975)

In 2024 we celebrate 50 years of co-education and the stories of change that mark this time.

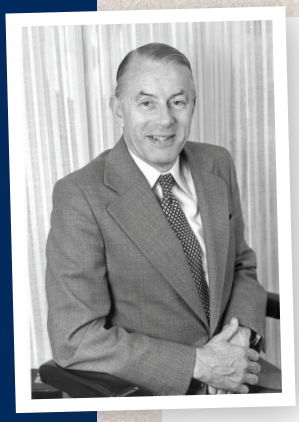
In the years leading up to 1974 the College wrestled with its future. The decision to become co-educational alongside societal changes triggered a new era for the College.

Soon after the arrival of co-education the school welcomed a new Principal as well as new developments in curriculum, boarding and facilities.

CO-EDUCATION

Welcom

In 1974 the College opened its doors to girls for the first time, with five girls enrolled at Campbell House. They were joined by two more during the year.



"I am convinced that it is high time, in the educational field, as in every other aspect of life, for men and women , boys and girls, to learn to live and work together in mutual respect and co-operation; for neither can achieve full stature without the other"

Dr Peter Thwaites Principal, 1975

CO-EDUCATION

Girls, girl, girls

There was much excitement amongst the Preparatory School boys when co-education was announced. Above are the reactions of then-Year 2 students (OGC 1984): Warwick Burnell, Gregory Fagg, David Traynor, A. Hastings, Rory McLeod & Daryl Woods

Pegasus 1973

Undoubtedly, after one hundred and thirteen years the decision to enrol girls is partly related to financial considerations. Primarily, though, the move to co-education should be seen as a positive contribution to the growth of the College. While the College has, in the past, boasted a range of interests and activities, the introduction of the fairer sex should see even more diversity.

Pegasus 1974

Today the rate of change of society is so rapid that social patterns lack stability. Young adults need every stabilizing influence that may assist them through their formative years. Any divisions of society complicates this requirement for steadiness.

The school experience of boys and girls, male and female staff, together seeking each other's opinions, together interchanging ideas and theories must inevitably make for a more satisfied and stable community.

ing our first girls

The first girls of The Geelong College, 1975

Meanwhile, in wider Australia:

1974
Ruth Dobson was Australia's first female ambassador.

1975
Colour television & FM radio introduced.

Racial Discrimination and Family Law Act introduced.

1975
Dame Margaret Guilfoyle was the first female Federal Cabinet Minister.

1975
Vietnam War ended.

1972
The Whitlam Government ruled that women should receive equal pay.

1976
The Aboriginal Land Rights Act was established.

1979
Women won the right for paid maternity leave.

CO-EDUCATION

Co-education College-wide

In 1975, co-education expanded to the whole school, from Prep to Year 6. At the end of the year the College recorded its first female Old Collegians, with three girls completing their high school education.

In future years, 1975 will be remembered as the year in which girls were first admitted into the College at all levels. To me, the most notable feature of this occurrence was the ease with which it was achieved. The girls were immediately accepted into all aspects of College life.

- Brad Fenner (OGC 1972), College Captain 1975

Top: The first girls of the Preparatory School (Foundation to Year 8), 1975
Bottom: The first girls of Senior School (Year 9 to Year 12), 1975

1970s

CO-EDUCATION

Firsts for our girls at College

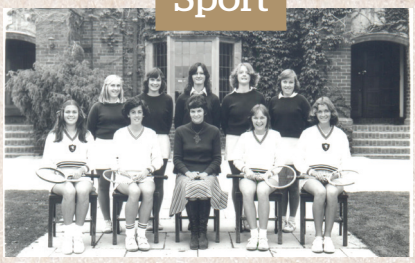
As the 70s progressed, there were many 'firsts' for the girls at College.

The first female Prefects were appointed and girls sporting teams were created.

New sports were also added to the College's co-curricular activities, including softball, netball and girls teams added to sports such as tennis, rowing and hockey.

New subjects, too, were added to the curriculum, including: home economics, jazz ballet and Australian studies. and boarding for girls formally commenced in 1976 when fourteen girls ranging in age from 11 to 17 were accommodated in the main school block.

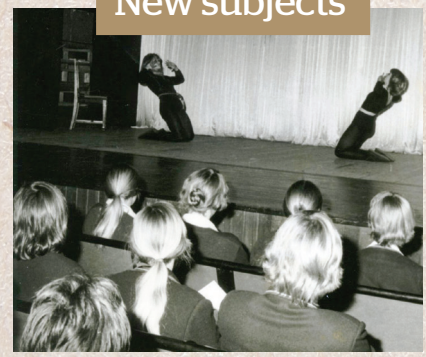
Sport



Boarding

Images: (left) Jazz ballet 1978; (middle) Girls' tennis,1976; cross country, 1979; Girls' netball, 1978; Girls' softball, 1976. (right) The first boarding girls, 1976.

New subjects



GIRLS' SPORT, PEGASUS 1975

In sport , the girls have joined with the boys in interschool swimming, tennis and hockey teams as well as participating in their own programmes.They have enjoyed social games of tennis, netball and baseball with girls from Sacred Heart College, Morongo and the Geelong Grammar School...and have entered a team in an Inter-School Athletics carnival at Corio.

The changing roles of gender

Boys began participating in traditionally female-dominated subjects like home economics, and girls explored typically male-dominated subjects such as woodworking. The change promoted a culture of gender equality and encouraged students to pursue diverse interests beyond traditional gender roles.

HOME ECONOMICS REPORT PEGASUS 1977

"What are you doing this year?"
"Teaching at the Geelong College."
"That's nice - what subject?"
"Home Economics."
"Oh of course, there are girls at the College now aren't there?"
"Yes, but we also have boys in the Home Economics Group."
"Good! Boys need to learn to cook these days too!"

- Robin Hindson, Teacher

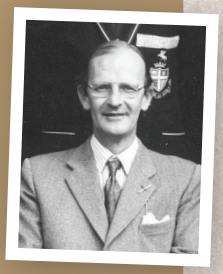
WOODWORK REPORT PEGASUS 1977

Many students have produced excellent work, and I must commend the girls, particularly those coming in for the first time at form IV level.

- Rob Wells, teacher

LEADERSHIP

A new principal



Peter Gebhardt took on the role of Principal in 1976. During his tenure he established the Environment Centre at the Preparatory School, and the Austin Gray Centre at Senior School.

"He came at a time of great change in the politics and direction of education, the role of the Church in the School, the expectations of society and the considerable stress placed on many parents to continue to financially support the independent school system. He addressed each of these changes with strength and understanding."

- Trevor Neal, Chairman Parents & Friends Association, Pegasus 1985

FACILITIES

'The Enviro'

The Environment Centre, affectionately known as 'the enviro', was estabilised in 1977. The purpose for the centre was to provide opportunities for young children, especially those who came from the cities, to experience the growing and caring for plants first hand."

Mr Harbison salvaged materials for cages and parents donated animals and feed. Every Friday Mr. Harbison would sell to parents, in the car park, the vegetables, fiuit and eggs produced in the Centre, to feed the growing number of animals.

- Prep School Pegasus 1984

CO-EDUCATION

Return to Campbell House

To celebrate 50 years of co-education, we invited the first girls of 1974 back to College for a tour of the Junior School, and took the opportunity to interview them about their memories. In a stroke of luck, they were also able to reach out to their teacher of 1974, Mrs Jenny George, who also joined them. For fun, we decided to re-inact two historic images. The well-known image you will see on the front of this edition: Students, Jo Mallick (nee Chisholm) and Catherine Black, being greeted by teacher, Joan Sweetman, on their first day of school in 1974. As Joan sadly passed away in 2013 (aged 94 years) the 2024 version sees our former 'first girls' being greeted by teacher, Tom Chisholm (The great nephew of Joan Sweetman, and nephew of Jo Mallick).

1974

2024

1974

2024

The image of teacher, Jenny George, reading a book to the first co-educational class at The Geelong College. The 2024 version sees her reading to a group which consisted of our 'first girls' and some of our Year 1 students.

Look out for the December edition of Ad Astra, where you will find an in-depth feature of the experiences of five of our first girls.

1970s

HOUSE NEWS

Changes to the House system

With boarders previously assigned to either Mackie or Warrinn House groups, 1975 saw a major change to the House system. Coles and Wettenhall Houses were added and Mackie and Warrinn. Going forward, this would see a combination of boarders and day students in each House. Coles won the Nigel Boyes Inter-House Athletics trophy for the first time in 1978. Pictured are John Watson and Liza Richardon holding the cup.

CURRICULUM

Girls as Cadets

Girls joined the Cadets Corp for the first time in 1975, the last year of government funding for the program. The Cadets were disbanded in 1976, having been a part of life at the College since 1885.

FACILITIES

As the College grew in numbers, expansion was also required to the facilities.

1973

The second iteration of the George Morrison Memorial Library opened

1976

The relocation of Warrinn Dorm annex building to Campbell House

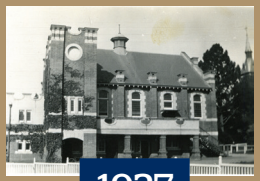
1970

Stuart Laidlaw

The Stuart Laidlaw Memorial Swimming Pool opened

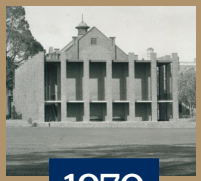
The pool was donated by the parents of Stuart Laidlaw, a student at the Preparatory School from 1969 to March 1970.

The many faces of Morrison Hall



1927

1964



1970

Stage II of Morrison Hall refurbishment, completed in 1970.

ALUMNI

Our first female Old Collegians: Debra Trembath, Terri Powell and Gillian Opie (OGC 1975)

Female Old Collegians

The move to co-education caused the Old Geelong Collegians' Association (OGCA) constitution to be changed at the 1976 annual meeting to provide for female members.

Past students were no longer known as 'Old Boys', and the term 'Old Collegians' was adopted.

Teacher, Pat Wood, was made an honorary member to accompany any of the eligible female Old Collegians at the annual dinner.

In 1979 Kirsty Elliott and Vicki Law were the first female committee members.

Pat Wood - our first female teacher at Senior School

Staff Librarian, 'Pat' Wood, joined the staff of the College in 1959 as a part-time Librarian in the George Morrison Library.

BOARDING

Mixed-gender boarding

Right: The newly-constructed Mossgiel boarding units. Below: The Mossgiel boarding cohort, 1978

Despite student numbers increasing, boarding numbers decreased in the 1970s (an Australia-wide trend).

Rolland House, home to our Preparatory boarders, was re-purposed into much-needed classrooms and the remaining boarders moved to other boarding houses.

The new Mossgiel House boarding units were opened in 1975 to house male students, and became mixed-gender boarding from 1977 until 1987.

SPORT

"The girls' top four made history by becoming the first girls crew to row in the male-dominated Scotch-Mercantile and Junior Regattas."
- Pegasus 1975 Rowing Report

Girls' Rowing

In the early years of girls rowing, opportunities to compete were few, so the girls often rowed against other boys' crews.

"The 1st IV girls crew entered in the school fours at the Scotch Mercs Regatta. As they raced to the finishing line the commentator had difficulty overcoming an attack of speechlessness when he saw that the College crew were girls and were forcing the boys from St Patrick's College, Ballarat, to a close finish. The College girls rowed against boys at APS Junior Regatta as there were no other girl's crews entered. "

- Jim Ferguson in his book: 'No Passengers and the Will to Win

Highlights from the early years:

- 1977 "the girl's 1st crew were the only cup winners at the 'Scotch Mercantile Regatta', including the boys, and we also received cups in the 'Henley Regatta'."
- 1978 "The 1st IV had their most successful season yet. We managed to take away first places in Finals in all six regattas, except the Barwon Regatta. But the most pleasing result of our efforts was being raised to the rank of Senior 'B' Four, opening up a new field of events and competition."

- Mandy Lees (OGC 1978), Pegasus 1978

The girls certainly made their mark in the boat sheds this year - in more ways than one! We have broken the school record for the most number of oars broken in one season (and) we put a lovely big hole in the side of our most-prized boat, the 'Catherine Gray'.

- Penny King (OGC 1977), Pegasus 1977

1980s

Number of students: 1013

Principal: Peter Gebhardt (1976 to 1985)
Paul Sheahan (1986–1995)

By the 1980s the College had begun to settle into its new identity as a co-educational school. The girls achieve more 'firsts' and school life continued to evolve.

BOARDING

ROWING

The first girls' Head of the River win

1981 saw the first girls Head of the River race won by The Geelong College. This success continued, with the team winning four Head of the River titles in the 1980s.

"The girls' desire to succeed has become an integral part of the Boat Club and one which extends from the junior crews right through to the senior ranks."
Jodie Henderson Pegasus 1983

The winning crew: Tracey Smith, Diana Hale, Sue Mulligan, cox Louise Monotti (on shoulders), Ursula Read and coach Anne Chirnside

Mossgiel became a girls-only boarding house

As female student numbers increased, 1987 saw the end of mixed gender boarding. Mossgiel became exclusively a girls' boarding house, with 45 boarders in residence. This change was celebrated by the girls, as seen in this tongue-in-cheek Boarding House report from the 1987 Pegasus.

"Eleven years after girls first began boarding at The Geelong College, we have finally achieved the numbers to fill Mossgiel without the help of immigrants from Mackie. The eradication of the male species from within our small community caused this year to be full of new experiences for all."
- Nicole Hobday (OGC 1987)

Other boarding news:

- Having been discontinued in previous years, boarding was reintroduced for Year 7-8 students
- We welcomed our first overseas boarders in the late 1980s

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

More firsts for girls at College

In 1981, Sarah Henderson (OGC 1981) became the first female College Captain, and Elizabeth Lomas (OGC 1981) was named as our first female Dux.

Sarah Henderson

Elizabeth Lomas

"I think the school and its people have achieved the final stages of integration. Co-education is an expansion that has demanded flexibility, tolerance, and adaptability."

- Sarah Henderson 1981 Valedictory (Pegasus)

CURRICULUM

Greater options for students

As the College evolved, so did the curricular and extracurricular activities. New and expanded subjects at the Preparatory School included Computer Studies, Community and Religious Education, French, Indigenous Education and Environmental Science.

At Senior School, in 1987 Current Affairs became a compulsory Year 12 subject, Religious Studies were added to the core Year 9 and 10 units, the Department of Business Studies was created in 1986, and House of Guilds activities became units of study.

Environmental Science students in 1983

Meanwhile, in wider Australia:

1980
Debbie Wardley becomes Australia's first female pilot to take to the skies.

Women are allowed to join surf clubs as full members.

1983
Devastating bushfires in south-east Australia with 71 people killed in 'Ash Wednesday' fires.

1984
'Advance Australia Fair became Australia's National Anthem.

1988
New Parliament House opened in Canberra.

1989
Fall of Berlin Wall.

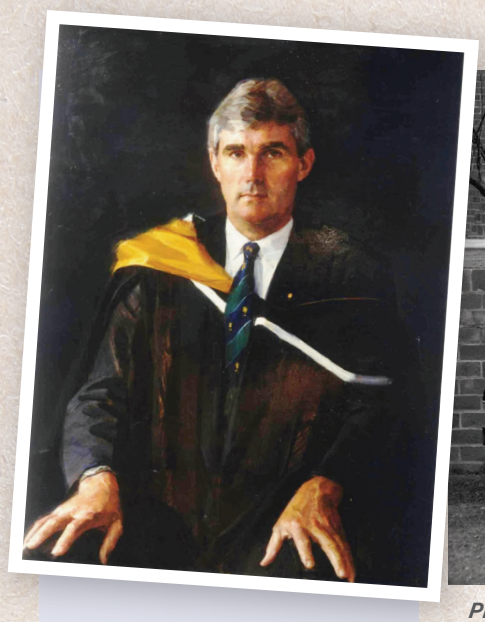
1989
Rosemary Follett first Chief Minister of the ACT became first female head of government of an Australian State or Territory.

HOUSE NEWS

McLean & Keith Houses

The growing student population saw two new Houses added to Senior School, with McLean joining in 1980 and Keith in 1981.

1980s



Principal Paul Sheahan with the 1986 Prefect group.

A new principal

Past student and former Australian cricketer Paul Sheahan (OGC 1959) was appointed Principal of the College in 1986.

"On returning to the College he had known as a boy, Mr Sheahan was pleased to find it keeping pace with the times. He has expressed admiration for the work of his predecessor and will endeavour to maintain a vigorous pursuit of excellence in every department. While seeking high standardS of academic performance, he will also encourage less able students to persevere with their work. And all, in everything they do, should be guided into an attitude of caring towards one another and the rest of the world."

- Ad Astra June 1986

Paul Sheahan in his student days, 1964

MUSIC

The Concert Band & Symphony Orchestra became permanent features

Pictured:
1989 Symphony Orchestra

1988 first international tour to China

During the Term 2 school holidays, 26 students embarked on an 18-day cultural tour of China. By all accounts, it was an eye-opening experience.

"Our first destination was Beijing. This city was like nothing we had seen before; it stretched as far as the eye could see in all directions."
- Katharine Tarr (OGC 1988)

BOARDING

We welcomed eight students from South-East Asia.

Pictured left to right: Andy Lau, Hong Kong (HK); Nain Ismail, Kuala Lumpur; Eileen Wong, HK; Diana Ng HK; Chinglyna Chan, HK; William Chan, HK; Gilbert Yu, HK; and Neal Varghese, Brunei.

The Geelong College Foundation Committee 1989

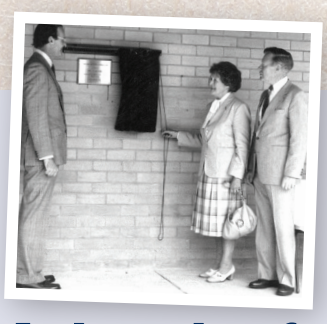
PHILANTHROPY

The Geelong College Foundation

In 1987 The Geelong College Foundation was established, with Geoffrey Betts as President from 1987-1989. Its purpose is stated as being: to preserve, develop and secure the future of the College by assisting Council through raising funds other than by fees.

THE GEELONG COLLEGE FOUNDATION

FACILITIES



A decade of growth for the College

1981
The 'Ian Watson Gymnasium' constructed at the Preparatory School opened.

1984
Stage 2 of 'Rolland Centre' including basketball and squash courts opened by Senator Susan Ryan, Federal Minister for Education. Stage 2 was constructed on the south side of Stage 1.

1989
Joan Sweetman Room (multipurpose) opened.

1989
Performing Arts/Music Centre erected at the Preparatory School.

Above: The opening of the Ian Watson Gymnasium

Sir Zelman Cowan (centre) at the Austin Gray Centre Opening, 1980

Pottery at the Austin Gray Centre, 1982

1980 Austin Gray Centre opened

Located on the Senior School campus, the Centre is a group of buildings, one of which used to house the first Preparatory School (1921 to 1959).

Named after principal benefactor, and former College student, Alexander Austin Gray (OGC 1916), the Centre was renovated and extended before being opened by the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen in 1980.

1989 College Chapel opened

The Chapel was opened in 1989 by Sir Ronald Wilson, then President of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Situated on the north-east corner of the Senior School campus, the original building was constructed in 1936 as the House of Music. Its refurbishment and extension was completed by architects, McGlashan Everist, who enlarged the original building. Such was the level of attention paid to matching the bricks, slate roof and other details, it is difficult to detect the old from the new elements of the building.

1990s

Number of students: 1246

Principal: Paul Sheahan (1986–1995)
Dr Pauline Turner (1996–2012)

The co-educational experience continued to flourish in the 1990s with new technologies, facilities and co-curricular activities enriching the College community.

LEADERSHIP

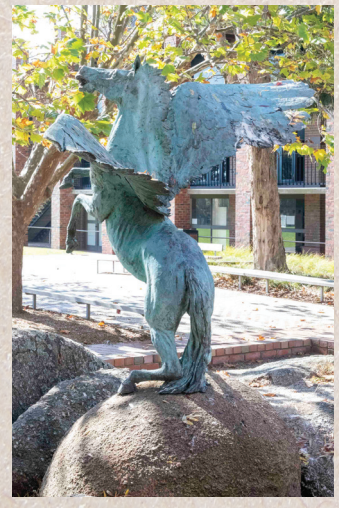
The first female principal in an APS school

Dr Pauline Turner commenced as Principal in 1996, becoming the first female Principal of an Associated Public Schools of Victoria (APS) School.

Introducing
our 10th principal

"I believe that co-education makes of education itself a much more desirable, vital and invigorating experience ... There is no doubt in my mind as to the level of contentment to be found within co-educational schools: they are happier and more balanced communities in general."

- Dr Pauline Turner, Ad Astra April 1996



PHILANTHROPHY

Pegasus took flight in Helicon Place

The large bronze statue of Pegasus with wings outspread about to take to the air from the rocky surface of Mount Helicon is located at the Senior School campus in Helicon Place.

It was funded and presented to the College by the Betts, Gray, Nall, Rogers and Wettenhall families in 1995 and unveiled by Dr Norman Wettenhall (OGC 1929).

The granite rocks are from the You Yangs and were generously provided by David Hume and his family, including Annie Young.

Donors at the 'Pegasus' unveiling Ceremony, 1995.

CURRICULUM

High-tech student laptops arrived

The 1990s saw the gradual introduction of laptops for learning, beginning with students in Years 8 and 11.

"Our students are demonstrating great ease with the new technology and the curriculum they are studying is undergoing fundamental and creative transformation through new software applications and new techniques of learning, particularly at Year 8 level."

- Dr Pauline Turner, Pegasus 1998

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Co-Captains

In 1998, the College's Captaincy model changed to appoint two Co-Captains and two Co-Vice-Captains. This allowed a boy and girl to share each role equally.

Dana Ryan (OGC 1998) and Lachlan McCallum (OGC 1998) were appointed the first joint Captains of the school.

1998 Co-Captain, Dana Ryan

Meanwhile, in wider Australia:

1990
Tim Berners-Lee publishes the first website, describing the 'World Wide Web' project.

1990
Carmen Lawrence became, in Western Australia, the first female Premier of an Australian State.

1991
The first female State Governor, Dame Roma Mitchell, was appointed in South Australia.

1992
High Court delivers Mabo decision which rules that indigenous native title exists.

1994
First access to Internet for general public.

The Human Rights (Sexual Conduct) Act 1994 formally legalised homosexuality across Australia, overriding state laws.

1999
Republic referendum failed.

EARLY LEARNING

1995 Early Learning began

The Early Learning Centre opened in 1995 under the direction of Andrée Fitzgerald, replacing the College Kindergarten which had been a part of Campbell House since 1962 and part of the College since 1929.

Initially expecting twenty students, the College community's enthusiastic response saw 49 students enrol, necessitating changes to the original building plans to increase the centre's size.

One big difference you might notice in the photos - our Early Learners originally did not wear the College uniform.

"Early childhood education is an education in its own right. It is not merely a preparation for school. Diverse and significant learning takes place during your child's pre-school education. At the Early Learning Centre we believe that during this stage, play should be central to opportunities for the major areas of developmental learning."

- Director of Early Learning, Andrée Fitzgerald, Ad Astra 1999

Andrée Fitzgerald, Director of Early Learning, with students: Daniel, Samantha, Harriet and Robert

1990s

FACILITIES

New Arts Centre at the Preparatory School

Designed by Neil Everist (OGC 1942) and commanding views over the Barwon Valley the Centre was opened in 1995 by local artist and author Robert Ingpen (OGC 1950).

"Let these wonderful events remind you of the very high value our school places on imagination. Remember also some of the great ideas you had, remember the dreams you dreamed and remember the discoveries you made."

- Peter Hughes, Head of Preparatory School, Pegasus 1995

Other events included:

1991
The new Garnet Fielding Wing opened

1990
The main auditorium of Robertson Hall opened

Attendees line the edges of the pool at the Aquatic Centre's Official Opening, 1995

FACILITIES & PHILANTHROPY

The Aquatic Centre opened

The completion of the Aquatic Centre in 1999 was a significant achievement for The Geelong College, and was the finishing touch to the Rolland Centre built many years earlier.

Dr Turner and 27 Year 9 students made history by plunging into the pool for the first time.

The College community made the project possible, raising $2 million of the $3.5 million required to build the new Centre through direct fundraising.

"The Aquatic Centre will enable the Sports Department to revitalise the girls' swimming program and reintroduce competitive swimming for the boys. It is 17 years since College has been represented at a Combined APS Swimming Carnival by a team of boys."

- Ad Astra Dec 1999

ALUMNI

OGCA'S first female President

In 1991, Debra Holding (nee Trembath) (OGC 1972) became the first female president of an old scholar's association in the APS.

In 1998 the OGCA hosted its first women's luncheon, featuring guest speaker Joyce Brown.

BOARDING

Lester Square for girls' boarding

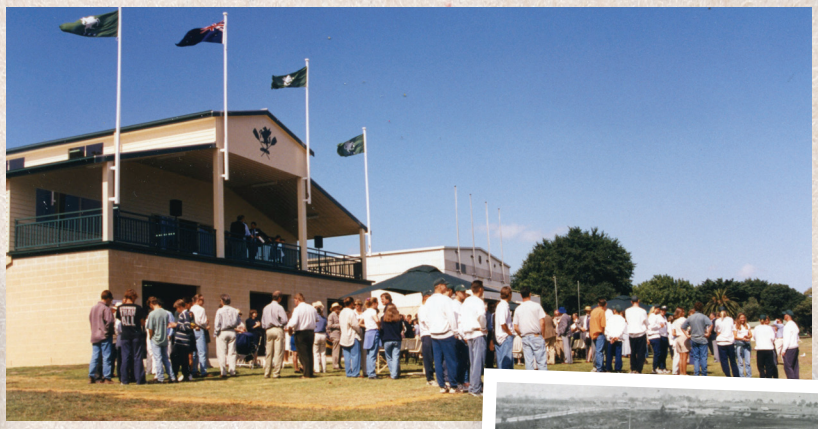
In 1995, the closure of Morongo Girls College increased demand for girls' boarding places. The facilities were expanded to accommodate Year 9 girls at 'Lester Square' - the College-owned house at 138 Noble St.

Named after former staff member, Edward Brian Lester (1903-1967), the house was re-developed in 2007 and now houses the College's Community Relations Department.

International students

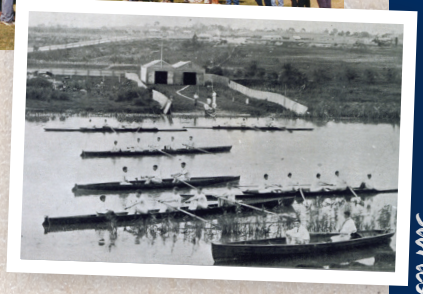
In 1999 the College welcomed seven international boarders, including Ade Utama (OGC 2000) and Harya Narottoma (OGC 1999) from Indonesia.

FACILITIES & PHILANTHROPY



The opening of the new Boat Shed

The Albert Bell Club raised over $100,000 for the construction of a new Boat Shed, which was opened in 1996 by Robert William Purnell (OGC 1944), Patron of the Albert Bell Club.



The original Boat Shed in 1908

Two metres wider and three metres longer, the new shed was designed to cater for the College's growing rowing program.

SPORT

Girls' Netball First VII team

Our teams continued to make their mark

1990 1st Boys VIII won Head of the River

1992 1st Girls IV won Head of the River.

1993 Girls' Netball First VII team won an APS Premiership in Netball for the first time.

1995 Girls' teams won APS premierships for the first time in Athletics, Hockey and Tennis

2000s

Number of students: 1238

Principal: Dr Pauline Turner (1996–2012)

In the 2000s, a growing focus on social responsibility and experiential learning saw new outreach programs, off-site learning experiences and environmental studies introduced.

BOARDING

International boarding numbers increased

Boarding numbers of international students began to rise in the early 2000s, jumping from 7 in 2000 to 37 in 2006.

International student, Annie Xin (OGC 2003), with the other Keith House Prefects including Stefanie Pegg (OGC 2003), Lewis Hobba (OGC 2003) and Tim Jarrold (OGC 2003)

COMMUNICATION

Ad Astra's first edition in November 1959, and the cover of the December 2009 edition.

50 years of Ad Astra

Ad Astra, the College community magazine, celebrated 50 years of publication in 2009.

First produced in1959 as the 'Newsletter of the College', it was originally a four-page, black and white foolscap-sized newsletter.

It has since evolved into a full colour Community Magazine. With 48 pages, the December 2009 edition was distributed to almost 10,000 households.

From June 1966 several features such as personal news previously published in Pegasus Magazine were transferred to Ad Astra.

The 2009 Fulfilling Lives trip to Tanna

Fulfilling Lives

A Year 10 community outreach pilot program was introduced in 2002. By 2008, it had grown to become the now long-running Fulfilling Lives program we know today.

"The Fulfilling Lives programs were designed to expose students to activities, places and investigations that would allow them to think about their own, and others', place in the world."

