

THE IVY & THE TOWER

A PUBLICATION OF THE HAMILTON AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE NO 80 JUNE 2023





Kristen Waldron

THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY WARMLY WELCOMES MR MICHAEL HORNE

Kristen Waldron, Deputy Principal Wellbeing

It is wonderful to welcome Mr Michael Horne to The Hamilton and Alexandra College. In the short time since he started as our new Principal at the beginning of Term Two, Michael has clearly articulated his vision for the College. It focuses on teaching and learning at the heart of all we do. As we enter a phase of fresh opportunities and renewed vision, I personally, am very excited about the future that lies ahead for the College community.

I had the privilege to work in the role of Acting Principal for six months prior to Michael starting. There is no doubt that it is both a challenging and rewarding position. One of the most rewarding aspects of the role was seeing the breadth of offerings available to all of our students from ELC through to Year 12, from academic programs to an extensive program of co-curricular activities. It was wonderful to work closely with students – as well as their parents and the wider community – as they engaged in the College learning environment to expand their skills and interests.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedicated work of our staff. The critical work they do each day to support our students is truly remarkable. From teachers to administration staff, everyone is committed to ensuring that our students have the best possible educational experience. Seeing this dedication close up was a humbling experience, and I was grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such an amazing group of professionals.

I am now transitioning back into the role of Deputy Principal Wellbeing. This critical role focuses on the emotional and social wellbeing of our students, the area of education that I am most passionate about. Being back in the wellbeing space, I am reminded of the many challenges that our young people face today.

The school community is committed to supporting our students through the challenges and ensuring that they have the resources they need to learn and thrive. As well as an incredible pastoral care program, we also rely on our student leaders to

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THE KANTOR FAMILY MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (MPAC)



This stunning facility is available for the community hire.

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Front cover photo: The Hamilton and Alexandra College's 39th Principal Michael Horne, along with Reverend David Fortheringham, is welcomed by Junior School students waving flags at the conclusion of the Commissioning Service

Photography: Alana Brown, Chris Doheny and Ashley Quinsey

The Hamilton and Alexandra College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land where our College proudly stands, the Gunditjmara People. We honour Elders past, present and future in recognition of their strength and resilience we commit to building a brighter future together.



Kristen Waldron with her parents Helen and Jack Waldron on Speech Day

support their peers by modelling positive behaviours and leading activities that promote empathy and understanding to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

I am also reminded of the incredible resilience and strength that our young people possess – qualities that they will need to lean on in their adult years.

By working together as a school community, we can help our students achieve their confident future and I feel honoured to be a part of that journey.

I feel tremendously positive about the future of the College as, together, we create the first chapter in its next 150 years of history under Michael's leadership.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Michael Horne

TAKING STOCK

I am delighted to share my first *The Ivy and the Tower* reflections with the school's active and interested network of Old Collegians and other members of the wider College community. This publication was one of the first ways in which I began to know the school better, having last year quietly asked a friend who is an Old Collegian if she had any back copies that I might borrow.

Now, safely moved to Hamilton and installed at the school, it is clear that the warmth of the publication was an accurate reflection of the warmth of the College community and of the wider Hamilton area. Indeed, one of the very first welcomes I received was from a Year 8 boy in the Boarding House as boarders returned on the afternoon before the start of term. He thrust out his hand and said, "G'day Mr Horne, welcome to Hamilton." I knew I was in the right place.

The course of this term has been enlivened with all of the usual busyness of an active and engaged school – sport, music, drama, camps, excursions, house competition – and in the midst of this my main aim has been to meet as many of our wonderful students, staff and parents as possible and to begin to get a sense of The Hamilton and Alexandra College.

Schools are often places of great tradition. The rhythms of the school year encourage and reinforce cyclical rituals which give rise to each school's particular emphasis and culture.

I have come quickly to learn that among the traditions and culture of The Hamilton and Alexandra College is that our students apply themselves thoughtfully and diligently to their academic work, that they have access to and throw themselves into a wide range of sporting, outdoor, and cultural activities, and that the College is a central connection point for the broader community.

In these things, it could be said that The Hamilton and Alexandra College is a traditional school. And that is not a term that I necessarily take issue with. Things that the best traditional schools did best – engaging students in a life of the mind, creating relationships within classes of rich discussion and debate and then extending those relationships on the hockey field or by the campfire – are the very things that are now reappearing under the guise of a modern, student-focussed education. The best traditional schools have always known the value of these approaches.

And yet, part of this school's tradition is one of innovation and change. Throughout its history, and the histories of its constituent schools Hamilton College and Alexandra College, the school has – both through desire and sometimes through necessity – sought to be at the forefront of educational thinking and action.

So, yes, tradition, but tradition that includes a long history of innovation. Great schools are not great because of the things they have accomplished in the past, nor because of the ways in which they used to work.

It is incumbent upon us as the custodians of this history to preserve and cultivate the many great things bequeathed by our past, but always with a view to how we can be better, more excellent, more innovative, smarter, more caring – for the good of the current students and looking to a confident future over the next 150 years and beyond.

