

# CapeStreet

OLMC Semester News



Student leaders set  
the agenda

Accolades for  
the actors



JULY 2019

# RITES OF PASSAGE YEAR 7

## HIGHLIGHTS

SRC Captains, Jess Boek and Gemma Angerosa, share some highlights, challenges and lessons learned by the Year 7 cohort:

- Learning how to use SIMON
- Trying out for GSV teams
- Learning our school song, Duce Maria
- Getting our Bunsen Burner Licence
- Going on camp to Phillip Island
- The Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser
- Dare 2 Donate - Ms Boemo as a rainbow was the best!
- House Carnivals and Matball
- Clean up Heidelberg Day
- Getting chocolate croissants and orange juice from Leo's before school
- Realising that sprinting to the train station every afternoon to catch the early train isn't actually necessary
- Making amazing new friends and learning new things.



**Our Year 7 students have had a big start to the year. Several have put pen to paper to describe some of the ‘best bits’!**

## OUR PHILLIP ISLAND ADVENTURE

On Wednesday 5 June, all Year 7 students hopped on buses headed to camp at Phillip Island Adventure Resort. Once we arrived, we split off into our groups and got right into all the fun activities. These included canoeing, a giant swing, the flying fox, high ropes, bushman's breakfast, initiative course, raft making, team rescue, ball games and archery.

After a delicious dinner, there was a disco with lots of bright lights and loud music. Everyone was singing and dancing and some of the teachers even dressed up – it was so funny! Those who didn't like the chaos of the disco could go into another room and quietly play board games.

The next day was incredibly busy as we split off into our groups to do more activities. We then had an early dinner before we headed off to see the penguin parade! The penguins waddled onto the beach in groups, made funny little noises and were so adorable.

We woke up on our last day of camp, tired, but sad to go. Everyone loved the camp, had so much fun and made some amazing memories. Thank you to Ms Boemo and all of the Pastoral Leaders for their hard work in organising this camp for us.

**Julia Sensi and Emily Underwood – 7AAP**

## BIGGEST MORNING TEA (AT LUNCHTIME!)

The 2019 Biggest Morning Tea was held on 21 May during lunchtime. Every Year 7 was involved by organising, baking or selling sweet treats to the students and staff of OLMC. They were spoilt for choice – honey joys, rocky road, cupcakes, scones and cakes.

In total, an amazing \$1330.90 was raised for the Cancer Council in just 45 minutes!

This year, the leftover food was donated to St Pius X Primary School in Heidelberg. Children attending the after school program that afternoon were the lucky ones. This was a good choice because no food went to waste and we could include our wider community in the day.

It was a fun and rewarding experience to bake something and watch people enjoy it. We were especially pleased that the money raised was going to such an important organisation.

**Bianca Bertuna, Therese Brown, Jacinta Cunsolo and Grace Johnston – 7AAP**

# RESERVED FOR THE PRINCIPAL



**‘I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.’ John 10:10**

We have chosen this scriptural quote as our theme for the year. We are challenging ourselves to be the best we can be and to find ways to live our lives to the full. In doing so, we honour our faith, each other and ourselves.

This quote has significance in our Mercy tradition and it is the first of the five pieces of scripture we chose to feature in our Chapel Garden. Over the coming years, we will make the other four scripture quotes our theme for the year. Each quote leads us to explore and understand the works of Mercy.

John 10:10 is a much-used quote and appears in many contexts and places, not always ones of faith. I often wonder why this particular piece of scripture resonates so much with people everywhere, regardless of their faith. Is it because it so powerfully and simply explains Jesus' presence? Is it because we all want a life that is full? Or is it because it gives us hope? I trust that it holds all of these meanings for the staff, students and parents of OLMC.

*When you take the chance to participate, you take the chance to shine, and when you do, you make it possible for others to shine.*

Student voice and leadership have been a strong focus of the work we have undertaken this year with our student leaders and our SRC. Our Year 12 Leadership Team developed five key goals for their work with the student body. They chose Empowerment, Mercifulness, the Environment, Participation and Justice as their key commitments to the other students and introduced these concepts at the first whole-school assembly in February. At the beginning of Term 2, the Year 12 leaders prepared and led our second whole-school assembly and chose

Participation as the driver of all other goals. The words above are taken from my speech to the students during this assembly. What I witnessed was our student leaders taking the chance to shine and creating an opportunity for others to shine just as brightly.

At this assembly, the leaders celebrated the significant achievements of students who have done amazing things within and beyond the College. They invited others from Years 7–11 to make presentations, showcasing their work to improve our environment, protest against the detention of refugees and asylum seekers, engage with the arts, and appear in the music production; *School of Rock*. I was so proud of every student who participated. I was proud that we have so many hardworking and committed students. I was proud of the care for the vulnerable and our environment. I was most proud that our students showed to others what it means to be courageous, joyful, compassionate and just. They demonstrated what it means to live our OLMC values and in doing so presented their peers with a way to live a full life. I encourage you to read more about this assembly in this edition of CapeStreet (pages 8–9).

The *School of Rock* was our M<sup>2</sup> senior production this year. This was another example of the way our students shine through participation. The students from OLMC and Marcellin College delivered wonderful performances. They are a truly talented group of students and the joy they had for what they were doing was evident to the audience in every performance. We congratulate them for all that they achieved and we thank their teachers and other support staff for the energy, expertise and commitment they devoted to this highly successful production.

The pages that follow are a snapshot of the ways in which OLMC students lived life fully, shining brightly for themselves and each other.

