



# Ad Astra

Issue No 141 | **December 2021**



**Spotlight  
on sustainability**

OGCA survey:  
the results

**Life after College - Where are they now?**

## From the Editor

We were lucky to have our Year 12 students back at the end of Term 3 and then to transition back to normal classroom learning early in Term 4 across the whole school. Navigating the stop start interruptions did make life difficult but our students, their families and our teachers have been outstanding in the way they have made the best of our collective situation.

While some things were cancelled, it has been wonderful to see our students once again enjoying APS sport! At our Otways campus, the wet and wild weather challenged our Year 8 campers but no doubt surviving the mud and the cold helped to make lifelong friendships and memories.

Once again there is music in our halls, with musicians live streaming performances, playing in lunchtime and evening concerts, and attending a Steinway masterclass (see pages 14- 15). Our Year 9 students lit up the school with an outdoor performance of 'The Wind in the Willows' and our dancers shone in their showcase evening. We, like everyone, are slowly unfurling back to life and a sense of normality.

There have been many positive lessons learned, and we are grateful for these as you will see on pages 4 -11 from the Chair of Council, the Principal, the College Captains and the Director of Student Wellbeing Programs.

Via the QR code below you can celebrate 160 years of College history with a video that draws parallels between the experiences of yesteryear and those of today. We also wrap up the centenary of the Preparatory School in an interview with the previous Heads of the School who talk about their College highlights and the changes they have seen in education. (Pages 68 – 71).

To celebrate their 120th year the OGCA have inducted 14 Old Collegians into the Notables Gallery (pages 62 to 63), and published the findings from the recent survey, along with a number of alumni stories.

And while 2021 has been a year of reflecting on our 160-year history as a College, it is heartening to see that our learners have their eyes firmly focussed on the future, with sustainability taking centre stage. No doubt inspired by world events, including the UN Climate change conference, on pages 12-13 and 28-31 you can read about student learning, advocacy and discussion on sustainability and our environment, as they prepare to face the big challenges that lie ahead.

Have a wonderful Christmas. Wherever you are in the world, we hope that you are able to enjoy a special time with loved ones. We are excited about coming back refreshed and ready for 2022 and all the experiences it will bring.



Scan the QR code to view the 160 year video

Mike Howell,

Director of Community Relations

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# In this edition

## Senior School

- 12** Challenging Climate Change
- 14** VET Music students
- 16** Having a ball
- 18** Big Kid to Big Cat

## Middle School

- 28** Leaders of change

## Junior School

- 30** Demonstrating Active Citizenship Beyond the Walls: Introducing the Year 1 Recycling Revolution Centre

## Our College

- 4** Farewelling our Year 12s  
A message from the Principal
- 6** 2021 - A productive year  
A message from the Chair of Council
- 8** Looking forward to the future
- 10** Wellbeing: Focusing inward, Focusing outward.
- 20** A brush stroke of genius
- 26** Cultural Connections
- 27** The Geelong College Parents' Associations
- 32** A man of many hidden talents
- 36** From the Chaplains
- 37** When there's nowhere but here Boarding during COVID-19
- 40** School Activities
- 44** Staff departures

## Our Community

- 22** Tokyo 2020: The highs and lows
- 52** OGCA President's report
- 56** 2021 Notables Inductees
- 59** Life after College
- 62** Obstetrics an ocean away
- 64** Tokyo Summer Olympics 1964
- 66** An Australian in China
- 68** A moment in time
- 76** Albert Bell Club News
- 77** Foundation President's report
- 80** "A wartime coincidence"
- 82** 'The Cottage': Boarding at Warrinn
- 84** Old Geelong Football Club
- 85** Farewells

# Farewelling our Year 12s



PROF. RICHARD PAGE,  
CHAIR OF COUNCIL



Staff and students continued their amazing flexibility in flipping from in-person to remote learning for the umpteenth time, and making the most of the different learning environments from Term 3 to 4. However, no matter how adaptive our community has been during remote learning, nothing beats the real thing. Schools are an empty place without student voices echoing along corridors.

It was a pleasure to be able to share the Valedictory Ceremony with the Year 12 students and staff after yet another absence of students from version six of the lockdowns, and the subsequent period of remote learning. It was a shame that parents were unable to join in person, however, the IT and audio-visual team did a superb job bringing the event 'live' to lounge rooms. This happened not just in our region but also went global to Japan and China to help share the experience with the families of the finishing international students. An amazing feat, that would have been hard to imagine just a few years ago.

To that end, I share with you the thoughts imparted with the finishing Year 12s:

Well class of 2021, it has been an interesting year and it is natural to

reflect on what has happened as your time at school comes to a close.

What do we mean by interesting? An adjective – describing the quality of a noun. Meaning arousing curiosity or interest; holding or catching attention.

Synonyms: Absorbing, engrossing, fascinating, riveting.

All good words for the English exam.

English is a fascinating language and a word like interesting can take on many inflections: Like – interesting / fascinating!!

Or 'interrestinggg'.... Implying the opposite - for a lot of us this year we may lean towards the latter.

We reflect not just the year that has passed, but on all your time at The Geelong College - for some, it is most of your life to this point in time. In many

ways it may feel like 2021 didn't pan out quite as we had planned. In fact, this is true for all of us in many ways – but plans seldom do.

Don't lose sleep about the things you cannot control but spend time figuring out the things that you can influence and then make a plan on how to tackle those.

Be confident, knowing that you are prepared for the future. It is said that nothing prepares for action better than a crisis. Well, you can all say that over last two years you have lived through a global crisis, a scenario that is a one in 100-year event. What does that mean? What will happen - next week, next month, next year? All good questions, and like many good questions they don't have simple answers.



However, you have been prepared and can feel secure knowing you have the resilience and tenacity to handle pressure and uncertainty any time of the day or night. You are prepared for the future – not just by this year, but all the experiences both inside and outside school.

When moving on to the next phase, such as our neighbouring city up the road, people are often amazed at the positive vibe of the students from The Geelong College and the affection they have for their time at school.

Why the difference, why such pride in their schooling?

Clearly the quality support of the teachers and coaches is a key element.

But College students know how to keep working hard – despite not always winning.

They remember to be kind.

They know how to laugh – which according to the Mayo Clinic - enhances

your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates your heart, lungs and muscles, and increases endorphins released by your brain. It reduces stress responses and is a therapeutic medicine.

Enjoy and soak up these last moments, they are fleeting and then gone – but not forgotten.

The last month of school and exams goes quicker than you realise, so knuckle down and do your best – it's

**“You have been prepared and can feel secure knowing you have the resilience and tenacity to handle pressure and uncertainty any time of the day or night.**

never too late to do a little better. Then you can sit back, know it's done, be satisfied it is out of your hands, and that you are prepared for the future – not just over the

last month, but over the last 14+ years with the support of all those that walked with you along the journey.

When you go to your toolbox of life, remember it contains all the experience and preparation that make you who

you are today. Be confident yours is brimming with the tools that will enable you to do more than you expect. It is filled with all the learning, knowledge, and support from peers, teachers, your parents, families and friends that has got you this far.

This has you ready, not only for the upcoming exams, but for the next stage of life. Be confident that you are ready and your toolbox is well equipped.

This phase is not an ending for any of you, but the next step in a journey that is the rich tapestry of life. Take the time to stop and soak up the sun along the way and be confident knowing you are well prepared by the experience, not only inside these halls and out on the playing fields, but all you have done up until now.

Good luck class of 2021- remember to work hard, be kind and to laugh - because you are ready for the future!

# 2021 - A producti



DR PETER MILLER, PRINCIPAL

There has been much discussion about the unpredictability of the last two years and the disruption it has brought to all our lives.

In the early phase (2020) of the global pandemic the possibility of a lockdown and the associated remote learning was undesirable. Throughout this year the shift in and out of lockdown, and remote learning, have seemed inevitable at increasingly short notice. It was a difficult balance between community safety and the desire to have our children at school. Term 3 saw schools in Regional Victoria bounce in and out of remote learning on 24 hours notice on more than one occasion. Consequently, over the last 12 months we have been exceedingly frustrated and occasionally angry at the circumstances we find ourselves

in. Uncertainty brings with it uneasy emotions and unhappiness.

It is my intention for The Geelong College to provide students with experiences that prepare them for a life beyond school. They may be academic and intellectual, social and emotional, physical and artistic, or creative and spiritual. The personal experiences vary with each student reflecting the unique interplay of significant academic achievements experienced as a consequence of or during classroom lessons; messages received at collegial gatherings such as assemblies or Chapel; informal interactions with teachers outside of class time, or with

other mentors at school in music, productions and sport; and, the other adventures such as camps, excursions and trips. All of these interactions provide our students with opportunities for great lessons or even simple moments they can treasure.

The way these experiences have taken place over the last two school years has been challenged and changed. Consequently, we have been forced to reflect upon the nature of the College experience and the benefits for our students. In doing so, we have thought about wellbeing, what brings happiness and how we can address this.



# ve year

The 19th century German philosopher Immanuel Kant had a view on the way to happiness. He identified three rules for happiness as:

- something to do;
- someone to love; and,
- something to hope for.

In the context of today I would like to offer this suggestion as to how to adapt Kant's 200 year old observation to our contemporary life:

- **Something to do** – it is very important that we look for things to do rather than expect to be entertained by others. Participation and human agency bring a sense of purpose. We need to be sure that we make things happen and don't wait for others to act. Having something to do contributes to a sense of purpose and meaning in ones' life;
- **Someone to love** – for many years I have worked with students in the late Primary and early Secondary years who like making friends but are not very good at it. The problem is they are not always very good friends to others due to high expectations or fickleness in relationships. My message to them is that if they want to have friends, they have to be a friend to others. They have to be kind, courteous and respectful of others. Kant's recognition of someone to love as a component of happiness fits this suggestion. If you want to be loved then you have to love others. This comes back to the basic principle of respect for oneself and others;
- **Something to hope for** - the famous Scottish comedian Billy Connolly describes optimism as a "special treasure" held by Australians. Optimism is our ability to look to the future, to take control and create something positive from difficult situations. Optimism relies on resilience and aspiration. I think we have to work hard to maintain our

optimism in the current moment and seek to retrieve it if there is a sense of it diminishing.

I believe Kant's three rules for happiness are intentionally addressed at our school and have all been part of the school experience for our students. I trust this will be beneficial beyond this place.

Through our academic and co-curricular programs we look to build the capacity in individuals as well as a collective wellbeing. It is not enough to have happiness at the individual scale alone. Happiness at this level alone may produce selfishness and a lack of awareness of others. I believe true happiness, exists when there is a community wide opportunity for happiness bringing with it a sense of collective wellbeing.

There is no doubt this year has tested us all in ways we had not imagined. Supporting us in the face of such a challenge needs to be the foundation laid by our previous experiences and through the collective wellbeing we typically enjoy. We know how to achieve it and we have to continue to pursue it.

This was the basis of my message to the Year 12 students at the reimagined Valedictory Ceremony this year. They have been outstanding in their approach to the challenges of 2021 and I look forward to their success into the future.

According to Kant's criteria, I believe we can judge 2021 as a productive year. Furthermore, we are looking forward to the year ahead with a high level of optimism, confident we will have something to do and that we approach each other with kindness, courtesy and respect. On that basis, 2022 can be another happy and productive year.

## Principal's News



### 2022 College Co-Captains and Co-Vice Captains

Andie Taylor (Co-Vice Captain), Oscar Dowling (Co-Captain) Emmy Bowyer (Co-Captain), Christopher Bowker (Co-Vice Captain)

### Addendum

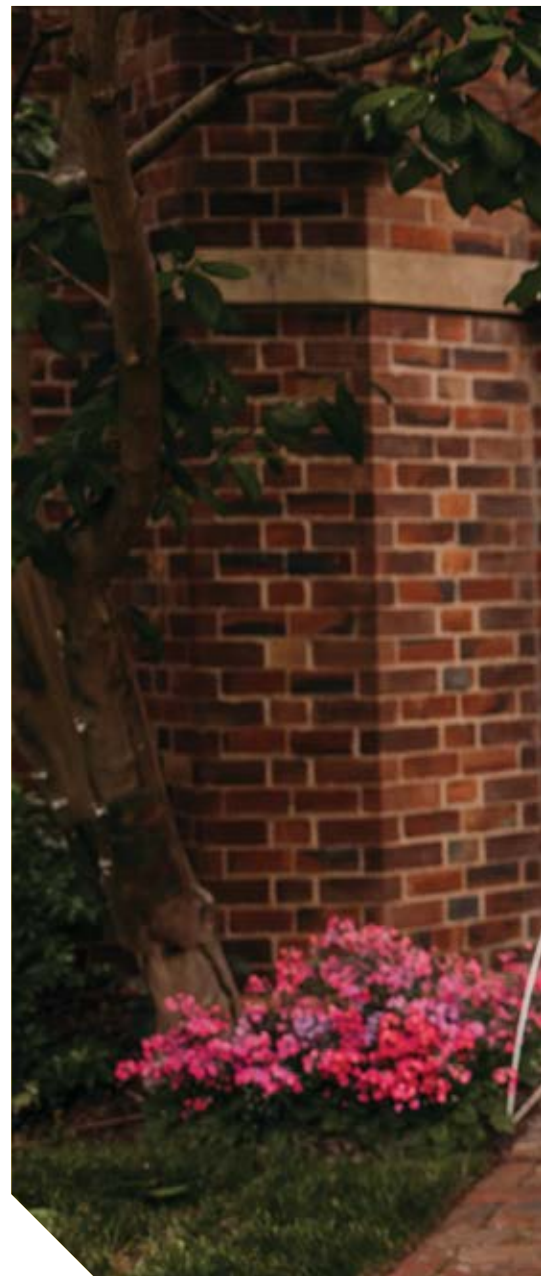
The 2019 June edition of Ad Astra included an acknowledgment of the work of Mark Irwin at The Geelong College as a Music Teacher and Director of Music following his retirement at the end of 2018.

Since the time of printing he was charged and has been recently convicted of criminal offences including sexual assault of a former student of The Geelong College.

The College is deeply concerned for the welfare of students harmed here and continues in its efforts to engage a restorative approach to assist them. Direct contact with the College on any matters relating to historical harm will be respectfully and compassionately received.

# Looking forward to the future

MAGGIE GILBY & JAMES AFFORD,  
THE GEELONG COLLEGE CO-CAPTAINS



It's fair to say that despite the unpredictability of 2021, it has been delightful to conclude our school years as a cohort that will forever be remembered for its resilience, determination, and hard work.

This year may not have offered us as many tangible opportunities as we might have expected, but nonetheless, our infrequent time on campus, as much as Microsoft Teams, proved to unite a struggling batch of VCE students. At a time where we are looking to the future, it's fitting to look back on our school years and the memories we've made.

Year 7 brought with it a number of unfamiliar faces and overzealous students. Between our Orientation Day, camp, and Boats Day,





we fell into friendships and a close community that persisted to Year 8 and beyond. Many of us stepped out of our comfort zones on the Year 8 Camp and flourished back at school during the Cre8 project. We saw some stand out performances in the Year 8 Production, which rounded out our Middle School experience.

A quick transition to Senior School saw us become the youngest students on campus again. Even more of a culture shock was our opportunities to immerse in communities so different to our own, on City Week in Year 9 and (especially) Fulfilling Lives in Year 10. The experiences – locally, interstate, and overseas – were amplified by the group of people around us and are ones that we will no doubt remember well beyond high school.

Of course, the latter years of Senior School welcomed an engaging, albeit slightly stressful, VCE curriculum. We're so lucky to have had the breadth of subject offerings and depth of resources at our disposal, and to have found niche passions alongside friends and peers.

The Geelong College's education has well prepared us for what's ahead, and we must be more than excited to look to 2022 and the years beyond that. Whichever areas of study and vocations we find ourselves in, it is most delightful that we can attribute our holistic education and worldly experiences to this very school, The Geelong College.

We've been incredibly fortunate to take on positions of leadership this year and have noticed that in spite of periods away from campus, our long-

anticipated return late into Term 3 welcomed very much the same jovial, energetic cohort.

Together we have navigated not just an already strenuous year of VCE, but equally the insistent setbacks posed by COVID-19. If this year is any indication of our futures, we are confident that the Class of 2021 will continue to demonstrate an unrelenting resilience to challenges and tenacious curiosity towards their academic and career pursuits. What we hope is that in the process of moving beyond high school, we Year 12s will always remember the experiences that defined us and our cohort, and the significance of our efforts especially in these last two years.



Photos taken by Nicole Roache, Marketing Manager, on a morning walk during the College's 'One Foot Forward' challenge.

# Wellbeing: Focusing inward, Focusing outward.

JOAN GILL, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING PROGRAMS

The two fundamentals of strong mental health are personal autonomy and social connection.

Personal autonomy is best summed up as our individual capacity to attend to, and build up, our own sense of wellbeing. Of course teachers, counsellors, parents, friends, family and peers all play a role in nurturing positive mental health in our young people.

## Giving back to our community

Despite lockdowns, or indeed because of the lockdowns, Senior School students were keen to demonstrate that sense of concern for others through efforts to support those considered less privileged.

### **Mrs Deb Hynes, Head of Morrison House writes:**

Chase Probert and Reuben High (Morrison House captains) were discussing with me the challenges of lockdown late one Friday afternoon. We then started chatting about how fortunate we were with the support of school, our safe homes we live in and our ability to access resources and services. We then thought we should encourage the House to be grateful for the small things and to put \$1 aside

each week for five weeks and to donate to Headspace Geelong, an organisation that supports youth mental health. We raised \$2200.

Similarly, The Geelong College community signed up for One Foot Forward to raise funds for the Black Dog Institute to help fund their research into mental health. The goal of raising \$5000 was reached even before the month had started. The final amount raised exceeded \$8800.

The College Chaplains launched the annual Uniting Care hampers, asking all students across the three campuses to donate grocery items to be distributed to those in need as Christmas approaches.

Giving money and grocery items are relatively small gestures,



but research suggests that acts of giving whether they be small or large – are associated with positive mental wellbeing.

Giving our time is arguably more intentional, and as we open up we will be able to further explore our Service Learning opportunities. Working with others in our College community and beyond reflects the intrinsic value of a shared goal to promote our own personal wellbeing, as well as our sense of collective wellbeing.

### Physical and emotional wellbeing during remote learning

During remote learning the Year 7 and 8 students were asked to participate in activities requiring them to work on their physical and emotional wellbeing.

#### Paul Jubber writes:

We asked the students to show gratitude and record three things they were grateful for. Each student needed to demonstrate gratitude for their physical health, their mental wellbeing and their social connection with family and friends. Encouraging students to shift their perspective a little and express gratitude is a key factor in building resilience.

Another reflective activity was to write down a social connection goal; again shifting perspective a little to think about the wellbeing of those around them. So as well as students asking ‘Am I ok?’, also asking ‘Are we ok?’ Implied in the question is a shared responsibility towards building positive relationships. This is at the heart of the Respectful Relationships initiative taught across Junior and Middle Schools.

Looking more broadly, having a collective sense of wellbeing asks us to look at the “health” of the various groups to which our students belong at school be they classes, sporting teams, music and drama ensembles, House and Mentor groups; all the social contexts we as teachers create for our students to feel confident to participate and engage productively. Broader still, we can look at community engagement and the unwritten social contract of shared communal responsibility for the wellbeing of others. Unfortunately, the pandemic severely restricted opportunities for face to face engagement in what we call Service Learning but we will welcome the return of such opportunities as our society opens up again.

*Images (right): The Year 7 and 8 Remote learning wellbeing program.*



*Year 11 Environmental Science class visited the Barwon River at seven locations for water quality monitoring.*

# Challenging Climate Change

MELISSA BARNES, LEADER OF LEARNING YEARS 9-12

As the world watched the leaders of our nations gather and discuss the environmental issues facing our planet at the UN Climate Change Conference, The Geelong College students undertook their research into Australian ecosystems on the brink of collapse.

We offer numerous opportunities for students to explore local, Australian and global environmental issues and solutions.

Year 9 Science students learned the fundamental basis of ecology with knowledge of energy transfer through an ecosystem, food webs and food chains, Indigenous seasons and bushfires. Students engaged in exploring biomes under threat and ways to mitigate damage. The stimulus for their research was the Australian Geographic identification of 19 Australian ecosystems at a tipping point. Students selected one of the systems to explore in-depth, including, for example, the Great Barrier and

Ningaloo Reefs, wet tropics, mangrove forests, tropical savannahs, great southern kelp forests or Antarctica.

The Year 11 Environmental Science class undertook a hands-on investigative project visiting the Barwon River at seven locations from Winchelsea downstream to Barwon Heads for water quality monitoring. They tested physical and chemical bio-indicators, including turbidity, pH, conductivity (measuring dissolved salts), depth and flow rates, phosphate levels (reflecting what enters the water and organisms using it) and dissolved oxygen. The students grew cultures back at school to identify *E. coli* from faecal contaminants from farmland.

They analysed and graphed data identifying trends of decreased water quality at each point downstream.

While limited to online visits due to upgrading facilities, our Year 12 Environmental Science students enjoyed a virtual tour of the Western Treatment Plant for a sustainability project exploring the environmental benefits of careful waste management. Relying on virtual drone tours, students considered four aspects of the facility: water treatment, wetland management, methane generation, and recycling. They noted the diversity of birdlife in the wetlands and the value of methane production and recycled water for Werribee market farmers from what



*Senior School students with Libby Coker, Federal Minister for Corangamite, during the Corangamite Climate Challenge*

would have previously been considered waste.

The Art department also helps students explore and appreciate the fragile beauty of our natural environment. In the Year 9 Art Printmaking elective, students made beautiful linocut prints of seabirds with the aim of creating awareness of the harm caused to seabirds by plastic in the oceans.

The Geography students also studied environmental issues in the classroom then related the theory to the real world, embracing numerous opportunities for fieldwork essential to understanding the discipline. They enjoyed field trips identifying features, processes, and management issues (such as blue-green algae blooms, erosion and weed species) along the Barwon River. Year 12 Geographers enjoyed visiting Cape Bridgewater and collecting primary data, which they used in their Fieldwork Report SAC. Highlights included seeing the largest mainland seal colony in Australia and an extinct volcano. They considered the positive environmental impacts of wind power, visiting Cape Bridgewater and Codrington wind farms and a beef quarantine farm with wind turbines. Students also explored the Budj Bim World Heritage Area, exploring Indigenous sustainable food systems that worked for thousands of years. They heard from a range of people, including farmers, tourist operators,

and Indigenous elders, about the environmental impacts of the region.

All Senior School students had the opportunity to mitigate their impact on the environment by participating in the Corangamite Climate Challenge, initiated by Libby Coker, the Federal Minister for Corangamite and led by School prefect Dominic Bongiorno who holds the Environment and Community portfolio. All eight houses accepted a four-week challenge to reduce carbon emissions in three ways: nude food, walking to school, and a meat-free day. Dom used an online calculator to determine the impact and then put it all in a spreadsheet and calculated the results. The most popular choices were walking to school, followed by nude food. Supported by the House Captains, the response of students was positive. While Dominic noted the reduction might not be significant quantitatively, it might change the mindset of students surrounding sustainability. He hopes future prefects will follow up on this challenge. Dom enjoyed learning about climate change noting memorable Physics lessons exploring the impact of greenhouse gases. He is considering studying Engineering next year, which may allow him to support the environment further.

