



# Ad Astra

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*Years of Dr Miller*



*Celebrating 10 Years*







ars of

# Dr Miller

This special edition of Ad Astra marks a significant moment in the life of The Geelong College as we farewell Dr Peter Miller, after a decade of visionary leadership.

Since his appointment in 2015, Dr Miller has led with integrity, compassion and a steadfast commitment to excellence in all areas of school life. His tenure has seen the strengthening of student programs, particularly academic excellence, a compassionate and survivor focused reach out program, and a deepened sense of community spirit. His collaborative approach to the College strategic plan was a first for the College, and the College Masterplan has continued to deliver outstanding new facilities that enable us to provide world class learning programs, and to plan for the future needs of the College.

We also recognise Naomi Miller, who has contributed generously to the College through special projects, work in philanthropy and at events across the life of the school. We thank Naomi for the attention to detail, care and hospitality she brought to these roles and many more.

As Peter prepares to take up the role of Headmaster at Shore (Sydney Church of England Grammar School) - a school where his educational journey first took root in 1989 - we reflect with gratitude on his remarkable legacy and wish him every success in this next chapter.

Thank you, Peter and Naomi, you will be missed, but the College is a better place for your presence.

Don't be strangers.

Mike Howell

Director of Community Relations

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# Leadership, legacy, and lasting change

## DR PETER MILLER'S TIME AT THE HELM

PROF. RICHARD PAGE, CHAIR OF COUNCIL

After nearly a decade of visionary leadership, Dr Peter Miller concludes his tenure as Principal of The Geelong College at the end of Term 3, leaving behind a legacy of transformation, compassion, and purpose. Since his appointment in 2015, Dr Miller has led with steady, considered leadership that has helped shape the College's future while honouring its past.



A highly respected educational leader with over 30 years of experience in prominent schools across Australia and the UK, Dr Peter Miller brought a wealth of knowledge to The Geelong College. With a Doctorate and a Master's in Education, and additional professional development from institutions such as Cranlana and Cambridge, he understood the evolving educational needs of young people in the 21st century. His philosophy centred on belonging, connection, character development, and excellence in academic and co-curricular pursuits.

Peter's decade at the helm has seen the strengthening of the College's educational programs and the implementation of a College-wide Instructional Model. This model, delayed initially by COVID-19, now guides professional practice and conversation, ensuring a consistent and contemporary approach to teaching. He described this initiative as one of the most significant contributions of his tenure, designed to shape the College's teaching for the next decade.

Another hallmark of Peter's leadership was his compassionate, survivor-focused response to historic harm. Guided by Christian principles, he helped the College navigate this sensitive issue with humanity, reinforcing a culture of care and accountability.

His deep commitment to reconciliation was reflected in the strengthening of ties with Indigenous communities during his leadership. These efforts were integrated meaningfully into the life of the College, underscoring a

broader commitment to equity and inclusion.

Peter led the renewal of the College's Strategic Plan and oversaw the implementation of a major Masterplan review, which included the key infrastructure developments of Campbell House and Belerren that balanced heritage with innovation. He often described this dual focus as an effort to honour the past while embracing the future. The improvements not only enhanced the physical campus but supported

*As a Member of Council and Chair covering most of his tenure, I can say Dr Miller's impact has been immense and will endure.*

contemporary learning environments.

In his words, he hopes his legacy will be seen in "building a confident humility" within the College. "By this I mean the confidence to say 'I don't know or I cannot be sure - but I know we can address it,'"". His goal has been to instil resilience and authenticity in students and staff, fostering a community that is engaged, courageous, and willing to face challenges.

Beyond the College gates, Peter has contributed significantly to independent and ecumenical education. He served in leadership roles, including Chair of the Ecumenical Schools Australia and a key figure within the APS Headmasters Group in Victoria. His advocacy for ethically aware decision-making and strategic leadership has left an impact far beyond Geelong.

Peter also takes pride in strengthening the relationship between The Geelong College and the Uniting Church. He has worked to ensure that this connection served both the College and the St David's congregation with purpose and integrity.

Throughout his career, Peter has been supported by his wife Naomi and their children Alexander, Phoebe, and Hugh. A recent milestone - becoming a grandfather to baby Oliver - adds a personal note of joy and transition to this professional chapter.

Reflecting on his time, Peter notes that his initiatives were never about personal legacy but about doing what was right for the College over time. "The ideas have been intentional," he said, "not a legacy - just what I have tried to do."

As he steps into a new chapter, The Geelong College community bids farewell with deep gratitude and admiration. His contributions have helped position the College for the next 50 years - anchored in thoughtful leadership, academic excellence, and a compassionate, forward-looking vision. As a Member of Council and Chair covering most of his tenure, I can say Peter's impact has been immense and will endure. It has been a pleasure to not only work together but also become good friends while observing his passion for educating young people. We wish him and Naomi the very best as he takes up his new role as Headmaster of Shore School in Sydney.





# Dr Miller

Surgeon and  
Prime Minister!

SONDRA WOLFENDEN, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL & JULIE BICKETT, HEAD OF EARLY LEARNING



Dr Miller has been a literal icon to children of Campbell House for the last decade. His attendance at assemblies, amongst many other events, causes a stir of excitement as he arrives dressed in a suit, with perfectly shined shoes and his infamous 'Labrador' socks, that are especially popular amongst our youngest learners.

Children at Campbell House usually suspect Dr Miller of being a surgeon of some sort – the word 'Dr' often the culprit of this assumption. But the analogy stands true as he is, in fact, a fixer of things. He is someone with steady hands who we can rely on with a steadfast commitment to ensuring we are all thriving here at The Geelong College. Then, there is the other regular assumption that Dr Miller is the Prime Minister. This may not be such an easy analogy – but we believe that children see this as a compliment – because, after all, isn't he the 'boss'?

In true Campbell House spirit, we thought it would be best to offer questions to our children to find out their thoughts on Dr Miller. So, on a sunny Friday morning, one child from each class, ranging from Early Learning 3 to Year 3, gathered in the boardroom for a very special meeting with the aim of getting to the bottom of these important questions:

### Who is Dr Miller?

'He's like the Prime Minister, but of the school, not the world'

'He's a boss and he keeps the school running and everybody in it safe'

'Dr Miller is kind because he looks out for the school'

'He's a principal and also a person'

'His name is 'Doctor' because he went to a high level in university'

### What is his job?

'Dr Miller helps problems get solved'

'Dr Miller keeps the Early Learning children safe by not letting them out of the gate'

'Dr Miller helps us get more supplies for our school. Like new chairs and more food for the staff'

'He gives detentions. Detentions are a consequence and that's what principals do – they give out consequences!'

'I think he's very traditional. He comes to assemblies and celebrates special events with us.'

'His office is at the church. I think my mum has been in his office. It's in the tallest tower at Senior School. It must be at the top of the school.'

**"Dr Miller's job is a very big job because our school is a very big and important place."**

'I remember when he helped us be Nature Rangers last year'

'Yeah, remember he had his own cape, and he told all the big kids to clean up?'

There was a resounding feeling of affection and wonder amongst our children as they discussed the values and acts of goodwill Dr Miller contributes to the daily life of our school. This led to our final question:

### What advice would you like to give Dr Miller as he moves to a different school?

'Don't retire yet, you're only about 40 years old'

'I think he's more like 47. But young enough!'

'I think Dr Miller should keep shining his shoes'

'It's kind that you are helpful to everyone'

On a more serious note, it must be said that Dr Miller has been an important and formative part of our children's education and growth. His words of wisdom and genuine guidance in how to be good humans and make a positive difference in our world have always been valued and appreciated by children, families and staff at Campbell House. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for all the help, kindness and care he has sprinkled over Campbell House and its inhabitants. He has left a legacy on our Junior School by leading us through our redevelopment to ensure we continue to be an outstanding school for many decades to come.

We personally thank him for his support of early years education and the importance he placed on Reggio Emilia inspired learning. His leadership has ensured we see children (even our very youngest) as capable and competent and full of potential – always.

We wish him all the best with the move to Sydney and the beginning of a new exciting chapter.

*'Just remember, Dr Miller, you will always be our friend'*  
– Evelyn, aged 4



# Our year with Dr Miller

XAVIER BLOOD & ZARA GOODALL-WILSON,  
THE GEELONG COLLEGE CO-CAPTAINS



As College Co-Captains, we've had the rare privilege of working closely with Dr Miller during his final year as Principal of The Geelong College - a milestone moment in the life of the school, and in our own leadership journeys.

As we prepare to bid farewell to Dr Miller, we're honoured to share some reflections on what it has meant to work alongside him during this past year.

We've learnt and gained so much through our time with Dr Miller. From watching him lead, to watching him speak at College events, or during one-on-one interactions.

It has been during our leadership meetings that we've had the opportunity to connect with Dr Miller on a more personal level. Together with our Vice Co-Captains, Eliza Cullen and Shaun McKenna, we have met with Dr Miller, weekly at lunchtime.

Dr Miller's ability to connect with students, staff, and guests alike

through his humour, intelligence, and breadth of experience is something we truly admire and will carry with us into our own leadership journeys.

Our conversations have always been interesting, and have even led to passionate debates at times - but these always end with a laugh.

Dr Miller has imparted valuable leadership lessons through his daily actions, consistently leading by example.

His time at our school has not been defined solely by the decisions he has made, but by the standard he has

set, the values he lives by, and the guidance he provides.

Through his unwavering integrity and commitment to each of us, Dr Miller has shaped not only our school's environment but also the way we approach leadership in our own lives.

His tireless dedication to the school and his strong work ethic has motivated us all to give our best and to always strive to improve.

He has repeatedly emphasised the importance of setting clear goals and has continuously supported us on our journey towards achieving them. His strong morals guide all those around him to act with honesty and fairness, setting a powerful example of doing





the right thing even in challenging situations.

He has consistently demonstrated the qualities of a positive role model, empowering us all to do the same.

We would also like to acknowledge the culture Dr Miller has been able to create throughout his time here at College.

Every year, the College progresses while maintaining the rich traditions and customs it is known for.

In our conversations with Dr Miller, he is always looking to better the school in any way possible, canvassing our thoughts on various issues, from sport chants to school productions, ensuring every single student feels a part of the College community.

In doing so, we truly believe Dr Miller has played a significant role in fostering the inclusive culture College prides itself on.

Whilst it is one thing to just talk about creating a school that everyone feels they belong to, it is another to actually enact change that allows it to occur. Whether it is through sport, arts or academics, there is a place for everybody to feel at home, and this is the culture Dr Miller has nurtured.

We greatly appreciate the effort and care Dr Miller invests in every student, particularly the Year 12s.

This year, each of us has had the privilege of having a one-on-one conversation with him, where he has made the time to discuss our future aspirations and endeavours. During

these meetings, Dr Miller not only listened attentively but also offered his loyal support, always asking how he could best assist us.

Throughout this year, he has been an active mentor, guiding and encouraging all of us on our individual journeys beyond school. We will be forever grateful for his sound advice and exceptional leadership.

It has been an honour to work so closely with Dr Miller, and we will always be thankful for the lessons we have learnt and the leadership we have witnessed. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours, and we appreciate all he has done for us, current and former students, and the school as a whole.





# A chapter of life

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

In a few short months, Dr Peter Miller will bid farewell to The Geelong College. As the school community reflects on his decade of leadership, Ad Astra sat down with Peter to capture the person behind the role - his story, his philosophy, and the moments that mattered most.





There's something instantly reassuring about Dr Peter Miller. Calm and considered, he brings the same measured presence to a full-school assembly as he does to a one-on-one conversation.

Whether offering a nod in the corridor, taking time for a chat on the lawn, or addressing a hall of students with quiet authority, he makes people feel seen. It's not just what he says, but how he listens. That sense of attentiveness - of being fully present

- has defined Peter's decades in education.

Though his leadership has shaped the College in countless visible and invisible ways, Peter remains a deeply humble man. He is far more interested in championing others than being celebrated himself, and rarely dwells on legacy.

But in the spirit of reflection - and with some gentle persistence - he agreed to share his story.

As Peter now prepares to depart his role as Principal, he reflects on the path that led him here, the students who shaped his days, and the values that anchored his leadership.

### **The early years**

Peter's lifelong affinity with school began as a student at Sydney Grammar in the late 1970s - a time he admits was "less humane than now," but one that still left him inspired.

"I loved school," he says.

"I liked everything that went on. I was always really curious about other people... I loved all the different activities and everything I got to do."

The daily journey to and from school - on trains, buses, and footpaths through Sydney's CBD - was as formative as the classroom itself.

"The school was located right on College Street next to Hyde Park... you'd go out and you were just a part of the world."

It was around Year 9, during a geography-based cadet lesson, that Peter first experienced the power of teaching.

"I was teaching the lesson, it was on mapping skills. The kids - my peers - had something at the end of the lesson they didn't have at the beginning, and I'd been the one who

had taken them through it. It's quite addictive."

His grandfather, a government school headmaster and school inspector born in 1888, had a deep influence.

"He and I were very close," Peter says.

"He died when I was in Year 11. But there was always a conversation about education and what a good school was. He used to give us spelling bees to drive us nuts."

Teaching clearly ran in the Miller family's blood - though Peter's father chose a different path.

"My father should have been a teacher. The reason he wasn't is because my grandfather said to him: 'I don't want you to go into education because I don't like the direction it's going.' That was in the '40s and '50s."

"So Dad was possibly the best teacher Australian education never had," Peter says. "I still wish he had been a teacher."

Though it was the path not chosen for his father, teaching was something Peter felt instinctively drawn to.

As his school years drew to a close, Peter considered joining the army or entering the ministry, but teaching ultimately won out.

"I decided I could do elements of all three in teaching," he says.

"It was in the blood. I just enjoyed kids and people. It wasn't about teaching a subject - it's about working with and teaching kids. And that's something I still enjoy. Kids are fundamentally the same now as they were 40 years ago."

As for what his grandfather would have thought of his career choice?



*I still see myself as the 23-year-old who was so excited about getting a full-time job."*

"I don't think he would've minded, really. He'd probably be proud. I hope he'd be proud."

#### **A career built in chapters**

Peter began his teaching career in 1989.

"I was 23," he recalls.

"Shore School in Sydney was where I started, and now it's where I'm returning - with a few more years under my belt," he says.

He later moved to Barker College, where he was Head of Middle School and completed doctoral research into peer relationships and masculinities. He then became Head of College at All Saints' in Bathurst, followed by his current role at The Geelong College.

For Peter, each school marked not only a professional chapter but a personal one.

"At Shore, I had a different role every year. I'd pick up something new every year through those 11 years, a new opportunity.

"Coaching sport and cadets, outdoors, geography, trips with kids - all the stuff you do in your 20s. It was part of my job, but it was also my world."

It was during his time at Shore that Peter and his wife Naomi were married - in the school chapel. They also became parents, welcoming Alexander, their first child.

Peter's time at Barker became the chapter of early parenthood: Phoebe and Hugh were born, and Peter undertook doctoral study while leading Barker's Middle School.

All Saints' was a time of raising a young family in a small, close-knit regional town - which was "wonderful and demanding," Peter recalls.

Next came The Geelong College.

During his tenure, Peter watched his children grow, graduate, and step into adult life.

"There have been quite a few chapters now," he reflects.

"Which is kind of weird...because I still see myself as the 23-year-old who was so excited about getting a full-time job."

Peter recently came across letters he wrote to his parents in 1989.

"I read them a week or so ago. It was really quite funny to read letters you wrote 36 years ago.

"So much has changed - and yet, nothing has changed."

Now, with grown children and a grandson, Peter returns to Shore once more - older, wiser, and still anchored by the same quiet excitement that began it all.

#### **Mentors and influences**

Peter is quick to credit those who shaped him along the way.

Many were not formal mentors, but simply people whose example left a lasting impression.

"They were not necessarily intentional mentors so much as models and influencers, which is nice."

"My sister and I were lucky - both of our parents were only children, so we didn't have to share our grandparents. We spent a lot of time with them."

Those grandparents came from large families, and many of their siblings didn't marry - so Peter and his sister grew up surrounded by great-aunts and great-uncles.

"Those sorts of relationships helped with teaching too."

At school, life lessons came from all directions: teachers, coaches, school leaders.

"My athletics coach, Norm Windred. My geography teacher, Pete Switzer - he was quite amazing."

Over time, the list grew.

"Headmasters and heads of departments at various schools. Rod Kefford at Barker, who was the head



*Peter with his wife, Naomi, and their children Alexander, Phoebe, Hugh and dog Millie*





*Peter with 2020 College Captains, Matthew Thacker and Georgie Cullen, and Vice Captains Charlie Lazzaro and Annabel Unkenstein.*

- now a dear friend. People I met overseas."

"There are the people you seek out as mentors, but also so many you simply meet along the way. I've been very fortunate to have had the support of so many wonderful people."

Reflecting on the many people who shaped him, Peter shares:

"We're all a bit like bowerbirds, really. I'm not sure there's any such thing as a single, authentic self. I think we're more like a jigsaw puzzle - made up of pieces from those we've known, mentors who've guided us, and the many people who've left their mark along the way."

### **Leading at College**

When the opportunity first arose to lead The Geelong College in 2015, Peter was drawn not only by the school's identity and reputation, but also its scale and community.

"The size of the school was an appeal to me. It's not a juggernaut," he explains.

"The expectations of the Principal are that the Principal will be around the

students, will know the staff, will be in the community."

"But the appeal was also: there was a job to be done."

Peter recalls that his arrival felt like meeting someone he already knew.

"It was like meeting a cousin whom I'd heard about, but never met," he says.

"The same ears as your uncle and the same nose as your aunt - maybe the awkward gait of another relative."

"But I had to remind myself - the school didn't know me. So to that cousin, I'd sort of come out of the blue."

He was warmly welcomed and quickly settled into the rhythms of College life - drawn in by its strong sense of community and culture of participation.

Nearly a decade on, Peter is deeply familiar to students, staff, and families alike. His leadership has been a constant presence, and his contribution to the life of the College will remain part of its story long after his tenure ends.

What continues to resonate most for Peter is the spirit of the school - its openness, energy, and wholehearted embrace of participation.

He recalls something Simon Young, then Head of Senior School, once said to students in an early assembly:

"Get in, have a go. Participate. Get involved. Do your best. You don't have to be the best - just do your best."

That philosophy, Peter says, is lived daily at College - and it's something he valued deeply, especially during his own time in the classroom. He taught geography throughout his tenure and treasured the opportunity.

"It's precious time, being in the classroom with kids. In that moment, teaching is the most important thing, and nobody can interrupt you, which is really nice... I'd like to have done more of that."

But time is a limited resource, and the role of Principal is a demanding one.

Peter helped guide the College through a master plan, curriculum changes, and an increasingly complex educational landscape. But it was





the personal moments that left the deepest mark.

His leadership spanned some of the most difficult chapters in the history of education - including the need to acknowledge and respond to historical abuse.

While these events occurred long before his time, Peter has been clear-eyed about the responsibility of current leaders.

"We may not have been responsible for what happened then - but we are responsible for how we respond now."

Under his leadership, the College committed to listening to survivors, acknowledging their experiences with care and respect, and ensuring the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

"We owe it to those who were harmed to do better - always."

"A couple of conversations with survivors of historical abuse just fundamentally made me stop and think more than anything else," he reflects.

"Realising their perspective and how deeply it affects somebody... it sounds corny and it's used a lot, but just their courage - and the impact upon the people around them - is profound."

It is this same depth of care and thoughtfulness that Peter brings to all aspects of life - whether in leadership, conversation, or the quieter moments away from school.

#### **Family, friendship and finding balance**

Outside of school, Peter finds grounding in the relationships that have shaped him — both personally and professionally.

"I've been fortunate to be surrounded by incredible people — men and women — throughout my life," he reflects. "From my grandparents to colleagues, their influence has made me who I am."

He especially values those closest to him who offer honesty and perspective.

"People who can hold up the metaphorical ugly mirror and say, 'This

is the way you look.' One of them's my wife. Another is my very best friend. Mum wasn't good at that — because, you know, Mum was 'Mum'. But my sister can be quite good at that too."

"You need those people - people who lovingly hold the ugly mirror up. They bring balance."

He's also drawn to quiet places and small rituals of reflection.

"I try to read, but I don't read enough. Holidays are important, and time spent doing nothing."

Peter speaks with quiet fondness about his "happy place".

A long-time rower, Peter has always had an affinity with water. But the intertidal zone holds a particular kind of meaning.

"It's the intertidal zone - that space between high and low tide where the ocean meets the land, and you find things on it.

"It's that sense of being on a beach and exploring what's at the intersection of two things that



shouldn't naturally be together - sand and water - perhaps. I quite like that."

"It's not meant to be a metaphor... but it could be."

"Actually, Robert Ingpen (OGC 1950), Old Collegian and dear friend of mine, did a series of paintings in the intertidal zone - driftwood, pieces of wood with a barnacle on them, washed up on the sand," Peter says. "I thought it was really beautiful. I don't think I've ever told Robert that."

Music, too, is a part of his identity - often in surprising ways.

"There are a whole lot of songs I would turn off if there were other people around, but in the car I'd probably turn them up," he said.

Peter's tastes reflect his curiosity. Though classical music remains his go-to, Peter admits to a distinct 'punk rock' phase in his younger years — and more recently, he's even found himself tuning into rap from time to time.

"I listen to Triple J every now and again as I drive along in the car. Thinking: 'What are young people listening to?'"

### Looking back - and forward

Reflecting on nearly four decades in education, Peter's guiding principles remain simple but deeply rooted: kindness, courtesy, and connection.

"Don't retaliate. It just results in escalation. That takes discipline. A lot of discipline."

And the other?

"Just participate."

With grown children and a grandson now part of the family, Peter leaves The Geelong College with a quiet sense of pride - and a deep sense of anticipation for what's still to come.

His tenure has seen significant achievements: major redevelopments, key initiatives, and a lasting impact on the life of the school. But just as meaningful are the projects still taking shape - the ideas he helped seed, which will unfold in the years ahead.

"If all of your projects are tidied up and completed by the time you're ready



1. A young Peter in 1988, rowing as a Senior B Australian Lightweight in a pair with Tim Burns.
2. Peter at the 2020 unveiling of the artworks generously painted and gifted to the College by Robert Ingpen OAM (OGC 1950)
3. Peter's family celebrating his commencement: (L-R): son Hugh; parents-in-law Elaine and Colin Perkins; wife Naomi Miller; Peter; parents David and Ruth Miller; sister Angela Marshall; and Peter's daughter Phoebe Miller.

to leave - you're doing it wrong," he reflects.

"You need to be constantly looking ahead, planning for the future."

As he steps away from daily life at College, Peter remains invested in its future.

"I will always be following the journey of Geelong College with fondness, from afar."

As the College Community prepares to farewell our Principal, Peter's legacy won't just be measured in buildings or policies, but in the culture he helped shape - one built on trust, presence, and care.

A school shaped, quite simply, by someone who still believes in showing up, listening, and having a go.



[illegible]

Leadership in schools often reveals itself in the quietest moments - a word of encouragement, a story at assembly, or a calm presence during challenge. Dr Peter Miller has spent the past decade offering all of this and more to Middle School.

for the assembly they lead. One of Peter's great strengths is his ability to take that theme and share a story, a life lesson, or a personal reflection that can reach the hearts and minds of the students. Peter's dear mother, Ruth and her wise counsel were mentioned many times.

Peter focuses strongly on the College values and gives voice to these values by living and espousing them at every opportunity.

At each fortnightly Middle School Assembly, students choose the theme

He is constantly encouraging students to think about how they are contributing to the College community and what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves. Role modelling, and showing the way rather than telling the way, has also been a constant mantra that the





During his tenure as Principal, Peter has brought peace, giving us a sense of calm and stability within our school. You feel it every time he addresses the staff and students as a collective, or when he sits with you one-on-one.

children and staff have heard from Peter.

As a leader and colleague, Peter encourages people around him to reflect and coaches them through quandaries as they arise. He never gives the answer, but carefully and skilfully prompts those who have sought his advice to find the solution for themselves.

'What is the right thing to do?' is a question Peter asks himself, and those around him, constantly. It is this desire to do the right thing for students, past and present, that has made him the impactful and considered leader we have witnessed in his time at The Geelong College.