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

## TOP VCE GRADUATES ACKNOWLEDGED

At our first whole-school assembly in February, we formally celebrated with our 'top 10' VCE high achievers of the Class of 2018. Girls who had achieved the top score in each VCE subject were also acknowledged. Well done to the following graduates whose ATAR scores ranged from 96.80 to 99.70

- **Chavvi Khathuria (Dux)**
- **Madeleine Howe**
- **Maddison Seeley**
- **Jessica Saccasan**
- **Rebecca Mayall**
- **Aya Basam**
- **Olivia Marian**
- **Laura Gatto**
- **Rachel Yong**
- **Sarah Marian**



**Principal, Judith Weir, congratulated the girls on behalf of the College:**

*You are an inspiration for all of us. You are wonderful role models and encourage all of us to continue to work hard and achieve our goals. We are very privileged today to share in your joy and we wish you well as you move to the next exciting part of your lives – the next scene in the scripts of your lives.*

## PREMIER'S AWARD

Congratulations to Katia Lepore, who was awarded the Premier's Award for Psychology on 3 June. Katia's achievement in her exam and school-assessed coursework was the highest in the state, an exceptional achievement given that 16,375 students studied VCE Psychology in 2018. Katia's Psychology teacher, Erin Geary, paid tribute to Katia on behalf of the College:

*Katia is incredibly deserving of this honour, not only for the exceptional standard of her work, but for the way she approached her studies throughout the year. She focused on improving and practising her skills, dedicating time to understanding the content, and learning through feedback. Her enthusiasm and curiosity towards Psychology helped her to think in critical and creative ways and motivated her through the many hours of study and practice exams. We are very proud of Katia's achievements.*



## WISE WORDS

At the February assembly, our 2018 College Dux, Chavvi Khathuria, shared with current students some hard-earned wisdom about her VCE experiences. Chavvi achieved an ATAR of 99.70. She was eloquent in her advice to current students, extracts of which are reproduced here:

*I really learnt the importance of balance throughout Year 11 and implemented it in Year 12. I didn't say no to a party and attended every family gathering. I continued to learn and perform Indian classical dancing and definitely watched full seasons of Masterchef, MKR and questionable Indian soap operas. Most of all, I got involved in my schooling life and finally opened up to all the opportunities this wonderful school has always given me. I didn't sacrifice my work for all this. I just took some well-deserved breaks to keep myself sane.*

*... With time, this ATAR will lose significance, but what I become, the dreams I realise, the people I choose to be surrounded by, are what will matter in the end. In the words of Einstein, 'Not everything that can be counted counts (just like marks) and not everything that counts can be counted (just like the love and support of the people that surround you)'.*

Chavvi paid special tribute to her family and to her teachers – Ms Lewin, Ms Richards, Ms De Rosa, Ms Weterings, Mr Renkin, Mr De Ley and Mr Ives. Amongst many wonderfully supportive family members, she singled out her younger sister:

*She was my manager for self-control and tested me verbally on every subject. Trust me, the questions a 10-year-old asks can be more lethal than VCAA questions!*

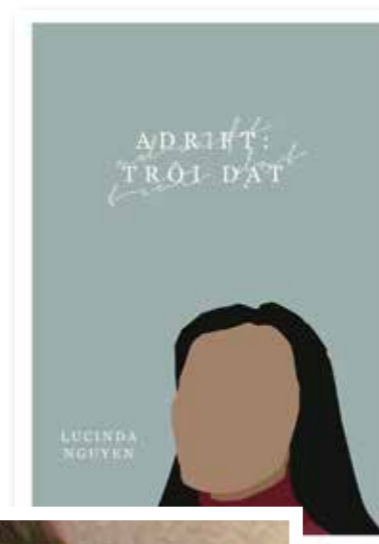


## TOP DESIGNS ACCOLADE

Congratulations to Lucinda Nguyen, whose media print product, *Adrift: Troi Dat*, was selected for the VCE Top Designs Exhibition at Melbourne Museum throughout March-July. Lucinda was one of only eight Victorian students whose work was selected for the 'Print Layout' category of awards.

Lucinda's teacher, Charlie Dyring, provided some background information on Lucinda and her award-winning publication:

*In VCE Media, students produce a media product of their choice – a film, photo series, animation or print product. The only rule is that the product must tell a narrative. The story that Lucinda chose to tell was about her mum; specifically, her mother's journey to Australia as an immigrant, escaping war-torn Vietnam to settling amongst a strange, unwelcoming culture. Lucinda told this story by combining hours of interviews with her own reflections, photos, graphic design, poetry and illustration. When it came to the media product itself, she was only required to produce eight pages, but instead chose to publish 72. So it is wonderful to see that Lucinda's hard work, and Luyen's incredible story, have been recognised. I am incredibly proud of her, as are all Lucinda's teachers and the College community.*





# JAPANESE LANGUAGE TOUR

Visits to Studio Ghibli, Tokyo Disneyland, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum, Seirei High School and Japan's famous cherry blossoms were all highly rated experiences for the 23 students and three teachers who participated in the 2019 Japan Study Tour.

The group departed in April for a three-week tour to explore Japan and spend time at OLMC's sister school, Seirei High School, in Akita City.

Our visit to Seirei was preceded by travelling for a week to many famous Japanese sights. We started off in bustling Tokyo, taking in the overwhelming size of the megalopolis and getting around on the amazing Tokyo train system. Of course, no visit to Tokyo would be complete without checking out the fashion and electronics districts, as well as being transported back into the fantasy worlds of Studio Ghibli and Tokyo Disneyland.

Next, the traditional cities of Kyoto and Nara offered us the opportunity to visit some of their many World Heritage temples and shrines. A day trip to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum was a particularly moving one. We spent considerable time there reflecting on world peace and harmony.

At Seirei High, our students attended daily Japanese lessons and participated in various activities such as a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, Japanese cooking, conversation exchange and excursions to sights in Akita. We were very lucky on our visit this year that it coincided with the peak of the beautiful cherry blossom season in this part of Japan.

Students also had the privilege of homestays with Japanese families. From observing the tears amongst OLMC students, Japanese host sisters and host-families at departure, it was clear that a special bond had formed in a short time. The strong bond that already exists between the sister schools has strengthened even further.

