

THE IVY & THE TOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE HAMILTON AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE NO 75 DECEMBER 2020



*Looking Forward, Looking Back,
Lessons Learnt*

THANK YOU FOR 43 YEARS - A TRIBUTE TO NEIL MACLEAN 06



WELCOME FROM THE 2020 JUNIOR SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Evie Kennedy and Hugh Stratmann

What an unsettling year it has been! Despite two lengthy periods of remote learning, with the support of our teachers, support staff, parents and guardians, we feel like it was very successful. The independent learning skills and traits of resilience and optimism that many of us have developed this year will be beneficial through all aspects of our lives, both in and out of the classroom.

This year has been especially challenging for our Year 12s and Year 6s who have missed many rites of passage. The Year 6s in their final year at Myrniong have all handled the 2020 rollercoaster with courage and spirit and we can see many positive outcomes. Personally, I have learnt a lot of useful skills that will help me in the Middle and Senior Schools. I've worked on learning independently and seeking out answers for myself.

To the Year 6s of 2021 I would say, try your hardest and try to make even the small things you don't enjoy fun!

Evie



This year, I have learnt that if we are ever in a challenging situation like this again, I will know how to make it work. With this in mind, I encourage the 2021 Year 6s to make the most of your last year at Myrniong because you only get one shot.

I will miss the space of Myrniong - and being able to run around in it - and seeing my friends. But I am excited about all the different classes in Year 7 and I feel that I am more organised with my time management and prioritising – skills I've learnt during remote learning.

Hugh

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Cover photo: Neil MacLean with his trusty clipboard in the early 1980s

Photo this page: Junior School Captains, Evie Kennedy and Hugh Stratmann

Photography: Alana Brown, Liz Crothers, Ashlyn Hiscock, Jen Hutton, parents, students and teachers



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dr Andrew Hirst

ARE WE FUTURE READY?

This year, schools, students and families across the globe have demonstrated incredible resilience, commitment, and flexibility in response to remote learning and the global pandemic. The Hamilton and Alexandra College promotes 'confident futures', but what knowledge, skills and capabilities do our students now need to embrace in this complex world?

College aspires for high academic accomplishment matched with connectedness in life. We proudly prepare young people for life, not just an ATAR. Yet, we know that school leavers need to be more than employable; they need to be adaptable, flexible and confident. The jobs they do will look very different to today. Most will switch careers. So while academic achievement is important, it is becoming increasingly clear it is not the sole purpose for schooling.

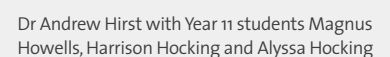
We must focus on preparing the whole person, no matter what career path they choose. This sits comfortably with much contemporary research that supports the purpose of the College that is teaching students 'to learn how to learn'. We need to develop self-directed, autonomous and creative learners in a post COVID-19 world. Education must provide students with the essential attributes they require for lifelong learning in whatever fields of endeavour they may choose as the professional and applied skills they need will change significantly over

their lives. 'Knowing how to learn and unlearn matters most,' argues Martin Betts.

The recent Education Council of Australia's research paper "Looking to the Future" supports our philosophy and states our education 'needs to educate for and assess the diverse learnings that make the whole person.' Many of the attributes that young people need are acquired not just from academic study or vocational education but also from experiences outside the classroom.

Hence, College intends to 'future proof' our next generation by planning an evolving, agile vision of education with a commitment to continuous learning and growing. School is, or should be, a place of exploration, a place where the variety of learning styles and methods is possible and encouraged. Education is a process of learning that occurs in multiple places throughout a lifetime. Quality learning must be built on the interests of students along the following dimensions: connecting to purpose and meaning; challenging students to have high expectations; positioning learning goals that focus beyond the basics; using engaging pedagogies; building relationships and belonging; and providing opportunities to contribute to the world.

Next year, we will design new '**Learner Profiles**' for every student that will identify the range of their skills, knowledge and experiences. The University of Melbourne encourages such



Finally, we will continue to build on our high quality, **targeted career advice**. We will expand our career guidance ecosystem to provide reliable and targeted information as well as draw together schools, community career hubs and real-time industry

To be 'future ready', College must insist on a dynamic, intentional approach to the learning experience. We must give our graduates a fundamental understanding and confidence to move forward with purpose in the next chapter of their lives and ensure they become self-directed, lifelong learners equipped to navigate a dynamic and uncertain world.

The Hamilton and Alexandra College is where students learn life.

THANK YOU FOR 43 YEARS

FAREWELL NEIL MACLEAN

Staff 1978-2020

In 1978, Neil Alexander MacLean, affectionately referred to as 'NAM', was Principal Tim Murray's first staffing appointment. The young Monash graduate from the leafy suburb of Mt Waverley was 'heading bush' to the Western District for his first and only job. Tim Murray had just employed The Hamilton and Alexandra College's longest serving member of staff.