We are proud of the efforts of our future scientists, environmentalists, geographers, leaders, artists, and change-makers who are creating a vision for our future. As they increase

their knowledge of the local and global environmental challenges, and consider their choices in the short term, they have a solid foundation to inspire future studies to develop knowledge and skills to save our planet.



### Printmaking

Students created prints of seabirds. These were combined into a book which aimed to create awareness of the harm caused to seabirds by plastic in the oceans.

The students had planned an exhibition and sale of framed prints to raise money for the cause, however, this was unable to proceed due to COVID-19

**To read the article that formed the basis of the Year 9 students' investigations**  
Please visit [cutt.ly/tgc\\_enviro](http://cutt.ly/tgc_enviro) or scan the QR code



# VET Music students

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING MANAGER

In addition to the vast array of co-curricular opportunities for music The Geelong College offers a number of music subjects to VCE level, including VCE Music Performance, VCE Music Investigation and VET Music Industry (Performance). Over the past two years our Year 12 music students have missed many opportunities to perform due to COVID-19, so we thought we'd introduce a few of them to you and show you what they can do!

## Maggie Gilby

### What music subject/s are you studying?

This year I am studying VET Music Industry.

### What is your main instrument? Do you play others?

My primary instrument is voice, but I love to play around on the piano too!

### What style of music do you most enjoy and why?

I adore various genres of music, but I would have to say that Jazz is one of my favourites. I love the soul and emotion that Jazz enables you to express, as well as the warm feeling it creates.

### Why did you choose to study a VCE Music subject?

I chose to study music because it is one of my grandest passions. The music department fosters so much talent and I couldn't resist being a part of that. Music also creates an escape for me, and I needed to make sure I had that outlet within my studies.

### What are you hoping to do in the future? (With music and outside of music.)

I am hoping to move to Melbourne to study Communications at RMIT. I never want to stop music, so I hope to gig around Melbourne, seek musical opportunities and maybe even reunite with the TGC music teachers for a performance or two...

### What is the best thing about doing music as a subject?

The absolute best thing about doing music is the accepting and effervescent buzz that is created when playing as a band or solo. Experimenting with a new style, or attempting a new instrument is never something to be embarrassed by, rather something to be appreciated and encouraged.



VET Music student, Maggie Gilby.

Scan the QR Code to hear Maggie perform



## Elizabeth Kefaloukos

### What music subject/s are you studying?

I am currently studying Music Performance.

### What is your main instrument? Do you play others?

My main instrument is the piano, but I also learn the bassoon and the pipe organ here at College. I also play the Irish tin whistle and trombone and have enjoyed teaching myself the drums, bass guitar, trumpet and a few others!

### What style of music do you most enjoy and why?

My favourite style is classical music. I love how music, which was composed quite a long time ago, transcends age and is still so relevant today. I believe classical music contains themes inherent within the human condition—such as love, death, grief, joy and this is something I enjoy exploring within myself too, as I try and communicate a story through my playing.

### Why did you choose to study a VCE Music subject?

I have always planned to study VCE Music, since coming to College in Year 7 and immediately finding a home within the Music Department. I feel that the AMEB exams I have completed including previous study in Music Theory really complemented the subject and motivated me to continue my studies within a classroom environment which was a very different experience.

### What are you hoping to do in the future? (With music and outside of music.)

I hope to continue my musical studies into tertiary education, which hopefully will provide some opportunities to perform in the future. I also have a passion for Law and social justice – particularly issues surrounding human rights, so I am keen to see how these two interests might converge at some point.

### What is the best thing about doing music as a subject?

I think the best thing about learning music, is the structure of the course and the wonderful mentors we meet, who encourage us to develop and discover ourselves as musicians and individuals. Through my performance subject, I have learned a lot about the elements of music, and how they inform and influence an interpretation. I think this growth has allowed me to gain fresh insight into my own pieces and fuelled my passion for performance!

Scan the QR Code to hear Elizabeth perform





VET Music students (from left) Darcey Byrne, Alison McHarry, India Connor, Imogen Edwards.

## Darcey Byrne

### What music subject/s are you studying?

I am currently studying VET music.

### What is your main instrument? Do you play others?

My main instrument is vocals; however, I also play keys.

### What style of music do you most enjoy and why?

The style of music that I most enjoy is pop music. I think that this is because I can always find a song to match my emotions.

### Why did you choose to study a VCE Music subject?

I chose to study a VCE Music subject because I get so much joy from playing and creating music. I find that it is a great outlet, and it always makes me feel so happy.

### What are you hoping to do in the future? (With music and outside of music.)

I am not sure what I am planning on doing in the future, but I know that I always want music to be a part of my life.

### What is the best thing about doing music as a subject?

The best thing about doing music as a subject is getting to know the other students who share the same passion as you and creating bonds over that.

Scan the QR Code to hear Darcey perform



## Alison McHarry

### What music subject/s are you studying?

VET music

### What is your main instrument? Do you play others?

I mainly sing, but I can also play piano.

### What style of music do you most enjoy and why?

I enjoy acoustic music and songs with well thought out lyrics.

### Why did you choose to study a VCE Music subject?

I wanted to study VET music as I have a passion for music and performing, and I wanted to see where I could take my song writing.

### What are you hoping to do in the future? (With music and outside of music.)

I am hoping to study graphic design at university and keep pursuing music and drama at the same time.

### What is the best thing about doing music as a subject?

Being able to perform with likeminded people who are also passionate about music and pushing each other to create something that you never thought you could.

Scan the QR Code to hear Alison perform





# Having a ball

EMIRA GRBAC, MARKETING INTERN AND  
NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING MANAGER

Netball star Tess Campigli (Year 12) has been scoring goals since the age of five. Starting her netball journey at South Barwon, she was coached by her Mum, who has been her “number one supporter” since she first stepped onto the netball courts.



Tess Campigli’s talent was noticed early on as she was selected for the Under 12 Victorian team in Year 6 and played GFL rep netball until she joined the Geelong Flyers.

Tess was selected for Netball Victoria State Trials, making it to the final 25 girls over four weeks of training.

“I was lucky enough to train with some of the best girls in the state”.

Tess continued to play at the Geelong Flyers and Cougars as a training partner. “I learnt a lot from the older, more experienced players and got to see the standard of player I needed to

be if I wanted to make the team in the future”.

Tess has faced setbacks on the court. After a cancelled 2020 season due to COVID-19, she was keen to jump back onto the court. However, following a solid preseason for 2021, Tess sadly broke her foot. Stuck in a moon boot





### Tess has a few words of advice for our aspiring netballers:

“Just enjoy the game and everything that comes with it.

There can be a lot of pressure to win and play well but the best games I have played have been when I am relaxed and genuinely just enjoying playing netball.

Obviously with success comes hard work, there have certainly been many times where the last thing I felt like doing was training but it does pay off so I look forward to seeing you all out there giving your all!”

loved “playing against some of the best players in the state” and seeing other schools “amazing facilities” at away games.

Tess certainly took her responsibilities seriously. “I think every player in the firsts squad is a leader. But being named Captain was such an honour. I love College netball and getting the chance to lead was something I had always hoped to do. This year as Captain, my main role was to keep the girls motivated and making the most out of the games and trainings where we got to spend together as a team. Netball at College is so strong, and I can’t wait to see what comes of it in the future years!!”

In recognition of her outstanding performances on the court since 2019 Tess was named in the APS Rep Netball team for 2021. In a team full of state representative players Tess was thrilled to be named. “I was super excited to be selected in the APS team. The APS competition is full of really talented netball players, so I was really honoured to be selected. I wish the match against AGS could have been played.

As Tess moves on to study teaching in Ballarat next year her plans for netball are a little up in the air, but she is hoping to return to College and coach if she can manage the time.

for six weeks, Tess missed the end of the pre-season and the start of the 2021 season. Unfortunately, as COVID-19 continued to wreak havoc in Victoria, Tess could only play three games before her season was cut short.

Tess draws inspiration from her coach Collingwood Netball Club’s midcourt star Mel Bragg. Mel has remained resilient through her elite netball career, and Tess admires her ability “to give her everything to all she does; training 5-6 times a week and still making an effort to coach us”.

Tess’ love for the sport shines through in her games. “I love the friendships founded on the court. I have made so many different friends from all over the county through netball. You can be having a tough day and go to netball and forget all your worries for a couple of hours. It’s nice being in a professional environment where everyone has the same passion for netball, and you get the most out of each other”

Selected as Captain of the College First Netball Team, Tess led the girls in the COVID-19 interrupted APS competition this year. As “one of the highest standards of competition” Tess

# Big Kid to Big Cat

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING MANAGER

In one of his 13 or 14 interviews with AFL Clubs across the year, new Hawthorn coach Sam Mitchell questioned Toby Conway's (OGC 2021) humility. I think you'll agree that it shines through as the big man speaks about his football future.



Touted as the number one ruck prospect in the 2021 draft, in late November he found his football home with the Geelong Cats, taken at pick 24 in the 2021 National Draft.

Not that it was a surprise to the pundits. Kevin Sheehan the AFL Talent Ambassador said of Toby.

"He is a boy of 204cm who is really on track. He's had a terrific year. The

first number of games, before a break in the season, he was a very good player for the Falcons I like his ruck craft, he's still developing that, he's a very good mark around the ground, and he's mobile, as big fellas have to be. I love the way he competes at ground level as well, the way he gets down to not just win the ball, but also to support the smaller players."

Toby is understandably excited about the opportunities ahead of him.

"I couldn't be happier really. Mitch Kevitt is a really good friend of mine too, so I am excited to be going there with him. I've had a lot of the players give me a call today and they've been really welcoming. I just can't wait to get into it. We have training on Monday and a COVID-19 test tomorrow so I guess I'll meet the players then as well which will be exciting. The Cats have done really well. I know Cooper Whyte as well from the Falcons and he, and Mitch are great players, so it's looking good for the future."

"In the next few years, I think I'll just be pushing to be the best player I can be. I'm a pretty strong person at the moment as a young ruckman compared to where some others might be at my age, so I'll just try and grow that, get my running up and work on my skills. It won't be much different to other players I don't think. I'll just be following orders... My development will be a bit delayed compared to the smaller blokes because ruckmen take a lot more time to reach their peak. I'll just be trying to reach my potential as soon as possible."

No doubt the Cats saw strong qualities in Toby, as College Co-Vice Captain and Captain of the 1st XVIII.

"I think as a person I am quite resilient. I'm good at overcoming adversity and that's complemented by the balanced lifestyle I have. When footy isn't going too well I'm able to find other things in my life that I can focus on and have a little bit of a break from footy, another outlet. I think that just adds to my footy."



*Toby on the ground at his first training session with the Cats*



“The balance between School footy and other commitments can be difficult. I played at four different standards this year and it was a week-to-week thing. One week I was playing Falcons and the next week I was playing for College. Then I had a Victorian Country game. It was a good challenge, having to adjust every game and trying to figure everything out. School footy was really important to me this year. I just wanted to get a win with my mates, we talked about it a lot. Both my siblings got wins and it was a really special day for them, so I was quite sad when I didn’t get one this year. We only lost to Wesley by four points when I wasn’t playing, so I was pretty annoyed about that. I was barracking passionately from the side, but it was frustrating not to be a part of it.

With Year 12, COVID-19, footy commitments and the draft combine, it’s been a big year for Toby.

“At the draft combine we did a jump test, a standing jump where you just have to stand still and jump as high as you can and a running jump off your left and right foot. There was a 20m sprint and a 2km time trial, and then height and weight, hand and arm measurements and all of that side of things. I didn’t win too much except for the standing reach. I got a 7-minute, 27-second 2km time which was about 20 seconds behind the next worse person, so I wasn’t the most athletic person there, but I’m a ruckman so I guess I don’t need to be compared to most of the others.”

Toby not only loves football, but high-performance sport in general, and will look to study Sports Management alongside his football.

“Hopefully I’ll do ok in my VCE. I considered teaching because my dad’s a teacher and I think that would be really fun and fulfilling, but at this stage though I’m looking at a high-performance sport career because after footy I’d have connections and it would be easier to get into that industry. I did well in VCE PE last year and I enjoyed studying it, which probably isn’t true for most of my subjects this year. There is a great course at Deakin Burwood, Sports Management and they have a good cloud campus so I should be able to do that course on the cloud and concentrate on my footy.

As a footballer my strength would have to be my ruck craft. I really enjoy it and I think it is quite a good skill to have and something you can hone and work on by watching video footage. I don’t rest on my laurels. Just because I’m tall it doesn’t mean I’ll win every tap. When it gets to a high level you can get caught out if you just rely on your height, so I do really work on it.”

But prior to the draft he wasn’t overly confident.

I’ve always said there are 20 picks on draft night, and I am a very, very long shot to be called out that night. If I go anywhere, I’ll go in the next rounds! And I was right. Being the number one ruck prospect in the draft didn’t really make me feel anything to be honest. I played in the Vic Country v Vic Metro game, and I won that contest pretty easily against the other ruckman just because I think they had seven or eight ruckmen who went in the mid-season draft, so I haven’t really got to play on any of those guys this year. They could have been better than me, but they got drafted so they’re not in consideration anymore.

But I guess I’ll get to see how we stack up in the next few years. I’ll look forward to that.”

A true testament to the strength of football pathways in Geelong, Toby started at Auskick, played at Geelong Amateurs from Under 9s and moved across to St Mary’s when he started playing Under 14s.

“My three siblings were at St Mary’s; it was a bit closer to home and I thought would be good to have a change. They (St Mary’s) were really good for me, I enjoyed playing there. In the Under 16s I made the Falcons squad, but I just wanted to be on the team. That year I decided to go to Fulfilling Lives because I didn’t think I would make the Victorian Country Squad, so I wrote it off, but then I made the squad, which was a big surprise – I thought the email got sent to the wrong person! It was kind of my break-out year because then I went on to make the All-Australian squad a month later.

School football too, was a big part of this young man’s story.



# A brush stroke of genius

BY EMIRA GRBAC, MARKETING INTERN AND NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING MANAGER

Paul Erkilla has been a cleaner at the College for four years. He is well-loved and known by the students and staff for his dedication and commitment to College but now is famous as the school's new Vincent Van Gogh!

Paul generously donated this painting to the College in the hope it would inspire a new generation of young talent.

The idea for the painting came about when music teacher Dr Phil Bohun approached Paul after discovering Paul's self-professed 'quirky' paintings. From violet crumble coastlines to swimming birds, Paul's exceptional work was perfectly suited to inspire the minds of art and music students.

The painting depicts the iconic College Pegasus statue in Helicon Place being "brought to life by a College string orchestra. As the music soars, led by a confident conductor, the Pegasus takes flight on its way to the stars."

If you look closely, in the background, you can see Bellerophon overlooking the action. Paul decided to add the Corinthian hero to the artwork after a chance conversation with Dr Peter Miller, who explained that Bellerophon



was the only person to ride the Pegasus.

To create his artwork, Paul used images as reference points and then superimposed the Pegasus onto it.

“It was quite a process, but that’s what I love about painting, it’s a learning process, and with every painting you do, you get better”.

One of the challenges Paul faced, that the grounds staff can likely

sympathise with, was the Boston Ivy that wraps around the school walls and windows. “It changes so quickly” from a vibrant green to red and then dying”.

Paul hopes this painting will inspire music and art students and the College community to “use their minds and think outside of the box”.

As College families, alumni, students, and staff we hold the Pegasus close

to our hearts, and this painting is a wonderful example of the inspiration it provides, not only to our students but our talented and well-rounded staff.

Never judge a book by its cover, or an artist by his brush because you never know what wonders the pages of their lives contain.



# Tokyo 2020: The highs and lows

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING MANAGER

Coming off the high of competing in an Olympic final, to two weeks of almost solitary confinement in hotel quarantine in Sydney, was perhaps the most difficult experience of Angus Widdicombe's (OGC 2012) life, and perhaps epitomises the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games - a double-edged sword.

Schedules and plans were sidelined as the Games were postponed for a year and athletes all over the world were locked down away from competition and training.

Angus explains, "To be honest, I was probably luckier than anyone else in

Victoria because I came home for the first lockdown and moved to Anglesea where I had all the training equipment I needed. I just trained, did a bit of work in data entry and hung out down there with my girlfriend. There were certainly much worse places to be. Once the lockdown

ended, I went back to the Reinhold Batschi National Training Centre in Canberra, where I have been for the past six years. I was there from lockdown 2.0 until the Games. We were super lucky because we could still work and get out and about. I always looked at that as a



Australia has never won the Men's Eight, but a few of the boys from the Four are keen to change that. Hopefully we can build from what we put down in these Olympics.

privilege rather than anything else. But not being able to go overseas and race in that extra year certainly threw out our plans and it did affect us."

On Saturday 24 July, in the Men's Eight Heats at the Sea Forest Waterway in Tokyo Bay, Angus stroked the Australian Men to 4th place in Heat 1. It wasn't where they hoped to be, but the crew had to focus on their repechage row, four days later. In that race they finished fourth behind rowing powerhouses New Zealand, Great Britain and the USA to knock Romania out of the race. The final was going to be tough.

On the day of the final, the Aussie team travelled across Tokyo to the bay. They were as ready as they would ever be for the challenge ahead. At the gun the Australian boat got away well and was in touch with the fast-starting German crew. After a good 500m they were less than two seconds off the lead. At the halfway mark, they had lost some ground, with the New Zealand crew taking the lead. The second half of the race saw the medal crews New Zealand, Germany and Great Britain set a scorching pace and the Australian crew finished in sixth place.

"It wasn't the result we wanted, but really it was where we were at. The

only thing I would have liked really was for us to have performed at our best.

"I'm not sure why, but we didn't quite click overseas. We had some young kids in the boat who did an awesome job. I can't imagine being 20 and sitting in an Olympic Men's Eight. Those guys absolutely stepped up, but it's the Olympics and everyone steps up.

"At the last Olympics Australia didn't even qualify a Men's Eight so after this, we should be ready for the next one. Australia has never won the Men's Eight, but a few of the boys from the Four are keen to change that. Hopefully we can build from what we put down in these Olympics."

It was though, a different final, with just rowers, officials, and volunteers to witness the action in person, and, of course, enormous support from home.

"My family threw a huge party at the Geelong Football Club for the final. I knew I had huge support back here. I reckon I could hear them from Japan! Because of that, the lack of crowds didn't really make much of a difference. There was enough support staff and other rowers there to make some noise. In rowing you don't really hear the crowds until the very end. I think the London Olympics, compared to Tokyo, would have been really

different, but apparently, the noise there hindered the rowers, because they couldn't hear each other. I really missed my friends and family being there after the race to celebrate with me. I did have all my teammates and the support staff but it wasn't the same."

One of the great things about representing your country at the Olympics, is to experience another country and culture. Obviously, due to COVID-19, the athletes were either in the Village or competing, before they were whisked home to quarantine, so I didn't really get to experience the 'real' Japan.

"I still say I haven't been to Japan because we went from the Athlete Village to the course. We saw bits and bobs from the bus but didn't get to go anywhere and experience the culture. In saying that, the Japanese officials and volunteers were just so nice, they were all 'arrigato!' It was incredible. The real Japan did filter through in their hospitality and organisation. You hear horror stories that the bus didn't show up for the Olympic final and people were stressing out, but nothing like that happened. The buses were on time, the place was so clean, everyone was so friendly. We definitely saw the Japanese culture through these

experiences, and it was awesome. There was a lot of talk that no one in Japan wanted the Games to go ahead, but I find that hard to believe because every person we passed in buses was waving and super excited to see us. Also, in other sports like the cycling there were thousands of people along the sides of the roads because they couldn't stop them. They loved it and it was a shame that they couldn't enjoy it more."

After the final Angus and the crew flew home and quarantined in Sydney.

"I had a balcony, so it wasn't too bad. I had a friend one floor up and another a couple of balconies away so we could go out and yell at each other. It was a pretty rude shock.

"We knew we signed up for it but the emotional build up to a massive high, to then being just in a room was tough to be honest.

"I would probably say it was the worse two weeks of my life, after the best week of my life, and the best 6 months leading into it. It was a huge contrast, but I had heaps of support, people sent me things, I watched the Olympics with friends on facetime and I spoke to friends and family, so it wasn't too bad."

With the Men's Eight in a building phase, will we see Angus go around again in Paris 2024?

"Will I go on? We'll see. I'm really enjoying working at the moment. You can't be a rower forever because it takes away options like working, buying a house and other relationships, so I'm enjoying concentrating on them for now.

"Hopefully I can build a base during the next year and have some things in place so I can go back to it. I'd love to go again! I want to win a medal, a gold medal in the Eight, that is the absolute dream.

"I'm certainly motivated by the New Zealand crew. They didn't have an Eight qualified for the Olympics, and none of the guys who ended up in that boat were rowing for the Eight as their target. When three-time Olympic gold medallist Hamish Bond returned to rowing he was dead set on winning the Eight.

"He gathered all these new kids who didn't have all the four years of preparation, but they brought in the enthusiasm, and they just hit it perfectly, it

was incredible to watch. When you have someone like that in your boat, with next level drive and determination, it's hard to lose. The young kids see that, and he tells them what to do, and they just do it like they don't believe anything else. Seeing them gave a lot of the guys in my squad confidence, that we could win the Eight, but it's about targeting it.

"In Australia the Four is the priority boat, then the pair and then the Eight, and we are racing the top boats from the other countries. No one cares about any other boats around the world to be honest. Germany, Great Britain, the USA, all the big rowing nations see the Eight as the blue ribbon event. It's what you race at school, it's what you want to win at College... so hopefully we can do that. Even if I'm not in it I would like to see Australia win it."

Angus reminisced about his school rowing days, and like lots of good young schoolboy rowers, was going to quit.

"I was going to quit rowing at school, I was going to go and play cricket, but I was pretty horrible at it, which was probably lucky.

"I just didn't like rowing that much, then someone said 'hey, you're pretty good so you should stick it out!'

"That was when I was in Year 9, and I thought, 'actually, I am alright!' Then one session we rowed up the Barwon and stopped to eat the packed lunch of leftover pizza that one of our crew had brought, and I thought: 'this isn't too bad'.

"I love the outdoors and I love being on the water. My crew were no good at the time, the previous year we came second last, so we were determined just to make







If you'd had a bad day at school, you'd get on the bus down to the sheds and you were immediately away from it. You were still part of The Geelong College, but you were away from it. It was a release, some fun, hard training, and discipline – which I probably didn't take on board until I was a bit older.

the A final. We hadn't made the A Final since Josh Dunkley-Smith's year, so we were really keen to do that, and we did.