It was pleasing that our students were always willing to communicate in Japanese during their time at Seirei High, and likewise with their host families. They enthusiastically immersed themselves in 'all things Japanese' and it was a joy and privilege to be with them. The College looks forward to enabling a similar experience for another group of students in 2021.

**James Stavretis**  
Japanese Language Teacher and Tour Leader



# GEOLOGISTS & CARTOGRAPHERS AT WORK

## YEAR 8 FIELDTRIP TO THE ORGAN PIPES AND BLUE LAKE

Twenty kilometres north west of Melbourne, in a deep gorge in the Keilor Plains area, is an impressive rock formation called the Organ Pipes. Formed by cooling and cracking volcanic lava, the Organ Pipes look just as their name suggests, towering above the river below and resembling the magnificent pipes of organs found in the world's grandest cathedrals. Not too far away is the Plenty Gorge Parklands, home to Blue Lake. The parklands and Blue Lake itself offer a dramatic landscape of flora and fauna with significant cultural heritage values.

On one of two days in May, these were the destination of Year 8 students for a combined Science and Humanities fieldtrip. The intention was for students to take a multi-disciplinary view of the natural and human worlds of Melbourne.

At the Organ Pipes National Park, students observed first-hand the geomorphological forces that have worked to shape the physical environment we live in and enjoy today. This site was especially useful to see how Victoria's fiery volcanic past, as well as the unrelenting erosional force of Jackson Creek, have shaped the physical environment. The various basalt formations of the Organ Pipes tell a story of a past landscape which would have been strange and alien in comparison to the rolling grassy hills of Melbourne's West today.

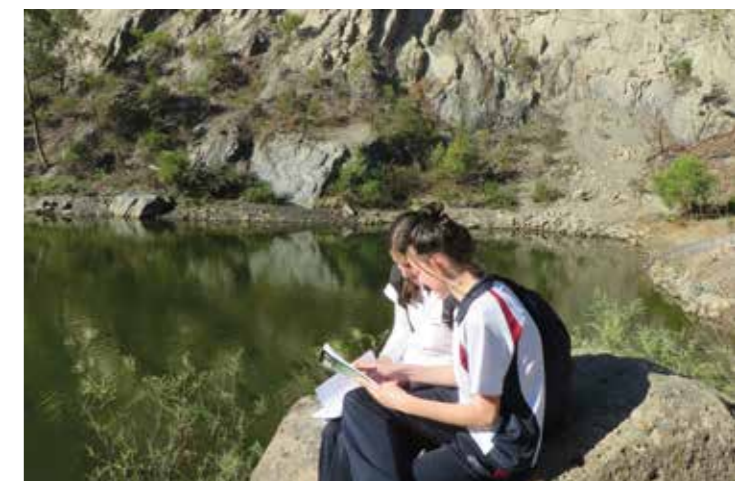
At Blue Lake, students made comparisons between the volcanic landscapes of the West and the depositional landscape of the Plenty Gorge Parklands. Evidence of the region's geological history was observed in the layers of sedimentary rock exposed by the action of Plenty River cutting down through the rock, as well the historic human mining activity. This site was particularly useful for observing the impact of human activity on landscapes, as evidenced by Blue Lake, a former quarry site used to excavate stone for the construction of buildings and other infrastructure.

These fieldtrips allowed students to witness first-hand the concepts covered in their classes. Observations of the human impact on landscapes and the shape of different landforms gave context to the topographic and cross-sectional mapping skills students were developing in their Humanities classrooms. Comparison of the different types of rocks at each location also gave students a point of reference when considering the rock cycle in their Science classrooms.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to witness some of the diverse landscapes on offer in Melbourne, and the opportunity to place into a real-world context the learnings they make in the classroom.

Some beautiful autumnal weather accompanied us, offering added impetus to embrace these dramatic landscapes and enjoy the outdoors for as long as we were able. They were highly successful fieldtrips which we will endeavour to replicate for our 2020 Year 8 Science and Humanities students.

**Cody Miller**  
Science Learning Leader



## OUR 2019 STUDENT LEADERS

**Congratulations to the following students who were elected by their peers, and endorsed by College staff, to fulfil key Year 12 leadership roles in 2019.**

<b>College Captains</b>	Alicia Ranasinghe Kate Keenan
<b>Faith and Justice Captains</b>	Jessica Berti Katia Lepore
<b>Arts Captains</b>	Jenny Le Isabella Gangi
<b>Communications Captain</b>	Olivia Jones
<b>Sport Captains</b>	Destinee Stubbs Taylor Radatti
<b>Carmel House Captains</b>	Sonia Havrila Georgia Agati
<b>Loreto House Captains</b>	Jaymee Allender Anais Gadsden
<b>McAuley House Captains</b>	Lauren Meloni Ellie Ryan
<b>Mercy House Captains</b>	Olivia Famularo Isabella Fini



### FOCUS ON GOALS AND ACTION

Our Student Leadership Team set the agenda for 2019 at two whole-school assemblies in Term 1.

#### Assembly 1 – February

At the February assembly, College Captains, Alicia Ranasinghe and Kate Keenan, presented students and staff with OLMC Action – Five Goals. Curated by the Student Leaders, the goals were inspired by the United Nations 17 Development Initiatives. Excerpts from the College Captains' speech in introducing the goals is reproduced here:

*We would like to share some goals that all of us can achieve together. They reflect what we wish to see within ourselves and our actions within the school. We want to make this community strong and united, and to do this we must take on a challenge. The goals are:*



#### EMPOWERMENT

*As women, we don't want you to feel limited by your identity, but embraced and strengthened by it ... Let's uplift each other and be proud of who we are and where we are going.*



#### GRATITUDE

*Keep in mind all the little things and the simple privileges we take for granted. This extends to focusing on addressing the importance of looking after ourselves and our mental wellbeing.*



#### PARTICIPATION

*The process of participation is one great big learning experience that ultimately allows us to grow and challenge ourselves. You have the opportunity to place your own contribution into our red brick walls, so make it count.*



#### MERCIFUL

*Being merciful is to show compassion, forgiveness and understanding in every act of life. Being merciful entails that we lead by example. The Keeper of the Light statue is a constant reminder of this, and can be seen at the very heart of our school.*



#### ENVIRONMENT

*We impact the environment more than we know. So, let's take care of the space we are so privileged to have.*

#### Assembly 2 – March

This assembly was led entirely by the Student Leadership Team. The five goals were revisited, though this time the primary focus was on the goal of Participation.