Peter's latest vision for the College Masterplan, supported by the purchase of the Merrawarp Road site, is one that will likely see a significant change in the structure of the Middle School (Preparatory) Campus in the coming years. I know he will watch, with great interest, the development of this site from afar.

In the few months remaining as College Principal, Peter will continue to support, coach, and guide those around him, and he will quietly and humbly leave this place better than he found it.







# What I leave behind

DR PETER MILLER, PRINCIPAL

“Everyone should leave something behind when he dies, my grandpa said. A child or book or painting or house or wall built or pair of shoes made...It doesn't matter what a person does, he said, as long as you change something about the way it was before you made it into something that's like you after you take your hands away.”

- Ray Bradbury

These words of the celebrated 20th-century American author and screenwriter Ray Bradbury are particularly relevant to me in these final months as Principal of The Geelong College.

Although Bradbury focuses on legacy, there is also an element of stewardship that sits among his thoughts. Both are important to me because they are about influence and relevance.

While doing one's best in the moment, one would hope that a Principal might be relevant and influential in their time in the role and into the future lives of students. At the same time, the

experience as Principal has shaped me.

Central to my sense of what is important is not only those things in the moment, such as the celebration of a new building, a new educational program and student achievements. They are all important, but so is the positive culture and long-lasting impact of these moments. It is this positive culture that I have looked to nurture.

Over the last decade, it has been my intention to respectfully steward our school towards the future, always mindful of our foundation and history while balancing this with the needs of

today, ahead of anticipated needs of our students and school into the future.

The common element across the past, present and future is our shared values, aspirations and the relevance of The Geelong College to our community. I have learned a great deal at College about the importance of clarity of values, ensuring espoused values are reflected in actions, while adopting a positive and constructive approach to problems. I have also learned a great deal about the importance of the College experience in the lives of our students, many years after moving beyond our gates.





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In terms of student experiences, we strongly value practices that demonstrate excellence and rigour in teaching and learning at the College. These are relevant to every experience in each student's academic endeavours: their co-curricular activities, engagement in community service and their social, emotional and spiritual development. Each student needs to be challenged while immersed in an environment that provides opportunities to excel. I believe this is a feature of College life.

The experiences we have in our lives shape our development, who we are and how we respond to challenges, as well as how we define success. This culture needs to be nurtured, respected and honoured in a school environment, attending to four main areas: the physical spaces of the school; the operational systems and programs of the school; and, the people occupying the spaces and implementing the systems and programs.

The fourth consideration is the values which are not only espoused but 'lived' through actions. They determine the decisions made about the College, how it functions and the sense of place experienced by each student on a day-to-day basis. An awareness of this underpins each decision and action here at College and has shaped our evolution as a contemporary educational organisation.

The progress of College over the last decade has come about through hard work by students and by staff, as well as by excellent governance to set the scene. It is critical that we provide an environment for our young people to take risks, do what is difficult, succeed or even fail from time to time. Above all we seek to enable our young people to grow in stature enabling to engage with the world beyond the school gates with a confident humility and a sense of responsibility to others.

College is a relevant and purposeful educational institution. It has always

been like this and it has been my intention to work with everyone here to guide the evolution of College over the last decade, so it might be well positioned to engage with the challenges of the next 50 years as we move towards the 22nd century. The success of this effort will be judged in time but it is my wish for College to thrive for at least another 165 years.

College is a great place, and I trust it will always be a place where we look to provide a culture where our young people thrive as they live, learn and grow together.

My final comment is to say: to be the Principal of a remarkable school like ours is a privilege, and to have been in the role for a decade is something for which I am very grateful. I will always follow its journey with great interest and affection.



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## Addendum

In the December 2021 edition of *Ad Astra*, The Geelong College published an addendum acknowledging the conviction of former staff member Mark Irwin, in relation to historical allegations of sexual assault.

The College now notes that on 12 March 2024, Mark Irwin was found not guilty by a jury on all three charges during a six-day retrial in the Melbourne County Court.

We recognise the complexity and sensitivity of these matters and remain committed to the safety, support, and wellbeing of all members of our community. The College continues to offer a respectful and compassionate response to anyone affected by historical harm.

The Geelong College Principal is available to assist survivors directly. You can contact the Principal using [principal@tgc.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@tgc.vic.edu.au) or by telephone on (03) 5226 3107.

**For further information or resources, visit: [www.tgc.vic.edu.au/community/historical-harm-and-our-school](http://www.tgc.vic.edu.au/community/historical-harm-and-our-school)**





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# Honouring service, remembering sacrifice

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING AND ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

Each year, The Geelong College pauses to reflect on the meaning and legacy of Anzac Day - a moment to honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served in the Australian Defence Force, and to acknowledge the peace we enjoy as a result.

In 2025, our Anzac Day commemorations took on a deeply personal note. On Thursday 24 April, the College welcomed back one of its own: Major General (Retired) Professor Adam Findlay AO (OGC 1983). With nearly four decades of military service - including operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and beyond - Major General Findlay is a leader of national and international standing, shaped, in part, by his years at the College.

The day began with the Foundation Lunch, hosted to recognise and thank the generous donors whose support ensures our students have access to the best possible education and opportunities. Guests gathered in the Dining Hall to share a meal and conversation, and to hear Major General Findlay reflect on his career, leadership, and the enduring influence of his school years.

Speaking with humility and insight, he shared stories from his command of

troops in high-risk environments - from counter-terror operations in Southeast Asia to leading coalition special forces during the Battle of Mosul. It was sobering, at times confronting, and deeply moving. And yet, what resonated most was his message about the power of values instilled early in life: responsibility, respect, and the importance of service to others.

Later that afternoon, he addressed around 800 Senior School students and staff at the 110th College Anzac



Service. The message remained clear: that honouring the Anzac legacy is not only about remembering the past, but carrying forward its lessons. In a time when leadership is often loud but not always wise, his calm, considered presence was a reminder that real strength lies in purpose and integrity.

Major General Findlay reflected on the sacrifices of his classmates - five of whom joined the ADF, and many more who have made meaningful contributions across fields as varied as arts, engineering, aviation, architecture, banking, law, agriculture, mining, hospitality, medicine, nursing, business, media, industry, government and beyond. He spoke of the classroom as a place where values are shaped, and of The Geelong College as the first "complex organisation" many students encounter. He credited his time here for building the resilience, curiosity and discipline that sustained him through challenges most of us will never face.

Importantly, he brought it all back to the present. For our students, the Anzac Service wasn't just about history - it was about examining their own character and willingness to fulfil their potential to become Australia's next generation of transformational leaders. To inspire 'followship' by treating all people with respect and dignity, of ethical decision-making and keeping your honour clean, and striving to be a role model that always leads by example. It was a chance for students to connect the dots between the freedoms they enjoy today, and the generations who had their lives cut short, and had gifted the opportunity for these student to fulfil their potential.

The Junior and Middle Schools also held their own Anzac services, providing age-appropriate and meaningful opportunities for students across all year levels to reflect. These services were marked by respectful silence, student readings, and the playing of the Last Post - performed beautifully at the Senior School service by Year 11 student, Hannah Wilkinson.

Throughout the week, the College community engaged in remembrance in its truest form: not as ritual, but as living history. Anzac Day is not only about those who have served in the past - it's about who we are today and the kind of citizens we aim to become. As Major General Findlay noted, "The obligation of reciprocity - of giving

something back when you have the opportunity - is a lesson I learned here."

The College thanks Major General Findlay for returning to College to share his story, his wisdom, and his enduring belief in the potential of young people. His visit reminded us that leadership takes many forms, and that service - whether on the front lines, in our communities, or in everyday acts of decency and integrity - remains a defining part of the College's purpose.

Lest we forget.







# Bronze bound:

## TGC Senior Girls IV podium finish at Nationals

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

The Geelong College Senior Girls IV crew have made waves on the national stage, securing a bronze medal at the 2025 Australian Rowing Championships. Their achievement, the result of months of hard work and unwavering determination, is a testament to the power of teamwork, discipline, and love for the sport.

On a crisp Sunday morning in March at Lake Barrington, Tasmania, the water shimmered with possibility as The Geelong College Senior Girls IV crew lined up for the Schoolgirls' Coxed Four Final of the 2025 Australian Rowing Championships. After four intense days of racing, strategy and sheer determination, the crew surged through the water to claim a coveted bronze medal - a remarkable result on the national stage, and for some, just the

beginning of what's possible beyond the school rowing season.

Their journey to the podium was no accident. The crew - Year 12 students Mackenzie Pugh, Hannah Dunton, Stella Benson and Ruby-Jane Roberts - showed early promise, winning both their heat and semi-final in commanding form.

With Year 10 coxswain Lexi Kemp at the helm, offering calm, clear direction, the crew found their rhythm early

and maintained it under pressure. From Lane 4, they launched into a beautifully executed race - their oars slicing through the water in perfect synchrony as they powered toward a podium finish.

"It was one of the real highlights of my time coaching," said coach Pam Westendorf, who has guided the crew with tireless dedication. "They just love the sport and have worked so hard. They went into the final completely





relaxed, with no expectations - and came out with this incredible result. They were over the moon, and I couldn't be prouder."

The Australian Rowing Championships draw together the nation's finest young athletes, making this bronze medal a standout moment for the TGC Boat Club and a source of pride for the broader College community. It reflects not only the crew's skill and discipline, but also the strength of the team behind them - coaches, families and fellow students.

While the Head of the River Regatta traditionally marks the end of the school rowing season, for the members of this determined Senior Girls IV, Nationals signals a new beginning. Their performance at

Lake Barrington hints at exciting opportunities ahead, whether at club, state or even national level. The grit and passion they've shown may well be the first strokes in a much longer rowing journey.

The Geelong College congratulates the crew, their coach Pam Westendorf, and the entire Boat Club team. We are proud of the achievements of all our rowers, and celebrate the ambition and dedication of the Senior Girls IV.





# TGC Sporting update

## CRICKET

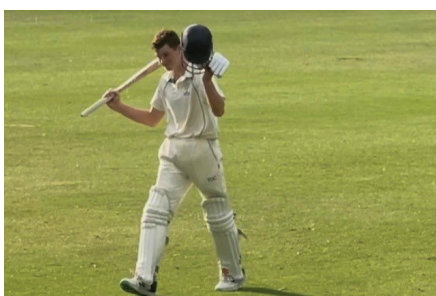
### On the front foot

Our most recent Cricket Season has been an exciting one, with standout performances across all teams. Six debutants - Ed Wood (Year 11), Angus Paton (Year 11), Oliver Inkster (Year 11), Campbell Shier (Year 12), Max Williams (Year 11), and Year 9 leg spinner Leon Jacobs - earned their place in the 1st XI through dedication and effort, setting a strong foundation for the season ahead.

The Year 9A team was in fine form, securing victories against Haileybury and Caulfield Grammar. Tom Quinlan's 30 and 6/27 performance, along with strong support from Harry Larsen and Jackson Barwick, helped the team continue their unbeaten streak. The 2nd XI, led by Campbell Shier's 100 not out and a solid all-round bowling effort, defeated Haileybury, while the 3rd XI kept up the competitiveness, with Year 12 student Lachlan Eggins' impressive 5/24.

The 1st XI also showed resilience, with Year 11 students Harry Emerson's stunning 127 and Hamish Craig's 69 guiding the team to a strong draw against Carey.

- **Peter Blanchfield, Teacher in Charge of Cricket**



## EQUESTRIAN

### Equestrian excellence in motion

The Equestrian team has galloped into 2025 with impressive results in Dressage, Showing, and Showjumping. Highlights include Annabelle Richardson's (Year 10) Senior Prelim win at the Victorian Youth Dressage Championships, and multiple Champion titles for Shayleigh Joblin (Year 10).

The momentum continued at the State Interschool Championships, with standout performances from across the team. Clementine Thomson (Year 12) placed 1st in the 110cm Jump Off, and Shayleigh claimed 1st in Senior Show Hunter, 3rd in Medium Dressage, and 5th overall in the Individual Secondary Award. Eliza Cooper (Year 6) was named Champion in Primary Combined Training. Other podium placings came from Lucy Borrack (Year 10) and Harry Borrack (Year 6), Charli Zele (Year 9), Isabel Morphy (Year 6) and Harriet Thomson (Year 8).

The team finished 5th overall out of 109 schools, and both Isabel and Shayleigh have since been selected for the Victorian State Team – an extraordinary achievement.

- **Rob Kayler-Thomson, Teacher in Charge of Equestrian**



## BASKETBALL

### Basketball stars on the rise

Poppy Stevens (Year 12) and Willow Smith (Year 10) have made an explosive start to 2025, earning national recognition for their outstanding performances in the Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup in Albury/Wodonga. Competing for the Victoria Country Bushrangers and Victoria Country Goldminers, respectively, both girls demonstrated remarkable resilience and skill across a week of intense competition.

Poppy's team emerged victorious in the Championship game, securing the coveted Cup. Both players' talent also earned them spots on the Victoria Country State Team, competing at the U18 National Basketball Championships in Queensland during April.

Willow's achievements didn't stop there! She quickly followed up with an invitation to the Basketball Australia National Performance Camp at the AIS in Canberra, where she joined an elite group of athletes to further develop her skills.

- **Nathan Brown, Director of Performance Pathways**





## GOLF

### Driving to the top

It was a stellar season on the green, with The Geelong College crowned APS Golf champions! Our team secured 1st place overall with 214 points, narrowly edging out Haileybury on 212 - a thrilling finish to a fiercely contested competition.

Congratulations to Year 8 student Matilda Cole, who claimed the Girls' Individual Championship with a standout 57 points, and to Year 11 student Hamish Craig, who finished equal 3rd in the Boys' division on 54 points.

This year also marked a milestone with our first-ever girls' team competing - and performing exceptionally well. Their success has sparked great enthusiasm for more female participation in 2025.

- **Aron Tremul, Teacher in Charge of Golf**



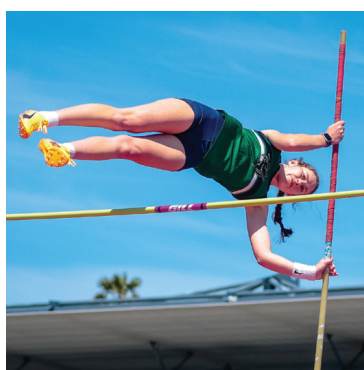
## TRACK & FIELD

### Track and Field: Making strides

The Geelong College athletes have enjoyed a remarkable summer of athletics, showcasing determination and talent across state and national competitions. Following strong results at the APS Combined Athletics, 12 students competed in the Victorian All Schools Track and Field Championships, claiming one gold and three silver medals. Standout performances came from Summer Marange (Year 9) – 1st in Hammer Throw, Maisy Knight (Year 12) – 2nd in 400m Hurdles, Lachlan Thomas (Year 10) – 2nd in 800m, and Ruby Darcy (Year 12) – 2nd in Long Jump.

This momentum carried through to the Victorian Championships and Country Championships, where athletes amassed 16 medals in Bendigo alone. Among the most notable efforts was Andre Everton (Year 7), who dominated the field with six gold medals across throws and hurdles. Lachlan Thomas delivered a series of top three finishes in the 400m and 800m events, while Summer Marange collected an extraordinary nine medals over the season. Congratulations to our TGC athletes!

- **Nat Coull, Head of Senior School**



## TENNIS

### Game, set, match: Firsts Tennis Awards

At the end of Term 1, our Senior School tennis players gathered in Morrison Hall to celebrate an incredible season with an awards ceremony and a well-earned pizza party. The event recognised the exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship displayed by our players throughout the season.

For the boys, Patrick Shirlow (Year 11) – who made College tennis history in 2021 by attending his first Firsts Boys' Tennis session before even starting high school – was named Best & Fairest. He had an outstanding season, holding the number one singles and doubles positions and securing key victories against Haileybury and St Kevin's. Xavier Blood (Year 12) received the Coaches Award for his leadership and growth, rising to the second spot in the Firsts team.

On the girls' side, Eliza Cullen (Year 12) was awarded Best & Fairest after an impressive season with 18 doubles wins and five singles victories, while Zara Goodall-Wilson (Year 12) earned the Coaches Award for her leadership both on and off the court.

- **Helena Metzke, Marketing Coordinator**





# Belonging, banter & becoming independent

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING AND ADVANCEMENT MANAGER



At The Geelong College, boarding is more than just a place to sleep – it's a second home, where friendships are forged, boundaries respected, and support comes as naturally as brushing your teeth (which, to be clear, everyone is expected to do).

In a recent conversation with Boarding Captains Ruby Darcy and Charlie Bowker, along with the Head of Girls' Boarding, Leigh Knight, and Head of Boys' Boarding, Gareth Gilby, it became clear that the heart of boarding life is connection. For Ruby and Charlie, it's those early moments – a message from a future roommate or a casual kick of the footy – that make all the difference.

"One of the girls messaged me before I started," says Ruby. "Just knowing someone was expecting me made me feel seen."

Charlie remembers a simple game on the front lawn: "A few of the older boys were having a kick, and they called me over to join in. That really stuck with me – I felt welcome straight away."

Helping new boarders settle in is an unspoken priority. It might be through small gestures, like a knock on the door or an invitation to join a game. "Just find a connection with anyone – a captain, a roommate, someone in your year," Charlie advises. "It makes a huge difference."

Traditions play a big role too. In Mossgiel, "Mory Ari" is a regular ritual – a Japanese term meaning the giver gains as much as the receiver. At the end of house meetings, students acknowledge acts of kindness from others. "It's a reminder that the small things matter," Ruby says.

Meanwhile, Mackie's Wednesday night indoor soccer is chaotic, competitive, and the great equaliser. "Skill doesn't matter. Everyone just goes for it,"

laughs Charlie. "It's loud, sweaty and hilarious – and it brings people together."

Unit dinners are another favourite. Each group shops, cooks and eats together – pasta, dumplings, fried chicken, and the occasional frozen pizza when dessert takes priority.

"It's more about the togetherness than the food," says Leigh. "They relax, they laugh, and it feels like home."

And it does feel like home – with all the quirks that come with it. Singing in the bathrooms. TikToks on every flat surface. Packs of boys charging off to Woolies. The smell of Mossgiel on a Thursday – unmistakably fake tan night – and Mackie's signature scent of football boots, sweat, pizza,





and a touch of cologne. These aren't just smells – they're part of the texture of life in each house, a sensory shorthand for belonging.

"They're like siblings," says Leigh. "They niggle, they roll their eyes – but they look after each other."

That care shows in quiet ways. Someone grabs a laptop before early training. Clothes get moved from dryer to basket so the next load can go in. Forgotten bags are carried upstairs. Birthday cakes appear – often two, made by different groups without anyone planning it. "They do it without even realising," says Gareth. "It's just how they operate."

Respect is the thread that holds it all together. "When you feel respected, you feel safe," says Gareth. "And when you feel safe, you can have fun." It's not just about friend groups – captains like Ruby and Charlie understand their role is to look out for everyone. "Even

if you're not close with someone, you make sure they're okay," Ruby says.

That culture has evolved over time. "There used to be more hierarchy, more separation between year levels," Charlie notes. "Now it's different. We're all friends – you're not 'above' anyone. We've built a culture where you can be yourself."

And that culture isn't accidental. From intentional early connections and orientation activities to shared mealtimes and informal catchups, everything is geared towards relationship-building. "The better they know each other, the better they understand and respect each other," says Gareth. "It's a deliberate strategy, but the kids wouldn't even know we're doing it."

The sense of community is especially clear in tough times. During COVID, international students who couldn't return home were embraced

completely. "They look back on those years as some of the most supportive of their lives," Gareth says. "The whole house wrapped around them."

So, what's the secret to surviving – and thriving – in boarding? Charlie doesn't hesitate: "Don't take things too seriously. You'll cop some banter, and if you can give it back, you'll be just fine."

Ruby nods: "And remember – we've all been the new kid. Ask questions, ask for help. That's what we're here for."

Because at the end of the day, boarding at The Geelong College isn't about perfect routines or spotless rooms. It's about finding your people, feeling safe enough to sing at full volume, and growing into someone who knows how to live with others, care for others – and maybe even fold the odd basket of laundry that isn't your own.





# Crossing the Bass Strait by kayak

– A Boarding Parent's Epic Adventure

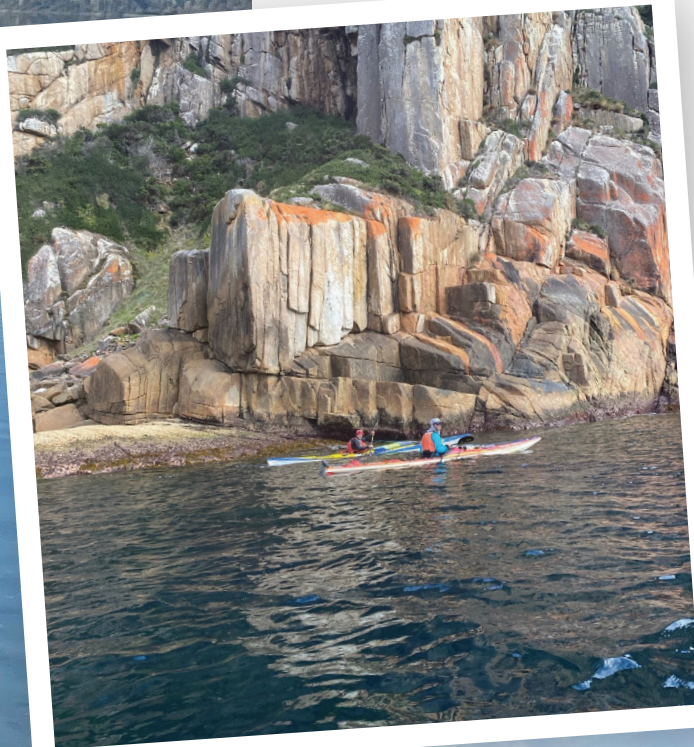
MIKE HOWELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Challenging seas, remote islands, and a test of endurance - Matt Bowker's recent kayaking expedition across the Bass Strait was nothing short of extraordinary.

Bass Strait has long been regarded as a serious stretch of water - known for its big swells, strong tides, and unpredictable winds. Kayakers around the world see it as a demanding challenge, but one that can be tackled safely with the right planning.

A chain of granite islands between Wilsons Promontory and Tasmania's northeast tip offers potential overnight stops, making the journey possible for determined paddlers.





In March, current (and past) boarding parent Matt Bowker - father of Charlie (Year 12), Lachy (OGC 2020) and Christopher (OGC 2022) - completed the Bass Strait crossing alongside two friends, Brooke Barnewall and Todd Baxter.

Their departure point was Port Welshpool in Victoria, and 13 days later, they landed safely at Little Musselroe Bay in Tasmania, having paddled over 330 kilometres.

This adventure was the result of three years of preparation, which included extensive training and countless hours of weather monitoring.

The route took them via a string of stunning islands - Hogan, Erith, Deal, Roydon, Flinders, Preservation, and Clarke - each with its own unique landscape. Some were low and grassy; others rose dramatically with towering sea cliffs. The water was crystal clear throughout, and every

island offered beautiful sandy beaches.

The longest paddle of the trip was a 70-kilometre stretch from Deal Island to Roydon Island, taking ten and a half hours - a true test of endurance. Along the way, they encountered abundant marine life, including pods of dolphins, schools of tuna, thousands of seabirds (including penguins and mutton birds), and even experienced magical phosphorescence glowing off their bows and paddles. And at one point, Brooke was chased by a curious shark.

Interpreting weather patterns and tides was key to the expedition's success. They had some tricky

paddling conditions and made the wise decision to stay put on three separate days due to forecasted high winds, but overall, they had very good weather to complete the challenge.

Reaching the shore at Little Musselroe Bay brought a great sense of relief and achievement. For Matt and his team, this was truly the trip of a lifetime - we wonder what adventure he is planning next!



# VCE achievements

NATHAN MORTON, DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING

The dedication and hard work of the 2024 Year 12 students resulted in achievements that the College community takes immense pride in.

Beyond the outstanding results, this graduating class embodied the values and aspirations that the College holds for every student. Their wholehearted engagement in College life sets a remarkable standard for future graduates to aspire to.