"We had a great coach, David Doyle, who I saw a few weeks ago in Noosa. I told him that he was the reason I kept rowing in school. Also, having the pedigree of rowers – Josh Dunkley-Smith, Jen Cleary, Phoebe Stanley, and even John Lincke and James Wilson, who all rowed on Australian teams made me think, that's something I want to do!

"The rowing community, Fletch – great man, all the old guys that are involved with the shed, and all the parents definitely set up the foundations of me loving the sport and wanting to go on with it.

"If you'd had a bad day at school, you'd get on the bus down to the sheds and you were immediately away from it. You

were still part of The Geelong College, but you were away from it. It was a release, some fun, hard training, and discipline – which I probably didn't take on board until I was a bit older."

After his Olympic success Angus has been invited to be a part of the Old Collegians Notables Gallery, which he is thrilled about.

"Imagine telling the Principal when I was there that I would end up on the wall! I love the College. It's got so many great people. I am still best mates with lots of my school friends, even though you're away for five or six years and everyone does their own thing, when you catch up again it's like nothing has changed."

### Angus' Tips for Aspiring Rowers:

- Make sure you're enjoying it. Don't let any moment go past. Take a deep breath and look around – you get to row on all these beautiful waterways – enjoy it.
- You're in a boat with your mates and you're staying fit and healthy, don't take that for granted.
- Set small goals. You don't have to aim for the Olympics, just an A final, or a club eight. Goals you can tick off along the way.
- Always ask questions about why you are doing things. If you don't understand, ask! So, you can implement the changes people want.
- Don't be afraid to have a go. As long as you put everything into it, even if you don't get the result, you won't regret it because you know you did your best. And that's where you are at.



(Above from left) 1,2. Jye Charles giving the Welcome to Country at the 2021 Valedictory Ceremony wearing the possum skin stole. 3. Making the stole.

# Cultural connections

LISA COUZENS

‘Ngatanwarr’, in my language group (Gunditjimara, Keeray Woorroong) means ‘greetings’.

My name is Lisa Couzens, and I commenced at The Geelong College this year as The Indigenous Cultural Advisor.

My role has been to guide the College with the next steps in connecting with community, and committing to a better understanding of First Nations culture.

Another of my key roles is making The Geelong College a safe and welcoming environment for our growing Indigenous community.

Even though I have only been here a short time, I feel that the small steps we have taken are a strong start. At Senior School, we have introduced flags to different areas around the campus where people gather; posters for significant dates on our calendar and community events. Our students have been involved in our Reconciliation Assembly and in displaying Indigenous artwork. These things might not seem

significant but to any First Nations people visiting it makes a world of difference!

I’ve had the pleasure of being welcomed into the Year 10 classes and yarning with the students about Indigenous perspectives and my own life experiences. These yarns are invaluable to myself, as well as teachers and the students.

We have also been able to take some of our Middle School students out on Country to experience and gain a better understanding, and to strengthen their connections to each other, the culture and the beautiful Wadawurrung land.

I have spent some time with Senior School students on a special project to make a possum skin stole for them to wear at assemblies, and graduation. The stole is a contemporary version of a possum skin cloak. Wearing a cloak or stole during a ceremony signifies

that the person is special, they might be an elder, speaker, healer or a young person reaching a goal.

The making of the stole is a cultural practice connecting to past, present and future generations. It provides a way of sharing stories, healing and sustaining our culture within the broader community. Jye Charles wore it for the first time when he gave the Acknowledgement of Country at this year’s Valedictory service.

I am grateful for the opportunity this position brings and I’m looking forward to next year. The small steps we have taken are a strong foundation for what is to come, and this would not be possible without the warmth and the generosity I have been shown by the staff here.

Woorook! (Goodbye!)





*Images: 1. Representatives of the SSPA Committee; 2. Year 12 students at the Valedictory Cocktail Party; 3. Sondra Wood and Sara Selvaraju, PSPA President*

# The Geelong College Parents' Associations

Our parent volunteer groups have had another challenging year with COVID-19 lockdowns and density quotas limiting the opportunities to meet on the College campus or run events.

## KAY TAIT (SSPA) & SARA SELVARAJU (PSPA)

During 2021, our volunteer parent associations have continued to support the College and the student experience with a number of fundraising and friend raising opportunities.

The second half of the year presented a few challenges with Covid lockdowns and density quotas limiting the opportunities to meet on the College campus or run events. The monthly Prep and Senior School Parent Association meetings reverted back to online during the numerous lockdowns and the stop start nature of each term.

However, there still have been opportunities for fundraising where the PSPA were able to hold their annual Easter Egg raffle, a Father's Day raffle and the Mother's Day stall which was very well received by the students across Junior and Middle school. A conscious approach has been to source products regionally and to support local businesses.

We would like to thank members of our school community for their generous donations to support our fundraising

raffles and events. Monies raised contribute to student experiences across the school.

The SSPA donated to the 88 Keys project to support the College's purchase of a Steinway Model D piano to become a Steinway Select school to enhance the music program. A masterclass was given to students from the Junior, Middle and Senior schools on 18 November where they had an opportunity to work with acclaimed concerto soloist and chamber musician, Kristian Chong.

The SSPA/PSPA Gala Winter ball was scheduled for July to celebrate the 160th anniversary of The Geelong College and 100 years of the Preparatory School. Remarkably, all 550 tickets were sold within a few days. This black-tie event will now be reimagined and has been postponed until Saturday 30 April 2022.

The SSPA also contributed to a range of goodies and products in 'care packs' which were greatly appreciated by the Year 12 students with a 'Drive and Collect' service at the Junior School

near the end of Term 3. It also included their Year 12 jumpers and practice exam papers.

Following a relaxing of restrictions, our Year 12 parents and students were finally able to get together for a Valedictory Cocktail Party at 1915, Federal Mills, to celebrate the end of their College journey and the start of new adventures.

Thank you to all parents across the school, and in particular, to our volunteers. We look forward to coming together in 2022 and wish you and your families a happy Christmas.

## Boarding Parents' Support Group

A big thank you to Pip Norton who as a Year 12 parent steps down as President of the Boarding Parents' Support Group and we welcome Denise McLellan as the new President for 2022.



*Middle School students participating in a waste audit*

# Leaders of change

EMMA WATTERS, LEADER OF LEARNING YEARS 4-8

Students at Middle School have the opportunity to participate in multiple leadership opportunities throughout their time with us. One such way that our students can get involved is by signing up to represent their peers as part of the Student Representative Council (SRC).

Recently, Will Johnson and I sat down with some members of the SRC Enviro group, who represent the sustainability and environment pursuits of our school to learn about their thinking, and their hopes for the future.

During our discussions, it was clear that the students are aware that there are many issues and problems relating to sustainability in our wider community, but in the end it's the little things that when done enough times end up building up to a bigger problem.

**Their main concern is that each individual person in our community needs to be conscious of their actions.**

"...An example is: dropping a bit of plastic rubbish may not seem that harmful at the time, but it will lead to a problem if we're all doing it and nothing changes. Eventually it feeds into a larger problem of plastic waste."

"...Just using things once and then throwing it away has got to stop. We need to stop using plastic cups and bottles and so on that get thrown out after we use them once. We need to fix this. I'd like to see plastics that can

break down and bin liners and so on that are biodegradable."

"We were recently looking at fast fashion in class and I believe that fast fashion is something that needs our attention. We don't really think about the resources and time that go into making something simple like a plain cotton shirt. It takes thousands and thousands of litres of water to grow a cotton tree, and then all these pesticides are used, then all this effort and energy goes into making the cheap t-shirt which may then be worn a few times and then thrown out. There's too much waste. When



we buy the shirt we forget all this - not to mention the carbon emissions from the whole process!"

"Carbon emissions are something else that aren't right. I think there should be more awareness for electric cars. We need more recharging stations. We should start riding bicycles more."

"We need to remember that what we drop on the floor could end up in the ocean which could affect fish, and it could also affect people because realistically, they eat the fish. So we're digesting the plastic that the fish has digested and though it's not much, it's there. There has been scientific research and scientific proof that we do actually eat plastics from fish. So not only is it affecting the fish, its actually affecting you and your lifestyle."

**So, with that in mind what thoughts do they have about the future of our planet?**

"I've been thinking about the net zero emissions by 2050 - that's been a big thing recently and it's really good

because it's a positive movement, but we have to keep it realistic. We know it's not going to happen overnight and we're not going to see the effect of what we do now until 20-30 years' time. We have to consider that if 20 or 30 years ago they were doing exactly what we are doing now, what has actually changed? Perhaps we haven't evolved to an acceptable level yet. Something needs to change to keep our community evolving"

With students thinking of their futures and advocating for change such as this at the Middle School, we are hopeful for a bright and sustainable future.

Many thanks to Joshua Ames, Savidu Kapuhen Thuduwege, Kaitlin Russell, Eason Gao, Sam Berryman, Ned Berryman and Hugo Chalmers for contributing their ideas and thoughts for this article.

**What are our SRC members hoping for the future?**

"Just for people to realise what you can do to help. If we can inspire you to do that and you can go tell your friend 'I just saw this on the news, or in this article the other day' then it gets around to a lot of people quite quick."

"It doesn't really help if we just make more rules. It's more than just enforcement. People need education about all this stuff so that they make better choices. People need to learn the actual effects of their actions."



Demonstrating Active Citizenship Beyond the Walls:

# Introducing the Year 1 Recycling Revolution Centre

CHARMAINE SARACI AND ALLISON CARR, JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

‘From the beginning, children demonstrate that they have a voice, know how to listen and want to be listened to by others’.

- Carla Rinaldi

“Did you know by the Year 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the world’s oceans?”

“I can’t believe it takes 450 years for a plastic water bottle to decompose!”

This year, the children in Year 1 have been observing the world around them. Their passion and curiosity for marine life was evident, and their quest to care for Mother Earth emerged. A desire to investigate further, was developed during our beachcombing excursion to Queenscliff Foreshore and the Marine Discovery Centre. Here the children observed first-

hand, the impact of human waste on our natural environment and they wanted to provoke change within the community.

“We only have one planet to live on and we only have one lifetime to change it. That seems like a really long time, but Earth is bigger than anything we have ever known. We have to take care of our planet now.”

“How can we share our message of taking care of Mother Earth beyond our walls?”

To encourage students to respond and apply their newly developed knowledge and skills, the Year 1 children have



created their very own 'Recycling Revolution Centre' as a solution to unwanted waste. A place where discarded materials can be repurposed and sent to manufacturers to create new recycled products. After much research, the children discovered organisations in Australia to partner with, that not only help the planet, but also assist others in need in our community. Our young recycling team have been collecting plastic bread

tags, plastic bottle lids and aluminium ring pulls to create prosthetic limbs and wheelchairs for children in Australia and beyond.

In addition to this action, the 'Year 1 Recycling Revolution Centre' endeavour to upcycle discarded fabrics to design and produce reusable bags with personalised slogans. This will further promote the children's strong message to limit single use

plastics, keeping them out of our precious oceans. Connections have been made with an Environmental Projects Facilitator within our community where we hope to continue our conservation journey beyond the walls of Campbell House.

Through our Inquiry, the children explored the following concepts and wanted to encourage others to:

- Rethink their options, what they use and how they use things
- Refuse single use and unnecessary items
- Reduce the consumption of items to avoid creating waste
- Reuse what they can until it can't be used anymore
- Repurpose items by giving them new life instead of sending them to landfill





# A man of many hidden talents

MIKE HOWELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Did you know that Roger Smith had a number of pathways before pursuing a career of teaching - becoming an actuary or being a professional tennis player?

Upon completing his secondary schooling at Mentone Secondary College, Roger Smith was faced with the dilemma that had plagued many a Year 12 student before him:

Which career to choose?

He had an ATAR score which presented him with many tertiary opportunities. He had a strong interest and proficiency in computing, but medicine was also on the cards. Not to mention his interest in sport - particularly: tennis.

The one thing Roger knew for sure was that he wanted a career where he could interact with people.

Ultimately, it was his Maths teacher who posed the question that would shape Roger's future career:

'Have you considered teaching?'

Roger first studied a Bachelor of Science (Hons) at Melbourne University and then went on to Monash and completed his Diploma of Education,

later going on to obtain his Bachelor of Education.

Along the way, Roger remained a passionate tennis player. He competed firstly at local levels, but moved on to spend some time on the international tennis circuit.

Mostly competing in Australia and New Zealand tours, Roger even won a couple along the way! However, he discovered that the road to professional tennis was a difficult one, with his prize





money barely covering flights and accommodation.

Making the decision that his career lay outside of tennis, Roger maintained his connection with the game he loves, instead becoming an accredited tennis coach.

In fact, tennis would continue to be a constant in Roger's life. He played pennant tennis (Premier League with Tennis Victoria) right into his forties until 'wear and tear' saw him finally hang up his racket.

Roger speaks humbly about his achievements, but it cannot go unsaid that he was also an accomplished marathon runner. He has competed in many events over the years, clocking in with impressive times of under 2-and-a-half hours!

(To put this into perspective for the less accomplished marathon runners amongst us, the average mens' completion time for a marathon is 4 hours, 13 minutes. The mens' winning time for the 2019 Melbourne Marathon was 2 hours, 35 minutes.)

Many of these achievements coincided with Roger's time here at The Geelong College.

Roger started at the College back in 1997 as Director of Curriculum. He moved to Geelong from Melbourne where he had previously held the positions of Head of Mathematics and Director of Administration (Computing) at St Michaels Grammar School, St Kilda.

Not long after he start, College became a family affair with Roger's daughters, Stephanie (OGC 2005) and Angela (OGC 2007), starting their 13-year College journeys at Campbell House.

Roger says his daughters enjoyed their time at College, but notes:

"It's probably lucky for the girls that we have a common surname - Smith - a it gave them a degree of anonymity amongst their peers!"

Since then both have competed multiple tertiary qualifications and are currently working in Australia.

Stephanie has spent 4 years working in Kenya with an NGO, One Acre Fund, which provided small holder farmers

with the financing and training to grow and sell food.

Her younger sister, Angela, is currently involved with the COVID-19 response as a nurse.

During Roger's 24 years at College, he lent his expertise to many projects and disciplines. He taught Mathematics at the highest level, coached tennis, was a valued member of the Executive team, and lead the Senior School ahead of his appointment as Deputy Principal in 2014. He was also Acting Principal for 3 terms in 2015.

He was a much-respected member of staff and a much valued colleague, providing support to those experiencing in difficult times. Roger has given distinguished service to the College over his many years, and many roles.

Roger's passion, apart from teaching maths and coaching tennis, was as outdoor education, experiential learning and personal development.

He has always been a keen bush walker, as has his wife Heather. Together, they had led a number of school groups prior to coming to The Geelong College,

while Roger taught at St Michael's School.

Roger's spirit of adventure was a perfect match for The Exploration Society which has been a huge part of College history.

Started in the 1930's, the Society has undertaken a number of ambitious expeditions over the years, including Uluru, Rodondo island, Federation Peak and Flinders Ranges - just to name a few.

Roger was in his element leading trips, with wife Heather using her professional experience as a nurse to support the team, and current staff members Rob Kayler-Thomson and Phil Taylor also on-board.

Roger has participated in no less than ten Exploration Society Expeditions and Fulfilling Lives trips over the years.

"A common feature of all expeditions was development of resilience both physical and psychological; better understanding of the environment and it's fragility; initiative; tolerance and team work accommodating a mixed age group and genders (including staff!).

"The first trip Heather and I participated in was Coongie Lakes in the year 2000. This was amazing as Cooper Creek had flooded and we had the exceptional experience of seeing wildlife influx the amassed waters.

"Subsequently, I have participated in and led trips ranging from the coast lines of South-east Victoria to South-west WA and up into Central Australia including the Flinders' and McDonnell Ranges'," he said.

But under Roger's guidance, the Exploration Society travelled even further afield.

"We have also ventured offshore to Thailand, Cambodia and Tanna, Vanuatu with The Geelong College students.

"The experiences on Tanna were unique: with immersion into the daily life and the Ni-Van culture, education and the geological phenomenon of the Mount Yasur volcano which erupts continuously and often several times an hour!"

The special relationship with Tanna and the Lenakel Presbyterian College has been ongoing since 2007.

In March 2015 Cyclone Pam ripped through Vanuatu just days before 30 students were to travel there for a Fulfilling Lives trip.

It was one of the strongest cyclones to hit the south west Pacific. Buildings, roads and infrastructure were flattened leaving the community with very limited food, water and shelter. The boarding houses and classrooms of Lenakel College were destroyed.

In response, Kevin Jess - Head of Creative Arts, and Roger, along with other staff and students, launched the 'Tanna Reconnect Appeal' in our community.

Over \$50,000 was raised in a remarkable fundraising campaign to help rebuild the school along with donations of clothes, stationery, and food.

In 2016, Roger and Heather returned to Tanna during the mid-year break to assist in the rebuilding program.

Both Roger and Heather shared a passion for supporting the hospital on Tanna. Each trip to there would include a visit to the hospital to donate medical





supplies and equipment, which would be used to directly save lives.

With Roger's logistical planning and leadership combined with the medical back-up and passion of Heather, 'Team Smith' were a formidable partnership.

Such was Heather's enjoyment of The Exploration Society trips she'd undertaken with Roger, she went on to support the College but acting as 'nurse' on several other Fulfilling Lives trips.

Travel and the outdoors has been a lifelong passion for Roger, Heather and their daughters. At College, and outside of it.

"With my family, I took every opportunity to enjoy camping and hiking, with a particular love of walks in Tasmania from The Overland to Freycinet to Three Capes.

"We spent 11 weeks in the Kimberley, which is a sensational environmental hub, so different from the southern states.

"We also spent 11 weeks in Africa: a continent in many ways similar to Australia. However, one of the biggest differences are the large wild animals walking past your tent! It certainly took the camping experience to a whole new level!"

Roger retired at the end of 2020 and returned to work on special projects earlier this year.

Roger and Heather's service to the school, especially in support of learning beyond the classroom, will long be remembered by those whose lives they have influenced.





*Year 6 students making cheese sandwiches for the Eat Up program.*

# From the Chaplains

## Exploring College values and philosophy

In our Chapel services and Philosophy & Religious Education classes across our College, we have the great privilege of encouraging and investing in the next generation. In a world that is ever-changing and through seasons of challenge and adversity; these spaces are so important for our students to explore faith, meaning and purpose.

Our Year 9 students in Term 4 explore our College values and what it means to them in their daily life. 'Integrity with Compassion' 'Community with Diversity' 'Aspiration with Humility' 'Respect with Grace' and 'Endeavour with Courage.'

As they research Biblical and Philosophical views, it is wonderful to see them reflect on their life and what these values mean to them in their relationships and their place in the world. In our 160 year history, our Christian heritage is an integral part of our school's story and as we look to the future, take the time to pause, reflect and discuss life's big questions continues to be of great importance.

The power of influence, maintaining our joy, love and kindness in action and a life of service to others are a few themes that our Chaplaincy & Religious Education team have unpacked in recent times. My hope is that the faith elements of our school continue to have a gentle, but positive influence in the lives of our students, staff and families.

**Steve Wright**  
Senior School Chaplain

## Service learning, Eat Up and Uniting Barwon

This year has presented us with many unexpected challenges. The opportunities for service learning for our students this year has been limited due to the COVID-19 restrictions. However, there have been occasions where we were able to engage the students with valuable and meaningful learning experiences in service learning, with opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding of people who have experienced misfortune.

In service learning we have encouraged our students to consider their place in the world and how they can contribute as valued citizens while supporting others to do the same. One program we have participated in for several years now is Eat Up. Many of our Year 6 students have joined the Eat Up program this year, making cheese sandwiches for students who have no lunch at school. These are delivered to around 20 schools in Geelong, as well as Melbourne schools. We have also held fundraisers for Eat Up across the College. Our year will conclude with the collection of groceries for Christmas Food Hampers which are donated to Uniting Barwon. These hampers go directly to people living locally around Geelong who currently need support.

**Leanne Earl**  
Junior and Middle School Chaplain

# When there's nowhere but here

## Boarding during COVID-19



Image: Barwon Drone Photography

NICOLE ROACHE, MARKETING MANAGER

When you think of COVID-19 and all of the things you have missed out on because of lockdowns and restrictions, take a moment to think about some of our International and Interstate boarders who have been away from family and friends for up to two years.

First, we spoke to Leigh Knight and Gareth Gilby our Heads of Mossgiel and Mackie respectively.

### How has COVID-19 affected the boarding program?

**Gareth:** It's been difficult to settle into regular routines with the constant in and out of lockdown and people coming and going. Our regular boarding weekend outings have been cancelled and most of our family and social occasions have been cancelled which inhibits the interaction between us and the families.

**Leigh:** Some of our International students have been unable to return home or see family, in some cases for two years and other students have been out of the boarding house so much that it felt much smaller.

### What day to day impacts have you felt?

**Leigh:** We've had to implement much stricter rules around leave and distancing, and food handling has also caused considerable challenges. Probably the main thing is that those in the house were 'in' a lot more and it has been challenging to find things to do to keep everyone entertained particularly with sport cancelled and everything shut.

**Gareth:** I definitely noticed strained

relationships from living in closer quarters with fewer people. There are just less opportunities to have a break from people. The mental health impacts on students trying to manage the uncertainty and constant change has been significant.

This was compounded by the fact that their families and support networks are often a long way away.

**Leigh:** For those that went home remote learning was sometimes a challenge because of poor internet and slow internet speeds, particularly in rural and regional areas.

**Gareth:** It was tricky to monitor ill health and isolate students presenting with COVID-19 symptoms. The logistics of getting students tested and isolating them, but still looking after them took some thinking through.

**Leigh:** Day to day routines have obviously had to be altered, but no one has minded the sleep ins and late brekky.

### There have been some students stuck here and others away from the house a lot. How have the students coped?

**Gareth:** It has been great to see the students who were in the house being proactive in finding things to do together. There has been lots of basketball and badminton, and plenty

of gym use, running and other exercise, as well as take away coffee and milkshake runs.

**Leigh:** We made sure they got together for regular 'Teams' House meetings, which helped maintain connectedness. Fun games and activities at these meetings helped to generate some fun and friendly rivalry. I have been thrilled to see how resilient the students have been, finding the positives despite all they were missing out on.

### How have these tough times brought the boarders closer together?

**Leigh:** There was a real solidarity amongst boarders with the shared challenges of COVID-19 and the level of empathy and support for each other was good to see. I think they understand a lot more about each other, particularly those who have stayed in boarding throughout most of the lockdowns.

**Gareth:** Through Teams and face time calls to those at home the students have been able to see inside each other's homes which means they have developed a greater appreciation of their life outside boarding. They have also had to socialise together more because rules haven't allowed them to socialise with other friends away from boarding.

# From The Students

We spoke to a few boarders who have been in the boarding houses through COVID-19.



James Zhang, Year 12

**What year are you in?**

I am currently studying in Year 12 for my final year of high school.

