

THE IVY & THE TOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE HAMILTON AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE NO 77 DECEMBER 2021



Our Connected Community

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE



A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO JULIA WINTER COOKE 18



WELCOME FROM THE 2021 JUNIOR SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Chloe Laidlaw and Rupert Merrin

REFLECTING ON MYRNIONG AND LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Myrniong brings a special glow to everybody who walks through its doors. Myrniong truly feels like a second home for me, so it will be strange to transition to the Middle Years Positive Education Centre for Year 7. There are so many things I will miss from the Junior School; the people, the teachers and, not to forget, the extremely competitive lunchtime four-square competition.

A special moment for me was receiving the role of School Captain. It is such a privilege to be one of the College's young leaders. I love sports days and cheering everyone on, whether it's at the pool, on the running track or in the Refectory for House Music.

I will miss Myrniong a lot but I am looking forward to new and different things at the Senior School. College has given me so many opportunities and that is one of the reasons I love the school so

much. I want to thank all the teachers, friends, students and helpers – everybody who has made Myrniong such a special experience for me.

Chloe

I have loved all the opportunities at Myrniong. There are so many different things to try and I have lots of great memories. One of my favourites is from a warm sunny day in Year 5 – there was a mix of Years 3, 4 and 5 students playing soccer on the oval at lunchtime and I remember feeling very happy with my friends of all ages.

This year I have become more confident with public speaking and I have enjoyed working with teachers and students to plan new and fun ideas for the school community. We are always encouraged to try new things and are supported along the way.



Head of Junior School Stephen Nelson with Student Leaders 2021: Jack Wallis (Junior School Vice Captain), Chloe Laidlaw and Rupert Merrin (Junior School Captains) and Amelia Bradbeer (Junior School Vice Captain)

I will miss lunchtimes at Myrniong. We have so much fun playing soccer, four square, football and tag. However, I am looking forward to meeting new people and having different teachers for each subject. Also, I know there are a lot of opportunities at the Senior School, like the rock wall, different sports, the annual musical and camps. Oh, and I am looking forward to the tuckshop!

The Junior School has been exciting for me and I am sure this will continue through the Senior School.

Rupert

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KANTOR MPAC

A stunning facility... a memorable experience



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Front cover photo: Gabriel Marshall (Year 10) with Neve McClure and Zoe Weinberg (Year 9) on the steps of the 149-year-old Tower building

Photography: Alana Brown, Liz Crothers, Ashlyn Hiscock and past and current community members

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dr Andrew Hirst

OUR CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Everyone has experienced remote learning differently over the past year and a half. Listening to students, teachers and parents talk about their pandemic experiences reveals how different each of our journeys has been.

Academically, many students struggled but some thrived during periods of remote learning. The contrasts are striking. For some, home provided more support and fewer diversions, while for those with limited access to technology or broadband, the learning experience was often challenging and frustrating.

Not surprisingly, the theme uniting student experience was the profound sense of loss of social connection with their peers. They missed sports, musicals and camps. They missed recess and lunch. They missed each other. The second most common theme was the sense of autonomy that they experienced and developed. Outside of the watchful eye of teachers, students were forced to be more independent than any previous cohort. Some battled with this, but many found a newfound resilience and independence.

Many students acknowledged the important role 'connected community' played in navigating their challenges. Others credited their teachers with fostering a sense of support and camaraderie. One student commented to me, "It felt like teachers were in this with us." Add to that the critical role of family in maintaining day-to-day routines. New partnerships were established built on trust and a united vision.

Teaching staff also reflected on what they will do differently next year and their responses are equally divergent. Many plan to reduce content coverage, add more youth voice in planning, spend more time building community, rethink assessment practices, meet with parents virtually more often, spend more time outside, talk less, and create more independent study time. All wise and important practices.

Two themes emerged with some consistency: the need to emphasise relationships and community and the desire to build on students' newfound sense of autonomy.ⁱ Creating more space for building relationships or integrated social emotional learning lessons in class were among the most common responses. Retiring Head of Middle Years Mrs Julia Winter Cooke shared this exact point with our Year 7 and 8 parents, "We need to make much more space for students to connect and to learn about each other".

In recognition that traditional schooling does not always seek opportunities to trigger students' unique strengths and passions, teachers also identified the opportunity to build student autonomy by offering more academic and personal choice in their classrooms.



Finally, our parents reinforced our best thinking and validated our beliefs. I was humbled to receive numerous emails from parents wanting to pass on their thanks and congratulations to all our teachers who 'have had a wonderfully positive impact' on their child's learning this year.

Families emphasised 'less is more' and 'quality over quantity'. They have developed a newfound respect for the teaching profession and are working in partnership like never before to support their children through remote learning in ways that work best for them. After all, flexibility, patience and understanding have been vital through these unprecedented times to ensure that we are seeking the best for and from every student.

As College returns to face-to-face teaching and a more traditional approach to schooling, we must ensure that we do not fall back into 'academic obsession'.ⁱⁱ There has never been a better time to rethink and reorganise education. It wasn't perfect before COVID-19 so we should not rush to return to the 'old normal'—that is, the practices and thinking we found difficult to improve.

We must ensure online learning continues to play a part in a contemporary suite of learning options that better engages and prepares students for the challenges and opportunities ahead



Opening of the new Year 12 Common Room: Bianca Scaife and Daniel Cooper (Cooper Scaife Architects), Tim Huf (Huf Builders), Keri Ross (P&F President), Eren Zehir (Vice Captain), Grace Austin and Milo Cooper (School Captains), Airlie Bowes (Year 12 Matters Prefect), Dr Andrew Hirst (Principal), Alyssa Hocking (Vice Captain) and Lily Egger (Year 12 Matters Prefect)

of them. We should take this once-in-a-generation opportunity to build education back better than it was prior to the advent of COVID-19.ⁱⁱⁱ It is time we liberated students from mechanical, homogeneous learning and expectations in schools. It is also time for our students to be fully engaged and in control of authentic, customised, strengths-based and globally-connected learning.