Already I see the eagerness of our students to do well, and to learn. I have seen this in students looking to farming or agribusiness as a career, as much as in those looking to the law or medicine. The students of today's The Hamilton and Alexandra College are engaged, fun, thoughtful and kind. While there will be changes that come with any change of Principal, one of my chief jobs is to not change those characteristics of our students. They continue to be superb ambassadors for the school and for regional independent education more broadly.

This edition of *The Ivy and the Tower* again carries wonderful examples of student endeavour and achievement. Our students, and the College, are the beneficiaries of the groups connected with the school that provide ongoing generous and enthusiastic support: the Old Collegians' Association, the College Foundation and the Parents' and Friends'. I have been happily amazed by the strength and vigour of each of these groups and their shared focus on working towards the best outcomes and opportunities for our students.

I hope that as I continue to come to understand and to connect more fully with the whole College community, that you will likewise continue to seek ways to connect with what will always be *your* school.





NEW PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONING

Extracts from the speech given by Rosie Merrin, Chair of the Board of The Hamilton and Alexandra College, at the Service of Commissioning for Principal Michael Horne held on 22 May 2023.

...

As Chair of the College Board it is my honour and privilege to officially welcome Mr Michael Horne who has been commissioned into office as Principal of The Hamilton and Alexandra College. On behalf of the entire school community, I extend a warm welcome to Michael, to his wife Gemma Ridgway-Faye, and to their sons Henry and Theo.

...

I'd like to share with you something of the highly regarded school leader [the Board] came to know through a rigorous interview process – and to tell you why it is the unanimous view of the Board that we have the right leader to move with confidence into a new era of education at The Hamilton and Alexandra College.

...

We read with interest the CV of Mr Michael Horne. As Associate Principal at Braemar College in the Macedon Ranges, a school of some 1100 students which is known for its community connections, distinctly regional character, and strength in academic outcomes for students, his application had our attention. In addition to a long list of school leadership credentials, we noted that Michael is an established writer and public speaker - for students in his specialty field of English, and for members of the teaching profession.

Students here today, particularly those in Mr Horne's literature class, may be interested to know that that he began his university life studying Applied Physics. Just as many of our students will adapt and change direction in their studies and careers, so did Michael with his decision to pursue a Bachelor of Arts with Honours majoring in history and philosophy. A Graduate Diploma of Education and a Master of Education followed. A more recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Michael continues to study as he undertakes a Doctor of Education through the University of Melbourne - the field of his research demonstrating his commitment to fostering excellence in teaching practice.

We welcome Michael as the leader of our learning community – someone who is the embodiment of a lifelong learner. We appreciate the seriousness with which he believes in the importance of student learning from the early years through to Year 12. We commend his desire to see students seizing the opportunities given to them at school and striving for achievement, no matter where a student may sit in terms of ability or subject interest. We value his understanding of how a culture of academic focus benefits all students and staff in a school; and of the role our program of teaching and learning must play in preparing each student for their own particular future.

...

With such impressive academic credentials to his name, members of the Board were braced to meet a rather serious character. Yet in our first meeting, Michael told us with a smile, that he likes to play the banjo. And so began a conversation with Michael the guitarist [with a] passion for music.

...



1. Principal Michael Horne, Reverend David Fortheringham and Board Chair Rosie Merrin are greeted after the service by Junior School students waving flags
2. Principal Michael Horne with Pheobe Giles (Stewart 1998), Charlie Giles (Prep) and Rob Stewart OAM (1956), representing five generations of Collegians
3. Reverend David Fortheringham (Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania) with Principal Michael Horne

For Michael, to lead a regional school is a deliberate choice as, in his words,

"It is impossible for a regional school to be isolated or removed from its community; they are deeply connected with the families, businesses and organisations around them. The head of such a school must understand that they embody the institution, whether that be from behind the assembly lectern, at the side of the community cricket ground, or in line at the supermarket. I genuinely love running into students outside of school, with their families or in their part-time jobs. To me it is one of the great joys of leading within a close community – seeing and knowing the round, full, life of each student and their family histories."

This desire to see and know each student speaks to another great strength of our school. To all the students who have expressed astonishment that he *already* knows your name, know that your Principal cares to know a great deal more about you. That he will take an interest in each one of you as you progress through school and beyond. And to our boarders, who are at the heart of our school, as you live away from your own families, you can look forward to getting to know Mr Horne and his family in one of the best ways possible - as they regularly join you for dinner in the Boarding House.

As someone who has found lifelong enjoyment in sailing, hiking, and cycling, we hope Michael will thrive leading a school so perfectly situated for outdoor adventure. A few weeks from now, our Principal will take part in the Serra Terror, a 72 km endurance hike in the Grampians, a challenge he has enthusiastically accepted alongside a number of students and members of staff.

...

And, when he is not exploring our region, we value Michael's willingness and intention to engage internationally. Some of our international families will have the opportunity to meet our new Principal when he travels to mainland China and Hong Kong at the end of this term. Having previously led a number of school trips and travelled extensively, Michael is well equipped to lead the College as we reconnect and forge new relationships overseas.

...

Today is a day of great celebration and optimism at The Hamilton and Alexandra College. It is a day in which we take pride, in who we are, and who we can become. To Principal Michael Horne I extend our support to you as you take up the challenge of leadership ... We trust that our lives and yours will be enriched by your leadership as we strive to learn and grow together.