**Where are you from?**

I'm from a city called Shenzhen in Mainland China, located on the southern coast of Guangdong and just north of Hong Kong. It's the fourth most populated city in China with nearly 18 million people. I'm very familiar with living in a busy, crowded environment and I enjoyed every moment of my childhood there. But it was definitely refreshing and special to be able to spend the last four years of my life in Geelong.

**How long is it since you were at home?**

The last time I've seen my family was 30th January 2020. To think that I stepped onto the plane that day without knowing I wouldn't see my family for so long is truly uncanny and unexpected. Personally I have never been without my family for this long, and I do indeed miss them greatly. But aside from the struggle of not being home for so long, my thanks go out to all the amazing students and staff at the Geelong College who have supported the international students, and helped them with their sense of remoteness from home.

**Why did you decide to stay at College rather than go home?**

As Year 12 is the most crucial year for my course of high school education. It is decided, together with my parents, that it's best to prioritize my education instead of being eager to go home. I am really grateful that my parents are supportive of me becoming more and more independent while establishing the foundation of my own life. But on the other hand, it wasn't easy to realise that to grow up is to detach yourself from your home, your greenhouse, your cocoon. Nonetheless, it must be said that I'm extremely lucky to be part of the Mackie boarding house which symbolises as my second home here in Australia, a catalyst to helping me become a sensible and capable adult.

**When do you think you will get to see your family?**

Speaking realistically, it wouldn't be until the summer holiday of my first year of university (which is the end of 2022) for me to go back to China. I hope that quarantine rules for international travel can ease by a significant amount by sometime next year, as COVID-19 is slowly becoming an inevitable part of our life.

**Who do you miss the most?**

There isn't a single member of my family that I don't miss dearly. Besides my dad whom I was very fortunate to see this October, the days without seeing my mum and my sister still goes on counting. The sweet sense of warmth being at home can never be replicated, but I suppose it's necessary to get used to this feeling of being separated, and get myself going with finding my own passion and career.



Teleisha Cubillo, Year 11

**Where are you from?**

Darwin

**How long is it since you were home?**

I was fortunate enough to go home recently in the term break, just as the borders had briefly opened, which was really great for me.

**Why did you decide to stay at College rather than go home?**

I had Year 12 classes and SACs to complete, and although I desperately wanted to go home it was just better for me to stay for my education. I also would've had to complete a 14-day quarantine period at the Darwin facility, like I did in the semester break.

**When do you think you will get to see your family?**

If the vaccination rates keep going up, and Victoria is cautious then hopefully the borders will open and quarantine will not be needed, so hoping for these upcoming holidays.

**Who do you miss the most?**

Probably my mum, just because we have always been very close, and you don't really realise how much you miss her until you're away from her for 3 months at a time.



Mia Mu, Year 11

**Where are you from?**

Darwin

**How long is it since you were at home?**

Since late June

**Why did you decide to stay at College rather than go home?**

It was easier for remote learning, especially access to tutors and printers.

**When do you think you will get to see your family?**

Hopefully in December.

**Who do you miss the most?**

My family.



## Ashley Ng, Year 10

### Where are you from?

I was born in Sydney but moved to China and grew up there.

### How long is it since you were home?

It's been almost 2 years :(

### Why did you decide to stay at College rather than go home?

There are many factors that made me decide to stay here, but I think one of them is because it's easier for me, personally, to stay here. As much as I missed my family, I had friends here and I enjoyed doing classes here, both online and offline. Obviously, it wasn't all cupcake and rainbows, but the experience of living here during lockdown was valuable and helped me learn many things, as cringey as that might sound.

### When do you think you will get to see your family?

Hopefully this Christmas. Two of my siblings are in England at Uni, and my parents are still in China. It does get a bit complicated when planning for this kind of stuff.

### Who do you miss the most?

My best friend, who lives in Austria. Because of COVID-19 and other reasons, the last time I saw her was at least 3 years ago.

# Christina Shi, International student

## VALEDICTORY SPEECH

I proudly stand in front of you today, an International student and boarder of The Geelong College.



With time gliding by, we all start to realise that we, Year 12 of 2021, are running out of time here at TGC. Looking at the last five years I have spent here with you all, there are countless memories made and shared. Whether they were positive or not, I will be forever grateful for my time here, for everything I have experienced and learnt.

As a Year 8 student in 2017, I could never imagine myself speaking here today. Surprisingly, I don't recall any nervousness of the day that I joined the cohort as an international boarder. But I do remember the way that other Mossgiel girls checked on me that night, to make sure I was feeling okay, and how other boarders from our cohort took me from the dining hall and lead me onto the school bus the next morning. Although it has been a few years, this little bit of warmth and kindness I felt from other students still feels so familiar, like yesterday, and I can say, it will always be a memorable part of my journey here.

While Middle School was short and sweet, Senior School seemed challenging yet exciting for us back then. I am so thankful that we had the opportunity to experience a proper City Week and Fulfilling Lives program back when we were in Year 9 and 10. These programs not only gave us a better view on the broader society, they also pulled every single one of us closer together as a group. Today, I would like to say a massive thank you to all parents and staff who made these programs run as smoothly as possible, we could not have done it without you.

Well... 2020, it was not the same as we expected. It could have been the call of fate (Latin students, you know what I am talking about), after Christmas, I came back to Australia a week before the travel restrictions were placed. How lucky was I, or as many people would think, how unlucky was I, to be separated from families for a whole two years. Being a proud Mossgiel member, I would like to think I am pretty fortunate to have another family here 10000 kms away from home. Thank you, Mrs Knight, Mr Gilby and all Mossgiel and Mackie friends, thank you for being my family here, your existence makes this experience a whole new level. Maybe 10 years, or even 20 years later, I will still remember that lockdown weekend when we literally played six hours of badminton in the school gym. I will also remember all our catering staff and teachers who stayed at school during these lockdowns, being able to see you guys in person was a constant reminder that 'we are all in this together'.

With this year coming to an end, we, Year 12 of 2021 are running out of time. My five years at College has taught me so much, academically, mentally and emotionally. I am so grateful to have shared this journey with you all, remotely and face-to-face. Once again, it is a pleasure to speak here in Morrison Hall today, so I don't have to hide behind my little circle on teams and pretend my camera doesn't work.

Thank you.

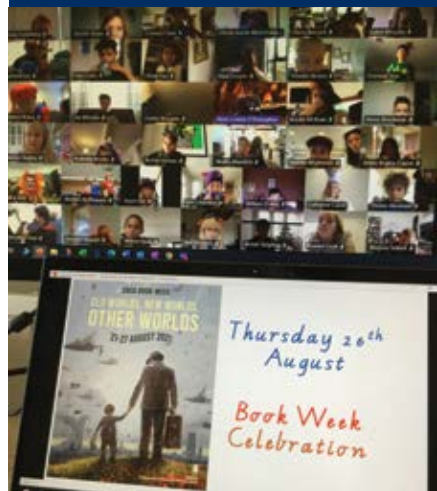
*Christina Shi*

# School Activities

APS Junior Cross Country



JS Online Book Week



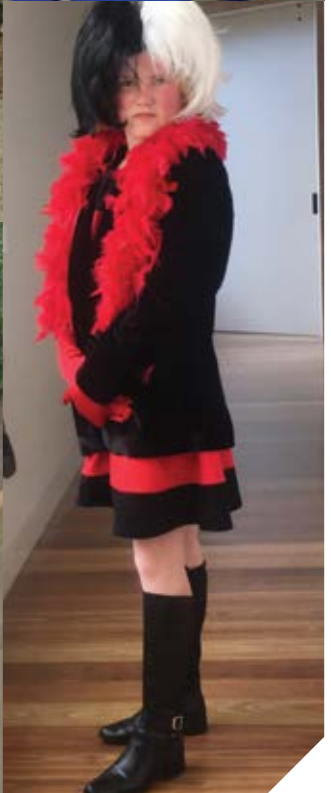
APS Winter Sport







### MS Online Book Week



# School Activities

Rowing Training & Naming of the Captains



Year 4-6 Swimming



Senior School Cross Country



Steinway Concert



MS Peter Pan Production



VCE Art show



Year 9 Wind in the Willows production



Year 12 Celebrations

# Staff departures



**Cassi Aitken**  
**Teacher**

Cassie joined us in 2014 in the capacity of an English and Humanities teacher for close to three years, and in her time at The College she became involved in teaching a Year 8 dance elective and in the Year 8 Production. This is testament to her willingness to say yes, to go the extra mile, to work with various teams and ultimately to bring such richness into the lives of the students she taught.

Cassie was tireless in the thinking she invested in her lessons and the units we designed as a team, always striving to do, reflect and then do better. She developed such a genuine and warm rapport with her classes which was an integral part of the opportunities for success she gave students in her care.

As a colleague, Cassie was always a team player. Honest, funny, and ready to work hard to bring together diverse learning experiences for our students. In all of that, she also taught her colleagues new ways of thinking about the delivery of content, striving to be current and engaging in her approach.

While we had our fingers crossed that Cassie would come back to join us, life gets very full with three young children, so we wish her well as she and Matt raise their family. We know that wherever Cassie lands in her teaching career, the staff and students alike will be very fortunate.

- **Kristina Zeravica**



**Tracey Bromley**  
**Admissions and Database Coordinator**

We will farewell Tracey Bromley from the Admissions and Database Coordinator role at the end of November.

During her four years of service Tracey brought fun and humour along with a creative flair to the Admissions Office.

Drawing on her past experience in record keeping from her time in Regional Libraries and Deakin University Tracey streamlined the Database processes and looked for new ways to simplify and automate processes for parents and staff.

During the pandemic Tracey worked exceptionally hard, under immense pressure, to assist families relocating to Geelong and directly contributed to securing our largest ever enrolment numbers.

Her experience with event management contributed to the smooth running of multiple Open Days and Scholarship examinations.

Tracey went above and beyond with her support for staff members across all three campuses and was always willing to take the time to assist new staff with use of the Database and Operoo.

Tracey has booked countless enrolment interviews, taken a multitude of tours and was always a friendly voice on the end of the phone assisting families with their enrolment enquires from Early Learning through to Year 12.

She welcomed new families to the College community with warmth and shared in their excitement for the start of their child's educational journey at the College.

We thank Tracey for her humour and camaraderie in the admissions office and wish her well for her new role as Registrar at Iona College.

- **Kristen Wiadrowski**



**Selmo Carreira**  
**Music Teacher**

Selmo Carreira moved to Australia with his wife Rita in 2013 and quickly made his mark on the Geelong music scene. In 2015, Selmo joined the Music Department at College as an accompanist and piano teacher. His piano skills were utilised for many of the school's choirs and string groups and he became known for his musical and reliable backing of these groups. Musically he always knew exactly what the group required and was a great support to conductors with his cool, calm and collected approach to rehearsals and concerts.

As an instrumental teacher, I have come to see first hand the caring and thorough way Selmo approaches his piano teaching. Never one to compromise on standards, Selmo had a way of appealing to students' interests whilst always pushing them further with their piano studies.

In 2019, Selmo took on the role of school accompanist, accompanying students for their exams and at music evenings, and playing for Chapel services and Assemblies. He also conducted the String and Symphony Orchestras at various times.

The Music department will greatly miss Selmo's involvement and musicality from all of these endeavours. Selmo is one of the increasingly rare breed of teacher who really understands the value of quality music and the impact that this can have on the students in his charge. This passion for providing deep musical experiences is what makes him such an inspiring teacher.

We wish Selmo and his family safe travels as they head home to Portugal.

**- Melinda Bell**



**Alice Claringbold**  
**Teacher**

Graduating from The Geelong College in 2001, Alice returned to the College at the start of 2017, teaching Drama from Prep to Year 11, before settling at the Middle School and taking up the coordinating role (F-8) from the start of 2021.

Alice is colour, charm and charisma. When Alice is in a room, you know it. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Alice as a co-mentor as well as a colleague on staff here at the Middle School and what shines is her love and passion for the job, and her incredibly sincere concern for the welfare of the students.

Perhaps Alice will be best remembered for the drama productions she was involved in. These extraordinary performances combined colour, creativity and talent. Alice's casting was superb, allowing each student to contribute their utmost to make the whole an engaging and memorable experience for both actors and audience alike.

I couldn't have penned it better than Deb Hynes, who, when asked to reflect on Alice said: "A wonderful hurricane of creativity, passion, empathy and dedication, a love for all things dramatic and more importantly for her students. Always keen to learn more and hone her skills, and hungry for collaboration and sharing. A beautiful person with a great heart, a genuine care for those around her and a love for life that is infectious."

Thank you, Alice, for your enormous contribution to our school and best wishes for new adventures ahead.

**- Michael Panckridge**



**Aaron Collins**  
**Residential Tutor**

Aaron commenced at the College in 2017 as a Residential Tutor in Mackie House. As well as being a live-in, overnight tutor, he held a regular House Tutor's role. Aaron was able to develop a great rapport with the boys in Mackie and provided wonderful support to them. He was a regular participant on weekend boarding outings, Wednesday night indoor soccer and he enjoyed the day to day interaction with the boys. Aaron was an exceptional role model for all boarders, taking a keen interest in their lives and working positively with them as they matured. His passion for the outdoors, sport and wellbeing was appreciated by all in boarding.

Aaron also involved himself in the School sport program. He undertook tennis and cricket coaching as well as some football umpiring throughout his time at the College. Aaron is immensely positive in his approach and was always encouraging of the young people in his care throughout his time at the School. His willingness to involve himself wherever his skills were required was a great asset to the sport department.

Aaron will be greatly missed by all. We thank him for his exceptional service over nearly five years and we wish him every success with the next phase of his life.

**- Gareth Gilby**



**Natalie Cowdell**  
**Music Teacher**

Natalie Cowdell joined our music department in early 2000 and immediately impressed with her organisation, calm manner and a broader than life smile.

Being an exceptional woodwind player herself, Natalie set a great example for her students. She encouraged them to have clear goals and gave them the tools to achieve those goals. Natalie was instrumental in lifting the woodwinds profile, driving the formation of trios and quartets in every year level. Her students regularly performed for various occasions such as assemblies, chapel services and music evenings.

Natalie was our inaugural Instrumental Administration Officer at Middle School in 2006. She was most suited to this role because of her intimate knowledge of the needs and function of the music department. Natalie continued in this role until 2013 and by then she had established an excellent network of communication systems and protocols that allowed the Middle School Music Faculty to flourish.

Natalie was a tutor for our Middle School and Senior School Concert Bands. She also took on the role as a conductor of the Middle School Band for one year and those students really benefited from her leadership.

We wish Natalie a tune filled future and thank her sincerely for the music and joy she gave her students.

**- Gary Tigani.**



**Edwina Davis**  
**Teacher**

Edwina (Ed) Davis began her teaching career at The Geelong College in 1989. Spanning three decades of immense educational and social change, Ed has made a huge impact on the lives of many students across the three school campuses.

Her ability to teach in multiple settings has seen her take on a variety of roles during her time at The Geelong College. Her easy and friendly manner made her a popular and respected teacher and colleague, and her ability to connect with people has been a longstanding feature of her interactions over the years.

Underpinning all roles has been a genuine interest in children and their learning, and a desire for the best possible student outcomes. The needs of those in her care were always at the forefront of her teaching.

She began in the PE department, where she remained for many years. Her skills in a range of sporting codes were well-known and students benefited greatly from her sporting knowledge.

But it was Drama that held Ed's great interest. Her passion for theatre was evident. Children at both Middle School and Junior School embraced the opportunities offered to them to step out of themselves and create new personas. Ed's greatest successes were without doubt the full-blown productions she managed to present to the school community, year after year.

More recently, Ed's willingness to take on roles of responsibility saw her accept leadership roles in the school as Deputy Head of Junior School, a role she thoroughly enjoyed.

We wish Ed all the very best for the future and thank her sincerely for the years she has given to The Geelong College.

**- Jo Panckridge**



**Athol-Mary Mahoney**  
**History Teacher**

Athol-Mary was appointed to the English Department in 1990 – a time when laptops were beginning to enter the school world, and mobile phones were in their infancy. As both devices became a staple (and/or bane) of life and merged into classroom practice, Athol-Mary simply adapted.

Another example of her dexterity was in 1992, when she was charged with assisting the debating squads - despite never having been a debater herself. Within two years she was Teacher in Charge of the program. She produced an incredible series of results, and held the position for over 20 years.

Athol-Mary's students' incredible results in VCE English, VCE Australian History and VCE Revolutions speaks volumes for her passion and care of all students. She has also taught almost uncalculatable numbers of College students, and thrice been acting Head of History.

She was a long-time tutor and Head of McLean House, spending eight years in the latter role. Athol-Mary also took on an additional series of Acting Head of House responsibilities for over four years, and spent a further four years as a tutor for Keith House.

In 2015, 2017 and 2019 she took on a key role on the College's European History tours. Her knowledge and travel experience helped ensure worthwhile experiences for all involved.

Athol-Mary, we will miss all these things and so much more. You have provided exemplary education, dedication and loyal service to so many for so long. We genuinely all thank you for the many fantastic contributions you have made over such a long career, and wish for every happiness and satisfaction for your retirement.

**- Greg Naylor**



**Vicky Henderson**  
**Administration Assistant**

Vicky Henderson has been a member of The Geelong College Community for over 25 years. Throughout this period of time Vicky has worked as a Teacher Assistant in classrooms and more recently as front of house in Reception at Campbell House. Vicky is much loved by the entire community and has enjoyed observing how some former students have now returned as parents at Campbell House.

Vicky is a passionate about The Geelong College community. The children come first and foremost. We often observed the children presenting to sick bay with a tiny scratch just so they could spend time with Mrs Henderson. Vicky was always kind and caring to our staff, remembering birthdays and bringing in beautiful home-made cakes, many different handicrafts and floral arrangements. No special occasion at Campbell House was complete unless it contained foliage, impeccably arranged from Vicky's Garden. This link to the natural environment and our Reggio Emilia approach to education here at Campbell House was synonymous for Vicky.

Vicky has made some wonderful connections and friends during her time at the College and navigated her role as both parent and educator with poise and professionalism. While Vicky will be deeply missed, by all at Campbell House, we are also very excited for her and the new opportunities which lay ahead.

**- Sondra Wood**



**Andrea McGucken**  
**Head of Library and Information Services**

Andrea commenced at TGC in 2011 as a Senior School Teacher Librarian. In 2012, she became the inaugural Head of Library and Information Services, taking on the newly created role to unite, manage and lead all three College libraries.

Andrea has managed the libraries during times of great change, fostered a whole school reading culture, and ensured our libraries are welcoming places that cater for all. Her leadership has resulted in increased use of various platforms and databases, the development of dynamic ICT-enhanced learning and inquiry-based programs.

Beyond the library, Andrea has been widely involved in supporting and facilitating the broad range of opportunities that are on offer at the College. She has taught Year 10 Science, Year 7 Learning to Learn and started the Senior School student led newspaper – Quid Novi. She has also enhanced and led the Science program for Year 9 City Week and been involved with multiple Year 10 Fulfilling Lives programs. She was a caring Morrison Tutor, a Year 7/8 Mentor, and made an excellent contribution to APS sport.

Andrea's outstanding capacity to listen and problem solve, has made her a wonderful support to many staff members. Her sincere and caring nature, together with her capacity to get things done without fuss, has been appreciated by all. She is compassionate, understanding and generous with her time.

Andrea's commitment and contribution to the College has been exceptional and she will be greatly missed by all. As Andrea and her husband Matthew return to their home state of Queensland, she has our very best wishes, thanks and appreciation.

**- Heather Green & Deb Filling**





**Margaret Oates**  
**Teacher**

Margaret spent the majority of her 28 years at the College in the Middle School. As a teacher of Science and Mathematics, she enjoys the challenges that dealing with early adolescence can bring, while at the same time embedding key skills and understandings in our young people, as they prepare for the senior years of schooling.

Margaret is a passionate pastoral carer, who sees her role as homeroom teacher, learning mentor, and time spent as Year 7 Level Coordinator, as an integral part of her responsibility as an educator. This is also evident in her 18-plus years as the Head of Minerva House.

Margaret taught Year 7 and 8 Science, Mathematics, Health Education and SOSE, and took on the position of teacher of Biology at the Senior School for five terms. She also spent two years as the Coordinator of Mathematics.

With a strong interest in staff wellbeing, Margaret was an active member of the Staff Welfare Committee. She has been an advocate for colleagues on numerous occasions across a broad range of issues, and has acted as the Middle School staff rep on the WHS committee for a number of years. Margaret has been an active part of the camps programs, and was coordinator of the Year 7 camp for six years. Her other co-curricular contributions to the College include the coaching of Hockey (12 years), Softball (two years) and tennis (two years). Margaret was also the manager for the Middle School Swimming team.

Margaret has been an integral part of the Senior School Fulfilling Lives program, with six trips under her belt.

We thank Margaret for all of her contributions; she has often been the voice of the people, and a voice of reason.

**- Leanne Russell**



**Evan Perry**  
**Maintenance Carpenter**

Evan Perry came to the College from Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School in February 2019 to work as a Carpenter.

Evan is an excellent tradesperson proficient in all aspects of the Building Industry. He has always displayed an extremely thorough and competent knowledge of building practice and is a most respected member of our Maintenance team. Evan prides himself on a job well done, and attention to detail.

In the few years that Evan has been with us he has become a very dedicated professional who has always been conscientious, industrious in his approach to work and strives for quality.

Evan has a very strong work ethic, is great contributor in a team environment and has very high personal standards.

Evan and his wife Brigitte have decided to move and settle on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. I wish them well and know that Evan will be missed for his skill, commitment and style as he furthers his building career.

All the best for the future Evan!

**- Greg Tomkins**



**Kylie Saunders**  
**Teacher**

Kylie has worked at The Geelong College for 13 years. She has taught varied combinations of Years 9 to 12 English and English as an Additional Language for Years 11 and 12 students.

Kylie has been a valuable asset to the College community over her years of service. A highly organised, enthusiastic and innovative educator, she helped us transition to digital sharing, and organised ideas and resources.

She encouraged students to find their voices, instigating enthusiastic discussion in class, and challenging them to extend their thinking, and make real-world links between literature and their lives. Her caring and empathetic nature saw her develop strong relationships with her students and she was always a willing listener. She was a kind-hearted supporter of many students who were living far from home.

Kylie enjoyed acting as tutor in Keith, McLean and McArthur Houses, mentoring many young people. Her holistic approach to education was evident when she shared her skills as a yoga instructor, and offered yoga and mindfulness sessions to help students manage the challenges of school life. Kylie's co-curricular contribution saw her assisting with running the tennis program by managing a team. She enjoyed the warm sunshine and the chance to spend time conversing with the students outside of the classroom.

We thank you, Kylie, for your years of generous service to our community. We will miss you, and wish you all the best for the future.

**- Melissa Barnes and Athol-Mary Mahoney**



**John Simandl**  
**Assistant Administrator IT Services**

Before beginning at the College John Simandl had quite a varied resume and true to form decided to try his hand at something different, Information Technology. After completing a Diploma of Computing at the Gordon Tafe, John became the first fulltime IT staff member to start at The Geelong College back in 1994.

