

# THE IVY & THE TOWER

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*A Team of Excellent Staff*



## WELCOME FROM THE 2019 JUNIOR SCHOOL CAPTAINS

**Miranda Page and Oscar Hausler**

### A SECURE FUTURE

Welcome to this special edition, 'A Team of Excellent Staff'. From our Early Learning Centre and Junior School to the Middle Years, Senior School, Boarding House, Maintenance Team, Business Management Office, Nursing Team and Reception, our staff work hard as one big team to support each other while seeking the best for and from every student.

At the Junior School, our teachers provide an inclusive learning environment where students are encouraged to think creatively, challenge themselves, work independently and find their passion, and are supported to achieve their personal best through differentiated learning.

Our teachers know how we learn best. In subjects like Mathematics, they make the learning personal and in Physical Education everyone is supported to get involved. All our teachers encourage us to have a go and it's a really positive environment. A lot of our learning allows for independence. We are treated like older students when we visit the Senior School and I am feeling happy about starting Year 7 next year.

**Miranda Page**

Our teachers adapt their teaching to our abilities and make an effort to ensure classes are dynamic and interesting. In our Inquiry Learning, we have lots of hands-on experiences; for example, the





Year 6 'Pushcart Challenge'. A lot of our teachers give their time to run clubs and interest groups at recess and lunchtime. This is great because it allows students to bond with others from different year levels. In our leadership role, we are mentored and also encouraged and supported to come up with original ideas and implement them.

**Oscar Hausler**

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**Cover photo:** Jack Austin and Tigist Lee in Year 8 Geography class with Mr Rob Drummond

**Photo this page:** Junior School Captains Miranda Page and Oscar Hausler

**Photography:** Alana Brown, Liz Crothers, Ashlyn Hiscock and Jen Hutton

"REAL LEARNING GETS TO  
THE HEART OF WHAT IT  
MEANS TO BE HUMAN."

PETER SENGE, GREAT AMERICAN SYSTEMS THINKER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dr Andrew Hirst



### A TEAM OF EXCELLENT STAFF

Recently, a prospective parent asked why should they invest in an independent school education when their child could google the answer to their every need?

A fair question, but the answer is more compelling. Google may provide knowledge, but knowledge does not equate to understanding. True wisdom is the combination of knowledge, understanding, experience and compassion, and a team of excellent staff is the best asset you can have to support students to achieve such objectives.

The work of good education has always been about relationships and our staff at College shares a deep understanding of how learning happens. For, in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

Independent schools remain critical to the education of our youth, and great schools like College rely not only on excellent teachers at the front of the classroom, but also the support and guidance of *all* those who make up our 'team of excellent staff'.

Learning remains our core focus as through learning we can re-create ourselves. The great American 'systems thinker' Peter Senge said, "Real learning gets to the heart of what it means to be human". Through learning we become able to do something we never were able to do. Through learning we re-perceive the world and our relationship to it. Through learning we extend our capacity to create, to be part of the generative process of life. There is within each of us a deep hunger for this type of learning. Staff and parents share this important responsibility to nurture such outcomes.



Dr Andrew Hirst with 2019 School Captains  
Isabella Bradbeer and James Sutherland

At The Hamilton and Alexandra College, our 'team of excellent staff' seeks the best for and from every student, and to light the fire of curiosity, imagination, and goodness. They avoid teaching simple solutions to complex issues or focusing exclusively on the curriculum. They seek to educate for life and nurture strength of character.

We want our students to build bridges, not walls. To value philosophies, not shallow opinions. To be optimistic in life, not pessimistic. To be givers, not takers. To be equally strong on their responsibilities as they are on their rights. To be courageous and speak up to injustice when they know something is not right. To display respect, compassion, gratitude, resilience and optimism.

As role models, the influence of our staff is immeasurable and I sincerely thank each and every one for their efforts to support all of our students to develop 'confident futures'.

Not surprisingly, this 'team of excellent staff' edition of *The Ivy and the Tower* is a bumper issue. I encourage you to explore the stories and discover the enormous difference that our team of staff makes, not only in the lives of our students, but also in the broader Hamilton community.



# FROM OUR HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Stephen Nelson



Head of Junior School, Mr Stephen Nelson with Chloe Laidlaw (Year 4) and George Nichols (Year 3).

## THE 'EXCELLENT TEAM' CULTURE AT MYRNIONG

The Junior School 'team of excellent staff' is made up of administration and maintenance staff, school nurses, classroom and Early Learning Centre (ELC) teachers, learning support staff, specialist teachers and the Junior School leadership team. This team works tirelessly towards the four other strategic priorities in the College's Strategic Plan: a learning culture, a secure future, positive and caring relationships, and a connected community.

Our staffroom walls are adorned with quotes that provoke thinking and provide reflection and affirmation of the work the team does to make the Myrniong learning community the best that it can be.

### **There are no spectators on the extra mile.**

Our administration team of Natalie Povey and Nicole Atchison always goes the extra mile to ensure the smooth running of the Junior School and are an excellent conduit between the School and our parents. The nursing team of Rachel Vallance and Elizabeth Munroe is a welcome presence for students when not feeling at their best, and our maintenance team of Shane Bonnett, Craig Kennedy and Nick Dopheide ensures Myrniong looks amazing in all four seasons.

### **If you insist on the very best, you often get it.**

Our specialist subjects, Mandarin Chinese, Art, Music and Physical Education, are offered on a weekly basis to our students and are one of our important points of difference.

Our Music program is thriving, with exceptional results in local Eisteddfods and music competitions. Anne Kristin Christie provides an excellent foundation for musicianship through her Kodaly-based classroom program that commences with our ELC students. Additional weekly Performance Arts and Chamber Singers sessions with Ben Hiscock and Kathryn Salt provide an avenue for students to learn to sing with pitch, harmony or rhythm. The Year 2 Strings program run by Ben Singh and Kate Wear provides the opportunity for all Year 2s to try cello or violin, with the option to join our Pizzicato Strings Orchestra, which currently boasts 20+ members, at the end of the year.

Anli Zou and Pei Tseng's Mandarin Chinese classes provide exposure to a second language and many classes have presented their learning at our Monday Assemblies.

