

CapeStreet

OLMC Semester News



Vale Year 12

Horizon Retrospective

Concert and Choir
Excellence

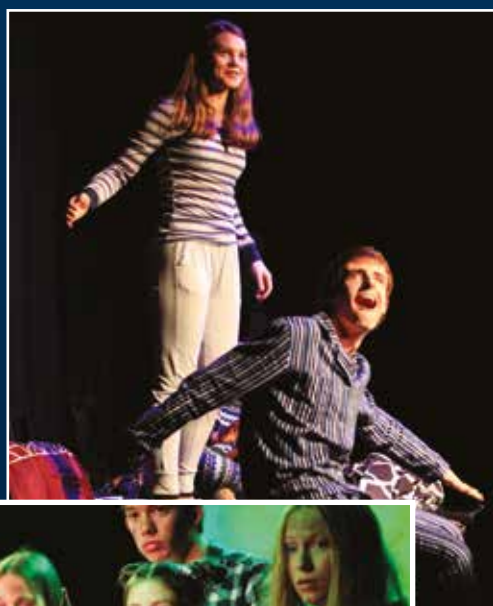


DDECEMBER 2019

A MAGICAL RIDE TO NEVERLAND

In October, students and staff from OLMC and Marcellin College combined their talents to stage the M² Junior Production of the classic tale, *Peter Pan*, with an Australian twist added.

Congratulations to the cast, crew and teachers involved. It was fun from beginning to end, and highlighted the talent, energy and commitment of our students. The College thanks them for the little bit of magic they brought into our lives.



Photography courtesy of Randall Bezaire, Marcellin College.



TINKERBELL'S RETROSPECTIVE

'All you need is faith, trust, and a little bit of pixie dust.'

The Junior Production was an Australian adaptation of the much loved *Peter Pan* story. It incorporated bits of unique Australian humour and slang.

I found the production was a great way to meet new people from other year levels – we were all from Years 7-9. The experience allowed us to create new friendships based on our interest in the performing arts.

As someone who loves performing and wants to do it later on in my schooling, the experience enabled me to practise performing in front of a big crowd, as well as learn how to cope with long rehearsal hours and working as a team. Overall, *Peter Pan* was an eye opening experience and I encourage everyone to give productions a go.

Coco Bacon 9RJO
(Tinkerbell)

RESERVED FOR THE PRINCIPAL



As I was preparing to write this article, I turned to the book, *The Path of Mercy, The Life of Catherine McAuley*, by Mary Sullivan. I was looking to Catherine for guidance about what I might share with you and came upon these words, recalled by Clare Moore, one of the earliest Sisters to join Catherine in her work:

She was telling the Sisters to adopt a simple style of speaking and writing... Even in piety she disliked highflown aspirations or sentences, observing how much more suitable those simple phrases in ordinary prayers would be. (2012, p.149)

Catherine believed in the simplicity of prayers and conversation with those she helped, and so with great relief I write to you in simple terms about a wonderful semester at OLMC.

We have embraced opportunities to educate and encourage a change in behaviours and/or attitudes that contribute to the detriment of others. In August, we hosted what has become an annual event, the High Tea in Heidelberg. We were honoured to welcome so many people from a broad range of Mercy ministries. Jocelyn Bignold, from McAuley Community Services for Women (MCSW), shared with us some disturbing facts about the impacts of domestic violence on women and children. We were further educated about this issue through a presentation by one of our alumnae, Ms Josette O'Donnell. Each year, MCSW helps over 1300 women and children affected by family violence, mental illness or homelessness. It was highly satisfying for all in attendance that the monies raised would be supporting the work of MCSW.

Mercy Day was a major highlight of Term 3, as it is every year. Our Student Leaders elected to raise money for Mercy Works. The Mass, which began the day, and the subsequent presentations, made important reference to the ministry of Mercy Works. Once again, we took some time to educate ourselves about how important it is to go beyond charity and to learn to show real mercy. We were exemplifying a belief of Catherine McAuley that 'Mercy is more than Charity – for it not only bestows benefits, but it receives and pardons again and again'.

On Mercy Day, our Student Leaders also focused on the environment. The Eco-Justice team were instrumental in

ensuring plastic-free events. Later in this edition, you will read more of the substantial work the students did in this area and how superbly they were supported by the Parents' Association.

This semester has also seen the continued focus on the pursuit of academic excellence. Our students have been involved in the Debating Association of Victoria competitions, Maths competitions and a range of co-curricular activities designed to stretch and engage them with a broader application of skills and knowledge. Our Music students have performed at many events, both at OLMC and beyond, bringing joy to others while also extending their repertoire and skills, and growing in performance confidence.

Early in Term 4, we hosted our annual Art Show. We used this occasion to recognise those students who have exceeded our expectations and produced outstanding artworks. The recipients of these awards are acknowledged not only for their talent but also for their hard work, their patience in listening to advice, and their readiness to respond to the feedback on their artworks. An addition this year was an installation by our VCAL students, who used Art to represent their understanding of geometry and other mathematical concepts. It is always with great pride and humility that I view these works.

As our Year 12 students headed into exams, we were blessed to celebrate their six years at OLMC and to congratulate a number who have contributed to the College in exceptional ways. We acknowledged all who held formal leadership roles and those who demonstrated true leadership, whether it be in formal roles or because of who they are and what they have contributed. To this end, all Year 12 students have been leaders in the many big and small ways they have lived their lives at OLMC. We thank them and wish them all the very best in the adventures that will follow.

To conclude, in very simple terms, thank you to all who have contributed to what has been another very successful year at OLMC. We are grateful for the big and the small mercies that have been bestowed upon us through our gracious and loving God.