Please join me in welcoming The Hamilton and Alexandra College Principal, Mr Michael Horne.



2022 VCE ACHIEVERS

Louise Manifold, Careers Practitioner

The Class of 2022 will connect to the industries and communities of the future. They will access continuous learning opportunities. They will seek to understand sustainable thinking and commit to being global citizens. It will be exciting to watch our newest alumni realise their long-term goals and follow their confident futures.

Despite the many challenges of the past two years combined with negotiating a return to classroom learning, the demands of study and planning for life after school, the Class of 2022 demonstrated a clear determination to achieve their goals.

These students will be entering a world rich with opportunities and new challenges. Their decisions about courses and training were based on their strong interest in an area of study and the skills required. As the demand for vocational education grows, future employment options and securing work in their area of interest were also strong considerations.

Knowing how competitive entry to higher education, apprenticeships and traineeships is, our students comprehensively researched their options and prospects. They trialled work placements and researched industries before making decisions; they applied for early entry options to increase acceptance into highly competitive courses and applied widely across states and institutions; they submitted detailed supplementary information with responses that emphasised their community involvement and soft skills; they attended interviews; and they completed detailed questionnaires.

These efforts paid off, with a high percentage of our students receiving their first preference to institutions, early entry offers and multiple offers from interstate institutions. This has allowed them to choose the best 'fit' and course option for them.

FAST FACTS:

100%
achieved
their VCE

80
was the
median
ATAR

50%+ received early Tertiary Entry Offers

33% achieved an ATAR above 85

23% are studying double degrees

64% are undertaking a degree in STEM

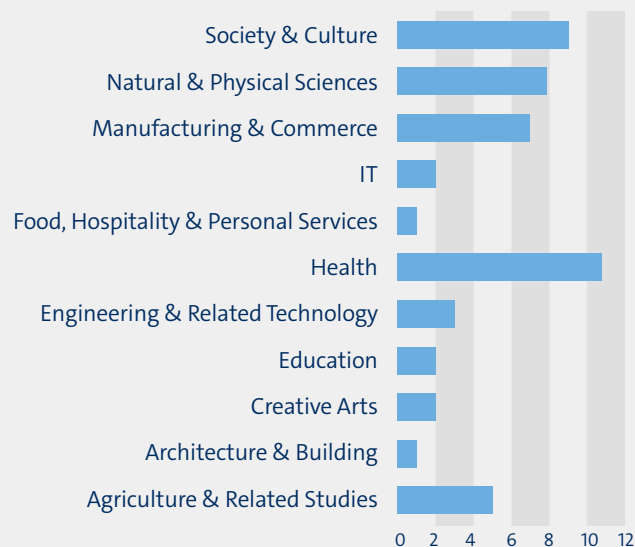


1 student has entered the Australian Defence Force

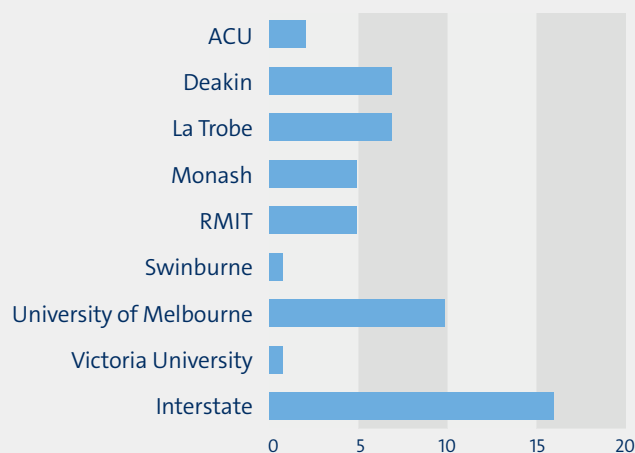


4 students have pursued vocational education including apprenticeships and cadetships

AREAS OF INTEREST:



INSTITUTIONS:





Back: Dux Jack Lewis, Proxima Accessit Lachlan Tonissen, Fraser Diprose and Ned Walker *Front:* Rosie Dopheide and Jorja Hermon at Myrniong.

These six students from the Class of 2022 started their College journey at the Early Learning Centre. Each is following a very different and interesting pathway: Jack will study Engineering; Lachlan is studying Science majoring in Biomedicine; Fraser is working at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and will study Science next year; Ned is studying Science with ambitions to major in Mathematical Physics; Rosie is studying a Bachelor of Interior Design (Honours) at RMIT; and Jorja was accepted into Transit Dance, Melbourne to study their two-year Pre-Professional Program in Performing Arts. We wish these students all the very best as they pursue their confident futures.

1. Dux Jack Lewis with his parents Kristabel (Schinkel 1991) and David
2. Mark Brian OAM (past Board Chair), Rosie Mercer (past staff member and parent), Berry House Captains Margo Hocking and Will Merrin, and Rosie Merrin (Board Chair)
3. Proxima Accessit Lachlan Tonissen with his parents Tanya (Ford 1993) and Matthew

ANNUAL SCHOLARS ASSEMBLY

Dr Jessica Barnes (2012), BMedSc MD



Dr Jessica Barnes was the guest speaker at this year's Scholars Assembly. Jess was Learmonth Captain in her final year at College and was a determined and passionate student. Jess has completed BA Medical Science and Doctorate of Medicine and is currently working in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Adelaide.