- Diane Black, Pegasus 2008

FACILITIES & PHILANTHROPY

Keith and Jill Humble

Keith Humble Centre opened

Named in memory of musician, composer and conductor, Keith Humble AM (1927-1995) this purpose built facility was made possible by the extraordinary vision and generosity of his wife, Jill Humble. It was officially opened by Jill in 2006.

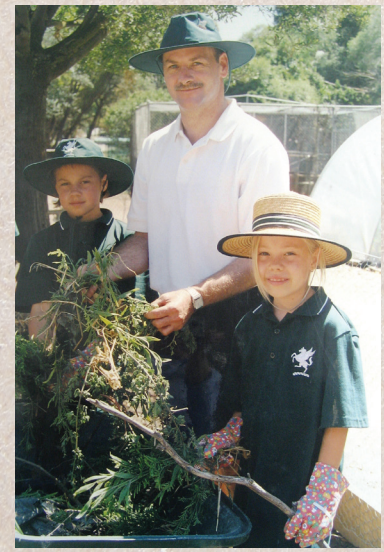
Within the Centre is the The George Logie-Smith Auditorium and the Costa Theatre, both of which were supported by generous donations from our community: former Glee Club members and the Costa Family.

"It provides state of the art facilities in an environment that, in a very short period of time, has come to radiate creativity, talent, inspiration and the passion of performance."

Theresa Best, Director of Community Relations, 2006

CURRICULUM

Year 4 Enviro Program



The Year 4 Enviro Program began with 48 students in 2001.

Students spend their year at the Enviro Centre engaged in a program that allows them to participate in tactile outdoor experiences, alongside traditional learning. Its aim being to develop empathy and build respect for the natural diversity of life on earth.

"We hope that in years to come, they will be informed about the need for environmental action and passionate enough to become involved in caring for our planet."

Phil Armitage, Preparatory Science Coordinator, 2001

Meanwhile, in wider Australia:

2000
Scientists cloned the first sheep in Australia.

The Olympic Games were held in Sydney.

2001
Lleyton Hewitt became the youngest player to achieve world number one tennis ranking, aged 20.

2003
Australian start-up 'Where 2 Technologies' developed the platform that would become Google Maps.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples were adopted by the general assembly.

Victorian Supreme Court Chief Justice, Marilyn Warren, became the first woman to head an Australian superior court.

2007
The first smartphone (iPhone) was released.

2008
Quentin Bryce became the first female Governor-General of Australia.

Art in the City

The 'Art in the City' Year 9 program started in 2004 and was soon expanded to include other subjects, becoming City Week.

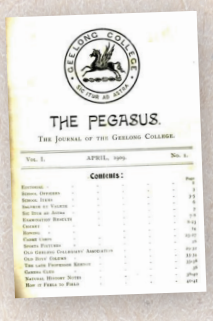
2000s

ALUMNI & MUSIC

The Glee Club reunited

The Glee Club was established in 1934 and was principally known for its annual production of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas under the leadership of then-Director of Music, George Logie-Smith.

One of the Glee Club's many reunions was held in 2005, prior to George's passing in 2007. A special concert of Gilbert and Sullivan songs was performed by a combination of Old Collegians and current students.



Pegasus' first edition 1909,, and the cover of the 2009 edition.

COMMUNICATION

100 years of Pegasus

2009 was the centenary of Pegasus Magazine. First published as a quarterly in 1909, its original purpose was to be:

'A record of the doings of the Present Boys and to enable those Old Boys who are scattered in various directions through the Commonwealth, to keep in touch with the College, and with one another'.

- Pegasus Editor, 1909

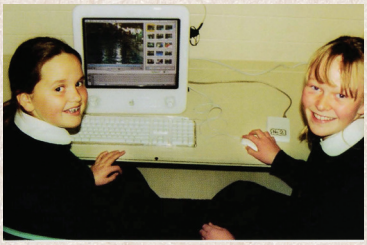
Over time, it has become solely a record of current College happenings, with alumni activity moved to Ad Astra. In 1974, it became an annual publication.

CURRICULUM & PHILANTHROPY

Multimedia for Year 6

2003 saw the completion of the Multimedia Activities Centre (MAC) and commencement of the Multimedia Year program for our Year 6 students.

In addition to their standard learning, students were immersed in the world of video, newspaper and radio broadcasts. The Prep Parents' Association assisted by providing $11,000 for the equipment required.



"Students could tap into an area of interest in order to engage them in more meaningful learning."

- Chris Lawson, Head of Prep. School, Pegasus 2003

SPORT

2003 Rowing wins

2003 was a strong year for College rowing, with both our Girls and Boys 1st crews winning Head of the River.

The boys rowed through Scotch College to win by just 1.96 seconds.

The girls finished a huge 4.5 seconds in front of Caulfield.

The 2000s were a succesful decade for the girls' rowing, with the First VIII also winning Head of the River in 2002 and the Schoolgirls' Regatta in 2004 and 2002.

SPORT

We celebrated 100 years of APS sport

In 2008, the College celebrated 100 years of particpation in the 'Associated Public Schools' (APS) Sporting Competition, competing in the sports of Football, Cricket and Rowing.

In 1908, there were six schools: Geelong College; Geelong Grammar; Melbourne Grammar; Scotch College, Wesley College and Xavier College.
This was further enlarged in 1958 to the 11 participating schools we have today.

Boys 1st Cricket XI, 1908

Boys 1st Cricket XI, 2008

Our first-ever student from China was also our 2003 Dux

Annie Xin (OGC 2003) moved to Australia from China, and started at the College as a boarder in Year 11. In 2003, she achieved a perfect study score (50) in Biology, and scored above 40 in Chemistry, English (ESL), Specialist Mathematics and Physics. A particularly impressive achievement when you consider that English is not her first language.

"We were delighted that the 2003 Dux, Annie Xin, our very first student from mainland China, was named the top international student in Victoria."
- Dr Pauline Turner, Pegasus 2004

SPORT

Our first flag in 43 years

In 2006, the Boys' 1st Football Team won its fourth APS Football Premiership - but there was a twist.

In a new system for the APS, the top four teams after eight rounds played each other to decide the Premier. This meant College shared the win, jointly, with both Scotch College and Haileybury College.

It was the first time since 1963 the team had won a premiership.

PHILANTHROPY

The Morrison Society

In 2009 The Geelong College Foundation launched the Morrison Society, recognising members of the College community who are leaving a bequest to the school.

Below: Founding members of the Morrison Society: Geoff & Betty Betts, Davina McIntosh, Garth Little (OGC 1942), Cam Emerson (OGC 1958), Alan Glover (OGC 1936) and Rob (OGC 1955) and Sue Logie-Smith.

2010s

Number of students: 1201

Principal: Dr Pauline Turner (1996–2012)
Andrew Barr (2013-2015)
Dr Peter Miller (2016-present)

The 2010s were marked by 150th anniversary celebrations, redevelopment across campuses and renewed commitment to community care.

LEADERSHIP

Change of Principal

After a 17 year tenure as Principal, Pauline Turner handed over to Andrew Barr.

During his tenure Andrew was forward-thinking in both curriculum and facility enhancement. In addition to a number of other initiatives, he oversaw the College's purchase of the Cape Otway site, introduced the Cre8 program and completed the redevelopment of the Midde School.

Dr Peter Miller with 2016 Co-Captains, Lilli Balaam and Alexander West

Dr Peter Miller then commenced as the next Principal in 2016.

An experienced and highly regarded educational leader, Dr Miller quickly developed a rapport with the community.

"Dr Miller's warm and engaging personality, and encouragement for us all to have confidence in ourselves, has created a positive atmosphere across the school."

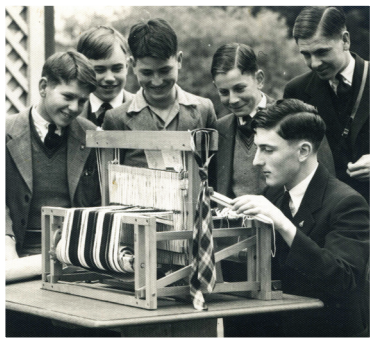
Lilli Balaam (OGC 2016), Co-Captain 2016

ALUMNI

OGCA's second female President

The OGCA appointed its second female President in 2018, Thane Joske (OGC 1990).

FACILITIES



Students learning to weave at the HOG, 1947

The House of Guilds closed in 2011

Established in 1935 during an era filled with what then-Principal Rev. Rolland referred to as 'the dull brown of the average school curriculum', the House of Guilds (HOG) offered experiential learning opportunities to students that they had never had before.

It was a place where students, and particularly boarders, could pursue hobbies and crafts' such as leatherwork, woodwork, modelling and engineering, pottery, radio, photography, printing, bookbinding, collecting and display, and horticulture.

The original building was a house on the corner of Talbot Street and Mercer Parade. The HOG moved to the Austin Gray Centre in 1980.

With the rapid changes in curriculum together with the relative rise in the numbers of day students many of the activities of the House became absorbed into the mainstream curriculum in the Austin Gray Centre, removing the need for the Centre to continue as a separate entity.

THE HOG WAS ESTABLISHED:

'to give the schoolboy facilities for the expression of his natural, inherent talents and ideas which, in the classroom would probably lie dormant, repressed and undeveloped'.

- Principal Rev. Francis Rolland

FACILITIES

Expansion of Design and Creative Arts

The Austin Gray Centre was redeveloped in 2011 to provide two additional classrooms, a gallery area, and an expanded area for photography and woodworking.

It became know as the 'Austin Gray Centre for Design and Creative Arts.

Top: Staff of the Austin Gray Centre, 2012.
Bottom: Multimedia students enjoying their new classroom

"The refurbishment of the Austin Gray Centre into the vibrant student-focused Centre for Design and Creative Arts has given current and future College students every opportunity to truly reach for the stars."

- Kevin Jess, Head of Design and Creative Arts, 2012

Meanwhile, in wider Australia:

2010
Ken Wyatt became the inaugural First Nations person elected to the House of Representatives.

Julia Gillard became Australia's first female Prime Minister.

2012
Plain cigarette packaging became law.

2013
Catherine McGregor, one of Australia's most senior military figures, publicly came out as trans.

2017
First Nations peoples issued the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Marriage equality legislation passed parliament.

The first season of the AFLW was played.

2019
COVID-19 virus first reported by China.

The Black Summer bushfires caused 33 deaths, burned 24 million hectares and 3 billion animals were killed or displaced.

MUSIC

Our school song

Our school song, "Sic Itur Ad Astra", was written by renowned Australian composer, Paul Jarman to commemorate the 2011 Sesquicentenary of the College. It was composed for massed choir, piano and symphony orchestra and first performed at the 2012 Foundation Concert.

Scan the QR code or click the link to listen to the premiere performance: bit.ly/SicItur

"The song is a true reflection of this school; teachers, students, Old Collegians, parents and the local community all contributed their thoughts for Paul to funnel, shape and organise into a fitting tribute."
- Michael Betts (OGC 1965), Foundation President in 2013

Composer, Paul Jarman, conducting the premiere performance of Sic Itur Ad Astra.

2010s

COMMUNITY

Loud Fence Initiative 2018

In recognition of the College's work to address historical harm at the school, a student led 'Loud Fence*' demonstrated the College community support for survivors.

It was located outside the College Chapel on the corner of Aphrasia and Talbot Streets. After the ribbons had been displayed for a number of months it was decided to create a permanent installation with the ribbons which is housed in the Chapel.

* A Loud Fence is a symbolic form of protest or support, where individuals tie brightly colored ribbons to a fence, to draw attention to a specific issue and show solidarity.

Images
Top: A section of the Loud Fence.
Left: The permanent display of ribbons in the College Chapel.
Right: Chair of Council 2018, Hugh Seward (OGC 1966) adding a ribbon to the Loud Fence.

> The Loud Fence was 'a defined moment to quietly recognise the survivors of mistreatment of the past and the harm caused, with a symbol of our intent to create a much stronger culture in our school community from this point forward.'
>
> ***Dr Peter Miller, Principal, 2018***

FACILITIES

Middle School Redevelopment completed

Middle School was redeveloped in stages from 2012 and completed in 2014.

The redevelopment increased the school's footprint by a third and provided spacious, bright open learning spaces. It also included a science laboratory, dance studio, new changeroom facilities and climate control.

"The ability of students, staff and parents to engage in active learning has been greatly enhanced with the completion of the third stage of the Middle School Redevelopment. The new state-of-the-art facilities will no doubt set a benchmark for twenty-first century learning, with spaces that are open, flexible, filled with light, contemporary and inspiring."

- Leanne Russell, Head of Middle School, 2014

COMMUNITY

The Rainbow Alliance began

A significant moment in our history was the establishment of the Geelong College Rainbow Alliance (GCRA) in 2019. Established by teacher, Lachy Joyce, it is a student-led group that promotes a supportive and inclusive environment for all - in particular LGBTQIA+ students and allies.

The existence of the GCRA emphasises our ongoing commitment to progress, diversity and inclusivity.

"Thanks to the unwavering support of staff and through fortnightly meetings with our student members, the group has developed ways to celebrate and further bolster the school's commitment to its values as well as raising awareness for LGBTQIA+ causes."

- Connor McGucken (OGC 2019)

I've really appreciated the true sense of belonging the group has provided me...The GCRA means a lot to me, to my family and to who I want to be."

- Sabrina Horne (OGC 2023)

Top: The GCRA in 2019
Bottom: The 2022 GCRA Rainbow Bake Sale, which raised money for Australia's LGBTQIA+ organisation, Minus18

Scan the QR code or click the link to read more about the GCRA: bit.ly/_GCRA

FACILITIES

The start of the Junior School Redevelopment

In 2014, Campbell House became The Geelong College Junior School.

In 2018, major redevelopment began. The first stage of the Junior School redevelopment, Wayaperree, was opened in 2019.

"Speaking on behalf of the children and staff, each time we enter this building, we look up, around and feel amazed and grateful for our space – a place to meet and be together."

Sondra Wolfenden, Head of Junior School, 2019

COMMUNITY

Reconciliation Action Plan launched

A whole-school Reconciliation Action Plan was launched in 2019. The Geelong College Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is our formal statement of commitment to reconciliation approved by Reconciliation Australia.

"What we see in this plan, we aim to do and improve on each day. It is particularly important that our young people take leadership of our country's journey to reconciliation, and it is our role as educators, and as a community, to ensure they learn the stories, develop understanding and empathy, and respect the wonderful culture of our First Nations people."

- Dr Peter Miller

2020s

Number of students: 1320 (1653 in 2024)

Principal: Dr Peter Miller (2016-present)

A new decade brought with it new challenges, including a worldwide pandemic. Yet the College has continued to evolve and respond to our changing world.

FACILITIES

Junior School Redevelopment

The Junior School redevelopment was officially opened in 2020 by Her Excellency Linda Dessau AC, the Governor of Victoria. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the opening was declared remotely, and broadcast to the College community.

Designed by John Wardle Architects, the Junior School redevelopment blends the new and the old, embodying the Reggio Emilia approach. The design mimics the walled Italian village of Reggio Emilia

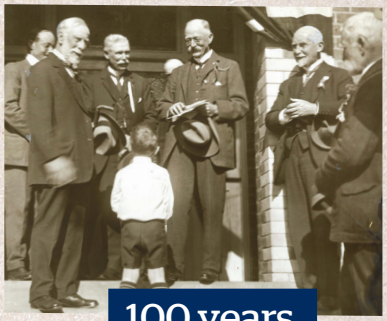
As a community we are so proud to open the buildings to the students of Campbell House....It has truly emerged as a stunning and unique landscape for learning to lead us into our future."

- Sondra Wolfenden, Head of Campbell House, Junior School

COLLEGE

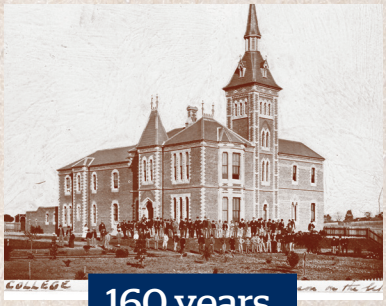
Celebration of milestones

In 2021, the College celebrated two significant milestones: 160 years of The Geelong College, and 100 years of the Preparatory School.



100 years

of the Preparatory School



160 years

of The Geelong College

Our biggest Ad Astra

At 136 pages, this special edition of Ad Astra makes history as our biggest yet.

FACILITIES & PHILANTHROPY

A new Steinway for the College

A Steinway Model D Grand Piano was purchased through the sale of 88 keys on the piano at a cost of $3,000 a key. The College celebrated the official launch of the new Steinway Model D Concert Grand Piano in the Keith Humble Centre.

We look forward to providing many more opportunities in the future for our College and the Geelong community to experience the beauty of "Henry", as he is now affectionately known, and to share the love of piano music on what is the best instrument in the Geelong region.

- Dr Phil Bohun, then-Director of Music, 2021

COMMUNITY

COVID-19

2020 will forever be remembered as the year in which the COVID-19 pandemic began, the impacts of which profoundly altered school life.

Mask-wearing and social distancing rules were enforced.

In reponse to governmental Remote Learning orders, the College gates closed for weeks forcing all staff and students to stay at home.

The transitions were challenging for students, teachers, and parents alike, as they had to adapt quickly to a new mode of learning that required different resources and methods.

Major events, such as Fulfilling Lives, reunions and Year 12 Valedictory celebrations, were cancelled.

(Top): Our 2020 Co-Captains and Vice-Captains. (Bottom): Remote learning

"Looking back on the 2020 academic year, I realised that for the first time in our school's history, both teachers and students found themselves standing side by side as learners. … It wasn't just a matter of learning how to video conference; we had to take our entire learning program and modify it to allow for online delivery and feedback."

- Marita Seaton, Middle School Leader of Learning, Pegasus 2020

Meanwhile, in wider Australia:

2020

Australia sets record for women and Indigenous athletes at 2020 Olympics

Australia's first case of COVID-19 confirmed.

Travel restrictions on interstate and international travel.

A state of emergency declared and lockdown orders implemented.

Schools forced into remote learning.

2021

Our national anthem changed to reflect Indigenous history.

COVID-19 vaccines arrived.

2022

Australia's international borders reopened to vaccinated travellers.

Death of Queen Elizabeth.

2023

The coronation of King Charles.

'The Voice' referendum was rejected.

COMMUNITY

The Pride flag flew for the first time in 2020

Flying the rainbow flag on our very own flagpole in Helicon Place to celebrate Pride Week in June (was) a clear visual symbol of how far our community has come in accepting those from diverse sexual orientations.

- Lachlan Houen (OGC 2020), Pegasus 2020

OGCA'S third female President

The OGCA appointed its third female President in 2020, Kylie Mackey (OGC 1993).

Our biggest increase in enrolments

From 2020 to 2024, the College recorded its biggest ever increase in student numbers from 1320 students in 2020 to 1653 students in 2024. A 25% increase.

FACILITIES & PHILANTHROPY

Belerren set to open

The Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre will open in July 2024, launching a new space for learning, sports and wellbeing for the College community.

The project was made possible by the generosity of the College community. In total, over $5 million was raised, making the Belerren Campaign the most successful campaign in the College's history.

"The Belerren Campaign is a generational opportunity to build a legacy for the students and families of The Geelong College. This will enable not only state-of-the-art sporting facilities that are integral to the health and wellbeing of our school community, but allow us to develop the next phase of a rich learning environment for our school."

- Prof. Richard Page, Chair of Council

Our inaugural Giving Day

In 2023 we held our inaugural Giving Day in support of the Belerren Campaign. The community response was outstanding, with 650 donors contributing to raise $565,000 - well above our initial target.

SPORT

Inaugural girls 1st football team

The College fielded its first APS girls football team in 2020, captained by Stephanie Williams (OGC 2020).

"I love it all, being a leader was good. I didn't know if I could do it, but obviously I could! Being a part of the first girls' footy team was awesome. I loved how it was some of the girls' first time playing footy."

- Stephanie Williams (OGC 2020), Ad Astra 2020

Prior to 1974... Our 'covert girls'

Though 2024 officially marks 50 years of co-education at The Geelong College, 1974 was not truly the first time girls were educated in our school.

Long before the official integration of girls in 1974, small groups of girls were quietly attending science classes at The Geelong College, paving the way for future generations.

Earlier this year, Vivienne Lewis (MOC 1964) approached the College to share her story.

"In 1962, I was one of the 'covert co-eds' who 'snuck' through the College campus to lab classes," Vivienne said.

As a student at girls' school, Morongo, she recalls a paucity of science options.

"Even into the late 1960s the girls' school had only a basic Biology room but no laboratory or equipment for Physics and Chemistry practical training."

Thankfully, there was a solution.

"Those few girls who followed a science stream were permitted to undertake their lab sessions in Geelong College's facilities - but not with the boys!"

Presumably to ensure minimal interaction between the two groups, the girls' classes took place after the boys had left school for the day.

Vivienne's cohort was off to a strong start in 1962, with nine Year 11 girls engaging in science studies.

"Maths, Biology, Physics and Chemistry theory classes (were) given at Morongo.

"We were bussed after school two afternoons a week to take prac. classes in the vacated College labs."

The year ran smoothly. However, things were a little different in Vivienne's final year of schooling.

"The 'sciency girls' were down to six in number," she recalls.

There were changes, too, to the way classes were delivered for the girls. Their lessons were to be held in daytime hours, in co-ed classes with the College boys!

It was a challenge for the 'covert girls', but one that was made even greater for Vivienne by her choice of subjects. Taking on Calculus and Pure & Applied Maths that year, Vivienne was the lone girl in her additional classes, and found navigating the new environment to be challenging at times.

"I was a naïve only child - sixteen years and one month old when I started that year, after 11 years of girls-only schooling."

"I was isolated and alone as I was thrust into an alien male world," she recalls.

Splitting her time between the two schools also took its toll.

"I was shuttled back and forth between College and Morongo, juggling four science subjects at College with just English and Phys Ed at Morongo. I was a stranger also in my own school."

At the College, too, Vivienne had little opportunity to make social connections with her classmates.

"The school could not have an unsupervised girl in the grounds, so I had dispensation to leave the grounds to go to lunch.

"We were a sorry little lot, considered by the boys to be total nerds and undatable. None of us got invited to the Ball!"

"My regular attitude was hat down over my face and eyes lowered as I moved around the College grounds.

"Early on, in a Maths class, I had asked the teacher a question. From the back of the classroom came an intentionally audible comment, 'What a dumb question!' I never forgot that."

There is no doubt that Vivienne's experience was a difficult one.

However, despite the hardships they faced, many of these pioneering girls thrived.

"Most of us achieved good results and went on to successful science careers, with one becoming a doctor and another an architect."

Vivienne's experience highlights just how much our College has grown since those days.

Change often comes with its challenges as we seek to navigate previously uncharted waters, and the journey toward co-education at The Geelong College was no exception to this.

However, the stories of our 'covert girls' serve as a testament to the resilience and determination of these young women who quietly broke new ground and helped shape the inclusive spirit of the College as it is today.

A comparison of 1974 & 2024

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Student numbers overall

737
1974

1653
2024

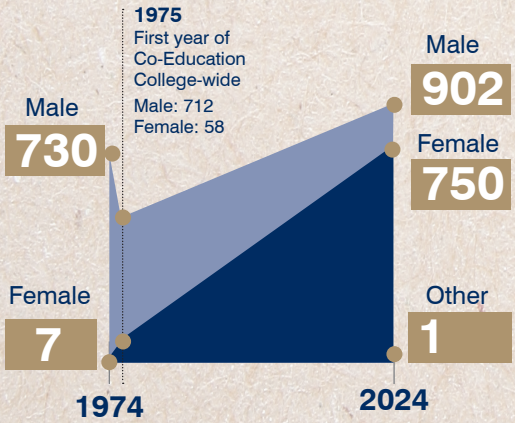
Boarding student numbers

128
1975

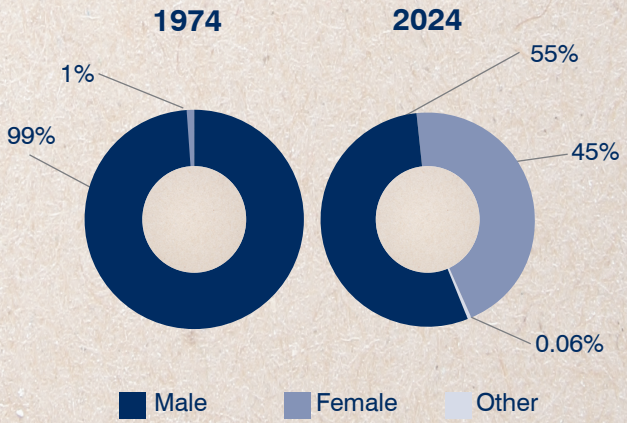
85
2024

GENDER OF STUDENTS

Gender numbers by year



Gender percentages by year



STUDENT OPTIONS

Sporting options

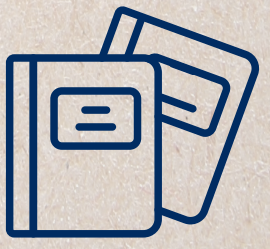
9
1974

21
2024

Subject options

1974
26

2024
32



THE COLLEGE LOGO

1974

Left: The College Crest was the primary logo used.
Right: The Pegasus, as depicted on the front the 1974 edition of the Pegasus magazine

THE GEELONG COLLEGE
sic itur ad astra

2024

The current primary logo.
The College Crest is now reserved for formal use.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Some of our co-curricular activities:

1975

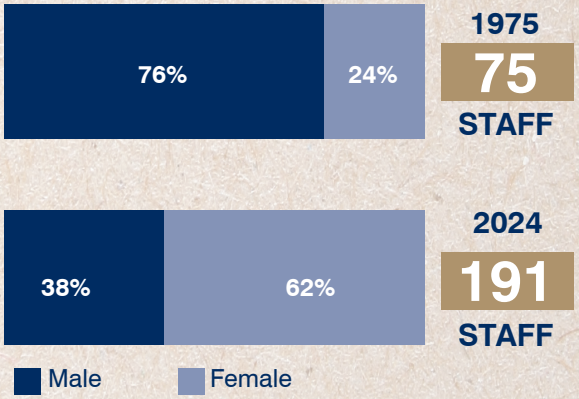
- Folk Singing
- Chess Club
- Mathematical Society
- Exploration Society
- Stamp Club
- Cadets

2024

- Music
- Rainbow Alliance
- Dance
- Debating & Public Speaking
- Fulfilling Lives trips
- Drama

COLLEGE STAFF

Staff numbers#



ALUMNI

We currently have

13,310

Old Collegians*

Our first three female Old Collegians graduated at the end of the 1975 school year

4,430 of our Old Collegians are female

1975 figure includes Senior School, Preparatory School, Music Assistants, Leadership (non Council). 2024 figure includes Senior, Middle and Junior School teaching staff, members of the College Executive. * Living Old Collegians.

Ups & downs

The (sometimes-bumpy) road to co-education

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

As we recognise this year's milestone of 50 years of co-education, we celebrate the many benefits it has brought to us as a College, and the diverse, inclusive place our school is today. However, true recognition also means acknowledging the, sometimes bumpy, road that led us here. We spoke to Sally Hawkins (nee Carruthers) (OGC 1977) and asked her to share her experience as one of the first girls of Senior School.

"Without my co-ed experience, I would have left my secondary education a boy-crazy, immature young girl. Instead, I left The Geelong College with an understanding, admiration and respect for young men. I felt empowered and more rounded as a person - an equal with men."

It is clear many positives came from Sally's time at College. But it does not mean her experience with co-education was entirely without its challenges.

"Being a teenager is always an awkward stage of life and we are constantly evolving. But moving from an all-girls school to a predominantly boys school at the age of 15 was challenging."

Sally recalls that the girls' arrival was initially met with some less-than-ideal behaviour from some male peers.

In her first class Sally was the only girl present and recalls 'not a single boy' spoke to her, the entire lesson.

"The girls had to deal with a lot of teasing, ridicule and immature behaviour from the boys."

The girls were grateful, though, for the existence of the 'Ladies Common Room', recalling it was 'a place to retreat to while (they) found (their) feet in a new environment.

"Outside of the Common Room, I think a lot of us felt we weren't able to be totally who we were. We did a lot of observing at the start. Working out how to fit in and how to belong. It was a real challenge."

A challenge not helped by what Sally felt was a 'lack of preparation' for the girls' arrival.

"I don't think the school was ready for us!" she recalls.

There is no doubt that the best of attempts were made to ready things for the 1975 girls' arrival. Having engaged in what was effectively a trial run of co-education with the successful introduction of Junior

Sally Stanford (nee Wood)

Sally Hawkins (nee Carruthers)

A tale of two 'Sally's

To clear up any potential confusion, we introduce you to the two 'Sally's you hear from in this edition. On the left is Sally Hawkins (nee Carruthers), whose story is on this page, and on the right - Sally Wood, whose story is on page 44. Both were part of our first cohort of girls at Senior School, and are also very good friends.

