



2023 President's Report

It was our privilege this year to give a \$1 million gift to the school for the construction of the new Sports and Wellbeing Centre. We are excited to be involved in a project that will see thousands of students use this facility for sport and learning over the coming years and decades. This state-of-the-art learning and sports space that comprises a double-court gymnasium, elite training facility and event space overlooking Mackie Oval, will host sports training, APS competitions as well as school events. The Centre will be used by the broader College community and become another extraordinary place for school gatherings.

Our focus on Annual Giving this year was on the importance of our equity scholarships and we were thrilled that so many from our community gave to our appeal – we raised just over \$25,000. This was on top of the extraordinary philanthropic support of the school community in donating to the College's Giving Day on 11 May, which raised over \$560,000 for the new Sports and Wellbeing Centre – overall an outstanding result!

The 2023 College Prefects dined with our Foundation Members in the Dining Hall on Friday 28 July at our annual Foundation Lunch. Our guest speaker, sports journalist and author Mr John Craven, regaled us with stories from his new book *The Conquerors: 100 Geelong Region All-Time International Sports Greats and Brownlow Medallists*. It was interesting to note that 14 of those mentioned in this book were Old Geelong Collegians. School Captains, Chantal Mason and Tom Greer, spoke to our members about their time at the College and their goals and dreams for the future. Having multiple generations attend this lunch is both unique and worthwhile.

The Foundation Community Golf Day was held on Friday 2 June at Barwon Heads Golf Club. Over 50 players enjoyed fabulous playing conditions and lunch in the clubhouse afterwards where our guest speaker was Dr Peter Miller.

Our new Director of Music, Mr Scott Templeton, put together a wonderful program for the 31st Foundation Concert which was held on 11 August at Costa Hall. We started the evening with the youngest voices in our school and finished the evening with all of the voices of our Geelong College community singing the school song 'Sic Itur Ad Astra'. The dedicated members of the music staff, the Music Captains, Hannah Phung and Baxter Pullin, and all the music students at The Geelong College are to be applauded for putting on a wonderful night of entertainment.

On Saturday 28 October we hosted many Morongo Old Collegians for Lunch in the Dining Hall. We were captivated listening to our 2023 Morongo Award recipient Edwina Royce and

our guest speaker Wendy Holdenson (MOC 1970). Wendy is currently a Director of Mitsui & Co (Australia) Ltd and spoke on the topics of women's equality and the importance of the relationship between Asia and Australia in terms of education, renewable energy and trade. We were also fortunate to have the Presto String Quartet entertain us during the afternoon.

This year the members of our Morrison Society and Patrons of the Foundation enjoyed morning tea at the Principal's residence on Thursday 26 October. Many of our guests then went to tour the VCE Arts & Design Exhibition where Mr Kevin Jess, Head of Design & Creative Arts, explained some of the student's exceptional work.

Our Foundation Fellows for 2023 are Delle Ritchie (Early Learning Teacher), Sophia Shen (Chinese Teacher), Adrian Blades (Careers Educator), Fabio D'Agostin (Mathematics/Science Teacher) and Aron Tremul (IT Teacher) – congratulations on this achievement.

The Foundation's land at Fyansford continues to be used for farming activities. An increased amount of time is being spent planning both the use by the College and the development options available in the near future. A sub committee has met with many prospective development partners and spent time visiting examples of similar developments in regional Victoria. I must thank Vice President Andrew Cameron, the Principal Dr Peter Miller, and other senior administrators of The Geelong College, particularly the school's Project Manager Brad Carr, for working diligently on this far reaching part of The Geelong College's and the Foundation's future.

Mr J A (Sandy) Hutton retired from the Board in March this year after 12 years of support and service to the Foundation, six of those as President. Sandy was presented with a 1991 TGC Boat Shed limited edition print as a thank you for many years of giving back to his school in a professional and passionate way. Sandy continues to serve The Geelong College as a member of the College Council. Thank you Sandy for your many years of dedicated service to the Foundation.

Thank you to the members of the Foundation Board for another exceptional year of supporting the school and achieving our objectives. The Community Relations staff must also be thanked for their support behind the scenes in what has been a very busy fundraising year.

Scott Chirnside
President, The Geelong College Foundation