Judith Weir
Principal

The CapeStreet cover image features our recently elected College Captains for 2020, Isabella Mikus and Olivia Zumbo. The girls are already on the job! At the Graduation Assembly, Isabella and Olivia announced the winners of the 2019 House Trophy – Loreto House. Well done Loreto!

VALE CLASS OF 2019



PRINCIPAL'S FAREWELL

YEAR 12 FINAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESS

Excerpt

As you prepare to complete your exams and begin the next chapter in your life, I hope that you will always take with you the values that have been instilled in you. I hope that you can forever be courageous when courage is required and show compassion to all you meet. I hope you feel free to live a just life and that you can contribute to making our world just. I hope you are forever joyful, that you continue to find pleasure in the big and the small, in the silly moments of everyday, and in the hilarity that comes along sometimes.

Most of all, I hope that whatever it is that you want for yourself is what you find. I hope you love your success unperturbed by the successes of others and that you feel confident to stand proudly in who you are. I hope that you can own your successes, no matter how big or small, as you make your way through the beautiful adventure that will be your life.

I have a card in my office that says, 'She needed a hero, so that's what she became'. I hope that you can be the hero you need when the time comes.

Thank you. We will remember you – your determination, your exuberance and your passion in the leadership of students.

Judith Weir
Principal

COLLEGE CAPTAINS SAY THANK YOU

GRADUATION ADDRESS

Excerpt

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank this school for the opportunities it has given us. We have been shaped by our College values – Courage, Compassion, Justice and Joy – encouraged and strengthened by our teachers, and guided to find our passions. Most importantly, we have found a sisterhood to belong to for life.

To the Class of 2019, we love you. How lucky are we to have grown up together? You inspired the goals we presented this year, especially Empowerment. Nothing is more powerful or strong than women supporting one another, and you manifest this in every meaning of the word.

To our parents and guardians, we cannot show enough gratitude that you sent your daughters to OLMC. We would not have formed this strong bond within the cohort without your child here – you made the right decision. Thank you for the unconditional support, love, chauffeuring and hugs over the past six years. We can only hope we make you proud.

To our teachers, you are amazing. Thank you for being there for us in times both challenging and elating.

Girls, congratulations. You deserve to celebrate this moment. We wish you the best of luck and all the world has to offer.

Alicia Ranasinghe and **Kate Keenan**
College Captains 2019

VALEDICTORY AWARDS

On Monday 21 October, at a whole-school assembly to farewell our 2019 graduates, a number of Year 12 students were honoured with awards. Voted for by their peers and staff, these recipients have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership in different aspects of College life. These same students were also honoured at the Graduation Dinner that evening.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Georgia Agati | Duce Maria Award for Leadership |
| Francesca Tomasiello | Sr Mercedes Hogan Award for Learning |
| Destinee Stubbs | Commitment to OLMC Sport Award |
| Jenny Le | Sr Jan Geason Award for Performing Arts |
| Eliza Mackay | Past Pupils Award for Social Justice and Community Service |
| Yilin Chen | Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth Award for Leadership |

Another exceptional achievement for three Year 12 students was their receipt of Triple Platinum Colours in OLMC's Colours Awards Program. To receive Triple Platinum Colours, a student must first achieve Bronze, Silver & Gold Colours, and then participate in more than five areas of College life for three consecutive years. Congratulations to Jaymee Allender, Yilin Chen and Sophia Dowling on this outstanding achievement.

GEORGIA AGATI

Duce Maria Award for Leadership

Georgia is known for her enthusiasm and positive attitude. She seeks to include everyone – no matter what year level. As one of the Carmel House Captains this year, Georgia set out to work with her co-captain to create a sense of family and joy within the House.

FRANCESCA TOMASIELLO

Sr Mercedes Hogan Award for Learning

Francesca has a love of learning and spreading her knowledge to others. She not only wants to succeed but wants others to succeed. She always remains engaged and looks out for her peers, going above and beyond to help those around her.

DESTINEE STUBBS

Commitment to OLMC Sport Award

Destinee has demonstrated enthusiasm and passion for sport since Year 7. She never fails to participate in sporting activities beyond her comfort zone and never turns down an opportunity. Destinee herself acknowledges how important GSV and sport have been in creating connections and forming relationships with other students. Her enthusiasm and kindness to her peers bring others with her, and encourages them to try sport.

JENNY LE

Sr Jan Geason Award for Performing Arts

Jenny has worked hard to share experiences in the Arts with everyone. She focuses on putting a smile on people's faces and showcases talent and opportunities to all. Jenny has a desire to share her passions and see the joy they bring to others, evident through her involvement in music, drama, productions and Arts Week.

ELIZA MACKAY

Past Pupils Award for Social Justice and Community Service

Throughout her time at OLMC, Eliza has consistently been involved in everything that serves the wider community – particularly the Exodus Community. She is not one to shout about her efforts or seek recognition. In her mind, the work she does is reward enough – she doesn't need a badge or an award. The reward is the sense of satisfaction she has from knowing she made a difference – however small or large.

YILIN CHEN

Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth Award for Leadership

Yilin is a person of many talents – she is academic, musical, artistic, knows how to hold her own at a model UN Summit, she plays chess and is highly involved in social justice. Yilin is well regarded by her teachers and her care of her peers is well known. She is a humble achiever who never seeks to draw attention to herself and wants to positively influence all around her.

