



2022 President's Report

Supporting the priorities of The Geelong College is one of the objectives of the Foundation, so together with the provision of scholarships and staff professional development, I am pleased to report that we have also provided funds for refurbishments at Mossgiel in 2022 as part of the Principal's Projects. This support adds to our previous contributions to the refurbishments in the Cloisters area which included classrooms, new flooring and rejuvenation of the Historic Noticeboards. All of these significant improvements to the school enhance the experience for current and future students.

We were fortunate to receive a substantial bequest from Old Collegian Alastair Brebner (OGC 1952) in 2022 and it is my pleasure to announce that the Foundation Board has decided to use these funds to create the Brebner Boarding Bursary. This bursary will assist with boarding fees to enable those in the rural areas of Victoria and surrounding states to have the same opportunity to attend The Geelong College as those closer to Geelong. The details of this new bursary will be finalised during the first half of 2023 and be available from Term 1 2024, however we are thrilled to be able to offer this assistance in the name of Alastair Brebner who was a boarder at the College from 1949 to 1956.

The 2022 Prefects joined us for our annual Foundation Members' Lunch on Thursday 28 April in the Dining Hall. Their presence at the lunch was welcomed by all and the College Co-Captains, Oscar Dowling and Emmy Bowyer, gave honest accounts of their "life at College". We also heard from Evelyn Coorey, currently in Year 12 and a Foundation Scholarship recipient. Evelyn gave an uplifting account of her journey to find her way to College and what it has been like since starting in Year 7, enlightening us with the many experiences she's had along the way. Dr Peter Miller also spoke at the lunch about, among other things, the importance of holding intergenerational events such as the Foundation Lunch where our older members of the community can converse with our younger community and share similar stories of their time at school. We finished the lunch with a musical performance by Georgia Phung on the saxophone and Alex Lang-Boyd on the violin.

Our focus for Annual Giving in 2022 was on the importance of our equity scholarships. This was highlighted by our Foundation Scholarship recipient, Evelyn Coorey, and her journey at The Geelong College since commencing in 2017 in Year 7. As Evelyn pointed out, her journey was one of significant sacrifice by her single mother who wanted to provide an outstanding education for her. To those who give so generously to our Annual Giving campaign each year, we say 'Thank You'. We could not offer the scholarships or maintain and develop the buildings we have without your ongoing support.

After not being able to hold a Foundation Concert in 2020 or 2021, we were thrilled to be able to support the College's music program through a night of performance featuring ensembles and choirs from across the College. The Foundation Concert took place at Costa Hall on Friday 12 August and favourite items were those that enabled a mix of age groups from across all campuses of the school to perform together. The mentoring and example set by our senior students enriched the night beyond just the musical performance.

It was a pleasure for the Foundation to be able to host so many events in 2022. Over 50 golfers braved the weather conditions on Friday 14 October to play in the Foundation's Community Golf Day at Barwon Heads Golf Club and there was a great turnout for the lunch afterwards. Members of our Morrison Society and Patrons of the Foundation enjoyed morning tea and a tour of the VCE Design & Creative Art Exhibition on Thursday 20 October which was very well received. Our members were very impressed at the level of talent on display and the variety of different media that was chosen by students. We hosted over 90 Morongo Old Collegians in the Dining Hall on Saturday 22 October for a very successful luncheon. Our guest speaker, well renowned Artist Susan Sutton (MOC 1961), had us all captivated with the stories behind some of her paintings which we were privileged enough to see up close on the day. We also heard from our 2022 Morongo Award recipient Georgia McLellan on what it meant to receive the Award and her ambitions for her future after her life at Geelong College concludes.

Congratulations to Karen Sunderland and Dana Dear who are our newest recipients of the Foundation Fellowship for Further Education or Training of a staff member. Karen will be attending the Stronger Smarter Institute's Leadership Program and Dana will be completing a Certificate in Art Therapy at the College for Education and Clinical Art Therapy.

We welcomed Sue Swan, a College parent, and Bradley Fenner (OGC 1972) to the Foundation Board in 2022. Sue kindly agreed to join the Board to fill the vacancy left after Julie Cole retired at the end of 2021 and Bradley was appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the Board. Bradley was most recently the Principal at Prince Alfred College in Adelaide.

I would like to finish off this report with an update on the Foundation's landholding in Fyansford. The property on the corner of Merrawarp Rd and Hamilton Highway is currently being leased out for farming activities. We have, however, conducted a flood survey for the land nearest to the Barwon River which is earmarked for school recreation activities including ovals and a campus extension. Long term planning is underway in conjunction with the City of Greater Geelong for some of the land to be used for housing for our rapidly growing city.

Thank you to our Board members who have given so generously of their time throughout the year and thanks also to the staff in the Community Relations office for their continued support of the Foundation. We look forward to another successful year in 2023.

Scott Chirnside
President, The Geelong College Foundation