Over his 27 years, John has seen almost every technology change imaginable. From monochrome laptops as part of the first student laptop program and stand-alone staff computers to next generation laptops and technology to support working from home.

John has worked across each school, supporting staff and students, fixing everything from hardware faults and printer jams to software issues across hundreds of different applications. John also had a passion for trying to fix the unfixable. This often involved disassembling then reassembling hardware, reusing parts from other broken equipment, not wanting to waste anything.

John has been a valuable member of the IT Team, always willing to adapt to the ever-changing IT landscape. He became an honorary Old Collegian in 2019 after 25 years of service

We wish him well for the future.

**- Shannyn Leach**

**Jeffrey Smith**  
**Lifeguard and Swimming Coach**

Jeff Smith was one of the first lifeguards employed at the The Geelong College Recreation Centre when the pool became fully operational. Last year Jeff retired from his lifeguard position after many years of dedicated service. His skill set and knowledge will be sadly missed Jeff's excellent work ethic and professional standards set the bar high, and he was an inspiration and role model to our younger team members. It would be fair to say Jeff has helped train our lifeguard team for the past 20 years. His lifesaving skills have come from the many hours involved with patrolling at the Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club. You will still see Jeff on the Jan Juc beach patrolling for his beloved club.

Over the 20 years Jeff was also heavily involved with our Learn-to-Swim team, he had a strong focus on squad

swimming and we have seen some of his squad swimmers develop into lifeguards at the Centre. He has played an integral part in our recruiting and training throughout the years.

Jeff had a real bond with our staff and members. We will still see Jeff at the Centre as he coordinates the Chilwell PS Learn-to-Swim program that we host in Term 4 every year. We thank Jeff for the many years of service and wish he and his family all the best for their future endeavours.

**- Tristan Read**





**Phillip Rogers**  
**Maintenance Carpenter**

Phillip Rogers started on a temporary basis as a Carpenter at the College from November 1995 to February 1996. This was due to the closure of Morongo and the extreme urgency to create more Girls Boarding spaces, additional toilets/bathrooms and the need for additional facilities due to increased enrolments.

Phil was offered a full time position as a Maintenance Carpenter early December 1997 until his retirement in July 2021.

Phil has worked on various projects throughout the three campuses at the College, as well as Morkborree at Wensleydale and the Cape Otways Camp site.

Phil has always been an excellent team member and a very thorough tradesperson with outstanding knowledge of things happening around the College.

Phil has proved conscientious to his peers, always smiling and happy to assist.

The deciding factor for Phil going into retirement was his desire to go on a caravan holiday during Long Service Leave.

A wonderful trip that convinced Phil that retirement was looking even better, hence not coming back to work and extending his travels.

I wish Phil well in retirement and the lazy days seeing Australia.

- **Greg Tomkins**



**Emma Watters**  
**Leader of Learning Years 4-8 arning, Middle School**

Fresh out of the Kimberley, Emma joined the Campbell House community at The Geelong College in 2015. As a passionate teacher of Foundation in her first three years at Junior School, she mastered the ukulele with her class, was instrumental in the introduction of iPads, and even joined the College Community Choir.

In 2018, Emma was a part of the Year 3 team, and developed her teaching in the open plan environment. She worked with the Year 3 Choir, began the inaugural Junior School Dance Group and co-directed the Wakakiri Story Dance Competition. In 2019, Emma was awarded the Foundation Fellowship and travelled to Reggio Emilia, Italy, in order to gain a greater understanding of the Reggio Emilia approach. As a true educator, on her return, Emma presented to teachers throughout the state, sharing the Reggio approach. She also presented at Bialik College's annual conference on Cultures of Thinking.

Emma crossed the oval in 2020 to join the Middle School community as the Year 4-6 Curriculum Coordinator and teacher of Year 5. In 2021, Emma was appointed to the position of Middle School Leader of Learning. She worked tirelessly to lead the ongoing improvement of teaching and learning within the Middle School, was a Year 7 Learning Mentor, a member of the Production team, and taught Year 4-8 Drama and Dance. Emma is one of very few teachers who is just as confident in front of a class of Foundation students, as working alongside Year 8 Drama students, and all year levels in between.

Emma has been a friend and support to many on staff. Her commitment and dedication to The Geelong College is to be admired, so too her willingness to be involved in every facet of life within our school community.

- **Georgie Rolls**



OGCA President Kylie Mackey (centre) with Mandy Weeks (left) and Meryn Ratcliffe (right), both of whom were recently recognised for 25 years of service

# OGCA President's report

KYLIE MACKEY (OGC 1993), OGCA PRESIDENT

2021 will be recorded and remembered as a year of disruption. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact our entire College community, and for us, notably affected the OGCA's milestone year of celebratory events and activities. It has proven a year that has drawn on the resilience and adaptability of the College community - who should be commended for their tenacity!

## Events

Again, in the latter half of 2021, our planned events have sadly been the victim of numerous lockdowns and the challenges posed by density implications when limited on-site access was permitted. We'd hoped improvements to restrictions would have enabled us to host a range of events that would have seen us welcome alumni back in person. These events included those planned for 2021 as well as others that were postponed from 2020. Instead, a number of online events have been offered as we continue to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We were fortunate to be able to celebrate the return of some events

amidst the lockdown challenges including a number of reunion events for both 2021 and 2020 decade year groups, the popular College v Grammar football match, and a Golf Day.

## Welcoming our new Notables

On a more positive note, a sub Committee of the OGCA consisting of four members: Bill Phillips (OGC 1968), Caitlin Lamont (OGC 2009), Sam West (OGC 1980) and chaired by myself and two College community representatives (David Waterhouse and Naomi Miller) reviewed 30 nominations received for the OGCA Portrait Gallery of Notable Old Collegians and selected 14 new inductees. Launched in 2011, the Gallery celebrates notable alumni whose achievements embody the spirit of the

## Our new Notables are:

- The Honorable James Balfour CBE
- Dr Nicole Curtis
- Adam Findlay AO
- Gideon Haigh
- David Lamont
- Chong Lim AM
- Rebecca Maddern
- Richard Morris
- Reggie Morrison
- Lyndsay Sharp
- Anthony (Tony) Strahan OAM FCA
- Peter Wade
- John Wardle
- Angus Widdicombe

College motto - Sic Itur Ad Astra (Reach for the Stars).

The pandemic has prevented us from hosting our usual October induction. We look forward to welcoming our new 'notables' and their guests in 2022.

As a Committee, we are continually impressed by the achievements of our alumni in their professional capacities, on the sports field and charitable endeavours. We also encourage all our alumni and their families to celebrate their achievements with us by sharing on our communication channels.

This year, the OGCA introduced a Sports portfolio – as a means to provide support to our alumni via our on-going support for OGs in Melbourne, new support for Ammos in Geelong as well as rowing via the Albert Bell Club. As can be expected, 2021 was another disappointing and uneventful year for our sports community thanks to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In between lockdowns, we were pleased to be able to support a limited number of sports events – including football and golf.

### Supporting our community

While 2021 has in many ways limited the role of the OGCA, we remain committed to assisting Old Collegians who were victims of past sexual and physical abuse. To this end we continue supporting the College's Reach Out program, including financially supporting the Principal's creation of a Reflective Space and sourcing of granite stones at the Middle School.

Our position on historical harm remains clear. The OGCA was, and remains, deeply saddened that these events happened, and we have a firm conviction to try to assist victims where possible.

### OGCA Survey

An online survey of Old Collegians was recently conducted yielding a strong number of responses which provided a greater understanding as to what is important and will inform our decisions going forward. A summary of the survey results can be read on pages 54 and 55.

There was considerable interest represented via the survey for more among our alumni to join the committee, and I look forward to



## Want your own spectacular image of the College?

Our aerial photography is available to order. We commissioned photographs of the Senior School to mark our 120th Anniversary – captured by Barwon Drone Photography (owned by College past parents, Pam and Geoff Hutchinson).

Any queries can be directed to:  
Geoff Hutchinson: 0419 159 680 or  
Pam Hutchinson: 0415 841 521

Visit: [cutt.ly/tgc\\_photography](http://cutt.ly/tgc_photography)  
or scan the QR code



speaking with a number of these Old Collegians in the near future to expand the ranks of our committee.

### TGC Connect

Did you know, our alumni consists of approx. 12,000 members? As Collegians, we are connected for life, and part of one of the oldest alumni associations in Australia.

Have you joined our virtual community on TGC Connect? It is a wonderful platform for you to get back in contact with your peers and see what they have been up to. It is also a valuable resource to help with your career development or seek advice and ask questions. We provide a mentoring program as well as resources to help with professional development. Our recent LinkedIn Webinar for Early Career Professionals was well attended.

### The OGCA committee:

President - Kylie Mackey (OGC 1993)  
Vice President – Bruce Harwood (OGC 1978)  
Hon. Secretary – Jim Brown (OGC 1978)  
Hon. Treasurer – Ashley McHarry (OGC 1993)  
Executive Officer – Mike Howell

Members –

Bill Phillips (OGC 1968)  
Caitlin Lamont (OGC 2009)  
Georgie Fidge (MOC)  
Sam West (OGC 2000)  
Community Relations team:  
Chelsea Matheson and Niki Nurnaitis

### Closing

In closing as President, I'd like to acknowledge those involved in all the activities of the OGCA. I'd specifically like to recognise each Committee member for their ongoing contribution to College life in what has been the most unusual of years.

To current students: stay strong and committed. Live our motto and reach for the stars!

To our alumni, including those soon to become our newest alumni, stay connected and reach out to us as your support network. Join TGC Connect, follow us on socials (OGCA Facebook and OGCA LinkedIn) and look out for our OGCA newsletters. You can also email us:

[ogca@thegeelongcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:ogca@thegeelongcollege.vic.edu.au)

Here's to a bright 2022!

**Kylie Mackey**  
President

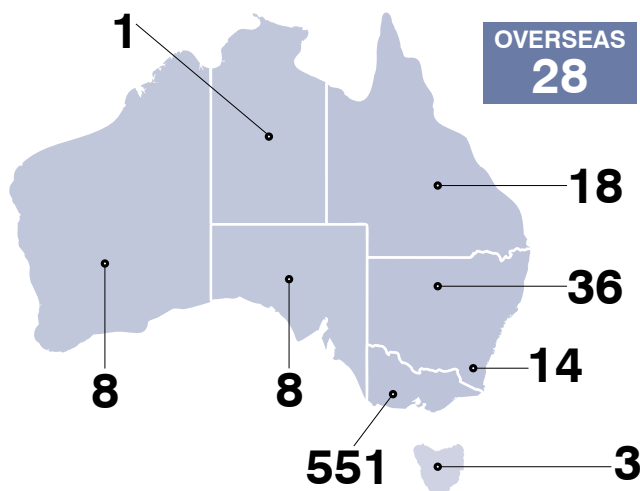
# The 2021 OGCA Survey

## 666 Old Collegians had their say

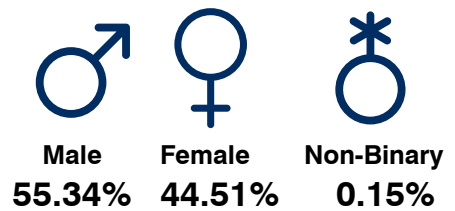
12.45% response rate

### Demographic

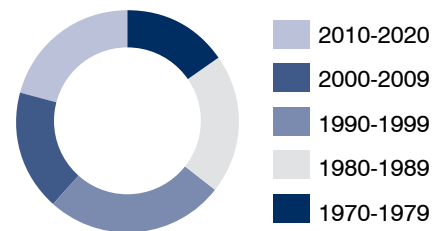
#### Responses by location



#### Responses by gender



#### Responses by peer year



### Overview

#### We keep you informed



**88%**

believe the OGCA keeps the community informed of College news

#### We celebrate achievements



**54%**

feel that the OGCA highlights and celebrates OGCA achievements

#### We could improve at:



**12%**

Providing more benefits to Alumni



**18%**

Helping alumni stay in touch

### Communication



**92%** of alumni enjoy reading Ad Astra



**2257** followers



**1,456** followers

### Satisfaction

How satisfied are you with the work of the OGCA?



**61%**



**37%**



**2%**

The OGCA survey was sent, by email, to alumni from 1970 to 2020. The purpose was to understand what is important to our community and the types of activities and support perceived as most beneficial.

**In response to your feedback, the OGCA has identified the following actions:**

1. Make the OGCA committee more visible with bios and photos on the website
2. Update the website pages with more content
3. Create a 12-month calendar of events to give people enough notice to attend
4. Look at how we can create year level photo albums and engage more at reunions
5. Create more professional development resources
6. Provide short information sessions with topics driven by alumni
7. Create 'how to' short videos on using the TGC Connect platform
8. More everyday stories on alumni
9. More heritage posts (nostalgia) – redesign Heritage online page
10. Keep developing the mentor program

## How likely are you to...?

### Attend a Reunion on campus



### Attend event in your area



### Attend social event



### Volunteer at a careers event

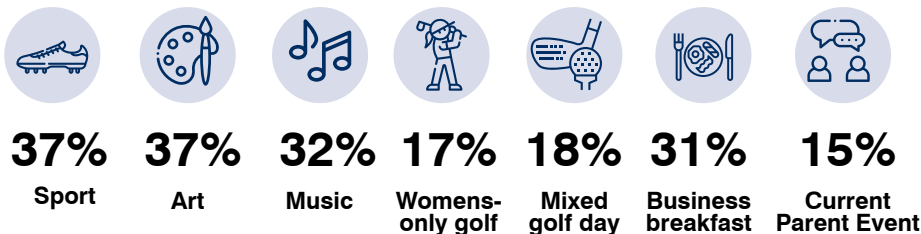


### Listen to webinars



## Interest in events

**You are interested in the following types of events:**



## Mentoring

**31%** are interested in our Mentoring program



## TGC Connect



# 2021 Notables Inductees

The Gallery of Notable Old Collegians was inaugurated in 2011 by the Old Geelong Collegians' Association (OGCA) to recognise and honour those former students of The Geelong College who became outstanding in their fields.



James Balfour CBE

**OGC 1929**

Raised in a family with a long tradition of public service, James Balfour was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly for Morwell District in 1955, representing the Liberal and Country Party. He served as Government Whip and Parliamentary Secretary of Cabinet. In 1964, Premier Harold Bolte appointed Balfour as Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, President of the Board of Land and Works, Minister of Soldier Settlement and Minister for Conservation. He retired in 1983.



Commodore Nicole  
Curtis

**OGC 1988**

Commodore Dr Nicole Curtis has risen through the ranks of the Royal Australian Navy, now serving as Director of Naval Health. Curtis studied Medicine at Monash University, graduating in 1995 and joining the RAN as a final year student. She served as Medical Officer on HMAS Arunta in the Royal Australian Navy in East Timor in 1999, and in Operation Catalyst (Middle East) in 2005. She was awarded a FRACGP 2004.



Major General Adam  
Findlay AO

**OGC 1983**

In 2021 Major General Adam Findlay rose through the ranks of the Australian Army, having served in Iraq, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. His most recent appointment was Special Operations Commander – Australia. Prior to that he successfully commanded Coalition Special Operations during the Battle to liberate Mosul in 2016/2017 for which he was awarded the US Legion of Merit. In 2021 he was awarded the French Legion d'Honneur for establishing formal relations between French and Australian Special Forces.





## Gideon Haigh

### OGC 1983

Writer Gideon Haigh has cemented himself in the Australian journalism and sports fields. When starting out at *The Age* and *The Australian*, Haigh wrote extensively on sports and business topics. Haigh's move to freelance journalism has seen him publish many books and articles. Haigh has received accolades including multiple Jack Pollard Trophies for best Australian cricket book; John Curtin Prize for Journalism in Victoria; Ned Kelly Award for True Crime; Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction.



## David Lamont

### OGC 1982

David Lamont has worked in financial management for multinational companies for many years. His track record as a global CFO led to his appointment at CSL in 2016, a position he held before re-joining BHP in 2020. His community mindset had seen Lamont strive to be leader in his field and mentor to others. Lamont has been a Director at the Financial Executives Institute of Australia since 2013.



## Chong Lim AM

### OGC 1977

Chong Lim, musical director, keyboardist, producer, and session musician is a prominent and talented member of the music industry in Australia and internationally. Lim's music career has included being the musical director for *Dancing with the Stars* and the Sydney Olympics. He has also played with the John Farnham Band, Olivia Newton-John and Kylie Minogue, and worked with Sir George Martin and Sir Barry Gibb, among others.



## Rebecca Maddern

### OGC 1995

TV presenter and journalist Rebecca Maddern's rise as a TV personality has featured ground-breaking moments such as being the first female presenter of *The Footy Show* and the 2019 Australian Open men's final. Maddern built her career to become a regular contributor on programs such as *Sunrise*, *The Morning Show*, *Seven News*, *AFL Brownlow Medal*, and *Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal*. In 2020, Maddern was appointed co-host of the *Weekend Today* morning show.



## Richard Morris

### OGC 1963

Richard Morris is a stalwart of the College community. After studying Economics at LaTrobe University he returned in 1971 to teach at Senior School. Morris became Master in Charge of Economics, then Head of the Business Studies Department. Since 1978 Morris has written many VCE U1-4 Economics textbooks. In the last decade he has also taken on the role of VET Coordinator. He was Head of Wettenhall House (1979-1992) and involved in the Rowing program.



## Dr Reginald (Reggie) Morrison

### OGC 1881

Dr Reggie Morrison was a medical practitioner, athlete and rugby player. He studied medicine at Edinburgh and while there represented Scotland in Rugby. Returning to Melbourne in 1890, he became a GP. Morrison's interest in obstetrics and gynaecology led him to join the honorary staff of the Royal Women's Hospital in 1899. By 1910 he was solely practising obstetrics and gynaecology and lectured in the subjects at the University of Melbourne.



Lyndsay Sharp

**OGC 1979**

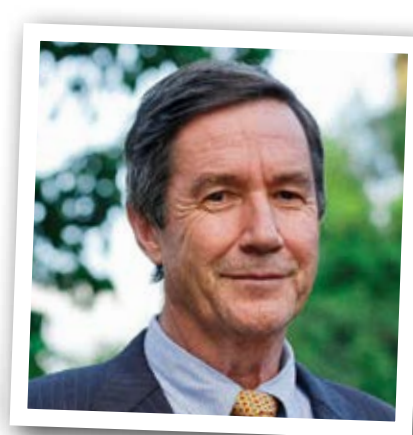
Sharp Group Co-owner and Director Lyndsay Sharp is passionate about local tourism for Geelong and the Bellarine. The Sharp Group now owns and runs Leura Park Estate, Flying Brick Cider Company, Yes said the Seal, Jack Rabbit and Curlewis Golf Club. With a background in marketing and PR, Sharp works closely with Tourism Geelong and the Bellarine, the Chamber of Commerce and Visit Victoria, and other operators.



Anthony (Tony) Strahan  
OAM FCA

**OGC 1956**

Champion swimmer Tony Strahan was a team member of the 4x220 yds Freestyle Relay Team which won the Gold Medal at the 1962 Commonwealth Games and set a world record. He is an advocate of the World Life Saving Association, winning 14 individual masters surf life saving titles and a world masters title. Strahan is a dedicated volunteer, having held roles at the Torquay Surf Life Saving Club, Surf Life Saving Victoria and Swimming Victoria.



Peter Wade

**OGC 1967**

Entrepreneur Peter Wade has worked for many years in the Tourism industry and, through his passion for the future of Australian business, co-founded the University of Melbourne Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship in 2015. Wade started his first business, Travelbag a specialist travel company, in 1979. After selling the business, Wade returned to Australia working in a number of directorships of leading organisations such as Tourism Queensland, APT in Melbourne and Quicksilver in Far North Queensland.



John Wardle

**OGC 1971**

John Wardle is a leader in architecture and design in Australia and internationally. From founding his own practice in the 1980s, it has grown to incredible success and received many accolades. In 2001 Wardle completed a Masters in Architecture at RMIT. He is now Adjunct Professor at Creative UniSA (formerly School of Art, Architecture and Design). In 2020 Wardle was awarded the Gold Medal in Architecture by the AIA, the highest accolade in Australian Architecture.



Angus Widdicombe

**OGC 2012**

Rower Angus Widdicombe has represented Australia on the world stage and Victoria in national competitions. Widdicombe became an Olympian for the 2020 Tokyo games. In the men's eight Widdicombe and the Australians placed 6th in the final medal race. He has had a successful international rowing career, representing Australia since 2016. Widdicombe, in Victorian colours, has rowed in the eights for the King's Cup, winning 2015 and 2021.

View the full Notables Gallery, with extended biographies, by scanning the QR code.

\*New inductees not yet included





Image: Barwon Drone Photography

# Life after College

We chat to five Old Collegians about what life has been like after College.

## Dr Brett Anderson (OGC 1991)

This is Brett Anderson checking in 30 years after being farewelled from the College by a typically powerful oration by Principal Paul Sheahan AM. I signed up for a combined Aerospace Engineering – Business Administration degree at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Like Harry's time at Hogwarts, these were perhaps the best five years of my life. On reflection, that is debatable. The best five could also have been when at 27, I took a career hook-turn. I enrolled at the University of Melbourne, completed a PhD in Flood Hydrology, ran a few marathons, proposed to my wife and started a family.

I'm now serving as the General Manager of Aviation, Land and Maritime Transport at the Bureau of Meteorology. It is my third 'career' at the Bureau in 12 years, having started out learning how to be a 'scrum

master' and developing software applications for the web, then shifting into the operational flood forecasting area. Before joining the Bureau I also had a number of career sprints, including as an automotive engineer for Audi in Germany, as a fluvial geomorphologist studying river system health around Australia and for a time as a card-carrying rocket scientist working with British Aerospace Australia on their missiles and decoy program.

Despite the fact I have been in the forecasting game for more than a dozen years, I cannot predict where I'll be in five years... except to say it is unlikely to be in the same place. I was asked to finish with three words that describe where I'm at, they are: anticipating Summer freedom.





## Andrew Carswell (OGC 1990)

I'm working as a marine pilot, primarily in Port Kembla, NSW but also relieving in Eden. I pilot any ship that calls at these ports such as huge bulk carriers, car carriers and cruise ships. After College I gained a ship's deck officer cadetship and studied for four years at the Australian Maritime College in Launceston to get my seagoing licences. Once licenced, I worked for the oil majors sailing oil tankers all around the world. When marriage to a lovely Perth teacher and a daughter dictated that I work closer to home I worked in the offshore oil and gas industry off the NT and WA coasts

and for a couple of years in Singapore in charge of the marine aspects of building and operating an offshore oil production facility. I'm enjoying living the good life on a hobby farm in Jamberoo, a quiet village, growing beef cattle, veggies, honey and fruit.

When I left school I had no idea where I'd be 30 years out. Even the end of my four-year cadetship seemed a lifetime away.

I'm looking forward to retirement in the coming years and bringing another hobby farm up to scratch, possibly back in Tasmania.