Our Physical Education teacher and Sports Coordinator, Louise Patterson has an enthusiasm and attention to detail that is

appreciated by all. As well as excellent class programs, she extends the students by providing access to a range of different sports, including bowls, volleyball and golf.

Art is taught by Bec Cameron and Lisa Addinsall and enjoyed by all students from the ELC to Year 6. Our annual Art Exhibition is a highlight in the School's calendar. In 2018 we had a ceramics theme and this year, in conjunction with the 'Artist in Residence' program, a zoo has been created in the Art Room.

### Shared responsibility means shared ownership.

The ELC staff, Director Frances O'Brien, Gabbi Bensch, Katrina Bull, Katrina Arnell, Nadine Stewart and Bernadine Kely take great pride in their Piccolo (3-year-old) and Piccino (4-year-old) Reggio Emilio program. They collaborate and nurture the students in the '100 languages of learning'.

This year we took the step to infuse aspects of the excellent Reggio Emilio approach into our Prep to Year 3 Inquiry program. Bernadette Milich, Sharon Kelly, Patricia See, Penny Callinan and Simone Brabham have authored this approach and we have seen engaging and rich provocations that have guided student learning in many intriguing directions.

### Be vision driven and values based.

The Junior School prides itself on its ability to offer enrichment and enhancement programs. Our Learning Support team of Valetta Bolton, Lou Drummond, Rosanna Marshall and Bernadine Kely looks after our students who need consolidation in Literacy, and our NAPLAN results reflect strong relative growth in this area. Anna Robertson provides weekly Numeracy enrichment via the Maths Olympiad programs in Years 5 and 6. She is also part of the Years 2 and 3 team that offers a problem-solving program, Mega Minds Maths.

### Our values decide our character. Our character decides our values.

In the fullness of each week, a plethora of clubs and groups are on offer for our students at recess and lunchtime: Art Club, Running Club, Garden Club, Craft Club, Red Cross Youth/ KidsMatter meetings, visits to The Birches, Coding Club, Pizzicato Strings and Student Representative Council. These opportunities are available thanks to staff offering their time to work as a team that offers more than just excellent classroom pedagogy.

Stephen Mirtschin runs the very popular weekly Minecraft Club, where students from Prep to Year 6 come together to develop computer skills, learn from each other and build collaborative abilities. Graham Lewis, who teaches Year 5 and Agricultural Science at the Senior School, runs our L@Ms (Lambs at Myrniong) program, where orphaned lambs kept on the grounds are tended to by students.

Sophie Ross and Nick Palmer work together to provide our Year 6 students with a transition program that is second to none. Each

week, the Year 6 students travel to the Senior School for Music, Science and Food Technology classes. In Term 4, they have core English and Mathematics lessons in the Middle Years Positive Education Centre (MYPEC), to support their transition to Year 7.

### High performing teams promote a culture of honesty, authenticity and safe conflict.

In 2010, I attended an Australian Council of Educational Leaders (ACEL) conference in Brisbane, where a school inspector from Queensland spoke about the traits of schools with an excellent team of staff. "You get 'a smell of the place' within two minutes of entering the front doors of a school," he said.

In other words, you get tangible understanding of the quality and colour of the relationships – how teachers, administration and maintenance staff, students and parents interact and work with each other is immediately evident.

There are many reasons why the Junior School has an excellent 'smell of the place'. We have an environment where individuals want to do more rather than less. At meetings, we have a culture of safe conflict. We agree, and we disagree, but when a decision is made, we commit. Staff trust and support each other which is vital for the context within which we work – to support our vision 'to seek the best for and from each student.



Mrs Bensch with Piccino students Sammie Price and Violet Shrive



Prep teacher, Mrs Kelly with Johnny Fenton.



# FROM OUR HEADS OF FACULTY

Our Heads of Faculty share their reflections on the changes they've seen in their time at College, their highlights for 2019, and what they're excited about for the future.

## SUSAN BRADBEER HEAD OF ENGLISH

I have had the privilege of working at College since 2016. One of the significant changes I have observed is how the School has embraced new technology to support student learning. The English Faculty's use of Class OneNote and more recently Microsoft Teams has enlarged our ability to offer regular and live feedback on student work and engage in discussions both within and outside the classroom.

This year the English Faculty has been working with the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English (VATE) on a reading project. This aims to increase engagement and build stamina to read as well as skills in comprehension and inference. Students in Years 7 to 10 read for 10 minutes at the start of each lesson and are encouraged to read texts that challenge their thinking. For one of our Year 9 students, discovering F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* was a significant moment, while for another, it has been making progress, chapter by chapter, to complete a book that has instilled confidence.



Mrs Bradbeer in Year 10 English, with Anna Spaul and Kellan Sander.

Reading is a crucial skill that underpins learning in every subject area. It is a gift that keeps on giving from childhood into adulthood, building knowledge, expanding vocabulary and broadening our experience of the world. I am confident that the energy and focus on establishing a culture of reading in our school now will reap rewards in the future for each of our students.

*Mrs Bradbeer was recently appointed Deputy Principal, Teaching and Learning.*



Year 11 students, Georgia Lehmann and Samantha Hawker, with Mrs Bonnett and Ngarang (Central Bearded Dragon).

## REBEKAH BONNETT HEAD OF VCE STUDIES; HEAD OF SCIENCE

I started at College fresh out of university and have been teaching here for nearly 17 years. The construction of the new Science Centre in 2005 was like Christmas. Everything was shiny and new, and provided a new way of classroom learning for our students. I was one of the first teachers to try out interactive whiteboards and now they are featured in every classroom. Chalk and whiteboard markers are increasingly hard to find!

My highlight is Term 4 each year. The Year 12s are sitting their final examinations and teachers are just as anxious as the students. We become so close to the students – we get to understand their strengths, challenge areas and hopes for the future – so we feel their nerves! In Term 4 the Science Centre is buzzing with learning: the Years 7 and 8 students are investigating the biology of chickens and mice and our senior students are preparing for their future classes during the Step-Up Program.