Significantly, another great Australian, Prime Minister Sir Robert Gordon Menzies died that same year. Menzies had fervently believed that Scots were so prominent in Australian affairs as, 'they maintained a sense of continuity, feeling a pride in the past and a sense of responsibility for the future'. Neil MacLean, so proud of his Scottish ancestry, would continue this legacy in the greater Hamilton community for the next 43 years, serving five Principals, four as Senior Master/Deputy Principal. Neil was always more than just an employee of the School. He was the guardian of College tradition.



FIVE PRINCIPALS REFLECT...

"My interview with Neil may well have been the first one for both of us. We were certainly novices but I was convinced that Neil, looking all of 17, was a young man with all the right interests and instincts to share in the next chapter of the Hamilton College story. Little did I know that he would be part of many more chapters, even another volume or two. His may have been the first appointment I ever made. Certainly it was the best. He threw himself into all aspects of school life with great energy, enthusiasm and integrity. He did everything he promised – and much more."

Tim Murray, Principal 1978-1985

"I am sure that two of the advantages of spending your whole career in one school are, firstly, that you are able to see and experience the impact that your contribution has on that community and, secondly, that you know first-hand the affection and regard in which you are held. There will literally be thousands of current and past students and their families, together with present and former colleagues, with cause to be grateful to you for your guidance and influence over these many years."

Stephen Newton, Principal 1986-1992



"I have many fond memories of our time working alongside each other. My first day as Principal always stands out in my stories of Neil and College. Reading my very first letter addressed to The Head of Religious Education, I sent it to Neil asking, who is that? He sent it back with a short reply, you. I returned it, now it's you. We agreed to share the role, becoming Co-Heads of Religious Education. Neil was very patient with my wild ideas over the years – me the dynamic optimist bordering on reckless, Neil the steady, wise owl (the Chinese called you gao rei dze). We were a good team and together we built a good team. Neil led that team, steadied the ship, and instilled the discipline and focus."

Bruce Simons, Principal 1999-2015

"I was lucky enough to have Neil as Deputy Principal for the six years that I was at Hamilton College. Several Principals have been fortunate to have enjoyed his honest, reliable and unwavering support, as a more than competent English teacher, House Master, Senior House Master, Deputy Principal and now Associate Principal, at first of Hamilton College and now of the aptly named The Hamilton and Alexandra College. Neil has been an essential member of the School and invaluable as a wealth of information about its history, archives, alumni and the entire College community. I can imagine how his constant good humour, ready smile and laugh will be sorely missed around the College, as will his steadying influence in unpredictable circumstances!"

John Turnbull, Principal 1993-1998

"In our 148th year, College has always insisted on three essential requirements for its teaching staff. First, an ability to respect the individuality of every person; second, to hold firm standards that clearly identify limits; and third, to know and love their subject well and demonstrate genuine pleasure when teaching it. Three indispensable traits for a good school, three outstanding characteristics that Neil MacLean holds in abundance."

Dr Andrew Hirst, Principal 2016-present



1. Neil with Stephen Newton 2. Neil with Bruce Simons 3. Neil with John Turnbull, Andrew Hirst and Tim Murray

THANK YOU FOR 43 YEARS



Neil with Ben McCure, recipient of the inaugural The Neil MacLean Award at the 2020 Speech Day. The Neil MacLean Award is presented to a Year 12 student who has consistently displayed integrity, compassion, commitment and service.

TEACHERS REFLECT...

"It was 1978 and first impressions of the new English/History teacher are still quite clear in my mind. A tall, thin young man who could have passed for a 16 year old. Stovepipe trousers, narrow tie and a head of thick black hair. A graduate from Monash University, an air of excitement and impeccable manners evident. The school is such a richer place for having Neil; his knowledge of every aspect of the workings of the school and of students, parents and staff – present and past – is exceptional. He arrives early and leaves late, is dedicated to weekend sport, and is passionate about all aspects of The Hamilton and Alexandra College."

Rosie Mercer, Staff 1978-2008

"I admired Neil as such a humble and kind-hearted individual. He considered himself 'just one of the team' and I can imagine him downplaying his own individual importance in the overall success of College. I have spent many hours reflecting on my wonderful time as a teacher at College. When I ask myself why it was such a special place the answer is simple – the people are excellent and the community culture is strong and genuinely caring. Neil has been a massive influencer in shaping these two crucial factors."

Alistair Smith, Staff 2002-2008

"Neil's steady educational eye and kindness have been the hallmark of his contribution to our school community. He has been instrumental in the success of the Year 9 China Experience and has successfully led nine delegations to China. He has a deep and respectful understanding of the Chinese culture and people and enjoyed working closely with the Principals of Gaoyou Middle School. He understands the teenage world and easily fostered respect and cooperation while travelling with our Year 9 students. Over the years Neil mentored many students and took a real interest in their progress. He realised the power of small respectful conversations. I wish to express my deep respect and appreciation to Neil."