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## Thane Joske (OGC 1990)

I am the Managing Director of Three PM, a communications consultancy that provides bid management services – typically writing and project management for clients on large infrastructure projects across a range of sectors, including defence, transport and social infrastructure, not for profit and general services. I'm fortunate to work with a great team and great clients. Every project presents a unique challenge and working with our clients to problem solve and create solutions is what I love best.

Indirectly my study led me to where I am now. My passion has always been writing and my first (incomplete!) degree was journalism, which I studied off-campus while rowing in Canberra. The combination of training, remote study (no computers back then!) and an active social life was not an ideal combination ... I eventually went back to uni as a mature age student to study professional writing and fine art at Deakin. Since then, I have completed an MBA, and for fun, post graduate study in wellness and silversmithing.

When I finished at The College, I didn't know bid management was a thing! My career started in publishing as a

marketing coordinator, through to public relations where I managed key accounts for clients such as the Australian Red Cross Blood Services, Target, and Sony Ericsson mobile phones, and then I moved to a large corporate where I was responsible for managing marketing and business development, which I soon learned was simply corporate story telling. From there 12 years ago I formed Three PM, which has been the best stage of my career. It's a long way from the grotto I had imagined inhabiting as an impoverished poet!

As for what the future holds - Watch this space! I'm always looking at opportunities and how we can do things differently using technology and new ways of working. I'm fortunate – when you do what you love, and love what you do, work is fun. We are in the process of implementing a 4-day work week which will give me more time to create, write for fun, swim and spend time in Anglesea with family and friends. Outside of the business, I will continue to serve my community through NFP and executive board leadership roles and mentoring young people.





## Liz Holzschuster (OGC 1991)

I'd always had an interest in construction and wanted to end up working in the construction industry. When I was in Year 10 the careers teacher suggested attending the Women in Engineering day at RMIT. As no one else wanted to go my Dad took the day off to take me (thanks Dad!). After school I studied Civil Engineering at the University of Ballarat. Engineering is a great starting point for so many different roles as you learn both technical and problem solving skills.

I decided to follow the 'civil' side of Civil Engineering initially, working with Boral Asphalt surfacing roads and on the 'original' CityLink project, then joining what is now SUEZ, constructing and managing engineered landfills. After that I had a bit of a change, taking up an opportunity to work with the WorkSafe Victoria construction team.

Since then I have completed further studies with a safety, sustainability and auditing focus and subsequently held safety, wellbeing, environment, sustainability & quality roles in the commercial construction industry, including with Probuild, CPB, John Holland, Hutchinson Builders and most recently as HSEQ Manager for the Hickory group. Projects I have worked on include heritage buildings like the Palais & Capitol Theatres, schools, a prison, high rise apartments, supermarkets, hotels and laboratories, including some at Monash University where I have recently commenced in the role of Health, Safety & Wellbeing Manager. This role allows me to utilise my construction skills but also contribute in many other areas.

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## Simon Payne (OGC 1990)

I am currently working as a Firefighter for Fire Rescue Victoria. I am based at Derrimut Fire Station and loving every minute of it. Every job that I attend is different and there is never a day that is the same.

When I finished at College I studied Primary Teaching at the University of Ballarat. I moved back to Geelong and taught at Chilwell P.S., Grovedale West P.S. and Bannockburn P.S. In 2000 and 2001 I travelled overseas and taught in both London and Dunedin. I taught for over 20 years before making the

change and becoming a Firefighter. Teaching was a great career.

When I left school I thought I would be living in Geelong and involved in sport in one form or another. I think I was 39 years old when I finally retired from football.

In a few years I see myself moving into my new house, which is currently being constructed, with my family. I also hope to be able to work as a Firefighter at one of the stations here in Geelong.





# Obstetrics an ocean away

HARYA NAROTTAMA (OGC 1999)

'Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh' - Greetings from Surabaya Indonesia.



My name is Harya Narottama. I am from Surabaya, Indonesia.

I started at The Geelong College in 1997. I enjoyed studying at College, it gave me new experiences and perspectives during that time.

When I was in Year 11, my father passed away. When I graduated from College in 1999, I wanted to continue my study in Australia, but I had to keep my mother company in Surabaya, so I enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine in Wijaya Kusuma University in Surabaya.

After I graduated as a doctor in 2009, I worked in some clinics in Surabaya and continued my education to become a specialist at Airlangga University in 2010.

I chose obstetrics and gynaecology because I saw what my father did as an obstetrician, and I liked it very much. Learning to become an obstetrician was a struggle for me, because it was more

challenging than studying as a General Practitioner.

Like in many Asian countries, people who study medicine have to face seniority in the hospital, the culture of seniority is so strong in the Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN) department.

Two years before I graduated as an obstetrician, my mother died. Losing both of my parents, made me have a strong will to finish my education in the OBGYN department. Alhamdulillah (by the grace of God), finally I finished my specialty course as an obstetrician in 2016.

Since 2016, I have worked as an obstetrician in three different hospitals in three different towns: Surabaya, Gresik, and Sidoarjo. I am also a lecturer and teach my junior students in Wijaya Kusuma University. I teach obstetrics and gynecology on campus, and I am also the head of the OBGYN department at Wijaya Kusuma University.



During pandemic times, has been quite a difficult situation working as an obstetrician. Many pregnant women were exposed to COVID-19, and helping mothers delivering their babies in the COVID-19 situation is rather tiring. We have to wear protective equipment in small delivery ward. It is very hot especially in a place with hot weather like Indonesia!

In July 2021, the situation was worsening as there were increasing deaths of fellow doctors and nurses due to new variant of the Delta COVID-19 virus.

We lost four senior obstetricians, two of them were working in the same hospital and in the same town as I am.

I, too, caught COVID-19 and was forced into self isolation at home with my family. My wife and my daughters also contracted the illness, and it was horrible.

Fever, loss of sense of smell, and pain were the main symptoms we had.

On the rare occasion I had to go out to buy some medicine, there were so many ambulances and hearse ambulances passing by. The sound of their sirens were quite spooky.

In July 2021 alone, we lost about 300 mothers just in one month due to COVID-19 in East Java.

With the Delta variant, pregnant women worsened very quickly. Many of them had to have caesareans to keep their babies alive. But often, after the delivery, the mothers' health continued to worsen until they finally passed away. Children and husbands were left behind to care for the new babies. Some of the husbands posted on the internet, begging for milk donors for their babies.

In conclusion, what I have experienced as a student at The Geelong College, coming from an Asian country and learning something new in Australian culture, opened my mind to new perspectives, and I am very grateful for that. I am looking forward to coming to Australia again, and hopefully I can visit The Geelong College again for some nostalgic moments.

If God is willing, maybe my daughters will have the chance to become students at The Geelong College as well... who knows? I can only hope, that this pandemic will soon finally end, and that no more lives are to be taken due to COVID-19. I pray that all of you stay safe, stay healthy during this pandemic time.

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh (May peace be upon you).



## COVID-19 in Indonesia

Total cases: 4,250,000

Deaths: 144,000

Vaccination rate:

42.2%



# Tokyo Summer Olympics 1964

CAROLINE STOK, ARCHIVIST

In 1964 The Geelong College celebrated its “international stars and local heroes” Peter Doak OAM (OGC 1957) and David Ramage (OGC 1953) who had been selected to compete in the 1964 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

At the games, held in October to beat the summer heat, Doak was a member of the inaugural 4 x 100m freestyle relay event. The Aussie team, with Doak, David Dickson, John Ryan and Bob Windle, placed third behind Germany and the US. History repeated at the 2020 games when the Aussie team of Matthew Temple, Zac Incarti, Alexander Graham and Kyle Chalmers also placed third in the same event, behind Italy and the US.

In 1964, rower David Ramage competed in the Eights, number four seat. He rowed with fellow Victorians Brian Vear, David Boykett, Robert Lachal, Paul Guest, Graeme McCall, Terry Davies and Kevin Wickham. Upon arriving in Tokyo, the Aussie rowers soon realised they were ill-prepared. Although new, their boats were ‘old technology’ as new boat designs used by other teams were much faster. Luckily David and his teammates were able to borrow a boat for their race, finishing 8th.

Angus Widdicombe (OGC 2012) represented Australia at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. He stroked the Eights to 6th in the final race.

Peter and David’s Olympic appearance was just one part of their successful sporting careers. Prior to the games, Peter won Gold at the 1962 Commonwealth Games in the 4 x 110yd freestyle relay in World Record time. In 1967 he became the Australia 110yd champion. David won Silver at the 1962 Commonwealth Games in the Coxed Four. He rowed again at the 1968 Mexico Summer Olympics, placing 7th in the Men’s Coxless Pairs.



Learn more about our past Olympians

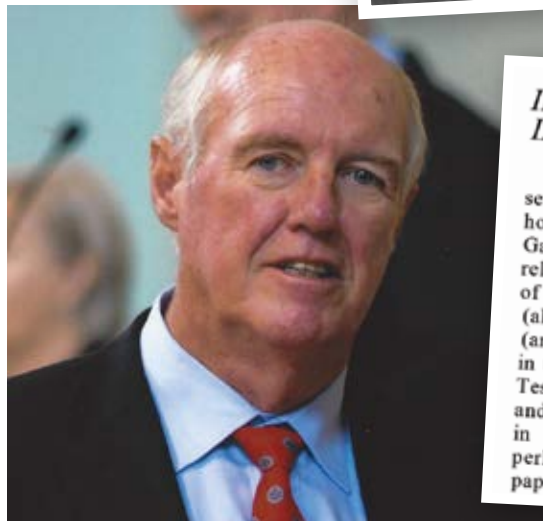
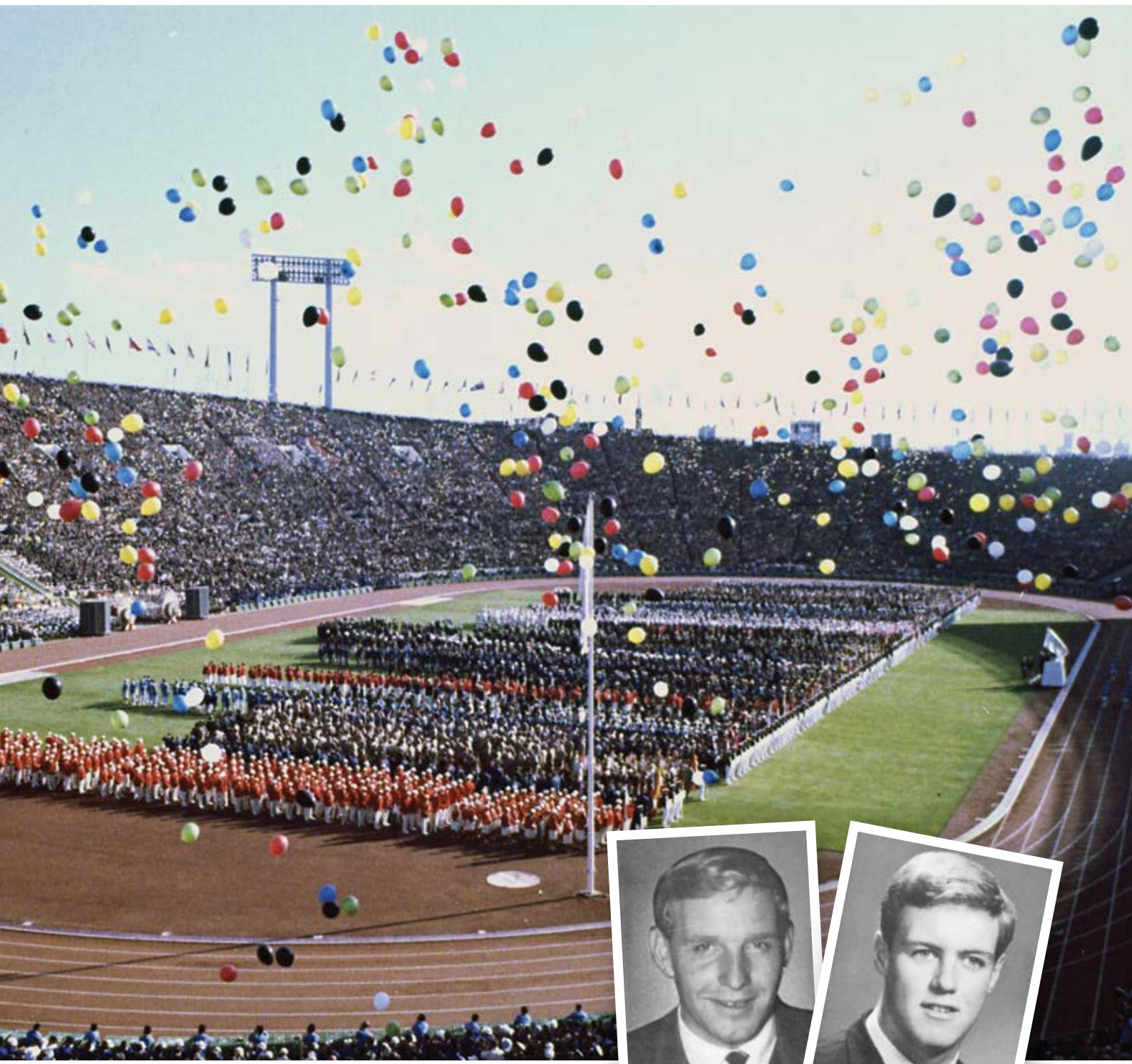


Scan the QR code or visit:

[cutt.ly/TGC\\_Olympians](https://cutt.ly/TGC_Olympians)

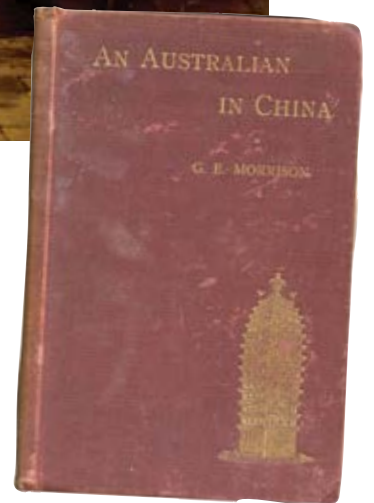






**INTERNATIONAL STARS AND LOCAL HEROES**

Old Collegians have been prominent in several sports this year. Peter Doak brought home a medal from the Tokyo Olympic Games as a member of one of the swimming relay teams, David Ramage was a member of the Australian rowing eight at the Games (alas! no medal), Ian Redpath was a member (and a consistent performer with the bat and in the slips) of the Australian Eleven for every Test in England, and the Lord twins, Alistair and Stewart gave yeomen's service to Geelong in the Victorian League football season—perhaps for the last time, according to newspaper reports.



# An Australian in China

CAROLINE STOK, ARCHIVIST

A recent trawl through the College Archives uncovered a book by one of the first China correspondents, George E. Morrison.

*An Australian in China: Being the Narrative of a Quiet Journey Across China to Burma* signals the beginning of his role in sharing China to the world. The book, published in 1895, chronicles Morrison's journey from Shanghai, China to Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon, Myanmar).

George Ernest Morrison (1862-1920, OGC 1870-1878) was the son of The Geelong College's first principal George, and Rebecca (née Greenwood, [whose name is inscribed at the front of Morrison's book]). His desire for travel from a young age was encouraged by his mother. Morrison had a history of exploring and making surprising journeys, for his own enjoyment. After finishing at the College and before commencing Medicine at the University of Melbourne, Morrison would have spent a summer at home. His mother, expecting

some trouble with her energetic son encouraged him to find a summer project.

After some planning and the family Christmas festivities, Morrison set out to walk from Queenscliff to Adelaide. He recorded the 1200km journey in a diary which was then sold and published in the *Leader* newspaper. This was just the beginning of his journalism career.

In the following years, despite his studies at university, Morrison embarked on a series of journeys. He trekked and

canoed 2000km of the Murray River; after sailing aboard the blackbirder 'Lavinia' he exposed the slave trade in a letter to *The Age*; trailing Burke and Wills' planned expedition he walked the 3200km from Normanton, Qld to Melbourne. In 1883 he set out on a perilous journey to explore New Guinea. His 160km walk was cut short when he was nearly killed, having been speared.

Morrison's injuries led him to Edinburgh and surgery to remove a spearhead. Once recovered, he decided to complete his medical studies in Edinburgh.

“I cannot speak more highly of the pleasure of my journey than to declare that I felt great regret when it finished than I ever felt leaving any other country.”

Armed with his qualifications Morrison continued to travel the world. He then attempted to settle in Ballarat for a time before deciding to head overseas again, to the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan.

In Japan Morrison ran out of money. His plan was to travel to China, going from Shanghai to Rangoon. He estimated the modest cost of the trip and with his mother’s support (from Geelong she wired him the money needed) he embarked on his journey through China.

It is his mother Rebecca’s copy of Morrison’s book about this journey that sits in the College Archives.

“The journey was, of course, in no sense an exploration; it consisted simply of a voyage of 1500 miles up the Yangtse River, followed by a quiet, though extended, excursion of another 1500 miles along the great overland highway into Burma, taken by one who spoke no Chinese, who had no interpreter or companion, who was unarmed, but who trusted implicitly in the good faith of the Chinese.”

An Australian in China chronicles Morrison’s trip. While being a record infused with 20th century values, Morrison also maintained a somewhat unique lens, wanting to share his experience of a different way of life.

Morrison stayed in local inns and dealt directly with the locals. His approach varied wildly from the usual travel style of a British subject at the time and relied on the Chinese precept to “deal gently with strangers from afar.”

“I shall always look back with pleasure to this journey during which I experienced [...] uniform kindness and hospitality, and the most charming courtesy.”

This book would signal the beginning of Morrison’s international journalism career. Published in 1895, the book caught the eye of editors at The Times in London, and he was soon employed as their China correspondent. Before long he would become known as “Morrison of Peking”.

At becoming The Times’ China correspondent, Morrison reported on China affairs at a tumultuous time

in its history. He reported on the Boxer uprising, the final days of the Qing dynasty, and the new Chinese Republic. In 1912 he became political advisor to President Yuan Shikai.

After his death in 1920, Morrison was remembered as “the greatest of our Old Collegians” having attained worldwide fame. Today Morrison is held up as a pioneer correspondent, revealing China to the western world. He was an adventurer who wanted to experience the world, from his home country and across the oceans.

In 2021 the G.E. Morrison Institute was founded in his name for Australian businesspeople in China. The ANU host an annual Morrison Lecture in Ethnology, founded in 1932 to recognise Morrison’s contribution to Australia-China cultural relations.

Rebecca Morrison’s copy of An Australian in China in the College Archives speaks to her investment in her son’s journey across Australia and the world. It is an introduction to George Ernest Morrison’s personal dedication to China which would be with him to the end of his life.





# A moment in time

MIKE HOWELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

In a year when we are celebrating our school's 160th anniversary and 100 years of life of the Preparatory School, both at the Senior and Middle School sites, we have been, literally, digging up our history.

Our school records showed that a time capsule was buried behind the Foundation Stone of the first Preparatory School back in 1921 (now part of the Austin Gray Centre). It was with delicate excavation skills and much excitement that we dug up a glass bottle containing a few coins, a school prospectus and a copy of the Geelong Advertiser. The prospectus showed that fees per term were then 30 pounds! It talked about the opening of the new Junior and Preparatory school. The principal at the time was the Rev Frank Rolland.

As part of looking back on our Preparatory School, now Middle and Junior Schools, Mike Howell, Director of Community Relations and Development, interviewed three previous and the current Heads of the School about changes that took place.



## Peter Hughes

Peter Hughes became the new Head of the Preparatory School in 1987 after Dr Ian Macmillan (see June Ad Astra).

During his eleven-year tenure, there was continued infrastructure growth and innovation of programs. Numbers peaked at 560 in 1989 and then fell by a hundred during the following three years as the local economy suffered through the Pyramid Building Society crash and subsequent deeper economic recession.

Despite this, under Peter's Headship, Robertson Hall and the Music School were opened in 1990 during an exciting period of development. Around the same time there were big changes at Campbell House with a new Music classroom and a general-

purpose assembly hall (the Joan Sweetman Room). The next major project was the opening of the Art/Craft Centre in 1995 at Middle School which has spectacular views on the ridge overlooking Queens Park.

"Probably the most significant educational changes that emerged during my time were at the early years of the school with the establishment of the Early Learning Centre," Peter recalls, "and the investigation and incorporation of educational philosophies and practices that emerged in Reggio Emilia in Italy into the school curriculum."

With the new position of Coordinator of Curriculum and Development established by Peter, "the students at the Preparatory School enjoyed a rich program, in the classroom, on special days, through music and the arts, on the courts, in the pool, on the playing



fields and on camps. They bonded with each other, and with their skilful and caring teachers. Many students of the time are now leaders in their professions and careers.”

In reflecting on his time at the school, Peter continues, “I regard my years at the College as the most satisfying and productive years of my professional career. I felt particularly at home with the people of the College community, and with their values.”



### Chris Lawson

Chris Lawson took over from Peter Hughes as Head of the Preparatory School in 1998 and again oversaw exciting changes to both facilities and

our educational programs. One of the biggest innovations was to extend the use of the Environment Centre by Year 7 students to Year 4 with the introduction of the Enviro year. The inspiration and development of the program came from teachers Paul Jeffreys, Doug Wade and Will Johnston (who still heads up the program today).

Following the success of the Year 4 program, a themed Multimedia year was developed for Year 6. This was the start of harnessing technology, in changing how we learn, to be curious and creative. From managing their own radio station, the students became hands

on in developing design skills, creating videos and presenting radio plays.

Research from Darryn Kruse on inquiry-based learning in Middle Schools saw the curriculum expand with several new electives in Year 8 being introduced and some cross disciplinary units of study being introduced at Year 7.

Chris said that he had many highlights in his time as Head which included “more of a team approach amongst teaching staff.”

He was a role model for his colleagues at a time of innovative educational change and greater student engagement in their learning. He empowered teachers to bring about change to programs and electives. This included the introduction of the Year 7 boat building unit (now solar boats) which combined elements of design, maths and problem solving.



### Julian Carroll

Julian Carroll became the next Head of Preparatory School in Term 3, 2006.

“It was an honour and privilege to

be the last Head of the Preparatory School,” (the role split in 2014 with the distinction between Middle and Junior Schools).

Julian built on the work of the previous Heads. For him the biggest change

was to differentiate learning to cater for the individual needs of the student and place the learner at the centre of decisions. This was done through the expansion of the existing Year 8 MESH Elective program where new project-based learning experiences were introduced. This was a particular highlight.

In 2011 major infrastructure changes were undertaken with an extension to the Middle School gym and the contemporary Campbell House library built, thanks to the Kevin Rudd Government and the Building Education Revolution.

The Middle School itself had a complete overhaul as the original structure was kept and, in some areas, their footprint extended (Year 6 and Year 8 precincts). The internal spaces were transformed and completely redesigned to create exciting, flexible, open, engaging, and modern spaces. This was to promote student collaboration, project-based learning, creativity and innovation but also importantly to cater for individual learning needs.

For Julian, “seeing the lives of young children and people grow and develop was an enduring highlight. The relationships and friendships made with students, staff and parents were wonderful.”