OUR BLITZ ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

A major innovation for Mercy Day 2019 was the implementation of a plastic-free, environmentally friendly events program. Our Eco-Justice Team worked tirelessly all year to raise awareness about the significant impacts our practices are having on the environment, particularly our consumption of single use plastic commodities. Mercy Day was a huge opportunity to demonstrate alternative practices, so the Eco-Justice Team partnered with the Student Leadership Team to do just that.

The logistics and coordination of a plastic-free Mercy Day are more challenging than might be immediately obvious, particularly when plans have to be made to feed 1200 girls and 150 staff (lunch is always provided on this special day). Challenges were faced and resolved in a variety of ways. The salads were served in bamboo fibre compostable plates, the fairy floss was served on bio degradable sticks devoid of any plastic protection, and there were definitely no plastic straws in sight. There was also a push back on fast fashion and clothing waste, with the 'Clothes for Change' stall becoming OLMC's very own op-shop.

Perhaps one of the most welcomed outcomes of the plastic-free campaign was that everyone – staff and students – received a free reusable metal drink bottle. This amazing project was the initiative of the Eco-Justice Team (Captain Ava Rossi, along with Margarida Bacalhua, Madeline Lew-Kee and Amy Gillies). The team worked hard to design the logo, organise a manufacturer, liaise with staff and distribute all of the bottles. The initiative was made all the more special because our Parents' Association supported students by sponsoring the bottles. Overall, the waste for the day was reduced by two thirds of what it would usually be, which is a significant achievement.



Mercy Day is one of OLMC's biggest and most important calendar events. It is a day to commemorate Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, to honour and support the ministries of the Sisters of Mercy, and to celebrate our College heritage.

This year, the funds raised on Mercy Day supported the Mercy House of Welcome in Adelaide, a drop-in centre that provides services for newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum. Some of the services offered include language assistance, legal advice and childcare. The English lessons and assistance with other language-related issues are amongst the centre's most sought after and valued services.

As always, the day began with a beautiful Mass for the whole community in our Nalleijerring Centre. The choir was in full voice and the musicians in top form. The theme for the liturgy was 'living life to the full' (John 10:10).

We were blessed with good weather. The sunshine and warmth allowed the students to take full advantage of all that was on offer after Mass – fairy floss, snow cones, cupcakes, a photo booth, competitions, and many other activities on Maryland. Highlights included the Year 12 Leaders versus Staff Mat Ball face off. The disco in the afternoon was a big hit, as was the House Arts Festival that completed the day.

On so many measures, Mercy Day 2019 was a strong testament to our capacity to live life to the full!



VISUAL ARTS SHOWCASE



ART SHOW RAISES THE BAR

The Annual OLMC Art Show in mid-October showcased an extraordinary range of creative works by over 300 Design, Art and Technology (DAT) students. Highlights included an array of inventive and personal zines created by Media students, beautiful watercolour paintings of birds by Year 9 Visual Arts students, and highly resolved presentations from VCE Visual Communication Design students.

The Art Show also saw the premiere of a site-specific 'Hanging Garden' artwork created by Year 8 students under the guidance of Artist in Residence, Kathie Mathes, as part of the College's ongoing 'Artist Within' program. The Garden was inspired by Swiss artists Gerda Steiner and Jorg Lenzlinger. Each component of the work was crafted from recycled paper and plastic packaging and was cleverly installed in the rock-climbing space at the entrance to the Nalleijerring Centre.

At the exhibition's launch, Subject Excellence Awards were announced to the enthusiastic applause of students, staff, families and friends of the College. Congratulations to the students who received these awards (photographed above) and to all the students whose work was selected for display.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jessy Singh Year 9 | Fashion |
| Jasmin Burns Year 9 | Food Studies |
| Alyssa Vonier Year 9 | Media |
| Grace Kelberg Year 11 | Visual Communication Design |
| Destinee Stubbs Year 12 | Visual Art |

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Judith Weir was delighted to announce Yilin Chen, a Year 12 Studio Arts student, as the recipient of the Principal's 2019 Exhibition Excellence Award. Yilin created an ambitious sculpture that is both a self-portrait, and an exploration of the way we relate as people to the external world. Yilin's sculpture consists of a sequence of five vividly detailed, broken plaster-cast faces. The facial features of the busts have been concealed to progressively greater degrees by brilliant white, paper-clay masks. The conceptual and material sophistication of the interrelationship between the plaster-cast faces and paper-clay masks made Yilin's work a stand-out at the show.

Adrian Stojkovich
Art Technician



OUR ARTS 'ALL STAR'

At OLMC, Adrian Stojkovich is an art technician, tutor, coach, curator and support person for Visual Arts students and staff. He excels across all roles. Teachers of Design, Art and Technology (DAT) can't speak highly enough of him, likewise students. DAT Learning Leader, Mark Jenkinson, echoes the sentiments of all who have been on the receiving end of his talent and energy:

Adrian is the master art technician, graphic designer, art coach, event organiser, art historian, safety guru, photographer and all round advocate for Design, Art and Technology that would be the envy of any school. His infectious passion for creativity, his technical prowess and his wide knowledge of the world of art help both our staff and our students to pursue excellence and to look at the world in new ways. We are extremely lucky to have him in our community.

In his 'other life', Adrian is a practising artist specialising in oil painting, which has been his passion for the last 10 years. He came to OLMC in early 2014, shortly after completing his Masters of Fine Art at the Victorian College of the Arts. For Adrian, creating art and communicating about art are inextricably linked.

Great art educators, beginning with my parents, and many artist-friends, made visual cultures of the past accessible to me, and art has become the prism through which I view myself and the world I live in. In my role at OLMC, I hope that I can help students to realise that the visual cultures that inspired me are theirs to inherit, and that their lives can be immeasurably enriched by them.