Representative students from Years 7–11 briefly shared some areas of passion and action that they were immersed in, both within and beyond the school, and several Year 7 girls reflected on what participation 'looked like' and meant for them throughout their first six weeks at OLMC. Each speaker concluded by placing a 'symbolic' brick on an enlarged version of the participation emblem, with this gesture intended to illustrate the power in their actions and the significance of their contributions.

#### College Captains, Alicia and Kate, wrapped up the assembly with these final words:

*We know we have said participation like a thousand times already. Thesaurus.com was a bit dry when we prepared this assembly. However, there is a lot more in today's theme that could be said and demonstrated.*

*Participating in the opportunities that surround you will allow you to feel like you are doing something – a reminder of your power. Do not allow others to devalue your actions because of your age, or make you feel like your actions are any less important than theirs. Continue to keep placing your bricks, not to build walls, Mr Trump, but to stand on your successes with pride.*

*And never lose sight of our collective power – the power in raising our voices and taking action in society as young people. As bright, capable students, we must keep working to better ourselves, to ultimately better the world.*

The College congratulates the Student Leadership Team for their exemplary and inspiring leadership throughout Semester 1. May they continue to lead by example and epitomise the goals of OLMC Action.



# REACHING OUT

## SWEET JUSTICE



A VCAL initiative targeting a College-wide love of chocolate saw the community come together throughout Lent to take action against injustice and poverty, and raise \$3500 for Project Compassion.

Sweet Justice, a 'slavery-free' chocolate campaign for Easter, was conceived in the VCAL room when students were inspired to take action against the injustice and exploitation of children on cocoa plantations in West Africa.

Through their research, students recognised the link between their campaign and Project Compassion – Caritas, Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. With the help of the Social Justice Team, the focus of Sweet Justice was broadened to also support the world's poor by helping to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

The campaign was run through a number of mediums, including posters around the grounds, public speaking presentations and an enticing competition for a chocolate-themed experience at the VCAL Café – THE 7TH LAB. The Pastoral Group who donated the most money to Project Compassion would win the competition.

To coincide with the chocolate competition, the students put together an Ethical Easter Raffle with a number of Fair Trade chocolates and Easter egg hampers sourced from local businesses in Heidelberg. Through all the fundraising efforts, \$3500 was raised for Project Compassion and the winning Pastoral (CRIV \$183.05) was rewarded with an amazing chocolate experience.

**Helen Hamblin**  
VCAL Coordinator

## ECO- JUSTICE



In response to the climate crisis we are facing, and in light of Pope Francis' call to 'care for our common home', a dynamic group of students have banded together to create the OLMC Eco-Justice Group.

Meeting every Monday during lunch in the Roma Boardroom, they have discussed a number of pertinent issues around how they as individuals, and the wider college community, can work to reduce our carbon footprint, manage waste better (particularly single use plastics) and carefully consider the way our actions can affect the planet.

Students from this group were honoured to be invited to the Academy of Mary Immaculate at the end of Term 1, where they joined forces with the 'Earth at Academy' group and heard about the impressive initiatives this student-led group has put in place within their school. The day, led by Sally Neaves and OLMC alumni Juliet Talarico, provided students with a deeper understanding of the Mercy story and the importance that all Mercy ministries are placing on caring for creation.

Another group of students attended the Seeds of Justice student event in May. They took the opportunity to connect with students from Mercy schools across Victoria and learn more about these issues, as well as creating and sharing plans for action.

The Eco-Justice group has met with Ms Weir to discuss the implementation of their ideas, and are working alongside the Student Leadership Team to ensure that the College becomes a place that prioritises caring for our common home.

**Bernadette Hogan**  
Social Justice Coordinator



## SUPPORT FOR THE WEST HEIDELBERG HOUSING PROJECT

Dare 2 Donate – an annual fundraising event which has become a highly awaited fixture on the OLMC calendar – was a resounding success when held on 21 June. The Student Leadership Team chose the West Heidelberg Housing Project as the recipient of funds raised.

This Housing Project involves providing short- to mid-term accommodation for local homeless people in houses up for redevelopment. As an interim measure, the houses have been leased by the Exodus Community and their partners. The funds raised at OLMC are contributing to the furnishing of the houses, particularly essential electronics such as refrigerators and washing machines.

Dare 2 Donate raises funds by daring staff members to perform, dress up, or generally do something outrageous. Donations are collected in Pastoral Groups and at lunchtimes for weeks leading up to the day itself, which is filled with dares and the main event, the Talent Show.

This year, performances included a Wiggles Tribute, an entertaining game of charades and a recreation of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody by our House Coordinators. The willingness of teachers to make good-natured fools of themselves and the enthusiasm and support of students across all year levels are testament to the significance that Dare 2 Donate has to the culture of OLMC, and the positive relationship between staff and students.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who donated and participated! Thanks to the school community's combined efforts, we have successfully raised over \$3000 for this amazing cause.

**Olivia Jones LADR**  
Communications Captain

## LIFE STORIES RECOUNTED AND RECORDED

'Stories create community, enable us to see through the eyes of other people, and open us to the claims of others.'  
(Peter Forbes, photographer and author)

In Term 2, four OLMC students spent time each week visiting the residents of the Blue Cross Nursing Home in Ivanhoe. Each student was assigned a resident. They talked to and interviewed their new friends for the story of their life.