His many highlights included the Sesquicentenary celebrations, Year 8 Productions, in particular ‘School of



Rock' where teachers and Julian also performed, year level dinners, and the reciprocal visits to a sister school in Japan.



**Leanne Russell**

In 2014 Leanne Russell became the Head of Middle School, a role she continues to hold. Chris Dineen was appointed the Head

of Junior School.

Leanne shared, "I inherited a very good school." The use of technology in learning has been the biggest game changer and none more so than the

past two years of COVID-19 driven online learning. This has opened new opportunities, including the establishment of the Year 5 Design program, and will continue to expand. Education has moved away from the idea that success is measured in grades and scores, and more towards individual student growth. Other changes of note include more inquiry-based learning and more team teaching, which has developed across each of the year levels. Year 7 has seen the introduction of the Learning to Learn program where students are encouraged to take more responsibility for themselves and their learning.

In Year 8 this is extended further as students are challenged to investigate areas and issues of interests across a range of topics, subjects, electives and experiences.



**Sondra Wood**

At Junior School, the current Head, Sondra Wood, has highlighted how the brand-new campus encapsulates all that we are and want to be from both the perspective of

Reggio Emilia and the celebration of community. From the implementation of the Reggio Emilia in the 1990s under



## See the time Capsule

Scan the QR code or visit:  
[cutt.ly/tgc\\_time-capsule](https://cutt.ly/tgc_time-capsule)



Peter Hughes, the program continues to “align its approach to education with an authentic understanding of children as learners from EL to Year 3.”

Over the past few years, the Junior School has built on the understanding of Aboriginal culture and developing connections to Country. For instance, EL children have “walked down to the Barwon River below the campus where they met Corrina Eccles, a Wadawurrung Traditional Owner, who welcomed them all to Country with a smoking ceremony. Corrina shared stories about the importance of the river and shared aspects of culture with the children.”

Overall, the past and current Heads of Preparatory School, including Ian MacMillan, all come back to one thing – yes buildings and facilities are important but for all of them success can only be measured by the people they worked with – their passion and commitment to College, the teamwork and amazing teachers – this was the main message that came through and continues today.

Students in Year’s 3, 4 and 7 have written letters to the students of the future asking them a range of questions. Some delightfully curious, some more thought provoking.

Do you still have Lego?

Is Cadbury’s still a major chocolate brand?

The most pertinent note being: “I hope in a hundred years your world has not been ruined by climate change.”

These along with the Pegasus, Ad Astra, the Geelong Advertiser and a COVID-19 mask were reburied in the same spot behind the Foundation stone. To be rediscovered in 2121!

We have come a long way since 1921 and wonder what changes we will see in the next 100 years.



## Angus Wishart (OGC 2010) & Valeria Acosta Ruiz (OGC 2011)

Marrying at the College was meaningful to Angus and Valeria because it brought back fond memories of their time as students.

The ceremony was held in Cloisters, and the couple passed through an archway formed by rowing oars at the conclusion - a tribute to their days as College rowers.

College connections remain strong with Emily Proffit (OGC 2011), Santo Tripodi (OGC 2010) and Mark D'Altera (OGC 2010) in the bridal party, alongside Angus' brothers, Charlie Wishart

(OGC 2011) and Fraser Wishart (OGC 2014).

Angus has been working for McGlashan Everist Architects in Melbourne since 2017 and Valeria is in her final semester of Masters of Teaching (Primary & Secondary) at Monash University.

Angus and Valeria hope to move back to Geelong in 2022.



## Darrell Wade (OGC 1978)

Darrell, Vice Chair of the World Travel and Tourism Council, represented the travel industry at the recent COP26 summit in Glasgow where more than 300 travel companies signed the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, the first step for a shared road map to cut carbon emissions. Darrell said: "Now tourism must turn this moment into a movement."



## Nick & Emma Jarman (OGC 1994)

Nick and Emma have turned a 10-year dream into a reality with a multimillion-dollar health and fitness centre that services the Geelong community. The Geelong Sports Medicine Centre opened in November for pre- and post-rehabilitation, sports injury management and general health and wellbeing.



## Nic Molyneux (OGC 2012)

Congratulations to Nic Molyneux who was recently awarded the inaugural prize for 'Emerging Indigenous Creative Talent' at the Australasian Writers and Art Directors (AWARD) Awards 2021.

Skilled in both copywriting and art direction, Nic works at Melbourne-based creative agency DDB.

Nic was humble in celebrating his success, commenting:

"It's a huge step for our industry, and there are so many other talented brothers and sisters this could have gone to - it's exciting times ahead."

Nic's star is continuing to rise, following the recognition for co-creating an advertisement, taking out the 'Creative Use of Audio' category in Commercial Radio Australia's Siren Awards 2020.

## Lizzie Corke (OGC 1997) & Shayne Neal (OGC 1997)

Lizzie Corke (OGC 1997) is the co-founder of the Conservation Ecology Centre in Cape Otway with her partner Shayne Neal (OGC 1997). Their recent development of a social enterprise ecotourism venture 'Wildlife Wonders' on the Great Ocean Road received global recognition. It was named by the National Geographic as one of the best 5 places in the world to enjoy nature.







### Errin Johnson (OGC 1997)

Congratulations to Errin, who was profiled as part of '100 Women of Oxford Medical Sciences' earlier this year for her role as as Head of the Electron Microscopy Facility in the Dunn School of Pathology at Oxford University.

The initiative celebrates the vital contributions women have made to medical sciences, and marks 100 years since women were admitted as full members of the University of Oxford.

You can read more about Errin's work at: [cutt.ly/TGC\\_errin](http://cutt.ly/TGC_errin)



We also chatted to Errin about what life has been like in the UK during the Pandemic.

"I live in Oxford with my husband, Michael, and our rotund cat, Rolly.

All three of us moved over from Sydney in 2012 when Michael was offered a faculty position at Oxford University - the sort of no-brainer opportunity that you don't turn down!

A few months after arriving here, I was lucky enough to find my current job as Head of the Electron Microscopy Facility in the Dunn School of Pathology at Oxford University.

My role is diverse and rewarding, as I am able to contribute to a wide range of important and interesting scientific research across Oxford. Recently, this has included work on SARS-CoV-2 and the vaccine.

The UK was hit particularly hard by COVID-19 and we have



been living under fairly severe restrictions since March last year. However, by far the hardest part for us has been not knowing when we'll be able to visit our family and friends again in Australia.

Both of us are used to living overseas, but have never felt this cut off from our loved ones before. Fingers crossed for a brighter 2022!"

- Errin Johnson



### Major Gen Adam Findlay AO (OGC 1983)

Earlier this year, Adam was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for 'distinguished service and exceptional leadership as Special Operations Commander Australia, Commander Special Operations Joint Task Forces Iraq, and Commander of the 7th Brigade'.

He was also awarded a 'Legion d'Honneur' 'for extended merits and valuable contribution to the formal establishment of the Special Forces relationships between France and Australia.'

Adam has now retired in Brisbane after a wonderful 37 year career in the Australian Army.

### Fiona Leonard (OGC 1988)

I've been living in Düsseldorf Germany for five years. Coming here was a bit of an accident. We were living in Ghana, when my daughter was offered the chance to work with a theatre company in Düsseldorf for four months. We were planning to go back to Australia afterwards but we liked it here so much we stayed!

I'm an author and playwright. This year, I've had two plays touring with a cabaret in Australia, a multi-disciplinary piece showing at a festival in the UK and a short film in production. With theatres closing last year due to COVID-19 (they're still closed...sighhh...) I went back to writing novels. I'm currently writing the second series of an assassin novella for a US publication and have a vampire romance series in the works.

Life here is busy, occasionally sunny. A short film I made was released and won a few awards which was nice.

I am currently applying for grants to film another one in Australia next year. In the

meantime a new play has just gone into rehearsal and I'm working on a novel. So, you know, keeping off the streets!

[fionaleonard.com/filmandtheatre](http://fionaleonard.com/filmandtheatre)

You can watch Fiona's short film by scanning the QR code or visiting: [bit.ly/BeyondtheTrees](http://bit.ly/BeyondtheTrees)



## Harriet Brown (OGC 2008)

International water sports athlete and Ironwoman champion, Harriet Brown (OGC 2008) has written a blog post "A letter to my younger self."

Read some of Harriet's great tips here:



## Lachie Henderson (OGC 2007)

Congratulations to Lachie Henderson on his wonderful career at the Cats (as well as the Lions and the Blues).

206 games, 116 goals and a grand final appearance.

We couldn't be prouder.



# Are you connected?

The Geelong College Connect is available as an app

Connect with convenience to our community of 2725+ Old Collegians from a wide range of year levels.

1 Search for 'Graduway' in the app store on your device

2 When prompted, enter 'The Geelong College'



## Andrew Cole (OGC 1978)

Following a research degree in politics and serving as CEO of Barunga West Council, Andrew has now taken up the position as the Chief Officer of the Reporting Division of the South Australian Parliament, known as the Leader of Hansard.

He is responsible for providing reporting services to both houses of Parliament and its Committees. Andrew is living in Adelaide with his wife, Janet, and children David, Amy and Leah.

Andrew's twin-brother **Tim Cole (OGC 1978)** is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute at Monash University in Melbourne.

Brother, **Ian Cole (OGC 1973)**, recently retired from the Product Engineering division of Ford Australia in Geelong.



## Phoebe East (OGC)

You may have seen Phoebe East grace the cover of a November edition of the Geelong Advertiser's GT Magazine. Phoebe owns biodynamic flower farm and floristry studio, Alchemilla, located in Birregurra. She has just released her second book: The Alchemilla 2022 Almanac.

Scan the QR code to go to Phoebe's website





## Jassie Salvesson (OGC 2014) & Maddie Salvesson (OGC 2018)

Great to see the Buckle/Salveson family in a recent issue of GT magazine. Past parent Jo Buckle started snowwear brand Rojo three decades ago and it is still going strong. Now Jo's daughter Jassie works for the business with father David. Maddie is studying fashion at RMIT.

It's a successful family affair combining their passions for skiing and fashion!

Scan the QR code to go to Rojo's website



## Rob Tripolino (OGC 2008)

After graduating from the College, Rob went on to the Victorian College of the Arts. Since then, he has taken to the professional stage as 'Aladdin' in Aladdin, and most recently - 'Jesus' in 'Jesus Christ Superstar'.

Rob spoke to the Senior School students at this year's Founders' Day assembly, sharing his wisdom, and treating us all to a rendition of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.'

**Pictured above:** Rob with College Music Teacher, James Hunt, who accompanied Rob's performance.

**Right:** Rob with two of his former Performing Arts teachers: Deb Hynes and Lachy Joyce

Scan the QR code to watch Rob's performance



## 1944 Head of the River

Naomi Tippett AM donated a 1944 Head of the River oar from her late husband Dr George Tippett AM (OGC 1940) who was stroke in the winning crew.

Geelong College won by 1 ½ lengths over Geelong Grammar followed by Scotch College.

It was the first time the Head of the River was held on the Yarra with a crowd of over 40,000 people.

The June Pegasus of 1944 said: "The crew received congratulations from all corners of the globe. Worthy of note was the length of the stroking and its evenness, combined with the cool judgment of the stroke (George) who helped this crew row a very intelligent race."

**Share  
your  
news!**

**Babies, weddings, awards  
& business or professional achievements...**

We love to know what our OGCs are up to!  
If you have some news to share, email us.

[communityrelations@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:communityrelations@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au)



# Albert Bell Club News

PETER LAWSON (OGC 1990), ABC PRESIDENT

After the pandemic frustrations we experienced in 2020, it was pleasing to report on rowing activities and events of the 2021 season.

Unfortunately, we again found ourselves negotiating lockdowns and limited sporting activities, resulting in little news for 'still on the staging'. As lifestyle restrictions ease, I look forward to being able to share news of the efforts of our Old Collegians out on the water.

One positive piece of rowing news was Angus Widdicombe's (OGC 2012) selection in the Australian Men's Eight to compete in the Tokyo Olympics. Angus stroked the crew that qualified for the A-final at the Sea Forest Waterway regatta course. Congratulations, Angus!

It is with sadness I share the news of the passing of Robert Purnell (OGC 1948), in late September, at the age of 91. Robert was a member of The Geelong College 1st VIII in 1947 and 1948 (coached by Albert Bell) and was appointed Captain of Boats. Across a period of almost two decades, Robert also coached 2nd, 3rd and 4th VIII crews for the College. He was a founding Director of The Geelong College Foundation and joined the Albert Bell Club (ABC) Committee at

its inaugural meeting in 1975 and later became a Life Member and Patron of the club. Robert's children (Kathryn, Helen, Fiona and Fred) all rowed for The Geelong College. He will be sorely missed and we extend our sincere condolences to the Purnell family.

During the Valedictory Ceremony in October, three 2021 Colin Carstairs Bell Pathway Bursaries for school leavers were awarded. Congratulations to the successful applicants: Connie Dunkley-Smith, Cate Barr and Amelia Edmonds. We wish them well and look forward to hearing about their future rowing endeavours!

Finally, I am happy to convey that in discussions with Aron Tremul (Director of Rowing), in preparation for this season, the ABC has funded a second-hand racing eight to replace the Pauline Turner. The Rowing Parents Support Group must also be acknowledged for their contribution to this boat, in addition to purchasing eight new sets of sculling oars and co-funded with the school, a new coaching motorboat, along with an

annual subscription to 'Decent Rowing', an online rowing coaching and support program.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the ABC and rowing at The Geelong College this year - it is much appreciated and welcomed!

As ever, we welcome your feedback. Follow us on Facebook at Albert Bell Club or email [albertbellclub@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:albertbellclub@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au)





# Foundation President's report



SCOTT CHIRNSIDE  
(OGC 1970),  
FOUNDATION  
PRESIDENT

Another year has been ripped from under us by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am constantly reminded of the resilience of our school community, particularly our students and staff.

Our students and staff have set such a wonderful example of remaining positive in the face of isolation and lost experiences. With substantial vaccination numbers and the return of some students to school, I look forward to more normal times ahead. Congratulations to our Year 12s on their remarkable spirit and flexibility during this year of challenges. Your resilience will be a quality that helps you for the rest of your lives.

## **Annual Giving – Thanks for your support!**

Thank you to our amazing College community for getting behind our Annual Giving campaign this year and supporting our Scholarship fund, in particular Boarding Scholarships, Pegasus Scholarships and the Bill Williams Tjungurrayi Scholarship. Your generous contributions have also allowed us to continue the refurbishment of the Cloisters through your giving to

our Building Fund. Our Annual Giving campaign raised over \$112,000 and we can't thank you enough for your continued support of the College.

## **Foundation Scholarships**

One of the best things the Foundation get to do is offer opportunities for students to experience all that The Geelong College has to offer. Among other things, we do this by offering two Foundation Scholarships and an

Indigenous Scholarship. One of our Foundation Scholarship recipients, Year 11 student Evelyn Coorey, has written a lovely article about the impact that the assistance from the Foundation has had on her education at College. Evelyn also talks about opportunities she has been given at College, in particular her participation in rowing. Enjoy reading Evelyn's article on the next page and thank you to Evelyn for enlightening us on her educational journey here at College.

### The Foundation Concert

The annual Foundation Concert was scheduled for 13 August but unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last minute due to COVID-19 restrictions. In lieu of the Year 12 music students missing the opportunity to celebrate the culmination of their music journey at the College, the Foundation presented each of the Year 12 music students with a book, Year of Wonder by Clemency Burton-Hill. We wish all of the Year 12 students well with their future endeavours.

### Foundation Fellowship

Congratulations to our newest Foundation Fellows, Jane Sampson and Seamus Orr, who will participate in the Stronger Smart Leadership Program and the Leadership Course at the Rites of Passage Institute respectively. The Foundation Fellowship is an important program which provides opportunities for staff to develop professionally by increasing their skills and enhancing their global awareness and we look forward to an update from Jane and Seamus next year on their experiences.

### Foundation Events

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we haven't been able to host any Foundation events during the second half of this year. Our Morongo Lunch,

Community Golf Day and morning tea for Morrison Society members will all be back on next year and we look forward to hosting these and other community events in 2022.

### Julie Cole resigns from the Board

At our November Board meeting we said farewell to Julie Cole who has been an enthusiastic Board member for over four and a half years. I would like to acknowledge and thank Julie

for her significant contribution to the Foundation Board and wish her well for the future.

We look forward to a more open community early next year where we can give our members the opportunity to see the many improvements that the school has made with the Foundation's assistance.

## Annual Giving 2021

The 2021 Annual Giving Appeal was one of the most successful campaigns in many years with over \$112,000 raised. Annual Giving is the key fundraising activity for the College each year and the money raised goes to support the Scholarship Fund, the Building Fund and The Geelong College Foundation.

Each year we ask the College community to donate to several key projects which have been identified as priorities. This year's projects included Boarding Scholarships and Bursaries; Pegasus (Equity) Scholarships; the Dr Bill Williams Tjungurrayi (Indigenous) Scholarship; the Cloisters refurbishment and, The Geelong College Foundation Fund.

The results of the 2021 Annual Giving Appeal:

- Dr Bill Williams Tjungurrayi (Indigenous) Scholarship \$40,648
- Pegasus (Equity) Scholarships \$34,378

- Cloisters refurbishment \$19,731
- Boarding Scholarships and Bursaries \$11,276
- The Geelong College Foundation Fund \$6,300

TOTAL \$112,333

- 121 donors from all facets of the College community gave to this year's Appeal.
- 11 first time donors
- Oldest donor is in their 90's from the 1942 Year Group.
- Five others who attended College in the 1940's also donated.
- Youngest donor is aged 13 and in Year 7 at Middle School
- 40 past parents donated
- We want to thank all our donors who gave so generously to this year's Appeal – Thank You!



## We believe no student should miss out on the benefits of a The Geelong College education due to financial hardship

Your gift could go a long way to helping give students whose families have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic the opportunity of a The Geelong College education.

Donate online at: [www.cutt.ly/annualgiving](http://www.cutt.ly/annualgiving)





*(From left) - Lily Bowlen, Emily Mills, Sophie Dodd, Evelyn Coorey and Charli Sands*

## Evelyn Coorey - Scholarship recipient

As the child of a single parent, growing up in small town Werribee, my options for high school were quite limited. The Foundation Academic Scholarship changed that.

I had always figured I'd go to the local government high school and work hard despite the limited resources that would be at my disposal. But when it came to choosing schools in Year 6, my mum decided to enrol me in scholarship tests for various private schools, and my curiosity peaked. So, I read about them, researched them, and quickly figured that it would take a miracle for me to ever step foot through those kinds of gates. In fact, I would still only be admiring them from afar, had it not been for the Foundation Academic Scholarship, and Music Scholarship, that The Geelong College awarded me in 2016.

It is by their virtue that I've been fortunate enough to participate in ventures that 12-year-old me could never have dreamed of. I've joined various musical ensembles, debating teams and leadership committees that have awakened me to a plethora of knowledge and opportunity, and I've grown more comfortable in aspects of my life that I previously wanted nothing to do with – namely, sport. I only have compulsory APS participation to thank for my newly gained, yet still limited, basic coordination, stamina and genuine enjoyment in physical activity. Rowing especially has been an unforgettable

journey and experience that, despite my lack of athletic inclination, I will forever be grateful for being able to try. The memories I shared, the camaraderie and teamwork that I witnessed (plus the collective agony of ergos and early morning runs) were exhilarating and incredibly humbling. It was one of many instances at this school where I could break past my comfort zone and try new things knowing full well that I have an abundance of support and guidance surrounding me. Whilst terrifying, hectic and stressful at times, the lessons that I learnt about the sport, about teamwork, and especially about myself, were well worth it all.

I learnt about the importance of simply just trying - of knowing that I won't always be the best or even moderately adequate at something but choosing to do it anyway. I realised that it is hardly the outcome that matters, but the knowledge that we gain, in return for consistent dedication and hard work, that is the real measure of success. College truly is a place that celebrates differences - whether they were differences in strengths, preferences, ideas or opinions. Not every establishment is able to foster such a broad, open view of matters, and to have a place in such an accepting

and nurturing community is my greatest honour.

I find myself armed with the irreplaceable chance to pursue an education filled with opportunity that I otherwise would never have had access to, and I therefore cannot advocate the importance of scholarships and bursaries enough. The generosity of our donors and their everlasting impacts on the lives of students like me, who otherwise could only dream of obtaining such a prestigious education, is extraordinary. It opens doors that, for many, would otherwise have remained sealed shut, and allows scholarship recipients to explore and discover an overwhelming world of opportunity and growth.

My time here has been nothing short of life changing. The opportunities I've been presented with have given way to invaluable experiences, lessons and teachings that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. To the College, and the Foundation especially, I express my sincerest gratitude. I will continue to make full use of the hope you have given me, both in the remainder of my years here, and throughout my journey beyond school.

# “A wartime coincidence”

CAROLINE STOK, ARCHIVIST

In 1940 Jock Rolland OGC 1934 enlisted into the RAAF where he would begin his journey to a remarkable wartime coincidence.



*Jock Rolland*

Jock Rolland came from a The Geelong College pedigree. Nephew of the well respected and long serving principal Rev Frank Rolland and great grandson of college founder Dr Alexander Campbell, Jock attended the school from 1937-1938.

In March 1941 Jock was called up and posted for training at a series of schools in Canada. As a newly appointed Officer he then set sail for the UK. The RAAF 461 Squadron was formed on Anzac Day in 1942 into which all Canadian trained pilots and navigators were transferred.