I am committed to ensuring that our reputation for academic excellence in the Sciences remains high. A large proportion of our graduates go on to study science-related courses at universities across Australia and we have nurtured our fair share of doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, research scientists and teachers. At College, we prepare students not only for their university courses, but also for a confident future in the world of science.





Ms Waldron in the Sports Centre with Laura Michelmores, who was named runner up in the 2019 Junior Sportswoman of the Year for the local shire.

## KRISTEN WALDRON

### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SENIOR YEARS AND WELLBEING; HEAD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I am very proud of our Physical Education and Wellbeing programs at College and the strong positive culture we have built, where it is actually 'cool' to try. While many schools struggle to engage their students in physical activity, our students get to class early and are active from the moment they arrive.

## DEBORAH DAVIS

### HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

How fortunate am I? I have been a teacher for 17 years, and yet it seems like only yesterday that I picked up the whiteboard marker.

At school, I always enjoyed Science and Mathematics and I also loved reading and debating, so a career in teaching or law was appealing. Following this direction, I completed a Commerce Degree majoring in Law and Accounting and started my career as an Accountant. While on maternity leave, I became involved in adult education which prompted me to return to study, and I completed a Diploma of Education. It was on teaching rounds that I discovered a real passion for teaching, particularly Mathematics. I returned to university once again, this time to study Mathematics Education which put me on a lifelong path of striving to understand how students best learn Mathematics.

Throughout my teaching career, I have been fortunate to work in a variety of roles, from working with students with special needs to implementing new programs such as VCAL and establishing partnerships with local organisations. I have held administrative and executive positions and look back fondly on my time as Director of Studies, particularly the opportunities this offered to explore alternative educational systems internationally.

We are blessed with amazing facilities and community connections that enable us to offer unique programs such as rock climbing, archery, martial arts and rowing. Students who start here in Year 7 will have experienced 30 different sports and health and fitness opportunities by the end of Year 10.

The most significant highlight in 2019 has been the progress of our Positive Education program. We are collaborating on the Western District Handbury Project with the Geelong Grammar Institute of Positive Education, which has brought together over 50 schools in our region.

Positive Education is a philosophy; a proactive approach to life that complements what families and teachers already do. Our objective is to enhance students' wellbeing by building resilience and optimism as well as engagement and performance in all areas of their lives. Knowing that wellbeing is not a spectator sport – you need to actively attend to it – we teach our students skills for improving students wellbeing.

I'm confident that our students will leave College equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to become active and positive members of their future communities and to maintain a safe, healthy and balanced lifestyle.



Mrs Davis helping Year 12 student Sam O'Shannessy prepare for his VCE exams.

While I enjoy the challenges of leadership, my real passion is in teaching and learning and this is what drew me to College ten years ago. Not only am I able to focus my time on student learning, I also have the privilege of leading an amazing team of teachers that works tirelessly to help each of our students to reach their potential and appreciate the value and beauty of Mathematics.

I am blessed to work in a professional learning community where I am encouraged to continue developing. It is an exciting time to be a teacher, with a growing body of evidence that informs our practice and technology that allows us to engage effortlessly with international professional networks. I am curious to see what the next 17 years will bring.

## JODY OGLE HEAD OF HISTORY AND HUMANITIES

When I arrived in 2004 I was looking forward to teaching at a school that embraced both a long history of tradition and a modern approach to academic achievement and teaching.

The conversations shared, information read, research conducted, professionalism practised and dedication evidenced are all part of the cogs that make the dynamic staff at the College thrive. As the years have sped by, my motivation has remained and the School's culture for progressive learning continues to drive me.

My passion for History teaching has been very rewarding. Whether it be witnessing Euan Sutherland win the Year 9 Australian History Competition in 2018, or being chosen to be one of just 31 teachers from across Australia to study the Holocaust in Israel in 2016, or the delight in a senior student who gains a fabulous VCE result because they worked really hard; the toil is all worthwhile.



Mrs Ogle 'doesn't do photos' so we got the next best thing – her daughter Meg (on the right) with fellow Year 7 students Bella O'Sullivan and Isobel Mecham.

For me, the joy of teaching History is not only about the intricacy of the content, but also about connecting students to the realities of our world and ourselves as humans as well as understanding the stories and the lessons of the past for the future.

The future lies in the hands of creative people who want to redevelop the world with the past in mind – this keeps me motivated!

*"Study the past if you would define the future." - Confucius*



Ms Tseng at the farewell dinner with her Year 12 students, Jasmine Chan, Samantha Kwan, Marcus Monro, Jeremy Cheung, Harry Beal and Jonathan Lee.

## PEI TSENG HEAD OF LOTE

I arrived in Hamilton at the beginning of 2014 with little knowledge about the School, the people or the town. I was very impressed by what College provided its students and teachers – such as the Music and Performing Arts Centre, interactive

whiteboards, individual devices and the China Experience for Year 9 students. In the five years I have been at College, it has continued to grow with the Middle Years Positive Education Centre, the Neil MacLean Hockey Field, the renovated Library and Information Centre, the new Year 12 Boarding Houses, and the offer of more domestic and global experiences for students.

For a regional school, our facilities and offerings are incredible. My friends in Melbourne tell me I am very lucky that I can teach the core education requirements within these first-class facilities in a "far far away school".

The highlights can happen in many moments in my daily teaching: the sincere greetings I receive from students, whether I have taught them or not; professional support from my colleagues; and the efforts and improvement that my students make from lesson to lesson, even though they complain that Chinese is the most challenging subject they do!

In our language classes we teach students to think and act inter-culturally. We are based in rural and peaceful Australia, but we interact as global citizens. Students from my first Year 7 classes at College will graduate this year and I am so excited to see how they have grown to become mature and confident adults.



Mr Steer making chess sets with Year 9 student, Angus Dohle.

## PETER STEER HEAD OF ICT

Over the 17 years I have been at College, there has been significant change in the computer technologies available to our students and staff. We are well ahead of the game in STEAM (Science

## MARG SIMKIN HEAD OF LIBRARY

Over the years, I have witnessed so many changes in what we offer and how we work. In 2019, the greater proportion of our secondary library collection is invisible – e-books, audio books and databases all live online.