The College is well placed to start its next 150 years with confidence and purpose. We have the vision and thirst to build something that fits our landscape and extends our students. We have what's needed to implement the necessary changes – an excellent staff team, an invested parent body and, most importantly, a group of dedicated volunteers behind the scenes who continue to ensure the non-negotiables are in place for us to progress.

I thank our Chair Dr Alasdair Sutherland and The Hamilton and Alexandra College Board for their selfless devotion to task. I thank the President Mrs Keri Ross and the P&F for their encouragement and 'friend raising' initiatives. I thank the President Mr Hugh Koch and the Old Collegians' Association for their generosity in

employing a project officer to assist our Community Relations Office. Finally, I thank the President Mr Jock Serong and the College Foundation for 'securing our future' and commissioning a philanthropic plan. These four groups glowingly represent our 'connected community'.

'Knowledge and wisdom' has been the College's motto since 1872. The new demands of the 21st Century, however, insist that we must also teach students to 'learn how to learn' if they are to successfully embrace the challenges that lie ahead. 'Confident futures' are within the grasp of all.

ⁱ J. Reich & Jal Mehta, Harvard Graduate School of Education Healing, Community, and Humanity: How Students and Teachers Want to Reinvent Schools Post-COVID', July 2021 <https://edrxiv.org/nd52b>, cited 8/10/21

ⁱⁱ Michael Fullan, 'The Right Drivers for Whole System Success', Feb 2021, Fullan-CSE-Leading-Education-Series-01-2021R2-compressed.pdf (michaelfullan.ca), cited 6/10/21

ⁱⁱⁱ Y. Zhao & J. Watterson, 'Quantum Leap: Schools have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redefine education to be more personalized, engaging, and global', Sept 2021, <https://www.naesp.org/resource/quantum-leap/>, cited 5/10/21

OUR CONNECTED COMMUNITY

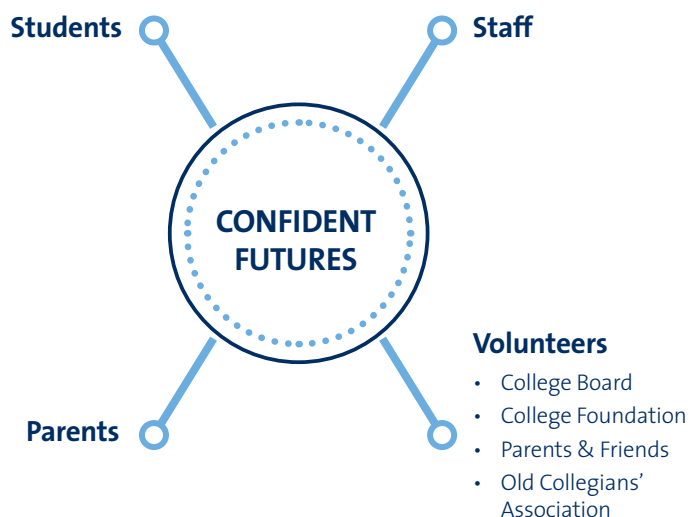


Tower building - surrounded by paddocks, late 1870s

CELEBRATING A CULTURE OF GIVING

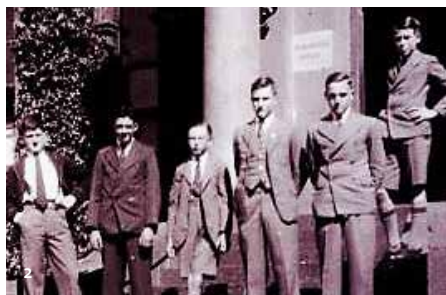
As we prepare to celebrate our 150th year in 2022, we acknowledge our strong partnerships and links across the whole College community. From our students, staff and parents – past and current – to the many volunteers supporting our school behind the scenes who embody the incredible culture of community spirit, volunteerism, philanthropy and involvement at the College.

In the words of our Principal, Dr Andrew Hirst, the College truly is, “Well placed to start its next 150 years with confidence and purpose.”



A DIVE INTO THE ARCHIVES, 1920s TO 1950s

HAMILTON AND WESTERN DISTRICT COLLEGE



1. Form IV Class, c.1930s 2. Students and teachers on the Tower steps, 1929 3. College sportsmen, 1920s 4. Sandown Class (type of PE), 1930s 5. Principal Neal with College footballers, late 1920s/early 1930s 6. College Athletics Team, 1927 7. Boys upstairs dormitory, c.1921 8. Mrs Kneebone, primary school teacher with her class, 1940s 9. Principal Shann with College Cricket Team, late 1940s 10. Sons of Old Boys, late 1930s/early 1940s 11. Students dressed in their finest uniform, c.1920s



1. Junior School, c.1940s 2. Kathleen (Scholfield) Thomson at Myrning Homestead, late 1940s 3. Victory holiday at the Grampians, 1946 4. Equestrian activity, 1926



1. Merinda - Cnr McIntyre and French Streets, 1949 2. Human pyramid, c.1930s 3. Mollie (Bromell) Kelso, 1926 4. Flower Fairies, 1941 5. Original entrance gate, 1935 6. Myrning tennis courts, 1950s 7. Phyllis (Read) Gough, 1926 8. Grampians Sports Day, 1946 9. Back of the school, 1926.