All of the 2024 graduates leave having had a rich and meaningful experience – one that equipped them with strong values and a deep understanding of how to be a positive influence in the world around them. These values will inevitably help with the transition to life beyond school in a way that ensures every opportunity is embraced entirely.

There was an incredibly high level of success in the 2024 VCE results, which saw the achievement of a median Study Score of 33 out of 50 across all subjects. In addition to that, 15% of all awarded study scores for our students were over 40, which places these students in the top 8% of the state. The median ATAR was 79.55, with 13% of students achieving an ATAR above 95 and 28% of students leaving with an ATAR over 90.

The success of all 2024 graduates is underpinned by the support of those who have guided them along the way. The encouragement, wisdom, and unwavering presence of parents, teachers, school staff, extended family, and friends have played a vital role in shaping their journey. The community of support plays a significant role in realising aspirations.

In February 2025 at the Academic Celebration Assembly, we recognised a number of students who achieved excellence in Year 12, balancing academic pursuits with leadership roles, community service, and co-curricular activities - all with poise and determination. In celebrating their achievements, we aim to inspire future students to strive for their own version of excellence.

Leading into 2025, 98.7% of students who applied to university received

a tertiary offer. The University of Melbourne, Deakin University, RMIT, and Monash University were the Victorian universities that made the most offers to our students. There were many offers from interstate universities, too, most prominently: the University of Adelaide, New England University, Australian National University and the University of New South Wales.

Consistent with previous years, our students are enrolling in a wide





# ments

range of tertiary pathways, showing that the experience we offer at the College is developing and nurturing diverse learning interests. A significant proportion of the 2024 graduating class received offers to commence undergraduate studies in Science, Arts, Business and Commerce, Law, Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Sports and Health Sciences, Psychology, and Project Management in Building and Construction.

We are incredibly proud of every student who graduated in 2024, knowing they leave the College as well-rounded, kind, and respectful young adults who are better for being part of this community.

At the Academic Celebration Assembly, students heard from the 2024 College Dux, Pippa Pearce, who, having achieved an ATAR of 99.75, left everyone with the following:

My message is that you are limitless.

Do not satisfy yourself with mediocrity. Push yourself to be more than you imagined, be ambitious and courageous. Make yourself proud! There will be sacrifices, tears and failures, but at the end of the day, when you leave through these gates for the last time, my hope is that you depart with the knowledge that you have done all that you possibly could and embraced every opportunity. There is no greater gift than an education. Cherish it.

The class of 2024 was made up of friends who stood by each other through thick and thin and surrounded by teachers who supported us tirelessly. We were presented with incredible opportunities, encouraged to explore our passions and prompted to give back to our



Pippa Pearce  
**99.75**  
ATAR

community. We were equipped with a thirst for knowledge and the confidence to pursue our dreams. I am so proud of us all, and cannot wait to see where life takes us.

I would like to conclude with a reminder that you are not defined by any number or rank, but rather by the decisions that you make every day – to be kind, resilient, ambitious, persistent, and welcoming. Your graduation will come before you're ready for it, so live in the moment and enjoy every hurdle that comes your way. Year 12 is great fun if you embrace the challenges with a smile.

- Pippa Pearce

## 2024 Results

The Geelong College is so proud of what has been achieved by all of our Year 12 students over the past 12 years.

With hard work, great endeavour, balance, and courage, they have achieved academic excellence.

**99.75**

**Dux ATAR**

**Two students achieved an ATAR above 99**

**79.55**

**Median ATAR**

**Well above the national average of 70**

**50**

students

**ATAR over 90**

**Placing them in the top 10% of students in Australia**

**4**

**Perfect Study Scores**

**In the subjects of: English, Physics and General Mathematics**

## Tertiary Offers

Of the 176 students who successfully completed their VCE, 164 applied for tertiary studies and received an offer at university.

### Victorian Universities

### % of students

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| University of Melbourne        | 20 |
| Deakin University              | 20 |
| RMIT University                | 20 |
| Monash University              | 15 |
| Australian Catholic University | 11 |
| Victoria University            | 5  |

### Interstate Universities (Number of students)

University of Adelaide: 9  
University of New England: 7  
Australian National University: 6  
University of New South Wales: 5  
University of Wollongong: 4





# Bridgette Kelly: Inspiring action

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Old Collegian Bridgette Kelly (OGC 1997) returned to The Geelong College this International Women's Day, delivering an empowering address to our Senior School students.

When Bridgette Kelly (OGC 1997) stepped up to the lectern in Morrison Hall this International Women's Day, it was a return to the very place where, as a student, she had once sat listening to inspiring leaders herself.

Now a respected family lawyer and community advocate, Bridgette shared her journey with the next generation of students. She spoke with openness and honesty about the pathway from College student to legal professional.

It was at The Geelong College, she recalled, that her passion for the law first took root.

"This school didn't just teach me subjects - it helped shape who I am. I discovered my passion for law right here. I had incredible teachers like Mr Montgomery and Ms Matthews who made Legal Studies exciting. Their enthusiasm was contagious."

After completing a double degree in Law and Commerce at Deakin University Geelong, Bridgette admitted she didn't have a clear direction.

"Like many students, I wasn't exactly sure what area of law I wanted to work in."

A stint volunteering at Victoria Legal Aid quickly ruled out criminal law.

"The first time I walked into the police cells with a duty lawyer, I knew instantly it wasn't for me. It just didn't feel right - and that's okay."

She didn't shy away from sharing the lows alongside the highs of her journey - an honesty that resonated deeply with students. One of the most pivotal moments came when she applied for graduate program positions at major law firms.

"I applied for all the top firms in Melbourne. I got lots of second-round



interviews, but no offers. It was so disappointing - and probably the first real hurdle that made me question if I could actually become a lawyer."

"At the time, I didn't know much about the alternative pathway. I thought the graduate program was the only real way in - and not getting one felt like the door was closing."

Rather than let the setback define her, she adapted.

"I didn't give up. I found another way."

Bridgette completed a practical legal training course and was admitted to practise law. She began her career at a generalist firm but quickly realised she wanted something more focused.

"At first, I wasn't sure family law was for me. But I gave it a go - and I've never looked back."

She described family law as both challenging and deeply rewarding.

"It's about helping people through one of the hardest times in their lives - finding solutions, advocating for children's best interests, or reaching a fair division of assets. In many ways, I've reconnected with the ideas of justice and equity that I loved back in Legal Studies."

Her work, she said, has also shaped her character.

"My work often challenges me because I'm dealing with people who are highly emotional. But it's taught me how to be compassionate while still giving clear, strategic legal advice."

Beyond her legal career, Bridgette spoke passionately about giving back - a value rooted in her time at the College. She now serves on The Geelong College Council and the Geelong Community Foundation Board, including P500, a philanthropic

giving circle that supports local organisations.

"I always thought being a philanthropist meant you had to be really wealthy. But I've learned that philanthropy isn't just about giving money - it's also about giving your time, your skills, and your energy to help others. Most Australians volunteer in some way, even if they don't think of themselves as philanthropists - they really are."

Speaking to this year's International Women's Day theme, "Accelerate Action", Bridgette encouraged students to think beyond their own experiences.

"Real progress happens when we work together. Not just women supporting women, but all of us lifting each other up."

She acknowledged the progress made in Australia - from women gaining the vote in 1902 to greater gender equity in the workplace - but stressed the importance of maintaining momentum.

"We need to keep pushing forward. We were the second nation in the world to give women the vote - why can't we also lead when it comes to global gender equality?"

Quoting US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, she said:

"Women belong in all places where decisions are made. It should not be the exception."

Bridgette reflected on how self-doubt often stops people - especially women - from stepping into leadership roles.

"Often, women hesitate to go for opportunities unless they feel 100% ready. Meanwhile, men tend to apply even if they only meet some of the criteria. We need to change that mindset."

She shared her own experience of being invited to join the College Council.

"I initially thought, 'Why me? What could I possibly contribute?' I was only a family lawyer - I didn't see what I could bring. But someone believed in me, and that gave me the confidence to believe in myself. That small push made all the difference."

Her message to students was clear:

"You have something incredibly powerful - a Geelong College education. Use it. Don't waste the opportunity. Start now. Support each other. Celebrate each other's wins. That's how you build confidence and belief - together."

In closing, Bridgette left students with four ways they can Accelerate Action:

- Harness opportunities - even if they feel uncertain.
- Celebrate the women in your life - and thank them.
- Advocate for one another - support builds confidence.
- Have self-belief - because you do belong at the table.

"Never underestimate the power of support. If we lift each other up, we all rise together."



# Year 12 Production: 39 Steps

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

This year's Year 12 production of *The 39 Steps* lit up the stage with laughter, suspense, and non-stop energy.

Adapted from John Buchan's novel and Alfred Hitchcock's iconic film, the play follows the whirlwind journey of Richard Hannay - an ordinary man caught in an extraordinary web of espionage, murder, and mystery.

The cast embraced the play's rapid-fire costume changes, physical comedy, and clever staging with remarkable skill and enthusiasm. With just a handful of performers taking on dozens of roles, the production was a

true test of timing, creativity, and teamwork - and the Year 12 students delivered with flair.

From moody train stations to windswept Scottish moors, the audience was transported across Britain in a night of clever theatrical invention and infectious humour. Congratulations to all involved - from performers to crew - for a thoroughly entertaining performance and a brilliant finale to their College drama journey.











# Leading through service

STEVE WRIGHT & LEANNE EARL, COLLEGE CHAPLAINS

Service is more than an ideal at The Geelong College - it's a way of life. In this article, we reflect on how servant leadership shapes our community, with a special focus on the example set by Dr Peter Miller and the student leaders he inspires.

At our Easter service - and again as we commenced the new term during our staff service - we focused on the servant nature of Jesus. From his humble birth and throughout his life, Jesus demonstrated what it is to serve others: embracing people of all backgrounds and cultures, and showing love, kindness, mercy, and grace.

The cross, the central symbol of Christianity, represents his ultimate act of love, sacrifice, and service. "The

Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28). Through the hope of resurrection, the followers of Jesus put this into action as they lived out his teachings: "love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31). They fed the hungry, clothed and sheltered the disadvantaged, and welcomed the lonely and isolated. They turned the world upside down. Two thousand years later, service to others remains just as powerful, impactful, and world-changing.

At The Geelong College, we deeply value service - it is interwoven into all that we do: in classrooms, on the sporting field, through music, and in our many opportunities for service within the Geelong community. Over the last few years, we have developed partnerships with local churches, charities, and organisations where our students can engage in meaningful, hands-on service. The call to consider the needs of others is one that resonates strongly with our students and staff.





“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is,  
“What are you doing for others?”

- Dr Martin Luther King

Servant leadership is the model our student leaders aspire to, and it is counter-cultural to some of the models of leadership we see in the media or in politics. Jesus led by example, through service to others, and this is the model we uphold at College. Some may think a leader is the one giving orders from the front - but our Student Representatives, Prefects, and School Captains begin with the question: “How can I serve others?”

Our Principal, Dr Peter Miller, exemplifies this leadership style - not only in his words but through his daily interactions with students, staff, and families. Our Prefects have had the opportunity to work closely with the Senior School leadership team, not just observing leadership in action but actively participating in decision-making as student leaders. I asked a few of our Prefects to reflect on Dr Miller’s leadership:

*“Servant leadership underpins the concept of a leader prioritising the needs of others above their own. Dr Miller mirrors this in his exceeding ability to encourage and aid us students in reaching our potential throughout our journey at College.”*

- Eva Chalmers

*“Dr Miller always struck me as a compassionate leader, willing to serve and help others on their way to success. Through his supportive relationships with the students, he shaped a school where everyone could reach for the stars.”*

- Joseph Afford

*“I think Dr Miller has demonstrated servant leadership through his one-on-one meetings with the Year 12s. His investment in our journey makes us feel greatly supported and it was a great opportunity to reflect on our journey at the school so far.”*

- Mackenzie Brown

These lovely words are reflective of many of our students and staff who have worked with Dr Miller and observed a style of leadership that is humble and focused on strengthening those around him.

In the coming months we look forward to expressing our gratitude to Dr Miller and the significant impact his leadership has had in our school.

## The annual Easter Service

Each year at the end of Term One, The Geelong College community gathers for our Easter service—a moment to pause, reflect, and mark one of the most significant events in the Christian calendar. Set outdoors on the Senior School lawns, the service brings students and staff together in shared song, prayer, and reflection, inviting us to consider the deeper meaning of the Easter story.



At the heart of that story is an act of profound humility. On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus knelt to wash the feet of his disciples—an unexpected gesture that challenged social norms and revealed a radical vision of leadership. In serving others, Jesus showed that true strength lies in compassion, humility, and love.

This model of service continues to shape our life at College. Through classroom learning, personal reflection, and communal gatherings, students are invited to explore how these values take root in their own lives—not only at Easter, but throughout the year.

Founded in 1861 as a Presbyterian school and now associated with the Uniting Church in Australia, The Geelong College continues to draw on a Christian heritage that values thoughtful engagement, community, and care. Easter remains a time when that heritage is lived out—quietly, communally, and with hope.





# Generations in Jazz

**A weekend of music, learning and inspiration**

SCOTT TEMPLETON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Big sounds, bright lights, and an unforgettable weekend of music - The Geelong College's talented performers hit the right note at Generations in Jazz 2025. Held in Mount Gambier, this nationally renowned festival brought together thousands of young musicians from across Australia, and our students embraced every moment with enthusiasm, creativity, and skill.



Over the first weekend in May, students from The Geelong College travelled to Mount Gambier to take part in Generations in Jazz - a nationally recognised music festival that brings together more than 4,500 young musicians and educators from 150 schools across Australia.

Representing the College were members of our Burrows Senior Stage Band, G-Train Jazz Ensemble, and Pegasus Singers Acapella Choir, who all had the opportunity to perform as part of the festival's packed program of competitions, workshops, and concerts. Each ensemble showcased the hard work, dedication and musicality that has gone into their rehearsals throughout the year, and our students relished the chance to perform in front of large, enthusiastic audiences made up of peers, adjudicators, and music professionals.

A standout moment of the weekend was the selection of three College musicians in one of the prestigious Generations in Jazz Superbands - a significant honour that recognises outstanding individual talent. Congratulations to Year 12 student Nethumlee Thota Hewage who was chosen on Bass in Division 3, Year 11 student Hamish Prussner who was chosen in the Trombone 3 chair in Division 3, and Year 9 student Ella Conley who was selected as Trombone 1 in the Division 4 Superband.

Among the many highlights of the festival was the headline concert, which featured a jaw-dropping performance by the internationally renowned Big Phat Band from Los Angeles. Featuring the cream of LA's session musicians, who are usually heard on Hollywood soundtracks, the Big Phat Band's high-energy set captivated the entire crowd, offering students a masterclass in professional jazz performance and leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

More than just a competition, Generations in Jazz offers an



invaluable opportunity for students to grow as musicians, collaborate with others, and be inspired by world-class performers. It is an immersive experience that celebrates musical excellence and encourages young people to push their creative boundaries.

The College extends its thanks to the dedicated staff who made this enriching opportunity possible and supported students throughout the weekend. After a whirlwind few days of travel, performance, and learning, there were undoubtedly a few tired faces around the school - but the memories made, skills gained, and inspiration drawn from this incredible experience will stay with our students for years to come.







# Live on the Lawn

SCOTT TEMPLETON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

On a golden March evening, the Talbot Street lawns once again came alive with music, colour, and community spirit as Live on the Lawn returned to The Geelong College.

This year's Live on the Lawn brought together over 100 performers and more than 500 guests on the Talbot Street lawns for a stunning night of music and celebration. Under perfect skies, the event showcased the full range of the Senior School music program - from strings and choirs to jazz and rock - in a vibrant festival atmosphere.

With food trucks, wine sales, and a glowing sense of community, the evening was a brilliant reminder of the talent and spirit that define The Geelong College.

Thank you to all who joined us - we look forward to doing it again in 2026!











# Top of the Theatre

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

From the classroom to the Melbourne Recital Centre stage, two talented Geelong College performers have captured statewide recognition for their creativity, craft, and courage.

The Geelong College is thrilled to announce that two of our exceptional former Theatre Studies students, Annabelle Hutchings (OGC 2024) and Simone De Koning (OGC 2024), were selected to perform in the prestigious Top Class Theatre Studies concert series as part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2025.

Annabelle presented her interpretation of the monologue 'Ti-Jean and His Brothers', while Simone showcased 'His Dark Materials' at the Melbourne

Recital Centre in March 2025. Their selection to perform in Top Class was a recognition of their remarkable talent, dedication, and the exceptional skill they demonstrated throughout their VCE Theatre Studies journey.

Top Class, an annual event presented by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), highlights the finest performances from VCE and VCE VET students across Victoria. This year, 60 top-performing students were invited

to audition, and only 18 were chosen to perform. Annabelle and Simone's performances were among the very best, selected for their creativity, depth, and emotional impact. These selections were a testament to their impressive abilities and

the high calibre of talent nurtured at The Geelong College.

Both students were involved in all year level and major productions throughout their time at the College, contributing vitality and much talent in their performances. They were standouts in their Year 12 production of 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee', developing characters with authenticity and delighting audiences with their intelligent, insightful interpretations. Their musical talents were equally outstanding, dancing and singing in major roles with confidence and flair throughout their Senior School years.

Annabelle and Simone also demonstrated an exceptional understanding of theatre as both performers and designers. Annabelle's set and costume designs for 'Ti-Jean and His Brothers' beautifully captured the world of the play while cleverly linking it to significant issues facing a







# class

2025 audience, highlighting her intellect, compassion and social conscience. Simone's costume and makeup designs for 'His Dark Materials' captured the style of magic realism with finesse, showcasing her keen understanding of theatrical form and style.

Their final performances at the Melbourne Recital Centre were nothing short of spectacular. Delivered to a packed audience, Annabelle and Simone earned standing ovations - recognition truly deserved for their artistry and hard work. As Performing Arts teacher Deb Hynes reflected: "It was such a privilege watching them both deliver their performances to a packed audience at the Recital Centre... Bravo Annabelle and Simone."

The College is incredibly proud of Annabelle and Simone for their outstanding achievements. Their success on the Top Class stage marks a significant milestone in their academic and artistic journeys, and celebrates the power of creativity, courage and dedication fostered within our school community.

Congratulations once again to both students for this remarkable achievement.

## Arts Update

### THEATRE STUDIES

#### A 'Superstar' visit: Rob Tripolino (OGC 2008)

Our Year 12 Theatre Studies class had the exciting opportunity to welcome back Old Collegian Rob Tripolino (OGC 2008) for a special visit. Fresh from his stunning performance in Jesus Christ Superstar in Perth, Rob took time out of his busy schedule to attend our Year 12 Production – The 39 Steps, much to the delight of our students.

Rob's visit was a source of inspiration, showing our budding performers that with hard work and dedication, their dreams can become a reality. His journey from The Geelong College to professional theatre is a testament to the talent nurtured within our school community. A huge thank you to Rob for taking the time to inspire our students and for reminding them that the spotlight is always within reach!

- **Deb Hynes, Senior School Performing Arts Teacher**



### MUSIC

#### Music Camp sets the tone

In late January, 80 music students from Years 8 to 12 embarked on Music Camp at Rutherford Park in Blampied, where they spent three days immersed in rehearsals and ensemble practice. With no classroom bells to interrupt, students focused on refining new repertoire and building momentum ahead of the performance season.

Their efforts culminated in Live on the Lawn, the College's beloved open-air concert held on the Talbot Street lawns on Saturday 1 March. The evening spotlighted the musicianship and energy of our ensembles, setting a vibrant tone for the year ahead.

- **Scott Templeton, Director of Music**







# Curious minds t

SONDRA WOLFENDEN, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

At The Geelong College, we know that learning thrives when curiosity leads the way. The Gateways Program offered the perfect opportunity to dive into big ideas, explore complex concepts, and stretch their thinking beyond the classroom.

What do volcanoes on Mars, spinning gears, and invisible forces inside the Earth have in common? For a group of curious Year 2 and 3 students they were all part of an unforgettable learning adventure through the Gateways Program.

These students had the chance to step outside their regular classrooms and into a world of wonder, asking big questions, testing new ideas, and stretching their thinking in exciting new ways.

The Gateways Program is an independent initiative designed to provide enriching educational experiences for students with a passion for learning. It offered our children the opportunity to work in groups and encouraged collaboration, creativity, and curiosity.

With a focus on stimulating curiosity and exploring key concepts in Science

and Mathematics students pondered thought-provoking concepts like "What's inside the Earth?" through hands-on discovery.

This initiative is part of Gateways' broader mission to support the intellectual and creative development of children. It offers a range of programs and activities. It also shows how external educational initiatives can complement and enhance the learning that takes place within our school.

The recent sessions facilitated by Gateways were carefully designed to stimulate imagination and foster a deep sense of enquiry.

For many students, this was a chance to work with like-minded peers from other schools, share ideas, and take intellectual risks in a supportive environment.



# ake flight ★

The students who attended commented on how fun and engaging the program was.

**Arthur summed it up simply:**

*"It was fun, there was a lot of maths, and I really liked it."*

**Lachlan added:**

*"We learned about gears, and we got to make our own inventions. We made time spinners! It made me feel courageous. We got to write down all our thinking. We got to learn lots of new stuff that we haven't done before."*

**Meg said:**

*"It was really fun. We learned about the tectonic plates on Earth and that Mars has no tectonic plates. We learned that the heat spots on Mars could not move, so the same volcanoes kept erupting again and again. It really extended me, and I want to do it again."*

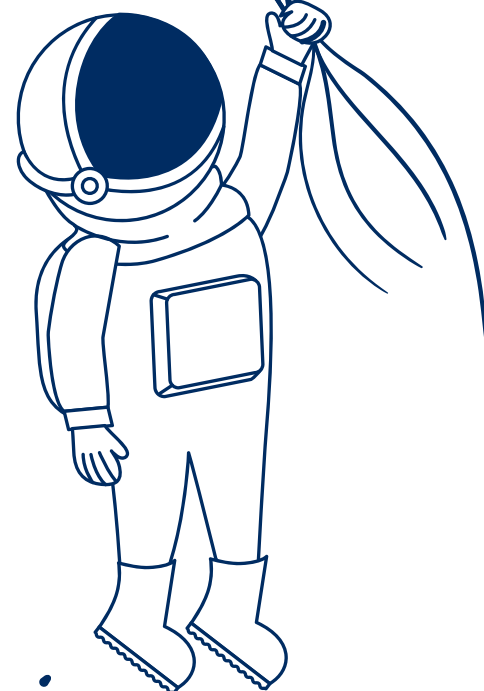
Incorporating extra learning opportunities that align with children's

interests and extend their thinking and curiosity is fundamental in a Reggio-inspired education. This approach not only nurtures a child's natural inquisitiveness but also fosters a deeper engagement with the learning process.

By creating an environment where children feel empowered to explore and express their ideas, we are cultivating a lifelong love of learning.

This method respects each child's unique path of discovery, encouraging them to become confident, creative, and critical thinkers.

Ultimately, such an enriched educational experience lays a strong foundation for their future academic and personal growth which we see as they continue their learning journey through The Geelong College.







# Reaching for the stars: Space pioneers inspire

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

Our Senior School students were inspired by a rare visit from leading figures in the global space industry.

During Term 1, The Geelong College had the privilege of welcoming an extraordinary group of visitors, including retired NASA astronaut Mike Bloomfield, Katherine Bennell-Pegg from the Australian Space Agency, and several Endeavour Scholarship alumni - among them, the College's own Ruby-Jane Roberts (Year 12).

The visit, which coincided with their participation in the Avalon Airshow, offered students a rare and inspiring glimpse into the world of space exploration and the boundless opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

After a morning tea with staff and students, the guests toured the Senior

School campus, engaging personally with many students. The highlight was a powerful Assembly address, where they shared stories of their journeys into space and science. They spoke candidly about perseverance, teamwork,





and wonder - themes that resonated deeply with students and teachers alike.

Mike Bloomfield, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and NASA astronaut, has flown on three Space Shuttle missions and played a key role in the construction of the International Space Station. Now an Ambassador for the Endeavour Scholarship, Mike shared lessons from his time at NASA, encouraging students to dream big and never stop being curious.