The high regard Adrian enjoys from colleagues and students is reciprocated. He loves OLMC and the rewards of his work are countless.

I am convinced I have the best job in the school. I help students and teachers realise creative ideas and projects. Creative work can be frustrating and difficult, but is most often very exciting. I admire the courage of our students – at their most audacious they are willing to risk failure to make work that is exciting and ambitious.

The College congratulates and thanks Adrian for his exceptional service to our community.



WHEN MATHS AND ART INTERSECT

A strong desire to facilitate an engaging and authentic Maths experience for her students led Helen Hamblin, VCAL Coordinator, to a brief conversation with OLMC's Art Technician, Adrian Stojkovich. Her question was: 'How do I make the Numeracy topic 'Measurement, Representation and Design' interesting for my students?'

Adrian's response was immediate – Bauhaus Art. With its geometric designs and distinctive use of shape, dimension and perspective, it was a perfect match to the learning outcomes for the unit. Adrian's creative mind swung into action with ideas and plans for some highly engaging learning experiences.

Over a period of two months, students researched some of the famous artists from this movement, and then experimented with a range of techniques, including gouache painting and collage, to create their own art pieces. As described by Helen:

What began as a small idea culminated in the most stunning installation of 25 artworks at OLMC. The girls were thoroughly immersed in this project from start to finish and are very proud of their work, as they should be. With Adrian's guidance and support, they have worked incredibly hard to pull this project together, in time for the OLMC Art Show 2019. It has been a joy to work with Adrian and watch as the girls have unleashed their creative talents to produce such a remarkable body of work.

A mural of the girls' artworks is now on display in the landing opposite the Pathways Lounge.

STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTES



CONCERT EXCELLENCE

Late in August, students from the College's talented music ensembles, VCE Music class and Elite Dance Group performed in the annual Celebration Concert, 'From OLMC to Beyond'. The concert theme enabled a focus on different cultures and destinations. The girls presented a dynamic, fast-moving and highly entertaining array of song, dance and music to an enthusiastic audience of family and friends.

This event was preceded by a Music Camp, where 166 of our musicians perfected their notes in preparation for the gala evening and other College events, including Mercy Day.

The girls rehearsed across two days and relaxed in the evenings with impromptu performances and a music trivia competition. For many of our music students, the annual Music Camp is the highlight of the year.

The concert was exciting and highly satisfying due to some new audio, lighting, projection, vision mixing and camera operations that came into play and contributed to many WOW moments (see below).

hands-on experience in a time-critical environment, is far more beneficial than learning the skills in a traditional classroom.

Moreover, everywhere you look, there is some sort of audio visual system at work - in a theatre with advertising, in a shopping centre with interactive maps, and at the Airport with the details of your next flight. There is potentially a career pathway for some of our girls as they learn the tools of the trade and discern whether this type of work 'floats their boat', as it does mine!



STAGECRAFT UPSKILLING

While not everyone is destined to be a star on the stage, there are always crew members, working behind the scenes, to ensure those on the stage can be seen, heard and appreciated. The stagecraft skills of some of our Media students were not directly visible to the audience or performers, but the impact of their efforts was immediate, continuous and at times wonderful.

Gavin Hocking, our Multimedia Technician, described the logistics of this exercise and the value-add for students:

Three video cameras, operated by students, were deployed around the Nalleijerring Centre. The cameras provided live feeds to a vision mixer. Another group of students operated the vision mixer and chose which camera angle to use and display on our scoreboard-sized LED screen above the stage. Our 'technicians' behind the scenes demonstrated wonderful skills and acumen in ensuring that those on the stage performed to maximum impact. There is no doubt that seeing performers on the large screen strengthened audience engagement and enjoyment.

While each particular stagecraft area requires some specialist knowledge for operation, soft skills are also required to ensure a smooth show. The ability to problem solve in a team environment and communicate effectively with others are critical skills, not just in a production environment but in life generally. Gaining these skills, with



ON-TOUR AND IN-DEMAND

The reputation of the OLMC Choir has soared in 2019. In Semester 1, the invitation to sing at the opening of the Heidelberg Woolworths Supermarket was a welcomed gig, as was the opportunity to perform with the Jose De Piro Youth Orchestra from Bataan, the Philippines. In Semester 2, the invitations continued to come through, with requests that the choir perform and encourage singalongs with P-5 students at St Clement of Rome Primary School, members of the Exodus community at one of their special luncheons, and residents of Mercy Place, Parkville. In November the choir also performed at the Oxfam Concert at Box Hill Town Hall.

Perhaps one of the Choir's most memorable performances was on 20 October at the DOHaD (Developmental Origins of Health and Disease) International Conference, held at the Melbourne Convention Centre. Twenty girls participated in the opening ceremony, attended by over 600 delegates.

They performed as the backing choir for two upcoming Indigenous opera singers - Shauntai Batski (Australia) and Kawiti Waetford (New Zealand). Their rendition of 'You Raise Me Up' was both rousing and moving. The choir also sang in the foyer of the Convention Centre, where they welcomed delegates with 'I Still Call Australia Home'.

For the girls, it was a momentous experience to perform to a big audience in the presence of some exceptional opera singers. They admirably represented the College. A special note of thanks is extended to staff members Jo-Anne Mileto and Gabriella Russo, who accompanied the girls and ensured they were well rehearsed for the event. Another big vote of thanks is extended to Mary Tolcos, a member of the DOHaD Conference Committee and a Year 7 parent. Mary was the key 'mover and shaker' in affording the girls this wonderful opportunity.