In the Senior School Library, there are no banks of desktop computers. Everyone has a school-managed digital device and our work is accessed in a far more collaborative manner via Microsoft OneNote Teams. However, silence is not always golden. We still teach students how to locate and interpret information – a crucial skill in this fast-changing world where leaders of countries tweet and misleading information emanates from sources that rarely consider opposing viewpoints to their own.

Our large fiction collections in both the Senior and Junior School Libraries are chosen and curated carefully to provide a mix of new, different and classic titles. Our work supports the vital skill of reading; it is well documented that reading fiction deepens empathy. The mastery of high-level literacy is critical to

Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) education. As far back as 2005 we introduced the VCE/VET subject, Cisco Networking Academy which leads to an internationally recognised industry qualification. It is very much a hands-on approach to learning about the science of computer networks. Over the years, we have introduced other subjects, including Robotics, Digital Processing, Games Design and 3D Movie Making.

We continue to introduce opportunities for our students, such as two semester-length courses as part of our Digital Technologies Pathways at Years 9 and 10. Not only do they focus on STEAM knowledge acquisition, but also aim to develop collaboration, communication, problem-solving and entrepreneurial skills through practical real-world projects. This year, students have constructed chess sets, where the students use 3D scanners to capture images of themselves to create the chess pieces, 3D printers to produce the pieces, and a CAD package along with a laser cutter to create the boards.

I continue to be amazed and excited by how our students harness emerging technologies to enhance their learning.



Mrs Simkin in the library.

functioning as adults in this exciting and fast paced world. The combination of the skills Ms Welst and I deliver, along with improvements to our physical space at Senior School, make it an exciting time to be a teacher librarian at College.



# FROM OUR HEAD OF MIDDLE YEARS

Julia Winter Cooke



Mrs Winter Cooke on the steps of the Middle Years Positive Education Centre with several Year 8 Middle Years Captains Margo Hocking, Charlotte Millear, Lachlan Rees, Rufaro Makore and Tobe Adamson, and 2020 School Captain Olivia Anagnostou (3rd from left).

**Just as I ask my students, I encourage you (no matter your age!) to ask yourself...**

Who are you becoming?

How are you facing life's challenges?

Are you challenging yourself?

Are you adventurous?

Are you taking risks?

Are you the best version of yourself?

Are you bold enough to listen to your heart and take action?

Do you know who you are and what you stand for?

Are you taking responsibility for your life?

## POSITIVE EDUCATION AT COLLEGE... IT'S NOT JUST A CATCH PHRASE

### What am I most proud of?

That's hard to answer – there are many things, but the simple answer is 'our students'. I'm incredibly proud of them in several key areas: the way they are growing into decent young adults, and the way they face so many visible and invisible challenges at a pivotal stage in their lives.

### What will make the most difference in the next 15 years?

This one is easy – the impact of Positive Education. Positive Education is an incredibly important and emerging area that I have been interested in for well over a decade. My passion grew as I started reading, understanding and using the positive psychology ideas in my own life. Here at College, Positive Education has allowed us to focus on

the skills of wellbeing, and to explicitly teach a range of skills to the students that will enable them to become competent adults. This year we have focused on these core themes: Resilience, Character Strengths, and Your Best Self.

**Albert Camus' words, "Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me, just be my friend" embodies our culture at College.**

My vision is for young people to develop their emotional and social intelligence, to develop strong and sustained relationships. To achieve this vision, students at College need to:

#### *Learn to forgive*

Walk in someone else's shoes; admit when they are wrong and say sorry. Just as I need to say I'm sorry and own my apology, young people need to 'dust themselves off' and show resilience when they face life's challenges.

#### *Be kind*

We are wired for kindness, and we feel good when we are kind. If they look for positives in their lives each day – this will encourage an optimistic mindset.

#### *Find and commit to their passions*

By following our passions, we find it easier to find a deep sense of meaning and purpose in our lives.

### What is the most important part of my day?

Conversations with students. Often it's the small conversations that make my day, and I reflect daily on how polite our students are. I like to hear about their successes, what has gone well in their day, and what has caused frustration. If a student is having an issue, the first question I will ask is, "what's happening?". Young people need challenges and if we remove the challenges and make life easy, we are doing them a disservice. I am happy to be vulnerable, and want to show our students that it's okay to display vulnerability.



## FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

Andrew Monk

### BOARDING IS NOT JUST AN OCCUPATION... IT'S A DISTINCT LIFESTYLE

Immersing your own family within an extended family of 100 adolescents is an opportunity many may not, or would not, consider. However, in our tenth year of boarding and first year at College, our family feels privileged to be living with such fine young men and women.

Leading the charge of overseeing the pastoral care of our boarders, I find myself continually amazed by how today's adolescents navigate life's challenges, what they become passionate about, and when they begin taking the steps to be the person they want to be. Overall, the most exciting part of living and working with boarders is watching them become increasingly resilient.

Building resilience is a topic commonly spoken about. Today, the life of a teenager is certainly different to 'back in the day'; it's arguably more complex, challenging and fast-paced. But what has not changed is the need to experience life's ups and downs and find your own way through these challenges successfully.

#### **How does a boarder's experience differ to a day student's?**

It's the extra level of daily challenge they face; there really is no let up. Each day, boarders are tested to be on time, organised and deal with the unexpected. This approach disrupts a 'helicopter', 'bulldozer' or 'rescuing' approach to raising adolescents and teaches them valuable skills that they will use throughout their adult lives.

This learning is an essential part of developing self-regulation, navigating how to get along with others and understanding your own limits. The most rewarding part of my job is being witness to adolescents who are seeking out challenges but are struggling to commit or achieve them, and then seeing them grow from the experience of navigating and overcoming adversity in their own way.

As we walk with boarders through homesickness, friendship battles, disappointments, sporting set-backs, academic struggles, illnesses and personal challenges, we are also guiding them to design resilience pathways that can be used now and in the future.

**As the team of adults caring for our boarders, it is our role to coach them through options, present new insights to consider and reinforce their self-belief in choices they make. We become their sounding boards, echoing a 'you can do it' attitude and strengthening their capacity to confidently bounce back.**

My family feels continually rewarded and honoured to be part of the lives of these young men and women as they traverse the formative years of their lives.