Jess' career pathway has not been straightforward and she has worked incredibly hard for everything she has achieved. Through her seven years of study, she has worked with many amazing people in different locations, including the Emergency Department and the Royal Flying Doctors in Broken Hill, the surgical team in Alice Springs and delivering babies and caring for women in Zambia, Africa. In the coming years, Jess plans to embark on speciality training which involves a further six years of study specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology. Jess's work ethic is a true inspiration.

"I'm so grateful to have had a crowd of people who backed me. Thank you Mrs Manifold and my parents. I love getting up every day to go to work."

Jess spoke to the Senior School students and staff about the four lessons she has learnt along the way as she remained committed to her medical goal:

- 1 **You don't need to reinvent the wheel** Learn from others, do your research and ask questions.
- 2 **Back yourself and your friends** You get in life what you have the courage to ask for.
- 3 **Don't lose your mojo** Work out what makes you 'you' and don't lose sight of it. If you are happy, you are successful.
- 4 **Nothing good is ever easy.** My mum has always said, *Life is about choices, and choices come with sacrifices, but sacrifices always come with rewards.*

"My final piece of advice is, if anyone tells you that you can't do something, do it twice and take pics."

COLLEGE FOUNDATION

CELEBRATION AND APPRECIATION EVENING



Michael Horne speaking at event at the end of his first week in the role

Foundation President Penny Adamson (Satchell 1988) warmly welcomed members of the College Foundation and community to enjoy an evening of fine wine, delicious food and honouring key College supporters on Friday 28 April.

Tonight is an evening to say thank you and celebrate our success, acknowledge significant donations of time and money, and, most importantly, share with you our excitement as we plan for the next 150 years.

Established in 1992, the Foundation's mission is to honour the past and secure the future of The Hamilton and Alexandra College, enhancing a culture of giving and raising funds by implementing strategic philanthropic initiatives to provide the best opportunities for all students.

The Foundation Board is passionate about the vital role that the College plays in supporting the growth and economic development of the region. We are keenly aware of the benefits that an independent school brings to the wider Hamilton community, including attracting professionals to the area.

Our school has a fascinating 150-year history and a long-standing record of academic excellence. The foresight and energy of past generations has enabled us to establish spectacular grounds and buildings for our children and future generations to flourish.

We have also had significant contributions towards seating, equipment, historic building maintenance, front entrances, awards and scholarships. Many people in the room tonight have generously assisted with contributions of time and money.

The result is an outstanding school which encompasses a welcoming and vibrant community which everyone in this room has helped create. For that, we sincerely thank you. As a board, we feel that this is our true measure of success.

As we plan for the next 150 years, our initial focus is raising funds for equity scholarships, called Tower Scholarships. Last year we launched the 150 Club which raises funds for our Tower Scholarships and we are delighted that we will have two incredible students join our College community next year as a result of this initiative.

College has conducted many major capital appeals over the past 20 years. Some of the biggest building projects include:



2005
Helen Handbury
Science Centre



2008
Geoff Handbury
Sports Centre



2012
The Kantor Family
Music and
Performing Arts
Centre



2014
Middle Years
Positive Education
Centre



2016
Neil MacLean
Hockey Field



2018
Year 12 Boarding
House precinct

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE 150 CLUB.

Your support can dramatically impact not only our school but also the local area and its future generations. *See page 13*



GOLD LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The College Foundation is excited to introduce these new awards which celebrate significant contributions of time and money to support College. The inaugural round of awards were presented at the Foundation's inaugural Celebration and Appreciation evening held in April, with 15 awardees recognised on the night.

The Foundation Board sincerely thanks each award recipient for their generous support of the College Foundation and our incredible school.

Mrs Eve Kantor and Mr Mark Wootton (past parents of the College) for their significant philanthropic support for building and scholarships. The Kantor family's passion for music and sharing this with the community lives on in The Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre.

Mr Ed Shann for establishing the Dr Frank Shann Memorial Scholarship which provides two 50% scholarships. Dr Frank Shann became Principal of the Hamilton & Western District College in 1944 and education has always been a priority for the Shann family.

Mr Michael Kerr for establishing the Kay Kerr Scholarship, a substantial ongoing commitment which enables us to attract future scholars to our incredible school.

Mr Michael and Mrs Cheryl Steele for their significant support for building works at the school. Bamstone paving can be found in a number of places around the Senior School, including at the College's stately front entrance.

Mr Stephen Newton AO, Mr Mark Brian OAM and Mr Richard Walter for their foresight and commitment in establishing the Foundation back in 1992. What an outstanding difference this has made to the College community and will continue to do so into the future.

Mrs Jen and Mr Tim Hutton for their generous and ongoing support through our events and fundraising, and specifically Jen's significant contribution over 17 years during her time as Director of Marketing and Community Relations when she was known as 'the face and energy of the school'. They are true friends of the College.