Julia Winter Cooke, Staff 1998-present

"Much of my time at College has been spent with Neil in and around hockey. His coaching career has featured numerous premierships, but the things that stand out are his love of the game and his ability to develop individuals beyond the hockey field. Neil believed that winning did take talent, but character allowed it to be repeated. He always pushed that the main ingredient in stardom is the rest of the team. On game days, Neil generally maintained a measured and composed approach. He was never one for big half time sprays, just a few simple 'home truths'. Neil has devoted many years to College and GRHA hockey. Legendary basketball coach John Wooden sums it up best, "Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."

Stephen Nelson, Staff 2007-present

STUDENTS REFLECT...

You've got a job to do here, 30 or 40 years of it. It's a job only you can do in the way you do it. RF Delderfield, 'To Serve Them All My Days'

"I feel like I grew up with Neil MacLean. He arrived at Hamilton College when I was in Year 8. He was eager and conservatively dressed and took his time to master the authoritative tone that would ring throughout the school for decades. For Neil, teaching was a calling. Like Delderfield's David Powlett-Jones, he has dedicated his life to the education of young people – not only their academic education, but also their growth as people. If they follow his lead, they will make the world a better place by serving their communities and enjoying the richness of good friendships, strong values and an energetic quest for excellence."

James Freemantle, 1982

"Neil was involved in almost everything I was – cricket, hockey, theatre, debating, public speaking, and singing in the choir. I became a teacher after a talk with Neil where he encouraged me to consider it as a career. That was a pivotal conversation for me and absolutely the right advice. It is extraordinary and admirable that, after 43 years, he still has the same energy to contribute, lead and inspire."

Kirsten Johnston, 1983

"I remember Mr MacLean as a firm voice that very clearly conveyed the truth as we know it and a big smile that contextualised that truth to the students he was guiding. In Neil, the two are inseparable and a powerful combination in authoritative teaching; he teaches the student, not just the lesson. Neil has devoted much of his life to documenting the history of this institution; we should all now raise a glass to everything he's done to define it."

Dion Love, 1990

"Neil was an excellent administrator, a willing coach and a passionate contributor on the cricket field. I recall he was well known for bowling what I call 'donkey drops'. His slow delivery action had the ability to garner excellent flight, resulting in the batsman requiring great patience for the ball to arrive some time later after it had traversed the atmosphere. Neil dedicated many hours to umpiring, coaching and playing which was critical to the success of the College Cricket Club."

Mark Lazzari, 1990

"Many of my favourite memories from school are of being on stage. That wouldn't have been possible without the opportunity Mr MacLean gave me and a motley crew of Year 8s to perform in *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe*. It is largely his fault that I'm presently happily engaged in the arts, a ridiculous life decision that has made me very content."

James Cameron, 2009

"What an important character and presence Mr MacLean was during my school life! He was my Year 10 English teacher and I will always attribute important lessons on justice, identity and essay writing to this class. During our Year 12 year, Mr MacLean was an important mentor for me and the whole student leadership team. He was a sounding board who warmly respected our ideas and helped us make important changes. Words cannot describe how much we respected him (and still do!)"

Claudia Roberts, 2018

"Mr MacLean has always been someone with much wisdom to share and who exemplifies College values. Some of my fondest memories of Mr MacLean stem from the China trip in 2017. I can't help but smile when I think of his booming voice at the airport, in a hotel lobby or on one of China's busiest streets, 'Listen in FOLKS!'. I will be forever thankful for the opportunity to lead this incredible school and it has been a pleasure to work alongside Mr MacLean."

Olivia Anagnostou, School Captain 2020

FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE FROM NEIL TO THE CLASS OF 2020

In his address at the year 12 valedictory service*

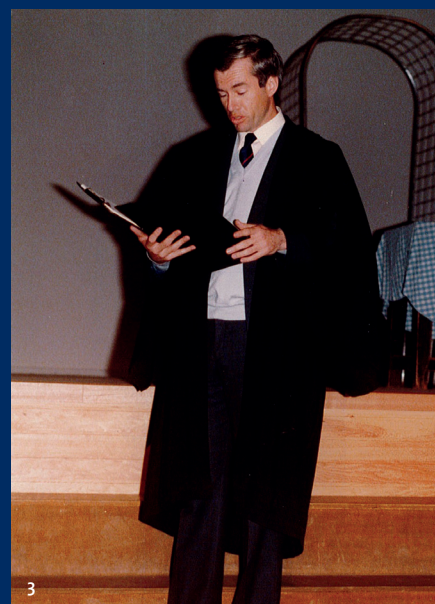
Next year, of course, is a new challenge and a new opportunity. You will go out into a bigger world. So, what are the extra things I hope we have taught you?