Joining him was Katherine Bennell-Pegg, an astronaut and Director of Space Technology at the Australian Space Agency. Her international career has spanned human spaceflight, Earth observation, and space exploration. Katherine's message highlighted the exciting future of Australia's space industry and the limitless potential for young innovators. Her story made space travel feel not only accessible - but achievable.

Year 12 student Ruby-Jane Roberts captivated the Assembly as she shared her own Endeavour journey.

"The Endeavour Scholarship has truly been life changing. It has given me opportunities to meet with astronauts and industry leaders, and insight into working within the space industry," she said.

"The simulated Mars mission I commanded was a highlight from space camp. I want to make a difference in the world, and thanks to the Endeavour Scholarship, I am inspired to do so."

The program provides mentorship and global opportunities for students with a passion for STEM. For Ruby-Jane, it's shaped a clear path toward a future where she can make real change.

Principal Dr Peter Miller reflected on the privilege of the visit:

"Travelling into orbit around Earth - and even further into space - is something most of us can only dream about," he said.

"At the Assembly, we were fortunate to meet two astronauts who are truly 'living the dream.' I wasn't alone in

feeling overwhelmed with excitement at the opportunity to meet them."

Dr Miller emphasised that the astronauts' message went beyond science and achievement:

"Above all, the message from both Katherine and Mike focused on not only the importance of science and academic achievement, but on the personal attributes required for success.

"They spoke about the importance of acting with purpose, stepping up to challenges, maintaining curiosity, respecting the environment and our place within it, and having the courage to persevere."

The visit served as a reminder of what is possible - and how far determination, courage and imagination can take us. For our students, the stars feel a little closer now.





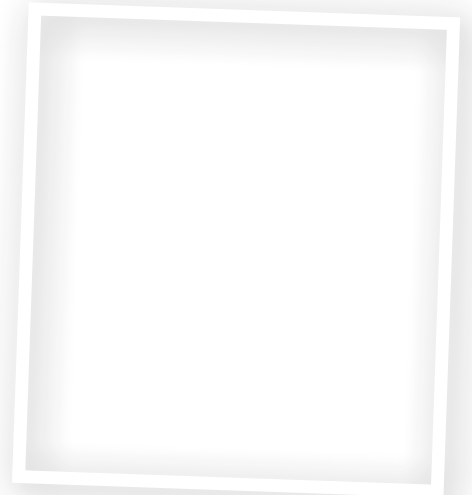


# A new chapter in student wellbeing

CASS GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

When students feel safe, supported and connected, they're better able to engage, take risks and grow — both in the classroom and beyond it.

I've recently stepped into the role of Director of Student Wellbeing, and I'm looking forward to building on the strong foundations already in place here at the College, to help our students continue to thrive.





## Wellbeing at The Geelong College

The wellbeing of our students has always been at the heart of who we are - and it's a privilege to continue this tradition as I step into the role of Director of Student Wellbeing.

I bring over a decade of experience in student wellbeing across schools, with expertise in youth mental health, developing staff capacity in wellbeing, and linking wellbeing and learning practices to best support the development of young people.

Prior to commencing at The Geelong College, I worked in Catholic education and held leadership positions, including Director of Campus, Head of Senior School, and Acting Deputy Principal – Staff and Student Wellbeing.

However, it was my earlier work as a coordinator that solidified my passion for supporting students to thrive - and for understanding how wellbeing sits at the centre of school life.

In 2021, I completed a thesis-based Master's degree investigating the impact of mental health in schools, with a focus on building teacher and school-wide self-efficacy in supporting students facing mental health challenges.

### Wellbeing and learning: hand in hand

A strong sense of belonging, positive relationships, and emotional resilience form the foundation for intellectual growth.

Recent research - including studies by the University of Melbourne and the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) - confirms that when students feel safe, supported, and connected, their engagement and academic outcomes improve significantly.

Throughout my career, I've seen this firsthand.

When young people feel safe, valued and supported, they don't just do

better personally - they do better academically, too.

Supporting wellbeing is not an "addition" to education - it is essential to every young person's ability to thrive, both in the classroom and beyond.

### A year of growth and focus

This year, we've deepened our focus on anti-bullying, student voice, and social-emotional development across the College.

Students engaged thoughtfully with Brainstorm Productions, which used live performance to explore themes of respect, kindness, and personal responsibility. Our partnership with LifeChanger further supported students in building resilience, self-awareness, and goal-setting.

We also welcomed Australia's leading cyber safety expert, Susan McLean, who shared clear and practical guidance with both students and families.

International Women's Day was another highlight. Bridgette Kelly's address inspired students to consider the small, everyday actions that contribute to fairness and inclusion. Many students pledged personal commitments that now stand as a visible reflection of our shared values.

### Looking forward: innovation in wellbeing

The concept of student wellbeing is not new - but the world young people are growing up in has changed dramatically in the past decade.

Building on a strong foundation, we are now developing a new College Wellbeing Action Plan and reimagining our current wellbeing framework. This work honours the traditions and values that have long shaped the College, while also embracing current research, innovation, and best practice.

Crucially, this plan places student voice, staff capacity, and community partnerships at the centre. Wellbeing

is not the responsibility of one team - it's a shared commitment, shaped by every adult who teaches, leads, coaches, or supports our students.

Our focus moving forward includes:

- Providing all students with explicit opportunities for social-emotional growth and development that are continually reflected in our culture and daily operations.
- Building the mental health literacy of our entire community, including staff, students, and parents/carers.
- Continuing to develop inclusive learning environments and practices.
- Building upon our Respectful Relationships programs and embedding these within our wellbeing frameworks and practices.
- Enhancing student agency and voice, and using data to inform best practices.
- Strengthening our understanding, connections, and collective ownership of wellbeing across staff, students, parents, and the broader community.

We are also developing a modern Wellbeing Framework that will clearly articulate our vision and direction moving forward. It will be a model that is dynamic, inclusive, and meaningful - ensuring that every student feels seen, supported, and empowered throughout their journey.

I am deeply proud to be part of this next chapter at The Geelong College, and look forward to walking alongside our students, staff, families and alumni as we continue to build a thriving, connected and compassionate community - one where every young person has the support they need to flourish.





# Inspiring purposeful pathways

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

Careers Education is far more than choosing a university course or ticking subject boxes. It's a journey of self-discovery, empowerment, and genuine connection, guided by educators who see and support each student as an individual with unique aspirations and potential.





"I love that The Geelong College is a place where Career Education is genuinely embraced."

"Now, as a Careers Educator, my role is to empower students to make informed, confident decisions. It's about helping them explore their strengths, values and interests through assessments, conversations, and real-world opportunities."

These opportunities might include connecting with university programs, hearing from industry speakers and alumni, or engaging in work experience - all curated to help students broaden their perspectives. But more than anything, Emma aims to instil a sense of hope and self-belief.

"Many students feel pressure or uncertainty," she says. "Some don't realise how many paths are out there, especially beyond Victoria or Australia. I help them see that there's no single 'right' way forward. The key is being curious and open."

Joining Emma in leading this charge is Mary-Anne Lewis, the newly appointed Head of Careers and Student Pathways. With a dynamic career spanning over 40 years - including roles at Geelong Grammar School and qualifications in Positive Psychology, Marketing, Careers Education and Growth Coaching - Mary-Anne brings a deeply thoughtful and multifaceted approach to career conversations.

"I believe that marketing principles - like understanding your 'brand' and knowing your audience - can help students 'sell' their skills and pursue their aspirations," Mary-Anne explains.

"But more importantly, I approach career coaching as a powerful, positive conversation. If a student can visualise a meaningful goal, they're more likely to act on it."

Since joining the College at the beginning of 2025, Mary-Anne has

introduced a number of initiatives, new university partnerships, and increased access to practical tools like the Morrisby Profile - a psychometric assessment used to uncover aptitudes, motivations, and personality traits.

"Emma and I began the year with one-on-one interviews for every Year 12 student," she says. "We want each student to feel calm and confident about what's next - whether it's early entry, elite athlete programs, scholarships, or applying overseas."

Whether working with students unsure of their future or helping secure prestigious nominations like the Monash Scholars Program or Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars, Mary-Anne's vision is clear: every student deserves a pathway that feels purposeful and true to them.

For both Emma and Mary-Anne, the magic lies in the small moments - the "aha" realisations, the open-hearted conversations, the broadening of a student's horizon.

"I love that The Geelong College is a place where Career Education is genuinely embraced," Mary-Anne reflects. "The fact that Dr Peter Miller meets every Year 12 student says so much. That culture of care and curiosity is what makes this work so fulfilling."

And when asked for their best advice to students just beginning to think about their future?

"Start by getting curious about yourself," Emma says. "Try new things, ask questions, and remember: your career is a journey, not a destination."

For Careers Educator Emma Witham, her path to this role was shaped by lived experience. Originally drawn to Nutrition and Dietetics, she pivoted to education after discovering a deeper passion for helping others learn and grow. Since joining the College in 2019 as a Mathematics and Science teacher, Emma has embraced the school's sense of community and commitment to nurturing the whole person.

"My own journey navigating tertiary studies and changing direction sparked a strong drive to support young people with their lives beyond school," Emma shares.





# Year 8 Production

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

The Year 8 Production of *Shrek* delighted audiences with its humour, heart, and high-energy performances.

From the moment the curtain rose, students brought the beloved fairytale characters to life with enthusiasm and flair, captivating the crowd with clever dialogue, bold choreography, and catchy musical numbers. Colourful costumes and imaginative set design transformed the stage into the whimsical world of *Shrek*, Donkey, Fiona, and friends.

More than just a show, the production highlighted the students' remarkable teamwork, creativity, and confidence, as they worked together to deliver a polished and thoroughly entertaining performance. It was a true celebration of Middle School talent and a standout moment in the Performing Arts calendar.











# Belonging in action at Middle School

GEORGINA ROLLS, ACTING HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Connection is more than a value - it's a way of life. Before the first bell even rings, students are already engaging, laughing, and finding their place in a vibrant community where every child is known, supported, and encouraged to thrive.

As the day begins at Middle School, the Big Quad is a hive of activity. Students chatter, bat-tennis is in full swing, while others shoot hoops at the nearby rings. A board game or two, perhaps even cards, are played in the warmth of the library. Chess pieces are hauled around the outdoor board to sounds of Music ensembles

rehearsing from Robertson Hall. A game of chasey starts in Year 5, and Year 4 Enviro students are checking in with their guinea pigs. Bus travellers greet one another as they move about dropping bags off and getting ready for the day. All this and the first bell is yet to ring. Connection and a sense

of belonging are clearly evident at the Middle School.

Associate Professor and Educational Development Psychologist at Monash University, Dr Kelly Anne Allen, focuses her research on school belonging and connectedness. Her recent study found that school belonging,





the extent to which a student feels accepted, respected and supported by peers and teachers, impacts long-term wellbeing and mental health (Allen et al, 2024).

Students at the Middle School are fortunate to start their school day each morning with their Learning Mentor – 25 minutes spent connecting over mindfulness practices, organisational skills, or a focus on one of the College Values. For many, the child's Learning Mentor becomes a significant supportive adult in their world, ultimately facilitating a sense of connectedness and belonging at school.

Led by Mentors each morning, the Mentor Program is developed around the College Values. To begin the year, we unpacked the value of Community with Diversity, with a specific focus on connection and belonging. Students within and across homerooms got to know one another and Mentors worked hard to build a respectful environment where students could feel they are accepted, respected, and supported. Now in Term 2, Integrity with Compassion – with a focus on kindness – shapes the experience for students in the Middle School. Respect with Grace and Aspiration with Humility round out the year, and

are all underpinned by our College Value of Endeavour with Courage.

To further enhance our focus on Connection and Belonging, a variety of lunchtime clubs operate each day of the week: Dungeons and Dragons, Production Art Clubs, Table Tennis, Yoga, Rubix Cube, game design and Pickle Ball. These all provide opportunities for students to meaningfully connect with one another across Years 4-8. Similarly, the Buddy Program builds connections across year levels and provides another opportunity for students to belong.

We are also fortunate to work with LifeChanger Foundation at Year 7, an organisation committed to supporting young people and their mental health. Through games and activities, students build a greater understanding of themselves in a variety of workshops throughout the year. Supported by Learning Mentors, our students learn practical skills to navigate their day-to-day experiences. Goal setting, resilience and gratitude make up the 'Skills' workshop. Students learn about their emotions and regulation strategies in 'Self'. The 'Purpose' workshop encourages passions and hobbies, whilst 'Tribe' helps students to understand and connect to their community. This program helps students learn more

about themselves, with strategies to ultimately improve their wellbeing.

From time to time, we all need some space to help us decompress. The Hub at Middle School, a new purpose-designed space for 2025, has been well utilised. Students from all year levels might take some time out in this sensory space, either encouraged by a teacher or self-directed. Some follow their plan to regulate, others just 'take 5' before returning to class. The space for many becomes a place to retreat and reset before re-engaging more positively within the classroom.

Students are finding their way during the middle years at The Geelong College, and with the support of peers, Learning Mentors and teachers, many of our students begin to find their place – a place where they can connect with one another and truly belong.

Allen, KA., Greenwood, C.J., Berger, E. et al. Adolescent School Belonging and Mental Health Outcomes in Young Adulthood: Findings from a Multi-wave Prospective Cohort Study. *School Mental Health* 16, 149–160 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12310-023-09626-6>





# Derby Day

HELENA METZKE, MARKETING COORDINATOR

## Sun shines on a thrilling Derby Day at The Geelong College

Derby Day returned in full force on Saturday 31 May, with The Geelong College welcoming more than 30 Geelong Grammar School teams, along with teams from fellow APS schools, for a spectacular day of sport and community. Near-perfect weather set the scene as matches unfolded across our Middle and Senior School campuses in a proud celebration of tradition, competition and camaraderie.

With a full schedule of matches in football, netball, hockey, soccer and more, the day was a testament

to the spirit of sportsmanship that defines the APS and the rich history of Derby Day. There were wins, there were losses, and countless moments of pride as students from all schools gave their all for their teams.

Standout performances included a dominant win by our 1sts Boys Football team, finishing 18.12 (120) - 10.7 (67), and an emphatic victory from our 1sts Netball team, 67-31.

This year's Derby Day also coincided with the APS Reconciliation Round, adding deeper meaning to the occasion as we came together to



reflect on and honour First Nations histories and cultures.

Congratulations to all players, coaches, staff and supporters involved in what was another memorable and spirited Derby Day.







# School Activities



Middle School Deakin District Sports Carnival



Upper Primary House Swimming







Year 7 Camp



Year 8 Gather Round Football Camp







Year 8 NGV Excursion



Mirri Mates Research Station



Junior School PSPA Easter Raffle





## Senior School House Swimming



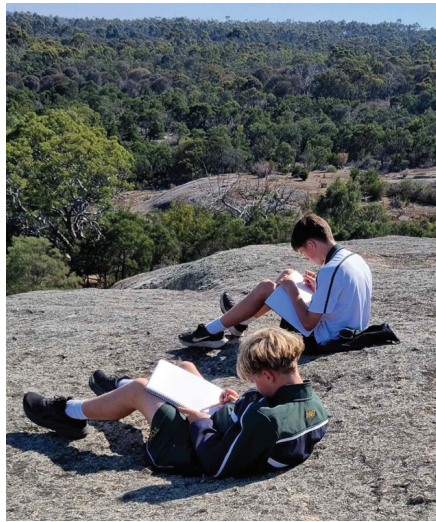
## Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day



## Hospitality Bootcamp



Year 8 On Country



Mother's Day Gift Making



Winter Sports Celebration Game





Year 10 Leadership Excursion



Year 9 Retreat



New Zealand Quadrangular Cricket Tournament



# A lasting legacy

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING & ADVANCEMENT MANAGER



Some of the most powerful gifts come not with fanfare, but with quiet intent - bequests that carry forward a legacy of generosity, foresight, and belief in education. Over the past decade, these acts of planned giving have helped shape futures in ways both profound and lasting.

Over the past decade, more than \$4 million has been gifted to The Geelong College and The Geelong College Foundation through bequests - gifts that speak not just to generosity, but to vision.

Among them is the remarkable contribution of Alastair Gordon Brebner (OGC 1952), a sheep and cattle farmer from Ballyrogan in

Western Victoria, who passed away on 31 December 2020. In 2022, the Foundation received over \$639,000 from his estate - a powerful legacy from a man who understood the value of both land and education. A founding member of the Morrison Society, Alastair saw giving as a long-term investment in the lives of students he'd never meet, but whose futures he quietly shaped.

Following in the footsteps of his father William (OGC 1903) and brother Bill (OGC 1949), Alastair boarded at the College from 1949 to 1956. He remembered his time here with warmth (and a fair bit of mischief), proudly earning House Colours for Football and Rowing, and helping his team win the VH Proffitt Trophy in 1955. Today, his great-niece continues the family's





boarding legacy at the College - a living connection to Alastair's story.

His gift was unconditional, but with deep roots in the boarding experience that shaped him. In that spirit, the Foundation has invested the funds and committed up to 5% of the corpus annually to support boarding scholarships for students from rural and remote areas. These are now known as the Brebner Boarding Scholarships - the first recipient begins in Year 11 in 2026.

This legacy is philanthropy at its best - quiet, generous, and built for the long haul. Like farming, it's about stewardship. Alastair nurtured flocks and herds with care and patience; now, his gift helps grow young minds with the same philosophy. Both farmers and philanthropists know the real harvest comes from thinking ahead and leaving things better than they found them.

#### Do you have a Will?

Making a will is one of the most important things you can do - for your family, and for the causes that matter to you. It brings peace of mind, ensures your wishes are honoured, and creates the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy, just as Alastair did.

The Geelong College has partnered with Gathered Here to offer a free, easy-to-use online will service.

We encourage all members of our community to take advantage of this - whether you choose to leave a gift to the College or not. Your loved ones come first, always - but if you're in a position to support future students, even a small bequest can make a world of difference.

To find out more, visit:  
[bit.ly/gatheredTGC](https://bit.ly/gatheredTGC)





# Charlie Lazzaro:

## Taking his place, giving others a chance

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING & ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

From debuting in the AFL to mentoring young athletes, and giving back to the College through the Take Your Place campaign, Charlie Lazzaro's journey is a testament to drive, resilience, and gratitude.

Since graduating in 2020, former College Vice Captain Charlie Lazzaro has been making moves - on and off the field. Drafted to North Melbourne at pick 36 in the 2020 AFL Draft, Charlie notched up 39 games across four seasons, while simultaneously studying Business at RMIT. After being delisted at the end of 2024, many might have taken a breather - but Charlie isn't wired that way.

Now playing for Port Melbourne in the VFL, training hard, managing a recovery facility, and continuing his studies, Charlie has no intention of slowing down. In fact, he's eyeing a return to the AFL - and has already sparked interest ahead of the draft.

"I love footy, and I just want to play at the highest level," Charlie says. "I'm grateful to Port Melbourne, but I know I've got more to give."

One silver lining of stepping back from the AFL spotlight? Playing alongside

his younger brother Archie (OGC 2022). "He's taller than me now," Charlie laughs. "He'll debut soon, and I can't wait to run out with him. He'll be moving up to Melbourne later in the year too - it's awesome."

But while Charlie's focused on chasing down his next opportunity, he's also looking back - and giving back. As part of The Geelong College's Take Your Place campaign, Charlie's name now features proudly on a plaque in the College's new sports precinct, Belerren.

"It was an easy decision to give," he says. "I absolutely loved school. I had an awesome time at the College. If I could go back, I'd love to have had a facility like Belerren."

Charlie returned recently to see Belerren in action.

"The facilities are absolutely fantastic. The College has done a brilliant





job,” he says. “Seeing the space and imagining how much it’ll mean for students now - it’s massive. Being surrounded by that kind of environment lifts you. It gives you the tools, the culture, and the space to enjoy what you’re doing and show what you’re capable of.”

And while his plaque bears his name, Charlie is quick to point out that this isn’t about legacy - it’s about impact.

“You don’t realise how much of a difference something like this makes until you’re in it. It’s not just about bricks and turf. It’s about shaping the student experience. It’s giving kids the chance to really chase something.”

So, who should consider Taking Their Place?

“Everyone who loves the school,” he says, without hesitation. “Former captains, athletes, anyone who feels that pull to the College. It’s not

just about you - it’s about the next generation. And trust me, it really does make a difference.”

Charlie credits much of who he is today to his time at the College.

“Without the College, I honestly don’t think I’d be where I am. I met incredible people, made lifelong friends, and was shaped by experiences I’ll never forget. People like Simon Young played a huge part in getting me here. I’m forever grateful.”

His advice for others considering Taking Their Place? Don’t wait.

“Come back. Walk through Belerren. See what’s happening here. Your name doesn’t just go on a plaque - it becomes part of something bigger.”

**To watch our interview with Charlie, scan the QR code or visit: [bit.ly/TGCcharlie](https://bit.ly/TGCcharlie)**



**Shape their sporting future.**

**Join Charlie and hundreds of others who’ve already taken their place.**

Buy a plaque. Support Belerren. Support the next generation of athletes, leaders, and students who love the College as much as you do.

[takeyourplace.tgc.vic.edu.au](https://takeyourplace.tgc.vic.edu.au)





# Thank you for your support

The strength of our College lies in our shared values, our clear vision, and the generosity of a community that believes in both. Thank you to everyone who supported the College or the Foundation in 2024. Your contribution makes a tangible difference in the lives of our students – now and into the future. Together, we're building on a remarkable legacy.