The 'Story of My Life' program assists VCAL students to develop community connections and strengthen their interpersonal skills. The program has involved students asking questions, listening, and documenting their residents' stories, to ultimately create a book of their life. To add to the story, they have also collected images and mementos from their residents.

The published books will be presented to the residents in front of their friends and families on 25 July, at a celebration day. The students are busily organising this special event and cannot wait to present their books.

**Helen Hamblin, VCAL Coordinator**, spoke of uplifting outcomes for all involved in the project:

*The Blue Cross residents love the chats with the girls. It's an opportunity for them to talk and share their experiences with someone who is really interested in what they have to say. They're able to relive memories of the past and laugh about funny stories. Likewise, the students love it.*



*The inter-generational interaction is great for them, and it allows the girls to see the elderly in a different light. They really want to do their stories justice.*

*I've been amazed at some of the stories the residents have told and the lives they've lived – working in India with Mother Teresa, or working in Aboriginal communities in the Tanami Desert – incredible!*





## AROUND THE SCHOOL

# YOUTH ORCHESTRA DELIGHTS ONE AND ALL

**After the first encore, the audience made it resoundingly clear they wanted more. It was an extraordinary performance and a memorable evening for all in attendance.**

St John's Parish Heidelberg and OLMC were privileged to host a performance of the Jose De Piro Youth Orchestra from Bataan, Philippines, at the Mercedes Hogan Theatre on 15 June.

This opportunity was made possible thanks to the work of Fr Mario Zammit (Parish Priest, St John's) and Dr Andrew Watson (Education Consultant, Catholic Education Ballarat). Both men have been involved in immersion and outreach experiences in the Philippines, where they encountered the Jose de Piro Youth Orchestra in the remote and impoverished parish of St Catherine of Alexandria, in Bataan. Inspired by the talents of the young musicians, they found a way to bring the orchestra to Australia for a series of concerts. This was made possible by the generosity (fundraising and homestays) of Thomas Carr College Tarneit, St James the Apostle Parish Hoppers Crossing North, and St Bernadette's Parish Sunshine North. The concert series was proudly sponsored by Comfort DelGro Corporation, Victoria and Noone Imagewear, Victoria.

Father Joe Cremona MSSP has been providing educational opportunities for young people in the Bataan region for many years. It was his idea to introduce music to his students. He started with some simple guitar lessons, and this quickly expanded to a string orchestra when the children showed interest in learning more instruments. They have developed into an exceptionally talented and professional orchestra. 'In this province, for the children to have this opportunity is not only beneficial for them, but also for their families and for the whole community' (Fr Joe).

It was with great delight that some of our OLMC music students joined the orchestra to make music as one, to an audience of approximately 300. The orchestra and choir performed a range of songs from stage, screen and the world of opera. The quality of the performance was so strong and so entertaining that three encore pieces were demanded, and the audience needed encouragement to leave at the end of the night.

Few in the OLMC community would dispute that the evening was one of the most uplifting and powerful events that the College has hosted this year.

## PRESTIGIOUS VOLUNTEER AWARD

Many in the OLMC community will have read about or participated in the Bell Bardia Community Meals Project run by volunteer students and staff from OLMC. Led and coordinated by Marie Jenkins, Clair Stapley and Teresa Clarke-Balazs, up to 80 people (on rosters) prepare more than 100 substantial meals each week for people who live in West Heidelberg, in a 'pocket of disadvantage' where there is significant generational poverty and unemployment.

On Sunday 19 May, the project received the Banyule Council's 2019 Volunteer Community Award. Eighteen community groups doing exceptional work had been nominated for this award, so it was a notable tribute to OLMC. In the Awards booklet and in the conferral speech of the Banyule Council Mayor, the project was attributed the following accolades:

*With minimum fuss, this project has become an outstanding community volunteer achievement, making a meaningful and effective contribution to pockets of a community that are in need and who appreciate the outcomes! It is a quiet achieving program which deserves recognition.*

*Positive community impacts include health benefits and reducing social isolation. For some regular 'customers', meeting at the drop off point is a chance for social interaction and people have even been known to go to each others' home to eat together. The girls who volunteer in the program are learning about social justice as well how to budget and cook a healthy family meal.*

*The project is a good example of a successful, long term partnership between OLMC, Olympic Adult Education (which is a registered charity) and Bendigo Bank funding. However, it is the volunteers who make it happen every week. The program would not exist if not for their goodwill and efforts.*

**The College congratulates all staff and students involved in this highly regarded program.**

## LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

The Life Skills Workshops run annually for our senior students as part of their Pastoral program. Over two sessions, students learn and practise skills that are not featured in the mainstream curriculum, but that are nonetheless likely to serve them well in their everyday lives or in the future. Staff, students and external presenters volunteer their time and their distinctive 'craft' in leading the workshops.

This year, students were involved in brainstorming workshop options, which included:

- How to change a car tyre and basic car maintenance
- Your rights at work
- Self defence
- Photoshop for beginners
- Podcasting
- Yoga
- Cooking on a budget when home alone
- Finding your inner domestic goddess
- AFL skills clinic
- Digital note-taking
- Resumé and interview skills
- Naturopathic approaches to common health problems.

Two of the workshop leaders reflected on their offerings:

**Finding your inner domestic goddess.** Sewing hems and button are skills that will no doubt save the girls some money in the future. Maybe there will be fewer hems down or buttons missing on uniforms from now on.' (Merri O'Halloran)

**Changing a tyre and basic car maintenance.** 'The girls applied many areas of skill and learning, from the physics of loosening wheel nuts before you jack up the car, to reading the manual for instructions on how the task should be done on an unfamiliar vehicle. We discussed colours used under the hood to clearly mark out important areas for regular maintenance, and those that should be left to the professionals. The girls will be able to hold their own when they hit the road – no need for a RACV man!' (Honor Gillies)



# BEHIND THE SCENES

## RESCUED!

It was a momentous 'Oh no' incident when a power outage struck the Mercedes Hogan Theatre about 50 minutes into the final performance of *School of Rock*. What to do? What happened next?