A NOD TO OUR MAESTROS

Over many years, the College community has been well served by Jo-Anne Mileto, our Instrumental Coordinator, and Gabriella Russo, our Choir Master and Voice Tutor. They are anywhere and everywhere our music students and the College need them to be.

Both Jo-Anne and Gabriella have well established 'creds' in the music industry. At the age of 5, Jo-Anne commenced piano lessons and quickly excelled in her craft, performing over many years at eisteddfods, concerts and on national television. She attended the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and then Melbourne University, where she focussed on Instrumental teaching. She ran a private studio as well as the music program at St Clement of Rome, for approximately 20 years, which led to employment at Sacre Coeur College in Glen Iris, and then at OLMC, beginning in 2007.

Gabriella's early claim to fame was being a 'featured face' in the iconic Qantas advertisement, 'I Still Call Australia Home'. Following her secondary school years at OLMC, she went on to earn a double degree in Music (Classical Voice) and Performing Arts from Monash University. Gabriella balances her OLMC work with acting and theatrical projects. She has a love for children's theatre and has recently performed with Playhouse Pantomimes as 'Pinocchio' (Pinocchio), 'The Lilac Fairy' (Sleeping Beauty), and Cinderella (Cinderella).

Principal Judith Weir is one of countless people who are happy to sing the praises of Jo-Anne and Gabriella:

Both Jo-Anne and Gabriella are extremely generous with their time. They rehearse and travel with our music students to multiple events and venues so that the students have every opportunity to practise and perform. The work they do for the annual Celebration Concert is outstanding. We are blessed to have two such dedicated and committed women who consistently enable our students to strive for excellence.

YINGADI REFLECTIONS



Each year, a small group of OLMC students and staff are fortunate to participate in an experience that uplifts and challenges them. The Yingadi Immersion at Lake Mungo is a highlight for many. The wisdom, history and connections made are talked about for years to come.

It is certainly not every day you get the chance to drive to a World Heritage Site such as Lake Mungo, and be completely off the grid for five days, spending time learning about Aboriginal spirituality. We had the privilege of spending our time with Vicki Clark, an Aboriginal Elder of the Mutthi Mutthi tribe, who not only welcomed us with open arms into her home, but also invited us to learn about her culture in a way that we would never experience at school through a textbook.

To conclude the trip, we participated in a smoking ceremony and were commissioned to become FIRE Carriers, preparing to come back home and share this unforgettable experience with others.

The Yingadi Immersion was unforgettable. The incredibly positive and personal impact it had on all of us is something we are extremely grateful for and is an experience we will carry with us forever.

Ashleigh Miron
11 CSCP



Teacher, Steph Boemo, shares these passages from her Yingadi journal. The first is Steph's take on the story the group heard on their walk to the Zanci Homestead. The second is a reflection on the experiences of the group throughout the immersion.

A WALK TO ZANCI HOMESTEAD

Three elders, leading their tribes. Concerned about when the rains will come, providing an opportunity for ceremony and the passing of knowledge. ... and then there were more rabbits ... Concerns grow deeper as the journey goes on and their awareness of the 'visitors' increases. How do we deal with them? Do we welcome them, teach them our ways of the land, share in our ceremonies and way of life? ... the rabbits, they continued to grow in number ... The journey pauses and then the instruction to follow is given. We all follow the rabbit. Elders stripped of their cloaks and we're banished from engaging in our way of life. The hurt, gut wrenching sadness and an overpowering sense of loss. We now work for the rabbits.

EXPERIENCES

Our experiences shape our lives and facilitate learning beyond all imagination.

Change and growth are possible in all, as seen by the winds continually shifting the sands of time. In moving forward, we must continue to cherish the past, but not allow the past to hold us back from making the required change. We must change and adapt to look at our experiences in different ways, create new interest and enable the possibilities of new learning to emerge. For our experiences will create the new stories of old and help to share the stories of times gone by.

Steph Boemo
Teacher



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CAMP HEIDE

From 23-25 September, a group of 35 students devoted the first three days of their holidays to the Camp Heide program. This is a student-run initiative, giving children connected with the Exodus Community an opportunity to be involved in varied holiday activities and to build bonds with OLMC students. The program brings much joy to both the children and students involved. A number of Year 11 students reflected, 'It is rewarding to see the smiles we brought to the young children's faces, and to know that they brought a smile to ours'.

Amy Gillies, one of our Year 11 participants, offered the following reflection:

The program pairs the children with an OLMC buddy, and these pairs spend the three days of Camp Heide together. We created strong bonds with our buddies through a variety of activities. On the first day, the pairs worked together to design their own Camp Heide t-shirt to keep, and played group activities such as matt ball and dodgeball. On the second day, we had an incursion of a reptile show, which was an exciting experience for the kids who got to hold and pat the animals. On the last day, the group walked down to Possum Hollow Park for a picnic before the day concluded with a talent show and many sad goodbyes.

Camp Heide was an incredibly fulfilling experience and so much fun for all involved. Thank you to all of the staff and student helpers who make Camp Heide the fantastic program that it is.

BACKYARD BELL

The VCAL program is fortunate to receive a grant each year from Catholic Education Melbourne for a community partnership project. This year, we chose the Exodus Community Housing Project as our community partnership.

This innovative local housing project involves four houses in Heidelberg West, earmarked for redevelopment in the distant future. Leases on these houses were secured to make them available for families who had previously been homeless or lived in refuges.