School girls the year before, the College likely felt they were well-prepared for the College-wide expansion of co-education.

However, as is the case with many well-intended plans, it is not until they are put into action that their deficiencies appear. And with changes of that magnitude, with so many unknowns and moving parts, there were bound to be some challenges.

"They didn't even have girls' uniforms ready for some time," Sally said. "We only had a College jumper which we wore with our own casual clothes."

The situation would hardly have been ideal for the girls, who already felt they stood out amongst their male peers.

Curriculum and extra-curricular activities also took some time to catch up with the girls' arrival.

Coming to The Geelong College from Morongo Girls' College, which had offered a full sporting program and subject options designed to appeal to girls - Sally was keenly aware of what was missing.

"Sporting opportunities were not as available or set up for us. Certain sports weren't offered at all, and if they were, there was limited opportunity for competition due to the low number of girls."

"We also had limited subject choices in the early days. There were existing subjects like woodwork, yet nothing like home economics or sewing.

Teachers, too, had to adapt.

"I was the only girl in my English and Art classes and neither of my teachers quite knew how to integrate me into the classroom.

"One of my teachers had only sons at home and had only taught at all-boys schools.

"Everyone - staff, girls and boys were navigating the uncharted waters of co-education together. We all had to be patient as we sorted out how having girls at the College would work.

"We were the guinea pigs and things were tried on us, some failed and some succeeded. The rules were made up as we went along, including what to do with us on excursions and camps."

As time passed, things started to fall into place for the girls. Uniforms arrived, new sports and subjects were added to the curriculum, and the first cross-gendered friendships were formed. The girls began to feel like they belonged at the College.

"Eventually, we were able to see the positives start to emerge.

"Us girls began to learn more about boys - to understand them, and their behaviour. We became more comfortable and confident in our interactions.

"Boys and girls began to look upon each other as friends, not just romantic prospects. Ultimately, the experience taught me how to form long-term, healthy relationships with boys."

"It was also a more neutral environment than an all-girls school. The competition and mind games you so often see in groups of girls were not prominent. You had options - you could spend time with the boys, too, if you chose.

The difficulties they had faced had forged strong bonds amongst the girls, too.

"We had to navigate our own way through the challenges, and we turned to each other for help through the journey. This was a positive experience. There was little or no angst between the girls."

"We were pioneers, we paved the way for those who followed us. We were trailblazers, and we all survived those early years of co-education.

"I will be forever grateful for my co-ed experience, and as challenging as it was at times, I learnt to be outside my comfort zone and navigate a new way of life, it strengthened me as a young person, and better prepared me for life after school."

The first girl to give a Valedictory speech

Sally Hawkins (nee Carruthers) gave a Valedictory speech in 1977. She was the first girl to do so.

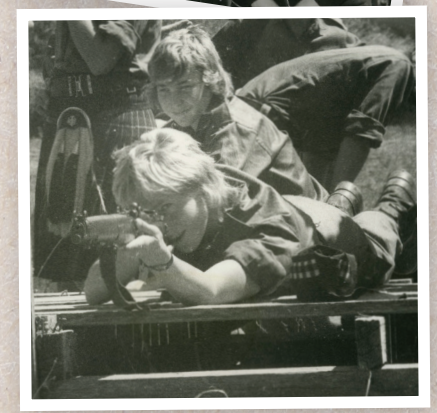
You can read Sally's speech in full on the following page.

"It was interesting studying the boys' reactions to my presence and my views - now I know how a Martian with large green ears who had just landed on earth would feel.

Sally Hawkins (nee Carruthers), Valedictory Speech, 1977

The way we were in 1975

Editorial from the 1975 Pegasus



PEGASUS

1975 is a year to be remembered for a number of reasons: girls were introduced into the Senior School for thefirst time; the second stage of the library block was completed; and at the end of the year we bid farewell to the Principal, Mr. Thwaites and welcome Mr. Gebhardt who succeeds him.

Despite the burden imposed by International Women's Year, co-education at the Geelong College has got off to an enviable start. Enrolments of girls have increased during the year from nineteen to twenty-six and it is anticipated that in 1976 there will be more than eighty girls enrolled at Senior School.

The pages of this magazine testify to the fact that this relatively small number of girls has had a most favourable influence upon the life of the College. Three of them present for the Higher School Certificate this year and the same three will have the honour of being the first female Old Geelong Collegians.

In sport, the girls have joined with the boys in inter-school swimming, tennis and hockey teams as well as participating in their own programmes. They have enjoyed social games of tennis, netball and baseball with girls from Sacred Heart College, Morongo and the Geelong Grammar School, have entered a crew to row in the Scotch Mercantile Regatta and have entered a team in an Inter-School Athletics carnival at Corio. Their influence upon the House competition has also been significant.

No-one who takes an interest in the cultural life of the College could fail to be impressed by the achievements of the girls this year. They have acted and assisted with the play and the playreading. They have enriched the music scene at the College by taking part in the House Music Competition, and the concerts given by the College Singers, by participating in a delightful folksinging performance in the library during third term, and by singing in the school choir. They have brought to the College a freshness and a friendliness which the hitherto all-male community has welcomed.

In addition girls have joined Cadets, Forestry and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme activities and when denied the opportunity to go to camp they helped with various Social Service activities: in the school library; in local kindergartens; helping old people; and at the Bethany Babies' Home.

Responsibility which they were given in the positions of House Prefect, member of the Student Representative Council and member of the Library Council they willingly accepted. It is a disappointment to some that despite this considerable activity no girl was made a School Prefect. The thrill of trail-blazing and the knowledge that they have done their job will perhaps compensate for the denial of this accolade.

The girls themselves readily acknowledge that their entry into the Senior College community has been a particularly happy experience for all and is due in no small measure to the dedication, patience and understanding of Mrs. Wettenhall who has been directly responsible for their well-being.

The opening of the new wing above the library has provided additional classroom space and thankfully it has provided a centre for the traditionally nomadic teachers of English. These classrooms are particularly well equipped, and contribute further to the pleasantness of the learning environment.

Elsewhere in this edition is a collection of tributes to Mr. Thwaites which alludes to the fact that it was he who, as far back as 1968 according to Dr. Wettenhall, was advocating co-education and it was he who directed the building programme of the school which culminated in the opening of the classrooms mentioned above. Mr. Thwaites has always believed that all departments of the school should operate together as a community and itself reflect the outside community. We believe that Mr. Thwaites' years as Principal have been nowhere more eloquently and truly portrayed than in his reply at the farewell arranged for him at the College on November 7th, and accordingly we have incorporated his remarks in the Principal's Report for 1975 delivered on Speech Day earlier this year, and published in this edition.

1975

The girls' 1977 Valedictory speech

FAREWELL

VALEDICTORY DINNER SPEECH
- SALLY CARRUTHERS

Tonight is the last night that we will formally meet together before Speech Day. Our schooldays are rapidly drawing to a close. Soon we will pass over that bridge that exists between our World of Youth (the world of school) and that outside world of adults. It is a time of some relief and gladness - it also is a time of reflection and some sadness.

For me the sadness will be to leave my old school - a school that I have come to respect and cherish - and to leave the many wonderful classmates that I have come to know so well. We will all go our separate ways to our respective destinies - most will cross the bridge with confidence and hope, some with nervousness and anticipation, but I hope that all of us, on reaching the other side, will have time to look back, and reflect, and to appreciate our school days.

I would like to look back to some of the highlights that have occured in my school years. I hope the boys will excuse me if most of my reflections have a slightly feminine bias, as I was one of the girl student pioneers, when a handful of us entered the "new co-ed" College at all levels in 1975.I remember with some amazement the then school captain, Brad Fenner, in the Pegasus of that year stating - and I quote: "the girls were immediately accepted into all aspects of College life."

In actual fact we did feel rather separate in a number of ways. The College opened the year with a Church Service at St. Davids - with all the girls in a mixture of casual clothes because the offical uniforms were not available until weeks later. We then attended a briefing in Morrison Hall where it was explained to us our various numbered classrooms - we left the Hall in a complete confused mass because nobody explained where the numbered classrooms were.

As a fourth-former I finally found the Art Centre - to discover I was the only girl in the whole group - and our first Art task was to draw a member of the opposite sex. So all the boys drew me, (with varying degrees of success, I might add!), whilst I attempted to draw one of them. As all the girls here will appreciate, not one of the boys spoke to me during the whole lesson. In the subjects of Art, English and Botany, I was the only girl, and it was interesting studying the boys' reations to my presence and my views - now I know how a Martian with large green ears who had just landed on earth would feel.

My problem was eased by the arrival of Kirsty Elliott half way through the academic year, and she gave me moral support during the remaining school months.

In the middle of 1975, my parents went away for a week, and although there were no boarding facilities then, I was fitted into a section of the Hospital Wing and became the first girl boarder, and was placed under Sister Healey's protection - and I thought then that the temporary rules laid down for the school's only girl boarder had been borrowed from Pentridge Prison, as all the girl boarders that arrived the following year would agree - but they all were for my benefit, I think!

I remember the wonderful House Choir competitions - McArthur House had very good girl singers, (Andrea Rachinger, Kirsty Elliott and Sal Wood) - so we won what was an exciting and enjoyable competition due to the inclusion of girls, I believe!

The first (and only) co-ed camps were something that will probably go down in history - the Army and the College, with all their flexibility and forward thinking, still could not cope with us, and several minor mishaps occurred - so the following term, we girls found we had graduated from the Cadet ranks to teaching at kindergartens.

It was the presence of us girls that lifted the boys to superhuman efforts in 1976 when we won the Head of the River, and can we ever forget those exciting night football games at V.F.L. Park. The Grand Final was the most exciting event and we were only beaten by a point. They were two sporting highlights in particular, that occurred during the past three years. One couldn't overlook the impressive improvement of the girls sport due to the increased intake of girls - and it appears only improvement is in sight.

There were many other highlights during this period that all deserve special mention - the Horsham Study Trip for example - but fortunately time does not permit further description tonight.

But I think as all the girls will agree, our presence has mutually benefited both sides. We still have a lot to learn about each other - however, that should make life more interesting in the years ahead.

However there is always a sad side to everything. The saddest moment for us all during this period was the death of our very dear friend Mr. 'Ed' Davies. He was respected and admired by all the boys for his manly qualities and he was equally admired by us girls, whom he befriended when we first arrived at the College. If there was one member of Staff who would have enjoyed these reflections here tonight, it would have been Mr. 'Ed' Davies. We remember him with affection and respect.

As we all look back and appreciate all the teachers and staff who have helped us during our school life, I would like to pause and read a poem which I feel says much more about that help, that I could myself express -

An old man travelling a lone highway
Came that evening cold and grey
To a chasm deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim
For the sullen stream had no fear for him,
But he turned when he reached the
other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man", cried a fellow pilgrim near,
"You're wasting your strength in building
here.
Your journey will end with the ending day,
And you never again will pass this way.
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build a bridge at even tide?"

The builder raised his old grey head,
"Good friend, on the path I have come,"
he said,
"There follows after me today
A youth whose feet will pass this way.
The stream that has meant nought to me,
To that fair-haired boy may a pitfall be.
He too must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I'm building the bridge for him"

To the Principal and Teachers, we say "thank-you" for your patience and understanding and help.

To all those leaving - Good hick and every success. Let us never forget that perhaps very soon it will be our duty to build bridges, however small, for those that may follow us.

God Bless You All.

The 1977 Prefect group, including Sally Hawkins (nee Carruthers) (Back row, second from right)

The 1973 APS Swimming team, including Andrew (seated row, first on right).

The changing faces of College

We invited the Wood family to reflect on the changes that have shaped the College and their personal connection to it. While the school experiences of Claire, her father Andrew, and aunt Sally share some similarities (namely, sporting success), their experiences span vastly different eras in the College's history. This gives each of them a unique perspective to share.

The 'all boys' days

Andrew Wood (OGC 1970)

To get a feel for life at The Geelong College in the years shortly before co-education began, we spoke with Andrew Wood (OGC 1970).

"The College was very much a 'boys school' in the time I was there as a student.

"Though, a few girls from Morongo and Hermitage did subjects with us, and were generally well accepted.

"I honestly think I would have enjoyed school more if co-education had happened in my time. It just would have added a bit of variety. Girls think quite differently to boys."

Instead, dance classes with the Morongo girls and Swim Club were about the limit of Andrew's interaction with the opposite sex.

"Luckily, I had a mother and a sister at home, otherwise it would have been quite a shock when I was tipped out into the real world!

The latest prospect in a family of doctors, Andrew's parents had expected he would follow the same path. However, fate had other plans.

Though Andrew has many fond memories of his school days, he recalls that his time at Cadets was not one of them.

"For part of my time at College, Cadets was compulsory. It wasn't something I enjoyed, and I wasn't alone in that. Lots of people didn't want to participate

"One year, kids set the amoury on fire as a statement. It didn't change anything, though.

"I remember the Cadet camps, most of all. Getting leeches inside your gaitors. It was NOT a nice experience to take your socks off. There was blood everywhere!

"We'd be eating rations and sleeping in hoochies. By the end of the camp, we'd be pretty awful. We'd get home and our mum would say: 'drop your clothes at the door and get in the shower. You stink!!!'

"So, yes: Playing 'toy soldiers' was not really our cup of tea! I was glad when we could give it up."

"I got a migraine the day of the English exam, and I was in agony. Dad dosed me up with something, but all it did was make me terribly groggy. Needless to say, I didn't get the marks I needed for medicine."

With the assessment structure less forgiving than today's VCE, Andrew had two choices: settle for the score he received, or repeat the year - but receive a 10% penalty on any repeated subjects.

For Andrew, the choice was clear.

"I said to Mum and Dad: 'I want to be a dentist!' They thought I was a bit strange. But here I am - I completed my Bachelors and did a Masters in Orthodontics. It was the right choice for me."

Andrew recalls tertiary options being a lot more limited for students of his time, in comparison to the students of today.

"Boys tended to be railroaded into the medical field, or law. Girls to nursing or teaching.

"These days, the handbooks have *so* many options - it's incredible. I ask my patients what they think they'd like to do once they finish school, and many of them have no idea. I can see how the number of options could be overwhelming."

Andrew recalls his own childrens' days at the College, noting that there had been some substantial changes since his own student days.

"I loved watching my kids play sport, I went to all their games and meets. It looked a lot different to the College sport of my time, though.

"Besides having more sports to choose from, things were no longer as gendered. My boys played mixed netball - something we, as students, could not even have imagined!

"I remember watching Jack (OGC 2011) make 140 runs in the Cricket Firsts - an experience we shared. I loved watching Claire swim, Katie in GSODA - each of them did well at something.

"And now I'm watching my grandchildren - (current students) Raff, Wes and Olivia.

"It's nice to see women in sport these days- we've come a long way."

Andrew is pleased with the opportunities College was able to offer his children, but there is one thing that leaves him feeling envious.

"I have to say, I'm jealous of Enviro. I reckon that Year 4 sounds like the ants pants! They've got it made there."

When it comes to co-education, Andrew's thoughts are clear.

"It's far more sensible. It's the way society should be."

"I think you just get a better balance by being co-ed. Looking at things from my perspective as a uni students, having the girls there really settled things. The girls just seemed to get on with it and study. They participated better in class, and it influenced the boys to do the same, too."

The early days of co-education

Sally Stanford (nee Wood) (OGC 1977)

Who better to tell us about the early days of co-education than one of our first girls? We spoke with Sally Stanford (nee Wood).

"I started in 1975 - the first year of co-education, College-wide. It was a very male-dominant environment to begin with. There were only 19 of us girls in 1975 - spread from Year 9 to Year 12.

"We were a novelty. The boys didn't quite know how to treat us!"

Sally recalls that things didn't seem entirely ready for the girls' arrival.

"The uniform dribbled in slowly. You will see in the photo of the 'first girls', only some of us had managed to get a full uniform by then."

Appropriate facilities were also a gradual introduction, with no netballs courts in the beginning and inadequate numbers of toilets to cater to the growing numbers of girls.

SPORT REPORT, PEGASUS 1975

In these early years of girls' sport at theCollege some difficulty has been experienced in arranging matches and fielding teams. The sports mistress, Mrs S Bullen, and coaches, Miss M Hoult (Netball) and Mrs M. Bilney (Hockey), are to be congratulated on the results achieved under difficult circumstances.

The 1975 APS Swimming team, including Sally (seated row, second from left).

Sally recalls encountering skepticism from boys' schools at APS swimming competitions.

"When I went up to be allocated lanes in my role as Captain, and they'd say:
'Where's your Captain?' I'd tell them 'I'm the Captain'. 'But you're a GIRL?!'

The boys were no more encouraging when it came time to race. As Sally lined up on the blocks, the only girl competing against a pool of boys, a chant began:

"Beat the sheila! Beat the sheila!"

Intended to intimidate Sally, it instead had the opposite effect. Sally overtook every boy to take first place in the 200m freestyle - finishing in record time.

The chanters quickly abandoned their task, quite taken aback by what they had witnessed.

"The boys were very quiet after that. I think I'd won some respect then."

Sally, too, recalls compulsory Cadets being an unwelcome part of the cirriculum.

"The shoes were awful - big boots that didn't fit properly. We had to walk to the Prep. School from Senior school, and by the time I got there, I had terrible blisters.

The girls attended Cadet Camp for the first time in 1975, an experience Sally didn't particularly revel in.

"They put my friend and I into the role of 'Signals'. We were supposed to be giving our group directions. Well, that was a mistake. I was a very devoted Cats fan, and we spent the majority of the time listening to the Geelong V Collingwood game on the radio. Consequently, my group got totally lost!

"Thankfully, Cadets only lasted a year after that."

The place where Sally really made her mark was in the pool. Due to the relatively small numbers of girls in the APS competition at the time, no 'girls' team existed. Instead, Sally found herself as Captain of what would previously have been the 'boys' team.

Sally was a strong sportswoman, trying her hand at everything from athletics, to netball - even joining the boys to play cricket for McArthur.

"I was the only girl. I think they only put me in because they felt they should have."

When asked about the challenges of being one of the first girls at College, Sally gives an honest opinion.

"It was hard. I don't think I even realised it so much at the time, but looking back - it certainly was.

"You were a female in a male area. Things weren't really there to fit you. You sort of had to be more masculine

The first cohort of girls at Senior School, 1975. By the time this image was taken, some girls had managed to acquire a full uniform. Others (including Sally - back row, fifth from right) were still waiting.

Sally (right) and classmate, Ingrid Kat (left), as Cadets, 1975.

if you wanted to fit in. That said, we were respected and treated as equals - except that we couldn't truly be equals, because there were so few of us!"

But the small size of the early girls' cohort also brought with it many benefits.

"It wasn't necessarily a bad thing. It made for limited stock, so the girls had to all get along - there weren't enough of us to do anything else!"

Eventually, the girls settled in, with Sally recalling the efforts made.

"We were well looked after, on the whole. By staff and by the boys. Having a 'womens' common room' helped a lot - we could go in there if we needed a break from the boys. They're just a bit...different to girls..."

The girls' presence had an impact on the boys, too.

"I think having girls in the mix caused the boys to tone down their behaviour a bit!"

And the bonds between the boys and girls eventually grew.

"Nobody was looking for a boyfriend. We were just friends.

"I was close to the other 18 girls, but a lot of my friends were boys, too.

Such was the strength of those highschool friendships that they have lasted long beyond her years at school.

"We're still in contact now - there is a group of us, boys and girls, who keep in contact. We catch up every now and then, and arrange luncheons.

"If I ever had a problem, I know I could ring any one of them."

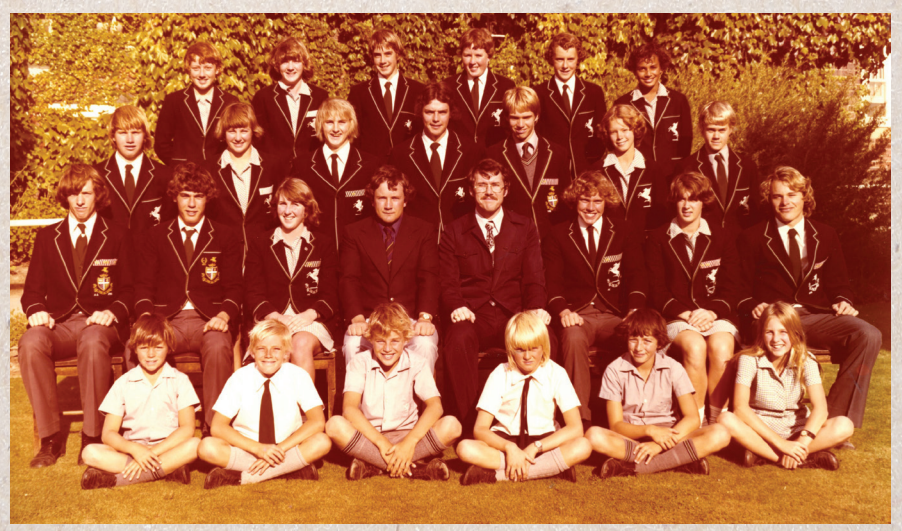
Sally is an advocate for inclusive education.

> "I "Co-education - it's just the way life should be. Men and women shouldn't be segregated. You need to know how to get along with everybody."

lived in Perth for a while, and there were barely any co-educational schools. When you don't have co-education, you realise how much you need it - they were crying out for it!"

She is also pleased to see the way society has evolved since the 70s.

"I'm not saying it's easy for the girls of today, but I like to think things have progressed a lot from where we were. I think there is a lot more inclusion and respect for women now. And that's great to see."



The 1977 APS Swimming team, including Sally (seated row, third from left).

The 90s - today

Claire Wood (OGC 2002)

Having seen the College from many different perspectives, Claire Wood takes us from the 90s to the College as it is today.

"My journey through the College has involved several roles: first as a student, then an Old Collegian, next as a staff member, and now - a parent."

Claire is proud of her family's connection to the College, which now runs three generations deep. Her father, uncles and aunt also spent their school years here, giving this year's milestone in co-education personal significance for Claire.

"My aunt (then Sally Wood and now Sally Stanford) was among the first cohort of girls to enter the school half a century ago."

Claire's path back to the College after graduation was an unexpected one.

"When I finished Year 12 in 2002 and embarked on my studies in Media and Communication, I had no idea I would become a teacher at all, let alone return to The Geelong College as one," she recalls.

"Yet, life often has a cyclical nature, and here I am, contributing to the very community that shaped my formative years."

Her initial experiences returning to the College as a staff member were 'a bit surreal'. She found herself face to face with some of her former teachers, 're-meeting' them as colleagues.

"One of my science teachers (impressively) remembered my 'Penguin' project (of which I held no memory!)," she said.

However, Claire quickly transitioned into her new role and, once again, felt part of the school.

However, as any Old Collegian knows, a student's connection to their House is strong. So there was, however, some contention around her assignment to a House.

"As a teacher at Middle School, I was originally placed in Bellerophon House. But my past Grade 6 teacher and Head of House, Doug Wade, strongly advocated for me to be moved to Pegasus House, which was my house as a student.

"My cousin Brittany actually wrote the Pegasus House song which is still sung today.

I also still feel connected to McArthur House and, returning to Senior School to teach Literature, I saw my name up on the House Captain board, reminding me of my own student days and my little black toy poodle mascot, Winnie, who chased me around the oval on Athletics day.

The College of today has changed a great deal from when Claire was a student.

"Campbell House (now referred to as Junior School), for instance, has undergone significant and incredible renovations. The renewed link to the Wadawurrung people, showing respect for the First Nations, is particularly evident, enriching students' understanding of the land and its traditional custodians.

Though the Middle School of 2024 may not look so different to the School of Claire's memories, she notes many changes there, too.

"I recall our simplified version of the Enviro Program, where we brought in our own guinea pig hutches and food, caring for our pets and learning about responsibility and nature.

Additionally, the new Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre at the Senior School is looking spectacular. This facility will continue to foster the love of sport that the school instilled in me as a student, benefiting future generations of girls and boys. The Centre will become a hub for physical fitness and holistic well-being, echoing the school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals.

A significant change at both the Middle and Senior School is the establishment of the Geelong College Rainbow Alliance (GCRA), thanks to Lachie Joyce and the dedicated students and teachers. The GCRA provides visibility and support for LGBTQIA+ students, fostering a safe environment where everyone can explore and express their identities.

"The belief that everyone deserves visibility and the freedom to live authentically without shame is not

The 2000 APS Girls' Swimming team, including Claire (back row, second from right).

only fundamental but also marks a positive change in the school's approach.

Developments in technology, too, have had a major impact on College life. Claire recalls the existence of the 'computer room' at Middle School - no doubt on the cutting edge of 90s technology, it has since been converted to a toilet block. A far cry from the digital, connected classrooms of today, in which every student from Year 4 has access to their own laptop.

"In the late '90s, we took typing courses on large, boxy computers with bulky CRT monitors and floppy disks. The hum of the machines and the clacking of the keyboards, along with playing "Carmen Sandiego," are etched in my memory, marking the early days of digital literacy.

A pivotal moment occured as the internet quickly gained greater functionality.

"The ability to 'Google' questions came in 1998, and the world of information was suddenly at our fingertips, transforming how we learned and interacted with technology.

"It was as much revolution to schooling as AI is now."

As a teacher, and parent, she is seeing the next wave of digital technological advancements.

"The new world of devices and social media is a tricky one to navigate as a teacher and parent – it brings both opportunities and challenges," Claire said.

"By embracing digital literacy and teaching responsible online behaviour (educating ourselves as parents and working together), we can empower our children to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world while also safeguarding their wellbeing."

For Claire, co-education has always been the norm.

"It's challenging to imagine the school without the presence of girls, yet this was the reality for my father (Andrew) and uncles (Nigel and Graeme) who attended the school when it was a single-sex institution."

Claire believes the decision to welcome girls to the school was a change for the better.

"Co-education has been a cornerstone of The Geelong College's evolution.

However, she notes that the path of co-education was not always a smooth one for its early travellers.

"My Aunt Sally's memory of the early days of co-education, though positive, also highlights the challenges faced," Claire said.

Despite these hurdles, her determination paved the way for future generations.

As I watch my own son, Rafferty, who's in Grade 4, go to school in an environment that embraces both diversity and inclusivity, I am grateful for the vision and courage of those who championed co-education.

Reflecting on the past 50 years of co-education at The Geelong College, I feel like a very small part of this history. This is a place where traditions are valued, innovation is embraced, and every student is encouraged to reach their full potential. Here's to the next 50 years of growth, learning, and community.

1997 Victorian Schools Relay Championships Winners: Tessa Fitzpatrick, Claire Wood, Alexandra Champness, Clara Davies, Georgina Clarke

"The transition to co-education was undoubtedly a significant shift, and one that has enriched the school community in countless ways."

Mackie boarders (1972); The first girls of boarding (1976); Mossgiel boarders (2024); Mackie boarders (2024)

Boarding at TGC: then & now

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

The Geelong College has been home to boarders since its foundation. While the facilities and routines have evolved over the years, the core of the boarding experience remains remarkably similar.

Any time a past boarder shares memories of their time at College, similar themes emerge - tales of camaraderie, community, and personal growth.

It appears that the core experience has not changed significantly over time.

In this edition, as we celebrate 50 years of co-education, we asked four students to share their experiences—two from either end of the timeline.

Representing the 1970s cohort were Suzanne Mockridge (OGC 1977) - one of the first girl boarders - and Rod Slattery (OGC 1977). Current Year 12 students, Hugh Mason and Tessa Bahen, spoke about life at the College today.

They may have come from different backgrounds, with decades separating their time in boarding, but the shared experiences of Suzanne, Rod, Hugh, and Tessa highlight how much has remained the same, despite the passage of time.

A tight-knit community

Suzanne recalled her arrival in 1976 as a pivotal moment in her experience, recalling she soon felt at home.

"There were only thirteen of us girls initially, and we were warmly welcomed by the boys. It created a close-knit, supportive community."

Rod, who started boarding in 1972, shares a similar sense of belonging, and recalls the strength of the relationships he built.

"Boarding at the College was a great experience. We shared dorms and followed a strict routine, but it fostered deep friendships."

Current students Tessa and Hugh also spoke fondly of their connections.

"The friendships you build are unique and lasting. The sense of community Suzanne and Rod mentioned is something that hasn't changed," Tessa said.

"Going through the year levels with a tight-knit group creates lifelong bonds," agreed Hugh.

Meet the boarders

Rod Slattery (OGC 1977)

Hometown: Willaura, a farming community near Hamilton.

Rod comes from a family of Old Collegians, with his father Murray (OGC 1937) and three older brothers John (OGC 1966), Bill (OGC 1969), and Doug (OGC 1970) also having attended.

His sons, Andy and Jock (OGC 2015), and daughter, Edwina (OGC 2012) continued his legacy.