The 461 Squadron was part of a long campaign in the Battle of the Atlantic. The German Navy and Air Force were intent on disrupting the important supply lines to Britain. The 461

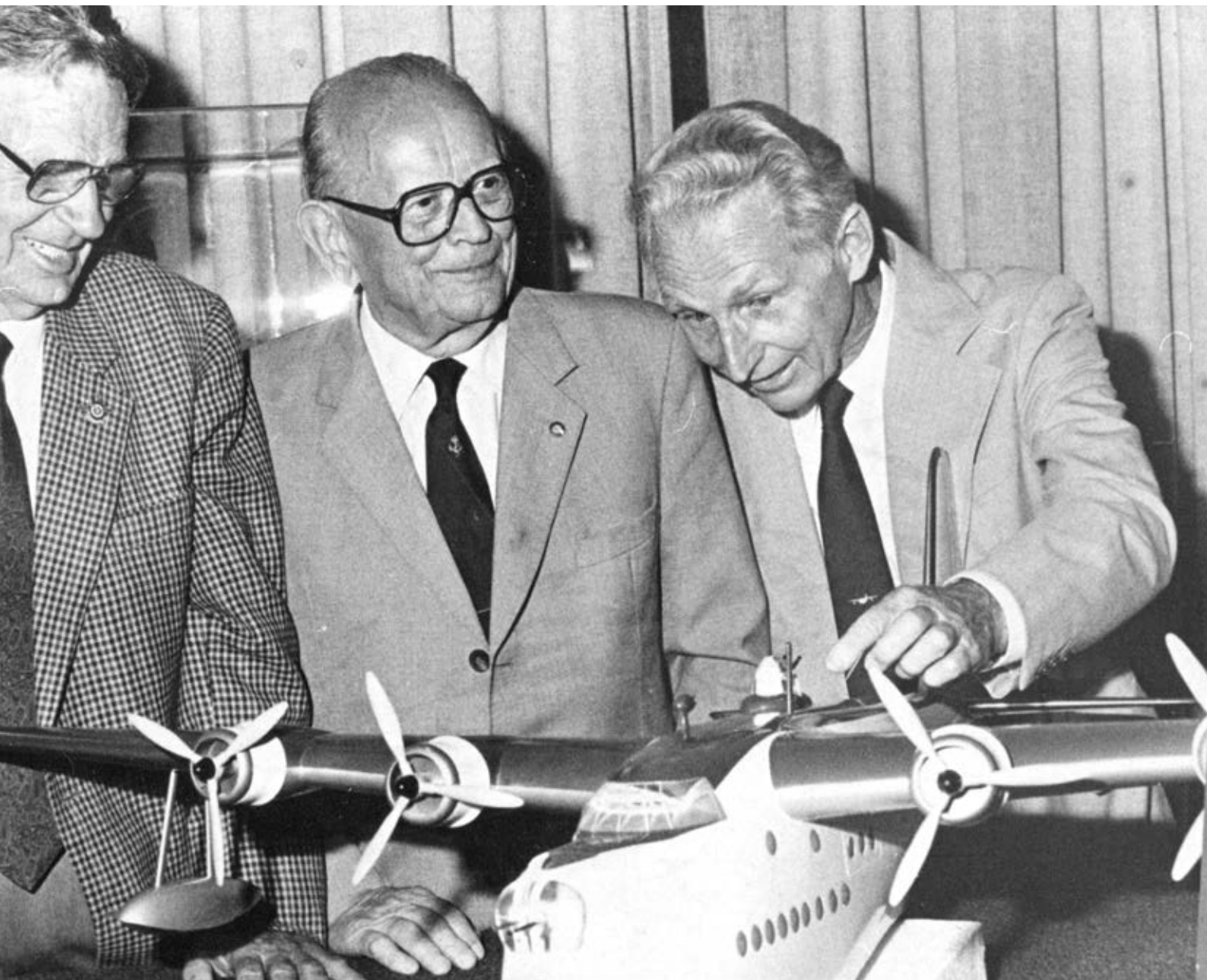
Squadron formed part of the Allied effort to patrol and protect the supply ships.

“Our really big day came on 31 July 1943,” recalls Jock in his brother Derrick’s (OGC 1939) book *Airmen I have met* (1999).

Derrick Rolland recounts:

“[Sunderland “U” of 461 Squadron] set out on an anti-submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay. Manned by a crew of 12 under the command of Flight Lieutenant Dudley Marrows. The navigator was Flight Lieutenant Jock Rolland (my brother). They received a message from Group HQ to join in an action against a pack of U-boats. On arrival at the scene there were three U-boats on the surface.”





*Dudley Marrows Captain Sunderland U461, Wolf Stiebler Captain U-Boat 461 and Peter Jensen WOP at the War Memorial, Canberra.*

In a daring manoeuvre Dudley flew close to a U-boat in the face of cannon and machine gun fire, and dropped a depth charge.

Dudley recalls, "I had to pull up violently to avoid hitting the conning tower. I had no idea of how successful my attack had been until my navigator, Jock Rolland, called out on the intercom, "You got one". Rolland was still leaning out of the Sunderland hatch, photographing the result of the attack, despite the fact that I was putting the aircraft through violent turns to avoid the U-boat fire. We flew over the scene to find a great oil slick where the submarine had been. About 30 survivors, wearing only life jackets, were observed. We made another run over the scene and dropped a life raft."

Thus, it was that Sunderland "U" of 461 Squadron sank U-boat 461

Dropping the life raft for the survivors proved a controversial and risky decision in the face of damage inflicted to the aircraft. Britain's RAF reprimanded Marrows for jettisoning a raft intended to save Sunderland's crew if it was shot down.

In this wartime victory there was also a victory for humanity. The controversial decision to drop their life raft would save the U-boat 461 survivors.

Years after the war a reunion was organised between the Sunderland "U" of 461 crew and U-boat 461 survivors. At the reunion pilot Dudley's wife was thanked by the wife of the U-boat's Captain, Wolf Stiebler.

"Please thank your husband for giving me the many happy years of marriage I have had."

From then old enemies became good friends.

Jock was later transferred to the RAAF 40 Squadron, coming closer to home to ferry personnel and supplies between Australia and New Guinea. He was discharged in 1946 and later trained and worked as a dentist. His son, John, also attended the College.

His lasting impression of war was that "there is nothing pretty about war except flying over a carpet of strato-cumulus on a full moon night."



*The Warrinn dorm in the 1940s*

# ‘The Cottage’: Boarding at Warrinn

CAROLINE STOK, ARCHIVIST

The Warrinn boarding house has become somewhat of a school legend. From the tales of life in ‘the dorms’ told by students of the past, it’s clear their time was quite different to the boarding experience of today. We have been in touch with some OGCs who braved Warrinn and have their stories to tell.

Warrinn House, standing on the corner of Noble Street and Claremont Avenue, was purchased by the school in 1906, having been a residential home for about 15 years previously.

The building initially housed only school masters but was soon repurposed as boarding house for boys as enrolments increased. In the 1920s, junior boarders were based in Warrinn. As numbers grew, additional wings were added to offer more capacity, and facilities were improved. Warrinn became home to Senior School boys.

Known as ‘The Cottage’, the conditions at Warrinn offered a unique experience for those who boarded there. Old boys recall the fifth dorm where, instead of glass, windows were ‘glazed’ with chicken wire.

“The fifth form dorm was an extension which was enclosed with chicken wire

and canvas blinds, great in summer but a tad chilly in winter,” Tony Storey recalls.

Gav Depeller continues, “in the fifth form dorm if your bed was along the window side and the rain and wind came from the North you had to shift your bed. The blinds billowed and there would be wet strips along the floorboards in the morning. A bit nippy during Winter as well!”

Having boarded at Warrinn, Eoin Barnett returned after school, along with Peter Cronk, to become Assistant Masters at in the boarding house.

“On cold wet nights,” Peter remembers, “the students wore overcoats, socks and beanies to bed.”

In fact, some students tried to use the chilly conditions to their advantage. With a Cadet Camp only a day away, some attempted to catch a cold overnight,

Barnett recalls, “they swallowed at least one tube of toothpaste and lay on top of the bed all night. Much to their disgust they woke up the next morning feeling better than ever!”

In fact, despite these conditions, Barnett reflects, “it must have been pretty healthy as I don’t think we were sick any more often than those Mackie boys that slept behind glassed windows with heaters!”

Cronk continues on this topic, “it always made me smile to myself when prospective boarders were shown around the relative comfort in Mackie, but finished up allocated to Warrinn!”

Yet it was these experiences that built camaraderie between the boarders and house staff. Colin Bransgrove remembers, “if you asked nicely, Miss Dale [the house matron] would make hot chocolate before bed.”



And there was time for mischief. During Andrew Humphry's time, he recalls: "in the dorm at the end of the passage there was 20 + of us in the chook pen. Sometimes after lights out there would be some (lots of) talking and messing about. To hear House Master Patchett coming down the hall to check on us, we sprinkled sugar on the passage floor. The sound of 'crunch-crunch' under his shoes did the trick!"

This period in Warrinn's history was a time of great change.

Tony Storey explains, "living in Warrinn we basically had two homes, Warrinn for sleeping and Mossgiel for all other activities."

Mossgiel also became home for the assistant masters, and later the Warrinn senior boarders. Then construction commenced on new boarding accommodation behind Mossgiel.

These changes flowed through to daily school life. Prior to 1974, the close-knit boarding students of Warrinn remained in their boarding house group as part of the Senior School House system.

Then came the 1974 modifications.

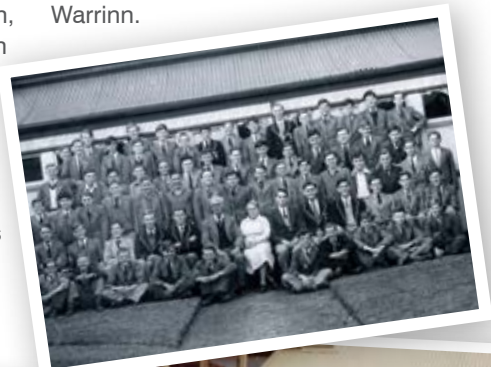
Designed to create closer connections between the boarding and day students, the boarding students allocated between the entirety of the 5 House Groups, a student's boarding house would no longer also be their Senior School House group.

In 1975 the boarders relocated to what was colloquially known as 'New Warrinn' - Mossgiel boarding house. The Warrinn building, itself, ceased to be home to boarders in any capacity and was therefore no longer part of the house competitions. As a last hurrah, Warrinn won the interhouse sporting competition, the Stanley B Calvert Inter House Cup in its final two years.

Today, Mackie House is home to our boarding boys, whilst Mossgiel has become the home of our boarding girls.

Warrinn House lives on in the memories of its boarders and the walls of 'The Cottage'.

Special thanks to Eoin Barnett OGC 1966, Colin Bransgrove OGC 1970, George Bidstrup OGC 1970, Peter Cronk OGC 1954, Gav Deppeler OGC 1971, Andrew Humphrys OGC 1971, Michael Roland OGC 1950 and Tony Storey OGC 1971 for their stories and photos of life in Warrinn.



Warrinn students (from top): 1948, 1975, 1973, 1974)



# Old Geelong Football Club

JAMES LEGOE

2021 will go down as a year that promised so much yet delivered so little for community sport.

The Old Geelong Football Club had made such a promising start to their season, only for everything to be brought to a grinding halt as finals approached. Five of our six sides were placed in the top two on their respective ladders, primed to bring some silverware back to Como Park. Alas, we can only reflect on the season with frustration and disappointment.

The introduction of our Under 23 men's side was a hugely successful initiative instigated by the Committee to enhance our feed into the club from school leavers of The Geelong College. Whilst our Under 19 team historically provided this pathway, the age restriction proved to be a challenge with eligibility only providing one or two years (at best) of underage football. The feedback and buy-in from the players has been overwhelmingly in favour of this becoming the new norm at the OGs, allowing many close friends to continue playing sport with each other (and year groups above/below) beyond school. Equally encouraging has been the continued development of our women's program. Numbers have continued to grow and the improvement in standard every year reflects the time and commitment our coaches continue to put into the girls.

Off field the Club goes from strength to strength with an active Committee looking to improve and enhance the OGs offering. Over the past 18 months we have established a Future Fund, primarily established with a vision to securing our Club's future. Whilst in its infancy, we are very thankful to our founding members who have pledged \$350,000 in donations. We intend to launch an official campaign in 2022 to ensure future generations of young men and women can enjoy a life of sport, camaraderie, and support beyond school.

Many other areas of the Club have suffered during the pandemic, including our thriving social scene and other sports such as netball, cricket and tennis. We are actively looking to resurrect these areas of the Club in 2022 as Victoria returns to freedom and encourage all recent and past Collegian leavers to connect with us on our social media channels (Instagram/Facebook) or via email at [oldgeelongfc@gmail.com](mailto:oldgeelongfc@gmail.com). We see our Club as your alumni home in Melbourne

and welcome your involvement in any capacity including sport (football, netball, cricket, tennis), career networking and mentoring, famous social events including annual ball and regular coterie lunch groups or assisting as a volunteer/Committee member at the Club. We are always looking for good quality people!

To find out more about the Old Geelong Sporting Club, go to their website at [www.oldgeelong.com.au](http://www.oldgeelong.com.au).



Images: Peter Lemon

# Farewells



## HEARD, David Andrew Cory

(1956-2021) OGC 1970

After a prolonged illness, OGC and veteran Melbourne community radio broadcaster David Heard died on Sunday 12 September 2021 surrounded by loved ones.

David came from Noradjuha in the Wimmera to board at the College from 1968 to 1973. He followed his brother Edwin (dec) OGC 1963 and his father Cory (dec) OGC 1930.

As a founding member of 107.6 PBSFM, Australia's second largest community radio station, David served on the Board of the station as well as the programming committee. He was instrumental in recruiting a number of announcers including fellow Old Geelong Collegian Hugo T. Armstrong (OGC 1984).

Along the way, David was the recipient of several radio-based awards, including the 2013 Community

Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) Community Radio Award and the 2013 106.7PBSFM Mick Geyer Award for his specific and sustained service to broadcasting.

A long-term resident of Fitzroy North, David's contribution to the music industry and the community broadcasting sector was again recognised in 2014 with the City of Yarra declaring David Citizen of the Year.

Never one to seek the limelight, week after week, David unflinchingly shone the light on his passion, the music and the musicians.

In many ways he can be credited for helping to shape the international reputation of the alt-country scene in Melbourne.

- D. Jacobson

## ANDERSON, Ian Hamish

(1959-2021) OGC 1973

Ian was born in 1959 to Diane and Bruce (OGC 1936) of Glenrowan. Ian followed his father and brothers to attend The Geelong College as a boarder at Mackie in 1973, commencing in Form III. He received multiple Coles House Colours having served as vice-captain of the 2nd XI Cricket team and 2nd XVIII Football team.

## BARBER, Angus William

(1938-2021) OGC 1953

Coming from Birchip, Angus Barber was enrolled as a boarder, along with his twin brother Keith, in 1954. Starting in Form IIA they both boarded in Warrinn. Angus was a successful farmer and remained lifelong friends with fellow OGCs. He was married to Mary and they have four children.

## BARBER, Keith Samuel

(1938-2020) OGC 1953

Keith Barber was enrolled as a boarder, along with his twin brother Angus, in 1954. After the 1955 school year Keith decided to return to the family farm at Birchip. Keith was a successful farmer and kept in touch with his school friends. He was married to Helen and they have three children.

## BARNET, Kenneth William

(1943-2021) OGC 1959

Ken Barnet boarded at the College for two years. Serving on the 1st XI Cricket and 1st XVIII Football teams, he received multiple Morrison House and School colours. Ken played for Shepparton Football Club. He was part of the 1963, 1964 and 1965 Premiership sides, a Life Member, and served as their secretary. Ken married Cheryl and they have two daughters.

## BRUSHFIELD, Peter Robert

(1947-2021) OGC 1962

Peter was enrolled at the College from 1962-1965 and received the Sun Youth Art Award. Peter went on to have a career in art and teaching. He taught at several high schools including Westbourne Grammar, and the Austin Gray Centre at The Geelong College. Peter exhibited in solo and group exhibitions and in 1974 he received the NSW Regional Galleries Prize.

## PURNELL, Robert William

(1929-2021) OGC 1944

OGC and long-time College supporter, Robert Purnell, passed away on 26 September 2021, aged 91 years. Son of Norman Robert (OGC 1905) and Ida Mary Purnell, Robert attended The Geelong College from Kindergarten in 1936 to Form VE in 1948.

At Senior School he rowed in the 1st VIII rowing crew 1947-1948 and was appointed Captain of Boats and to the Rowing Committee. With other roles including Athletics Captain, School Prefect and Calvert House Captain, he received a number of School and House colours, and caps.

While Robert's father was a strong supporter of rowing at the College, Robert continued the tradition serving as a rowing coach from the mid-fifties until

1972. He coached the boys crews in 2nd, 3rd and 4th Vllls.

His commitment to rowing led to Robert being a founding member of the Albert Bell Club in 1975 and he later became a Life Member and Patron of the Club. On the 3 February 1996, Robert officially opened the new Boatshed. In his speech on the day he recounted wonderful rowing stories, reflecting the long and proud tradition of rowing at the College. Robert was also a founding director of The Geelong College Foundation between 1987 and 1989.

Robert and Ann's four children also attended The Geelong College.



CAMPBELL, Colin Ellis  
(1939-2021) OGC 1952

Colin attended the College from 1953-1954, son of Muriel and Edward, a bank manager from Peak Hill, NSW. Colin boarded at the College and played in the Under 15 Football team. He was married to Judy and they have two children.

CARMICHAEL, Donald Ian  
(1931-2021) OGC 1946

Don (OGC 1945-1948) was a competitive athlete, he won the AJ Wilson Cup in 1945 and The Geelong College Cup and Nigel Boyes Cup in his final year 1948. Later working in real estate, in 1960 Don became a director of Stockdale & Leggo until retirement. He was also a Director of JG Johnstone & Company Stock & Station Agency 1960-1980. He remained connected with the College, serving as President of the OGCA from 1971-1972. Don was married to Sally and they have three children.

EASTWOOD, Stuart Maxwell (Max)  
(1933-2021) OGC 1947

A well-known Geelong photographer, Max boarded at the College 1948-1950. In 1965 he became a partner in Robert Pockley Studio. In 1969 he became sole proprietor of the business and continued to capture images of Geelong during this period. Max was married to Marie Tepper.

EMERY, John Austin  
(1927-2021) OGC 1940

John Emery boarded at the College from 1941 to 1942. His mother Ada Emery of Glen Iris enrolled her son after the death of his father Ted Emery in Myanmar, 1937. Following school John would go onto work at Barunah Plains where he and his wife Shirley raised their three children.

FENTON, John David  
(1935-2020) OGC 1949

John boarded at College from 1949-1952. John farmed at Lanark, near Branxholme balancing the needs of farming with conservation. A mentor to many, in 2010 John published, *The Untrained Environmentalist: How an Australian grazier brought his barren property back to life*. John was married to Cicely, and they have four children.

HARDING, Barry D'Altera  
(1935-2021) OGC 1947

Barry attended the College from 1946-1952. A keen student, Barry was in the Glee Club, performing key roles in their productions. He also received 1st Prize for French Reading and Conversation in 1951. Barry went on to become a chemist, eventually moving to Tasmania. He was married to Beris and they have four children.

HEARD, Dan Bromell  
(1973-2021) OGC 1991

Dan boarded at the College from 1988 to 1990. His siblings and father also attended the school. He received Morrison House colours for Cross Country and Athletics, as well as merit awards for Science and Physical Education. He later completed an Agribusiness course at Marcus Oldham College and lived in Horsham.

HODGSON, William Barry 'Sam'  
(1933-2021) OGC 1947

Coming from Swan Hill, William boarded at the College from 1948-1951, and was a Warrinn House Prefect. Among other sports, in 1951 he won The Geelong College Cup and captained the Athletics team. William was a wool classer before settling on the family farm at Balranald, NSW. He stayed in contact with many of his OGC peers.

HOOOPER, George Arthur Ashby 'Jim'  
(1933-2021) OGC 1948

Jim boarded at College from 1943-1952. In 1952 he served as Shannon Vice Captain and Senior House Prefect. After studying at Longerenong Agricultural College he would eventually work at James Hardie P/L for 32 years. In 1966 Jim was on the inaugural Agricultural Technologists of Australasia

Committee and Board and was made a Life Member in 2019. Jim was married to Linley and they have two children.

**JOHN, Anthony Taylor**  
(1939-2021) OGC 1953

Tony was part of the winning Head of the River crews in 1955, 1956 and 1957 and played key roles in the Glee Club productions. In his final year at College he was Captain of Boats, Senior House Monitor, Captain of Shooting, Cadet Under Officer and on the Music and Rowing Committees. Tony was married to Marie and they have two children.

**QUINTON, John Howard** (1942-2019)  
OGC 1955

John boarded at College in 1957-1960. He was a member of the winning Head of the River 1st VIII crew in 1959 and 1960. He also played in the 1st XVIII Football team. Following school John would go on to pursue a career in the electrical industry. In the years prior to his retirement in 2002, John and his wife Carmel owned a Retravision store in Tenterfield, NSW.

**PAVIA, Alexander Roy**  
(1954-2020) OGC 1968

Alex was enrolled at College from Kindergarten in 1959. In Senior School Alex played in the Hockey team. He finished his school studies in 1971, having completed his Technical Leaving Certificate. He relocated to Western Australia in 1983 and worked for Crystal Home Delivery Soft Drinks and later Origin Spring Water. Alex's brothers Murray OGC 1971 and David OGC 1977 also attended College.

**RIDDLE, Malcolm Robertson**  
(1919-2021) OGC 1933

Malcolm was a day student at the College from 1931-1934. In 1947, Malcolm established a temporary staff supply agency in Australia. He later operated printing works and three Riddle Business Colleges. He then returned to study and became a freelance writer. With his wife and son, they produced the 'Fifty Plus News' and 'Quality Time' newspapers. He has contributed to the Herald Sun newspaper and other publications. He was husband to Margaret (dec) and father of four children.

**ROWE, John William**  
(1933-2020) OGC 1946

John boarded at College from 1948-1950. Coming from Cohuna, Victoria, John was a strong swimmer and won both the Boys U15 and U16 championships. He was awarded Shannon House Swimming colours in 1948. As part of the cadets, he was part of the winning Clowes Cup team. He was also on the 1st XVIII Football team in 1950 and received a school football cap that year.

**THOMSON, John Robert**  
(1936-2021) OGC 1951

John attended College from 1948-1951. A boarder, John was awarded the Alexander Coto Memorial Prize in 1951. After school, John returned to his family property at Broadford, Victoria, where he developed his skills on the farm. John married Alison and they have three children.

**TROETH, Trevor John**  
(1952-2020) OGC 1967

Trevor boarded at the College from 1965- 1969. A member of Warrinn House, Trevor received House Athletics Colours and House Rowing Colours. In 1968 he was on the Cross Country team. After finishing school, Trevor returned to the family property at Heywood and established himself as a grazier. He became a sheep breeder and prime lamb producer. Trevor was married to Helen and they have four children.

**VARCOE-COCKS, John**  
(1938-2021) OGC 1951

John boarded at College from 1948-1956. He was a key player in the 3rd XVIII Football team which won the Vic Profitt Trophy in 1955 and played second ruck in the 1st XVIII. He also won the Boys Doubles Tennis Championship in 1956. In 1956 he was a School Prefect. John received an Ormond Residential Scholarship in 1957 and continued at Melbourne University studying Commerce. John remained in Melbourne where he married and become father of three.

Please visit  
[cutt.ly/tgc\\_obituaries](http://cutt.ly/tgc_obituaries)  
for more detailed entries



## Staff



**HOWELL, Kathy** (1955-2021)

Kathy Howell was a much loved and respected member of the Catering Department for the past seven years, who went about working in a quiet and no fuss manner. She was a most trustworthy, conscientious and dedicated member of our team, always willing to assist no matter what task was assigned.

Kathy also was the 'go to' Tuckshop assistant at both campuses, helping out often with minimal notice, but enjoying the interaction with the students.

Kathy was looking forward to travelling to Seattle, USA, at the end of the term to spend Christmas with her son, Daniel, and his family. She was counting the days for her flight, excited to be meeting her two year old grandson for the first time. It is incredibly sad that she is not able to do this.

She was an extremely devoted mother of Daniel and Aaron and their partners, and Grandma to Scarlett and Hamish.