# A WARM FAREWELL

## ROB DRUMMOND

Farewelled by Neil MacLean

After 22 years of excellent service to the College, Rob Drummond has decided to retire at the end of this year. Rob is a much-loved and highly regarded teacher and colleague. He was appointed by Principal John Turnbull and came to us with a very strong reputation.

During his time at College, Rob has performed many roles. This included Head of Geography, with his VCE results confirming that he is a superb teacher. He is passionate about this subject and has always ensured that his students develop a strong connection to the local area through fieldtrips and coursework. It is largely due to Rob's influence that Geography thrives at the School.

Rob has been a very effective Berry House Mentor, Head of Year 12, and a member of numerous committees where his advice

and good sense have always carried weight. He has accompanied Year 9 groups to China twice and has led and attended a host of Year 12 orientation camps and retreats.

In addition, Rob has been a committed and successful coach of Football and Cricket, with his Under 14 team winning the Junior Cricket Premiership last season. He has also shared his love of the natural environment with many groups when in the outdoors.

A superb photographer of birds, Rob has often lent his camera skills on school camps and for our productions.

Given such a range of involvement, it is no surprise that Rob knows our students well and that they hold him in high regard and with great affection.

In the staffroom, Rob has not only been a trusted confidante to many, but also the co-ordinator of the seriously contended staff footy tipping competition each year! He can be at ease with anyone and is greatly respected by his colleagues for his calmness, good sense and even-handedness.

We wish Rob well in his future endeavours and are pleased that he will be staying in the local area.

*"Mr Drummond is one of the best teachers I've had. He is passionate about Geography and pushes students to achieve their full potential. He has such a wealth of knowledge to share and makes his classes interesting and engaging. I feel lucky that I had him as a teacher."* **Kate Millear**, Year 12



Mr Drummond marshalling at House Swimming with Year 12 student Adele O'Brien

## ANLI ZUO

Farewelled by Fran Agar

Anli is retiring after 15 years at College. She has taught Chinese at the Senior and Junior Schools, and has been a conscientious and firm teacher with an encouraging approach.

Anli joined the Year 9 China Experience on two occasions where she was invaluable as a translator and guide for staff and students. She was often a go-between for visiting staff and students from our Sister School, Gaoyou Middle School in Jiangsu, China, and enhanced their visits by happily providing delicious meals in her family home.

In collaboration with her colleagues, Anli always prepared her students for traditional cultural events like Chinese New Year celebrations. She also hosted some international students, providing a home away from home when they were unable to travel back to China over the holiday periods.

Anli has taught both first and second language VCE Chinese classes, always working hard to support her students and help them prepare for oral exams with lots of extra conversational practice.



Mrs Zuo with Prep students, Hugo Cameron, Lachie Sweeney, Elsie Dyer and Thomas Kennedy.

Known among the wider College community as the best Chinese cook in Hamilton, Anli enjoys growing her own vegetables and raising chickens and ducks in her backyard. Staff who got to sample her wonderful spring rolls and dumplings at morning teas were most fortunate!

Anli's smile will be missed by our school community and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

*"I like learning Chinese with Zuo laoshi because when we go to Year 9 China camp we'll be able to talk to Chinese people."* **Oscar Hawthorne**, Year 3



# WHAT'S NEW AT COLLEGE



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENT COUNSELLOR

### KATE COUCHMAN, STUDENT COUNSELLOR

It is wonderful to be part of a school that places such a strong emphasis on student wellbeing and where all staff – teachers, mentors, boarding and support staff, and coaches – work closely together to get to know and care for each and every student.

My role involves supporting students across the School in a number of ways, from individual counselling in the Boarding Houses to exploring topics such as social skills in group sessions at the Senior School and discussing wellbeing and the importance of strong mental health in Junior School classes. College has developed strong relationships with Headspace and Be You and we are working to build on these partnerships and proudly lead the way in the mental health and student wellbeing space in our region.

I am currently completing my Masters of Education, focusing on student wellbeing, and I look forward to bringing best evidence-based practice and the latest research into my role at the College. I feel privileged to get to know students as they share their lives and place trust in me, especially when they are at their most vulnerable. To witness young people experiencing personal growth and overcoming barriers makes my job so worthwhile and rewarding.



## LAUNCH OF THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL ACADEMY

### LEIGH ALEXANDER, DIRECTOR OF SPORT AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION

In 2019, College launched The Hamilton and Alexandra College Football Academy in collaboration with the Western Bulldogs Football Club. We are the first school partnership with the club's academy program.

We are thrilled to offer this program to our students between the ages of 14 and 16 years. Students apply to be part of the Academy, and in our first intake this year we have 19 participants. During Term 3, the students were involved in a rigorous eight-week training program which incorporated two training sessions each week hosted by guest coaches and players.

The program offers a rare opportunity for regional students. Not only is it giving our students access to new areas of skill development, game sense, fitness and leadership, but also insights into the commitment of an elite AFL player. Old Collegian and local Hamilton icon Liam Picken, who played 198 senior matches for the Bulldogs, is the official ambassador for the College Academy. Our students have been incredibly lucky to get some one-on-one mentoring time with Liam during training sessions.

Year 10 student, **Mitzi Adamson**, was selected to participate in the Academy: *"The Academy was a fantastic opportunity. Learning and developing a specific skill each week has resulted in huge growth and improvement in my individual game. Having access to ex-AFL players and current coaches has built my confidence and I'm excited about putting it all into play next season."*

Here's hoping we have some Academy participants play for the Greater Western Victoria (GWV) Rebels, VFL, VFLW, AFLW or AFL in the future. Watch this space...

1. Ms Couchman with Year 7 students Cooper Bonnett and Mitchell Bright 2. College Football Academy students on the first day of training: guests on the left: Patrick Sherlock (U16 College Magpies coach), Liam Picken (retired Western Bulldogs AFL player and Old Collegian (2004)) and Dave Newton (Western Bulldogs NGA Manager); guests on the right: Dr Andrew Hirst (Principal), Jock Whiting (AFL Western District Football Development Manager) and Leigh Alexander (Director of Sport and Outdoor Education)

# FROM THE ARTS FACULTY



Mr Hiscock conducting the Year 6 Concert Band at the Hamilton Eisteddfod.