1. Be involved
2. Expand your vision
3. Stay close to those you care about
4. Open your mind
5. Seek to know more
6. Leave a legacy

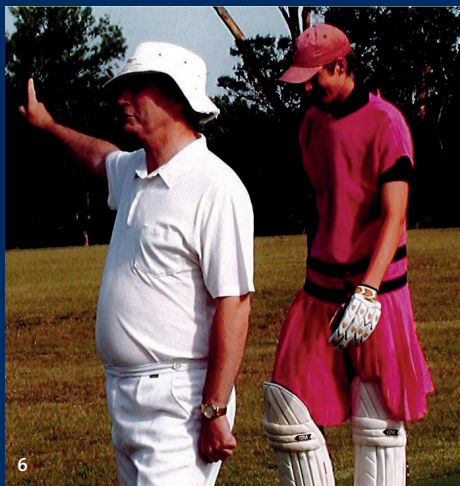
None of these are new ideas but I think they are important. I think they will allow you to feel more fulfilled. I believe they will help you to keep connections. They are really about what is important in being human. They can give you purpose.

*The content of the six key themes has been abbreviated to fit.

THANK YOU FOR 43 YEARS



1. The opening of the Neil MacLean Hockey Field on 18 November 2016 2. Neil's class photo in 1978, his first year at College 3. Neil performing in a stage production 4. Neil with 2020 School Captains Jock Keiller and Olivia Anagnostou 5. Neil leading the weekly Monday morning staff briefing online during remote learning in 2020



6. Teachers versus students dress-up cricket match. 7. Neil with Ben Hiscock (Director of Music) and Stephen Nelson (Head of Junior School) 8. The Year 9 China Experience in 2004 9. Neil poolside at House Swimming in the 1980s 10. Neil holding court with Junior School students in the Archives Room 11. Neil with hockey players, David Botterill, Alec Agar and James Moyle. 12. Neil with Belinda Nichols and Kristen Waldron at the official opening of the Neil MacLean Hockey Field in 2016.

LOOKING FORWARD - LESSONS LEARNT IN 2020



EPITOMISING THE COLLEGE VALUES OF RESILIENCE AND OPTIMISM

Class of 2020

This year definitely threw us a curveball. While it has been uncomfortable and daunting, it has forced me to grow and adapt. I have discovered what I am truly capable of and have a more optimistic, positive mindset due to it.

I won't conceal the fact that the things we've gained and embraced – resilience, time management skills and independent learning – have been bittersweet. However I have learnt that time humbles you in a way you never expect and teaches you to see what matters and what doesn't.

During remote learning there was not a teacher who didn't care. I will always be grateful for their kindness during a time that has also been tough for them. On behalf of the Class of 2020 I would like to extend my gratitude to them for being there to support us in whatever way they could.

For the Class of 2020, we were so close to fulfilling our 'lasts' and suddenly, in a heartbeat, so many were taken away. The false hope, the confusion, the disheartening news – it was all difficult to comprehend. We made it through by connecting with and supporting each other. Despite the inevitable tears, frustrations and challenges, our cohort has been incredibly kind and supportive and has expressed courage to those who have found this time more difficult than others. The life skills we have learnt this year will be beneficial throughout our futures and will help us in difficult times.

If you have a Year 12 student in your life please go and give them a hug. To my fellow classmates, you have made so many people extremely proud. Cheers to us!