Mr Hugh Macdonald (Foundation Board member for over 20 years) for being an active leader for growth at College. Hugh's mother, Anita, was also extensively involved in fundraising to extend the original boarding facilities. The girls' Boarding House is aptly named Macdonald House.

Mr Marcus and Mrs Julia Winter Cooke for their family's 49 cumulative years of association with the College. Marcus, an Old Collegian (Prep to Year 12), is a founding member of the Foundation Board, achieving over 30 years of service. Julia taught at College for over 35 years and made a significant impact on students and families.

Mrs Rosie Mercer for her outstanding impact on the College, both as a teacher and as a community builder. Any function or fundraiser of flair and impact, Rosie has been involved.

Mr Peter and Mrs Ann Scott for their significant contribution to our Junior and Senior Schools. Ann was Principal and a passionate teacher, and her community engagement and inclusion was her strongest asset. Peter made a considerable impact to the College sporting program and gave years of dedicated service. They continue to make a significant ongoing impact through annual awards.

Mr Neil MacLean (staff member for 43 years and is now the School Historian) for the immeasurable contribution he has made, and continues to make, to the school and the community. We simply cannot imagine College without Neil and we thank him.

Awarded posthumously

Mr Geoff Handbury and Mrs Helen Handbury for their generous support for major building works, advocating for positive education frameworks in the middle years and ultimately creating a sense of pride for staff and students. The impact from Geoff and Helen's generosity is immense and we thank them sincerely.

Mr Bob Henderson for his significant philanthropic support for buildings, inspired by his love of music.

THEIR CONFIDENT FUTURES

MILLIE DAVIDSON (YEAR 12), 2023 Music Captain and Young House Captain A Confident Future in the Making

Millie's impressive achievements in music and performance were featured in an article published in the Weekly Times in June 2023. We asked Millie to tell us more about her hopes for the future and what music means to her.

"In my final year of secondary education, I am aiming to take on a University enhancement subject which will serve as a bridge into a Bachelor of Music undergraduate degree which I hope to study at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music in 2024. For my post-graduate degree, my dream is to study Medicine with a focus on Paediatrics. One of my current passions is mentoring and teaching music students; I really enjoy the complexities of helping children to learn and to bring out their best selves.

Music is a form of expression that allows me to communicate and connect with others in a unique and special way. It allows me to express my emotions, tell stories and evoke certain moods and feelings. It is a place I can go when life gets stressful or challenging or when I need to make big decisions. It leaves me feeling a sense of happiness, fulfilment and confidence."



SYMPHONY OF LOVE

THE Hamilton and Alexandra College year 12 house and music captain Millie Davidson formed a love of music from a young age and started playing viola when she was nine.

"I was first truly inspired by music and the possibilities when I was accepted as principal viola for the Queensland Youth Orchestra JSE," Millie says.

"It was my first experience playing in a large orchestra with a conductor in the city and from this moment on I fell in love with playing and performing."

She holds an Associate of Music Australia (AmusA), is a current member of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra-Flagship (3rd year) under a scholarship awarded to regional students by the EH Flack Trust, has played in the Melbourne Youth Orchestra PGYO ensemble and volunteers as a tutor for the Melbourne Youth Junior Strings.

"I love experiencing the nerves, excitement, pride and sense of achievement when I perform, whether it be on The Hamilton and Alexandra College stage, at Hamer Hall, Sydney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne Recital Centre, Queensland Performing Arts or in the Community," Millie says.

Millie has played side by side with members from the Australian String Quartet, Flinders Quartet, Orchestra Victoria and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. For four years she has been a member of the John Noble Quartet Program, and played in the Ballarat Symphony and Port Fairy Music Festival Orchestra.

Courtesy of the Weekly Times

ANDREW HYSLOP (1998) A Confident Future in Aerospace

Andrew is working at European Space Agency in the Netherlands as an Attitude and Orbit Control Systems Engineer. He follows the design, building and operation of satellites from the perspective of their orientation systems, which tells a spacecraft which way to point.

Andrew has also worked on AEOLUS, a laser-sat that maps the wind all around the world; CHEOPS, a space telescope that characterises planets around other stars; and SENTINEL-6, a radar-sat that logs the rising of the oceans so we can watch the climate's suffering with sub-mm precision. He is currently working on the Comet Interceptor Mission, which will fly by a comet from outside our solar system travelling at up to 70 km/s (a 100 milligram grain from the Comet at that speed will destroy us).

We asked Andrew what made College special for him?

Firstly, the opportunities. We were the first group of students to be able to learn to fly an aircraft during school hours. Secondly, looking back now, I really appreciate the fact that teachers genuinely cared for the students. There was a personal touch that I perhaps took for granted. Mr Peck would get so excited about differential equations it was infectious (for me at least!); Mr Grigg always had the best student-personalised jokes; and Mrs Winter Cooke was passionate about history and told the stories in a captive way which still help me at pub trivia. And I will never forget 'SOHCAHTOA', the acronym Mr Grigg taught us to calculate the angles and lengths of a right-angle triangle. Believe it or not I use this acronym almost daily in relation to calculating angles between objects in space.