To start with, the cast kept singing and the band kept playing. Such stars! Simultaneously, the enterprising audience went to work. Torches on their mobile phones were switched on and there was twinkling candlelight everywhere. By all accounts it was a magic and profoundly moving few minutes.

Backstage, the producers suppressed their panic and quickly resolved to bring forward the show's interval. The lights were working in the foyer and walkways (different circuits), so it was safe to relocate cast, crew and audience.

Meanwhile, up in the control room, our sound and light crew were furiously trouble-shooting. OLMC's wondrous Multimedia Technician, Gavin Hocking, scaled a few stairwells to the theatre's massive power board. He located the offending circuit, flicked a few switches, tested and re-tested, and one way or the other got the lights back on! *Ladies and gentlemen, please resume your seats. The show is about to re-commence.*

At the final curtain call, the audience saved some of their loudest and sustained applause for the sound and light crew led by Gavin. The audience left the theatre a little prouder for their own contribution to the recovery efforts. They were also full of admiration for the wonderful cast and crew who had so professionally honoured the long-held theatre edict that the show must go on!



## UPSTAGED?

It was a well-kept secret by the cast and crew of *School of Rock*. For each of their eight performances, they surprised and delighted their unsuspecting audiences with a cameo role featuring an OLMC staff member.

Mrs Butterworth, Mr Walpole, Ms Vadja, Ms Kilborn, Ms De Rosa, Mr Jenkinson and Mr Renkin each loved their three minutes of fame. All they had to do was sit on a comfy chair, read a newspaper, do a few jigs and sing a verse or two of 'Faculty Quadrille' (thankfully not all of them sang). Some staff fulfilled a lifelong quest to perform in a College musical, others let their alter egos go to work with great abandon!

The depth of applause and the standing ovations for their fleeting appearances gave rise to claims of this being the showstopper moment of *School of Rock*. This view is held only by the cameos themselves. Nonetheless, we applaud their efforts and the creative casting of the producers, Felicia Taine and Hayley Gamble Curran. It was great fun, with a touch of GENIUS!



## CLASS ACTS

### THEATRE STUDIES PRODUCTION - PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

In Unit 3 of VCE Theatre Studies, there is a strong focus on the creation and performance of characters, narratives and stories. One component of the course is create an Ensemble Performance. This year, on 31 May, our Theatre Studies students performed *Picnic at Hanging Rock*.

Cast member **Olivia Egan, LJVA**, described the outcomes of several months of intense study and rehearsals:

*The storyline is one that is embedded within our own Australian history and most find it hard to determine whether the horrific events did or didn't take place. In our version of Picnic at Hanging Rock, the cast and crew of 'Tall Men Productions' (The Theatre Studies Class of 2019) put on a show full of mystery and gothic elements that truly portrayed the creepiness of this haunted storyline.*

*Show night was full of nerves and banter, with everyone wanting to perfect their performances for the awaiting audience. Before we all rushed off into our places, our incredible directors brought us together for a relaxation activity, intended to quieten some of the butterflies that were in our stomachs.*

*Although we had minimal publicity and a short rehearsal period, the OLMC community pulled through. We sold more than 150 tickets - go Tall Men and followers!*

*The night, although chaotic and nerve racking, was one for the memory books. This Theatre Studies production was entirely student led, and we felt really proud of what we achieved!*

### YEAR 9 DRAMA STUDENTS: KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT

The Drama Victoria Theatre Festival (DVTF) is a performance-making festival for Year 9 and 10 students from schools across Victoria. Participating students take part in four key festival phases (Preliminary Inquiry, Stimulus Day, Devising Process, & Performance Season) and gain unique and valuable experiences creating works alongside their peers. Following this, clusters of participating schools gather at a host school for a rehearsal day and performance evening.

On 4 June, the College hosted one of the rehearsal days and performance evenings. Our Year 9 Drama class performed alongside Reservoir High School, Catholic Ladies College Eltham, Marymede Catholic College South Morang and Heatherwood High School Donvale.

**Erin Harte, 9RJO**, spoke of the experience as 'challenging, but fun':

*We developed our performance throughout the term after a workshop at Deakin University. Based on the stolen generation, ours was called 'Keepers of the Light' and centred on the light of hope. Our performance incorporated song, words and movement to demonstrate the four elements of the earth. We used the poem 'Coolamon Dreaming' by Colleen Keating and verses from the song 'Took the Children Away' by Archie Roach.*

*Seeing the different ways that each school developed their ideas and the great performances from all schools was a fabulous experience. It was challenging, but fun and all the performances were excellent. One highlight was the cat from Heatherwood!*

*On behalf of our class, I would like to say a big thank you to Ms Gamble-Curran and our student teacher, Mr Henshall, for helping us bring our ideas to the stage. Thanks also to Drama Victoria for giving us the opportunity to experience both the development and performance of a theatre piece.*



# HOUSE CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

It was a ‘three-peat’ for Carmel House as they claimed the trophy at the House Swimming Carnival, held at the Northcote Aquatic Centre in March. Mercy won the House Spirit Award for their cheering and for the number of student helpers and participants.

Position	House
1 <sup>st</sup>	Carmel
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Loreto
3 <sup>rd</sup>	McAuley
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mercy

## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

For the first time, the Athletics Carnival was held at the Coburg Athletics Track. Trailing all day, Mercy House jumped to victory in the field events to take home the cup. McAuley House was the deserving winner of the House Spirit Award.

Position	House
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mercy
2 <sup>nd</sup>	McAuley
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Loreto
4 <sup>th</sup>	Carmel



## GSV CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

On Friday 31 May, the OLMC Cross Country Team competed in the GSV Championships at Bundoora Park. The Team was determined to avoid being Division Two Runners-Up for the fifth year in a row. In the end, only two points split the first and second placed teams, with OLMC taking out first place ahead of Genazzano.