Georgia Lehmann, Publicity and Events Prefect, Athletics and Music Captain

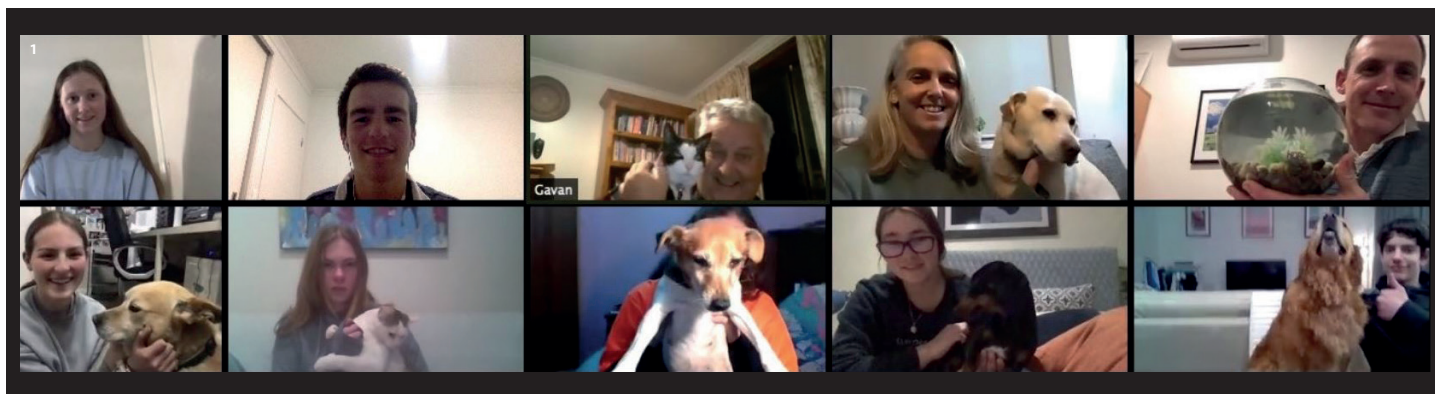


I am a great believer in Winston Churchill's quote, "I am an optimist. It does not seem too much use being anything else". The pandemic has taught me to never take anything for granted and that there is always a hidden silver lining – it is only a matter of time until it appears.

Heading into remote learning 2.0 highlighted to our Year 12 cohort how lucky we really are. We have a roof over our heads, food for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and access to technology for not only our studies but also for communicating with our friends and families. The support from College and constant encouragement and empathy from our teachers during this time not only provided us with guidance for our learning, but also supported our physical and mental wellbeing. Our teachers felt like a mentor and friend by our side through each and every hurdle.

The COVID-19 experience has armed the Class of 2020 with courage. We were thrown in the deep end for our final year of secondary school and survived! As we head off to university or a workplace, we will be equipped to approach challenges in the future with confidence and optimism. Thanks to the life lessons we have learnt at College, the potential of the Class of 2020 is limitless! Resilience is our middle name and we are excited about what lies ahead.

Nick Gunn, Vice School Captain



LEARNING LEADERSHIP AND LIFE

Staying connected in our boarding community

How strange to walk the halls of the Boarding House without students. Staff and students alike enjoy the hustle and bustle, the noise and connections and the busy routine. The silence and calm during the remote learning periods have been unsettling!

This year our boarders have been forced to learn, prioritise, self-motivate and socialise differently. Boarding Captains Lizzie Duver and Ben McCure have truly stepped up as leaders despite it being an extremely challenging time for our Year 12s. They have made it their mission to keep our boarding community connected. They held weekly online check-ins with everyone from Year 7 to Year 12, which usually involved something fun like a quiz, game or competition. On RUOK? Day they ran sessions which touched on serious and uncomfortable subjects and made sure everyone had a chance to speak up.

It has been truly humbling to witness the care and empathy shown by our Boarding Captains, in particular for the younger boarders. This year has really brought home what a positive, kind and compassionate boarding community we have. I've been struck by the strong bonds and how our boarders have found ways for these to continue through 2020. To put this into perspective, our boarders normally spend 24/7 together. Having to be away from your second home and best mates for months on end has been very hard. But they have adjusted to their new normal incredibly well and the banter and laughs during their online catch-ups are testament to their strong relationships.

It was truly wonderful to see the boarders reunited at the start of Term 4 and to watch the joy of their friendships continue in person. And it is great to hear the noise echoing through Speirs and Macdonald Houses once again!

Andrew Monk, Director of Boarding

YEARS 7 AND 8 FULL BOARDING BURSARIES APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2021, 2022 AND 2023

Boarding offers an amazing array of opportunities for students and families. Boarders learn independence. They learn how to negotiate conflict and problem solve. They learn tolerance and patience. They learn responsibility, resilience and a quiet confidence that cuts through many potential teenage challenges.

Our boarders contribute significantly to the positive culture of our school community. Not only are they great role models and active participants in all parts of school life, they also bring a wonderful sense of fun.

The College is currently offering full boarding bursaries to all Year 7 students and students in Year 8 who live more than 100km from Hamilton or at the Principal's discretion. Bursaries are for a 100% reduction in boarding fees for one year in either 2021, 2022 or 2023, with students able to apply for boarding scholarships beyond that.

To learn more please contact our Registrar, Susie Holcombe on 03 5572 1355



1. Top: Lizzie Duver (Year 12), Ben McCure (Year 12), Gavan O'Donnell (MOD), Gabbi Bensch (Head of Macdonald House) and Andrew Monk (Director of Boarding)
Bottom: Eliza Jagger (Year 12), Tessa Ingham (Year 9), Annabel Hetherington (Year 11), Ali Gray (Year 11) and Charlie Clancy (Year 9) 2. William Mackellar (Year 7) with his House Mother, Lise Lowe



'Piccolos' Deani Burmeister and Annie Cameron

CREATING A SAFE SPACE FOR OUR EARLY LEARNERS

2020 in the ELC

The two pre-school years are such a special and important time in the lives of young children. During this year of significant challenges, we have worked very hard at the ELC to provide our children and families with a sense of stability.