COLLEGE FOUNDATION

THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

A tax-deductible gift of education enables you to directly assist students and families who see the long-term benefits of prioritising quality education. We are working with local school principals to offer College opportunities to regional students who have the desire to achieve great success.

Supporting Tower Scholarships

Launched last year in the College's sesquicentenary year, the 150 Club raises funds that go towards our equity scholarships, called Tower Scholarships, which are dedicated to supporting students who could not otherwise afford to attend our great school. Each Tower Scholarship contributes to a student's education from Year 7 to Year 12, at \$90,000 per scholarship.

JOIN THE 150 CLUB

You are invited to make a difference

Our well-rounded, authentic and connected students leave school ready to succeed in their confident future. Let's work together to make this opportunity available to more aspiring young people from regional Australia.

Members of the 150 Club are invited to fund a minimum of one 'seat' at an investment of \$100 per month for 36 months. Contributions can be made annually or monthly and all donations are **tax-deductible**.

More than 60 'seats' have been allocated to date thanks to the generosity of our community members. These donations have already been allocated Tower Scholarships which will support two local students – each with very different ambitions, one to become

a doctor and the other a writer – to join the College in 2024. The two students have toured the school and were clear that this is where they can each achieve their aspirations.

Monthly donation - direct debits of \$100 each month

Please email abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au and forms will be sent to you

Annual Donation - \$1,200 per year for three years

Use this QR code to pay online or email abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au to make a bank transfer



NOTE FROM AN ANONYMOUS TOWER SCHOLARSHIP DONOR

Thanks to the generosity of this anonymous donor, three worthy students, who otherwise could not have attended our incredible school, will have access a College education. We thank you!

I was born in Australia to 10 Pound Poms.
We were very poor.

I remember being the only kid in school who wore shorts and sandals to school in winter.

I remember being the only kid who didn't get his lunch stolen because nobody wanted dry creamed honey crusts.

I remember being hungry, and the day that Mum was in the butchers and emptied her purse of mostly coppers onto the counter and, amidst her tears, asked him to give her what he could manage with our meagre offering. The butcher carefully put Mum's money back into her purse, slipping in a 5 pound note as he did so which we only found later, and filled her basket with chops, mince etc.

This was my first introduction to giving, I never forgot it and sought him out years later and thanked him.

Three other people made a huge difference to my life.

1. My best mate at school whose family protected me in a very rough suburb. They were also poor, but their charity to me was unconditional (as were his Mum's cuddles), given freely with no thought of payback. He is still my best mate.

2. My late wife's father taught me all about generosity. He lived it. He helped everyone he met who obviously needed it, no questions asked, and he helped us when we were in dire need.

3. My business partner was a major philanthropist. His philosophy was you can't take it with you, so why not donate it.

What I experienced is that individuals can make a real difference to other people's lives. I have adopted this as I have been able. I have found that donating that makes a huge difference to someone else's life is greatly satisfying.

If my story simply encourages someone to become a donor then I would be really chuffed. One of my rules of donating has always been that I must trust the principles of the foundation. I do trust Penny. Also it is really hard for nice people like Penny to ask the question, "Are you able to donate". Why not be proactive and put your hand up!

CELEBRATING OLD COLLEGIANS



Toby had the opportunity to lead the Year 6 school excursion to Canberra for four days as part of his teaching round at College

WORKING AT COLLEGE

Old Collegian Toby Hawthorne (2018) returned to his old stomping ground for his final teaching round in Term Two. In his last year of a Bachelor of Education at Flinders University in Adelaide, Toby lived on-site in the Boarding House while teaching Year 6.

Toby was Boarding House Captain in his final year at College and has really enjoyed joining the boarding community again.

“The students have been really welcoming and it is great to reconnect with the boarding staff that were there when I was at school. Also, the food is amazing. Truly, I have never eaten this well – they are very lucky kids!”

Toby says returning to a familiar location has reduced the level of stress and anticipation.

“Starting a new placement is always a little nerve-wracking. I’ve taught at several different schools over my four-year degree and, while each one provides a great experience, coming back to Myrniong has been really special.

“As a student at College, I always knew there was a high level of expectation on students, was led by example from the teachers. Working at the Junior School, I am seeing first-hand the amount of work that teachers put in to get the best out of each and every student.

“Being a part of a results driven team creates an environment where everyone wants to set a higher bar. Teaching at College has certainly expanded my thinking and I want to put more effort into my studies and the content I am delivering in the classroom. I feel privileged to see this school in action from the other side and be part of such a motivated team.”

We have a number of Old Collegians working at College and would love for more to join our incredible team of specialist teachers. If you are interested in making a move back to Hamilton, please contact us!

Join our incredible team!

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

We warmly congratulate the following Old Collegians.

Lieutenant Colonel Marcus William Doherty (c2000) - Australian Army

Military Honours, Conspicuous Service Medal for meritorious achievement as the Staff Officer Grade Three for Quantum Technology within Future Land Warfare Branch, Army Headquarters, and delivering Army's Quantum Technology Roadmap and driving innovation in emerging technology.

Marcus was a student at the Junior School.