Suzanne Mockridge (OGC 1977)

Hometown: Redcliffe, near Mildura

Suzanne followed in her father Graham's (OGC 1941) footsteps by attending the College. She became one of the first female boarders in 1976.

Her sister, Niccy (OGC 1988) followed after her.

Hugh Mason (Year 12)

Hometown: Just outside Camperdown in Southwest Victoria.

His father, Andrew, (OGC 1990) and uncle, Richard (OGC 1996) also attended the College, with the familial connection influencing Hugh's decision to board.

Hugh's brother, Lucas, is in Year 9.

Tessa Bahen (Year 12)

Hometown: Melbourne

Living in a city with numerous educational opportunities, Tessa and her parents liked the independence and structure offered by the College, leading her to start in 2021. She is the first of her family to attend TGC.

Suzanne Mockridge (OGC 1977), Tessa Bahen (Year12), Hugh Mason (Year12) and Rod Slattery (OGC 1977).

A day in the life

Daily routines at The Geelong College have always been a blend of structure and activity. Our four boarders compared their lives as students.

"In the 70s, we started with a House meeting, followed by classes, sports, or drama in the evenings. There was always something happening," recalled Suzanne.

Things were less scheduled on weekends, however.

"Weekends were more flexible, often filled with sports or trips to Melbourne. It was a good mix of structure and freedom," said Rod.

A similar routine continues today.

"Now, we have two hours of set study every night in addition to our daily classes, but there's also plenty of time for sports and other activities," said Tessa.

Hugh agrees, finding the balance enjoyable.

"Between rowing, football, and other activities, our days are full but fun."

Enduring friendships

As our students have already mentioned, one of the most important aspects of their time at The Geelong College is the sense of community. With just a few girls in the first cohort, Suzanne recalls feeling a very strong bond.

"We were very close and supportive of each other."

Rod also recalls his interactions with the girls.

"I was very fortunate in getting to know the first girls — even if I was a bit intimidated by them at first," he laughed.

Meeting new people or leaving home for the first time can be daunting experiences. But the support of the boarding community means nerves soon disappear—and sometimes it's the smallest things that become the fondest memories.

"One of my favourite things was at supper time with the girls. Grabbing some white toast and slathering it with butter and cinnamon while we sat around the dining tables talking. You could just eat and eat and eat, and no one would stop you!" Suzanne said.

Organised activities, such as sports and trips were also popular.

"We did activities like water skiing and snow skiing together - the boys and girls. These shared experiences created strong bonds." Rod recalled.

"The friendships you make in the boarding house stick with you beyond school," agreed Tessa

"Things like indoor soccer and weekend footy matches are always

"The friendships you make in the boarding house stick with you beyond school."

- Tessa Bahen

good fun and make us even closer," Hugh added.

Communication and connection

While technology has transformed communication, the importance of staying connected with family and friends at home remains unchanged.

Compared to today's students, though, Suzanne and Rod's options were much more limited.

"We had one telephone in the house and wrote letters home," Suzanne remembered.

Rod added, "Writing letters home was a common activity on our Sunday evenings."

In contrast, Tessa and Hugh benefit from modern technology, with each having access to their own phones.

"The internet really helps us stay in touch," Tessa said.

"It's much easier to communicate with everyone back home these days," agreed Hugh.

A timeless experience

Our 1970s boarders, Suzanne and Rod, had never met current students, Tessa and Hugh, prior to this interview.

However, despite the decades between their times at the school, the four immediately bonded over their shared experience - finding common ground in the traditions and values that define boarding life.

This connection highlights the timeless nature and lasting impact of the College's environment, showing that while times may change, the essence of boarding at The Geelong College remains the same.

Family connections are strong in College boarding, with 35 siblings and cousins currently making up 42% of our boarding cohort.

Back Row: Sophie Paton, Angus Paton, William Paton, Oliver Nagle, Isobel Nagle, Daniel Rogers, Sam Robinson, Oscar Robinson, Lucas Mason, Hugh Mason, Charlie Leishman, Sam Leishman, Fred Peat, Archie Peat, Indi O'Connor, Shelby O'Sullivan.

Front Row: Sophie Lau, Max Lau, Austin McLellan, Sophie McLellan, Emily Rogers, Cameron Mickan, Patrick Mickan, Sophie Robson, Cate Robson, Lucy Handbury, Olivia Handbury, Tom Handbury, Archie Leishman.

The impact of change

SONDRA WOLFENDEN, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Co-education at The Geelong College began with our youngest learners in Campbell House. Fifty years on, our Head of Junior School, reflects on the impact this change has had.

During the 163-year history of The Geelong College, we have witnessed many changes to the school. Some small, some significant and all of which were shaped by environmental factors in our society.

As an educator, parent and member of our community, there is one change that I believe has been most pivotal, altering the educational landscape more than any other.

Fifty years ago, the College recognised the necessity of embracing co-education, opening the doors to all genders, and marking the beginning of a new chapter in our journey.

This step transformed Campbell House (which was then a part of

the College's Preparatory School), welcoming a new era of inclusivity, equality, and continued growth of excellence that would soon spread across all year levels.

As well as offering a host of benefits and opportunities to all of our students, this monumental and, at the time, courageous decision was a significant step towards gender equality.

What we did not realise back in 1974 was that by welcoming co-education, the College was also taking its first step towards adopting the Reggio Emilia approach to education that guides Campbell House today.

The Reggio Emilia philosophy takes its name from the northern Italian village in which it was developed, and came to fruition shortly after the second world war.

The community of Reggio Emilia believed that, collaboratively, they needed to 'do better' following the historic emancipation of women and children. The result is an educational philosophy that is child-centred and fosters creativity, critical thinking, and a love of learning. It teaches respect for all members of the community, ensures equal opportunities for all, and fosters an inclusive and respectful environment. This is expressed through the concept of the 'image of the child', which sees children as competent, curious, and capable learners who actively construct their own knowledge through exploration and social interaction, emphasising respect for their ideas, potential, and rights.

Shifting the approach to education in the village of Reggio Emilia was not an easy task. Progressive and child-centred, it was considered controversial by some as it was in contrast to traditional, teacher-directed education. However, it eventually gained widespread respect and influence in early childhood education and can now be found in over 145 countries and territories worldwide.

The transition to co-education for Campbell House, too, was not without its challenges. It demanded a fundamental shift in the way education was delivered and experienced, as well as establishing how girls were viewed as members of the school with over 100 years of history as a boys' school. Yet, on the whole, the change was met with enthusiasm and determination from the College community, united in its commitment to providing equal opportunities for all students.

I have relished the accounts of Old Collegians who attended during these early years of co-education, who tell of the ways the school came together to ensure an inclusive curriculum. With agency came empowerment of all genders, the children were seen and believed to be capable citizens of the present and for our future.

This transformation has been generational and organic in its evolution, fostering co-education where boys and girls learn alongside each other, reshaping societal beliefs and expectations. This inclusive approach is now proudly embraced and celebrated. Embracing diversity and understanding differences are valued as essential for reaching our potential and becoming empathetic global citizens. This ethos is reflected in our commitment to “Community with Diversity” at Campbell House.

Children at Campbell House cherish the relationships they build and the trust they develop among each other. They play, learn, and interact in purpose-built learning spaces designed for each child to thrive. All children are seen as thinkers, theory builders and conversationalists. They are independent learners set for their own lifelong journey of discovery. I am proud of our community, which celebrates individuality without limits of gender or culture.

> Every day for the students is a day full of life, a flow of knowledge and experience from one day to the next. Each day becomes a part of the continuous project, that of life.’
> -Maddelena Tedeschi, Reggio Emilia

The impact of co-education at Campbell House has been profound, creating a dynamic and diverse learning environment. By bringing together students of different genders, backgrounds, and perspectives, we’ve cultivated a rich tapestry of ideas and experiences. This diversity enriches classroom discussions, expands horizons, and fosters empathy among students.

Co-education has broken down stereotypes and biases,

empowering students to pursue their passions freely and without limitations.

Girls and boys continue to learn and play alongside each other and have found their voices in traditionally male-dominated areas such as sport, science and designing, while boys feel free to explore areas that may previously have been seen as female-dominated - like music, performing arts and visits to the library.

With the heart of our school connecting to nature and ensuring our strong connection to Mother Earth, the children play alongside each other, building cubby houses, getting dirty and exploring our Nature Play areas. This breaking down of barriers has not only expanded individual opportunities but also paved the way for a more equitable society.

It is clear that the approach is one our students enjoy, as a conversation with any current student will confirm. Our past students also remain connected to the College, with many now College parents or staff members - sometimes both.

Our school has been a cornerstone of early childhood development in the region, shaping countless lives through dedicated educators, innovative programs, and a nurturing environment. As we celebrate 50 years of co-education, we honour our legacy and look forward to continuing our journey of growth and excellence in the evolving landscape of education. Our achievements so far serve as a strong foundation for continued growth, excellence, and contribution to the ever-evolving landscape of early childhood education. A landscape that I suspect will continue to grow and change greatly over the next 50 years, and beyond.

Imagine a time...

JULIE BICKETT, DIRECTOR OF EARLY LEARNING

We share insights from a discussion with our youngest learners - for whom co-education is very much the norm.

When asking a group of three and four year old children what they imagine school would have been like 50 years ago we expect the answers to be varied, and rightly so - 50 years sounds like a very long time to our Early Learning children.

'It would have been a smaller school. I think our school gets bigger every birthday'.

'I wonder if they had Lego 50 years ago?'

'Maybe they didn't have so many sandpits. We have so many sandpits at our school'.

'I think the school has changed a lot. My Mum went to this school, and she says it's much bigger now. The uniform is a bit different, and the people are different'.

Understanding that our school has a rich history is a process our children begin when they first enter our school. Many children have parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents that went to The Geelong College and have some knowledge of what has gone on in this place before them.

Children imagine a school, 50 years ago, that is not too dissimilar to their school of today. They know that the College is a place where we value connection, learning, kindness, and joy. It is a place where we learn together and strive to add value to our community both inside and outside the school gates.

Imagining a time when there were no girls at our school is an abstract

‘What do you mean no girls? That’s not fair. I’m glad they let girls into our school. The girls would be sad if there was no school for them.’

concept for our youngest learners here.

When children and teachers at Early Learning unpacked exactly what ‘co-education’ means children were shocked to realise that, once upon a time, there were no girls at their school.

The first response was a loud gasp, followed by:
‘I can’t even imagine that!” and: ‘What do you mean no girls? That’s not fair. I’m glad they let girls into our school. The girls would be sad if there was no school for them.’

Comments in support of girls and the value they add to our daily lives, coupled with empathy and a strong sense of equity came to the fore.

It’s pleasing to hear that our three and four year old children hold such strong opinions and beliefs around equity, access and treating people fairly.

I couldn’t help but think about how our school values and motto are so tightly woven into the hearts and minds of our community. The children’s surprise at the idea that girls were excluded from our school, is testament to how our school values hold true and steady in the hearts of our youngest leaners.

'I wouldn't like our school if there was no girls'.

'I feel sad for the girls that didn't get to come to our school'.

'Girls can do all the things that boys can do. Even singing!'

'Girls have ideas the same as boys and they learn the same as boys'.

Integrity with Compassion is lived through the care our children show to one another and how their honesty and strong moral principles shine through in their daily interactions and experiences.

Community with Diversity is highlighted by the rich cultural tapestry that makes up our College community. The progress we have made in the way we teach and learn about Australian heritage and that of other cultures has been a hugely significant part of our journey over the last 50 years.

We see **Aspiration with Humility** as our children imagine, inspire and believe in a better future for our planet. As they engage in and learn about environmental issues, we see their passion for Mother Earth and humanity come to the fore.

Respect with Grace is highlighted by the way our children demonstrate high regard for one another and those they encounter. The courteous goodwill they show towards their teachers, friends and community members is often a compliment we receive from visitors to our school.

Endeavour with Courage is lived through our daily commitment to try something new, be open to the ideas of others and be courageous in our decisions. Taking considered risks and learning by 'doing' is something we work hard on at Early Learning.

There is no doubt that the welcoming of girls to The Geelong College has ensured our wonderful, inspiring community will continue to flourish for many generations to come. For this is the way to the stars.

Notable women

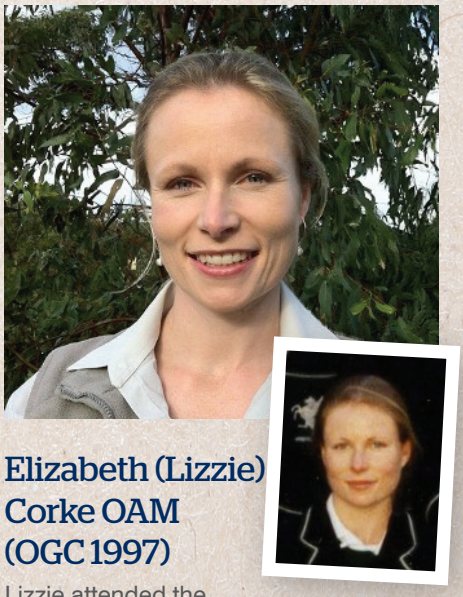
The OGCA Notables Gallery recognises and honours former students of the College who are outstanding in their fields.

When the Notables Gallery was launched in 2011, it featured 44 students. It should come as no surprise that, in a school that spent over a hundred years exclusively educating boys, 43 of the first 'Notables' featured were male.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Corke (OGC 1997) was the first female to be inducted. However, it is heartening to see that she is no longer the lone female representative on the wall. In the 13 years since its inaugral induction took place, 15 other woman have joined her ranks. Here, we feature a snapshot of their achievements.

Jennifer Cleary (OGC 2011)

Jen attended the College 1998-2011. At school she excelled across mulitple disciplines and was a member of successful rowing crews from Year 10, including state champions and Head of the River. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2018 as an Australian Rower, representing Australia at the 2016 Olympics.



Elizabeth (Lizzie) Corke OAM (OGC 1997)

Lizzie attended the College 1995-1997. She was a member of Calvert House and received House colours for debating and cross country. In 2011 she became the first female Old Collegian to be inducted into the Notables Gallery for her award-winning work in conservation, co-founding the Conservation Ecology Centre in Cape Otway.

Harriet Brown (OGC 2008)

Harriet attended the College 1997-2008. She was a prolific sportsperson, serving on multiple teams including athletics, swimming, hockey and waterpolo. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2018 as a water sports champion, achievements including World Ironwoman Champion in 2016.

Notable women

Nicole Curtis AM (OGC 1988)

Nicole attended the College 1976-1983. She returned in 1987 and graduated in 1988. She was a Coles House Prefect in 1988 and received multiple House colours for sport, music and debating. In 2022 Nicole was inducted into the Notables Gallery for her achievements in medicine and the Royal Australian Navy, serving as Director-General of Garrison Health Operations.

Dr Claire Fenton-Glynn (nee Simmonds) (OGC 2002)

Claire attended the College 1995-2002. She was an all-round student involved in many aspects of College life, including serving as Wettenhall House Prefect. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2016 for her award-winning work as a Child and Family Law academic, including serving as a consultant with several global and national organisations.

Jennifer Hawkins (nee Le Deux) (OGC 1977)

Jennie attended the College in 1977. She was a member of the 1st netball team and rowing crews, receiving House colours for athletics and netball.

She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2016 for her advocacy work for Australian agriculture and rural communities, serving on the inaugural Regional Women's Advisory Council and numerous other community roles.

The Jennie Hawkins Scholarship was founded in her honour following her death in 2015.

Jennie was part of the school's first cohort of girls who attended when co-education was introduced at The Geelong College in 1975.

Sarah Hope Schofield (OGC 2004)

Sarah attended the College 1998-2004. She was an active sports participant during her years at school and she was stroke of the Girls' 1st rowing VIII in 2004. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2016 for her global experience as a fashion designer, including work at Christian Dior, Louis Vuitton, Nina Ricci, Versace and Jacquemus, and her own brand ASSK.

Sarah Henderson (OGC 1981)

Sarah attended the College 1977-1981. She became the first female School Captain in the College's history in 1981. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2014 for her position as a member in the House of Representatives for Corangamite, Victoria in 2013. She is now Senator for Victoria. Prior to this she was a prominent journalist and lawyer.

Phoebe Kelly (nee Stanley) (OGC 2003)

Phoebe attended the College 1998-2003. She was a talented sportsperson, involved in a number of sports and was appointed Captain of Boats, School Prefect and Co-Captain of Coles House. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2014 for her rowing career as ten-time Australian National Champion, multiple World Championship medals and her attendance at the 2012 London Olympics.

Notable women

Dr Sarah Leach (OGC 1973)

Sarah attended the College 1975-1976. She was one of the first female School Prefects in 1976 and was involved in sports and music. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2016 for her leadership in the healthcare, community and welfare sectors, and is Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculty of Health, Deakin University.

Rebecca Maddern (OGC 1995)

Rebecca attended the College in 1995. She was a McArthur House Prefect and won the Australian Studies Prize. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2022 for her work as a presenter and journalist. She was the first female presenter of The Footy Show, covering numerous sports and events, and now presents 7 News.

Sally Morris (OGC 1993)

Sally attended the College 1987-1993. She was a member of the athletics and swimming teams and received the Physical Education Prize in 1993. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2014 for her involvement in waterskiing on a national and global stage, as a competitor and administrator, including three times Australian Open Women's Tricks Champion.

Karina Newmarch (nee Wieland) (OGC 1992)

Karina attended the College 1989-1992. She was an avid sportsperson and was part of the successful 1st VIII crews winning the Head of the River and National School Girls Championship in 1992. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2014, acknowledging her achievements in sport including rowing for Australia at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Michelle Quigley QC (OGC 1973)

Michelle attended the College 1975-1976. She was one of the first female School Prefects in 1976. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2014 for her work as a barrister and community fundraiser. Her legal practice specialises in planning, environment, heritage and local government. She was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2017.

Nominations are now open for the 2025 induction.

We invite all members of The Geelong College community to nominate candidates for consideration online at:

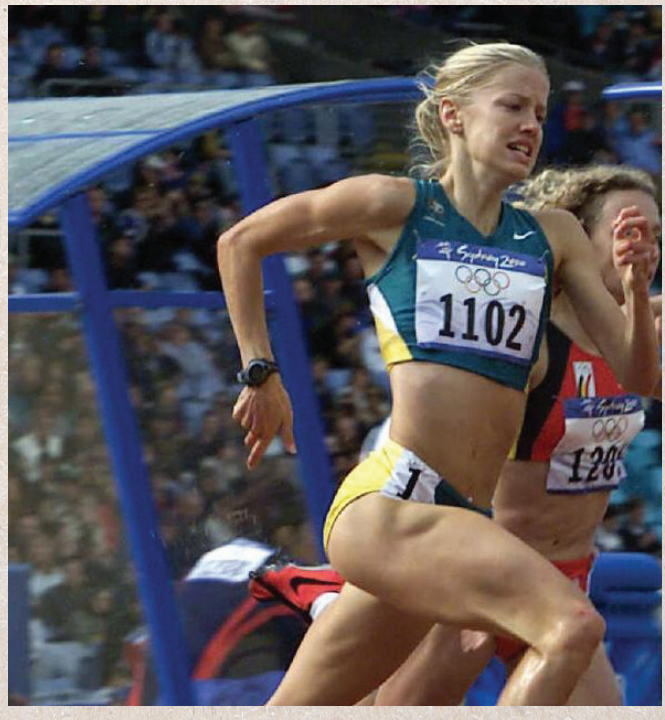
www.**bit.ly/Notables2024**

Lyndsay Sharp (nee McKendrick) (OGC 1979)

Lyndsay attended the College 1976-1979. She was a School Prefect and was involved in many sports, serving on the swimming and girls 1st XI hockey teams. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2022 for her role in local tourism and advocacy. With her own businesses and more broadly, Lyndsay has been integral to promoting the Bellarine and Geelong region.

Georgina Sutherland (nee Clarke) (OGC 2002)

Georgie attended the College 1990-2002. She was a key member of the school APS Athletics squad, and in 1998 broke three records at the APS combined sports. She was inducted into the Notables Gallery in 2014, recognising her athletics career, having represented Australia at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and receiving multiple medals at world championships.



VCE achievements

NATHAN MORTON, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING

The efforts of all 2023 Year 12 students culminated in achievements that the College is incredibly proud of.

Beyond the remarkably positive results, this group of graduates characterise the aspirations that The Geelong College has for its students. The manner in which they participated in all aspects of College life has left a benchmark for all future graduates to aspire to.

Life beyond school can be a vexing prospect for many young adults. On the one hand, leaving the defined, regimented structures and expectations seems challenging.

On the other hand, the anticipation of a blank canvas, with all its possibilities, is exciting.

To all 2023 graduates, irrespective of where you are currently sitting on this spectrum, know that you leave The Geelong College with an extraordinary experience in what life has to offer. You leave anchored with strong values and a sound sense of what it means to positively and proactively participate in the community around you.

Equally, each graduate benefited from the community that surrounded them as they grew into young adults and finished their schooling. The guidance, wisdom, and impact of parents, teachers, school support staff, extended family, and friends cannot be underestimated.

We graciously thank all of the people that supported our 2023 graduates through their time at the College and we are confident that the pride and satisfaction we feel towards this group is shared by each of their supporters.

Our students have achieved outstanding things in Year 12.

They balanced a range of commitments including their academic studies, community service, co-curricular activities and leadership roles. They did it with poise and grace.

The College sets the highest possible aspiration for every single student. In celebrating the well-rounded approach that has been exhibited by this group, we show future graduates what is possible and what we want every student to strive towards during their time at The Geelong College.

The incredibly monumental experience of completing Year 12 is one which I have found to be deeply unifying.

It is a tribute to the College that in a year dominated by rankings and competition, a strong sense of camaraderie, teamwork and unity developed within our cohort.

I, like so many others, felt as though I was being dragged in opposing directions throughout the year. The conflicting demands of managing a large workload yet avoiding burnout, remaining focused on exams yet also planning for the future, seemed impossible to reconcile. However, it was the comradeship and support of the College community that allowed me to find the right balance. Chatting with friends, for example, proved vital to remaining sane in high-stress periods and retaining a sense of perspective.

Likewise, the support offered by our teachers has been invaluable. More than simply teaching us what we needed to know for our exams, they went above and beyond to help us manage our stress and forge our futures beyond school.

In this sense, I consider the College's uniquely strong community to be one of the keys to surviving and thriving in Year 12, because it prevents you from losing sight of your hobbies, passions and aspirations outside academic performance. Thus, I say to this year's group of Year 12s, utilise the people around you to keep this year in perspective and seize the opportunities that present themselves to you, both in and out of the classroom. Remember, while the workload can often seem interminable and the stress too much to bear, your last year of high school flies by so fast. Why not challenge yourself and see what you are capable of?

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 for all we have achieved and the way we have supported each other throughout the year.

- Agnes Ambrose, 2023 Dux

2023 VCE RESULTS

Dux ATAR
99.9
Two students achieved an ATAR above 99

Median ATAR
80.10
Well above the national average of 70.00

ATAR over 90
25
students
Placing them in the top 10% of students in Australia

3
Perfect Study Scores
In the subjects of: English, General Maths & Legal Studies

TERTIARY OFFERS

Of the 163 students who successfully completed their VCE, 152 applied for tertiary studies and received an offer at university.

University	% of students
Monash University	23
University of Melbourne	22
RMIT	20
Deakin University	11
Australian Catholic University	10
Swinburne University	5

Interstate Universities
University of Adelaide: 12
Australian National University: 10
Griffith University: 7
University of Sydney: 5

Overseas universities:
USA & UK: 10

(Number of students)

Aladdin Jr.'s magic carpet ride

CAROLINE FAIRLIE, DIRECTOR OF ALADDIN JR.

Welcome to the enchanting world of Agrabah!

Aladdin Jr. was brought to the stage by our Year 8 Production Company performers and our team of talented theatre makers.

The students danced, sung and developed characters to bring the script from this magical story to life.

We hope that each student cherished the opportunity to be a part of Aladdin Jr. and that it will live on as a wonderful memory of their time at Middle School.

For many, this is their first step into the world of musical theatre, and I was thrilled to see their growth and development throughout the process.

Journeying to the Geelong Arts Centre allowed the students the incredible experience of being in a professional theatre, which was the cause of great excitement.

The learning involved for all students has been extensive and we were thrilled to see our audiences witness the theatre magic as it unfolded on stage.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our creative team whose dedication brought a vision into reality. Their passion and tireless efforts turned the tale of Aladdin Jr. into a vibrant and colourful spectacle that captivated all who saw it.

Celebrating Easter at College in 2024

LEANNE EARL, MIDDLE AND JUNIOR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Easter is a significant celebration in the Christian calendar, which falls each year at the end of our academic first term of the year.

In accordance with the Christian ethos of The Geelong College, Easter is highlighted each year in our school calendar, when students have opportunities to unpack and explore the meaning of 'Celebrating Easter' through different experiences as they grow as students at College.

Year 3

In the Junior School the Year 3 students explored the Easter story through Godly Play each week.

As we approached the Easter mystery, the students heard the stories of Jesus' journey towards the cross and what followed.

Using words and imagery to explore these stories, the students responded individually with time given to consider where the experiences of Jesus fit within their own lives.

Through drawing and writing the students reflected and explored their ideas and unpacked their thinking.

Year 7

As part of the Religious and Values Education program, the students in Year 7 completed a unit and assessment task that investigated the events and significance of the Easter story and season, looking at both the historical event and how it is experienced today.

To assist the students to deepen their understanding of the significance of Easter, this year we were fortunate to be able to include a new excursion

into the Year 7 curriculum, visiting the All Saints Anglican Church in Newtown. The All Saints community had set up a display of stations depicting the historical events, to retell the story of Easter in a range of physical spaces.

There were seven different scenes depicting what had happened on that first Easter. The students were invited to move through the different spaces, listen to a discussion of the events as they unfolded and reflect on what it would have been like if they had been there with Jesus 2000 years ago. The scenes began with Jesus entering Jerusalem on the donkey, through to the discovery of the empty tomb of Jesus and his resurrection.

In the next stage, the Year 7 students completed a research assignment presenting the order of events, and drawing on the story as told in the gospels. They reflected on the meaning of the days as they are celebrated today.

Whole School

As we reached the end of the term, on the final day, the exploration of Easter was capped off with The Geelong College celebration of our Easter service.

This year we again gathered on the Senior School lawns outside the Dining Hall. We were fortunate to have had such a beautiful morning!

We began with the ethereal sound of the bagpipes played by Hannah Phung (OGC 2023) and the Mirri voices set the scene by singing 'Sing a New Song'.

The service included prayers, hymns and an Easter message given by College Chaplain Steve Wright.

The themes of resurrection, renewal, and hope were at the heart of the day.

Early Learning & Junior School

The students from Early Learning then celebrated their visit to Senior School with hot cross buns served to them by the College Prefects.

Junior School students on their return found that the Easter Bunny had visited their classrooms and left them some Easter eggs as a surprise.

A joyful and hopeful way to end the first term!

From our Co-Captains

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

We chatted to College Co-Captains, Annabelle (Annie) Hutchings and Zephyr Seignior.

For Annie Hutchings and Zephyr Seignior, their final year at College feels as though it is flying by.

"It is surreal to think that we are already halfway through 2024," said Annie.

"It's hard to believe how quickly it's moving until you take a moment to realise how busy we are with all aspects of life at the College," agreed Zephyr.

Both students are grateful for the opportunities their captaincy offers but feel particularly proud to be leading the College in its 50th year of co-education.

"I am humbled and honoured to be the female Captain at the Geelong College as we celebrate such a significant milestone in our school's great history.

"It has been 43 years since the first female captain, Sarah Henderson, was appointed, and in her footsteps, I endeavour to lead with compassion and empathy. I want to continue to foster an environment of utmost acceptance," said Annie.

For Zephyr, it is difficult to imagine the College being anything but an inclusive place.

"Given the profound impact of co-education on everyday life at the College and the benefits it has brought, I struggle to imagine our school as it once was - exclusive to boys.

"That, in itself, speaks volumes about how far we have progressed since the first female students started 50 years ago. It is certainly something to commemorate," he said.

The value our students place on being part of an inclusive school environment is clear.

"Co-education was a vital, most important step for the College. As leaders, we are very grateful for the ongoing impact this change continues to have," said Annie.

"It truly is the best way of preparing students for life, as it accurately simulates how the real world works. Students can communicate, respect and learn alongside their peers - regardless of gender," Zephyr said.

Annie reflected on the enormity of the change, and the things that contributed to its success.

"The fact that the College community was able to welcome the change with such positivity reflects the College's adaptability and progressive nature, which is still evident today. It allows our school to continue to grow in an ever-changing world," she said.

There is no doubt that this growth benefits our students.