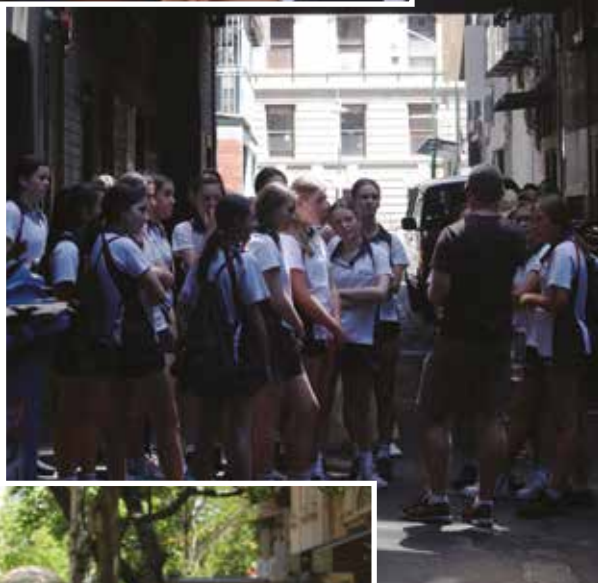
Our partnership goal was to enhance the external appearance of one of the properties, now home to a single mum and her young daughter. We were tasked at creating an outside living space that was safe, attractive and included a place to play for the little girl - with a fairy garden of course! Project 'Backyard Bell' was launched!

Working to a budget, the girls sourced the plants, the play equipment, sketched the backyard plan, did the measurements and calculations, and produced a formal written proposal for the works. The hard physical labour of weeding, planting and mulching the garden and assembling equipment continued over three days, and in that time the students transformed the backyard into a lovely living and playing space. The 'before' and 'after' photos show the transformation.

Special thanks to the OLMC Maintenance team, whose knowledge, expertise and generosity have been crucial to the success of this project. And of course, congratulations to the girls. Their incredible effort has truly brought joy to the lives of the little girl and her mum.

Helen Hamblin
VCAL Coordinator

HORIZON RETROSPECTIVE



Twenty-twenty (2020) is on the horizon. The Year 9 cohort is watching as 2019 drifts towards the edge of the scene and finally dips with the setting sun.

Each Year 9 student has undertaken a Horizon breakout term. Some students now have wonderful memories and have shifted leaps and bounds with their learning, while others have ground through their time. No matter where our students finish their Horizon experience, we hope they have discovered that we all learn and think differently. We hope they all remember that education is a lifelong meander rather than a standardised sprint at the end of formal schooling.

Our learning team – Charlie Dyring, Emily Scott, Nathan Watson and Rosemary Jones – has enjoyed countless hours with the Year 9s of 2019. We have navigated the local area, polished up our financial literacy, wrangled bike paths and bouldering caves, and weighed up contemporary ethical debates. The Baggot Building has been our home base. Students have been asked to look beyond the classroom walls, think for themselves, collaborate, create and be responsible for their own learning.

Our Horizon mission is to draw from core subjects (English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Phys Ed, Humanities and Religious Education) and the Victorian Practice Principles to challenge each student's thinking and actions. We try to do this in a myriad of ways.

We use conversation, reflection and written responses to promote intellectual exchange. The Horizon student will be supported but not spoon-fed, always included but not at the expense of her peer, and be asked to give and receive feedback. She will be required to participate. She may be confronted by community and global issues, divided over justice, gender or environmental ethics, and even interested about future financial decisions... this is all part of the flexible learning scene.

As a result, we hope the outcomes are positive and that the student exiting Horizon will be more collaborative, more inquiring, have stronger research skills, be able to reflect on her learning, explore career pathways, consider ethical questions, and realise her financial worth. We trust she will take new skills and understandings with her as she evolves into a lifelong learner. This isn't always the case, of course, but there is always time for reflection and hindsight on the meander.

At its heart, the 2019 Horizon term is intended to provoke and challenge our students, whether confronting a fear of heights and cramped spaces or struggling over a tax equation. Learning is for life. It can be done in more ways than listed in the contents page of the latest textbook.

As the sun sets over our 2019 Horizon Program, we thank the Year 9 cohort for their energy, questioning and conversation. The 21st century learner continues to fascinate.

Rosemary Jones
Horizon Coordinator

STAFFROOM NEWS



FAREWELL PATRICIA

On Mercy Day, at an after-school gathering, staff farewelled Patricia Sweeney, our Deputy Principal and Head of Learning. Patricia has served the

College for 12 years, first as the Leader of the Learning Commons and then in the leadership of Learning and Teaching. She is widely regarded as being a valued teacher, colleague and friend to many at OLMC, a support to people in times of need, and a wonderful advisor in times of doubt.

Earlier in Term 2, Patricia used her long service leave to embark on the ancient pilgrim journey across Spain, the Camino Francés. She shared some of her reflections with staff at the farewell event:

I walked from Pamplona to Santiago de Compostela, some 720 kms. This was a significant challenge for an inner-urban footpath walker. My longest walk prior to this was 13km, from Southbank to OLMC, so walking 20-30km each day for 37 days was a serious change of pace!

The days provided me with ample opportunity to reflect on my own life and what I value. As I walked and encountered fellow pilgrims, I came to the realisation that I needed to change the pace and direction of my life. On returning home, a combination of strong resolve and some unexpected but welcomed interventions led me to a new career opportunity, one which takes me into a broader sphere of education and which excites me with the new learning opportunities it presents.

I leave OLMC grateful for the many opportunities to work with passionate teachers and engaged students. I am proud to have contributed to the education of many girls and the development of teachers and our learning and teaching programs. I have not ended my commitment to Catholic education and hope I am able to continue ensuring that our schools are communities of excellence with a passion for learning.