Age Group	Place
Junior	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Intermediate	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Senior	4 <sup>th</sup>
OVERALL	1 <sup>st</sup>

**Congratulations to the following students who ran the fastest times for their age groups.**

Name	Age Group	Place	Time
Tiana Postans	Junior (3km)	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.37
Victoria Bushell	Inter (4km)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	15.07
Lucy Leutchford	Senior (4km)	1 <sup>st</sup>	14.03

# KICKING LIKE A GIRL

**‘Since the sound of that first siren in 2017, AFLW has unearthed a whole new footy community. It’s all ages, all ethnicities, all abilities. It’s more than the game itself. It’s kids growing up unaware that footy wasn’t always for girls. It’s coming together for change. And community spirit. And fun. And footy. It is for everyone.’ – womens.afl**

Alongside much of the country, the OLMC footy community is booming. AFL has always been popular at OLMC, however, the introduction of the NAB AFL Women’s competition has seen female football brought into the mainstream.

Girls now have an AFL career to aspire to, female football role models are now prominent in the media, proper pathways have been created from Auskick to AFLW, and local footy clubs have acknowledged female interest and created female-friendly sporting environments.

According to womens.afl, the participation rate for AFL in females has risen dramatically and there are now over 1000 registered female teams in Victoria alone.

At OLMC, female footy has become an everyday talking point. ‘Training tonight’; ‘game tomorrow’; ‘kick at lunch?’. There’s a certain Tayla Harris photo hanging on the inside of lockers, AFLW team laptop wallpapers, and actual, achievable dreams of one day playing in front of thousands of supporters.

That dream is not so far-fetched anymore.

A number of OLMC past-pupils have gone on to play in AFLW teams, including Nicole Callinan (Class of 2000) who played in the Western Bulldogs Premiership in 2018, and Lauren Brazzale (Class of 2011) who played for Carlton in the 2019 AFLW Grand Final.

From the early 2010s, when you’d be hard-pressed to count on one hand the number of students who played footy, there are now over 80 students at OLMC who play, and that number continues to rise. With numerous local footy clubs nearby, the options are endless for our students.

Currently at OLMC, students play in the annual Secondary Catholic Sporting Association (SCSA) AFL competition. This competition is a round-robin day with a junior and senior team competing against other schools. Amazingly, our Junior team has won the competition six years in a row, and our Senior team has also won multiple times.

With such a demand for opportunities to play AFL at a school level, the College is looking into a GSV-run AFL competitions for the future, including a new Junior AFL 9 competition. OLMC AFL Coach, Chris Spencer, explains this decision:

*There’s such a large number of students at the College who play AFL and they are really pushing for the chance to represent the College at a higher level. For some students, their first taste of playing AFL is at school. We want to give our students the opportunity to play and we hope to ultimately be another stepping stone in the pathway to AFLW.*

As well as those who play, the College also has a number of students who are involved in volunteering or umpiring at local clubs. At OLMC, we offer an AFL Umpiring program for students, which has been a regular part of the school’s co-curricular program for the last five years. This AFL Umpiring Academy sees a group of students train and develop their Goal and Boundary umpiring skills under the guidance of AFL Victoria staff. Many of these students are now in the umpiring pathway, performing as Goal and Boundary umpires in local community football.

As AFLW continues to grow, we hope our students continue to be inspired. One day, we may even have an Erin Phillips or Daisy Pearce in our midst.



# VISITORS

**The College recently hosted two students from Serei High School, our sister school in Japan. Mei Nagai and Konomi Miura each spent eight weeks with two different host families, moving to another family after the first four weeks. Here, one of our host students and a host parent share their reflections on the experience**

*Business at home was relatively the same. We did make an effort to go out when we could to places around Melbourne, but at the same time exams were approaching so sometimes we would just sit at home and study together. I took my sister, Konomi, to the NGV, the Botanical Gardens, St Kilda, and even to my cousin's baptism, where she quickly became the new favourite child of all my family.*

*When I was at work, my mum took both Konomi and the other sister, Mei, to the Great Ocean Road, which they really loved! Though we had a great time visiting all these places, some of my favourite memories were when we would stay home and put on face masks together, or when we had a lunchtime dance party with my friends and got to show off dance moves from our different cultures. It was a lot of fun to see their English develop as they picked up our slang and colloquialisms (such as 'yeah nah' versus 'nah yeah'). I was also able to develop my Japanese, which got handy around SAC time.*

*I don't have any sisters, so I really enjoyed the experience of getting a new sister. Both Isabella (the other OLMC host) and I will stay with Konomi and Mei in Japan when we go on exchange in November, which we are very excited to do!*

**Isabel Clements, 11 LJVA**  
Host Student

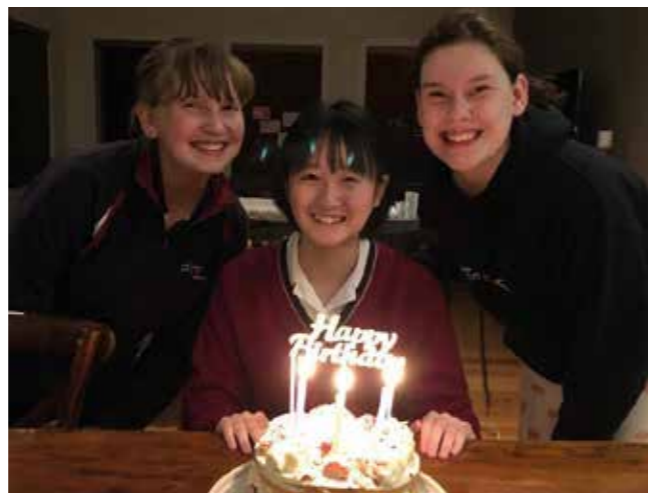
*We hosted Mei Nagai from Akita, Japan. Our first student, Sakura (2018) was an extrovert, asked many questions and was keen to find out about us. Mei was more reserved but quickly became more at home each day.*