COLLEGE BOARD

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Dr Alasdair Sutherland



What is the Board for? The Board does not manage the day-to-day running of the College; that is what is known as operational matters which are dealt with by our Principal Dr Hirst and the Executive team. Where the Board comes in is providing the strategic planning, setting the budget, ensuring that the College is meeting obligations in terms of educational policy and governance, providing a safe and inclusive place for students and staff to flourish and maintaining the long-term health of the College.

In pursuit of those aims, Board members volunteer their time for the good of the College. We are farmers and business owners, doctors and lawyers, educators and estate agents. We are Old Collegians, parents (past and current) and community members, simply interested in the success of the College.

Through the difficult COVID years, the College has continued to achieve great success, with exceptional academic results and co-curricular successes. The flexibility to 'pivot' to lengthy periods of delivering quality education online and the resilience,

accountability and determination of our students has been impressive, and the remote learning programs run by the College have been nominated for a national educational award.

It is a pleasure to see students back on campus and hear the gentle hum of a functioning school returning, but we know that there are likely to be further difficulties ahead and we have to be prepared. We have not yet been able to welcome back the majority of our international students and we feel greatly for their continued educational isolation while doing all that we can to support them from afar.

The Board and the College Executive continue to develop our new Master Plan, including consideration of new buildings at the College. The Strategic Plan, available on our website, is firmly committed to:

Our focus:

To seek the best for and from every student

Our values:

Respect. Gratitude. Compassion. Resilience. Optimism.

Our commitment:

To improve outcomes for all students – in their levels of achievement and wellbeing

The key question is: Why come to College? A question addressed not just to parents and students, but to staff as well. At College, our teachers seek to educate students for life and to nurture strength of character. This is one of the great benefits of our school size, where each student is known on a first name basis and for their individual passions and interests. Securing the staff that are best able to develop each student is of central importance.

I thank my fellow Board and Foundation members for the time, energy and expertise that they give so generously to College. In 2022 we celebrate 150 years. The College has withstood economic shifts, two world wars and, of course, the COVID pandemic. We will survive COVID by concentrating on our focus, our values and our commitment. I look forward to the celebrations of the sesquicentennial year and we will continue to work to ensure the long-term health of The Hamilton and Alexandra College.



MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

DAVID DYER

I grew up on a sheep farm near Digby. Like my brothers, Tom and James/Wal, I attended the Junior School at Myrniong and the Senior School and was a casual boarder during my final year of VCE. I really enjoyed the chance to participate in a wide range of activities, from cricket to drama to music. I joined my first band with classmates, Scott Hunter, Stuart Christie, Will Reid and Angus Koch, and I'm still singing and playing in a band 30 years later.

I feel very fortunate that my time at the College gave me the confidence, as well as the educational foundations, to travel the world (I was a 'rent-an-Aussie' at Trent College in Nottingham after I finished Year 12), to study in Melbourne and later at Oxford, and to pursue a career advising some of Australia's largest companies and senior government leaders on strategy and how to respond to challenges like climate change or the rise of the digital economy.

Education plays a critical role in creating lifelong opportunities, and the College's aspiration to equip young people with 'the skills and character to thrive and flourish throughout their lives' resonates strongly. I've worked closely with organisations like Beyond Blue's Be You program for children's mental health, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board and to help the College's leadership navigate some of the challenges we will face in the years ahead.

After two long years of lockdown in Melbourne, I am also looking forward to spending a lot more time with family and friends in the Hamilton area.

David Dyer

PAST STAFF ARE INVITED!

A SPECIAL EVENING OF CELEBRATION

The Principal and Board are excited to invite all past staff members to join current staff for a celebratory evening at College. This will be the first of our 150th events and having current and past staff together is the perfect way to mark this incredible milestone.

Please share this date with your network of past teachers and colleagues.

Friday 28 January

6.30pm Uniting Church Service

7.30pm Dinner at the Senior School

RSVP Alana Brown, Director of Community Relations, with any dietary requirements by 14 January at abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au

If you have any questions, please contact Alana.



Hamilton College staff, 1986



Junior School staff 1990: Dianne Aldridge, Anne Scott, Pauline Reid, Jody Neylon, Peter Stevens, Emily Manifold, Richard Grey, Elaine Edwards and Jacqui Sharrad

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jock Serong

When I was first asked to join the College Foundation committee, I have to confess I didn't have a clear idea of what the Foundation does. Now that I'm a couple of years in, I hope I can give you a simple primer in the Foundation's work – and maybe even interest you in supporting us.

I live in Port Fairy with my wife Lilly and I have children in Years 12, 10 and 8 at College. Lilly's a nurse and an ambulance driver and I'm a novelist, which means that while I'm writing this to you I'm taking a brief respite from murdering my characters or quarrying my friendships for plot material.

Broadly speaking, the role of the Foundation, for nearly 30 years now, has been to raise and invest money to support the long-term goals of the school community. We meet bi-monthly, and in the good old days this meant three varieties of Tim Tam and decent coffee: now it means zoom and pedalling frantically to keep the broadband running. Either way, the discussions are fascinating.

The committee comprises members whose relationship with College is significantly longer than mine: Basil Brock, Sarah Millear, Marcus Winter Cooke, Bill Crawford, Hugh Macdonald, Dale Ford and Sandy Johnson. The committee aims to strike a combination of long-standing College identities and past and current parents, with each member bringing a range of expertise and life experience.

The Foundation's work is the behind-the-scenes kind, but it's no less vital for that. This calendar year, we've raised \$94,500 to support building works and equity scholarships that bring families to the College who might otherwise be unable to afford it. We turn our minds to the future of boarding, the age and

suitability of our buildings, the numbers of enrolments and the health of our investments, among a host of other considerations.