## A MUSIC HOTSPOT

**Ben Hiscock**, Director of Music

If you looked at an infrared map of musical activity across the country, the Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre at College would stick out like a glowing hotspot. Firmly established in its traditions of excellence in music education, the Music Faculty provides all students with opportunities for meaningful involvement in making music and tailored programs to challenge the most virtuosic.

Like creating a Wi-Fi hotspot with your phone, the College Music Faculty is a conduit for music and musicians. Be they professional, community or students, musicians are drawn into the College and musicians from the College are making their statement in the world of music. Alongside the College ensembles, community groups rehearse in our facilities and are inspired by the energy created by our collaborations with professional institutions and recognised leaders in music, such as Orchestra Victoria, the

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, jazz legend Graeme Lyall AM, Fintan Murphy, Andrea Keeble and international instrument maker Roberto Cavagnoli from Cremona, Italy.

College students go out into the community and beyond to further their musical experience and contribution. They are involved in the Gondwana Choral Summer School (Sydney), the Melbourne Youth Music Summer School, the Adelaide, Lakes and Craters Winter Music Schools, the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival, the Hamilton Symphony Orchestra and a wide variety of Eisteddfods. College Music Alumni are currently studying in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

With a team of excellent, highly experienced music staff and a purpose-built facility, College is truly a hotspot of music excellence.

## VCE ART EXHIBITION

**Helen Reiher**, Head of Creative Arts; Head of Year 12

One of my favourite parts of the school year is the VCE Art Exhibition. Following eight months of planning, evaluating, experimenting and creating, the Units 3/4 Studio Arts and Visual Communication Design students present their final works. This year, a wide variety of media and techniques were on show, with students explaining to their family and friends how they had come up with their ideas and executed their pieces.

It is such a rewarding experience for our students to exhibit their work. Art and design enrich our society and offer a visual way of expressing ideas and concepts about their world. Our young artists have thought carefully about their choices and the ways they have chosen to express themselves. It is always a highlight to see students excel and strive to present their work in such a professional manner.

Year 12 student, Niamh Sutherland with her VCE artwork, 'Plastic, you've got to be choking'.





## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE - MYRNIONG MURALS

**Lisa Addinsall**, Junior School Artist-in-Residence

I have been leading drawing and painting workshops at the Junior School throughout 2019 with a focus on creating quirky animal-themed multi-panelled murals for an outdoor space at Myrning. Not only have students enjoyed the opportunity to explore their creativity, but also several parents have become involved in the after-school Art Club.

The murals were unveiled at the Junior School Art Exhibition in Term 4, and the students felt a real sense of pride and achievement from creating something that they will see daily as they run around the playground.

*Lisa Addinsall is an accomplished local artist. College is very lucky to have her teaching our students.*



Year 6 students Tom Hill and Max Hindhaugh



The cast of *Beauty and the Beast*

## EXPRESSION THROUGH PERFORMANCE ART

**Bonita Silva**, Head of Drama

The Performing Arts offer a wide variety of opportunities for students to express themselves and perform a diverse set of themes and texts, from Year 7 through to VCE.

In 2019, our musical sensation was Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Performing to a sold-out auditorium was a delight for the 42 cast members, 12 backstage and technical crew and talented orchestra as we followed the story of Belle and the enchanted castle. Over a 14-week rehearsal period, students from Years 7 to 12 worked tirelessly, singing, learning choreography and mastering their characters. Through direction and student-led research, they developed the art of bringing inanimate objects to life with precision.

The Years 9 and 10 Elective program, which presents as a pathway to VCE Drama, focused on the Australian text,

*Ruby Moon*. The students collaborated in pairs to perform the play in its entirety and bring the eccentric characters to life.

The VCE curriculum focused on Australian theatre and playwrights, researching and presenting solo performances based around myths and legends in Australia's history and characters with a political platform. Years 10 and 11 students spent two days in Melbourne where they were enlightened by performances and a workshop on ensemble creation at the St Martin Youth Theatre.

Each year I challenge the students, and the students challenge me, to try new things and think globally. It is a blessing to work with a school community that is passionate about the arts and that continuously offers its students ways to engage and opportunities to succeed.



# FROM OUR 'OLD COLLEGIAN' STAFF

## BELINDA NICHOLS (PEDLAR 1986)

### SENIOR ENGLISH AND LITERATURE TEACHER AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

#### What has changed since you were a student here?

A quick glance at the buildings and the grounds highlights just how much things have changed on a structural level – no more assemblies in a freezing Berry Hall or Boarding House rooms with lino and a tiny bar heater located near the ceiling! The summer uniform length is now a little longer than in the 80s.

#### What hasn't changed?

Mary Esther intrigue, the style of winter skirts, The Rock of Ages and God Be With You, 'Til We Meet Again', Neil MacLean, and the fact that Room 6 does not warm up until after lunch, despite modern heating!

#### What made an impact during your time as a student that set you on your career path?

I have always had fabulous English teachers and those at College were integral in influencing my love for the subject. Tim Murray and John Mazur taught me to read things from different perspectives and to value the power of language. Many of their lessons are still vivid in my mind – I couldn't wait to get to their classes. I didn't plan to be a teacher when I left school, however there is no doubt that they helped instil in me a love of literature and language that encouraged me to pursue a path that has allowed me to share my passion with others.

#### What do you enjoy about working at College?

I love the community aspect of College. There is a lot to be said for knowing all of the students and many of their families. In a time when so many people feel disconnected from those around them, connections are to be valued.



Mrs Nichols with her VCE Literature class

## SYLVIA MCMULLEN (CUMING 1992)

### SCIENCE TEACHER AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

#### What has changed since you were a student here?

I was a student during the 80s and all of my College memories are associated with the classrooms in the main Myrniong Homestead building. At that time there was only the Homestead building, the Refectory and the Boarding House. Now when I go to Myrniong, I am reminded of how much it has expanded. Recently I went upstairs in the Myrniong Homestead building to see what was once the 'Science Room'. I fondly remember doing a Science Talent Search project on rainbows and experiments using prisms in that room, as well as turning on the taps in the garden to split the light. This is where my love of Science began!