*We are a busy family of six, which includes two working parents, part-time jobs for secondary students and after-school commitments such as sport. Life continued as normal for us, and Mei coped well with our fast-paced family life and fitted in with our comings and goings. Our noisy dinner table banter didn't seem too off-putting for Mei as we discussed the events of the day.*

*Having a student stay with our family has definitely encouraged our teenagers to think about seeing Melbourne through the eyes of a tourist. They enjoyed showing off our city and introducing our new Japanese friend to sights, foods and experiences. We've had the opportunity to celebrate Mei's birthday with her and she experienced our son's 21st celebrations, amongst other family gatherings. We have practised simple Japanese phrases and we asked questions that encouraged Mei to use her English. It was interesting to find out about Akita and some of the ways that Serei High School differs from OLMC.*

*Hosting a Japanese student has been a positive experience for our family. It was a pleasure getting to know Mei. It pushed us out of our comfort zone somewhat and encouraged a bit of extra thoughtfulness and compromise. Certainly, that's not a bad thing!*

**Susan Lew-Kee**  
Host Parent



# PAST PUPILS

## INSPIRING CURIOSITY

Natalie Kyriacou OAM has been very busy since she graduated from OLMC in 2005. Natalie is the Founder and CEO of 'My Green World', a Melbourne-based social enterprise dedicated to addressing global wildlife and environmental challenges through innovative, youth-focused education. In addition to her 'My Green World' success, Natalie is the creator of 'World of the Wild' (a mobile game app).

Natalie's awards are multiple. She is a Forbes Under 30 honouree and a recipient of both the Medal of the Order of Australia and of a Probono Impact 25 Award. Natalie was also a finalist for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Young Champion of the Earth Prize.

Natalie's modus operandi is one of inspiring curiosity. She is particularly passionate about ensuring access to environmental education for children and young people worldwide, increasing female participation in science, technology and leadership roles, and empowering the next generation of young people to participate in issues of global concern.

*Through 'My Green World,' we aim to empower young people to learn, take action and pioneer environmental conservation solutions in their communities. We do this by inspiring curiosity among young people and ensuring every person has access to accurate environmental education. I hope to make a positive contribution to society and the environment, with the hope that this may have a ripple effect across my community until environmental action is not the exception, but the rule.*



*The best advice I could give to the students of today is be kind and be curious. For students interested in one day starting a business, I would say; persevere and welcome failure. Failure is a defining and ever-present hurdle throughout our lives and is the precursor to success.*

*I am grateful that OLMC provided me with the foundation for all my future learnings. It equipped me with confidence, curiosity and a passion for lifelong learning that enabled me to explore a career without boundaries that I found meaningful and impactful.*

You can find out more about Natalie on her website:  
**[www.mygreenworld.org](http://www.mygreenworld.org)**

## RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS

During Term 2, the College was pleased to welcome back the Classes of 1959 and 1969 to celebrate and reconnect.

The 50 Year Reunion for the Class of 1969 was celebrated on Sunday 14 April at the College. Guests gathered for a pre-lunch drink and a very talkative catch up in the front garden of the College. Over a lovely high tea, the conversations continued as many memories of school days, teachers, Mercy sisters and classroom antics were shared. A highlight of the day was the group's attempt at singing the school song. Led by Hilda Ebredris, she was heard to cry, 'more gusto you hopeless singers!' It was a great day.

On a sunny day in June, some past pupils from the Class of 1959 gathered for a 60 year anniversary luncheon in what was once the front parlour of the convent. Attendees included Margaret Wade (Clancy), Maureen Toohey (Hurrell), Carole Welsford (Ryder) and Jennifer Gill (Street), with a few others sending their apologies. Memory lapses were few in number when reminiscing about their school days.

### Coming Up: Reunions in Second Semester 2019

**Class of 1999**  
20 Year Reunion  
Sat 12 Oct 3.00-5.30pm  
Abe's Staff Lounge  
**Enquire:**  
[Belinda.spillare@hotmail.com](mailto:Belinda.spillare@hotmail.com)

**Class of 2009**  
10 Year Reunion  
Fri 6 Sep  
Venue to be advised  
**Enquire:**  
[Bernadette.ratnayake@gmail.com](mailto:Bernadette.ratnayake@gmail.com)



## CONTACT US

Marie Jenkins is the 'go-to' person based at the College for all matters pertaining to past pupils and reunions.

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# ROCKSTARS TRIUMPH

**Wow! What a ride it has been! From the start of the audition process, we knew that we were onto a winner. The talent and passion from so many students was overwhelming.**

A key theme in the narrative of *School of Rock* is following your passion and finding your place within a community. Based on the hit film and with music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, *School of Rock* follows Dewey Finn, a wanna-be rock star who aspires to win the grand prize at the Battle of the Bands. He cannot do that without a band. Posing as a substitute music teacher, he exposes his students to the hard rock demi-gods he idolises and finds the perfect group to play with him to fulfil his dream.

Although this played out on stage in a neat little narrative, the most special part was witnessing our OLMC and Marcellin students living their passion and finding their place during the *School of Rock* journey, on and off stage. To see students take risks, extend themselves and support and encourage each other was the absolute highlight for us. And having wonderful, sell-out performances as a by-product of this process was a bonus!

Congratulations and thanks must go to the *School of Rock* production team who were invaluable. Quite the crew of 'roadies'! It was also so fabulous to have so many previous M<sup>2</sup> cast and crew members return to offer their expertise and support throughout the rehearsal process.

It really was a pleasure working with these young people, watching them form friendships, grow in confidence and support one another. It well and truly rocked!

See you at the next show!

**Hayley Gamble Curran & Felicia Taine**  
*Co-Directors/Producers*

**Photography courtesy of Randall Bezzaire, Marcellin College and Mark Jenkinson, OLMC**



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