LONG-SERVING STAFF ACKNOWLEDGED

A tradition on Mercy Day is to acknowledge staff who have served the College for 10, 20 or 30 years. Congratulations to the following members of staff.



10 YEARS

•**Giovanna Scollo** started at OLMC as Head of Languages and went on to serve as a Religious Education Domain Leader. In 2012 she commenced several years of parental leave, then returned in 2016.

•**Sally Garvey-Page** has served as a Year Level Coordinator over many years and has been heavily involved in our GSV programs.

•**Andrew Gibson** taught for six years in London before commencing at OLMC. He was the inaugural Heidelberg Project Coordinator (later renamed the Horizon Coordinator) and is currently a member of the Leadership Team, in the role of Curriculum Coordinator.

•**Marie Jenkins** began at OLMC in the role of 'Centenary and Community Development Coordinator'. Her responsibilities are extensive, as is her current role title – Community Development, Events and Communications Coordinator.

•**Peter Selaidinakos** began his time at OLMC as a Year 10 Level Coordinator. He has gone on to serve in varied year level and Pastoral Leader roles.

•**Christopher Spencer** has been heavily involved in our GSV programs and since 2015 has served as Carmel House Coordinator. The College will farewell Chris in December. He is returning with his young family to Leongatha (his hometown) to a teaching position at a nearby college.

•**James Stavretis** has taught across several learning areas and always held a Pastoral Leader role. James has been instrumental in the highly successful Japanese Study Tours and in building our sister school relationship with Seirei High School, Akita City, Japan.

20 YEARS

•**Rhonda Brislin** was appointed to OLMC in 1999 by Sr Beth Calthorpe. Her specialist area is English and she has held significant leadership roles in this Learning Area, including as the Deputy Head of English for three years and the English Domain Leader for seven years.

•**Angela Molinari** has been a significant contributor to the faith life of the College, serving as a specialist Religious Education teacher over many years and in earlier times as our Liturgy Coordinator. Angela is also a valued English teacher.

30 YEARS

•**Connie Crupi** was appointed to OLMC by Philippa Darmody (Principal). Over successive years she was a Deputy Head of LOTE and a Head of Loreto House. Her consistently strong Pastoral Leader roles in Years 7 and 8 are highly regarded by colleagues and students alike.

ANOTHER SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Chris Spencer and Sally Garvey-Page. In September, Girls Sport Victoria (GSV) used the occasion of OLMC's Celebration of Sport Evening to commend their 10 years of generous and highly successful service to GSV programs within and beyond OLMC.

SPECTACULAR SPORT

SPORTSWOMEN OF THE YEAR 2019

Sportswoman of the Year is awarded to one student per year level for criteria that include upholding the school values, participating in a sport each term, demonstrating exceptional performance and showing commitment to training. Many of these students also represent OLMC in external sporting competitions, have broken school or GSV records, or have received a Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for an OLMC team.

This award was presented to students at the College's Celebration of Sport Evening on 17 September. Congratulations Amelie, Ava, Georgia, Lucy, Olivia and Mariah, and a special shout out to Georgia, our overall Sportswoman of the Year.



Amelie Vulich
Year 7



Ava Jordan
Year 8



Georgia Alexander
Year 9



Lucy Bult
Year 10



Olivia Zumbo
Year 11



Mariah
Papakonstantinou
Year 12



SPORTS SHOUT OUTS



AEROBICS SQUAD SHINES ONCE AGAIN

For many years, the Aerobics Squad has been a high achiever in sport at OLMC and 2019 was no exception.

At the Victorian Aerobics Championships in August, OLMC was awarded the overall Championship School, bringing home the trophy for the second year in a row. The girls performed exceptionally well, with 21 teams qualifying for the National Finals in September, on the Gold Coast.

At the National Championships, the College was awarded 2nd place in the Overall Championship School Division. The teams received seven medals, and two groups of students were awarded Gold Medals in their divisions:

- Ellie Scuderi and Matilda Butterworth Level 3 Intermediate Pair
- Lucia Marchionda, Alana Chiappa and Olivia Muscat Level 4 Senior Trio

Head Coach, Cenza Basile, has been coaching the OLMC Aerobics Squad for 16 years, and her passion and hard work have continuously achieved outstanding results in her time. Coaches Dani Scuderi, Mia Hall, Louise Bellia and Mia Chiappa also contributed significantly to the Squad's successes in 2019.

Aerobics Captains, Olivia Zumbo and Alessia Zugaro, share their thanks for the Head Coach:

We would like to thank the one and only Mrs Basile - the bobby pin to our buns, holding us up when we fall down. Her dedication towards the team never ceases to amaze us, nor does it go unnoticed. The success of the team would not be possible without her commitment and constant motivation. Thank you for a fantastic 2019.



Ava Jordan
Year 8

Ava was the 2019 recipient of the Year 8 Sportswoman of the Year, with a stellar list of participation and accolades throughout her year at OLMC.

Outside of school, however, Ava was crowned the Preston Leader Local Sports Star winner for 2019.

She was featured on the cover of the Preston Leader in October as an acknowledgement of her achievements. Ava received this award for her contribution to local sport. Playing football for Banyule, Ava claimed back-to-back Division One Under-14 Best and Fairest awards in the Yarra Junior Football League. She also represented Victoria in the Under-15 girls' team.

We look forward to seeing Ava flourish in sport in the coming years, at OLMC and beyond. We hope to one day see her running out in the AFLW.