#### What hasn't changed?

The Clock Tower building with its stone steps, and the magical feeling at Myrniong when you walk up the driveway under the avenue of trees. I can remember playing in the hedges at lunchtime and the carnival type events in the 'sunken garden'. It is great to see the Junior School students having the same opportunity to explore and have fun at Myrniong.



Mrs McMullen, second from the right in the front row, in her Year 2 class photo at Myrniong

#### What made an impact during your time as a student that set you on your career path?

Being a member of a supportive community and feeling part of a team. Many of my teachers had a big impact on me and led me to a career in teaching. My sense of curiosity about how and why things are drew me to study Science.

#### What do you enjoy about working at College?

Returning to a place that feels familiar has been comforting. The Collegial spirit among the staff is one of the things I most enjoy.

## BEC CAMERON (2002)

### ART TEACHER AT THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

#### What are your fondest memories of being a student here?

Spending my time in the Art Room. It was located where MYPEC is now and was made up of many small rooms – even a darkroom for black and white photography.

#### What made an impact during your time as a student that set you on your career path?

My passion for Art grew under the guidance of the inspirational Helen Reiher. I was encouraged to explore innovative and original ways of thinking in my art making and I loved being immersed in the creative process. After university, I began teaching Art at College and was lucky enough to work alongside Helen for numerous years – what an amazing Visual Arts program she has developed!



Mrs Cameron with Year 3 students Matilda Mercer and George Nicholls

#### What do you enjoy about working at College?

I love teaching at the Junior School – the 'Acorn' art room is a beautiful light-filled, purpose-built space and my students continue to inspire me every day!

## MITCHELL CLODE (2008)

### IT TECHNICIAN



Mr Clode in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) classroom

#### What has changed since you were a student here?

This is a tough one for me to answer. I started at College in Year 10 and haven't really left. I did an IT traineeship here after Year 12, working with the Head of ICT, and worked here intermittently while at university. It has all changed slowly, but consistently, over the past 11 years.

#### What made an impact during your time as a student that set you on your career path?

I had access to a large range of IT-related learning opportunities such as programming, network design and physical computer management. Not only were these the subjects I enjoyed most, I could also see how I could use these skills after finishing school.

#### What do you enjoy about your role at College?

The variety. This job covers a lot of tasks over the course of the full school year and every term is different. Also, we are always trying new and different technologies which is a great way to challenge myself and ensure the school remains up to date with the fast pace of IT.

## PATRICIA SEE (2009)

### YEAR 1 TEACHER

#### What has changed since you were a student here?

There are two noticeable changes. The world-class facilities and, while College has always supported students to strive for great success, the bar has been raised.



#### What hasn't changed?

Great support for students from the staff. Despite changes in the staff, the supportive culture of the school hasn't shifted. From when I was a student to becoming a new teacher, the staff have always been behind me to positively support my journey.

#### What do you enjoy about working at College?

Working in the amazing facilities with students willing to embrace every opportunity, and having parents who will go to extraordinary lengths to ensure their children succeed. Fostering the learning that sets these children up for life is a very exciting journey to be on.

Miss See with Year 1 student Aida Adamson

## GRAHAM LEWIS (1977)

### YEAR 5 TEACHER



Mr Lewis feeding the lambs with Year 5 students

#### What has changed since you were a student here?

The school works at a faster pace and there is more ICT and a greater emphasis on music and sport. The facebook page and website are a great way for the School to connect far beyond the local community. There are lots of new facilities including the incredible Music and Performing Arts Centre, Sports Centre

and Hockey Field. I am a member of Learmonth House now, not Laidlaw!

#### What hasn't changed?

The magnificent architecture of the Myrniong Homestead and the Clock Tower buildings, the sense of place, the importance of values and the strong work ethic among staff. Also, the true belief that our students and teachers can make a difference in the world.

#### What made an impact during your time as a student that set you on your career path?

My love of Biology and Agriculture was fostered in Years 11 and 12. This has never changed. I went on to do a degree in Botany and Zoology.

#### What do you enjoy about working at College?

The feeling of being part of something 'bigger than you' in an historical context – I really appreciate the continuity of tradition. Also, working with students who really want to improve their learning.

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## NICK PALMER (1999)

### YEAR 6 TEACHER

#### What has changed since you were a student here, and what hasn't changed?

Returning to College after 28 years has been a wondrous experience. Decades of roaming the planet have afforded me an otherworldly perspective – Angola, Azerbaijan and Bavaria; a thousand lifetimes, surreal in retrospect.

On returning from these adventures, I notice things that make College, College: the Clock Tower building, the Victorian-era buildings, and the manicured greenery. The friendly, almost breezy, demeanour of the staff, students and wider school community. A careful balance of respect and austerity resides in the walls. Beyond the Myrniong tree-lined driveway, we have access to the beauty of the natural world, parks and oceans at our doorstep, with endless space to enjoy.



Mr Palmer with Ada Schroeder and Zoe Addinsall in the Year 6 classroom

#### Having travelled widely and seen many places, what do you think is special about College?

Schools in distant lands could only dream of such riches and freedom. Over my journeys I have walked the halls of Oxford and Harvard, climbed the Himalayas, body boarded the Zambezi and shouted songs to indie crowds in Taiwan.

Next year, I will continue my research in New York City as a Post Doctoral scholar at Duke University. With one foot in the wide world and one foot planted on terra Australis, I'm proud to call College my workplace and home.