"We're fortunate to have the facilities we do. The Recreation Centre, built in 1999, has allowed for a whole new community to develop. As well as allowing APS swimming, diving and water polo, it introduced a new aspect for PE classes," said Zephyr.

Chilly charity plunge

As College Co-Captain and someone passionate about sport, Zephyr Seignior saw an opportunity for improvement in our sport program.

“I wanted to introduce ice baths for the students to use as physical recovery after a big weekend of APS. Also as a way of testing and improving mental strength.

“Exposure to cold, although challenging in multiple ways, has so many benefits that the students can now experience if they are up for the challenge,” he said.

His idea was welcomed by the College, and three ice baths were soon put into place.

But Zephyr’s fondness for chilly temperatures took him a step further - he wanted the College to host our own ‘Big Freeze 10’ to raise money for research into Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

He put the idea to the other Prefects, and they agreed - what better way to introduce the new ice baths? Together, they approached their teachers, hoping to find some who were brave enough to commit to the plunge.

“We got such a great response - 12 teachers, plus a special appearance from one of our bus drivers.”

The fundraising target was set at an ambitious $3000.

“The funds raised will play a crucial role in advancing research efforts towards finding effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for MND.

“The event garnered tremendous support from the College community, with generous donations pouring in.”

On Friday 3 May, it was showtime.

With the Cloisters filled with students and staff, all eyes were on the ice baths.

The dress code for the plungers varied wildly - with Head of Senior School, Nat Coull, dressed in a full suit, standing alongside Spiderman, a penguin and a surf-lifesaver - with many other weird and wonderful variations in between.

“Our beloved teachers courageously and fearlessly plunged in the icy waters in an act of solidarity,” Zephyr recalled.

There were a few gasps and shrieks as icy water met skin, but these were mostly drowned out by the cheering crowd.

The sacrifice of those 13 brave staff was much appreciated, as evidenced by the fundraising results.

“It by far surpassed expectations. In the end, we were proud to announce that we had raised over $6,000 for MND,” said Zephyr.

A remarkable achievement, indeed, the figure earned The Geelong College the honour of becoming Australia’s top fundraising school for MND.

Congratulations to Zephyr and his team on a great result.

Watch the video of the big event: www.bit.ly/bigfreezevideo

It’s not too late to donate

“We urge everyone to keep the donations coming, so that together we can finally beat the beast” - Zephyr Seignior

Please scan the QR code to donate online or visit www.bit.ly/Bigfreeze24

“We have also enjoyed the development of other essential learning facilities such as the Keith Humble Centre, and the brand new Belerren Centre - both of which were made possible by support from our community,” said Annie.

“The introduction of the Geelong College Rainbow Alliance a few years ago, which supports LGBTQIA+ students and allies, is another thing to be proud of.

“Each step we, as a school, take towards the future enriches the lives of current and future students and creates an enhanced learning and social experience for all,” she said.

Annie and Zephyr have big plans for the remainder of their year.

“The Prefect team hope that we can help keep the momentum going, and continue changing the school for the better,” said Zephyr.

“We hope to leave a lasting legacy on The Geelong College’s continuing stories of change,” said Annie.

New challenges bring new skills

JEREMY EDWARDS, YEAR 7 COORDINATOR

Our recent Year 7 Camp was more than just a trip away – it was an experience for our students, one that provided them an opportunity to develop new friendships, embrace challenges, and develop essential interpersonal skills with one another.

Set against the backdrop of gorgeous Marysville, the Year 7 Camp was met with a mixture of excitement, nerves, and anticipation.

Away from the familiar surroundings of home and the classroom, students had to embrace how to interact with their peers and teachers in a different setting. They also needed to learn how to work collaboratively to complete activities and co-exist with others in tents and cabins.

The positive connections and relationships that were formed were some of the biggest highlights of the trip.

Through team-building activities and shared experiences, bonds were created that we trust will last throughout their schooling journey and beyond. Students learned the value of teamwork, cooperation, and empathy: skills that are crucial for building strong relationships both in and out of school.

We also enjoyed activities such as high-ropes courses, canoeing, bike riding, bush skills, pizza-making, and more!

These activities encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, to try new things, and to help discover new interests and talents, fostering exploration, teamwork, and curiosity.

When I speak to students about their Year 7 Camp experience, a series of patterns emerge: connections and a sense of belonging.

Many students reported that they developed new friendships, met new people, and walked away feeling a greater sense of belonging and connection to the school and their friendship groups.

With such an experience, there will always be some anxiety and discomfort around meeting new people and living alongside them, however, I trust that Year 7 Camp provided a wonderful opportunity to develop perseverance and resilience.

I am beyond proud of students for completing the full week; both sleeping out in tents, being in cabins with others, and being surrounded by old and new friends alike.

Throughout the various challenges they faced, whether it was conquering a fear of heights, navigating the bike ride, or meeting new people, students learned to push through and never give up.

These valuable lessons in resilience will serve them well as they navigate the challenges of adolescence and beyond.

As we reflect on Year 7 Camp, it is clear that this year will be a journey of growth and self-discovery and I hope that the camp has enlightened students and given them newfound confidence to navigate learning about themselves and other people.

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved already, and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and flourish in the years to come.

My many thanks to the wonderful Year 7 teachers and staff who helped support and care for the students across the week, and to Hannah Woods (MS teacher and Camp Coordinator) for her organisation and overseeing of the camp.

We look forward to hearing more stories shared across the year, and to continue supporting our young people to further develop strong relationships with each other, and make new connections throughout Year 7.

"It was a good experience because we got to meet new friends when we were put in different groups.

We got pushed outside our comfort zone, and we enjoyed being part of this experience.

We made heaps of fun memories and it was fun hanging out with new friends and learning about what schools they've come from, and learning about them.

I also loved learning new skills."

- Mack, 7D

"It was very enjoyable and I made new friendships.

The canoeing was lots of fun, and camping out was fun; I had never been camping out before! The bike ride was challenging, but the end part was smooth.

Overall, it was a 10/10!"

- Annie, 7A

School Activities

BUPA Aged Care Visits

International Women's Day Breakfast

Easter Service

Darwin Football Camp

Year 9 Retreat

Reconciliation Week

Generations in Jazz

JS Ngarrweerreeng Day

Year 8 Pottery

China Trip

APS Head of the River

Year 6 Leadership Incursion

SS House Music

ANZAC Service

Year 7 Art Excursion

GO
TGC

Derby Day

GO
COLLEGE

Teaching Excellence

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

In 2023 teachers Iain Wallace and Kellie Winters embarked on the Teaching Excellence Program (TEP) offered by The Victorian Academy for Teaching and Leadership. Both feel that their experience has been an enriching one, fortifying their roles as educators and enhancing their effectiveness in the classroom.

The Teaching Excellence Program (TEP) is a year-long professional learning program for highly skilled teachers, supporting and challenging them to become even better teachers.

For Iain Wallace, a primary years teacher at The Geelong College, the TEP was an opportunity to delve into the most effective strategies for developing students' language comprehension within a curriculum spanning science, history, geography, and social studies.

"The TEP provided me with a unique opportunity to explore new methods and refine my approach...I was able to tap into a wealth of contemporary, evidence-informed research that will help me to better tailor my teaching to the diverse learning needs of my students," he said.

'The words of E.D. Hirsch summarise it well: "If we want our children to be broadly competent readers, thinkers, and problem solvers, they must have a rich, broad store of background knowledge to call upon, enabling them to flex those mental muscles," he said.

Kellie Winters also found the TEP to be an invaluable part of her professional development.

"It greatly enriched my teaching skills and strengthened my role as an educator by equipping me with the tools to enhance my effectiveness in the classroom," she said.

Kellie was able to put these skills into practice when she engaged in two inquiries. Her first focused on identifying disengaged students and finding strategies to re-engage them. The second was an exploration of student agency, metacognition, self-regulation, and self-efficacy, and was completed in association with teachers from two other Geelong schools.

Both Iain and Kellie highly valued the opportunity for professional connection that the program afforded them.

"One of the highlights of TEP was the opportunity to engage with national and international expert educators," said Iain.

"The opportunity to connect with teachers from all sectors of education exposed me to diverse learning activities and innovative teaching approaches," said Kellie.

But the aim of the TEP was not only to enrich the teaching skills of participants, it also aimed to provide them with a lens through which they could be introspective.

"Each participant had to complete two teacher 'portraits', one in Term 1 and the other in Term 4, the purpose being to provide teachers with an opportunity to reflect upon their teacher identity," explained Kellie.

"It was an invaluable platform to deepen my understanding of who I am as a teacher and to explore and express the personal qualities, passions, beliefs, and values that shape me as an 'exceptional teacher'."

Both educators are grateful for their experience, and emphasised the profound impact of TEP, as a whole, on their professional growth.

"Participating in a diverse range of learning activities, I gained insights beyond the confines of traditional teaching methods.

"The program not only broadened my educational horizons but also equipped me with the tools to elevate my effectiveness as an educator.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the College Executive and the Junior School Leadership team for their support throughout my TEP journey," said Iain.

"I would like to thank Dr Miller for supporting my application and granting me the time during the school year to undertake this transformative professional learning... The TEP fostered an environment of continuous growth, inspiring me to incorporate novel methods in my classroom," said Kellie.

Iain and Kellie's experiences underscore the importance of continuous professional development and collaboration in fostering effective teaching practices.

ROWING

A launchpad for young rowers

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

The Rowing Victoria Pathway Competition, held during the Australian underage selection trials, offers secondary school rowers a chance to join the Under 18 Victorian State Team.

For Year 11 TGC students Mackenzie Pugh, Hannah Dunton, and Nicholas Thornton, the journey to selection was rigorous but rewarding.

The students' selection began in November 2023 with a 2km ergo time submission to Rowing Victoria.

"We attended a day camp on the Yarra River in Melbourne, meeting coaches and competitors," Mackenzie explains.

The process included in-person ergo trials and two days of on-water seat racing.

"We all had to work with unfamiliar rowers and coxes. It was difficult watching such strong rowers get cut through the process, but we were lucky enough to make it through to the final crew."

Despite only ten days of training together, the crew quickly formed a great connection.

"We knew how dedicated we all were. We have made friends for life," Mackenzie adds. Racing in the Big V was a highlight for all students.

"Racing for Victoria took our rowing to the next level. The experiences gave us insights into improving as athletes," she says.

The girls' VIII crew placed first in their heat and finished fourth in the A final, with the boys VIII crew also finishing fourth in the A final.

"The competition was incredibly high, but it was a fantastic learning experience.

Hannah also reflects on the demanding selection process.

"We submitted our 2km ergo times and were monitored by scouts throughout the racing season," she explains.

"Making it to the final day of on-water trials was an achievement. Being part of the Victorian Pathway VIII was incredible."

Training together involved early mornings and Melbourne sunrises.

"Meeting and rowing with people from different schools and regions was one of the best parts," says Hannah.

The team then flew to Sydney, where they bonded with rowers from other states.

"Rowing for the Big V was the best experience I've had. The competitive atmosphere was exhilarating, and the friendships we formed were invaluable."

For Mackenzie, Hannah, and Nicholas, the Pathway Competition was more than just a regatta; it was a stepping stone towards future opportunities in rowing.

"The experiences have given us more knowledge about the next steps we can take, whether applying for US colleges, trials for the under-19 Australian team, or continuing our passion for the sport beyond school," Mackenzie concludes.

As they look forward to the upcoming school season, Mackenzie, Hannah, and Nicholas are excited to apply what they've learned and continue their rowing journey.

NETBALL

Rising Stars & Australian Diamonds

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

It's been a stellar season for College netball so far, with the Firsts currently placed second on the APS ladder, only narrowly losing to Caulfield recently in a goal-for-goal game. The Seconds remain undefeated, comfortably winning each week with an average margin of 20-plus goals. There have been strong results in all divisions, the depth and professionalism of the program is shining through.

Former Australian Diamonds player and international coach, Jane Searle, was announced as Director of Coaching (Netball) for the 2024 season. She has over four decades of national netball playing experience, including 25 appearances for Australia, a World Championship Gold Medal in 1983, and serving as Vice-Captain in 1986.

A highly skilled player, Jane's coaching and development knowledge is also vast. Jane has coached the Australian Fast5 Flyers team, been Assistant Coach to the Diamonds, and Head Coach of the Brunei National Team. She has also coached at the Adelaide Thunderbirds, West Coast Fever, and Melbourne Kestrels, and is currently the Head Coach of the Wilson Storage Saints in the VNL.

"Jane has been working with players across all year levels to develop their skills and understanding of the game," says Teacher in Charge of Netball, Sarah Langley.

"She has also demonstrated high-impact coaching strategies for our coaches to learn from at training and games, including planning training sessions and effective communication and progressions of drills."

We are also incredibly proud of the remarkable achievements of the six senior netballers selected into elite pathway teams this year. Their hard work and dedication has paid off, and we are excited about the opportunities they will have to train and play with high-calibre teammates and nationally accredited coaches.

Indiah Madden (Year 9) has been selected for the Victorian Under 15 State Team and will compete at the School Sport Association (SSA) Nationals on the Gold Coast in late July. Zoey Shaw (Year 12) and Louise Shaw (Year 11) join the Geelong Cougars Under 23 team in the Victorian Netball League (VNL), whilst Shelby O'Sullivan (Year 11) is playing for their Under 23 Development Team in the Parkville premier division.

Eliza Hannagan (Year 12) and Eden Nadorp-Goddard (Year 12) have been selected for the City West Falcons Under 23 Development Team, competing in the Under 19 State Netball Super Series at Altona.

With such exciting netball being played consistently throughout the season and the impending completion of the Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre, the College's Netball Program is set to continue to soar to great heights as the opportunities for high performance netball to become a regular feature of the program continues and develops.

TGC Sport *in brief*

EQUESTRIAN

Equestrian excellence at the College

The Geelong College Equestrian Team has demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication, achieving a remarkable 5th place out of 160 schools at the State Interschool Championships and an equal first place and overall Reserve Champions out of 60 schools at the VEIS Grand Final. Three outstanding riders have qualified for the Victorian team and will compete at the National Championships in Queensland this September, Year 9 students Shayleigh Joblin in Show Hunter Intermediate and Dressage, Annabelle Richardson in Show Horse Intermediate, and Year 6 student Heidi Jackson in Primary Jumping 80cm.

Well done to all College riders on their achievements and dedication this year.

CROSS COUNTRY

Running towards success

The annual GISSA Cross Country showcased impressive athletic performances from College athletes securing five first-place finishes and numerous top ten places. Notably, four winners finished more than a minute ahead of their nearest competitors.

From a team perspective, the College emerged victorious in the junior girls' division and were runners-up in several other categories.

"GISSA Cross Country is a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to compete against some of the best talent in the region. All our Cross Country runners performed really well, with a number of runners recording PBs," College Director of Sport, Paul Carson, said.

Notable performances included

- 13 Girls: 1st Sunday Borrack, 4th Freya Mills
- 13 Boys: 1st Julian Jo-Yu Eng, 4th Axel Szalay
- 14 Girls: 3rd Cleo Cameron
- 15 Girls: 1st Lucy Borrack, 2nd Chloe Bowyer
- 15 Boys: 1st Cadell Cross
- 16 Boys: 1st Gus Augustine
- Open Girls: 2nd Zara Paul
- Open Boys: 3rd Eduard Wissfeld, 5th Jacob Sprunt

King's Birthday honours

Gareth Andrews (OGC 1960) has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the King's Birthday Honours List this year. The accolade acknowledges his significant contributions to the AFL, men's health, and the broader community.

Gareth Eliot Tremayne Andrews AM (OGC 1960), former AFL footballer, businessman, media writer and commentator has devoted much of his later life to charitable pursuits.

Reflecting on his AM, Gareth expressed deep gratitude.

"I was very honoured, more than anything," he said. "It's a different sort of recognition, I guess; it's a validation of maybe doing something differently."

Gareth had a long football career, first playing for the Geelong Football Club, before moving to the Richmond Football Club. He played 136 games including the 1967 Grand Final with Geelong and 31 games with Richmond. During this period he was joint founder of the VFL (now AFL) Players' Association.

He became Chief Executive of the Richmond Football Club in 1978. His association with football continued as an ABC commentator from 1980 to 1989, and as the Sunday Age Football Analyst from 1989 to 1997.

He was Vice-President of the Geelong Football Club from 1998 to 2013 and is a Life Member of the Australian Football League (AFL), the Australian Football League Players' Association (AFLPA), the Geelong Football Club (GFC) and the Richmond Football Club (RFC). He is also a Director of the AFLPA Players Injury and Hardship Fund and the GFC Foundation. In 2013, he was awarded the R J Hickey Award for services to Australian football.

Involvement in community activities has been a prominent feature in his life.

He has chaired the Victorian Division of Lord Taverner's, a charitable association supporting indigenous, disadvantaged, deaf and blind young people to play cricket.

He has been a Committee member of CASSE, working with aboriginal people in Central Australia addressing mental health problems and assisting to establish healthy futures, independent of Government financial support; a Director of the 'Northern Journeys Foundation', assisting indigenous people to develop empowering social and activity networks; and is a Director of the Board of 'Project Rozana' which raises funds for health services and the treatment of critically ill Palestinian children in Israeli Hospitals.

In 2013, he founded the 'Life Again Foundation'. A not-for-profit organisation, it empowers men to face the challenges of mid-life, and make the appropriate changes to help them navigate their way through this period.

"It's about doing something for other people, recognising that men struggle, and realising we don't struggle alone," he explained.

The foundation now delivers positive mental health programs to men and women, organisations, and communities.

Gareth started at The Geelong College in 1958. He was a McArthur House Prefect in 1963, and McArthur House Captain and School Prefect in 1964.

His sporting achievements at College were comprehensive. A member of the Athletics team, 1st XI Cricket team and 1st XVIII Football team, he was the APS leading goal kicker in 1963 and 1964.

In recognition of his achievements, Gareth was inducted into the Old Geelong Collegians' Association (OGCA) Notables Gallery at The Geelong College in 2018.

Making their mark on Belerren

OUR NEW SPORTS & WELLBEING CENTRE

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING & ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

With the centre complete, and only one final chance to donate to the Belerren Campaign, we chat to four Old Collegians who have decided to 'Take (their) Place'.

Sandy Hutton (OGC 1973), Director on the College Council and former President of the Geelong College Foundation

As a boarder, Sandy was struck by the plaques on the back of the chairs in the Dining Hall and the generosity and lasting impact of those donors.

"I have often reflected on the generosity of those donors who, in the less prosperous times of the Depression and WWII, still found a way to support the school. They had such an everlasting connection to the College. My father was also involved in the fundraising for the Memorial Wing in the 1940s after the war."

When the opportunity to 'take his place' in Belerren presented, Sandy knew immediately what he wanted to do.

"I felt keenly that I should also help the school's development if I could."

He knew that this was an opportunity not only to support the school he loves, but also a chance to celebrate his crew's Head of the River victory and honour his inspirational coach, David Ramage (OGC 1953).

"Well, we won the Head of the River! My rowing days at the College are my favourite memories (as opposed to class time!!), and the commitment of the coaches and local parents was incredible. I put it to the boys that we should "take our place" as a crew and honour David Ramage as our coach because without him we would not have won. They all agreed without hesitation."

As Sandy looked around the completed gym, with the first round of plaques already installed, he offered the following advice to his fellow Old Collegians:

"There is plenty of space left, so it would be good to see a few more of you 'take your place'."

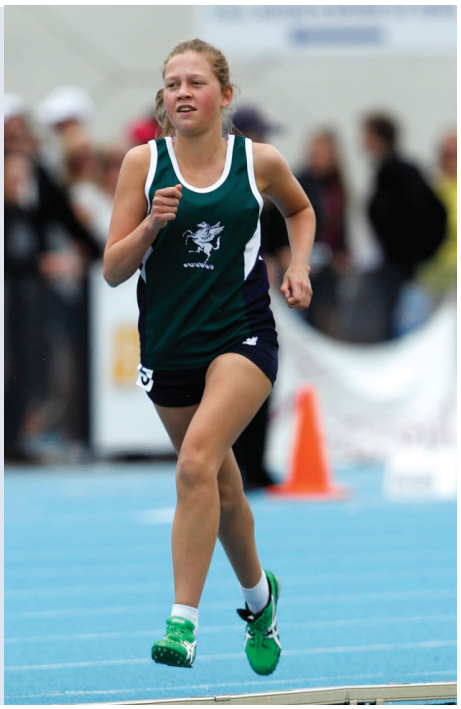
Click the link or scan the QR to hear Sandy's "Take Your Place" story:

bit.ly/TYP_Sandy

Lilli Balaam (OGC 2016)

2016 College Co-Captain Lilli Balaam has also put her name on a plaque, after making some of her fondest College memories in sport.

"I loved my time participating in school sport. Sport challenges, inspires and brings people together and I am pleased to support this new facility that will do the same for generations to come."



Nick and Tracey Gilchrist (OGC 2001)

As current parents and Old Collegians, 'taking their place' was something that Nick and Tracey wanted to do because College is a very special place for their family.

"I was lucky enough to meet my amazing wife Tracey at The Geelong College, where we graduated in 2001. We both made lasting friendships and the education we received provided the foundation for our careers, me in IT and Tracey as an obstetrician. We now have four children attending The Geelong College - Emily in Year 8, Charlotte in Year 6, Jack in Year 3 and Harry in ELC 3. The College have provided an excellent experience for our family to date, not least of which has been its inclusion of our youngest child Harry, who has a rare genetic condition with additional needs. The ongoing family banter, besides football teams, is which Senior School house the children will be in as I was in Morrison and Tracey was in Calvert," Nick shared.

They wanted to contribute to the College and to Belerren because it is something that will have a positive impact on the next generation.

"We discussed the plaque with the children. As sport is such an important part of their lives, they are proud that their family has contributed to an amazing facility. I hope other people will also want to donate to the Belerren Take Your Place program so they can contribute to a facility that will change young people's lives for many years to come and have a direct and lasting connection with Belerren's facilities and the school."

Are you ready to Take Your Place?

We have been thrilled with the uptake so far and encourage you to consider taking your place in Belerren's history.

Etch your name in the College's history here: takeyourplace.tgc.vic.edu.au/

Take your place. Shape their sporting future.

The Take Your Place project is your final opportunity to donate to the Belerren Campaign.

Simply make a tax-deductible donation of $1000 or more, and your name will be engraved on a plaque and installed on the courtside seating area of Belerren, the new Sports & Wellbeing Centre at The Geelong College Senior School.

By supporting this project, you are helping to shape the sporting future of both our current and future students. You will also be inextricably linked to the many special moments that will occur within this amazing new facility.

Since launching the Take Your Place project in February of this year we have heard some lovely stories and connections to the College, as well as reasons people chose the words they put on the plaque. There are plaques honouring individuals, families, deceased family members, coaches and teams, as well as family mottos and inspirational sayings.

Through this project, the community is not only contributing to a wonderful addition to the College's facilities, but also building connection and stories, important to our community, into this new space. It is connecting the past with the present and with the future.

Belerren update

BRAD CARR, PROJECT MANAGER

It is with great delight, I provide my final project update on the construction of Belerren.

After almost 22 months on site, construction of Belerren was completed in May.

The receipt of necessary occupancy certificates for the building enabled the College to complete the commissioning for IT and AV systems.

The College's IT and AV team contributed heavily to the building's operational needs, even assisting with the installation of a large LED screen for the courts.

The next step was the installation of furniture and equipment - which really helped the space move from 'project under construction' to feeling like a functional building.

Another exciting milestone was the fit-out of the new strength and conditioning area. Students and the broader College community will now have access to state-of-the-art facilities, filled with the equipment they need, which has been designed to support their athletic development and overall wellbeing. Ryan Letter, Head of Strength and Conditioning, was instrumental in the design and layout of the equipment.

The Senior School grounds department also moved their operations into their new facility in the Belerren basement. This will provide them with ample space to store their equipment as well as have access to contemporary amenities, lunchrooms and office facilities.

To close out the project the landscape contractors have been working hard to prepare the interface between Belerren and the existing Rankin Field.

This space will create opportunities for outdoor recreation including basketball, netball, volleyball and even a pickleball court. It will also be a space in which students can warm up for APS games, and in which PE lessons and strength and conditioning training sessions can be conducted.

Finally, new pedestrian links between the main oval and the Recreation Centre will enhance connections around the senior school campus.

The relocation of two existing houses unlocked the potential for the Belerren site. It will now offer students, staff and the broader College community facilities that are second to none.

With everything in place, it was then time for the courts to host their first official game. The girls' Firsts Netball team hosted Peninsula Grammar for the first official APS game on 15 June. College claimed a solid victory to maintain our brilliant form for the 2024 season.

A wonderful start to what is sure to be an exciting sporting history for Belerren.

The Official Opening on 26 July, will be covered in the December edition of Ad Astra.

The journey over the last three years has been an exciting one for the College and has meant significant improvements to the Senior School campus facilities.

I feel very privileged to have been part of such an exciting project, and would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all who have been involved. My colleagues at TGC, for the skills and efforts they have contributed, the wider community for their generous financial contributions, and of course, our external project team: Wardle Architects, ADP Consulting, ACOR, Prowse and Lyons Construction and their subcontractors.

I am very proud of what we have created.

Foundation President's Report

SCOTT CHIRNSIDE (OGC 1970), PRESIDENT OF THE GEELONG COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Andrew Cameron (OGC 1978) retires from the Board

In February this year, Andrew Cameron sat in on his very last Board meeting as a Director of The Geelong College Foundation.

Andrew Cameron with Scott Chirnside and Deb Cameron.

Andrew has been a director on the Board for 12 years, nine of those acting as Vice President, and we thank him for his candour and commitment over this time.

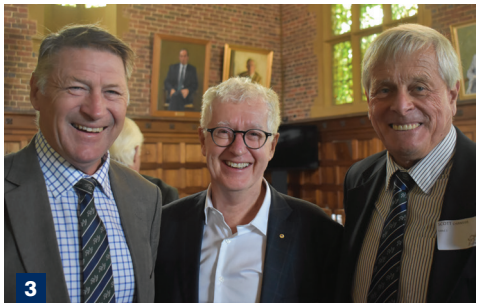
We acknowledged Andrew's years of service at the Annual General Meeting on 27 March where he was presented with a gift for his many years of dedicated service.

Foundation Members' Lunch

This year the College celebrates 50 years of co-education, so to support this important milestone, we invited Dr Pauline Turner, Principal of The Geelong College from 1996 to 2012, to talk to our Foundation members at our annual lunch.

The 2024 College Prefects also dined with us and School Captains, Annabelle Hutchings and Zephyr Seignior, spoke to our members about what co-education means to them.

Having multiple generations attend this lunch is both unique and worthwhile, so thank you to the Prefects for giving up their lunchtime to join us.



Foundation Members' Lunch

1. Nick Gilchrist, Nick Betts, Bill Ding & Eliza Savvides; 2. Paul Mishura & Alison Boldys; 3. Sandy Hutton, Hugh Seward and Scott Chirnside.

Thank you for giving

There has been a lot happening at the school and within our school community over the last few years.

Perseverance through the many COVID-19 lockdowns, the opening of our amazing Junior School in Minerva Road, incredible performances by College students in sport, music, the arts, community service and academically, and the construction and completion of our new Sports & Wellbeing Centre, Belerren.

Through all of this, I have been humbled and gratified by the generosity of our Geelong College community. Time, and time again, they show up when it counts - donating their time, skills, friendship, and gifts to scholarships and buildings.

Our students directly benefit from this support. It enables the Foundation to achieve amazing things, and ensures the longevity of our school.

I would like to thank The Geelong College community for all of this, and encourage you to continue your generous support in whatever way you can.

A Word from our Foundation Fellowship Recipients

We feel very honoured to be able to offer the staff at The Geelong College the opportunity to undertake professional learning through an experience, wholly or partially, in study, research, professional development, shadowing or immersion-based learning. The Fellowship builds on the College's reputation for excellence and commitment to fostering a capacity for, and love of, life-long learning.

Below are quotes from recent Fellowship recipients Fabio D'Agostin and Aron Tremul who travelled to Finland in November 2023, and Delle Ritchie who travelled to Reggio Emilia in Italy in April 2024.

Finland

Fabio D'Agostin (SS Maths & Science Teacher) & Aron Tremul (SS IT Teacher)

It is difficult to encapsulate the breadth of our experiences, which were both broad and enriching.

We were able to explore the Finnish schooling system from Foundation through to tertiary and adult levels, observing many classes in practice.

In Tampere, we visited a variety of institutions including Tampere University, the International Finnish School (FISTA), and several comprehensive and selective schools. We also explored the innovative Business Village initiative for Year 6 students and the Tampere Skill Centre for Basic Education of Arts and Crafts.

In Helsinki, our visits included the Ruusutorppa Comprehensive School, the Helsinki Education Hub, and the University of Helsinki's Faculty of Educational Sciences, where we were guided by a fourth-year teacher education student. We also engaged with the Finnish Teachers' Union (OAJ) and LUMA, a STEM education centre at the University of Helsinki.