If you would like to discuss leaving a bequest or making a 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](mailto:nicole.roache@tgc.vic.edu.au)

If you would like to make a donation, scan the QR code, or visit: [bit.ly/TGCGiving](https://bit.ly/TGCGiving)



## COMMUNITY

|                              |                                 |  |   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Ms M M Afford - CP, PP       | Mr C D & Mrs R G Cleminson - PP | Mr T M Kemp - CP, PP                         | Ms N L Roache - Staff                   |
| Ms K J Alexander - PP        | Mr J M Cohen - CP               | Mr L Kim - CP                                | Dr C E & Dr T C Roydhouse - CP          |
| Mr J G & Mrs H Anderson - PP | Mr D Costa - CP                 | Mr B C Kweh - CP                             | Mr J J & Mrs S A Sadler - CP, PP, Staff |
| Anthony Costa Foundation     | Mr N J Coull - CP, Staff        | Mr A G Lane - CP, PP                         | Mrs N Savvides - CP, PP                 |
| Mr M J Artz - PP             | Mrs S Cullen - CP, PP           | Mrs L E Larsen - CP, PP                      | Dr T J Shakespeare - CP                 |
| Mr R G Ashby - PP            | Dr C Darby - PP, MOC            | Mr R F & Mrs B A Leetham - Staff             | Mrs J L Shaw - CP                       |
| Mrs J N & Mr E M Bailey - PP | Ms M S Deller-Pugh - CP, Staff  | Mr E W W Leong - CP                          | Mr T Shaw - CP, PP                      |
| Mr M & Mrs C Barwick - CP    | Dimmick Foundation              | Mr M J McArdle - CP, PP                      | Mrs L Stephenson - CP                   |
| Mr N J Batrouney - PP        | Mr Y Ding - CP                  | Dr C J R McGrath - CP, PP, FP                | Dr J & Mrs S Swan - PP                  |
| Ms J Beattie                 | Ms S Douglas - CP, PP, MOC      | Ms D M McIntosh - MOC                        | Ms D C Taylor - MOC                     |
| Dr J C Beaumont - PP         | Mr M J Dowling AM - PP          | Mrs C McKechnie - CP                         | Mrs E Taylor - MOC                      |
| Mrs M Bedi - CP, FP          | Mrs L Falconer - OGCP           | Mrs J McLean - CP, PP                        | Mrs N Telegina - PP                     |
| Mrs E Benson - CP, PP        | Dr F Ferdinands - CP, FP        | Mrs D A McLellan - CP, PP                    | The Freeman-Dann Trust                  |
| Mrs K A Betts - PP           | Mrs E E Franklin - CP           | Mrs D Mickan - CP                            | The Glenwood Foundation                 |
| Mr A J Blades - Past Staff   | Mr R J & Mrs P L Gartland - PP  | Dr P D Miller - PP, Staff                    | The Murray Scholarship Trust            |
| Mr C V Bongers - CP          | Dr D A Goddard - PP             | Mr S I Milliken - CP                         | Mr G I Tomkins - PP, Staff              |
| Mrs E S Boyle - CP, FP       | Mr N L Goonan - CP, FP          | Mr A J Montgomery - CP, PP                   | Dr P C Turner - Past Staff              |
| Mrs L Bramall - OGCP         | Miss C M Gray                   | Morongo Old Collegians                       | Mr D Villarosa - CP                     |
| Mrs M Brumley - OGCP         | Mr S A & Mrs R L Hall - CP      | Mrs F E K Morrow - CP, PP                    | Mr J Walia - CP                         |
| Ms A E Bucek - PP, Staff     | Mr F J Harrigan - PP            | Norman, Ann & Graeme Atkins Charitable Trust | Ms A L Webb - PP                        |
| Mr T Bufton - CP             | Ms K N Hayes - CP, PP           | Mrs W S Norris - PP, MOC                     | Dr A B Whan - PP                        |
| Mrs J N Calvert - OGCP       | Mr P T Heard - CP               | Mr S J O'Dwyer - CP, FP                      | Mrs C Whelan - CP                       |
| Mrs J V Cameron* - PP        | Mrs J I Henderson - PP, MOC     | Old Geelong Collegians Association           | Mrs P J Whitehead - CP                  |
| Ms J A Cannard - CP, PP      | Ms E S Holt - CP                | Dr R S Page - PP                             | Mr A H Williamson - PP                  |
| Dr Y M Chalmers - CP, PP     | Dr A J Hughes - CP, PP          | Dr F Pojani - PP                             | Mrs J M Williamson - PP                 |
| Mrs Y Chen - PP, FP          | Mr S A Jansz - CP, PP           | Mr J Poon - PP                               | Mrs A M Young - PP                      |
| Mrs S C Clark - CP           | Mr M Jozwik - CP                |  |   |

## OGC - 1930s

Dr D M McLean\* - OGC 1938

## OGC - 1940s

|                              |                               |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr W H Huffam - OGC 1944, PP | Mr B J Solomon - OGC 1948, PP | Mr T S Dennis - OGC 1949, PP | Mr K W J Thomson - OGC 1949 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

## OGC - 1950s

|                           |                                   |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr F W Russell - OGC 1950 | Mr F S McArthur AM - OGC 1951, PP | Mr R L Miller* - OGC 1951 | Mr E J B Payne - OGC 1951 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

**CP = Current Parent, PP = Past Parent, FP = Future Parent, MOC = Morongo Old Collegian, OGCP = Old Geelong Collegian Partner. \* = Deceased**



|  |                                  |                                |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Mr A S Philip - OGC 1952                 | Mr D R Walter - OGC 1954         | Mr A G Henderson AM - OGC 1958 | Mr C W Macleod - OGC 1959                |
| Mr R C W Pyper - OGC 1952                | Mr H T Bromell - OGC 1955        | Mr T F McNair - OGC 1958       | Mr A J McLeish - OGC 1959                |
| Mr D R Seller - OGC 1952, PP, Past Staff | Mr S J K Gibson - OGC 1955       | Dr A J Vigano AM - OGC 1958    | Mr J M Paton - OGC 1959, PP              |
| Dr R A S Lawson - OGC 1953               | Mr W S Mack - OGC 1955           | Mr C C Blair - OGC 1959        | Mr R K Robson - OGC 1959, PP             |
| Mr P A Cronk - OGC 1954, PP, Past Staff  | Dr I W McCay - OGC 1955          | Mr D W Hardy - OGC 1959        | Mr A P Sheahan AM - OGC 1959, Past Staff |
| Mr D W M McCann - OGC 1954, PP           | Mr G C Fenton - OGC 1956         | Mr S T Hood - OGC 1959         |  |
|  | Mr P F Fenwick - OGC 1956        | Mr J E Leishman - OGC 1959, PP |  |
|  | Mr M D Gretton-Watson - OGC 1958 |                                |  |

#### OGC - 1960s

|  |                                   |  |                           |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Professor T R Carney AO - OGC 1960         | Mr J D S Nall - OGC 1965, PP      | Dr H G Seward AM & Mrs C M Seward - OGC 1966, PP, Past Staff | Mr R Ooi - OGC 1968       |
| Professor G A Donnan AO - OGC 1961         | Professor D T Runia AM - OGC 1965 | Mr P S Lowe - OGC 1967                                       | Dr P L Royce - OGC 1968   |
| Mr M J & Mrs R M Betts - OGC 1965, PP, MOC | Mr I F Sayers - OGC 1965          | Dr H W Torode - OGC 1967                                     | Mr D B Sutton - OGC 1968  |
| Mr P C Hardy - OGC 1965                    | Mr D Ooi - OGC 1966               | Mr P A Wade - OGC 1967                                       | Mr N A Kearney - OGC 1969 |
|  |                                   | Dr C B Olsen - OGC 1968                                      |                           |

#### OGC - 1970s

|   |                                |                                  |                             |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr I H Begley - OGC 1970, PP                | Mr R V Brown - OGC 1972        | Mr M D Philip - OGC 1973, CP, FP | Dr A M Brown - OGC 1978     |
| Mr S M Chirnside - OGC 1970, PP, Past Staff | Mr B T Fenner - OGC 1972       | Ms M L Quigley - OGC 1973        | Dr A V Maclean - OGC 1978   |
| Mr B J Mellor - OGC 1970                    | Mr D A Williamson - OGC 1972   | Mr B A Amezdroz - OGC 1977, PP   | Mr T D G Neilson - OGC 1978 |
| Mr R H Sloane - OGC 1970                    | Mr R G Carr - OGC 1973, PP     | Mr D G Morrison - OGC 1977       | Mr A J Le Deux - OGC 1979   |
| Mr R P Evans - OGC 1971                     | Mr J A Hutton - OGC 1973       | Mr R P Vickers-Willis - OGC 1977 | Mr A J Light - OGC 1979     |
| Mr W R Hunt - OGC 1971                      | Mr A G Morrison - OGC 1973, PP |                                  |                             |
| Mr J R Stevenson - OGC 1971                 |                                |                                  |                             |

#### OGC - 1980s

|                               |   |                                |                               |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr J P King - OGC 1980        | Mr J R Ganly - OGC 1985                     | Mrs D K W Wong - OGC 1987      | Mr B Bates - OGC 1989, CP, PP |
| Mr P R Gorell - OGC 1981, PP  | Mr A G Logan - OGC 1987, CP, PP, Past Staff | Mr I J Abbott - OGC 1988       | Dr N C Cousen - OGC 1989      |
| Mr N Macleod - OGC 1981       | Mr G F Williams - OGC 1987, PP              | Mr S Horvat - OGC 1988, CP, PP |                               |
| Mrs F J Balaam - OGC 1983, PP |   |                                |                               |

#### OGC - 1990s

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Mr D P Crowe - OGC 1990                     | Mr C T Pearson - OGC 1991                  | Mr M E Keeble - OGC 1993, FP             | Mrs S N Clancy - OGC 1995, CP                 |
| Mr P A Lawson - OGC 1990, PP                | Mr J M Zumpe - OGC 1991, PP                | Dr G G D Lethbridge - OGC 1993, FP       | Mr N J Hosking - OGC 1997, CP                 |
| Mr B J Mitchell - OGC 1990                  | Mr S M Cosgriff - OGC 1992                 | Mr B G Miller - OGC 1993, CP             | Mrs L A Shirlow - OGC 1997, CP, PP, FP, Staff |
| Mr S H Nicholls - OGC 1990                  | Mr P A Mishura - OGC 1992                  | Mr S H Olsen - OGC 1993, CP              | Mrs K L Bull - OGC 1998, CP                   |
| Mr D R Ashby - OGC 1991, CP, PP, Past Staff | Mr J H L Alexander - OGC 1993              | Mr C R P Baulch - OGC 1994, CP           | Mrs E M Handbury - OGC 1998, CP, PP           |
| Dr M J R Magarey - OGC 1991                 | Dr D J & Mrs K J Bowyer - OGC 1993, CP, PP | Mr N C Jarman - OGC 1994, CP, Past Staff | Mr I R Barbour - OGC 1999                     |
| Mr A J McHarry - OGC 1991, CP, PP           | Mr J R Connell - OGC 1993, CP              | Mr T D Noonan - OGC 1994, CP             |   |
| Mr J T Nevins - OGC 1991                    | Mr A A Givoye - OGC 1993                   |  |   |

#### OGC - 2000s

|                                 |                               |                              |                       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs J J Begley - OGC 2001, CP   | Mr S J Sowerby - OGC 2001, FP | Mrs J L Young - OGC 2003, FP | Dr S A May - OGC 2007 |
| Mr N L Gilchrist - OGC 2001, CP | Mr T A Gant - OGC 2003, CP    | Mr J J Arrigo - OGC 2004, CP |                       |
|                                 |                               | Mrs L E Betts - OGC 2005, FP |                       |

#### OGC - 2010s

|  |                                    |                     |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Miss L A Balaam - OGC 2016, Past Staff | Mr A L Boyd - OGC 2016, Past Staff | Mr Y Mei - OGC 2017 |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|

#### OGC - 2020s

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| Mr C J Lazzaro - OGC 2020 |
|---------------------------|





# PSPA Mothers' Day Lunch

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING & ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

On Friday 2 May, 280 guests from across the school gathered at Club Chin Chin for the PSPA Mothers' Day Lunch - a vibrant celebration of mothers and carers in our community. The event was a wonderful blend of connection, generosity and good fun.

The sell-out lunch raised \$35,000 for Meli's ROAR and Foster Care programs, supporting vulnerable children and families across our region. ROAR is a 12-week support group for women survivors of family violence co-designed by survivors, and provides a safe and supportive environment for women with a focus

on empowerment, equality and safety. Meli's Foster Care program ensures safe, stable homes for children in need.

Guests enjoyed a delicious banquet-style lunch, shared stories and laughter, and heard directly from Jesse, a young man who was in foster care from the age of four.

A huge thank you to our Mothers' Day Lunch committee, silent auction donors and everyone who helped bring it all together - and of course, to our incredible College mums and carers for your ongoing support. Your presence made it more than just lunch; it was a meaningful contribution to brighter futures for local families.









# Foundation President

ANNA WEBB, FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Farewell, new beginnings, and honouring legacy: Foundation updates

## Farewell to Dr Peter Miller

Over the past decade, it has been a privilege to have Dr Peter Miller, Principal of The Geelong College, involved with the Foundation as an Ex-Officio member of the Board. Peter has been a trusted source of advice and guidance throughout his tenure, and one of the Foundation's greatest supporters. His contribution - both as a school leader and as a Foundation advocate - has been marked by integrity, insight and unwavering dedication.

Peter's leadership has been instrumental in many of the Foundation's key contributions to the College. With his steady guidance, we have had the opportunity to support a wide range of initiatives, including:

- Principal's Projects, such as:
  - Refurbishments to the Mackie and Mossgiel Boarding Houses
  - Constructing the pathway around Mackie Oval

- Updating the Cloisters Classrooms
- Refurbishment of the Mercer Parade Tennis/Netball Courts
- Awarding 15 staff members Foundation Fellowships
- The redevelopment of the Junior School (Campbell House)
- The construction of Belerren, the College's new Sports and Wellbeing Centre

Peter's tenure has also seen the College through significant milestones and challenges. He led with understanding and compassion during the COVID-19 pandemic, navigated substantial growth in student enrolments, and delivered two major building projects that have significantly enhanced the College's facilities.

Most notably, under his leadership, the College secured the acquisition of 32 hectares of land just outside Geelong - an extraordinary achievement, an investment, that positions the

school for growth and innovation for generations to come.

We will be sorry to see Peter depart at the end of Term 3 this year. The Foundation extends its deepest thanks to Peter and his wife, Naomi, for their outstanding service over the past ten years and wish them every success as they embark on the next chapter in Sydney.

## Foundation Leadership Transitions

Marking the beginning of a new chapter, I was honoured to be elected the 11th President of the Foundation following the AGM on 26 March. Having served on the Board since 2020, becoming President is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I will do my utmost to continue supporting the College through the Foundation's vital work. Over the past five years, I have witnessed the transformative impact the Foundation has had on the student experience, and I look forward to building on that strong legacy.





# ent's Report

I extend my sincere thanks to Bradley Fenner (OGC 1972), who continues to serve as Vice President, bringing a wealth of experience and steady guidance. We are also pleased to welcome Nick Gilchrist (OGC 2001) as Vice President. Their shared leadership in this role is greatly valued, and Nick's willingness to step into this position is deeply appreciated. Together, with the support of the wider Board, we are committed to strengthening our partnerships and initiatives for the benefit of the entire College community.

A special tribute must be paid to outgoing President Scott Chirnside (OGC 1970), whose many years of service to the Foundation - four of those as President - has been nothing short of extraordinary. Scott's calm, consistent leadership and his deep commitment to the Foundation's mission have seen it thrive during a period of substantial growth and achievement. Though he steps down as President, we are fortunate that he will remain on the Board as a Director.

## **Farewell to Lauren Betts**

The Foundation also thanks Lauren Betts (OGC 2005) for her six years of service as a Director. A dedicated contributor, Lauren remained actively involved throughout her tenure - including while welcoming a new child into her family. Her professional insight and commitment were greatly appreciated, and we wish her every success as she focuses on her legal career and family life with her husband, Nick (OGC 2002).

## **Welcome to David Williamson**

Stepping into the vacancy left by Lauren's departure is David Williamson (OGC 1972), appointed at the March AGM. A member of the Foundation since 2005, David brings extensive legal and strategic experience from his 35-year career as a Corporate Partner at a leading Australian law firm. His philanthropic and community work, along with his professional background, make him a valuable addition to the Board. We warmly welcome David and look forward to his contributions in the years ahead.

## **Foundation Members' Lunch: Reflecting on Service and Values**

As part of this year's ANZAC Day commemorations, the Foundation hosted its annual Members' Lunch on 24 April and was privileged to welcome Major General (Retired) Professor Adam Findlay AO (OGC 1983) as guest speaker. Reflecting on his time at The Geelong College, Major General Findlay spoke fondly of the "wonderful and serene" days of the 1980s and the foundational values instilled during his education - values he carried with him throughout a distinguished military career. His address served as a powerful reminder of the College's enduring influence on its students, long after they leave its grounds. Adding a student voice to the occasion, College Co-Captain Zara Goodall-Wilson and Co-Vice Captain Shaun McKenna spoke on the importance of preserving ANZAC Day traditions. This meaningful event paid tribute not only to the ANZACs, but also to the values of respect, service, and leadership that The Geelong College continues to uphold.





# Meredith Dairy – Farming with pu

MIKE HOWELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

What began as a bold pivot during the wool crash of the 1990s is now one of Australia's leading producers of fresh goat and sheep cheese. At Meredith Dairy, Sandy and Julie Cameron have built more than a business - they've cultivated a legacy of innovation, sustainability, and purpose.

Born from drought, determination, and a bold shift in direction, Meredith Dairy has grown into a thriving family business known for its sustainability and innovation. But long before it became Meredith Dairy, it was the Cameron family farm.

#### **Neil and June Cameron**

Neil (OGC 1942) and June Cameron were dedicated sheep farmers, working land just outside the small town of Meredith. The property, known as 'Glenspean' had been in the family

since 1924. Alongside running the farm, they were devoted parents who placed great importance on education. When it came time to choose schools for their children, they looked to Geelong.

In the days before co-education at College, their eldest daughter, Jane, attended Morongo, while their sons Sandy (OGC 1973) and Simon (OGC 1977) enrolled at The Geelong College.

By the time Kate (OGC 1979) was ready for school, co-education had been introduced, allowing her to follow in her brothers' footsteps. Their youngest son, Hamish (OGC 1987), soon followed.

Neil and June became deeply involved in the life of the College - Neil serving on the College Council from 1966 to 1981, and June from 1991 to 2004.

The family's connection to the College has continued into the next generation,





*(Top) Sandy and Julie Cameron in the early days; (Bottom): Julie and June Cameron*

# rpose

with their grandson Lachlan (OGC 2012) also attending.

## **Sandy and Julie Cameron**

It was clear that farming was in the Cameron blood.

The eldest boy of the family, Sandy studied Veterinary Science after school and completed a PhD in sheep and goat reproduction.

He then met his wife, Julie - who had also grown up on a farm. Together, they purchased land next to the original family farm. In the beginning,

they operated it in partnership with, Neil and June, and maintained the established focus on wool.

The young couple had big plans for the future - balancing farming with their own careers.

Unfortunately, though - hardship was on the horizon.

## **Drought and the collapse of the wool market**

In scenes reminiscent of the current drought gripping South West Victoria - one of the worst in decades - farmers

in the early 90s faced similarly harsh conditions.

Many were forced to make difficult decisions about their livestock and livelihoods.

The Camerons were not immune to this, and were hit hard when the wool market suddenly collapsed, and prices halved overnight.

## **The beginnings of Meredith Dairy**

Sandy decided to move away from 100% wool and prime lamb production - which had become economically



unsustainable - and instead moved towards milking sheep and creating value-added products like yoghurt and cheese.

At the time, no one in Australia was doing this year-round.

So, in 1991, the Camerons began building a dairy on weekends while continuing to work: Sandy as a Research Fellow at Monash University, and Julie as an intensive care nurse in Ballarat.

They began with milking sheep and producing sheep cheese, before introducing goats four years later.

It wasn't easy - they were milking, cleaning themselves up, making cheese and yoghurt, and raising two young children.

"It took about ten years before it didn't look like a crazy idea. It took about twenty years before it looked like quite a good idea!" Sandy recalls.

At the time, Australian goat cheese was usually imported or made from old milk.

Meredith Dairy became the only facility able to milk and process daily, year-round - and freshness became the secret to their success.

Sandy and Julie's ambition then became clear: to be the best in the world at producing fresh sheep and goat cheese, and to build a truly sustainable food business.

#### **The end of an era**

As the years went on, Neil and June Cameron watched on with pride as Sandy and Julie turned their ambitious vision into a thriving business.

In an extraordinary and moving chapter to their story, Neil and June passed away within a day of each other at the end of 2024.

Their legacy lives on not only through their family and farm, but in the lives they touched through their community and connection to The Geelong College.

**You can read the College's tribute to Neil and June on page 111 of this edition.**



*June and Neil Cameron*





## Meredith Dairy today

Today, Meredith Dairy spans over 2,000 hectares and is one of the largest sheep and goat dairies in Australia.

They milk around 10,000 goats and 1,200 sheep across six smaller, spread-out dairies - a system designed to avoid over-concentration of animals, improve welfare, and ensure even nutrient distribution across the land.

It also encourages staff ownership, with each team responsible for a manageable number of animals.

About 150 people now work across the business, from farming and manufacturing to HR, finance and marketing. Sandy likens HR to "panning for gold," continually discovering key people who share the business's values and purpose.

Sustainable farming is at the heart of Meredith Dairy's success. Sandy and Julie have always been committed to conservation. They've fenced off all non-arable land - steep hillsides, rocky outcrops, and waterways - and planted trees. Now, 30% of the property is dedicated to conservation, supporting biodiversity and restoring natural habitats. "If land isn't arable," Sandy says, "then put it back into trees."

The business uses significant electricity to run operations. In response, they installed 250kW of solar panels on their manufacturing facility and a biomass boiler that burns waste wood to generate power and heat. This setup allows them to run entirely on renewable energy - though Sandy acknowledges

methane from ruminants makes full carbon neutrality a challenge.

They've also reduced landfill by 80% with a recycling system across 26 waste streams, contributing to the circular economy. Even the nutrients and used straw from the goat sheds are recycled back into the paddocks to enrich the soil.

More than three decades on, Meredith Dairy is a world-class business producing a wide range of marinated and fresh goat cheeses, as well as sheep and goat-milk yoghurts. After cautiously entering export markets a decade ago, they've seen strong growth in recent years - particularly in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the United States.

Their children are now involved in the business as part of succession planning. "It's not about being the biggest," Sandy says. "It's about being better." Continuous



improvement drives him, with a long list of projects underway - including achieving full carbon neutrality and offsetting methane in new ways.

The story of Meredith Dairy is one of vision, resilience, and innovation. For Sandy, the greatest pride comes from creating a life with purpose - transforming run-down farmland into tree-filled, productive land, and building a food business that's respected both in Australia and internationally.

**Find out more at:**  
[www.meredithdairy.com](http://www.meredithdairy.com)



*Julie and Sandy*



# From Corio Bay to the Charles River

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING & ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

Charlie Rahdon's (OGC 2022) rowing journey highlights the power of hard work, mentorship, and seizing opportunities.

Charlie's rowing resumé reads like a highlight reel. In 2023, as an 18-year-old, he powered to victory with the Victorian lightweight four in the prestigious Penrith Cup at the Australian National Championships - Victoria's first win in the event since 2019.

Now wearing the Harvard crimson, he claimed one of the biggest prizes in American rowing: victory in the Head of the Charles Regatta with Harvard's varsity lightweight boat.

Not bad for someone who only picked up an oar in Year 10.

While Charlie now trains and studies among the spires of Harvard, his journey began at The Geelong College, where a nudge from friends led him to swap his rotating summer sports for a rowing seat.

"I'd tried something different every year since Year 7 - rowing was basically the last one left," he laughs. "But I loved the challenge, the discipline it demanded."

It paid off. After just three seasons, he earned selection for the Victorian Pathways crew, and it became clear that rowing had moved beyond a

school sport - it was part of his future. But when Charlie looked around at his options post-graduation, the Australian university system didn't offer the kind of elite sporting opportunities he was chasing. In the US, however, college sport is a way of life.

"Sport is baked into the university experience over here," he explains. "I knew I wanted to keep rowing at a high level and the US offered the best chance to do that."

Landing at Harvard meant facing a whole new set of challenges. The Ivy League is not known for taking it easy







on its students - add in ten months a year of elite-level training and racing, and the time squeeze becomes very real.

"Balancing rowing and study here is intense," Charlie admits. "During racing season, you're on six-hour bus rides to regattas - if you can't get work done on the bus, and most people can't, then you have to be smart about your week. I've learned to front-load everything, plan properly, and use professors' office hours. Organisation is everything."

It's a workload he was well-prepared for, thanks to his time at The Geelong College. Juggling APS sport and academic demands from Year 7 gave

him the tools to thrive in the pressure-cooker environment of an Ivy League rowing program.

"The school really taught me how to manage time and stay on top of competing priorities," he says. "It set me up for success, no question."

Charlie credits much of his rowing development to the people around him - coaches who shaped both his technique and mindset.

"Jeff Watt taught me how to row. Leigh Hall-Sullivan at Corio Bay took that foundation and pushed me to the next level - mentally and physically," he says. "That's where I learned how

much grit matters. Talent helps, but rowing rewards sheer determination."

Despite the intensity of his current life, Charlie reflects fondly on his school days - particularly the strong sense of community that's hard to replicate in a sprawling university.

"At College, you knew everyone. You'd walk into the House room in the morning and be greeted by name. That's pretty special," he says. "University has its own perks - freedom, independence - but I haven't found that same tight-knit vibe again, especially not the energy of House swimming day."





Academically, Charlie arrived in the US planning to study Engineering, but the flexibility of the American system has opened his mind to other paths.

"You don't have to lock in your major straight away, which is great," he says. "I'm still exploring options."

Whatever he studies, rowing - and sport in general - will remain part of his life. Whether it's staying fit, mentoring others, or one day coaching, Charlie knows he won't be walking away from the sport any time soon.

"It's hard to imagine life without rowing now. I've had great mentors through Corio Bay and elsewhere - I'd love to pay that forward eventually."

And his advice to current Geelong College students thinking about following a similar path?

"Be of courage," he says. "The US system has so much to offer,

especially if you want to push your sport to the next level while studying. It's not easy - you've got to work hard - but it's absolutely worth it. The opportunities, the people, the experiences - it's all been amazing. If you're willing to take the leap, you'll open doors you didn't even know existed."

From the Barwon River to the Charles, Charlie's story proves what's possible when talent, tenacity, and opportunity collide - and shows just how far a rowing start at The Geelong College can take you.