Remote learning during Term 2 was a challenging time for all of us. Many families were juggling the needs of their busy and curious early learner and primary aged children with their own work from home tasks. Our staff were having to adjust quickly to find new ways to provide learning and support for our young learners and families while still being true to our Reggio principles. It was most important to us that the children continued to feel connected to the ELC and we kept in touch with them online.

Being permitted to return to onsite learning in Term 3 was a privilege and a relief to children, families and staff alike. We know that for many of our families, our service provided important support as they juggled the needs of other children and working from home. Our focus during this time was to nurture a safe, relaxed and carefree space where we could continue to support the children in their learning and development. A space as free as possible from the anxieties and stresses that our community was experiencing outside the ELC.



Remote Learning packs provided to ELC families during Term 2

Our days were guided by the rhythm of the children. As they arrived each day we would gauge their sense of anxiety or stress and adjust our program accordingly. We facilitated play opportunities by extending on their interests and taking all the beautiful spontaneous opportunities throughout the day to further each child's curiosity and understanding.

We had some fun dress-up and theme days which the children absolutely loved. Our specialist programs in Music and Art with Mrs Christie and Mrs Addinsall were able to continue which provided a great feeling of normality. With the Junior School students absent due to remote learning we made great use of the Myrniong grounds, going for walks, playing on the playground, enjoying games on the oval and in the undercover area, and eating lunch in the sun outside The Vines. This proved to be a great opportunity for our Piccino students to get comfortable at the 'big school'.

We are confident that, despite the disruptions our children have experienced this year, they are all ready for the next step in their learning journey. Our Piccolos are ready to be Piccinos next year and our Piccinos are gearing up for Prep.

I want to thank all our families for their support and understanding through all the changes. I also want to especially thank our wonderful ELC staff who all had their own children at home doing remote learning but always turned up to work ready to be the professionals we know them to be.

We are soaking up the time we have left with these wonderful young learners in 2020. We know that this time is so important and we certainly don't want to rush it!

Frances O'Brien, Director Early Learning Centre



Mrs Frances O'Brien, Director of the Early Learning Centre with the Piccino class

WHAT I LEARNT DURING REMOTE LEARNING

Our 2020 SRC representatives reflect...

"I have learnt more about what works best for me in maintaining my motivation and discipline and maximising my productivity."

Ben McCure, Year 12

"Embrace the change, no matter how big or how small."

Alyssa Hocking, Year 11

"A new skill I have developed is organisation! During remote learning I had to embed practices of resilience and self-motivation to keep me focused and I feel this will be a great attribute to draw on in my life after school."

Lily McLeod, Year 10

"I have learnt to find motivation and happiness in smaller things and I've been able to develop better time management skills."

Ella Deland, Year 9

"I have learnt that there is always a bright side to a tricky situation. There are so many things we should be grateful for and it's just the way you look at things that changes everything!"

Fay Harjanto, Year 8

FAREWELLS



THANK YOU LOUISE MANIFOLD

Staff 1989-2020

I first encountered Louise as she was waiting for a job interview with Principal Stephen Newton. My immediate reaction was, "What an asset she will be!". Now as she leaves after more than 30 years of dedicated service, I know that many students will feel very lucky to have experienced her passion and determination to give them the best possible education and make school a happy and rewarding place for them.

Louise's passion for her students' learning was evident when she ran the Special Education Centre. Students who had avoided reading grew to enjoy literature. She never gave up looking for just the right books for each of them. Her students always seemed to brighten as they made their way to her lessons - perhaps eager to see what she was wearing that day! Her passion for education was matched only by her 'passion for fashion'. I remember her laughing as she recounted the story of one boy's reaction to what she thought was a very smart pair of new boots, "Arghh! Mrs Manifold! They're shoes that only witches wear!".

When Louise accepted the role of Head of Careers in 1998, the same tireless commitment to excellence shaped her work in this new area. Almost weekly trips to Melbourne to the universities and professional learning seminars meant that our students had the most up-to-date and extensive careers information available.

The Careers Room was always busy! When the Hamilton winter settled in and the SACs were piling up, it became a haven for Year 12 students with flagging spirits. The warm atmosphere and support Louise provided seemed to rekindle their motivation and excitement for their futures.

Louise constantly looked for ways to expand students' horizons and ambitions and to help them prepare for a confident future. She spent many hours guiding their research, helping them write resumes and applications, and preparing them for interviews. Our students trust and respect her completely.

As I write, still several weeks before the Year 12s sit their examinations, more than half have already received early offers for tertiary places. These offers are based significantly on the written applications that Louise has guided them through. This must be very reassuring for this group of young people who have completed their schooling under the long shadow of COVID-19.