Our visits featured formal briefings, presentations by education faculty leaders, school principals, and teachers, as well as Q&A sessions with secondary and tertiary students. We learned about educational policies, challenges, and innovations from a Tampere education department official and attended a seminar by a teacher union official. A highlight was our two-hour session with Professor Maija Aksela, director of LUMA.

It was a breathtaking odyssey, a year or more worth of extraordinary PD in a fortnight. Add about 50cm of snow in Tampere and the experience was complete!

Reggio Emilia, Italy

Delle Ritchie (EL4 Teacher)

Attending the Reggio Emilia study tour as one of the 400 delegates from 58 countries, I had a very valuable opportunity to discuss the Reggio philosophy in different contexts. I was also able to consider issues in education and compare 'life in schools' with colleagues from all over Australia and the world.

I am so happy to report that we at The Geelong College Junior School 'do' Reggio well.

We have taken our context of a school of Geelong, Victoria that has a value of listening to children and guiding their acquisition of knowledge, learning and development.

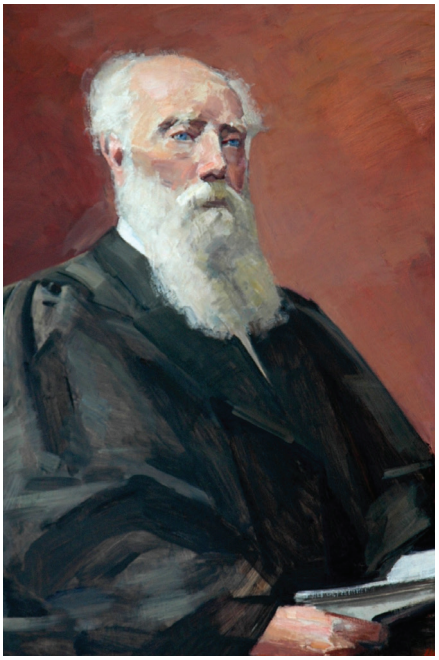
We know we don't need to copy what is happening in Reggio Emilian education settings, but instead have made our own model. A model that considers the understandings of the 100 languages of children and promotes a positive and respectful image of children.

I look forward to working with members of the Junior School team to share what I have learnt and the ideas I have brought back.

An enduring legacy

CAROLINE STOK, ARCHIVIST

As a founder, Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell (1815-1909) played a key role in the establishment of The Geelong College. Over 160 years later, his legacy lives on.



Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell's journey to Victoria from Scotland in 1859 marked the beginning of a rich legacy.

A Free Church Minister, he quickly immersed himself in Geelong's religious community, partnering with Rev. Andrew Love at St Andrews Church, Yarra St. Recognising the need to serve congregants from the west, he helped establish St Georges Church, where he ministered until around 1887.

Beyond his pastoral duties, Campbell's influence extended to broader Presbyterian circles, where he served as Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly and professor at the Presbyterian Theological Hall. Throughout his life, he championed an ecumenical spirit and was a fervent advocate for education.

Soon after his arrival in Australia, Campbell recognised the need for a new school to be established in Geelong. However, his initial attempts to bring his plans to life were unsuccessful, when his suggestion of a combined grammar school between the local Anglican and Presbyterian communities was rebuffed.

Not easily disheartened, Campbell instead became a key instigator for a purely Presbyterian school in Geelong. At a meeting in April 1861, he reported that 'he had brought the subject before the General Assembly, which fully approved of the establishment in Geelong of a school

connected with the Presbyterian Church'.

This school would become The Geelong College as we know it today.

Campbell chaired the very first meetings of The Geelong College committee, and oversaw the appointment of Principal, George Morrison.

His dedication culminated in the founding of The Geelong College in July 1861.

Leading a congregation of 40 students and community members, he inaugurated the institution with solemn praise, heartfelt prayer, and scripture readings, setting the stage for a venerable educational tradition. He addressed the students:

> "I wish you the joy of being here today. It is a day you will never forget. For you are the first scholars, the foundation stones, of a new school, which will grow into a great College... Let me assure you that you will never be asked to learn anything that will not be useful to you, that will not help to make you wise, good, and useful citizens."

Over 160 years later Campbell's legacy endures. His portrait hangs proudly in the Senior School room that bears his name (the Alexander Campbell Room), and the Dr A J Campbell Perpetual Trophy is awarded annually to a student for all-round sporting contribution to the College.

We will be ever-grateful for his contributions towards making the College the place it is today.

Renovation of the gravesite of Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell

It was The Geelong College Foundation's privilege to support and oversee the recent renovation of the Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell gravesite at the Geelong Western Cemetery.

We thank the many descendants of Rev. Campbell who gave us permission to renovate the gravesite and install a monument acknowledging the contribution Rev. Campbell made to The Geelong College.

- Scott Chirnside, President of The Geelong College Foundation

The wording on the plaque reads:

Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell 1815-1909
The Geelong College acknowledges Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell, Scottish born Presbyterian Minister, as one of the founders of the school in 1861. His dedication to education and active involvement in the establishment of the College places him firmly in its history. His contribution will never be forgotten.
Placed in memory of Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell by The Geelong College Foundation, 8 July 2023.
"And now I pray that God may bless Geelong College…and make it an instrument of lasting good to generations yet to come."
(A J Campbell, 1906)

TGC Foundation Community Golf Day

It was a cold start to the morning, however, the Barwon Heads Golf Club looked stunning on 3 May for the annual TGC Foundation Community Golf Day – the weather was perfect!

We had over 70 members of the community, from Old Collegians, past parents, current parents, and some TGC staff, compete for the many prizes available on the day.

Thank you to those community members who joined us - whether you played golf in the morning, or just joined us for the wonderful lunch in the Clubhouse afterwards. It was great to see so many smiling faces.

Thanks also to Dr Peter Miller who was the guest speaker at the lunch.

We look forward to welcoming back everyone for another fun day of golf and lunch next year.

1. Andrew Lane, Simon Daw, Chris Aucote, Dean Goddard
2. Andrew Morrison, Jim Hermiston, Geoff Williams
3. Dean Goddard, Fiona Blood (Winner of longest drive), Jason Gray
4. Rob Vickers-Willis, Anita Zeimer, Suzanne Mockridge, Rod Slattery
5. Jamie McDonald, Michael Betts, Tim Morgan, Peter Royce
6. Sandy Hutton, Andrew Johnstone, John Lewis, Andrew Hermiston

Congratulations to all who won prizes on the day, in particular Sarah Meathrel, our Women's Individual winner, and Dean Roderick, our Men's Individual winner.

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Save the date!

We would love to see you play in the next Geelong College Foundation Community Golf Day

Friday 2 May 2025

Booking details will be released closer to the time.

For further information, please email Sally Sadler at:

foundation@tgc.vic.edu.au

Thank you for your support

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to the College in 2023 whether through our inaugural Giving Day or our Annual Giving campaign. The success of our building and scholarship programs hinges on the kindness of our community. Their lasting impact on life at The Geelong College will be felt for years to come.

Thank you!

If you would like to discuss leaving a bequest or making a significant gift to the College, please contact Nicole Roache, our Marketing and Advancement Manager at 03 5226 3106 or email: nicole.roache@tgc.vic.edu.au

If you would like to make a donation, scan the QR code, or visit: **bit.ly/TGCGiving**

COMMUNITY

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Mr D B Ahchow - CP
Dr L Ai - CP
Mr S J Aitken - CP
Dr Z Al-Baghdadi - CP
Albert Bell Club
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Mr F Ali - CP
Dr N Alobedy - CP
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Mrs A L Bagley - CP
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Mrs K A Betts - PP
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Mr A J Blades - Staff
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Mr A F X Branchflower - CP
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Mrs L J Collins - CP
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Mrs G Grana - PP
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Mrs L M Griffin - CP
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Ms A McMaster - CP
Mr P D McQuillan - CP
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Dr M P Mok & Dr M H Y Leong - CP
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Mr A J Montgomery - CP, PP
Dr A Moore - CP, FP
Mr P G Moran - Past Staff
Mr M S L Morgan
Mr T S L Morgan - CP
Dr T M Morgan - CP
Mrs R Morrissy - CP
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Mr T D Pearce - CP, FP
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Mrs J H Phung - PP
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Mrs M Qin - CP, Staff
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Mrs M Rawlings - MOC
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Miss P C Reaburn
Mrs J Reid - CP
Mrs S E & Mr A C Reilly - PP
Rex Gorell Ford Pty Ltd
Ms K M Riches - CP
Ms N L Roache - Staff
Ms S M Robinson - Past Staff
Rodpak Pty Ltd
Mr J R Rose - PP
Rose Grange Foundation
Mr D Ross - CP, FP
Mr C R Rothengatter - PP
Mr R P Rothengatter - CP
Dr C E Roydhouse - CP
Mr S A Ryan - CP
Mr J J Sadler - CP
Mrs S A Sadler - CP, Staff
Miss L A Santalucia - Staff
Mrs N Savvides - CP
Mrs C Saxton - CP
Ms A Schmidt - CP
Dr M J Seitz - CP
Mr S Selvaraju - CP
Mr M Shagarai - CP
Mrs Z Sharrock - CP
Mrs J L & Mr C V Shaw - CP
Mr T Shaw - CP
Ms S F Shen - Staff
Mrs M K Shepherd - CP
Mr P Shizas & Mrs N Koulla-Shizas - CP
Mrs W J Sinnott - CP, Staff
Ms R L Skowronski - PP, Staff
Miss A J L Smedley
Mr D J Smith - PP
Miss S V Smith - Staff
Mrs L C Snell - Staff
Dr J M & Mrs G Sowerby - PP
Mrs J M Speight - CP
Mr B Spicer - CP
Ms A J Spokes - CP, FP
Mr P Stephens - CP
Mr W J Stephens
Ms C V Stok - Staff
Mrs L M Stone - Staff
Dr L Sun & Prof X Chen - CP
Mr H Sutterby - CP
Ms G Sweeney - PP
Mrs E Syle
Mr Z & Mrs M Talevski - CP
Mr A A Taylor
Ms D C Taylor - MOC
Dr R Taylor
Mrs N Telegina - PP
Mr J C Templeton
Mr V Thapar - CP
The Glenwood Foundation
Mrs C L Thomson - CP
Dr J D Tiernan - CP
Dr A Tjipto - CP
Mrs C Tol - PP, Past Staff
Mr G I Tomkins - PP, Staff
Mrs K A Towers - CP
Dr T Tran - CP
Mr A Tremul - Staff
Mrs M L Troeth - CP
Dr P C Turner - Past Staff
Mr M C Tyrrell & Ms B Watt - CP
Ms K Uebergang - CP
Mr D Villarosa - CP

COMMUNITY

Mr W Vorrath - CP
Dr Z Wake - CP, FP
Mr G J Walker - CP
Mr S Walsh - CP
Mrs C Wang - CP
Warralily Dental
Ms S M Watson - CP
Mr W Wei - PP
Mrs C Whelan - CP
Mr M J White - CP
Mrs P J Whitehead - CP
Ms K Wiadrowski - FP, Staff
Mrs J M Williamson - PP
Mrs G M Wilson - CP, FP
Mr D Wlazlo - CP
Mr G W Wolfenden - Staff
Mrs E Wright - CP
Mr L C Wright & Ms V M Uebergang - CP
Mr X Xie
Miss S Ye - PP
Mrs A M Young - PP
Mr S A & Mrs S Young - CP, Staff
Ms A M Zauli - Staff
Zerace Pty Ltd
Dr J Zhang - CP
Mrs L Zhang - PP
Miss V Zhao

OGC - 1940s

Mr J D Colvin - OGC - 1947
Mr T S Dennis - OGC - 1949, PP
Mr G R Nettleton - OGC - 1949
Mr F G Palmer - OGC - 1947
Mr K W J Thomson - OGC - 1949

OGC - 1950s

Mr R A Agnew - OGC - 1958
Mr H T Bromell - OGC - 1955
Mr P A Cronk - OGC - 1954, PP, Past Staff
Mr P F Fenwick - OGC - 1956
Mr R A Fraser - OGC - 1958
Mr A R Garrett - OGC - 1957, PP
Mr J W Gough OAM - OGC - 1953
Mr G R A Gregg - OGC - 1956
Mr D W Hardy - OGC - 1959
Dr R A S Lawson - OGC - 1953
Mr J I Mactier - OGC - 1957
Mr A H McArthur - OGC - 1955
Dr I W McCay - OGC - 1955
Mr R G McCosh - OGC - 1955
Mr T F McNair - OGC - 1958
Mr A S Philip - OGC - 1952
Mr R C W Pyper - OGC - 1952
Mr J S Robson - OGC - 1956
Mr R K Robson - OGC - 1959, PP
Mr J R Roszbach - OGC - 1957
Mr F W Russell - OGC - 1950
Mr A P Sheahan AM - OGC - 1959, Past Staff
Mr W R Synot OAM - OGC - 1956, PP
Dr A J Vigano AM - OGC - 1958
Mr D D Wright OAM - OGC - 1956
Mr P J Young - OGC - 1956

OGC - 1960s

Mr S M Anderson - OGC - 1963
Mr M J Betts - OGC - 1965, PP
Mr P N Cameron - OGC - 1968
Prof T R Carney AO - OGC - 1960
Mr B M Craig - OGC - 1966
Prof G A Donnan AO - OGC - 1961
Mr B G Fagg - OGC - 1966
Mr P F Fraser - OGC - 1965
Mr T W Habel - OGC - 1965
Mr F O Herd OAM - OGC - 1969, PP
Mr J N & Mrs M A Hosford - OGC - 1960, PP
Mr J F Hunt - OGC - 1968, PP, FP
Mr I A Keith - OGC - 1963, PP
Dr C M Lamb - OGC - 1966
Mr P S Lowe - OGC - 1967
Mr C M Malkin - OGC - 1961
Dr C B Olsen - OGC - 1968
Mr R Ooi - OGC - 1968
Dr J S & Mrs P A Paton - OGC - 1964, PP, FP
Mr D J Poynton - OGC - 1961
Hon R M Robson - OGC - 1960
Dr P L Royce - OGC - 1968
Prof D T Runia - OGC - 1965
Mr I F Sayers - OGC - 1965
Dr H G Seward AM & Mrs C M Seward - OGC - 1966, PP
Mr J M Slattery - OGC - 1966
Mr P A Wade - OGC - 1967
Mr D B Wardle - OGC - 1964
Mr C M Webster - OGC - 1969, PP
Mr J S & Mrs S Weddell - OGC - 1966, PP
Mr T P & Mrs L A West - OGC - 1966, PP
Mr D R S Wood - OGC - 1968

OGC - 1970s

Mr A J Angelovich - OGC - 1972
Mr P J Bath - OGC - 1972
Mr I H Begley - OGC - 1970, PP
Dr A M Brown - OGC - 1978
Mr R V Brown - OGC - 1972
Mr A M C Cameron - OGC - 1978, PP
Mr R G Carr - OGC - 1973, PP
Mr R A Fyffe - OGC - 1978
Rev. P M Gador-Whyte - OGC - 1970
Mr J D Gibson - OGC - 1970
Mr D J & Mrs E H Henderson - OGC - 1971, PP
Mr A E Hermiston - OGC - 1970
Mr J W Hermiston - OGC - 1973
Ms R J Hutchinson - OGC - 1979
Mr J A Hutton - OGC - 1973
Dr A H Kelso - OGC - 1972
Mr M K Kelso - OGC - 1973
Mr A J Le Deux - OGC - 1979
Mr A J Light - OGC - 1979
Dr A V Maclean - OGC - 1978
Mr J L Marendaz - OGC - 1972, PP
Mr B J Mellor - OGC - 1970
Mr D G Morrison - OGC - 1977
Dr C W Rockefeller - OGC - 1977, PP
Mr O J Salvalaggio - OGC - 1977, PP
Mr R H Sloane - OGC - 1970
Mr P B Timmins - OGC - 1970
Mr R P Vickers-Willis - OGC - 1977

OGC - 1980s

Mr I J Abbott - OGC - 1988
Mr C R Abery - OGC - 1981
Mr T J Allen - OGC - 1981
Mr M J Angus - OGC - 1981
Mr I G Barber - OGC - 1986
Mr T R D Barton - OGC - 1980
Mr B Bates - OGC - 1989, CP
Mr C B G Brumby - OGC - 1983, CP
Mrs P A Considine - OGC - 1984, PP
Dr N C Cousen - OGC - 1989
Mrs S L Dowling - OGC - 1988, Past Staff
Mrs D M & Mr M C Fisher - OGC - 1989, Past Staff
Mr J R Ganly - OGC - 1985
Dr J L Hay - OGC - 1982
Mrs M J Hoare - OGC - 1989, CP
Mrs J G Holdsworth - OGC - 1984
Mr S D Holloway - OGC - 1982, PP
Mr S Horvat - OGC - 1988, CP, PP
Mr S J Hunt - OGC - 1984
Mr B C Hutchesson - OGC - 1981
Mrs K M Lidyard - OGC - 1981
Mr N Macleod - OGC - 1981
Dr A J Patrick - OGC - 1982
Mr A V Richardson - OGC - 1983, CP, Staff
Mr I H Royce - OGC - 1983, PP
Dr N J Rutherford - OGC - 1988
Mr D R Secen - OGC - 1989
Ms S S Stevenson - OGC - 1989, CP
Mr M Tan - OGC - 1987
Mr G H Tucker - OGC - 1981, PP
Mrs N M Vagg - OGC - 1989
Mr D J Vaughan - OGC - 1984
Mr M D Walpole - OGC - 1980

OGC - 1990s

Mrs A A Agar - OGC - 1995, CP
Mr T C Allen - OGC - 1998, CP
Mr C R P & Mrs S Baulch - OGC - 1994, CP
Mrs K J Bowyer - OGC - 1993, CP
Mrs A J Brown - OGC - 1997
Mr M J Burnell - OGC - 1997
Mrs A S Cahill - OGC - 1998, CP
Mrs M A Chisholm - OGC - 1990, CP
Mr P A Colless - OGC - 1991, CP
Mr S M Cosgriff - OGC - 1992
Ms J E Dawson - OGC - 1994
Mr M R & Ms E J Emerson - OGC - 1998, CP, FP
Mrs C & Mr R L Gudykunst - OGC - 1994, CP
Mrs E M Handbury - OGC - 1998, CP
Ms K E Hanley - OGC - 1991
Mr W R Henderson - OGC - 1991
Mr K Hendrata - OGC - 1993
Dr P E Johnstone - OGC - 1994, CP
Ms B A Kelly - OGC - 1997, FP
Mrs K L Kilpatrick - OGC - 1991, CP
Mr D A Knight - OGC - 1994, CP, Staff
Ms A L Langbein & Mr A M Ford - OGC - 1991, CP
Mr P A Lawson - OGC - 1990, CP
Miss S M Leach - OGC - 1995, Staff
Mr H J Leishman - OGC - 1993, CP
Mr P M McCann - OGC - 1992, CP
Mr A J McHarry - OGC - 1991, CP
Mrs K L McMahon - OGC - 1994, CP
Mr P A Mishura - OGC - 1992
Dr M & Mr T A Neagle - OGC - 1991, CP, PP
Mr S H Nicholls - OGC - 1990
Mrs C C Paton - OGC - 1990, CP, PP
Miss P J Ritchie - OGC - 1995
Dr J Robertson - OGC - 1999, CP
Mr C S Ross - OGC - 1994
Mr C P Scott - OGC - 1999, FP
Mrs L A Shirlow - OGC - 1997, CP, FP, Staff
Ms A L Spurling - OGC - 1992, CP
Mrs S A Walsh - OGC - 1999, FP
Mr H R Whitehead - OGC - 1992

OGC - 2000s

Mr W G Champness - OGC - 2007, Past Staff
Mr M C & Mrs M K Cox - OGC - 2000, CP
Ms K A Dennis - OGC - 2001, CP
Mr B P Doak - OGC - 2002, FP
Mrs K M Fetherston - OGC - 2007, CP
Mr T A Gant - OGC - 2003, CP
Mr N L Gilchrist - OGC - 2001, CP
Mrs R M Kurul - OGC - 2001, CP
Mr B A S Owen - OGC - 2000, CP

OGC - 2010s

Mr A L Boyd - OGC - 2016, Past Staff
Mr J N Edwards - OGC - 2012, Staff
Mr D Jackson - OGC - 2016
Mr Y Mei - OGC - 2017
Miss P L P Miller - OGC - 2018
Miss D W K Tang - OGC - 2010

OGC - 2020s

Mr D J Brockett - OGC - 2021
Mr C J Lazzaro - OGC - 2020
Mr C T McGuane - OGC - 2023
Miss G M Nurnaitis - OGC - 2022
Miss M C Rothengatter - OGC - 2023
Mr A D Steel - OGC - 2023
Miss M E Tucker - OGC - 2023
Mr H Zhang - OGC - 2023

Life down under

MARDI DELLER-PUGH, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Gap Program provides a wonderful cultural immersion experience at The Geelong College to international school-leavers.

Over the years, we have welcomed many young people from the UK and also South Africa to enjoy time with our students and staff through our Gap Program.

The program is underpinned by a visa arrangement and most program participants ('Gappies') stay with us for 12 months - although our 'COVID-19 years' saw several variations to this.

Our Gappies participate in a myriad of engaging activities and experiences, all the while, learning about our Australian culture and heritage.

Our most recent Gappies were from the UK: Tom, Harry and Will from Shrewsbury School in Shropshire and Harry from Gresham's School in Norfolk.

Placed across Junior and Middle Schools, our Gappies participate in classroom activities, providing support to students and teachers.

They are particularly active in our Physical Education and Art classes, but also bring their skills to other subject areas including Maths and Humanities.

Our Gappies enjoy attending excursions and camps and we include them in as many experiential learning activities as possible.

It is a mutually beneficial arrangement - the Gappies get to experience our country and meet new people, and our students and staff have the benefit of their presence and enthusiasm for involvement.

We engage the Gappies on a volunteer basis, and provide accommodation, meals, an allowance and a warmly welcoming community.

In return, the Gappies contribute much to the life of our daily routines and enjoy becoming a part of the fabric of our community.

Our four most recent Gappies embraced all that is on offer and showed resilience and adaptation in how they so quickly embraced their new home.

We typically spend the first days of their arrival getting them oriented and inducted into our College, the local community and our time zone.

Their wish list of things to do and see includes of course kangaroos, koalas, a 'pot and parmi'. Then there are those elusive 'drop bears' that they always hear about, but can never actually locate...

Any trepidation over seeing a spider or snake is quickly overcome, and we love watching their evolution as they join our camps and trips to experience all that nature has to offer.

The Top End, Uluru, Healesville and especially our Year 8 Otway Camp are activities always spoken of with much passion and gratitude for the experiences they bring.
Being a 'pseudo parent' to the Gappies, it is a privilege to provide support and advice to them as they navigate life a long way from home.

We stay connected to their families with check-ins and photos, as we have learned that it is a shared journey in the support and retention of our Gappies here in Geelong.

We encourage them to return 'home' at the conclusion of their time with us, before contemplating future travels. However, some Gappies become so ingrained in our local community through sporting clubs and friendships, that they seek a more permanent stay!

Tom, Will and both 'Harry's have now left us, with an array of experiences, stories and memories to take back home.

Will already has flights booked to return with his parents in 2025, to show them some of his favourite places.

Meanwhile, Tom is keenly seeking an Australian wife to secure residency here!

With a commitment to all of their parents to see them safely back onto flights to the UK, we know their stories of Australia will be told for years to come.

The Geelong College is proud to be able to offer this program which provides as much to our community, as it does to the Gappies' personal growth.

With a waiting list at both Gresham's and Shrewsbury of school leavers to join our wonderful College community, we are delighted that the Gap Program remains a much sought-after pathway for young people.

We look forward to welcoming four new Gappies in July.

OGCA President's Report

KYLIE MACKEY (OGC 1993), OGCA PRESIDENT

Fifty years ago, a bold and courageous idea changed forever the College's role as an elite choice for learning and education in Geelong, with co-education introduced at the College.

The move to co-education was a momentous change. It set a new scholastic path to 'reach for the stars' for boys and girls alike.

In an alumni context, this change meant the retirement of the label 'Old Boys'. Instead, we now have 'Old Collegians'.

For over a century prior to this, the school we cherish was a boys school – a place for our sons, brothers, fathers and male connections.

I am one of many who would have missed out on the opportunity to be a Collegian, had these visionaries not taken the co-education leap.

Aren't we glad they did?

I congratulate our school's leadership of 50 years ago, who boldly paved the way for the College's way forward.

OGCA news in brief:

- We are currently busy planning the 50 Years of Co-Education Cocktail Gala, to be held in September. Official invitiations will be emailed soon. We hope you can join us to celebrate this momentous occasion in the history of the College.
- We have been thrilled to host a number of reunion events, all of which were well-attended.
  - The 2023 Leavers' Function
  - The 10 Year Reunion for the Class of 2014
  - The 40 Year Reunion for the Class of 1984
- We are pleased to have hosted a number of international events in Hong Kong, Singapore and London.
- We will host the Sic Itur luncheon on 20 July and look forward to welcoming a fabulous group from 1973, and earlier, who attended the College 50+ years ago.

50 YEARS OF CO-EDUCATION

Cocktail Gala

OGCA
OLD GEELONG COLLEGIANS' ASSOCIATION

The OGCA Committee invites you to help celebrate this momentous occasion in the history of the College with a wonderful night of entertainment, gourmet food and fine local wines.

- Kylie Mackey, OGCA President

Saturday, 7 September 2024
6.30PM – 11PM

The Geelong College Senior School Campus

To book your ticket, please scan the QR or visit: bit.ly/OGCA50years

Our first female Old Collegians (L-R): Debra Trembath, Terri Powell and Gillian Opie

- We are excited to support the opening of Belerren in July.
- We are actively seeking additional members – especially for the Youth Portfolio.
- We attended a working dinner in Melbourne hosted by Wesley College for the Presidents and Directors of Community Relations for all APS schools.

Have you joined TGC Connect?

Our alumni consist of 13,000+ members. As Collegians, we are connected for life, part of one of the oldest alumni associations in Australia. Have you registered on our alumni channel?
www.tgcconnect.com

Our platform provides an excellent way to 'connect' with fellow Collegians – socially, for career advice, networking, mentor activities or jobs.

Need support?

As a Committee, we are committed to assisting all Old Collegians. Please get in touch if we can assist you.

Our OGCA Committee:

President
Kylie Mackey (OGC 1993)

Vice President
Caitlin Lamont (OGC 2009)

Honorary Treasurer
Ashley McHarry (OGC 1991)

Honorary Secretary
Nicola Cousen (OGC 1989)

Executive Officer
Mike Howell

Members
Sam West (OGC 2000),
Bridgette Engeler (OGC 1985)
Donald McAllister (OGC 1990)
John O'Brien (OGC 2002)
Ann McAllister (MOC)

Community Relations team:
Chelsea Matheson
Niki Nurnaitis

OGCA
OLD GEELONG COLLEGIANS' ASSOCIATION

Calendar of Events

- **Sic Itur Luncheon**
  Saturday 20 July
- **30 Year Reunion (Class of 1994)**
  Friday 23 August
- **OGCA 50 Years of Co-Education Cocktail Gala**
  Saturday 7 September
- **OGCA Perth Reunion**
  Tuesday 10 September
- **20 Year Reunion (Class of 2004)**
  Friday 8 November

Request for Nominations for the OGCA Notables Gallery

The OGCA inaugurated its Portrait Gallery of Notable Old Geelong Collegians at College on 19 August 2011 as a sesquicentenary gift to the College. Administered by the OGCA Committee, the gallery recognises, honours and celebrates the achievements of past students and inspires our current students.

The gallery features a diverse collection of 102 portraits of Old Collegians who have excelled in various fields in Victoria, Australia and the world.

Photographs of the inductees are on permanent display in the 1873 entrance to the Senior School.

Inductions are held every three years, with the next opportunity in 2025.

We encourage you to consider the Old Collegians you know. Discuss potential nominations with your friends, family and fellow Old Collegians. We are particularly interested in female nominations as we celebrate 50 years of co-education.

Please complete the nomination form using the link on this page. For further information, please contact: communityrelations@tgc.vic.edu.au

The last induction was in 2022 and included:

- James Balfour CBE (OGC 1929)
- Commodore Dr Nicole Curtis (OGC 1988)
- Major General (retired) Prof Adam Findlay AO, PhD (OGC 1983)
- Gideon Haigh (OGC 1983)
- David Lamont (OGC 1982)
- Chong Lim (OGC 1977)
- Rebecca Maddern (OGC 1995)
- Richard Morris (OGC 1963)
- Dr Reginald Morrison (OGC 1881)
- Lyndsay Sharp (OGC 1979)
- Tony Strahan OAM FCA (OGC 1956)
- Peter Wade (OGC 1967)
- John Wardle (OGC 1971)
- Angus Widdicombe (OGC 2012)

Nominate now for 2025

Nominations are open for the 2025 induction of the Notables Gallery.