# OGC sports news

## ROWING

### The Albert Bell Club

STUART OLSEN (OGC 1993), ABC PRESIDENT

The 2024/25 rowing season kicked off strongly, with pre-season training in full swing by mid-Term 3.

There was a noticeable lift in numbers - especially among the Year 8 girls - and the boathouse was buzzing. The energy and enthusiasm established last season by Director of Rowing, Andrew Richardson, carried through seamlessly.

Throughout the season, results on the water showed great promise. The senior girls' crew performed strongly at Nationals, the Year 10 boys delivered impressive results, and many junior girls' crews tasted success at both Head of the Schoolgirls' and Head of the River.

In mid-March, we marked a milestone: the 50th Anniversary Albert Bell Club Dinner, held in the College Dining Hall on the Friday night of the Head of the Schoolgirls' Regatta weekend. We welcomed a great turnout from the '05' decade crews, including representatives from the 1985 1st IV, 1993 1st VIII, and 1965 1st VIII. Our guest speaker, Jean Mitchell, delivered an inspiring address - sharing her incredible story of Olympic success while overcoming cancer. The AGM was wrapped up quickly, with the re-election of the committee and the addition of Ted O'Malley as Secretary and Alex Robinson as a new committee member. Thanks to Jon Arrigo and Ally Fraser for their service. The night wrapped up with plenty of storytelling and nostalgia over past rowing glories.

The season concluded with the Boat Club's end-of-season presentation at GMHBA Stadium. The evening featured award presentations



between courses, alongside some truly entertaining (and occasionally hilarious) senior crew videos. The event drew a strong crowd of students, parents, and coaches. I had the honour of presenting all Year 12 rowers with their boxed Albert Bell Club pin, and Albert Bell medallions to the Head of the River winning crews. The night also provided an opportunity to share the background of the David M. Caithness Award and announce its sixth-year recipients. I also promoted the Colin Carstairs Bell Pathway Rowing Bursaries - applications for which open later in 2025.

#### Still on the Staging

Congratulations to ABC members Angus Widdicombe (OGC 1212) and Charlie Batrouney (OGC 1818), part of Victoria's winning King's Cup crew, and to Alex Williams (OGC 2023), who won gold in the Youth VIII at Nationals. Oscar Tyrell (OGC 2022) also brought home a silver and bronze in the Open Lightweight VIII and U23 Lightweight Pair, respectively. Four of our current 1st VIII girls earned a bronze in the Schoolgirls' Coxed Four - a fantastic result. It was a highly successful Nationals for both ABC and TGC rowers.

On the international stage, Charlie Rahdon (OGC 2022) rowed in the

victorious Harvard Lightweight VIII during the Triangular Regatta against Princeton and Yale - marking Harvard's first clean sweep in nearly a decade.

Several ABC members also competed at the Victorian Masters State Championships - another strong showing across the board.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Albert Bell Club this season - whether by attending events, volunteering, donating, or cheering on our crews. Your involvement makes a real difference, and we're grateful.



As always, we welcome your feedback. Stay in touch via Facebook at Albert Bell Club or email us at: [albertbellclub@tgc.vic.edu.au](mailto:albertbellclub@tgc.vic.edu.au)



## FOOTBALL, NETBALL & CRICKET

# Old Geelong Football Club (OGFC)

JON ANDERSON (OGC 1970)

For over 50 years, The Geelong College and Old Geelong Football Club have formed a mutually beneficial union, where young men and women can continue their footballing careers after school at the idyllic setting of Como Park.



On different occasions this year the senior men's team has fielded seven Old Collegians, made up of Jacob Jess and Harry "Spider" Graham (OGC 2013), Matt Bird and Jack Sheridan (OGC 2015), Sam "Razzle" Jess (OGC 2016), Jimmy Adams and Will Eggins (OGC 2023).

Ted O'Malley, Pat Poulter and Gus Sweeney (all OGC 2023) have been regular and valued team members of the twos and threes. Hopefully, Nick "Pies" Morwood (OGC 2014) will return during the season, while Katie-Rose Campbell (OGC 2015) and Tessa Longden (OGC 2020) continue to be integral members of a female program that grows in strength on the back of winning Premier B last year, the club's first-ever win at Premier level.

Matt Bird and Jack Sheridan will reach the 100-game mark at the Club during this season. Matt first arrived in 2018 and has been a regular senior player

since, his sublime skills being utilised mainly out of defence although he is a deadly set shot for goal when called upon.

"I fell in love with the place straight away and would defy anyone to nominate a better culture in the VAFA. Ask the young blokes like Jimmy Adams and Will Eggins how comfortable they were made to feel straight after coming from school in 2023," said Bird.

"In my years we have played four out of seven seasons in B Grade which has never happened before in the Club's history, so we are all proud of that although the obvious goal is to make A Grade for the first time."

A large focus of the OGS this season has been recruiting men and women from The Geelong College and Geelong Grammar School, something that has varied in success over the years.

Senior men's coach, Nick Dixon (GGS 2014), has put in countless hours trying to build bridges with the two schools and feels the dam walls are about to break for 2026. And that succession is required given a large core of our senior male players are in the 26-30 bracket.

The Geelong College was first officially incorporated in the Club's history when the Club's name was changed from Old Geelong Grammarians to Old Geelong in 1973 when a number of College boys in Melbourne found their way to Como rather than University Blues, which has utilised both Geelong schools as feeder outlets for 60 odd years.

**To express your interest in joining the Old Geelong Sporting Club in any capacity (playing, coaching, volunteering, becoming a member), please contact us at: [oldgeelongfc@gmail.com](mailto:oldgeelongfc@gmail.com)**

*Photos: Peter Lemon*



## FOOTBALL & NETBALL

# The Ammos Club

GEOFF WILLIAMS (OGC 1987), AMMOS LIFE MEMBER & SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Another local football/netball season closes with record player numbers and huge on and off-field success for the Geelong Amateur Football Club (AMMOS).

As the Geelong Amateur Football and Netball Club powers into season 2025, there's a sense of momentum that's hard to ignore. With 1,100 playing members across football and netball, the Ammos are thriving – and The Geelong College connection remains a vital thread in the Club's fabric.

On the footy field, the senior men have come out of the blocks firing, winning their first five games under the leadership of new playing coach and former AFL player Sam Lloyd. With a list that includes a number of Old Collegians, the team is shaping up as a serious contender for finals.

Best and Fairest winner in 2016, 2017 and 2024, and member of the Ammos team of the decade, Blake Sutterby (OGC 2014) has seen both sides of the Ammos story – junior and senior. "Ammos has always felt like a second home," he says. "From the players to coaches to volunteers, it's just a great Club to play at." After stints in the GFL, Sutterby has returned, pushing towards 100 games. "To see

so many familiar faces after returning shows how special this place is."

On the women's side, the WAMMOS are flying solo this year, fielding one senior team playing both Saturday and night matches. The under-16 girls are in expert hands, coached by Club legends and past Best & Fairest winners Justin Andrews (OGC 1990) and Haami Williams (OGC 1990).

Junior football remains a powerhouse, with 17 boys' teams and four girls' teams, featuring a strong cohort of current TGC students – around 50 in total. The junior pipeline is thriving and ensures the Ammos will be competitive for years to come.

Netball is booming too. With 31 teams – 19 midweek and 12 on Saturdays – plus around 50 Net Set Go teams and Mini Pegasus sides for 7–8-year-olds, the Club's courts are buzzing. Standout players include Louise Shaw (Year 12) and Zoey Shaw (OGC 2024) in A Grade, with Sophie Muhor (OGC

2024) starring in B Grade. Both teams remain undefeated – no small feat.

The Club's centenary celebrations are looming in 2026, with a commemorative book currently in the works, and the Club is seeking memorabilia or records from yesteryear to include. There are two significant moments in a Club's life – the first and the hundredth year. Few see both, but it's something worth celebrating!

With strong ties to The Geelong College since its inception, Ammos continues to embody community spirit, tradition, and a fierce love of the game. Finals are firmly on the radar – and with this kind of depth and drive, the future looks very bright indeed.

Go Ammos!

**For more info or to get involved, email:**

**[info@geelongamateur.com.au](mailto:info@geelongamateur.com.au)**

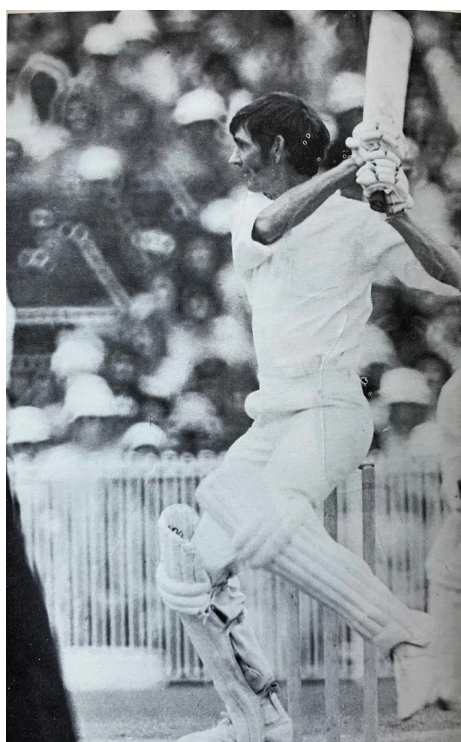






# Ian Redpath remembered (1941-2024)

EMMA CHANDLER, PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR



For generations of Australians, Ian Redpath (OGC 1954) embodied the dogged, unflappable cricketer - a man who made fast bowlers toil and who, with bat in hand, became a symbol of stoicism and selflessness. But long before the baggy green, before he faced down England and the West Indies, and long before a scoreboard would bear his name, Ian Redpath was a Geelong College boy.

## College Days

Ian Ritchie Redpath (OGC 1954) joined the College in 1953. Even then, his classmates and teachers recognised a rare talent.

He quickly distinguished himself as a gifted sportsman - equally adept on the cricket pitch, football field, athletics track, and tennis court. By 1956, he was part of the 1st XI

cricket team, a position he held for three years. In his final year, he was awarded the W.H. Hill Memorial Prize for outstanding all-round ability - the College's highest sporting honour.

The June 1958 Pegasus Coaches' Report captured his influence:

"I. R. Redpath was elected captain... Redpath showed he had a keen



cricket brain and captained the team very well. In addition, he scored two very fine centuries and was second in the Public School averages."

Redpath's own Captain's Report in Pegasus, June 1958, offers insight into his leadership and values:

"We found that the way to get the most enjoyment out of the cricket season, both on and off the field, is to get plenty of team spirit, practise and train hard then go out in the matches determined to win, no matter how big the reputation of the opposing side."

Under his captaincy, the 1st XI recorded wins over Geelong Grammar and Melbourne Grammar - only the third time the College had defeated the latter. They also held Xavier to a draw and gave eventual premiers Scotch College a scare, having them 7 for 76 chasing 148.

His batting anchored the team. In one match, he was unbeaten on 112 when the innings closed, praised for his "wide variety of strokes." In another, he and Lawler batted for 109 minutes in a 97-run stand, Redpath finishing on 50 not out - "a very courageous innings which was holding the team together."

The team thrived on camaraderie and strong fielding. "Few catches were grassed," Redpath noted. "And Lawler took many fine catches in close." His emphasis on team culture and discipline would stay with him throughout his career.

In 1958, a match between the Old Boys and 1st XI saw Redpath face cricketering great Lindsay Hassett (OGC 1925), who had retired from Test cricket just four years earlier.

Teammate Ian Scott (OGC 1953) later recalled:

"The Pegasus report shows the scorecard, with the entry 'Hassett c. Redpath b. Scott 40' - a moment involving two Collegians: one a Test legend, the other a teenager destined to become one."

A generational passing of the torch - captured in a single, remarkable delivery.

### Life after College

Redpath's entry into first-class cricket came by chance. As he told The Age, a South Melbourne committee man invited him to train after seeing him make a half-century for The Geelong College. "If he'd seen me in the previous three games,

when I didn't get to 20, I wouldn't have been invited."

After time in the second and third elevens - "batting like I had diver's boots on," he quipped - he worked his way into the firsts and then the Victoria side.

In his tenth first-class match, he scored 261 against Queensland, leading to his Test debut against South Africa on New Year's Day 1964 at the MCG. He scored 97 and shared a 219-run opening stand with Bill Lawry.

He went on to play 66 Tests, scoring 4,737 runs at 43.45, with eight centuries. His 159 not out (carrying his bat) against New Zealand in 1974 and 171 against England in Perth remain legendary. He was vice-captain during the 1974-75 Ashes and the 1975-76 West Indies series.

Redpath began his Test career as an amateur - refusing match payments to maintain amateur footballer status - only turning professional on the 1964 Ashes tour. His grit and humility earned widespread respect.

He famously shielded a young Greg Chappell from a vicious spell by John Snow in 1970 - facing nearly all deliveries himself. Chappell later called him "one of the hardest men in Australia to get out."

Redpath retired from Test cricket in 1976 at the height of his powers, returning to Geelong to focus on family and his antiques business, which he built with wife Christine into a beloved community fixture. He later joined World Series Cricket, offering steady hands and experience despite injury setbacks.

He coached the Victorian state side and became the inaugural coach of Geelong Cricket Club's Premier Cricket team - always prioritising local talent and laying foundations still felt today.

Appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1975 for services to cricket, he was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2023.

In November 2024, despite declining health, Ian attended the unveiling of the Ian Redpath Scoreboard at Kardinia Park - a moment of pride and gratitude among teammates and admirers.

### A Collegian, always

Ian remained a Collegian to the end. He returned for reunions, told stories with trademark wit, and stayed deeply

connected to the school he credited with shaping him.

His legacy lives not only in cricketering records, but in the lives he touched - on the pitch, in his workshop, or with a quiet word of encouragement.

Ian Redpath was a Collegian in the truest sense: thoughtful, grounded, principled, and generous.

We remember him not with solemnity, but with admiration - for the games he played, the values he upheld, and the way he carried himself, from the ovals of The Geelong College to the world stage and back again.







# Fifty years of spirit:

## Celebrating Coles and Wettenhall Houses

CAROLINE STOK, ARCHIVIST

This year, we celebrate 50 years of Coles and Wettenhall Houses, honouring their legacy of community, leadership, and spirited competition. From their foundation in 1975 to today, these Houses continue to shape the lives of The Geelong College students.

When Coles and Wettenhall Houses were established in 1975, the College was undergoing major change - coeducation had just begun, and the House system was being reshaped. Now, 50 years on, their legacy lives on in the students who lead them today.

Peter Emmett (OGC 1972) was excited to be chosen as the first House Captain of Wettenhall in 1975, a year marked by significant change. One of the biggest challenges was the integration of boarders and

day students within the new House system. "At the start of the year, the boarders didn't want the change, and day students probably felt removed from the team. However, as the year progressed, we all enjoyed the success achieved by the House."

Don Cooper (OGC 1973) also reflects on 1975 as a time of transition, having been honoured to serve as the inaugural Captain of Coles. "It was an interesting time. The boarding houses appeared to have more team

spirit than the day houses, probably because we spent more time together, and there was fierce competition between the boarding houses (Mackie and Warrinn)."

Don persevered through the early challenges by leading through action - throwing himself into House sports and encouraging others to get involved and give it a go.

The benefits of the House system were clear to Don: "It allowed you to form





stronger bonds with a smaller group.” This idea is shared by the 2025 House Co-Captains: Zara Paul and George Cerni (Coles House), and Java Lucas and Lucas Gray (Wettenhall).

“The most important thing that the House system brings is community; in a smaller environment, students build connections between all year levels,” writes Zara.

“For the younger students or new students, it is great to have role models in older years that they are connected to, showing them the way and helping,” Lucas reflects.

“It provides a place to go when needed, a space for deeper friendships to form, to study, and relax. Having the House system aids in every aspect of school life,” Java writes.

In addition to the community and support elements of the House system, the inter-House competitions continue.

Stemming from their namesake, Coles House members are ‘knighted’ into the House, and no matter where the House places, George says they are “positive and proud that we gave it our best effort.”

On the other side of Helicon Place, in the Wettenhall House room, Lucas likes to think of his House as a quiet achiever. “We are a little bit away from the other Houses, and we go unnoticed a lot of the time, but we are one of the most connected houses.

They get behind everyone having a go.”

And when it comes to the Cronk standings, with strong participation, Zara “hopes that this will put us in a great position to finish top 5 overall.”

While competition remains part of House life, the Co-Captains aim to build a community where everyone feels welcome, valued, and safe.

Leading their House comes with responsibility, and it’s a role George does not want to take for granted. “You want to represent your house with empathy, courage, and leadership.”

Java says the idea of becoming a House Co-Captain grew from simply stepping up and supporting others: “I started to think of it as an opportunity to improve my leadership skills that I could utilise outside of school and after my schooling journey.”

Peter’s reflections on his time as House Captain in 1975 echo this sense of ambition for the role: “I was very new to leadership at the time, yet I think the guidance given by my House Master over that year helped me grow in my roles later in life.”

Fifty years on, Coles and Wettenhall Houses still embody the values of connection, growth, and spirited leadership. Much has changed since 1975, but the heart of the House system remains - strong, supportive, and deeply woven into College life.

### What legacy do you hope to leave as a House Co-Captain?

**George:** “I would like people to remember me as a kind, inclusive and respectful Co-Captain who made sure everyone had time for fun.”

**Zara:** “I hope all members of Coles remember it as a fun year where they felt respected and valued.”

**Java:** “I really wanted to focus on being an approachable leader. Not someone who led from the front but rather gave support from the back”

**Lucas:** “I want to be the spark that starts the culture that makes everyone feel welcomed and supported, who caused positive change, no matter how small.”

### Where are they now?

**Don:** is now retired and spends his time doing up trailers, ride on mowers and rowing machines. “Prior to retirement I coached rowing crews, gaining numerous state titles. I have a lot of fond memories of my years at the College, especially the boarding years and rowing.”

**Peter:** is currently running the family business that retails farm machinery.

“I think back with fondness for the experiences I had at College, from boarding, camping and cadets to the friendships made and care of the staff. I couldn’t recommend the experience more. You never stop learning.”



1. Coles Captains, John Watson Liza Richardson, with the 1978 House Cup;
2. Coles House, 1999; 3. Coles’ first Captain, Don Cooper, 1975; 4. Zara Paul & George Cerni, 2025 Coles Captains; 5. Lucas Gray & Java Lucas, 2025 Wettenhall Captains; 6. Wettenhall competing at Tug-O-War, 1995; 7. Wettenhall, 1995; 8. Wettenhall, 2007; 9. Wettenhall’s first Captain, Peter Emmett, 1975.

To find out more about the history of the Houses, visit: [bit.ly/SShouses](http://bit.ly/SShouses)







# A Perfect Day on the Green 2025 College Golf Day

SALLY SADLER, ADVANCEMENT COORDINATOR

Our annual Golf Day took place on Friday 2 May at the stunning Curlewis Golf Club, bringing together members from across our College community for a brilliant day of sport and camaraderie.

Blessed with glorious sunshine, 52 enthusiastic golfers teed off bright and early to complete 18 holes before enjoying a well-earned lunch at the beautiful Claribeaux Restaurant.

It was a day of friendly competition and great company. Congratulations to Sue Swan, crowned our Individual Women's Champion with an impressive 34 stableford points. The Men's Individual title went to Dean

Roderick, who secured his win on countback with a strong 38 points. Well done also to our raffle winner, Janine Langvelt, who took home a fantastic prize – a round of golf for four, including two carts, at Curlewis Golf Club.

The Geelong College Foundation is proud to support this much-loved event each year and delighted that, thanks to the generous support of

all involved, we raised \$2,400 for the Pegasus Scholarships, which champion co-curricular excellence.

A sincere thank you to Lyndsay Sharp (OGC 1979) and the entire Curlewis Golf Club team for their warm hospitality and seamless event support. It was a fabulous day, and we're already looking forward to another outstanding Golf Day in 2026.



Save  
the  
Date

**We would love to see you play in  
The Geelong College Golf Day**

Friday 1 May 2026

To register your interest in playing or for further information, please email Sally Sadler at [sally.sadler@tgc.vic.edu.au](mailto:sally.sadler@tgc.vic.edu.au)







# Australia Day

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING & ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

## Professor David Runia AM (OGC 1965)

Professor David Runia has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2025 Australia Day Honours. This prestigious recognition acknowledges his significant service to tertiary education and his contributions as an academic in the humanities and social sciences.

Born in the Netherlands, David moved to Geelong at the age of five. He attended The Geelong College, where his passion for classical languages was sparked by his Latin teacher, Michael Keary. Reflecting on his education, he said, "My love of the ancient world was inspired by my teachers at Geelong College." This early interest led to a distinguished academic career spanning both Australia and the Netherlands, including ten years at Leiden University, where he held the Chair of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.

In 2002, he returned to Australia to serve as Master of Queen's College at the University of Melbourne, a role he held until 2016. "I very much enjoyed working [at Queen's College] too, because very often you're working with really talented young people who do need a bit of guidance at 18, 19 years old," he shared. His leadership and mentorship left a lasting impact - not only raising academic standards but also fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity and respect for scholarship. In recognition of the contribution he and his wife Gonni made to College life, the graduate building was recently renamed in their honour.

He later served as Director of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry at the Australian Catholic University from 2017 to 2018, and he continues as an Honorary Professor there.

Professor Runia's scholarly work explores the interaction between Greek philosophy and Jewish-Christian thought, particularly the writings of Philo of Alexandria. His academic contributions have been recognised by his election as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Beyond academia, Professor Runia has generously given his time to causes such as the Australian Friends of Vellore, where he holds roles

including National Secretary and President of the Victorian branch.

Ever modest, he noted that it would have been "really nice" if the AM could have been jointly awarded to his wife, Gonni, as well.

David was inducted into the OGCA Gallery of Notable Old Collegians in 2016.





# honours

## Dr David Hooke OAM (OGC 1964)

Dr David Hooke was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2021 Australia Day Honours. This recognition acknowledges his significant service to medicine, particularly in nephrology and aviation medicine.

For Dr David Hooke, the threads of medicine, aviation and service have been woven through a career spanning more than four decades.

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2021 for his work in nephrology and aviation medicine, Dr Hooke said the recognition was unexpected. "When you retire, you assume you've faded into the background. I was absolutely chuffed."

David's journey began on the family farm at Beaufort. He was the first of four brothers to attend The Geelong College, boarding from 1963 to 1967. He was an active student - cadets, student committees, cox of the First VIII - and credits boarding with giving him independence, resilience and a deep appreciation for the opportunities that followed. "Between us, we racked up 32 years of boarding school," he said. "It was an incredible investment by Mum and Dad. I'm very grateful."

Medicine came later, after being inspired by the local GP in Beaufort. David eventually specialised in nephrology, drawn to the complexity of the field and the strong patient relationships it offered. His long medical career included senior roles at Monash Health, Cabrini, and Caulfield General, as well as decades of work in intensive care. "It was high pressure, but immensely rewarding," he said. "You get to help people at their most vulnerable. It's a privilege."

Flying entered the picture early on - and gave him a way to reach country patients. "I learnt to fly so I could provide medical services in rural

areas," he said. For nearly 30 years, he flew himself to Bairnsdale each month, offering specialist consultations and saving locals the long haul to Melbourne. "It was a win-win. I got to fly, and they got to stay local."

That combination of medicine and aviation also shaped his military service. As part of the Royal Australian Air Force Specialist Reserve from 1986 to 2015, Dr Hooke was deployed to East Timor and Iraq, working in military hospitals under tough conditions. "It

took me well out of my comfort zone - but I do like a challenge."

Now retired at Buln Buln East, David and his wife Jenny are enjoying their garden, truffle patch, and aircraft hangar at nearby Drouin South. With three children and seven grandchildren, he says life has been full. "I've been lucky - great family, meaningful work, and a chance to give back. You can't ask for much more."

*With thanks to the Warragul and Drouin Gazette*







# Lighting the Way

## Hannah Brown receives the 2025 Morongo Award

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING & ADVANCEMENT MANAGER

The 2025 Morongo Award has been presented to Year 12 student Hannah Brown, who embodies both the spirit of academic excellence and the enduring legacy of Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College.