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## BIRTHS

**DAVIDSON: VICTORIA BURLEIGH (2009)** Luke, a son Braxton Walter Joseph on 4 March 2019

**IRVIN: GREGORY (2004)** and Cara Skeen, a daughter Obelia Kate on 8 March 2019

**DEARY: DREW (2007)** and **KATE (WESTON 2007)** a daughter Sadie Rose on 25 June 2019

**GODDARD CLEGG-SMITH: AILICHE (GODDARD-CLEGG 2004)** and Jordan, a son Humphrey on 8 May 2019

**EDWARDS: PENNY (GRIFFIN 2002)** and Lachlan, a daughter Ivy Camille on 5 July 2019

**ROBERSTON: HAMISH (2004)** and **DIANA (SUTHERLAND 2001)**, a son Harvey Douglas on 28 May 2019 – a brother to Camilla

**CROZIER: ANDREW (2006)** and Melissa, son Harvey John on 10 September 2019

**STARK: WALLACE (2002)** and Natasha, a daughter Annabelle Marie on 14 May 2019

## ENGAGEMENTS

**KRISTIAN HOPWOOD (2009)** and Chloe Passalacqua

**OLIVER WARNER (2009)** and Millie Le Lievre

## WEDDINGS

**FELICITY STARK (2004)** and Angus Christian on 5 October 2019

**JESS DOUSE (SIMONS 2005)** and Bevan Douse on 21 September 2019

**ANNA BROWN (2009)** and **TOM UPTON (2009)** on 31 August 2019

## DEATHS

**BRIAN CONNELL (1949)** in September 2018

**KEN DAVIS (1952)** in August 2019

**ROBERT FRANCIS (1980)** in October 2019

**LAURA BYRNE (2016)** in August 2019

**MIKAELA CLARIDGE (past staff member at the Equestrian Centre)** in August 2019

As we go to print on this edition, we heard the sad news of **Dr Geoff Handbury AO** passing. Geoff, and his wife Helen, have been incredible supporters of The College and we are thankful for their generosity. We will include an article of appreciation in the next edition. Our thoughts and prayers go to the Handbury family.

1. Felicity Stark (2004) and Angus Christian 2. Joe Simons, Eoin Gubbins, Gareth Douse, Drew Sullivan, Bevan and Jess (Simons 2005) Douse, Adele Rohde, Jimmy (Tim) Ivett, Kirsty Dempsey and Karli Ball 3. Will Sharp (2009), Laura Brown (2008), Ollie Warner (2009), Georgie Upton (2011), Tom Upton (2009) and Anna Upton (Brown 2009), Charlotte Malon, Jim Higgins (2009), Joanna Macleod (2009) and Lachie Barclay

# REUNIONS

## 10 YEAR



## 20 YEAR



## 30 YEAR



1. The Class of 2009 2. Rebekah Bonnett (staff), Kristian Hopwood, Steve Koenig and Rob Drummond (staff) 3. Helen Reiher (staff), Robyn Sleigh and Emma Botterill 4. Catherine MacLean, Belinda Nichols (staff), Victoria Burleigh (past staff and OC), Ali Churchill (past staff), Anna Brown, Zoe Fox and Cassandra Broadfoot 5. Tom Agar, Neil MacLean (staff) and Jarrod Simons 6. Mark Robertson, Catherine MacLean and James Higgins 7. The Class of 1999 8. Alice Baulch and Neil MacLean (staff) 9. Clementine Rizk (Edgar), Claire Quinn (Funk), Anthea Blackford (Lyons) and Katherine Robertson 10. Anthea Blackford (Lyons), Jane King (Mercer), Elaine Edwards (past staff), Clementine Rizk (Edgar) and Stewart Bailey 11. Mark McClure and Edward Blackwell 12. Steve Rich, Sara Dyer, Kate Rolls, John Dyer and Mark McClure 13. The Class of 1989 14. Hugh Koch and Sameana Kerr (Westacott) 15. Hugh Koch, Tim Siebert and Lachlan Haynes 16. Saskia Dickeson and Jacinta Davie (Walter) 17. Carolyn Ford, Mandy Trueman, Sonya Brand-Gibbins (Brand) and Fleur Brinkmann (Diprose) 18. Lisa Spence (Goode), Sonya Brand-Gibbins (Brand), Georgie Buenfeld (Carmichael), Miranda Myles, Brigitte Robinson, Fleur Brinkmann (Diprose) and Carolyn Ford



# COLLEGE COMMUNITY OUT AND ABOUT

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAKE FUNDRAISER



## FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AT MYRNIONG



## SHEEPVENTION



1. Penny Adamson, Jen Hutton and Sarah Millier 2. Kate Pye, Felicity Satchell and Narelle Hill 3. Tim Whitehead, Bobby Mann, Ava and Paul Mould, Frank and George Nicholls 4. James, Emma and Frederick Milne with Jarrod, Lachie and Will Sweeney 5. Jason and Will Bourke with James and Richard Heazlewood 6. David and Ellie Lewis 7. Year 10 student, Lily Egger, who won the prize for best evening wear in the Sheepvention Wool Fashion Parade - pictured with Christine Astbury-Egger, Dr Andrew Hirst (Principal) and Charlie Egger. 8. Rosie Mercer (past teacher) and Year 8 student, Phoebe Russell helping in the Hospitality tent.

## REUNIONS 2020

### MAKE A DATE WITH YOUR CLASSMATES

#### 10 YEAR REUNION - CLASS OF 2010

Date to be advised

##### Enquiries

Laura Doeven  
laurafdoeven@gmail.com

Conrad Hamill  
conradhamill1992@gmail.com

#### 20 YEAR REUNION - CLASS OF 2000

Date to be advised

##### Enquiries

Louise Patterson (Crawford)  
0438 740 212

Charles (Bartie) Blackwell  
0418 336 792

#### 30 YEAR REUNION - CLASS OF 1990

Saturday 22 August

##### Enquiries

Dion Love  
dionlove@me.com

Kristie O'Loughlin (Harvey)  
kristievinny@bigpond.com

#### 40 YEAR REUNION - CLASS OF 1980

Date to be advised

##### Enquiries

Susan Bell (Campbell)  
0438 229 444

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK

'Like' our Old Collegians Facebook page  
@TheHamiltonandAlexandraCollege

## WE'RE TURNING 150... IN 2022



### CONFIDENT FUTURES SINCE 1872

Planning for our Sesquicentenary in 2022 has already started. How exciting! We are working hard to build our archival collection leading up to the celebrations.

#### Do you have any photos or memorabilia to donate?

If so we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Alana Brown on

abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au or 03 5572 1355





THE  
**HAMILTON**  
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

CONFIDENT FUTURES

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