I imagine each of us has joined the Foundation committee for differing reasons. In my case it's a good way to be involved in the life of the school, given our geographical remoteness from Hamilton. And not having come from the district – we grew up in Melbourne – it offers an insight into the long traditions of the school and the reasons why people are so loyal. This hasn't been the easiest of years for our school – for any school – as we try to maintain focus and optimism for our children. But when I look around I can genuinely say I'm humbled by the professionalism and kindness to be found in our school community.

So while I'm here, and not murdering my characters, I'd like to thank those of you who've contributed to the Foundation's efforts this year. Seeing its work from the inside, I can assure you that all support is deeply appreciated and never taken for granted. We'll be working hard on our fundraising in 2022 via a variety of new ways that you'll be hearing more about.



If you'd like to join the Foundation committee we'd love to have you aboard. It's a great bunch of smart people (even on screen!) and we're particularly looking to recruit current parents in the next couple of years. Give it some thought!



Enid Shann (wife of Principal Frank Shann) with young Frank at Chaucer Street, around 1950

THE SHANN FAMILY'S STRONG CONNECTION TO COLLEGE

In June 1944, Dr Frank Shann became Principal of the Hamilton and Western District College. Dr Shann held qualifications in law and a Bachelor of Arts. In his previous role in Hobart he had been Head of English and coached athletics. The importance of a good education ran in the family as Frank's father, also Frank Shann, was Headmaster at Trinity Grammar School in Melbourne and his grandfather had been a Headmaster in Hobart.

On Dr Shann's arrival, he noted publicly, "Only once before, and again in a country school, have I found boys so well balanced and sensible." Traits that College is still proud of 87 years later.

He also committed to continuing with combined classes with the girls' College, to building up the school library and to focussing on the hygiene and health of the boys. He expressed a desire to allow the junior boys to learn more effectively, "by seeing through excursions and by hearing expert visitors".

In 1952, Dr Shann left College to study in America as a Fulbright Scholar. When he returned he became Principal at Essendon Grammar School and later worked at Wesley College and Camberwell Grammar School.

Miss Berry at Alexandra College and Frank arranged joint classes so that the junior boys could share lessons with girls, and the senior girls came to Hamilton College. It was a sensible arrangement considering the small size of the schools and Frank claimed it made a far better atmosphere as far as the boys were concerned. Co-education, of course had not become common place in the independent system in those days so the plan was innovative. It was, however, not popular with some of the women staff! They expected the boys to behave like little ladies and there were many complaints. Miss Berry and Frank had some mediating to do...

Written memories by Enid Shann (wife of Principal Frank Shann), September 1995

THE NEW DR FRANK SHANN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dr Andrew Hirst, Principal

Earlier this year, Dr Frank Shann's sons, Frank and Ed, came to visit College. It was their first visit since they were young boys playing in the Tower building in the early 1950s when young Frank was in the Prep class at Alexandra College.

Today, the family remains passionate about quality, independent education and supporting young minds to grow into respectful, inquisitive adults. Ed has very generously established the Dr Frank Shann Memorial Scholarship in honour of his late father and his accomplishments.

The Dr Frank Shann Memorial Scholarship provides two 50 per cent scholarships for students who would otherwise be financially unable to attend College. This gift of education will ensure that scholarship recipients will graduate with bright and confident futures.

The proud inaugural recipients in 2022 were two young women, one from Dunkeld Primary School and the other in Year 9, with the scholarship ensuring that she can complete her senior schooling at College.



Ed Shann with 2022 Dr Frank Shann Memorial Scholarship recipient, Claudia Cochran

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the College's scholarship program, please go to www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au/giving



P&F President Keri Ross with Jemima, India and Margie Ross enjoying House Athletics Day

PARENTS & FRIENDS

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Keri Ross

P&F is here to fundraise, elevate the school's profile in the community and connect our parent community. Everyone is invited to be involved – parents from ELC to VCE – and we love the ongoing support from many past families and staff members. The close connections and willingness to 'pitch in' truly are what makes College so special.

Let me introduce you to the P&F leadership team:

- President – Keri Ross: Simon and I have two girls at College – we live on a farm between Penshurst and Dunkeld. Simon is Head Rowing Coach for the College rowing program and is also an Old Collegian.
- Vice President – Megan Mould: Megan and Paul have a farm near Coleraine and have three children at College. Paul also coaches rowing.
- Secretary – Sarah Baker: Sarah and Stephen live in Hamilton and have two children at College. Sarah brings the benefit of her corporate experience to the committee.
- Treasurer – Stacey Balkin: Stacey and Luke, farm near Glenthompson and have a son at College. Stacey brings a wealth of bookkeeping experience to this role.

In a normal year we meet once a term, with additional meetings when working on specific projects and events. Each year we run several fundraising activities, including making Christmas cakes and the Sheepvention raffle, although sadly, these two projects have not been possible in 2020 and 2021. The school canteen is an incredible fundraising vehicle for us. We greatly appreciate every bit of help and thank everyone who gives their time. We are also incredibly proud of the success of our latest recipe book, *More Food With Friends*, that we launched last year. Sales from the book allowed the P&F to make a substantial donation towards the new Year 12 Centre this year.

Over the past seven years we have donated over \$300,00 to the College for important projects, including the Middle Years Positive Education Centre, the Art Centre redevelopment, undercover areas at the Junior and Senior Schools, the Neil MacLean Hockey Field and the Year 12 Boarding House extension. Seeing the school thriving with incredible facilities for our children and future students to enjoy is why we are all so passionate about being involved in the P&F.