Louise has maintained a tireless commitment to her own lifelong learning and ongoing professional development. She introduced the Morrisby Vocational Testing program for our Year 10 students. Its value is now widely recognised but College was one of the first schools to use it. Louise was also recognised on the wider stage when she was awarded The David Osbourne Award for Excellence in Regional Careers Development and when she was invited to join the Advisory Board for Deakin University.

I am sure Louise has mixed feelings about retirement. Teaching for her has been a vocation and never just a 'job'. But new adventures await. Her grandchildren - and the pet lambs she nurtures with unequalled devotion - are very excited that she will be free to spend much more time with them!

Joy Craig, Staff 1986-2017

PAST AND CURRENT STUDENTS REFLECT...

"In my second year of university, I found myself failing a course I wasn't enjoying. Mrs Manifold was amazing, talking me through the available options. With her help I was able to transfer to a different course at a different university outside their official application period. The level of care Mrs Manifold shows her students is above and beyond, and the success of so many of my fellow classmates can be attributed to the path she set them on."

Hannah Simkin, 2004, Bachelor of Arts and Health Science at La Trobe University

"The Careers Office was a refuge for me during Year 12. Mrs Manifold helped me to align my passions and skills to realise my career goals. I would never have preferred Physiotherapy without her guidance and I'm now about to graduate in an area I absolutely love."

Lucy Bunge, 2015, Physiotherapy at University of South Australia

"Mrs Manifold was dually a repository for strategies and back doors to university admission, and a source of unexpectedly dry humour. Her knowledge was always up to date, and her advice was no doubt key to many of our pathways through university studies."

Patrick Stratmann, 2016, Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Bachelor of Arts at Monash University

"Mrs Manifold provided me with endless amounts of course advice and back up options if I didn't receive my first preference. Most importantly, she was a sounding board for all my ideas and made me ask questions about myself and what I wanted out of life. I am very lucky to have been mentored by such an amazing woman."

Claire Dempsey, 2018, Bachelor of Science at The University of Melbourne, majoring in Geography

"I wouldn't be where I am without Mrs Manifold's guidance. I never really knew what I wanted to do once I finished school. She somehow channelled my random ideas and broad interests into a gap year that changed my life and a university degree in an area I love."

Hannah Nichols, 2018, Bachelor of Natural Environment and Wilderness Studies at UTAS

"Thank you for all your assistance in helping me find my career path and making it happen. I have appreciated your knowledge and passion which has made the stressful 2020 situation enjoyable."

Millie Austin, 2020

"Thank you for all your help, support and endless knowledge. You helped me approach every challenge in a calm and supportive manner."

Nick Gunn, 2020

"You have been a huge support over the years and especially in this crucial and crazy year. You've enabled me to apply strongly for university selections based off our essay and paragraph work."

Ellie Jeal, 2020

"I was at a loss at the beginning of the year, not knowing where I was headed after year 12, but you have kept me calm and helped me discover a passion that I can turn into a career. Thank you for your wise words and expertise."

Kayla Sanders, 2020

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HEAD OF CAREERS

We are very excited to welcome Alison Churchill. Ali is returning to College after teaching at Stamford American International School in Singapore where her role as Middle School Academic Counsellor involved pathway planning and counselling for students and their families, and responsibility for the annual week-long Careers Exploration event. With a Master of Educational Studies in Career Development, Ali brings experience as well as a strong understanding of the varied pathways and career development goals of College students. Welcome Ali. Your resilience, experience, dedication and passion will be a wonderful addition to the College community.

"I have worked with students in Australia and overseas, each with their own unique study and career aspirations. Assisting students to develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to plan and manage their career pathways is incredibly rewarding. My focus is to help each student identify their interests, set goals and seek out opportunities. I am thrilled to be home in Hamilton and can't wait to work with College students to help them map out the beginning of their confident futures."

Ali Churchill



FAREWELLS



THANK YOU LEANNE BAXTER Staff 1989-2020

After 32 years of service to the Science Faculty, Leanne has decided it is time to throw in the lab coat and move on to the next chapter in her life. I estimate that Leanne has worked with more than 30 Science teachers and meticulously prepared over 25,000 experiments and lab activities with some of the more unusual requests including sheep digestive tracts, mouldy fruit and vegetables, exploding gummy bears and romantic music for our mice reproduction investigation.

Leanne's versatility and attention to detail is amazing. Within a single day, she could be asked to prepare chemical reagents, fix electrical equipment, band the legs of chickens, incubate bacteria, wash dozens of test tubes and mop up an unknown substance in Lab S4.

We wish Leanne all the best as she spends more time with her grandchildren and enjoys some relaxation in her retirement. Her unruffled manner and expertise will be greatly missed by all in the Science Faculty.