For Hannah, the award is more than just recognition - it's personal. "The Morongo Award means keeping alive my connection to my uncle and godfather's mother, Frances Ashburner (née Lowson)," she says. Frances was a proud Morongo alumna, dux of the College in 1952, senior prefect, and Lucernian editress. She was also a keen cricketer - no small feat at a time when female participation in the sport was rare. Frances pursued her passion for science with equal enthusiasm, taking classes at The Geelong College when they weren't available to her at Morongo.

"Morongo offered opportunities that empowered young women to break new ground," Hannah reflects. "As a female today, I feel no barrier to

entering any field I'm passionate about." That confidence and clarity of purpose echoes Morongo's motto: Sint Lucernae Ardentis - Let your lamps be burning. It's a message that Hannah has taken to heart throughout her time at The Geelong College.

"The College has given me so many opportunities to follow my passions and has fostered a lifelong love of learning," she says. While Hannah has thrived academically, it's the experiences beyond the classroom that have left the biggest impression.

She speaks fondly of the Year 8 Cape Otway Camp, where she was nudged outside her comfort zone and gained confidence in new surroundings. In Year 10, she participated in the Fulfilling Lives program, travelling to Lizard Island to learn about and contribute to conservation efforts on the Great Barrier Reef. "It was eye-opening," she says. "It really shaped how I think about the world and our responsibility to it."

True to her adventurous spirit and love of learning, Hannah is gearing up for a French immersion trip this July with fellow students from Years 10 to 12. "I'm so excited to experience the culture and language first-hand," she says. It's a perfect capstone to her years at the College - years defined by growth, opportunity and meaningful connections.

Looking ahead, Hannah plans to take a gap year in the UK in 2026, working as a boarding assistant in a British school. "I want to try something new, step into a different culture, and gain life experience before university," she says. After that, she's aiming to study science at Melbourne University, specialising in health science - a path that would follow in Frances Ashburner's footsteps, who studied microbiology there decades ago.

"I hope Frances, who I met regularly at family get-togethers as a young child, would be proud of me," she says.



ay

There's no doubt she would be. In recognising Hannah with the Morongo Award, the College not only honours a student with exceptional promise but also continues the legacy of women like Frances - trailblazers who used their education to challenge norms and pursue knowledge fearlessly.

As Hannah prepares to take her next steps, she does so with her own lamp brightly burning, ready to light new paths - just as Morongo always intended.

SAVE THE DATE

## Morongo Old Collegians' Garden Party

Catch up with your Morongo  
Friends at the College

**Saturday 25 October 2025**







# OGCA President's Report

KYLIE MACKEY (OGC 1993), OGCA PRESIDENT

*This Ad Astra, I reflect on the remarkable decade of service of College Principal, Dr Peter Miller.*

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I look back on Peter's time at the College – a period filled with challenge, growth, and extraordinary moments. Leading the College during COVID, instilling a culture of courage with empathy, enabling the expansions of facilities at both the Junior and Senior School campuses as well as leading the Reach Out Program are but a few of his achievements.

An active supporter of the Old Geelong Collegians' Association, Peter connected with our alumni, attending numerous reunions and events, instilling in many his belief in the transformative power of education. He championed our approach to historical harm and will be remembered for creating practical and empathetic responses for harmed alumni survivors and their families.

Under Peter's tenure, the College has become a place where tradition meets innovation, where the pursuit of excellence is matched by a strong sense of community, and where every student is encouraged to discover their purpose and potential.

I have been inspired by Peter's dedication to the OGCA, to his staff, College families and most importantly, his dedication to what he states are the College's greatest asset, its students.

Recognition must also be extended to Peter's wife, Naomi Miller, for her ongoing support and contribution to the OGCA. Naomi has been an advocate; participating on our 2022 sub-committee for the Gallery of Notable Old Collegians and attending events.

Peter will leave the College in a stronger place, ready for the future. His mark on the College is undeniable.

For me personally, I say thank you for your leadership and support. I'm grateful to have been part of your College story. Your time will be woven into College history and I look forward to seeing your portrait hanging in the Dining Hall soon. On behalf of the Old Geelong Collegians Association, thank you!

Aligning with our purpose, I share the following in-brief updates from our Committee:

- We welcomed Emily Hultgren (OGC 2010) and Michael Johnston (OGC 1999) to our Committee this year. We are also actively seeking a recent school leaver to join us representing our Youth Portfolio.



- We have been thrilled to host a number of reunion events. These have included the Leavers' Function (2024 leavers), the 10 Year Reunion for the Class of 2015 and the 40 Year Reunion for the Class of 1985. All were well attended.
- We played an active role at Derby Day.
- We again provided support to our alumni via our partnerships with the Old Geelong Football Club in Melbourne, the Geelong Amateur Football and Netball Club and the Albert Bell Club.
- We support the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood team, encouraging our alumni to donate blood.
- We continue to support survivors of historical harm via the Reach Out Program.

#### Notables Gallery

The next induction into our Gallery of Notable Old Collegians will take place in September. Launched in 2011, the Gallery celebrates notable alumni whose achievements embody the

spirit of the College motto - Sic Itur Ad Astra - Reach for the Stars.

#### Gather Round 2026

Following our successful inaugural events at Gather Round in Adelaide in April, we are pleased to announce we will be hosting another reunion to coincide with Gather Round 2026. Scan the QR Code below to register your interest in joining us.

#### Join TGC Connect

Have you registered on our alumni channel [www.tgconnect.com](http://www.tgconnect.com) ? It provides an excellent way to 'connect' with fellow Collegians.

Download the Graduway Community app from the App Store and select 'Geelong College' to have one-tap access to our College social media platform on your phone or device. Over 3,700 alumni have already registered.

#### Need support?

Please get in touch if you need support. As a Committee, supported by the Reach Out Committee, we are committed to assisting all Old Collegians.

## OGCA Committee:

#### President

Kylie Mackey (OGC 1993)

#### 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) and Morongo representative, Ann McAllister (MOC).

#### Community Relations team:

Chelsea Matheson and Niki Nurnaitis.

## 2025 OGCA Event Calendar

- **Sic Itur Luncheon**  
Saturday 21 June
- **5 Year Reunion (2020 year group)**  
Saturday 26 July
- **30 Year Reunion (1995 year group)**  
Friday 29 August
- **Notables Gallery Induction**  
Saturday 13 September
- **20 Year Reunion (2005 year group)**  
Friday 7 November

# Gather Round Reunion 2026



We invite you to register your interest to join us in Adelaide for our Gather Round reunion in April 2026.

Further information, including the exact date and venue, will be provided following the release of the 2026 AFL season schedule.



Visit [bit.ly/3ZMJajX](https://bit.ly/3ZMJajX) or scan the QR code to register your interest and receive updates.







## Nathaniel Fotinas (OGC 2024)

A shout-out to recent Geelong College graduate Nathaniel and his mum and dad, Katrina and Frank, Managers of Bimbi Park, for their incredible efforts during the January bushfire evacuation.

The swift response from the Fotinas family, who have managed Bimbi Park for 20 years, ensured the safety of all campers. As highlighted in the Geelong Advertiser, their actions were "praised by guests" for their calm and professionalism.



## Ed Curnow (OGC 2007)

In true Curnow family tradition, retired Carlton AFL star Ed Curnow recently took on the iconic Pier to Pub ocean swim - just a day after tackling the Mountain to Surf fun run.

As highlighted in a recent Geelong Advertiser article, Ed shared, "I think what is special about the day is you have generations of families coming to enjoy it and it brings a whole community together."

Well done to Ed and all members of our College community who took part in this year's events!



## Lucy Simms (OGC 2002)

Point Lonsdale artist Lucy Simms recently showcased her stunning coastal-inspired artwork and homewares at a special exhibition supporting Queenscliff-based children's charity, Cottage by the Sea.

As featured in the Geelong Advertiser, the event was part of Cottage by the Sea's 135th anniversary celebrations, held during their annual fair on Flinders Street in Queenscliff.



## Nick Wightman (OGC 2002)

Like father, like son! Jack Wightman has followed in his dad Nick Wightman's legendary footsteps, winning the Ripper Nipper under-sevens race at Rip to River in his first-ever competitive event.

Featured in the Geelong Advertiser, it seems the Wightman legacy lives on - Nick is a Rip to River icon with eight wins to his name, and, funnily enough, he also won his very first fun run as a child.

What a fantastic father-son moment from within our College community!

## Rebecca Maddern (OGC 1995)

Congratulations to Rebecca, who has officially stepped into an expanded role with Seven this year. Taking over from Tim Watson, who retired after more than 30 years on air, Rebecca now leads as 7NEWS Melbourne's Chief Sports Presenter, delivering the nightly sport alongside Peter Mitchell and Jane Bunn at 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

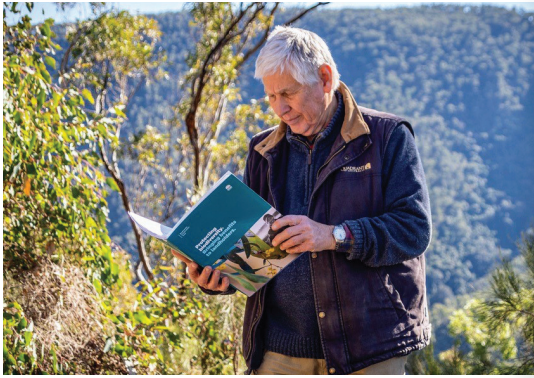
As part of Seven's 2025 AFL programming across 7 and 7plus, Rebecca is playing a key role in the network's AFL coverage and contributing to major sporting events and projects with the 7SPORT team. We wish Rebecca continued success in this exciting new chapter of her career!



See what 7NEWS had to say here: [bit.ly/4mEgIsK](https://bit.ly/4mEgIsK)







## Lancelot (Peter) Lloyd (OGC 1966)

At 76, Peter Lloyd has earned a PhD in Law from the University of New England, focusing on 'Experiential Learning Programs for Universities.' He has been designing international programs for UNE since 2014, helping students gain real-world experience.

Peter is also the Managing Director of the Wilderness Company of Australia, which manages 2,000 hectares of land adjacent to Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. The company recently received a perpetual conservation tender from the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust to develop land for koala conservation, a key part of the state's commitment to private land conservation.

Peter also serves on the NSW National Parks Advisory Committee for the Northern region.

Read more about  
Peter's work in  
koala conservation:  
[bit.ly/3SDYKmX](https://bit.ly/3SDYKmX)



## Rod Evans (OGC 1971)

A big shout out to Rod, who completed a re-ride of his epic 700km schoolboy cycling journey from Adelaide to Geelong - 50 years after he first did it.

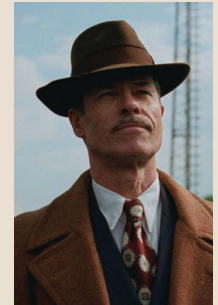
The original ride, tackled during an Easter break while Rod was a student at The Geelong College, was part of a self-set training program and the beginning of a life-long passion for endurance cycling. His story is one of inspiration, resilience and a very long road (quite literally!).



## Guy Pearce (OGC 1985)

Congratulations to Guy on his first Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his role in The Brutalist. Although he did not take home the Oscar, the nomination is a significant milestone in his distinguished career.

Guy's nomination is a testament to his enduring talent and dedication to his craft, inspiring our students and the wider Geelong community.



## Will Snell (OGC 2021)

Will has been driving for a local livestock company for the past few years. Recently, his boss handed him a new truck with his name on it. Soon after, that very truck took home the top prize at the Colac Truck Show.



## NSW State Rowing Championships

The NSW State Rowing Championships took place earlier this year, and we were proud to cheer on our Albert Bell Club (ABC) members as they took to the water, representing our College community with strength and determination.

Competing were:

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| – Xavier Hall-Sullivan (OGC 2019) | – Ted O'Malley (OGC 2023) |
| – Oscar Tyrrell (OGC 2022)        | – Oliver Rahdon           |
| – Alex Williams (OGC 2023)        | (Current Year 11 student) |

Congratulations to all involved on a fantastic effort!





## Jack Henderson (OGC 2017)

Former TGC boarder and celebrated Werribee premiership star, Jack Henderson is now showcasing his talent on the AFL field having been drafted to Melbourne this year. His impressive transition to the big league is a true testament to his hard work and dedication. Jack made a solid start to his football career, kicking his first AFL goal in the team's first game of the season.



Watch the moment here:  
[bit.ly/4mGFec](https://bit.ly/4mGFec)

## "Busking in Pompeii"

Back in February, College-born band Busking in Pompeii - featuring four of our newest Old Geelong Collegians: Maddy Shirlow, Leila Squires, Zali Cross and Hope Costa (OGC 2024) - took to the stage at The Barwon Club for an intimate unplugged, acoustic set.

The evening featured fresh covers, unique spins on their original tracks, and two special guest openers, making for a memorable night of live music.

A fantastic showing of College spirit and community support for this talented indie-rock band - well done to all involved!



## Angus Boyd (OGC 2016) and Eamonn Vines (OGC 2011)

We're incredibly proud to see two Old Geelong Collegians, Angus Boyd (OGC 2016) and Eamonn Vines (OGC 2011), named among the top 10 batsmen of the past decade for Geelong Cricket Club!



## Alex Williams (OGC 2023)

Huge congratulations to the Victorian Youth Eight Crew, featuring Alex Williams (OGC 2023), on their Noel Wilkinson Cup victory at the Australian Rowing Championships!

A special shout-out to Angus Widdicombe (OGC 2012) and Charlie Batrouney (OGC 2018) for their incredible win as the Kings Cup Champions, too.

Seeing three Old Collegians compete at this level and represent Victoria with such skill and determination is truly inspiring. We couldn't be more proud!

Photo Credit:  
Ted O'Malley



## Amy You (OGC 2016)

With 10,000 in attendance at the Hans Zimmer Live concert at Rod Laver Arena earlier this year, legendary composer Hans Zimmer introduced his key musicians - and among them was Old Collegian Amy You.

As one of only two Melbourne musicians in the global production, Amy received a glowing endorsement from Zimmer himself and took centre stage alongside renowned artist Lisa Gerrard, famed for her vocals in *Gladiator*.

An extraordinary achievement and a shining example of where courage, talent and dedication can lead!





## 1975 Rowing Reunion

A special luncheon was held on Sunday 23 March, at Fishermen's Pier in Geelong, bringing together members of the 1975 Geelong College and Geelong Grammar rowing crews. Organised by Paul McGann, coxswain of the 1975 GGS VIII, the gathering included crew members, coaches, partners, and a few honorary guests.

Among those in attendance were representatives from the College's 1st and 2nd VIII crews, as well as Jeff Lawrence from the 1975 Wesley 1st VIII. The event was a wonderful opportunity to share memories, reflect on past races, and celebrate enduring friendships nearly 50 years on.

**Pictured (left to right):** John Davis (GGS), Brad Fenner (TGC), Don Cooper (TGC), Malcolm Robertson (TGC), Simon Gillett (TGC), David Ramage (TGC coach), Judy Ramage, Paul McGann (GGS), Jack Steel (TGC), Andrew Steel (TGC), Bruce Bales (GGS), various partners, Frank Covill (GGS

coach), Scott Sloane (TGC), Andrew Morrison (TGC), and Rod Edwards (GGS).

The photograph was taken by Andrew Cassidy (TGC). The only absent College crew members were Guy Fairnie (deceased) and Neil Myers.



## Reunion of the Class of 1965

The Class of 1965 recently reunited for a relaxed and memorable gathering at the Torquay home of Doc Hughes. It was a chance to reconnect, reminisce, and share stories from school days and beyond.

**Pictured (standing, left to right):** Crichton Collins, Tim Dennis, Tom Dennis, Geoff McAdam, David Runia, Andrew Lyon, Leigh Bennett.

**Seated back row:** Michael Betts, Andrew Simson.

**Front row:** Graeme Chisholm, Rob Jeremiah, Andrew Urquhart, and Graeme Harding.



## Dr Annabelle Workman (OGC 2003)

Annabelle, a social scientist and researcher, came back to speak to our Year 12s on the urgent and interconnected issues of climate change, public health, and global justice.



Drawing on recent research from islands in the Pacific affected by rising sea levels, she gave students a powerful, real-world insight into the human cost of climate change.

Perhaps most importantly, she equipped our students with practical strategies to be curious and engage with these challenges and be part of the solution.

## Arthur Ng (OGC 2017)

Arthur has recently been awarded with the WSET Diploma in Wines, the highest achievement from the Wine & Spirit Education Trust, a global authority in wine education.

He also won the Sogrape academy prize.

While his academic focus is on PhD research on improving the success rate of geothermal exploration at RWTH Aachen University in Germany, Arthur is also pursuing his passion for wine. He is the Co-Founder of Vinum Euris, a venture that reflects his growing expertise in the world of wine and his commitment to sustainability.





## Ben Robinson (OGC 2015) and Sarah Smith (OGC 2015)

Ben Robinson (OGC 2015) and Sarah Smith (OGC 2015) were married on 13 February at The Peak in Lorne, surrounded by family, friends, and many familiar faces from their Geelong College days.

The couple first met when Ben joined the College in Year 9, but it wasn't until the end of Year 12 that their relationship officially began - marking a decade together at the time of their wedding.

The bridal party featured several Old Collegians. The bridesmaids, all from

the Class of 2015, were Lilli Moran, Riley Van Ingen, and Rose Jennett. The groomsmen included Oscar Robinson (OGC 2011), Alistair Artz (OGC 2021), and Luke Bell (OGC 2015).

A large number of fellow Old Collegians and former boarders attended, with guests travelling from near and far - including Adrian Yip (OGC 2015), who flew in from Hong Kong. Josh Skuza (OGC 2015) also contributed to the celebration, performing live music before joining the festivities as a guest.



## Lieutenant Colonel Richard Bremner (OGC 1999)

Richard has recently assumed command of the Australian Army 5th Aviation Regiment, based at RAAF BASE Townsville.

He brings extensive experience in both operational leadership and aviation safety oversight. In his new role, Bremner will oversee the regiment's ongoing missions and its transition to new capabilities, including the integration of AH-64E Apache helicopters.

Richard said: "It's an honour and a privilege to be leading such an amazing team with such an outstanding history of service and support across the nation and abroad. Really honoured to be here and really excited for the future."

Watch Richard's swearing in:  
[bit.ly/43vbgHH](https://bit.ly/43vbgHH)



## Deb Hynes (OGC 1982)

Deb Hynes (OGC 1982) was gifted a surprise by colleagues - tickets to see former student Rob Tripolino (OGC 2008) star as Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar at Crown Perth.

Rob has earned acclaim both in Australia and the UK, with standout roles including Marius in Les Misérables, Roger in Rent, Omar in Aladdin, and Jamie in The Last Five Years.



## Keith Fagg OAM (OGC 1969)

Keith joined the Board of the Geelong Community Foundation in February 2025. He brings extensive experience as a company adviser, director, and mediator.

The Geelong Community Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing the well-being of residents in the Greater Geelong region. Established in 2001, the Foundation operates by building a permanent capital base through donations from individuals, families, businesses, and organisations. Keith regards the work of Geelong Community Foundation as a significant contributor in underpinning and encouraging community support services in Geelong.







## Her Honour Justice Michelle Quigley (OGC 1973)

Her Honour Justice Michelle Quigley (OGC 1973) of the Supreme Court of Victoria and President of VCAT, along with the Geelong Law Association, hosted the Geelong Opening of the Legal Year at the Deakin University Waterfront Campus on 20 February this year.

She welcomed leaders from the legal, academic and broader community, and acknowledged the importance of access to justice in regional areas. In her address, she highlighted the evolving role of the courts, including local initiatives like the Koori Court and family violence program, which aim to better reflect and serve the needs of the local community.

## Sara Howley (OGC 2024)

Congratulations to Sara, who was drafted at Pick 4 in the AFLW National Draft by the GWS Giants.

Director of Football Coaching, Nathan Brown, shared: "I'm incredibly stoked for Sara and her family. Her selection is a fitting reward for years of commitment, passion, and self-growth. Sara's talent is undoubted, but her ability to handle expectation with calmness and a sense of vision, balancing her sporting, academic, and family life, sets her apart as an outstanding role model."



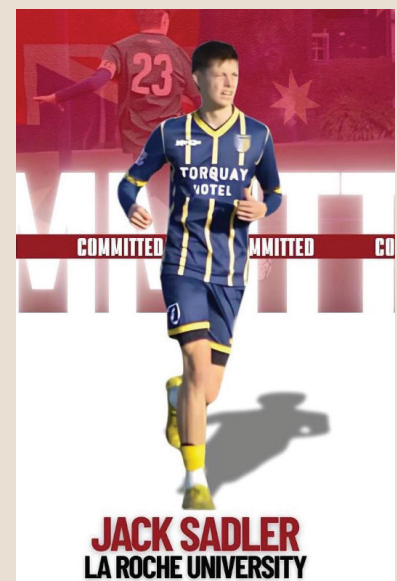
## Jack Sadler (OGC 2024)

Congratulations to Jack Sadler (OGC 2024), who has committed to playing men's soccer at La Roche University in Pennsylvania, USA.

Jack has been playing senior men's club football as the youngest member of his team, gaining valuable experience on both flanks of the pitch. His commitment, drive, and on-field maturity made him a standout recruit.

Jack worked with Study and Play USA to secure the opportunity and has attracted attention since joining FieldLevel in late 2024 - with 35 search appearances, 17 profile views, and 8 video views from college coaches.

We look forward to seeing his continued growth and success abroad. Well done, Jack!



## Our newest Old Collegians

In February, we held our Academic Celebration Assembly, honouring the achievements of our 2024 cohort's High Achievers.

Principal Dr Peter Miller shared: "The College is very proud of our highest achievers, and we look forward to their success in the future, as well as their constructive use of their achievements as they continue their life-long learning journey."

Director of Teaching and Learning, Nathan Morton, added: "The dedication and hard work of the 2024 Year 12 students has resulted in achievements that The Geelong College takes immense pride in."

We wish the class of 2024 every success in the future!





# Lessons from across the Pacific

KADEE SUPINA (OGC 1982)

What happens when two American teens are dropped into an Australian school in the 1980s? Kadee Supina (OGC 1982) reflects on how an unexpected detour through TGC shaped a lifetime.

In 1977 our family was living a sheltered American life in Detroit when my father (James Supina) became the chief engineer for Ford Australia. He told us we would be moving to 'Geelong' but we didn't find out until we arrived that we were pronouncing it wrong.

Australia may be an English-speaking, first-world country, but to our parochial preteen selves it was like moving to the moon:

School uniforms that changed with the seasons? What the heck is a biro? An icy pole? Magpies will cut you down where you stand and also - learn the metric system right now.

We went through most of our Australian initiation at a local Catholic

school but transferred to The Geelong College in 1980 (I vaguely remember a knee-quaking interview with Principal, Peter Gebhardt).

College was where our true cultural assimilation began. We got to row and play cricket. We coveted RM Williams boots. We read, "For the Term of his Natural Life" and knew who Gough Whitlam was. We wore trakky dax and parked our bikes in the bike shed. We knew to call a clay tennis court 'en tout cas'. College absorbed us and we temporarily forgot we were American.

But early in 1982 when Jennie (OGC 1983) was in Year 11 and I was starting my HSC, Dad was recalled to the US. Jennie was transferred to an all-girl Catholic high school back home. I

was allowed to stay on as a boarder to finish Year 12, but I was put on a plane to Detroit ten days after my final exam.

Our mid-puberty, proto-Australian selves struggled with these transitions. Jennie wrote to me during that time to explain, with justified horror, that her classmates brought hair dryers to school so they could style their hair after PE.

After I returned, I floundered for eight months with an eating disorder until my university term began.

In our rearview mirrors, College loomed large and idyllic, all the more because we had to abandon it so abruptly.





*The 1982 Prefects, including Kadee Supina (Front row, first on the left)*

I don't mean to say we were crippled by nostalgia, though.

Jennie went on to graduate from Michigan Technological University as a metallurgical engineer and worked for 33 years in manufacturing companies like Medtronic and Whirlpool.

She "retired" in 2002 to work on special projects and training for EJ Inc., an international iron foundry that specialises in infrastructure castings (look for the distinctive 'ej' logo on street castings and manhole covers around the globe).

Also, she can light a fire anywhere, with one match and in the pouring rain.