2022 is going to be an exciting year for our College community as we celebrate our 150th anniversary. It will be wonderful to bring our whole school community together, especially after being disconnected through COVID lockdowns and restrictions throughout 2020 and 2021. There will be lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved, whether volunteering your time or coming along to enjoy socialising with old friends and meeting new ones.

In the grand scheme of life, our children are at school for only a short time. Let's all get involved and enjoy this important time in their lives.



Jack and Helen Waldon timekeeping at the Senior School House Athletics



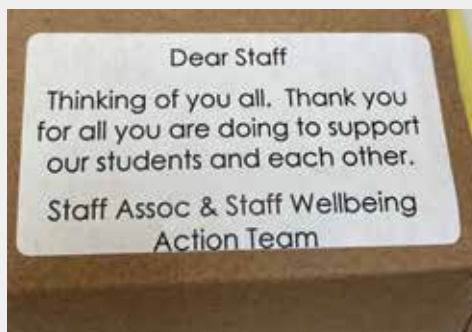
NEW P&F RECIPE BOOK, 'MORE FOOD WITH FRIENDS'

Our beautiful book has been profiled in Graziher magazine and sold all over Australia, illustrating how widespread and enduring the College diaspora is. We have seen it shared and tagged in many social media profiles and we love being stopped down the street to hear about the success of one of the recipes.

You can order a copy for yourself or a friend at www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au (see menu item at top of homepage, '2020 P&F Recipe Book') or call College Reception on 03 5572 1355.

CARE PACKAGES

In Term 3, the Staff Association and Wellbeing Action Team baked and delivered a little surprise to all College staff to brighten their day. Thank you to our amazing College friend, Helen Waldron, for baking up a storm to support this wellbeing initiative.



Staff wellbeing care packages

YOU'RE INVITED TO BE PART OF OUR 150TH CELEBRATIONS

The challenges of the past two years have made face-to-face socialising difficult, but we are looking forward to a big year ahead with great excitement as we come together to mark an incredible milestone in the school's history. We would love for every family, current and past, to be involved in some way. The events are going to be fun and exciting so please mark them in your calendar... see page 23.

WE NEED YOU IN 2022!

We are seeking volunteers for the following sesquicentennial events:

Junior School Mad Hatters Tea Party Friday 4 March

We would love current Myrniong families to be involved, whether planning, catering, setting up, packing down or running old-fashioned games on the day. Please contact your class representative and indicate your preference.

Sesquicentenary Gala Ball Saturday 21 May

Many hands make light work! If you would like to volunteer your time we would love to have you, whether planning the decorations, setting up or packing down. Please email Alana Brown at abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au and indicate your preference.





OCA President Hugh Koch with Adelaide (Year 8) and Ted (Year 11)

OLD COLLEGIANS' ASSOCIATION

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hugh Koch

I live with my family in Hamilton, only a block away from College. In fact, I can see the Clock Tower from my bedroom window! I currently work at Southern Grampians Shire as Manager of Economic Development and Tourism. I finished at College in 1989 and my partner Sophie finished in 1991. In 2022 we will have all three of our children at the school: Ted in Year 12, Adelaide in Year 9 and Jemima in Year 7. Like me they are all proud Laidlaw House members (much to Sophie's disgust as she was in Young House). They are the fourth generation of the Koch family to attend College.

I was delighted to take the reins of the OCA from long-standing President Anna Delaney in 2020. Anna and current Secretary Kristabel Lewis have guided several transformational changes that have left the OCA in a very solid position.

The OCA committee spans many decades of past students, providing a rich source of experience and connection. I joined to help support the future of our school, strongly believing that our traditional point of difference is the strength we have when we pull together the individual connections and work towards the common goal of making the College community the best it can be. By nurturing and developing our social capital – our past students, parents, grandparents and staff – the OCA is able to

give our school the very best opportunity to continue to thrive. It is also about having some good old-fashioned fun: sharing memories, telling stories and contributing to the rich fabric that is The Hamilton and Alexandra College.

The School's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 identifies two important priorities for the OCA: A Connected Community and A Secure Future. Our 150th celebration in 2022 provides a pivotal opportunity to showcase the school to the extended College community and re-engage the Old Collegian network. To leverage these celebrations, the OCA's focus for the next three to five years will be on helping the College develop strong links with alumni, past parents and former staff. These strong connections create fertile ground for the other activities that are vital to its success, including enrolments, fundraising and giving, student pathways, staff recruitment and effective marketing and communication.

With restrictions imposed on activities over the past two years, we are keenly awaiting the opportunity to welcome you back to the College for our big 150th celebrations which will be a tremendous opportunity to reconnect, catch up with old friends and enjoy sharing stories. It all contributes to the remarkable history that is The Hamilton and Alexandra College.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

There are numerous ways you can get involved – you don't need to be on the committee.

We are seeking to draw on our network of Old Collegians for our new Mentoring and Employment Pathways Program for current students. **If you are attending any of our 150th celebrations, we would love you to pop into the Senior School for 30 minutes and talk to students about your career journey.** Please contact Alana Brown at abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au to arrange this around your availability.

Other ways include contributing to activities such as the annual OCA Golf Day, posting your memories on the OCA Facebook page, assisting in fundraising, volunteering your time at school events, being a point of connection for your year group and attending College events. We would be delighted to welcome your assistance.