Ingrid Mojica Perez (Nagorcka 2008)



Southern Grampians Shire Council Community Recognition Award for significant contributions to the local legal community. Ingrid has dedicated her career to assisting locals, particularly with Legal Aid and pro-bono work in the areas of Family Law, Criminal Law, Child Protection and Intervention Orders including Family Violence matters. She has made significant voluntary contributions as the Young Lawyer's Representative on the Western District Law Association Committee for a number of years and her dedication to assisting others is frequently commended by clients and her peers in the legal community.

CALLING ALL OLD COLLEGIANS

Did you study Science at university? Teaching? Design? Ag Science? Engineering? Arts? Medicine? Music? Law? Etc etc...

Are you a PR consultant? Psychologist? Banker? Pilot? Viticulturalist? Business owner? Paramedic? Event planner? HR manager? Entrepreneur? Etc etc...

What are you doing now? Which pathway have you taken? What has your experience been like?

MINI CAREERS EXPO

Tuesday 5 September, 6 - 8pm

College is hosting a careers evening for students in Years 10, 11 and 12, along with their parents/guardians, where they will have the opportunity to explore future choices and ask questions about what to expect at uni and on the job. We would love to have a wide variety of pathways on offer.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you are interested in talking to current students and are available on this date, **either in person or online**, please email abrown@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au.

We are planning more of these evenings so if you can't make this date, we encourage you to email your interest so that we can contact you for a future event.

Calling all
Old Collegians

PARENTS' AND FRIENDS'

Mandy Nagorcka (Mack 1996), President

This year has started at pace! Our dedicated P&F Executive Committee, with the support of parents and the school community, has hit the ground running, hosting BBQs at Junior and Senior School sporting events and co-ordinating the catering for the annual College Community Golf Day.

We continue to look for ways to provide assistance to the school and support new initiatives that benefit the students, our children.

ROWING BOAT TO HONOUR DR ANDREW HIRST

In acknowledgement of Dr Andrew Hirst's time as Principal and his passion for rowing at The Hamilton and Alexandra College, the P&F has donated \$20,000 towards a boat for the College Rowing Club. An official launch will be held at the commencement of the rowing season in Term Four.

P&F FUNDRAISING FOCUS 2023 & 2024

We are passionate about supporting a new outdoor area near the Middle Years Positive Education Centre. This exciting project will provide an outdoor area where Middle Years students can interact and congregate in a space specifically designed to optimise their physical and mental wellbeing and will benefit students now and into the future. Planning that involves students, staff and parents is underway as part of an overall landscape masterplan being developed by the College.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

This initiative has proved to be an important resource for families and we are delighted to advise that it is now a permanent fixture. Families can sell or donate uniform items throughout the year.

WE NEED YOU!

We are always looking for fresh faces and more helping hands. Come and join in the fun and feel good about supporting our children at the same time. There are so many different ways you can get involved, from our now-famous Christmas cakes production and second-hand uniform pop-up to BBQs at school events, and so many more.



Penny Fraser (Fyfe 1991), Kate Pye and Stacey Balkin serving refreshments on the 9th hole at this year's College Community Golf Day

MORE FOOD WITH FRIENDS

Final copies of this beautiful cookbook are available. All recipes have been submitted by parents and friends of the College community and it is sure to become your weekly go-to.

To purchase a copy for yourself or as a gift, use the QR code here or email paf@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au



Save the Date

OPEN GARDEN EVENT

Sunday 29 October 2023

The P&F is very excited to be hosting this special event which features two wonderful gardens. All monies raised will go towards the new Middle Years outdoor space. Pop the date in your calendar now.

Buses will be running and College musicians will be performing at both venues throughout the day. Keep an eye out for more information. Tickets will be available soon.

Ardgartan, Grassdale

The property takes its name from Gaelic, meaning 'high garden' or 'corn on the hill'. Ardgartan is particularly special as it is one of only a handful of gardens that retain strong elements of Edna Walling's original ideas. More than 80 years have passed since Walling first visited the property and it is fascinating to see both the garden's plan and the mature reality.

Arrandoovong Homestead, Branhholme

Dating back to the 1850s, the gardens are dominated by giant English oaks and a permanent stream which is an idyllic setting for a picturesque walk. This property has a wealth of history, from when it had a golf course in the 1930s to hosting the Branhholme races on its racecourse for many years.



1. Ardgartan - photo acknowledgment - Country Style 2. Arrandoovong Homestead

Defying the Odds

150 YEARS OF THE HAMILTON AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

Written by School Historian, Mr Neil MacLean, this history book was launched last year as part of the school's sesquicentennial celebrations. It is a wonderful read and a strong reminder of the importance of our connected community which has ensured our incredible school has remained opened through challenging periods over its 150-year history.

To purchase your copy use the QR code here.