Rebekah Bonnett, Head of Science and VCE Studies



THANK YOU GAIL MCGREGOR Staff 2005-2020

When Gail commenced as House Mother at The Lodge in 2005, it changed the shape of boarding and led to an increase in the enrolment of junior boys. Gail always provided a homely atmosphere and a sanctuary for the boys in her care. She also took up a variety of positions at the school, including classroom aide. In every role, it was evident that she simply loves young people.

Gail is a very thoughtful, caring person whose energy is truly endless and for whom nothing is ever too much trouble. Her typical day would be something like: wake the boys, explain how to work the washing machine, show them where to put their bag, help make sandwiches, drop off forgotten sports gear to the school, roar around the lake for some exercise, make a birthday cake, head to the hospital when a boarder hurt their knee and get back to The Lodge in time for afternoon tea and to sort out clothing and school books before the evening set in. The job is 24/7 during term time and Gail has done it with good grace and much humour.

I know all boarders and staff will join me in wishing Gail a very happy retirement. Her service to the Boarding House has been an incredible gift for us all and we are indebted to her for 'just being there'.

Jane Horne, Director of Boarding 2006-2015

"Gail was like a second mum. She was always there to help us but also provided the right amount of space to ensure we were gaining independence. She would have afternoon tea for us after school and was great to have a laugh with in the evenings."

Darcy Finnegan, 2010, started in Year 7 in The Lodge with Gail



THANK YOU IAN 'COOKIE' COOK Staff 2004-2020

Cookie is leaving College after 17 years as our IT support expert. Nothing was ever too much trouble for Cookie and his calm nature was very helpful for staff and students as they continually adapted to using new technology in the classroom and on their devices.

Students from Prep to Year 12 know that Cookie is 'the man' when their technology is playing up, with a Year 1 student telling his mum during remote learning, "We need Cookie. He can fix anything!"

Cookie's friendly nature will be sorely missed and we wish him safe travels with his caravan when the borders reopen

Admin Team

COMMUNITY NEWS

Old Collegian Conrad Hamill (2010) was spotted on The Project and in the Sydney Morning Herald in November talking about the benefits of combining work and leisure in your life.

During the 2020 lockdown, Conrad packed up his home in Sydney and consolidated his belongings into his car, making sure his cello fit. He relocated to Brunswick Heads on the NSW Coast to work remotely from one of his favourite holiday locations. It is wonderful to hear about Old Collegians living their dreams!



BIRTHS

BRUNS: CATHERINE (AGAR 2006) and Dale, a daughter Lucy Catherine on 2 June 2020 – a sister to Elli

OSMOND: TOM (2007) and Sophie, a son Henry Christopher Lloyd on 20 June 2020

WHITING: LACHIE (2008) and **ROSIE (SHARP 2008)**, a daughter Charlotte Belle on 27 June 2020

ENGAGEMENTS

ELIZA MIBUS (2013) and **MATTHEW CARPENTER (2013)**

DEATHS

The College sends love and support to the families of the following valued members of our community.

MARGARET STEWART (LAIDLAW 1939) in July 2020

Margaret was a keen horse rider and represented Alexandra College at many equestrian events. Her three children – Tony, Alistair and Annabelle – and grandchildren attended College.

JOHN YOUNGER (1941) in July 2020

COLINA AUDREY MCKELLAR (1947) in June 2020

Colina Audrey started at Alexandra College in 1937 where she excelled in all sports, especially hockey and golf. Five generations of the McKellar family have attended College dating back to 1872 when the school first opened. The family proudly boasts a total of 165 years of learning at College!

DAVID FENTON (1948) in May 2020

DUNCAN MCINTOSH (1948) in June 2020

Duncan's family has a long association with College. He attended Hamilton College and his sisters attended Alexandra College. Duncan's children – John, Heather and Neil – and six grandchildren all attended College.

GEOFFREY MERCER (1958) in May 2020

TONY FREEMANTLE (former School Council member) in July 2020

JAMES ALEXANDER (SANDY) MACKIRDY (former School Council member) in October 2020

SONNY CHUA (Director of Music 2008-2010) in September 2020

HELLO FROM A GRUNDSCHULLEHRER (Primary School Teacher)

Junior School teacher Stephen Mirtschin has taken two years' leave from College and is teaching at the Franconian International School in the town of Erlangen in Bavaria.

"Franconian is a truly international school with many different languages and cultures. Erlangen is the town where sporting giants Adidas and Puma were founded in Germany and is also home to Siemens and a medical university. Families at the school are predominantly from these companies. There are many differences between here and College: students don't have to wear a uniform; the school grounds aren't big at all so students in different parts of the school have different break times so they can use the grounds; school finishes at 2pm on Fridays; and there are many 4-day weeks to accommodate the various religious and national holidays. It is a great place to teach and I am learning a lot, but I really miss the students, parents and staff at College."





THE
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CONFIDENT FUTURES

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