We invite all members of The Geelong College community to nominate candidates for consideration online at:

www.bit.ly/Notables2025

OGC NEWS

The Fitzgerald Family legacy

Kristine Fitzgerald is a proud and dedicated grandmother with a strong connection to The Geelong College.

Her legacy began with her three sons, Ted (OGC 2002), Jacob (OGC 1998), and Ben (OGC 1994), and two daughters, Joh (OGC 1992) and Sophie (OGC 1996) attending College. It continues today with the next generation - 10 of her grandchildren are current students.

Back (L-R): Sybilla Gow (Year 12), Oliver Fitzgerald (Year 10), Frederick Gill (Year 12), Ignatius Gill (Year 10), Francesca Gow (Year 10)
Front (L-R): George Gow (Year 7), Albert Fitzgerald (Year 1), Lottie Fitzgerald (Year 4), Maggie Fitzgerald (Year 7), Florence Gill (Year 8)

David (OGC 1965) and Gonni Runia

In December of last year, a graduate building at Queen's College (University of Melbourne) was named in honour of Professor David and Gonni Runia, recognising the contributions of the Seventh Master of Queen's College (2002-2016) and their impact on the community. Prof. Runia expressed his hope that the building will continue to be a centre of study, exploration, discussion, and all the good fun and camaraderie that go with being members of the Queen's community. They both continue to be active and highly respected members of the College community.

James McGlade (OGC 2011)

Congratulations to James who finished his PhD in Geospatial Science (Remote Sensing) at RMIT earlier this year.

James is now living in Vancouver and working at the University of British Columbia in the Faculty of Forestry's Integrated Remote Sensing Studio. His work has him flying drones equipped with 3D laser scanners over power lines through forest to predict wildfire risk.

What an interesting job!

Stewart McArthur AM (OGC 1951)

It was announced at a Formal Student Dinner at Marcus Oldham Agricultural College that Stewart McArthur AM, a long standing member of the Marcus Oldham College Council, will retire after an incredible 50 years of service to the College at the end of this year. He held the position as Chairman from 1976 to 1996 and his impact on the College has been immense.

OGC NEWS

Christening of a new four

In Geelong College Boat Club tradition, a new four was recently christened with the name of 'Lucy Pring', a current staff member, in honour of her invaluable contributions to the TGC Boat Club.

Louise Monotti (OGC 1983), patron of the Albert Bell Club Committee, acknowledged Lucy's outstanding commitment, amidst the presence of Lucy's family, our rowing students, parents and members of the Albert Bell Club.

Lucy has directly influenced the growth of the rowing program over her years of involvement at TGC, and it is fitting that a racing Quad is named in honour of her dedication and contributions.

Meg Read (OGC 2014)

Meg married James Wills on the 10 February this year. The ceremony was in the Cloisters, followed by the reception which was held at RACV Torquay. Meg's maid of honour was her sister Samantha Wallace (OGC 2006), and her bridesmaids were Lucy Brownless (OGC 2014), Abby Andrew (OGC 2014) and Elly Drayton (OGC 2014).

Sarah Henderson (OGC 1981)

To celebrate International Womens' Day, our girls' summer sport Captains and several of our Prefects joined the first female College Captain, Sarah Henderson at a breakfast to hear from keynote speaker Jelena Dokic.

Sarah was delighted to meet the girls, and they were similarly excited to meet one of their own who has achieved so much.

Previously having had only a single Captain as student leader, in 1998 we transtitioned to a student leadership team of Co-Captains and Co-Vice Captains leading alongside a group of Prefects, inclusive of all genders.

Ed Beehag (OGC 2023)

Congratulations to Ed who has recently been accepted to study and play Golf at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, California for the COC Cougars.

During the two-year program, Ed and his team will compete in golfing competitions around the state.

James Robertson (OGC 1984)

Our Old Collegians come from far and wide to attend their reunions, but we were particularly impressed with James' efforts.

Living in Spain with his partner, where he works as a personal counsellor, James flew back to attend his 40 Year Reunion in May.

Greg McNaughton (OGC 1981)

Happy 60th birthday to Greg, who enjoyed a hot air balloon ride over the Yarra Valley with his family to celebrate.

Georgia White (OGC 2018)

Georgia recently performed at the Melbourne Recital Centre as a soloist with the University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. She is a clarinetist based in Melbourne (Naarm), currently studying at the Australian National Academy of Music and has performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. Georgia is also interested in playing and promoting music written for the clarinet by women, a passion she is pursuing with her further studies.

Caitlin Lamont (OGC 2009 and Vice President of the OGCA)

Caitlin married Sven Svalbe after 10 years together on the 18 May 2024 surrounded by family and friends. The service was held at the Victorian Marriage Registry, followed by the reception at the Botanical Hotel.

Sophie Jarrold (OGC 2006)

A few years ago, Sophie painted a rural landscape for her father (having not painted since school). She was surprised by how much she enjoyed painting again, so continued.

Within 12 months, she found herself holding an exhibition, which sold out on opening night.

Sophie has now been able to turn her hobby into her full time job, with commissions continuing to be booked out and new collections being snapped up by stockists and galleries in Queensland and New South Wales.

There is plenty happening in Sophie's world - she is also expecting her first child at the end of the year.

Soph's works are available to view and purchase through her Instagram page, @sophjarroldart or through stockists.

OGC NEWS

Exploration Society's plaque restored at Beltana

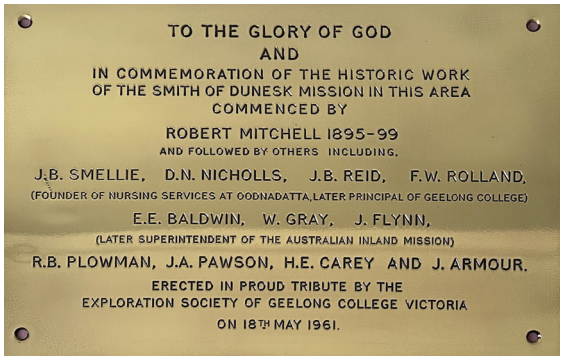
In 1961, a group of Geelong College staff and students travelled to the remote outback of South Australia to build a cairn at Beltana to commemorate the Smith of Dunesk Mission in the area.

The cairn is located on a remote sideroad between Beltana station and the old Beltana township. It was constructed using stone sourced from the local creek beds and built by the team over a number of days.

It was visited by members of the College only rarely over the next 50 years, until a return trip by The Geelong College Exploration Society in 2006.

During the 2006 trip, the plaque and cairn were given a clean and polish, which improved their appearance, however, 50 years of exposure to the elements had taken their toll on the brass plaque.

In 2019, the College was contacted by a gentleman from Adelaide named Chris Ward, who had an interest in the history of outback South Australia. Chris asked if the College would be interested in funding the restoration of the plaque if he coordinated the project, which we were happy to do.



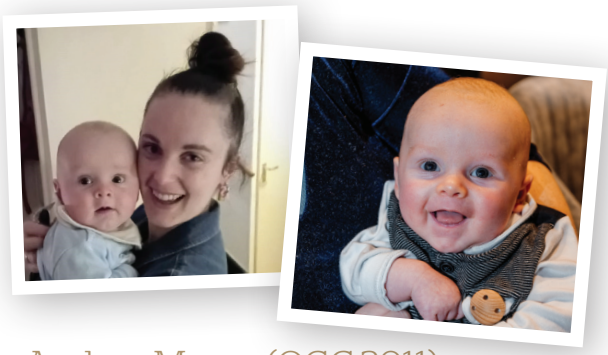
Unfortunately, COVID-19 hit the nation soon after, and all work on the project ceased for some time.

In mid-2023, Chris advised that the restoration had been completed and the plaque was ready to be reinstalled on the cairn at Beltana.

In early 2024, the plaque was delivered to Nan Ferguson OAM in Beltana where it was reinstalled on the cairn for the enjoyment of visitors to the historic region.

The work of the Exploration Society lives on 63 years since its inception, and we thank Chris for his work.

Read more about the original 1961 expedition at: bit.ly/Beltana



Audrey Moore (OGC 2011)

Congratulations to Audrey and her husband Albert who welcomed their first child last year. Their son, Ruben, was born on 14 September, 2023. The family are living in Assen, Holland.

Phoebe Niven (OGC 2014) & Tom McGowan (OGC 2014)

Phoebe and Tom were married on Friday 8 March this year, and two weeks later attended their 10 Year Reunion in the College Dining Hall. Natalie Collett (OGC 2014) and Zoe Dixon (OGC 2014) were bridesmaids. Luke McGowan (OGC 2010), Jack McGowan (OGC 2012) and Toby Profitt (OGC 2014) were groomsmen.

Hamish Whitehead (OGC 1992)

Congratulations to Hamish Whitehead (OGC 1992) on his recent promotion from head of equity capital markets at E&P Financial to co-head of E&P Capital. Hamish has worked in investment banking for more than 25 years and is well known in Australian capital markets.

The Under 12 cricket team, 1947

Recently, the Under 12 cricket team of 1947 reunited.

Pictured above Graeme Thoms – back row on far right, Barry Solomon - standing in middle on far right, Bob Merriman – seated second from left and John Payne - seated far right
The other photo is four of those players today – where the photo was taken at the same place - the original site of the Preparatory School.

Back Row: Graeme Thoms (OGC 1948), Barry Solomon (OGC 1948). Seated: Bob Merriman (OGC 1948), John Payne (OGC 1948).

All four excelled in various sports, with Bob Merriman and Barry Solomon both being members of the First cricket and football teams. Barry still holds the school record with 14 wickets in a match. While Graeme also played in the First football and tennis teams.

Thank you to John for providing the photo.

*Pre 1974 the graduating year was shown as the commencement at Year 9.

Lizzie Corke OAM (OGC 1997)

Lizzie, Chief Executive and Founder of the Conservation Ecology Centre and Wildlife Wonders, spoke recently on a panel of Ecotourism legacy leaders at the Global Sustainable Tourism Summit in Brisbane.

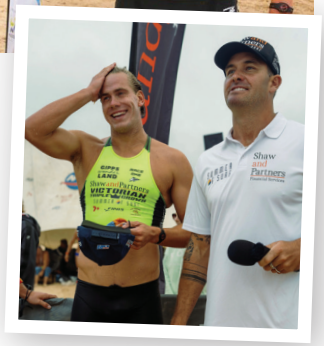
Lizzie spoke about best practice in sustainability and the future of wildlife tourism. Her ecolodge was identified as one of the 25 best ecolodges in the world by National Geographic and, in only its second year of operation, Wildlife Wonders was name by National Geographic as one of the planets 25 most exciting destinations.

Nyah Burrell (OGC 2018)

Nyah is a graduate engineer who joined the BESIX Watpac team working on the redevelopment of Kardinia Park in July 2022.

"Every day is different," she said.

"I like the problem-solving, and just all the critical thinking - I like to be challenged in that way."



Grace Harris (OGC 2019) and Archie Vernon (OGC 2020)

Congratulations to Grace Harris (OGC 2019) and Archie Vernon (OGC 2020) on taking out the 2024 Jim Wall Classic Ironman in Torquay on 7 January. After finishing as the runner-up in 2022 event, Grace claimed her maiden victory in the women's section.

"It's something I have wanted to achieve for a few years now and I hadn't been able to do it, so it's nice to finally be able to tick it off," Grace said.
Meanwhile, in the men's, Archie grabbed his second consecutive win.

"I'd built some really good momentum leading into Christmas with training, so I knew as long as I was happy and in a really good mental space, I could dial it in and get the job done," he said.

It's great to see these two back from QLD at their home beach making waves!

OGC NEWS

Steve Horvat (OGC 1988)

Congratulations to Steve Horvat (OGC 1988), Board member and Director of Football at Western United Football Club and former Socceroo Captain, on the fulfilment of his dream to tap into the rich football history of our region. 17 March saw the opening of Western United's boutique purpose-built 5000 seat stadium in Tarneit. The opening of this football facility represents a significant milestone for Western United but also in the future pathways and growth of football and sport in the local Wyndham community.

David Epstein (OGC 1980)

Congratulations to David who was recently appointed as the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Australia. David is a veteran in the political sphere, having worked for several political leaders as an Advisor and Chief of Staff as well as holding senior executive roles at Qantas, BHP and Optus (Singtel).

Chantel Horvat (OGC 2016)

Congratulations to Chantel, who has signed with the Melbourne Tigers basketball team for the 2024 NBL1 South season.

The move means a return to Australia from Europe, where she has been playing basketball for Avenida, a Spanish team in the Euro League.

Chantel made her professional debut with the Australian Opals in 2023, helping Australia win a bronze medal in the Asia Cup.

1979 year group 45 Year Reunion

The 1979 year group recently gathered together for a 45 Year Reunion, hosted by David Gordon (OGC 1979).

Rev. David Sloane (OGC 1953)

Rev. Sloane recently launched a memoir of his life entitled, 'A journey under grace: Finding faith in rural Australia 1939 to 1971 and beyond'.

In it, he tells of his journey from Savernake Station farmer's son to rural pastor. He also writes about his boarding years from 1953 to 1957 at the College, recalling fondly the support he received.

"I write very generously of the Masters I had back then who did so much to feed my mind, even though I skated along in the C and B classes of each year.

"I think Allan Tait put in a good word for me and I was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship which got me into the Wagga Agriculture College in 1958."

Family from all parts of Australia came for his book launch in Corowa.

Peter Eaton (OGC 1940)

At 98 years of age, Peter was one of our oldest Old Collegians. He sadly passed away recently, but was a true gentleman.

We had the opportunity to organise an interview with him in 2021 and hear all about his time at school. The resulting video was very special and wonderfully inspiring.

Scan the QR code or click the link below to watch:

bit.ly/PeterEton

Takoda Ritchie (OGC 2023)

Studying a double degree of music and education at Monash University, Takoda Ritchie has also been busy making, teaching and playing music.

Headlining her sell-out gig at the Gasso in Melbourne, Takoda Meadow, launched her new single, 'All February long', available now on Spotify and all streaming services.

To listen to Takoda's song, scan the QR code or visit:

spoti.fi/3VQyYNC

Share your news!

We love to know what our OGCs are up to! If you have some news to share, email us at:

communityrelations @tgc.vic.edu.au

Life after College

The OGCA recently hosted the 10 Year and 40 Year Reunions for the classes of 1984 and 2014. We chatted to some of our Old Collegians from these years about their journeys since graduation.

Anne Jeremiah (OGC 1984)

From school, I completed a BA (majoring in Psychology and Criminology) at the University of Melbourne, residing at University College. After a few years of travelling and working overseas, I returned to the University of Melbourne and completed a Bachelor of Social Work.

Following this, I worked as a social worker and counsellor at the Royal Children's Hospital and in Child Protection assisting children who had been abused. I then worked as a school counsellor in primary and secondary schools, as well as with refugees who were experiencing PTSD and required re-settlement guidance.

Currently, I specialise in grief and bereavement, working in palliative care at a community-based hospice and as a grief counsellor for families who have lost someone to suicide.

I have loved the variety of work and opportunities available as a social worker and look forward to exploring more of the diversity this career offers in the future.

Rowan Dickson (OGC 1984)

Following College, I graduated from Deakin University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Architecture and began my professional career in Melbourne. Driven by an increasing urge to travel, I relocated to Singapore in 1993 for a few years followed by a stint in Europe, and then Hong Kong.

Upon returning to Australia in 1999, I lived in Sydney and worked with a real estate development company managing the development of projects throughout Australia. Although I loved my time in Sydney, the urge to travel overseas again was always there and it was only a matter of time before I set off again.

Since 2006, I have been living in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and recently started a new role as Head of Development with a real estate development company in Saudi Arabia.

My wife, Sonia, and I have three children, Skye, Xavier and Asia who are loving the expat life. Our favourite things to do are spending our holidays travelling, checking in with family and friends, boating and other sporting activities.

My years at The Geelong College provided me with firm foundations. My advice to current students is to be curious and decisive, embrace change and opportunities, pursue what inspires you with the confidence to succeed; to be able to say to yourself, 'I did it' rather than 'what if'.

Karen MacAlpine (OGC 1984)

Working at a global reinsurer's head office in Zurich was certainly not where I imagined my career would lead when I left College and embarked on a career in paediatric nursing in Sydney.

I spent ten years working at both the Royal Children's Hospital and Camperdown Children's Hospital, gaining invaluable experiences. A short stint in medical equipment sales, with a more commercial focus, allowed me to complete an MBA at Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM).

I used this as a springboard into the finance industry, joining Swiss Re in the Life & Health Claims department in 2001. Over 23 years, I worked in various roles, travelled to over 20 countries, and relocated multiple times. In 2014, I moved to Hong Kong to manage a portfolio of global clients across APAC. In 2020, after completing a three-year executive leadership program, I moved to Zurich and, despite COVID, fully embraced living and working in Europe.

A reorganisation in 2023 provided a new challenge as I took on the role of heading up the Global Claims Centre of Excellence. I am thriving on the opportunity to build a new team and establish a new mandate for our business. Additionally, mentoring younger leaders is highly rewarding as I see them succeed.

College life taught me a lot about believing in myself, taking every opportunity that comes my way, and not regretting my decisions.

Lachlan Campbell (OGC 1984)

After studying Horticulture and Viticulture at the University of Melbourne, my wife Penny and I established 'Mt Pilot Estate', a 10-hectare vineyard and wine business in Eldorado, North East Victoria. Now in its 30th year, the vineyard produces Shiraz, Durif, Viognier, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Alongside managing the vineyard, I have worked for the North East Catchment Management Authority in agriculture for the past 16 years. I am also actively involved in my community: Chairman of the TAFCO Farmers' Cooperative, representing 1200 farmers shareholders in the region, current Chair of the Myrtleford Farmers Market, past Chair of the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program, and Chair of a social enterprise mobile skin cancer van for farmers. Additionally, I run a fertiliser business, was a Board Member of Parks Victoria and currently sit on the curriculum committee for the Charles Sturt University Environmental Science Program.

Our daughters Louise (OGC 2021) and Eliza (OGC 2022) also attended The Geelong College where their boarding experience fostered a good sense of community, and the confidence to meet the challenges of Melbourne University. Both are living at Trinity College with Lou now studying agriculture and Ellie undertaking an arts degree with the hope of a postgraduate law degree.

Rowan Eagles (OGC 1984)

Having just been to my 40-year Geelong College reunion, and having had the opportunity to reunite with my former classmates, there is a sense of appreciation and gratitude, for these formative College years.

My career path took me from College to technical school, then into an electrical apprenticeship, culminating in a career as a qualified A-Grade Electrician. These experiences shaped my ability, in terms of balance, and connecting with people from all walks of life.

My trade qualification opened doors to a diverse range of employment opportunities, primarily in Victoria, and later interstate. I have worked with some of the largest mining and construction companies in the world, building some of the biggest international and Australian-based iron ore, gold and gas sites.

On the family front, my wife, a Genetic Scientist, and I have complemented each other's career paths. The growth we have experienced from this has been important in raising our four children. Each child also benefited from a College-based education, paving their varied career pathways in Sports Physiology, Electrical Engineering, Teaching and Business Analysis.

Reflecting on all of these life experiences, I will be forever grateful to The Geelong College for its lasting influence in my life, as a second-generation Old Collegian.

Alexa Bedford (OGC 2014)

It took me a few years after leaving school to identify the path I wanted to take. After trying different degrees, working in various industries and travelling extensively, I finally discovered my desired path.

I began studies in fashion and business. During this time, I participated in a study exchange program that took me to New York, where I interned with a luxury fashion retailer. Upon completing my studies, I started interviewing for full-time positions in New York. However, the onset of COVID-19 brought me back home. During lockdown, I put my time to good use and completed my honours in fashion intellectual property management.

My first job post-university was in fast fashion, where I learnt buying, merchandising and production. After a few years, I transitioned into luxury cosmetics, working with a strategy and manufacturing team based in Europe.

I have been fortunate enough to travel extensively throughout my career which has given me invaluable global insights. When the company was acquired by L'Oréal, I joined the acquisition and integration team as project coordinator. I now work for Aesop in a project coordinator and change partner role, as part of the L'Oreal integration.

To school students, my advice is to seize every opportunity, no matter how big or small. Every experience can lead to unexpected and rewarding paths.

Harshini Baskaran (OGC 2014)

After graduating in 2014, I completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Majoring in Pharmaceutical Science) at Deakin University.

During this time, I had the opportunity to volunteer overseas in Sri Lanka at the Nuffield Deaf and Blind School in Sri Lanka and Action for Autism in India. These experiences helped me discover my passion for Speech Pathology.

Upon completing my Bachelors, I moved to Sydney and completed a Masters of Speech and Language Pathology at the University of Sydney, graduating in 2019. I then returned to Victoria and began working as a Speech Pathologist in early 2020, just as the pandemic began.

Navigating the challenges of being a new graduate and living in a pandemic was very difficult. However, I was fortunate to be living back in Geelong with my family while commuting to Melbourne. Eventually, I moved to South Yarra to continue working in Melbourne.

Since then, I have been working within the NDIS community, supporting both adults and children who have disabilities.

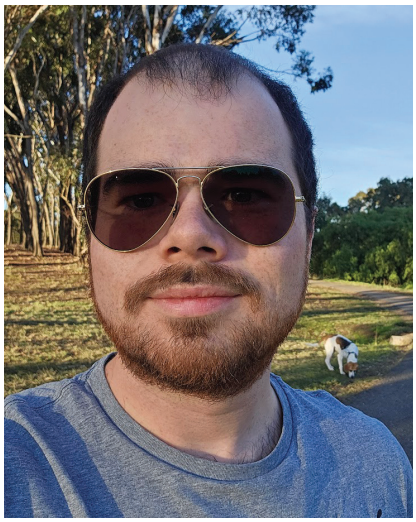
I am grateful for the many opportunities I've had to give back to the community, supervising new graduates, developing clinical educational programs for universities and continuing to support my clients in accessing communication.

Louisa Edwards (nee Cheatley) (OGC 2014)

After graduating in 2014, I completed a Bachelor of Communication (Journalism) at RMIT.

In my final year of university, I was offered an internship at 7 News Melbourne which was followed by ongoing roles in the newsroom. I started as the assistant to the Chief of Staff and social media producer before becoming a TV reporter. After a few years, I decided to make a career change and now work as a media adviser at the Department of Transport and Planning. Outside of work, I am raising my ten month old daughter, Elsie!

My advice to students is choose a career that you're passionate about — you don't need to be good at everything, just find one thing you're great at and you'll go far.



Michael Weiner (OGC 2014)

Following Year 12, I immediately leapt into an Electrical & Electronics Engineering degree knowing that if I took a gap year, I may never actually resume my studies.

Throughout the entirety of my course, I thought I had a pretty good idea of what I was interested in. I knew for certain that I didn't want to work in the 'boring' Power Industry.

Now, imagine my surprise when I undertook work experience at AusNet, one of the major Power Transmission & Distribution businesses in Victoria and loved every minute of it.

Six years later I still work at AusNet, currently as a Senior Protection Control & Automation Engineer with a speciality in Bushfire prevention technologies leading teams across the state.

Despite still being early in my career, I'm proud to say that I've already done my part in building safer communities.

In my personal life, like many others I've caught the travel bug, recently completing a solo trip through Vietnam and I'm looking forward to visiting India later this year.

Sabrina Lewicki (OGC 2014)

After graduating from The Geelong College, I moved to Melbourne to pursue a Bachelor of Science.

During this time, I developed an interest in working in healthcare which led me to transfer to a Bachelor of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences (Honours) at Monash University. Here, I was fortunate to complete two rural placements and an international placement in Scotland.

After a six-month internship in 2020 as a radiographer at a large metropolitan hospital, I returned to regional Victoria. I accepted a graduate role at a public hospital in Northeast Victoria working across general radiography, computer tomography (CT) and mammography.

In addition to my radiographer role, I volunteered with our medical radiations professional body, ASMIRT for seven years, serving as Treasurer, Victorian Continued Education Committee member and Membership and Advocacy committee member.

In 2024, I decided to merge my skillsets and challenge myself in a new role by accepting a position as Chief Medical Imaging Offcer at East Grampians Health Service (EGHS). Here, I am responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the medical imaging department.

My goal is to provide insight to others on the opportunities available in working in a regional setting as well as enjoying the experience that working for an ever-expanding regional health service in Victoria has to offer.

OGC sports news

ROWING

The Albert Bell Club

STUART OLSEN (OGC 1993), ABC PRESIDENT

With no COVID-19, flooding or other natural disasters impacting the Barwon, the 2023/2024 rowing season started out well.

The 2023/2024 season

There was an increase in rowers, particularly in Year 9, and the boat shed felt abuzz. The tone set by the new Director of Rowing, Andrew Richardson, was full of enthusiasm and energy for the season ahead.

Racing throughout the season showed the promise of years to come, with strong results for the senior crews at the NSW state titles and the Year 10 girls at Head of the School Girls and Head of the River.

ABC Dinner

In mid-March, the 49th Annual Albert Bell Club Dinner was held in the College Dining Hall. The evening was attended by the '04' decade crews, including representatives from the 1984 1st IV, 1993 1st VIII and the 1964 1st VIII.

Our guest speaker, Penny Smith, was very inspirational, telling us her story of success amidst several international selection setbacks. Penny has now been selected to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

ABC AGM

The AGM was over in a flash, with the re-election of the committee and the addition of Andrew Williams (OGC 1988) to Treasurer and Ben Thompson (OGC 2005) to Secretary. Thanks to Peter Lawson (OGC 1990) and Will Joske for their support as outgoing Secretary and Treasurer.

End of season presentation

The final event of the season, the College Boat Club held its end-of-season presentation in the school grounds.

It began with the presentation of rowers and awards in the Cloisters, followed by impressive and at times, hilarious, senior crew videos in Morrison Hall! The event was well attended by students, parents and coaches.

I had the pleasure of presenting all Year 12 students with their Albert Bell Club pin, and Albert Bell medallions to the Year 10 Girls Head of the River winning crew. This opportunity allowed the Albert Bell Club to provide background to the David M. Caithness Award and announce the winners in this, its fifth year. I also took the opportunity to promote the Colin Carstairs Bell pathway rowing bursaries, with applications opening later in 2024.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Old Collegians, Angus Widdicombe (OGC 2012), stroke of the Australian Men's VIII who came fourth at the recent World Rowing Cup II, Charlie Batrouney (OGC 2018) stroke of the Australia A Men's four who competed at World Rowing Cup 1 and Alex Williams (OGC 2023) for being selected in the under 19 Men's double scull to compete at the world Junior Championship in August.

Congratulations, also, to Oscar Tyrrell (OGC 2022) and Charlie Rahdon (OGC 2022) for winning medals at the Australian Rowing Championships.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has supported the ABC over the season, whether it be through attending functions, helping at events, donating to or supporting the TGC rowing program - it is all much appreciated and welcomed!

As ever, we welcome your feedback. Follow us on Facebook @AlbertBellClub or email albertbellclub@tgc.vic.edu.au

FOOTBALL, NETBALL & CRICKET

The OGs Club

JON ANDERSON (OGC 1970)

The Old Geelong Football Club connection retains very strong ties with Geelong College through both women's and men's programs in 2024.

The bond was highlighted at the club's 70th Anniversary dinner held at The Park in Albert Park on Saturday 18 May, as emphasised by one of the guest speakers Phil Marendez (OGC 1964).

Phil spoke eloquently about his playing days at a club then known as Old Geelong Grammarians, before explaining how the presence of Old Collegians such as Stuart Anderson (OGC 1963), Andrew Jenkins (OGC 1963), Richard Hobday (OGC 1964), Peter Holland (OGC 1964), Stephen Anderson (OGC 1967), and Graeme Dickson (OGC 1967) saw a name change to the Old Geelong Football Club in 1973 and a jumper change from the pale blue and gold of Geelong Grammar to blue and white hoops.

That bond is very much alive in 2024 with the men's vice-captain Jack Sheridan (OGC 2015) taking out the Premier B competition best and fairest in 2023, while Jacob Jess (OGC 2013) notched up his 100th game after joining the club from University Blues in 2017.

Jacob is believed to have laid the most tackles of any OG in history given he regularly records 10-12 in a game.

Matt Bird (OGC 2015) is enjoying a career-best season playing out of defence where his precise delivery on both sides continues to be a feature of his game, while the much-loved pair of Will "Wink" Simson (OGC 2014) and Nick "Pies" Morwood (OGC 2014) are regular senior players.