COMMUNITY NEWS



1. Jessica Pilgrim and Tyson Dickinson
2. Regan Luhrs and Daniel Tregaele



BIRTHS

AMENDMENT TO THE LAST EDITION: [CROZIER: ANDREW \(2005\)](#) and **Melissa**, a son Jed David on 18 May 2022, a brother for Harvey

[HYSLOP: ANDREW \(1998\)](#) and Eliane Lucassen, a son Avi Lucas Christian on 3 March 2023, a brother for Quint

[OKELY: ANNABEL GRIGG \(2006\)](#) and Simon Okely, a son Clarence (Clancy) Mac on 1 December 2022

[HEARN: ALISTAIR \(2014\)](#) and Miki, a daughter Willow Rose on 24 March 2023

AMOS: SOPHIE ROSS (staff member) and Blake Amos, a daughter Chloe Grace on 6 Feb 2023

WEDDINGS

[REGAN LUHRS \(2003\)](#) and Daniel Tregaele on 27 January 2023

[JESSICA PILGRIM \(2013\)](#) and Tyson Dickinson on 29 October 2022

DEATHS

[BARBARA DOHLE \(SIMPSON 1941\)](#) on 20 May 2023

[ROGER HOLCOMBE \(1950\)](#) on 26 January 2023

[CHARLOTTE HENDERSON \(PALMER C1955\)](#) on 18 July 2022

[WALLACE \(WALLY\) KOCH \(1958\)](#) on 14 April 2023 – Wally was also an MOB in the Boarding House 1989 to 1998

[ROBERT MENZEL \(1970\)](#) on 7 January 2023

[REGINALD DUMESNY \(1974\)](#) on 22 January 2023

[SHEILA BRAMALL](#) on 7 December 2022 – Sheila was a Boarding House Matron

[DAVID KENNETT](#) on 1 April 2023 – David was a Matriculation Chemistry teacher 1964 to 1965

[DANNY RICHARDS](#) on 19 April 2023 – Danny was an Art teacher 1969 to 1972



Sam O'Shannessy at the Year 12 Retreat in 2019

[SAM O'SHANNESSY \(2019\)](#) on 13 May 2023

The flags at College stood at half-mast as a mark of silent respect and grief at the news of the passing of a much-loved Old Collegian who was the son of a much-loved member of staff. Staff have remembered Sam as a vivacious, cheeky and kind young man who was a natural leader of others and who enjoyed life. Students who knew him remembered him likewise and as a light to those who looked up to him, of whom there were many. The College's deepest sympathies are with Fi and Marc and their extended family and friends.

Written by Principal Michael Horne, May 2023

COLLEGE COMMUNITY EVENTS

WELCOME DRINKS

The annual Welcome Drinks for parents hosted by the College is a wonderful opportunity for old friends to reconnect after the summer holidays and for parents who are new to the school to meet other families. We were delighted to welcome our new Principal Mr Michael Horne to join the College community for a lovely evening on the Tower Lawns before his official start date in Term Two.

ANZAC SERVICE

This year's guest speaker, School Historian Mr Neil MacLean, shared stories about Old Collegians who lost their lives serving overseas.

It was a humbling reminder of the sacrifice made for future generations. Mr Matthew Barber, parent of Archie and Annie in the Junior School, led the Ode in front of the Memorial Garden. Matthew's Great Uncle Private Robert Arthur Eliot Carter

COLLEGE COMMUNITY GOLF DAY

The annual College Community Golf Day is always a special event in the College's social calendar. The sun was shining over the stunning Grampians Golf Club and all players, whether they had their eye on a trophy or not, enjoyed a social walk around the greens, dodging the kangaroos and emus. A wonderful mix of Old Collegians, past parents, current parents and friends of College won trophies on the day. The Osmond family has a target on their back next year after winning the Scratch event multiple years in a row.

Thank you to the incredible team of organisers – Jen Hutton (past staff and parent), Jen Crawford (past parent), Kate Pye (current parent) and Penny Fraser (OC 1991 and current parent). Also a huge thank you to the generous local businesses that support this event with trophies and raffle prizes, it is greatly appreciated!



1. Parents Michael McVeigh and Scott Shrive 2. Parents Sarah Whinney, Alison Brown, Jane Young (Templeton 1997) and Sardi Edgar 3. Parents Trish Gray, Warrick Bottrall, Jac Sampson and Brigita Keiller (who is also a Year 5 teacher) 4. Junior School Captains Arshita Woosantia and Yolanda O'Sullivan with parent and ex-service person Mardi Johns at the Junior School ANZAC Service 5. School Captains Grace Macpherson and Rufaro Makore lead guests and the school community to Memorial Garden for the Senior School ANZAC Service 6. The Osmond family team, Will 1998, Tom 2007, Peter (past parent) and George 2001 7. Jen Crawford (past parent), Jen Hutton (past staff and parent) and Principal Michael Horne 8. Sisters Louise Patterson (Crawford 2000) and Helen Wilken (Crawford 2003)

2023 REUNIONS *Spread the word!*

10 Year Reunion (Class of 2013) Saturday 7 October

20 Year Reunion (Class of 2003) Saturday 14 October

30 Year Reunion (Class of 1993) Saturday 21 October

40 Years + Reunion (Class of 1983 + pre-1983) Friday 24 November (lunch)

The Classes of 2013, 2003 and 1993 will start with a tour of the Senior School at 4pm followed by drinks in the Tower Building from 5pm. For the Class of 1983 (and before) Reunion, we will be hosting a lunch in the Tim Murray Room in The Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre starting at 12 noon.

Keep an eye on our socials for more information soon. If you have any questions please contact communityrelations@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au



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