OLD COLLEGIANS IN THE NEWS

Axle Whitehead, 1999



Hannah Bensch, 2013



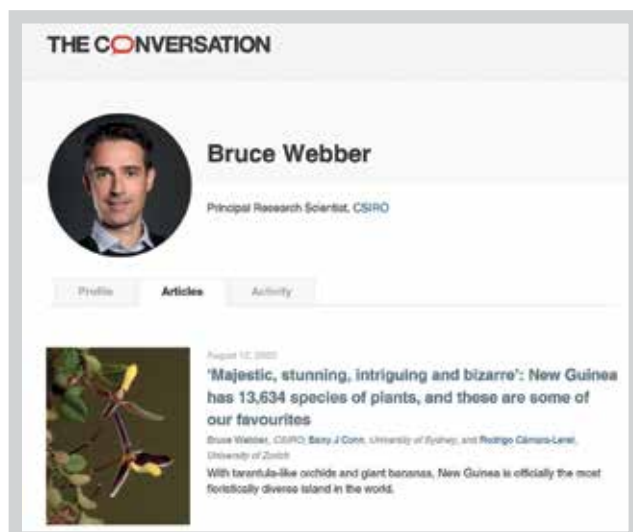
Chloe Andersen, 2019



Bruce Slorach, 1979



Bruce Webber, 1993



Kathryn Robertson, 1999



A SPECIAL FAREWELL



The Hon Dan Tehan, Member for Wannon and Julia at the official opening of the Middle Years Positive Education Centre

THANK YOU JULIA WINTER COOKE Staff 1987-2021

How do you begin to pay tribute to 35 incredible years of service, friendship and caring for our students? Julia Winter Cooke truly is the epitome of a teacher adored by staff, students and parents. They say everyone is replaceable, but in Julia's case this may be a little challenging.

Julia began at the College in 1987 as a Health and Physical Education Teacher. From the beginning she carved an indelible connection to all students. Julia quickly worked her way through the leadership ranks, taking on Head of Year 9 in 2003 and culminating in her appointment as Head of Middle Years in 2005. This has been Julia's passion and the impact she has made on the lives of every student in her care is immeasurable.

Julia was instrumental in the development of the College's Outdoor Education program and the Year 9 Experience. She has led eight tours to China, with her ninth trip in 2020 being cancelled, and is a living legend at Gaoyou Middle School. Her first tour in 2001 was impacted by the SARS virus and in normal Julia style she took this in her stride and led a very nervous group of students and staff on an incredible journey. Every student, staff member and parent who has travelled to China with Julia has felt the impact of her amazing leadership. While Julia was not always renowned for her punctuality, never a plane or train was missed.

People and connections are Julia's priority and she has never wavered from putting this first. Her unflappable attitude instils confidence in her students who know she will listen and take time to understand each and every situation.

One of our first teachers to embrace the benefits of Positive Education, Julia embedded this into her teaching and overall outlook on life. She has read every piece of literature ever written in this field and she initiated the Handbury Hub which has enabled schools in our region to benefit from the teaching of Positive Education. Her vision has always been far reaching!

Julia has fully immersed herself in the co-curricular program at College. She has coached hockey for most of her career, leading many teams to premierships. As a player, she was determined, skilled and renowned for the occasional white line fever. She reinvigorated the rowing program and gave her time generously to support students with a passion for this sport.

The College has not only been blessed with Julia's presence but has benefitted from the contributions of her husband Marcus and three beautiful children, Sam, Alice and Will. I hope Julia knows the depth of gratitude we all feel for having taught alongside her and travelled with her to China, Melbourne and on camps, and for being able to call her a friend. She has been such a special person in our lives both professionally and personally.

We know we speak on behalf of the entire College community in wishing Julia every happiness and joy in retirement. This quote from author Margaret Watson sums up her connection to so many College families and staff: *"You meet thousands of people and none of them really touch you. And then you meet one person, and your life is changed forever."*

Kristen Waldron, Deputy Principal Wellbeing and **Helen Reiher**, Head of Senior Years



Julia and Neil MacLean with a delegation from Gaoyou Middle School



Julia joined the hockey community when she started at College and continued right through until this year

STUDENTS AND FAMILY REFLECT...

A good memory from our time at College with mum was when she sped our vomiting brother, Will, back to the farm during a lunch break and made it back to school for Period 5. She successfully completed the journey in record time but lost her driving licence in the process. We spent the next two months catching the school bus together from the front gate. Of course mum took this in her stride – a great description of Julia is ‘chilled’.

Sam, Will and Alice Winter Cooke

As Middle Years Prefect, I couldn't imagine being in this role without the guidance and mentoring of Mrs Winter Cooke. I have had the pleasure of knowing and being taught by her during my five years at College. I still remember my first VIBE day and the impact she had on me even before I had started at College

and I couldn't wait for my first Health and Wellbeing lesson with her. Now, years later, I have the great honour of working alongside her – without doubt, this is one of my most memorable and enjoyable school experiences.

Mrs Winter Cooke's ability to showcase and teach through compassion and empathy and to express the importance of kindness and respect are some of the most valuable lessons I've learnt from her. I regularly employ these values in my leadership opportunities. She is one of those teachers who will never be replaced – more so because of the person she is, rather than the position she holds. She will be greatly missed and I personally wish her every success for the future.

Lacey Herbertson, Year 12

MEET OUR NEW HEAD OF MIDDLE YEARS

I am thrilled to be appointed Head of Middle Years starting in 2022. I have been at College for 14 years and have taught for 20 years in co-educational and single sex schools across Victoria and South Australia. During this time I have held a variety of leadership positions in the areas of Student Wellbeing and Outdoor Education. For the past seven years I have been Head of Learmonth House.

I am married to a Brit, a primary school teacher, and have three energetic boys currently in Years 7, 5 and 3 at College. I enjoy coaching hockey for the school, and also spending time climbing, trail running and exploring the Grampians. In my spare time I am completing a PhD at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, exploring how student wellbeing influences learning.