I studied Art History at the University of Michigan and St. Andrews University

and did my MA at St. John's College and the University of Minnesota.

I worked for the National Building Museum and the American Institute of Architects and then ran my own flooring contracting firm for 25 years.

And played roller derby.

We've matured enough to acknowledge we idealised and romanticised our time at College, but also that it had long-lasting effects, well beyond just the memories of the three years we spent there.

This past March, Jennie and I made it back to the College for a long tour, as part of an extended visit back to Australia.

That tour rocked me. I saw lines that originated in the time I spent

at College connect straight to the person I've become. I'm talking about essential human experiences and a sense of connectedness that runs far deeper than just how much money I earned in my career.

Sometimes outsiders can see aspects of a time or place that are invisible to those who live there.

Here is an impertinent, alternative look at how the College has, and hopefully continues, to influence the students who attend it.



## Five reasons why I wish every American could have gone to The Geelong College in 1980:

1. **Perspective.** It allowed us to see America from a distance. Australians and even Australian secondary students at that time were informed and aware of world events and it was life-changing to see how strange and self-important the United States looked through their eyes. It made me understand that even the metaphors I used to persuade were limited and regional. I wrote an essay where I argued that a concept was 'brought home' and one of the College's illustrious English teachers responded with the critique, "One brings home groceries, not ideas."

2. **So much green space.** What is still astonishing about the modern Geelong College is how much open area has been protected, even as new buildings have been added. That space allows students to be in the actual outdoors between every single class. We spent recess and lunch in the open air, usually sitting right on the grass. The ability to regularly rinse your mind out by walking out of doors is deeply underestimated. And because of all that space, the entire school took lunch all at the same time. This seems like such a small detail, but it meant that all the different class levels paused their day together, a shared reset that was unifying.

3. **Sport.** I can't believe I am actually including this because when I first transferred to College, I was outraged at the idea of requiring sport after school. Surely I would be granted some waiver, once my lack of any sporting ability whatsoever was discovered. But no, I had to "play" something. It started, and I am not making this up, with roller skating. Then yoga on the heated floor of the House of Guilds. Then I got up the nerve to play intramural tennis. I was the double-fault queen, but I played. Then I tried rowing and eventually became a coxswain. In Year 12, I was bribed by Shannon Head of House with the promise that I would get my House hockey colours if I played goalie for just one game. The point is, in a school that valued sporting ability so very highly, the sheer number of options they offered for people who were not good at sport was astonishing. I owe my lifelong love of movement, and my greatly reduced fear of learning new things, to the damn sport requirements of The Geelong College.



1. Sisters Jennie (OGC 1983) and Kadee Supina with Louise Monotti (OGC 1982)

2. Kadee Supina and Deb Hynes (OGC 1982);

4. **Faculty.** I attended the College during the Gebhardt era, which I have come to understand was controversial. But there is no denying that the quality of the teaching during my years at College was off the charts. They chose challenging texts that were outside the canon and they aligned the drama department with the literature department for studying Shakespeare. They hired poets, philosophers, and actors who were also great explainers. I know now that they were all teaching under pressure to produce students with great exam results, but that was not my classroom experience. We were given the freedom to dig into literature with pickaxes, explore meaning, and make mistakes. There was time for wonder and weirdness. By the time I finished, I had absorbed the equivalent of two years at university. And yet, if you fussed about, they did not mince words. I believe I heard, "Some people are amazingly sh\*thouse at stoichiometry," directed at me more than once.

5. **Entrepreneurship.** A huge percentage of the Collegians I am still in touch with ended up going into business for themselves. And while this sample set is somewhat small and anecdotal, it still suggests that College equips you with the skills to design your own path. We all wore the same uniforms and honored the same hallowed traditions, but somehow we all came out of the mould a different shape. Being self-employed involves risk-taking, improvisational moxie, and a lust for variety and independence. I think that counts as a thoroughly modern interpretation of 'straining for the stars'.



# Life after College

We chat to Old Collegians about what life has been like after College.

## Andrew Henderson (OGC 1985)

I look back at my College life with fondness and deep gratitude for that group of ragtag Campbell House boys, now loyal friends for over fifty years. We were the penultimate year before the girls (thankfully) joined, hermetically sealed in the 'College bubble' with friendships that have endured since.

College laid the foundation for my creative life, where my passion for drawing and imagining was cultivated despite the less progressive times. A few among our year were the oddball 'drama kids' who went on to forge careers in music, on screen, or like me, as a creative director in advertising.

What began in the Austin Gray Centre led me to a dozen national and multinational ad agencies - at the creative helm of brands like David Jones, creating campaigns on a global stage. This journey took me through two of my own agencies and now to my role as Head of Brand for the world's largest NGO, World Vision. It's been an unbroken line of experience tracing back to the kid who couldn't quite kick a footy but was encouraged nonetheless with a camera and sketch pad in hand.

In May 2025, we returned to Geelong to share our history and our stories. For me, it was a welcome trip back from my home in Sydney and South Coast, NSW, where I live with our black Labrador Peggy and my partner of the past decade, Gerwyn Davies.



Forty years have passed since we walked out of those Talbot Street gates - how is that possible?



## Felicity Allen (OGC 1985)

I worked as a vet for 10 years in Warrnambool, the UK, and Melbourne. I married Craig Stephens in 1999, and we moved to Sydney for seven years where we had three children. Between 1999 and 2001, I studied for a Masters of Public Health which led me to change careers and become a health economist. In 2005, we moved to the UK for 10 years and absolutely loved it. Now, we live in North Fitzroy but will spend most of 2025 in Copenhagen because I'm working at the Global office there.



The best part about my time at The Geelong College was meeting my closest friends: Sue, Fi, Jo, Janine, and Sonya, who have been ever present and so much fun throughout my life.





## Suzi (Susie) Leahy Raleigh (OGC 1985)

So much has happened in the past 40 years, lots of highs and lows, lots of life lessons learned. I am enjoying life today!

I started out pursuing an art career. This was not an easy way to make a living, so I ended up doing childcare and kindergarten teaching. I married in 1995 and had two beautiful daughters. Eliza 28 and Amelia 26. Once they were old enough, I got back to study and completed a Masters in Fine Art at RMIT. I worked hard for the next ten years making lots of art and exhibiting.

My life changed a lot when I became a Zuzu (Grandma). I wanted to help my daughter as much as possible, so my art career got put on hold. I still manage a homewares store in Queenscliff which I love, and will have been married 30 years in October.

I love keeping updated about my school friends and Monique (Mason) and I still know how to party!

What happens in Fiji stays in Fiji - haha!

My new passion is writing. I am currently writing my first book. Hopefully it will be finished by the 50-year school reunion!

## Alannah Kreidl (OGC 2015)

I joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 2016 through the gap year program, choosing to defer a paramedicine degree at ACU.

Although not the most common method of entry into the RAAF, the gap year program allowed me to see what it was like without signing on for the usual four-year minimum obligation. From there I found my niche and decided that becoming a Maritime Patrol and Response Officer on the P-8A Poseidon aircraft was the job for me.

My time as a Mission Commander on this aircraft has taken me all over the world, with some of the highlights including Sicily, Japan, Malaysia, Palau, as well as all over Australia.



I have now been living in Adelaide since 2020, and after four years of travelling and living life on an operational crew, I moved into a training and mentorship position, which is equally as rewarding and challenging.

Throughout high school and particularly in Year 12, I felt a lot of uncertainty as to where I wanted to take my life and what career path was for me. TGC provided plenty of resources and guidance about all the endless university options and pathways, however, I stumbled across a different path, decided to take a chance, and I haven't looked back since.





## Davis George (OGC 2015)

I studied Commerce and lived at Ormond College - highly recommend on-campus life at Melbourne Uni.

After graduating, I joined a boutique consulting firm focused on national initiatives where Australia holds a competitive edge. We helped universities and industry co-invest in research and secure Federal matching funds. A highlight was leading a national hemp initiative - sparked over dinner with my parents - which showcased hemp's potential across food, fibre, and sustainable construction. We secured \$47 million in cash and over \$100 million of in-kind support, although the government ultimately passed.

Post-lockdowns, I moved to Cusco, Peru, and co-founded Tours by Carlos ([toursbycarlos.com](https://toursbycarlos.com)) while living with a local guide I met on a hike in 2020. Starting a business there hasn't been easy - bureaucracy, patchy infrastructure, and cultural differences all posed challenges - but we launched it and are growing. We offer a range of authentic experiences that provide full immersion into local culture and traditions, all while helping support local communities.

It's been an incredibly rewarding experience, and if you're heading to Machu Picchu, I'd love to connect.

I returned to Geelong in late 2024 and am currently exploring my next opportunity.

I highly recommend  
on-campus life at  
Melbourne Uni.

## Ela Rutherford (OGC 2015)

I am currently working in the music industry at Australia's largest independently-owned music and events company Untitled Group, as a Tour Agent.

Following my time at College, I moved abroad for a gap year in England, where I worked at a boarding school in West Sussex and travelled around Europe in between.

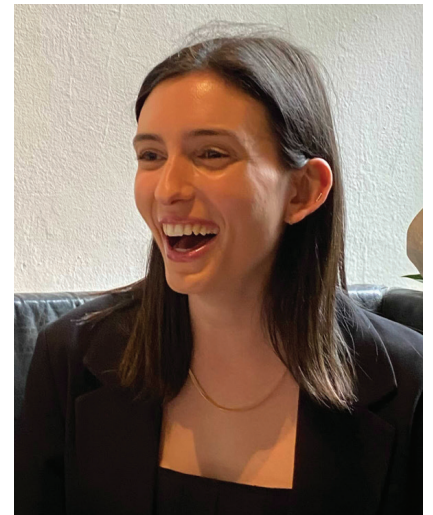
I've learnt the  
importance  
of not feeling  
pressure to  
follow societal  
expectations  
about what path  
you should take.

Work takes up  
such a big part  
of your life, so it's  
important to find  
something you  
truly enjoy and  
feel fulfilled by.

I then moved to Melbourne in 2017, where I studied a Bachelor of Applied Business (Entertainment Management) at Collarts - a course I didn't even know existed while I was at school. Growing up I always loved music; I learned how to play instruments and spent hours on YouTube watching Justin Bieber and other bedroom artists rise to fame. So, when I found a degree that tapped into my passion, I was pretty relieved. The typical career paths that I was aware of at school just didn't feel right, and I often felt quite lost about what to do next.

While studying, I interned at a couple of small agencies, doing a wide range of roles from Publicity to Artist Liaison. I then found my place in festival and tour operations, where I looked after artist logistics for Untitled's large-scale events and music festivals around Australia including Pitch Music & Arts.

More recently, I've transitioned from a Festival and Tour Operations position into a Tour Agent role where I contribute to the programming of Pitch Music & Arts and tour emerging international talent around Australia and New Zealand.







## Sophie Young (OGC 2015)

After graduating at the end of 2015, I moved up to Melbourne and completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne. I decided to do a broad degree as I was not 100% sure of exactly what I wanted to do. I discovered I really enjoyed engineering subjects and went on to complete a Master of Engineering (Civil with Business).

Since completing my studies, I have worked in a variety of engineering roles including client-side project management and rail track and civil design. If you asked me when I graduated if I would enjoy working in the fast-paced environment of a construction site I would have swiftly answered no. However, when the opportunity arose, I quickly realised that working within the construction industry was what I enjoyed.

Currently, I facilitate stakeholder handover inspections for the Metro Tunnel Project, working with stakeholders to ensure the stations and assets are ready for day one train operations. One day I could be underground walking through the tunnel from South Kensington to South Yarra and the next inspecting a new pedestrian crossing on Swanston St in the heart of Melbourne.

Reflecting on my career so far, my advice would be to embrace any opportunities that come your way. You never know what you may enjoy and where those opportunities could lead you.

## Josh Skuza (OGC 2015)

After graduating in 2015, I went straight into studying and finished both an Advanced Diploma and a Bachelor of Music in the first four years after school.

Alongside my studies, I spent time back at the College coaching Soccer and Badminton, whilst pursuing my music career, busking in Geelong and Melbourne, and also performing at winery and wedding functions as a source of income.

After my course, I found myself at a bit of a crossroads, unsure of where I actually wanted to be, until a friend and I decided to start up a tech company in the B2B eCommerce space.

If you asked me if I would see myself working at a software company when I was graduating in 2015, I would've laughed at the question, but I am extremely proud and grateful for the journey that I am currently on.

Whilst the venture was unsuccessful, I found that I really enjoyed applying my skills in the business space and luckily stumbled across Cabinets by Computer after being invited to play music at their Christmas function. After chatting with the Director and General Manager about the business studies I was completing at the time, I was offered a part-time job as an administrative assistant.

Four years on, after completing a Certificate IV in Bookkeeping and Accounting, I am now the Accounts Manager at the company. I have seen, and been a part of, the company's growth including enormous product developments to the industry-leading goCabinets online ordering system. We have also won numerous accolades such as the Geelong Business of the Year in 2024.





# Farewells

CAMERON, Neil Gordon (1934-2024) OGC 1942

CAMERON, June Violet (1934-2024)

Neil and June Cameron shared a lifetime of dedication to family and community service.

Neil boarded at the College from 1939 to 1947, where he rose to the rank of Company Sergeant Major (CSM) in the Cadet Corps. Following his time at the College, he studied Agricultural Science at the University of Melbourne and resided at Ormond College - experiences that sparked a lifelong interest in agricultural innovation. Neil returned to manage the family property, Glenspean, near Meredith in 1952, partnering with his brother John (OGC 1939) in a decades-long stewardship of the land. He was deeply committed to his community, serving as a local shire councillor and contributing to numerous organisations including Community Aid Abroad, the Elaine/ Meredith Youth Group, CFA, Woodburn Creek School Council, Meredith Hall Committee, and Prison Fellowship. He also served on The Geelong College Council from 1966 to 1981.

June (née Upjohn) brought her own sense of service and care to the community. A trained physiotherapist, she worked particularly with children with disabilities and brought that same compassion to her many volunteer roles. She was active in a wide range of organisations, including the Country Women's Association (CWA), Friends of the Australian Ballet, Landcare, and the Board of Scope. Her service to The Geelong College included two terms on the College Council (1986-1989 and 1991-2004), contributing

meaningfully to school life over nearly two decades.

Neil and June married in 1957, beginning a partnership marked by mutual respect, shared values, and a strong commitment to community. Together they raised five children - Jane (MOC 1973), Sandy (OGC 1973), Simon (OGC 1977), Kate

(OGC 1979), and Hamish (OGC 1989) - and supported their children's education and growth in the same community they served so faithfully.

Their enduring legacy is one of quiet leadership, community involvement, and deep connection to both the land and the College.





## Old Collegians

**ASPLIN, Kenneth Geoffrey**  
**(1955-2024) OGC 1969**

Ken was a student at The Geelong College from 1967 to 1969, starting at the Preparatory School in Form I. His older brothers also attended the College, Rob (OGC 1960) and Lance (OGC 1965). At Senior School Ken was a member of Shannon House.

**BARLING, Denis John**  
**(1950-2025) OGC 1964**

Denis attended the College from kindergarten in 1954 to Form V in 1966. A talented sportsman, he excelled in athletics, cricket, and football, equalling the Under 10 sprint record in 1959 and earning McArthur House colours and an athletics cap. After school, he studied Accountancy & Finance, Real Estate (Commercial) as well as Business Administration, later building a successful commercial property portfolio and earning respect as a landlord and businessman.

**BENT, David George**  
**(1944-2025) OGC 1958**

David attended the College from 1949 to 1961, excelling in sport and music, including roles as Drum Major and Pegasus Committee member. A Vietnam veteran, he served with the elite Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) and was later awarded the US Bronze Star Medal. He was involved in local community including Albury Legacy Club and Enterprise Albury/Wodonga. David was married to Cheryl and they have a son.

**CHAPMAN, Timothy Bain**  
**(1953-2023) OGC 1968**

Tim boarded at the College from 1966 to 1971, following his older brothers Colin (OGC 1961) and Geoffrey (OGC 1964). A member of Warrinn House, he participated in swimming, football, and rowing, earning House rowing colours in 1971. Inspired by his fellow boarding school friends, he studied at Dookie College and worked as a farmhand before becoming a truck and later a bus driver, a role he held for 40 years.

**CHOMLEY, Ian Rutherford**  
**(1935-2024) OGC 1949**

Ian boarded at the College from 1950-1952. He coxed the 5th and 2nd rowing crews and also played in the 3rd XVIII football team. Ian went on to be the overseer at Gunnong Jugrawah, Gobarralong near Gundagai. Ian had three children, David, Richie and Debbie.

**HANCOCK, Neil**  
**(1949-2024) OGC 1963**

Neil attended the College from 1958 and completed his Matriculation Certificate in 1966. He was a member of the Music Committee in 1966 and in the same year was awarded the Music Prize. A Mackie House report in the December 1965 Pegasus singled out Hancock in the House Music competition, noting, "N. E. Hancock was found to be highly competent in the instrumental solo." He also served in the Cadet's Brass Band.

**HARRIGAN, Blair Arthur**  
**(1968-2016) OGC 1985**

Blair attended the College from 1980 to 1985. He was a keen sportsman, rowing in the 1984 2nd VIII and captain of basketball in 1984 and 1985. Blair was a Calvert House member and wore his House colours with pride. Whilst a resident at Ormond College, Blair continued his basketball activities. In his final year at College, Blair was awarded a Form Prize for Economics, English and Australian History. He went on to study Economics at the University of Melbourne, followed by a successful professional life in human relations and software development. Blair was a dedicated golfer and a passionate Geelong Cats supporter. His love of sport remained with him throughout his life.

Courtesy F Harrigan

**LEWIS, Brian William**  
**(1928-2025) OGC 1941**

Brian was enrolled at the College from 1939 to 1944 and started at the Preparatory School in Form UIVB. He had previously attended Flinders State School. He was an academic student, often listed in the top students of the class. Following school he worked as a clerk. Brian married Jean Armstrong in 1955 and they have three children.





**LYON, Charles William  
(1979-2025) OGC 1997**

Charlie boarded at the College from 1992 to 1997. His father had also attended the College, Andrew (OGC 1965), and his sisters joined him at the school, Georgie (OGC 1999) and Alanna (OGC 2002). Charlie was a boarder at Mackie, becoming a prefect in 1997. He was also a member of Wettenhall House and played cricket. Charlie went on to work in hospitality, winning a Business Excellence Award for Hospitality in 2008 for the Surfrider café and restaurant in Torquay.

**MCWILLIAM, Benjamin Mark  
(1969-2024) OGC 1986**

Ben boarded at the College in 1986 along with his brother Luke (OGC 1986). He was a member of Wettenhall House and was awarded House colours for cross country. Following school Ben completed a Bachelor of Computer Science. Ben was an avid skydiver and was part of a world record skydiving jump in 1999, which saw 282 people in formation freefall for 7.11 seconds. Ben was married to Karenne (dec), and they have two children.

**NEWMAN, John Robert OAM  
(1930-2024) OGC 1945**

John Newman, educated at the College from 1946 to 1947, became a leading figure in Australian cabaret. With Tikki Taylor, he performed internationally in 1954 and many other JC Williamson theatre productions in the 1950s. He later produced theatre and television, and managed the Great Moscow Circus. In 1962, they opened Tikki and John's Music Hall, a cabaret-restaurant that evolved into the Dracula's Restaurant Group and Newman Entertainment. Both received OAMs in 1993 for services to entertainment and charity. His sons, Paul (OGC 1978) and Marc (OGC 1980), also attended the College.

**RAU, Andrew  
(1966-2024) OGC 1983**

Andrew attended the College from 1978 to 1983, following his brother Rod (OGC 1973). A member of Coles House, he earned multiple House colours for athletics, cross-country, and debating, and was part of the athletics team for three years. After school, he studied mechanical engineering and management, living overseas for many years before returning to Australia. He was married to Louise and had three children.

**REDPATH, Ian Ritchie  
(1941-2024) OGC 1954**

See page 86 for article

**TAYLOR, Sandy  
(1947-2025) OGC 1961**

Sandy was enrolled as a boarder at the College in 1960, starting in Form I. He left the school in 1963, having started Form IV. He passed away in early January 2025, aged 77 years. He was the loved brother of Rosie, and uncle of Andrew and Jane.

## College Community

**GEORGE, Shim  
(1963-2025)**

Shim George, former Principal of Lenakel Presbyterian College on Tanna Island, Vanuatu, was a visionary leader known for his humility, kindness, and generosity. Together with former College staff member, Ian Macmillan (OGC 1949), he helped forge a lasting partnership with The Geelong College. Respected across Vanuatu and the South Pacific, Shim was a source of wisdom and hospitality, warmly welcoming College visitors. He took great pride in students from both schools learning together - a lasting legacy of his commitment to education and cultural exchange.



# OGCA Events



**OGCA Leavers' Function (Thursday 13 February)**



**Old Collegians' V Old Grammarians' Golf Day (Thursday 6 March)**





### Albert Bell Club Dinner (Friday 14 March)

1. Robin Lawson, Geoff Wills & Brian Wood; 2. Louise Monotti, Lucy Cammiss & Rosie Fitzclarence; 3. Peter Lawson, Stuart Olsen (ABC President), David Williams & Louise Monotti; 4. Thane Joske & Meg Ross; 5. Richard Morris & Andrew Morrison; 6. Jean Mitchell & Pam Westendorf



### OGCA 10 Year Reunion (Friday 21 March)

1. Tom Shembrey, Sam Hvidberg, Darcy Narita, Sam Goodear; 2. Georgie Allen, Katie Rose-Campbell & Andy Slattery; 3. Morgan Perry & Claudia Crawley; 4. Tour of Belarren Sports & Wellbeing Centre; 5. Class of 2015 group photo



# OGCA Events



## OGCA 40 Year Reunion (Saturday 3 May)

1. Rob Hunter, Brad Price & Julie Hunter; 2. Ruth Martin & Georgie Favaro; 3. Tim Morphy & Sue Pickering; 4. Don Howie, David Spittle, Geoff Morrison & Sue Howie



## Cobbers' Lunch (Monday 5 May)

1. Alan Seward, Richard Moodie, Darryl Rickey & Peter Doak; 2. David Jarman & David Edge; 3. Brian Singer telling the Rip Curl story as Co-founder 4. Don McCann, Ken Fleay, Garry Fenton & Robin Edge; 5. The Cobbers' Lunch attendees



# Community Events



1



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4



5

## Boarders' Welcome Evening (Thursday 30 January)

1. Simone Hayes, Caitlin Williams & Nicole Conley; 2. Jane & Cam MacDonald; 3. Sarah Benhacine, Jamie & Steve Chiu; 4. Ben Darcy, Damian & Jess O'Connor; 5. Neil Robertson, George Whitehead, Hugh Leishman



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5

## Junior School Parent Welcome Evening (Friday 7 February)

1. Eve Betts, Helen & John O'Brien; 2. Jinny & Daniel Hooper; 3. Kevin Bartholomeusz & Seema Devi; 4. Nathan Holloway, Emma Horrocks, Isabella Henricus, Olivia & Tom Castles, Steve Moglogliannis, Corrine Irvine, Cass Weerasinghe & Alexandra McCulloch



# Community Events



## SSPA - Senior School Parent Welcome Evening (Friday 21 February)

1. Janet Ashton, Emma & Mick Jones, & Jo Manderson; 2. Karen & Jonathan Feldman, Alexandra Ugozzoli & Marten Van Delden;  
3. Henrike & Jim Milne, Scott Shrive, Lauren Alexander-Shrive; 4. Aaron McClelland, Marcus Brown, Julie Young & Kelly McClelland;  
5. Kath Rahdon, Cindy O'Brien, Prue Johnstone, Sarah Young & Dan O'Brien



## Boarding Parents' Garden Party (Saturday 22 February)





## Boarders' Family Day (Sunday 23 February)



## Friends of College Garden Party (Thursday 27 February)

1. Diane Ellis, Bec Bain, Liv Jarman, Clare Dowling, Kerrie Bowyer; 2. Aleksandra & Simon Pearce; 3. Wendy Norris & Belinda Page; 4. Suzanne Rawlings & Benjamin Fry; 5. Madeleine Brew, Sally Sadler & Elleen Sims





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COLLEGE  
sic itur ad astra