Harry Graham (OGC 2013) and Tim Hosking (OGC 2014) remain stalwarts of the club while Will Eggins, Jimmy Adams and Ted O'Malley (all OGC 2023), have made very favourable impressions, Will having already played senior football with Jimmy very close to doing so and Ted showing promising signs.

The OGs greatly appreciate those three young men joining us given we typically lose Melbourne University students to University Blues, a club that claims it has no feeder schools but one that has fed off Geelong Grammar and Geelong College for the past 60 years. The same applies to Sam Jess (OGC 2016), Geordie Whittakers (OGC 2020) and Ben Batarilo (OGC 2016).

Charlotte Kay and Katie-Rose Campbell (both OGC 2015) continue to be integral members of the club, with Charlotte providing insight from her perspective:

"Despite one of us (me) still being utterly traumatised by our dramatic 2018 Grand Final loss, at least Katie-Rose can still relish the glorious moments of winning the 2019 Grand Final.

"We both confidently agree that our love for OGs extends much further than our beloved Lady Como Park. Both having stuck around for 108 games between us (give or take), the amazing friendships, memories and connections made off the field are what keep us coming back year after year.

"Being a part of the evolving world of women's AFL has been an exciting couple of years, with the Old Geelong Football Club providing a home for all genders, ages and abilities. We always love to see Old Collegians coming down to the club and look forward to many more years of involvement. Plus we are totally driven to bring home Premierships this year. Go OGs."

FOOTBALL & NETBALL

The Ammos Club

BRUCE HARWOOD (OGC 1978), AMMOS COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Ammos continue to enjoy a bumper 2024 season with our 1,100 playing members.

The pre-season began for many of our juniors with a football-style academy. This was supported by the College with access to the Southern Fields at the Middle School and was considered a huge success by all those who attended the specialised sessions.

Most of our senior teams are once again having a very successful season. Our senior football teams are very well placed to compete in the finals, our netball teams occupy many of the top spots on their respective ladders, and our junior teams are experiencing a successful season and great enjoyment.

Our women's football division (WAMMOS) continues to be a leader in the region having two senior teams and four junior teams. Our Division 1 Women's football team is again well placed to play off for a potential "threepeat" of premierships. The development of our players is evident with nearly 10 WAMMO girls currently on Geelong's VFLW list, a couple playing at AFLW level and at the Under 18 Falcons level.

Off the field, the club is enjoying a massive year. Sponsorship has increased with an incredibly diverse range of business, industry and supporters ensuring the club has a strong financial capacity. We offer a broad range of sponsorship opportunities at many levels. There are many events that engage the sponsors with club activities. The Queens Park Pegasus Foundation continues to grow, raising funds to potentially finance essential infrastructure needs for the club as a whole.

Planning for the AMMOS' 100-Year Centenary in 2026 is already underway, with many stories and historical data being collated to produce a book capturing this amazing history. The Geelong College will feature significantly in this story, as the club was formed out of the College and Geelong Grammar schools. This includes hundreds of players, past presidents and senior committee personnel and significant contributions to the club's culture and success.

This future publication is currently being led by Old Collegians Geoff Williams (OGC 1987) and Bruce Harwood (OGC 1978). Any contributions or evidentiary material available will be gratefully accepted and hopefully woven into the rich history of the club.

The Ammos have a significant presence on social platforms. Follow the club on Instagram and Facebook to stay updated on events and upcoming games.

OGCA Events

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10 Year Reunion (Friday 22 March)

1. Harry Kershaw, Ben Tyler, Will Simson; 2. Louisa Cheatley, Jassie Salveson, Claire Humphreys; 3. Olympia Wild-Veuring, Nick McGuane; 4. Nicholas Cayzer, Henry Beaumont-Kelly, Hannah Brown 5.Tom McGowan, Jo Eaton, Phoebe Niven, Hamish Russell

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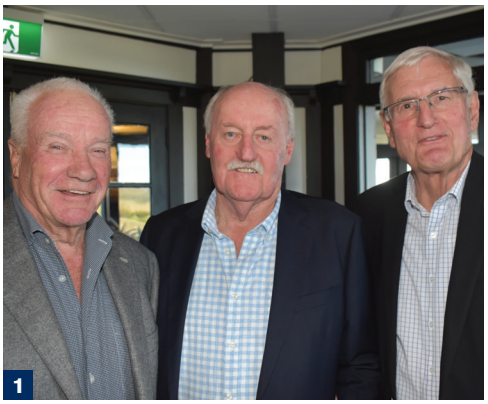
ABC Dinner (Friday 15 March)

1. Ally Elliott, Al Miller, Stuart Olsen; 2. Duncan McDonell, Stewart McArthur; 3. Jeff Sykes, Wendy Norris; 4. Elaine Howden, Ian Blair, Lucy Pring; 5. Sam Batrouney, Eliza Savvides, Lily Batrouney, Natasha Savvides, Addy Bucek, Connie Dunkley-Smith



Cobbers Lunch (Monday 6 May)

1. Brian Singer, Mick Gretton-Watson, Andrew Lawson; 2. David Jarman, John Roszbach & Graeme McCracken; 3. Hugh Bromell, Daryl Rickey

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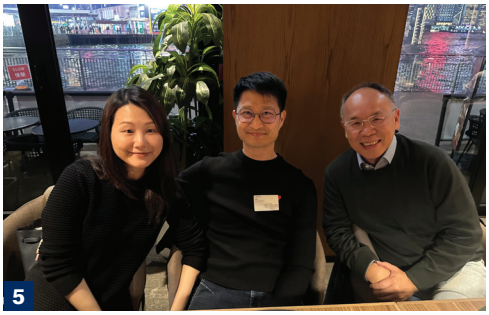

Hong Kong Reunion (Monday 11 March)

1. Hong Kong reunion at the Charcoal Bar; 2. Adrian Yip and Principal Dr Peter Miller; 3. Warren Pescud & Sarah Benhacine; 4. Carla Yee and Melinda Hand; 5. Ida and Gabriel Lau, Paul Yip; 6. Maggie Lee, Priscilla Fu, Calvin Ng, Kenneth Ng

OGCA Events

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OGCA 40 Year Reunion (Saturday 11 May)

1. Anne Jeremiah, James Robertson, Sue Bradley, Paula Robinson; 2. Jack Hobbs, Frances Gerraty, Julia Hay; 3. Michelle Smith, Nat Quick; 4. Simon Hunt, Lachlan Campbell; 5. Kerren Douglas, Geoff Rooke, Marcia Thompson, Sophia Kempton

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OGCA Leavers' Function (Thursday 15 February)

1. Georgia Phung, Emily Wood, Joel Grigsby; 2. George Chisolm (Ogs Rep), Sam Thompson, Ted O'Malley, Nick Betts (Ogs Rep); 3. Mieka Rothengatter, Tansy Sagar, Chantel Mason; 4. Jude Enticott, Charlie Cox, Lillie Quinlan, Johnny Pring; 5. Lewis Cleary, Henry Gove, Joe Osborne, James Pojani, Charles Porter; 6. Xavier Whitcher, Emilie Roosje, Mia kemp, Mieka Rothengatter

OGCA London Reunion (Friday 24 May)

Principal Dr Peter Miller and wife Naomi, along with Chair of Council, Prof. Richard Page and wife Belinda, hosted a dinner for UK-based Old Collegians and Past Parents.

OGCA Singapore Reunion (Saturday 18 May)

Principal Dr Peter Miller, Naomi Miller, Doug Ooi

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Shanghai Community Event (Tuesday 5 March)

1. Stephanie Qu, Lisa & David Mei; 2. David Mei, Mike Howell, Jack Mei (OGC 2017), Jane Sampson & Lisa Mei, 3. Past and current parents

Parent Events

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Boarders' Welcome Evening (Wednesday 31 January)

1. Annie Peat, Edwina Knox; 2. Eliza Handbury, Denise McLellan, Simone Hayes; 3. Smoking Ceremony; 4. Eloise Boyle, Degen Murphy, Bianca Inkster, Janet Murphy; 5. Hugh Leishman, Richard Knox, Rob Handbury

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Boarders' Family Day (Sunday 25 February)

1. Millie Ross, Denise McLellan, Liv Handbury, Melissa Hope, Sophie McLellan, Tessa Bahen; 2. Eliza & Lucy Handbury, Violet Gilby; 3. Angus Halvish, Eloise Boyle, Sam, Archie & Rachel Leishman; 4. Caitlin Williams, Simone & Matilda Hayes, Olivia, Eliza & Tom Handbury; 5. Angus Paton, Penny Paton, Hugh Leishman, Annie Peat, Alice Peat

Boarding Parent and Family Networks Garden Party (Saturday 24 February)

1. Catherine Van Engelen, Bruce Raeburn, Ned Nagle; 2.Gareth Gilby, David Manderson, Tom & Penny Paton; 3. Susan Pettigrew & Jon Watson; 4. Nathan & Nicole Conley, Emma & Alister Robson; 5. Mick & Megan Kealy, Dave Lawson, Shannon McLellan

Junior School Parent Welcome Evening (Friday 9 February)

1. Andrew Woolcock, Amy Ryan, Chris & Sophie Atkinson; 2. Manish Dhupar, Neha Karkara; 3. Kim & Kevin Ayen, Aaron Kelly, Kathryn Panjkov; 4. Nick Robb, Yurong Pan, Joel Davis; 5. Uyen Krishnaswamy, Nancy & Nathan Biggs, Sarah Van Lochem

Parent Events

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Middle School Parent Welcome Evening (Tuesday 13 February)

1. Adam Teare, Glenn & Rebecca Hassett, Georgina Teare; 2. Anita Raff, Brent & Stacy Szalay; 3. Cindy & Richard Gudykunst, Sophy & Tom Chirnside; 4. Tim Brown, Mark Anderson, Anthony Greco, Samantha Anderson, Sara Selvaraju

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PSPA Year 7 Parent Cocktail Party (Friday 17 May)

1. Mike Philip, James Povey, Julian Chalmers; 2. David Burns & Nella Scodella; 3. Clare Power & Vince Sheehan; 4. Jane & James Tiernan

Senior School Parent Welcome Evening (Friday 2 February)

1. Jo & Scott Begbie, Aaron Keating, Riot Chan; 2. Sara Wilson, Moira & Nigel Thomson, Gillian Thornton; 3. Julian & Tamara Chalmers, Lynne Hayden, Nathan Bennett; 4. Shane Franklin, Amy Keenan, Sarah Franklin, Alissia Milliken; 5. Nick Welch, Meyke Tengku, Jelmer Hoekstra, David Spear

SSPA Year 9 Parent Cocktail Party (Friday 23 February)

1. Carli Roulston, Annabelle Cummins, Naomi Hecht; 2. Jo Manderson, Mandy & Ted Mithen; 3. Katie McMahon, Olivia Cottrill, Michael Thomas; 4. Nathan Panozzo, Daniel Salter, Jesse Cummins

Organisers Jodi Geddes, Kelly Woolcock, Sam Hardwick, Martha Evans & Rai Kurul

Mother's Day Lunch Raises $45,000

On Friday 3 May, the PSPA hosted The Geelong College Mother's Day lunch at Chin Chin, GMHBA Stadium, raising an impressive $45,000.

The funds raised have been donated to 'ROAR', a project run by local not-for-profit, Meli, which supports women survivors of domestic violence.

Meli is a merger of Barwon Child, Youth & Family (BCYF) and the Bethany Group, and is the Barwon region's largest provider of kindergartens, foster care, family services and more, with an aim of strengthening communities through supporting people.

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Farewells

CHAMPNESS, Leonard Torr

(1927-2024) OGC 1946

Len was enrolled at the College in 1946 to complete Form VI, coming from Geelong High School. He was a member of Calvert House, placed in several athletics events, and received House colours. He also served in the relay team. In the Combined Schools competition, he was part of the open mile medley relay team, coming in second place.

Following school, Len studied medicine at the University of Melbourne, receiving an entrance scholarship for Queen's College. Len met his wife-to-be, June Dempsey at University, and they married in 1951 at the Queen's College chapel. They have four children: Peter (OGC 1967), Hugh (OGC 1969), Helen and Kathryn.

Len graduated MB BS at the end of 1952 and moved to Geelong to complete his intern year at Geelong Hospital. The young family then moved to London, where Len continued his studies, then on to Papua New Guinea for 12 years.

In 1966, the family returned to Geelong and Len went into private practice and became involved in paediatric and geriatric medicines at Grace McKellar. Len retired from Barwon Health in the early 1990s but continued private practice, including time with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Alice Springs Hospital.

Retirement saw Len continue his passion for a life well-lived, family, hard work, and community. He travelled overseas for walking tours and was a valued member of the Belmont Uniting Church.

ADAMS, William John

(1953-2023) OGC 1967

John was enrolled at the College as a day student from 1958, starting at the kinder. He was a member of Calvert House and played Under 15 football. John married Thelma Challenger in 1967 and they have four children. In 1998 he opened South Barwon Computers which has been running for 25 years.

BALL, Peter Grant

(1934-2024) OGC 1948

Peter was enrolled at the College from 1950-1952. In his final year, Peter was awarded the A T Andrews Memorial Prize for Science and Mathematics, as well as coming second to the Dux and receiving the Dux Proxime Accessit prize. Peter went on to study pharmacy. He married Jeanette Fewtrell (MOC) in 1960 and they have two children, Louise (OGC 1984) and David (OGC 1987). In 2004, Peter became a life member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Vic branch).

BROTCHIE, Paul William

(1936-2023) OGC 1948

Paul was enrolled at the College from 1949 and completed his matriculation in 1953. Following school, Paul went onto study Law at Melbourne University, resident at Ormond College. He became a successful lawyer, specialising in owners corporations. Outside of his law practice, Paul was a trustee of the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation which fosters the development of early career researchers and post-doctoral fellowships in medical science.

CAMPBELL, Craig Ronald Ellis
(1945-2024) OGC 1959
Craig was enrolled at the College from 1953 to 1962, starting at the Preparatory School. His father Ronald (OGC 1927), older brother Alastair (OGC 1953) and Jamie (OGC 1963) also attended the College. He was married to Margaret and they have three children. Craig worked in radio and television, presenting the news for WIN and Ten. In the late 1990s the family moved to Geelong where Craig pursued his passion for real estate, which he continued until his retirement.

CLUTTERBUCK, David Arthur
(1948-2024) OGC 1961
David attended the College from 1958. In 1961 he was part of the first cohort of students to experience the new Preparatory School on Aberdeen St. When he joined the Senior School he was a member of the football team, and later the 3rd XI cricket team. In 1964, David was part of the trip to St Philips College in Alice Springs, joining a working party to help build the school. David was married to Carolyn and had two sons and two stepsons, along with five grandchildren.

COOMBE, John Barry
(1934-2023) OGC 1950
Barry boarded at the College from 1950 to 1952. He was joint Dux of the school in 1951 and Dux again in 1952. He was involved in music, tennis, the 1st XVIII football team, and was Captain of the 2nd XI cricket team. Following school Barry went on to study agricultural science, followed by a PhD, before relocating to the ACT and working as a research scientist. Barry married Bridget Wall and they have three children.

COUSEN, David Andrew
(1939-2022) OGC 1953
David Cousen boarded at the College from 1954 to 1956. He participated in a number of sports including football, athletics and cricket. Outside of sport, David was a member of the PFA committee and cadets. After school, David returned to farm at Sea Lake. He married Marie in 1965, and they have four children who all attended the College: Ross (OGC 1983), Louise (OGC 1986), Catherine (OGC 1987) and Nicola (OGC 1989).

COUSEN, Helen Louise (Louise)
(1968-2024) OGC 1986
Louise attended the College from 1981-1986, starting in Year 7 at the Preparatory School. Arriving at Senior School in 1983, she joined Wettenhall House and went on to receive multiple House music colours, demonstrating what would be a lifelong gift for music. She played the French horn in the Concert Band and Senior Brass Ensemble. Outside of music, Louise also played in the basketball team and 5th IV rowing crew.

CUNNINGHAM, William
(1938-2023) OGC 1952
Bill attended the College from 1953 to 1956. He was involved in many parts of school life, from sports teams and cadets to leadership positions. In his final year, Bill was Morrison House Captain and School Prefect, the same year Morrison House won the Calvert (Interhouse) Cup. Bill went on to study a Bachelor of Commerce and Diploma of Education. Bill remained a strong supporter of the school over the years.

DAVIDSON, Geoffrey Ian
(1937-2023) OGC 1952
Geoff boarded at the College from 1951 to 1954, coming from Balmattum near Euroa. He soon joined the rowing crews and reached the 1st VIII in his final year. Following school Geoff returned home, working on a number of properties. He played local football and joined the CFA. He first married in 1967 and had two children. Then, in 1978, he married his second wife, Marg, and welcomed two step-children.

DOBIE, Ian Meldrum
(1946-2024) OGC 1959
Ian boarded at the College from 1951 to 1962. At Preparatory School he was the U11 swimming sports champion, which he repeated in the open category a year later. He joined the Senior School swimming team in 1961 and 1962. Following school, Ian completed National Service training at Scheyville, NSW, with follow up training in the Royal Australian Army Service Corps at Puckapunyal. He later returned to the Wentworth area, working as a grazier at Wenba.

FAWCETT, John William
(1927-2023) OGC 1940
John boarded at the College for four years from 1939, starting at the Preparatory School. In the years after he left school, the Pegasus reported his sporting pursuits in Adelaide; playing golf for Adelaide University and helping the team to third place in the inter-varsity match in Sydney in 1949, and winning the University golf championship in 1952. In recent years John had been living at Coppin Community Hostel in Melbourne.

FENNER, Christopher David

(1955-2023) OGC 1969

Chris attended the College from 1967 following his older brother Ross (OGC 1966) and preceding younger brother Brad (OGC 1972). He was a McArthur House Prefect, and stroked the 1st VIII in his final year, 1973. Chris studied civil engineering and initially worked for local councils in Melbourne, then moved into engineering consultancy, before finishing with VicRoads in Ballarat. Chris was married twice and had two children from his first marriage – James and Isobel. Chris and his second wife Shelley lived for the last 17 years of his life in an historic house in Clunes.

- Courtesy B Fenner.

HARDING, Geoffrey Adrian

(1924-2023) OGC 1938

Coming from Red Cliffs, Geoff boarded at the College from 1940 to 1941. In 1941 he was on the 1st XI cricket team, and received cricket cap and school cricket colour. Following school, Geoff joined the RAN in 1944 and served as Writer on HMAS Warrego. After being discharged in 1947, he returned to Mildura and went onto become a restaurateur, opening The Rendezvous. Geoff married Pat in 1950 and they have two sons who also attended the College, Graeme (OGC 1965) and Lee (OGC 1971).

HARVEY, Graeme George

(1937-2023) OGC 1951

Graeme was enrolled at the College from 1944 to 1954. He played on the football teams during his time here, as well as reaching the Drill Platoon in the cadets. Graeme married Patricia in 1962 and they have three children, Andrew (OGC 1982), Carolyn (OGC 1984) and Fiona (OGC 1990). He went on to work in finance at West Carr & Harvey. Outside of work, Graeme enjoyed sailing.

JACKMAN, Robert William

(1928-2023) OGC 1942

Coming from Dimboola, Bob boarded at the College from 1942 to 1943. After school, Bob studied wool classing at the Gordon Tafe and later moved to Dadswell Bridge. Bob married Helen in 1953 and they have four children. In the 1980s Bob and Helen moved to Horsham. There he was involved with the local lawn bowls as well as the Horsham Agricultural Society, which he served for almost four decades.

JAMIESON, Gavin John

(1943-2023) OGC 1958

Gavin boarded at the College from 1958 to 1960. He was involved with the Pegasus committee as well as athletics and cadets. Following school, Gavin spent some time jackarooing before studying at Marcus Oldham, in its inaugural course 1962-1963. After moving to Ballarat, Gavin worked with local council in revegetation projects and became a beekeeper. He was a key member of the Victorian Apiarists Association, advocating for land care and the environment. Gavin was married to Jenni and they have two children.

KNOX, Michael John

(1944-2024) OGC 1958

Michael was a student at the College from 1956 to 1962. He played with the 1st XVIII football and 1st XI cricket teams, and was also a member of the athletics team. In his final year at College he was appointed School Prefect, Senior House Captain and Shannon Sports House Captain. Following school, Michael returned to the family property at Table Top near Albury. He married Anne and they have two children.

LUMB, Geoffrey Robert

(1953-2024) OGC 1968

Geoff attended the College from 1965 to 1970. He was a member of Shannon House, the athletics team, and the 1st XVIII football team. Geoff maintained his athletic skills, competing in the Stawell Gift 1981 to 1988. In 1989 he won a heritage award for building restoration, of his antique, period clothing and insurance business in Pakington Street. Geoff went on to become a glider pilot and competed in gliding competitions around the world.

MATTHEWS, Rev. Alan James Stevens

(1926-2023) OGC 1938

Alan boarded at the College from 1941 to 1943. In 1941 he was part of the winning Junior Fours crew at the Annual School Regatta. Alan would go on to study theology, working in parish ministries in Victoria, United Kingdom, Northern Territory and finally settling in Western Australia in the 1970s. He was married to Betty, and they have two children. After retiring, Alan continued to be involved in local church activities, as well as refugee support and Aboriginal reconciliation.

MCDONALD, Stuart Andrew

(1982-2024) OGC 2000

Stuart studied at the College from 1995 to 2000. At Senior School he was a member of Morrison House and was involved in a number of sports including football, tennis and judo. He joined classmates on the 1996 trip to Izumiotsu, Japan. Following school, Stuart studied business and property valuations going on to become a noted figure in the Australian Property Institute (API) and an expert in rural property valuation. By 2010 he reached Associate Certified Practising Valuer status with the API.

TEMPLETON, Nathan Luke

(1979-2024) OGC 1997

Nathan completed his secondary education at the College, starting in Year 7 at the Preparatory School in 1992.

He quickly became involved in the many aspects of College life, and his sporting ability saw him participate in athletics, cricket and football.

At Preparatory School, Nathan was athletics captain, open boys athletics champion and assistant coach to the girls' football team.

Nathan joined Morrison House when he started at the Senior School in 1994.

Again, he was quickly involved across sports, joining the athletics and cricket teams. His form must have impressed the selectors, as the following year he joined the 1st XVIII football and athletics teams as well as the 1st XI cricket team which would go on to be that year's APS Champions and Premiers. He continued to be part of these teams in 1996, only dropping to the 2nd XI cricket team in 1997.

For all of this sporting effort, Nathan received multiple school and House colours. In 1996 he was a noted player of the 1st XI, capturing 27 wickets for the season. As Captain of the 1st XVIII in 1997, he reached the milestone of 30 APS matches, a feat reached by only a few footballers in the College's history.

Nathan was a member of the College Football Team of the Decade 1990-2000, in the Forward position.

Following school, Nathan studied and travelled. He completed an Arts degree at Deakin University and went on to work at Channel 10 as a sports reporter. He moved to Channel 7 in 2012, becoming a feature of major sports events, covering moments at the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Australian Open and AFL matches.

His love for the Geelong Cats led him to work as a ground announcer and MC at many events.

Nathan married Kate Coghlan and they have two sons.

EATON, Peter Charles Godfrey

(1925-2024) OGC 1940

Peter boarded at the College from 1937 to 1942, starting at the Preparatory School on Aphrasia St. He had previously attended Werribee State School.

His name features in the Pegasus magazines, recording his placing in school sports, a role in the Junior Dramatic Society production of Peter Pan, and as the cox of rowing crews. He was also part of the Junior and Senior Fours winning trophies at the Annual School Regatta in 1941.

Following school Peter went on to jackaroo with Cowley Pastoral Co, Charleville before enlisting in the RAAF in 1945. He then joined his father's farming property in Gippsland.

Peter married Margaret Millar in Brisbane in 1952, and the couple moved to Western Australia in the 1960s.

Peter made lifelong friends at the College, and remained in touch by attending Perth Reunions.

In the 2020 interview the College conducted with Peter at his home, he reminisced about his school days.

He recalled the events of the Second World War, digging trenches on Mackie Oval and identifying aircraft as they flew overhead.

He also spoke fondly of his love of the tight-knit College community, where all the boarders knew each other.

Scan the QR code or click the link below to watch Peter's interview: bit.ly/PeterEton

MITCHELL, Arthur Graham

(1927-2023) OGC 1940

Graham boarded at the College in 1943, coming from Echuca High School. Following school he returned to Echuca. He married Helen in 1955 and the family settled in Benalla. They have three children. After retiring, Graham was a founding member of the Benalla U3A in 1996 after establishing an investment interest group.

PLUECKHAHN, Richard Hamish

(1963-2024) OGC 1980

Rick attended the College from 1968, starting at Campbell House. His older brother David (OGC 1972) also attended the school. Rick went on to graduate in 1980. Following school, he joined the ambulance service in 1983 where he completed multiple qualifications and worked for 40 years. He was a key member of the paramedic service, supporting education and working as a peer support. He married Jodie in 1994 and they have two children.

RENFREY, Wayne Lester

(1945-2024) OGC 1959

Wayne was enrolled at the College from 1951 to 1962, starting at the kinder. During his time at the school he often placed well in sports such as swimming and played football. He reached the 3rd XVIII in 1962 and was also a member of the swimming team that year. Wayne married Dawn in 1969. In more recent years together, they helped fundraise for an orphanage in South Africa. Wayne is the son of Geelong Football Club past player, Russell Renfrey.

ROBSON, Laurence Campbell
(1952-2023) OGC 1966
Laurie attended the College from 1964 to 1969. He completed his final year in the Form VI humanities stream. During his school years he played in a number of football teams, and reached the rank of sergeant in the cadets. Following school, he studied a Bachelors of Arts and Law. Laurie went on to become an influential educator, teaching at Leo Cussen for many years and inspiring generations of lawyers. He married Ronniet and they have one son.

WEBB, Rev. Dr Anthony Roger (Roger)
(1941-2024) OGC 1953
Roger attended the College from 1949 to 1958, after his father Don Webb returned to work at the College. His younger brothers Peter (OGC 1960) and Andrew (OGC 1968) soon joined him. Roger was a member of Shannon House and in 1958 Shannon won the Inter-House Music Competition, with Roger, their Captain of music, conducting. After training as a teacher Roger was called to the ministry and was ordained as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in 1969. Over the years he served in various Victorian parishes, and was School Chaplain at Ballarat College and Penrhos College in Perth. He then worked as a marriage counsellor and a minister in various Uniting Church parishes. During this time, he also studied a Doctor of Ministry. Later, Roger and wife Gwen moved back to the eastern states and on retirement moved to Wagga Wagga. There he accepted the role of Presbytery Chairman and conducted services throughout the area.
- Courtesy P Webb

WHITESIDE, Anthony Owen
(1938-2023) OGC 1951
Tony was enrolled at the College from 1950 to 1953. He married Judy in 1959 and they have three children, Andrew (OGC 1973), Tim (OGC 1978) and Amelia. He worked as a civil engineer for the Snowy Mountains Authority including time in Thailand and Kuala Lumpur for engineering projects. He later worked as a director of Civil and Civic, and marketing director at Lend Lease. A keen cyclist Tony and Judy opened Cyclery Northside, and he competed in the World Masters Games.

WOOD, Geoffrey Branscombe
(1942-2023) OGC 1955
Geoff boarded at the College from 1953 to 1959. At Senior School he was a member of Calvert House and was involved in rowing, the shooting team, music and choir. In 1959 he reached the 2nd VIII rowing crew. Following school Geoff went on to pursue varied interests, from jackarooing and farming to aviation and piano tuning. In recent years he worked as a flying instructor.

Staff/Council

PENDLEBURY, Natalie Jane
(1973-2023)
Natalie was a much-loved parent, colleague, and friend of the College. She supported the MS and SS Performing Arts Departments in both a paid and volunteer capacity. Most recently, Natalie supported the 2023 MS Year 8 Production. She was also the SS Performing Arts Assistant. She is survived by her husband Daniel and son Johnny (OGC 2022).

MONTGOMERY, Joan AM OBE
(1925-2024)
Joan was member of The Geelong College Council from 1982 to 1990, one of the first women appointed after the introduction of co-education. Joan taught in Australia and overseas before her appointment as Head of Clyde School (1960-1960) and Presbyterian Ladies College (1969-1985).
She received a Fellowship of the Australian College of Education and in her retirement served on university, college, and school councils. She received multiple accolades including an Order of the British Empire in 1976 and Member of the Order of Australia in 1986 for her services to education.

WALTON, Dr Sylvia Walton AO
(1941-2024)
Sylvia served on The Geelong College Council from 2017 to 2021. She had extensive experience in education and leadership as Principal of Tintern Grammar (1982-2005), and St Catherine's School (2007-2013) and Executive Principal of Loreto College Marryatville (2015-2016). She was also Chancellor of LaTrobe University (2006-2011) and held numerous directorships on school, college and university councils. Sylvia was awarded an Order of Australia medal for services to education in 2003, one of many accolades from the education industry.

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