My passion is effective and efficient teaching and learning, by applying theory and research into teaching practice, to support all Middle Years students to do their best and be their best in all areas of their schooling. The Middle Years is an important time, socially, emotionally and developmentally, for students to cultivate an enjoyment of learning along with the skills to support and promote their own wellbeing. Education is

a partnership between the school, the students and the parents. This is something we do incredibly well at College and I am proud that student wellbeing is our number one priority from the ELC to Year 12. My role will be to ensure the Middle Years are a happy and successful time for our students in their schooling journey.

I have had the great pleasure of working for and with Julia and I thank her for her mentoring and commitment to the Middle Years community and for building Positive Education support networks across the region. She will be missed by everyone – staff, students, parents and colleagues.

Ben Hawthorne



FAREWELLS



THANK YOU FROM THE LIBRARY, MARG SIMKIN Head of Library and Information Services 2004-2021

After 17 years, Marg our has decided to hand over the role of Head of Library and Information Services and focus on her lifelong passion for teaching. The good news is that Marg will continue to impart her wisdom and passion to our History students.

I want to take this opportunity to honour Marg's amazing contribution to the College libraries and the assistance she has provided to staff and students.

Marg has enjoyed working across the whole school (Junior and Senior), following students and their reading habits from Early Learning through to Year 12. She was the first to put her hand up to hold sessions for the VIBE festival and threw her energy into creating new and interesting activities, including quizzes, QR code activities (way before mandatory COVID check-ins!), BreakkOut, Vibrary and Plank creation competitions. Marg's initiatives were even published in the Western Australia School Library Association magazine!

Marg loved working with the Year 12 Information Technology Captains and would go above and beyond to support our avid readers. She has grown the library's collections, implemented new online systems and has been appointed an Australian Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert.

Thank you for your incredible service to the library, Marg!

Kristen Waldron, Deputy Principal Wellbeing

THANK YOU PEI-CHUAN TSENG Staff 2014-2021

After eight years of excellent service at the College, Miss Tseng has decided to leave at the end of the year to follow an exciting new career opportunity at Plympton International College in Adelaide.

Seeking a tree change, Pei came to College from Melbourne. She immediately made a positive impression on her colleagues with her strong work ethic and sense of altruism and her friendly disposition. A diligent and determined teacher with a passion for language learning, Pei has always sought the best for her students. She has tirelessly worked to instil in each of her students a love of learning and a greater appreciation for cultural diversity. This year's Cultural Assembly was a lovely occasion to celebrate cultural diversity at College. The number of students willing to take part in the celebration both at school and from overseas was truly overwhelming and a great sign of the respect and appreciation students have for Pei.

During her time at College, Pei held the position of Head of LOTE. Under her leadership, the language department continued to grow and develop. Pei was part of the travelling party to our sister school, Gaoyou Middle School in China, on four occasions in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2019, and in 2016, she organised a language trip to Taiwan for her students during the summer holidays. This was an amazing trip where she was able to share the culture and history of her home country.

Pei has been a comforting presence in the lives of our international students. She often opened her home to them, to share a Chinese meal and have a chat when they were feeling homesick. Her care and guidance over the years have been invaluable to the students and their families based overseas.

Pei has been a great asset to our school. We will miss her and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Julien Guez, French Teacher





THANK YOU NATHAN OUGH

Staff 2015-2021

Nathan came to College looking for a new opportunity to extend his teaching skills and he certainly has delivered in every capacity! Initially hired as a Maths teacher, word soon got out that his other teaching specialty was History, and Nathan was swiftly roped into classes in my department.

Nathan has become an integral part of our team, inspiring his students to have a natural curiosity about life's stories and how they impact our present. I have appreciated his dedication and his ability to focus on developing critical thinking and analysis skills in his students and to develop lessons (especially in the past two years online) that had clear strategies and outcomes. He has been a support in every capacity which I have personally greatly appreciated.

Nathan has been involved in the specialist classes at the Junior School, has taught Maths from Years 7 to 10 including VCE Units 1 and 2, and has been heavily involved in teaching History from Years 7 to 9, covering everything from feudal Japan to Australia's federation. Although they won't have seen the hours of effort that have gone into developing his methodology and delivery, I know that Nathan's students have appreciated his manner and willingness to help and guide.

As a Mentor in the Middle Years, Nathan has guided many Laidlavians as they transition from primary school to life at College. His genuine care and follow-up has been appreciated by many parents, students and staff. He also spent some time as Head of Shooting, was roped into the staff netball team, has coached basketball, and has inspired us by raising money for charity riding his bike from Warrnambool to Melbourne!

Those of us fortunate enough to share an office with Nathan have been blessed getting to know a person who is calm, focused, dedicated and always looking for improvement. One who has a great eye for detail and is always supportive and willing to share a laugh. In every way we will miss him, but we appreciate that he is always looking to grow, and for now this includes expanding his VCE teaching skills and dedicating more time to his growing family.

Best wishes, Nathan, in all that you pursue!

Jody Ogle, Head of Humanities

THANK YOU JARRAN COOK

Staff 2019-2021

In the short time Jarran has been with us he has made a positive impact both in the classroom and on cricket pitches across the region. A wonderful Business Management teacher and Mentor, Jarran very quickly developed a strong rapport with his students. He has a knack for delving into and understanding their passions and helping them focus for success.

I personally got to know Jarran as the Head of Boys Cricket where he has continued to build on the strong foundations set in place by Stephen Mirtschin. We now have seven College junior sides competing in the Hamilton District Cricket Association competitions, including two Under 16 sides for the first time – truly incredible numbers of boys and girls involved!

Jarran has a great demeanour with both students and parents involved with the College Cricket Club. Along with his knowledge of the game, he fosters the 'spirit of cricket' to ensure the culture of the club is positive and vibrant. Jarran is well respected by everyone and will be missed greatly.

Jarran, you are always welcome back at College and the College Cricket Club. Maybe one day you will be playing for College cricket alongside your baby boy Ted.

Leigh Alexander, Director of Sport and Outdoor Education Programs





Jenna Brewis (2008), Matt Bensch, Prue Crawford Charlie Cameron, Anna and Tom Stephens, Emily Cameron, Lachie Barclay, Alexandra Whiting (Augustinus 2008) and Lachie Kelly (2008)

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIRTHS

CRAWFORD: WILL (2005) and **PRUE (MCINTYRE 2008)**, a son William Charles Crawford on 26 March 2020

RHODES: WILL (2007) and Gaby, a son Carter James on 19 February 2021

WHITING: ARCHIE (2007) and **ALEXANDRA (AUGUSTINUS 2008)**, a daughter Winter Maree on 9 May 2021

DEARY: DREW (2007) and **KATE (WESTON 2007)**, a son Miles George on 7 August 2021

ENGAGEMENTS

JAKE TAYLOR (2010) and **SOPHIE SHARP (2014)**

JESSICA PILGRIM (2013) and Tyson Dickinson

WEDDINGS

ANNA BURGER (2008) and **TOM STEPHENS (2008)** on 13 March 2021

DEATHS

JAMES SIMPSON (1946) in May 2021

JOHN (JOCK) BRUMELL in May 2021. Jock's family has had a long involvement with College, including Jock's father, an Old Collegian, who started at College in 1919

CAMERON JAMES (JIM) HARKNESS (~1947) in July 2021

BEN GOULD (1991) in September 2021

ADAM MCCLURE (2006) in December 2021

REUNIONS

Sadly, reunions over the past two years have been cancelled due to COVID lockdowns and restrictions. We hope that these classes, as well as all other classes, will get together to celebrate during our sesquicentenary celebrations next year. Chat to your classmates about booking a table for the Sesquicentenary Gala Ball on Saturday 21 May 2022. If you are in one of the following classes, please keep an eye on the Alumni page on our website for new dates.

10 YEAR REUNIONS: CLASS OF 2010 and CLASS OF 2011

20 YEAR REUNIONS: CLASS OF 2000 and CLASS OF 2001

30 YEAR REUNIONS: CLASS OF 1990 and CLASS OF 1991

40 YEAR REUNION: CLASS OF 1981

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE'S 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In late February 2022 there will be a four-page feature in The Hamilton Spectator. Businesses, College families and friends are invited to include a small message in this spread to show support for this incredible milestone. There are several size options to choose from.

For more information or to book a space for your message please contact Jenny Field at The Spectator on 03 5551 3842 or jenny.field@spec.com.au or Alana Brown abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au. **The deadline for bookings is mid-January 2022.**

Sesquicentenary 2022

We would love to welcome back as many Old Collegians, past parents and staff as possible, as well as current families – please spread the word about the wonderful events planned and make a date with your classmates!




SAVE THE DATES! DETAILS TO FOLLOW

To avoid disappointment, please book early for all ticketed events (highlighted below). Bookings for all events open in January 2022. Please keep an eye on Facebook, Instagram and the College website for more details. To book, visit www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au or email 150@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au or call 03 5572 1355.

Friday 28 January	A Special Evening of Celebration for Past and Current Staff All past staff are warmly invited to join current staff for this very special event – the perfect way to kickstart our 150th celebrations 6.30pm: Uniting Church Service; 7.30pm: Dinner at the Senior School
Tuesday 22 February	College Generational Family Photos All College families, past and present, are invited to have a generational family photo taken 3.30 – 4.30pm, Geoff Handbury Sports Centre – bookings essential
Friday 4 March	Junior School Mad Hatters Tea Party All College families and friends are invited to an afternoon of festivities and fun 1 – 3pm, Myrniong lawn
Friday 4 and Saturday 5 March	Student Art Exhibition Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre (MPAC) foyer Soak up the talent of College students past and present, with artworks by current students and Old Collegians on display Friday: 12 – 3pm, Saturday: 9 – 12pm
Saturday 5 March	School Tours Tower Building, Chaucer Street 10am and 11am Long Lunch Myrniong Driveway 12.30 – 5pm, Myrniong Driveway \$150 per person
Sunday 6 March	Uniting Church Service 9.30am, 109 Lonsdale Street
Friday 20 May	'A Million Stories' Exhibition Lose yourself in a world of memories 3 – 5pm, Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre (MPAC) – foyer The Hamilton and Alexandra College History Book Launch Don't miss the launch of this much-anticipated book by former Deputy Principal Neil MacLean 5pm, Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre (MPAC) – foyer Musical Showcase A not-to-be-missed event featuring current students and Old Collegians 6 – 8pm, Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre (MPAC) – Simons Auditorium Free event
Saturday 21 May	School Tours 10am and 11am, Tower Building, Chaucer Street Exhibition Hockey Match Old Collegians and past staff are invited to come together for an historical match 12pm, Neil MacLean Hockey Field, MacPherson Street Sesquicentenary Gala Ball A memorable night in the making with music by Melbourne band, the Baker Boys Band 7pm, Marquee on the main College oval, enter from MacPherson Street \$200 per person, tables of 10
Sunday 22 May	Community Golf Day 10.30am start, Grampians Golf Course \$30 per person – includes green fees and afternoon tea

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