Victoria Bushell
Year 9

Victoria Bushell is ranked in the top ten swimmers, nationally, for her age group. For OLMC this year, she received three gold medals in the pool and became a GSV record holder in the 50m Freestyle, with a time of 27.6 seconds.

Outside of OLMC and in 2019 alone, Victoria achieved the following:

- **Age National Championships**
Bronze - 200m Butterfly
- **Age State Championships**
Gold - 200m Butterfly, 400m Individual Medley
Silver - 1500m Freestyle, 800m Freestyle
Bronze - 400m Freestyle, 200m Individual Medley, 100m Butterfly
- **Open State Championships**
Silver - 800m Freestyle, 200m Butterfly
- **Member of the Victorian State Representative Squad**
- **Qualified for the Open National Championships to compete against world record holders**

Victoria has had an exceptional year in 2019 and we can't wait to see what she achieves in 2020.

PARENT COMMUNITY



SHARING A LAUGH

The OLMC Parents' Association was excited to host our inaugural Comedy Gala in August. It featured three seasoned comedians – Monica Dullard, Brad Oakes and Dave O'Neil.

Brad Oakes was our MC for the night and did an outstanding job in keeping the show moving along, interspersed with his own comedy act. The people sitting up front may have had a very different perspective – they were the brunt of many a joke. Monica Dullard made us laugh so much that many of us were crying – we will never be able to view netball in the same light again! Dave O'Neil finished off the night with a show-stopper. His many years working in comedy have made him a polished performer.

He certainly had us all in stitches. It was a great pleasure to work with the fabulous comedians who made the evening run seamlessly.

We are grateful to everyone that came along and supported the evening. We raised \$4,200, which contributed to the purchase of sustainable water bottles for every student.

One of our major aims for the Parents' Association is to provide opportunities for parents to get to know one another. The Comedy Gala was a great success in this respect, and we look forward to hosting another evening in 2020.

Lisa Gillies

On behalf of the Parents Association

'GRADUATE' PARENTS SAY THANK YOU

The College was pleased to receive the following words of gratitude from two families whose daughters have recently graduated.



OLMC provided a strict, yet caring environment for our daughter. The teachers and staff were very thoughtful, and often went above and beyond to help students. When Jenny was lost and anxious about selections of VCE subjects, there were always teachers, consultants and other senior students to give her advice.

Jenny was quite nervous about getting involved in school activities in the early days. Luckily there were ample choices in arts and music. The musical productions helped Jenny with her confidence and team building skills. We watched her transform from a shy little girl to a confident young woman ready for life and adventures. We often talked between ourselves that OLMC must be a really good place, as despite our daughter sometimes being sick or tired, she never wanted to miss a lesson, even against our suggestions.

We wish to thank all teachers and staff at OLMC.

Dr Giang Le & Illie Bui



The memories we treasure as a family haven't always come from scheduled classes but from Ellie's many extra-curricular activities – Great Vic Bike Rides, GSV netball, football, softball and cricket, the Junior Production, the Art Show, Mercy Day, House Carnivals, Year 8 Survival Camp, Year 10 Canberra Camp, Year 12 Retreat, the morning Pastoral catch ups, and of course the Formal!

Ellie has a diverse friendship group that was formed by being involved in all these activities. She also made special bonds with girls from different years in her Pastoral Group and in McAuley House – the best House!

Over the years, Ellie matured and grew as a young woman with the guidance of some great teachers and mentors. The opportunity to become a leader was a huge benefit and allowed her confidence in public speaking and her organisational skills to develop.

You never know which experiences will shape or inspire your daughter. We suggest she tries them all!

Matt and Nicky Ryan

PAST PUPILS



CLASS OF 1999 REUNION

There's a view that Facebook can kill school reunions. If we can flick through exotic holiday destinations, picturesque weddings and chubby-cheeked newborns on a lunch break, why waste a precious afternoon making small talk? Because, as one Class of '99er put it, 'nothing compares to seeing old friends in the flesh' (albeit with a few more wrinkles and stray grey hairs!).

Around 75 members of the Class of 1999 arrived at OLMC on Saturday 12 October for our 20 year reunion and it wasn't long before the staff room resembled a rowdy house party, with noise levels reaching fever pitch.

A lot can happen in 20 years – seven prime ministers and the dawn of a new millennium for a start – but it wasn't quite long enough to erase the memories of horrific creations in the textile, home economics and art rooms, wild excuses to get out of PE, eye-raising antics on school camps, and how we risked our lives eating toasties made in the common room (which was demolished not long after we finished Year 12).

As another Class of '99er put it: 'There was a real camaraderie amongst us. We shared a large chunk of our lives, created many memories and grew from girls to women together. The atmosphere was so genuine and happy.' Amen to that.

It was also lovely to see popular teachers, Mrs Collins and Mrs Palmer, who were greeted warmly with smiles and hugs

Thanks to Belinda Vass (nee Spillare) who did most of the heavy lifting in organising the girls, along with the OLMC staff who did a brilliant job hosting the event, sifting through old photos, yearbooks and uniforms for the displays and conducting the tours of the school.

Hanna Mills Turbet

Class of 1999



CAPTAIN OF MY OWN SHIP

Josette O'Donnell (Class of 1997) is currently the Senior Health Promotion Officer at Eastern Health. She was the guest speaker at the High Tea in Heidelberg in September, when she shared with us her passion for taking action to prevent violence against women, as well as accelerating change in social norms for respectful relationships.

A few years after leaving school I did a stint volunteering overseas in impoverished communities. This set me on a new path in life. My eyes were opened to the impact that we can have on the world and to the wide scale existence of poverty. I soon found myself working as a Community Capacity Builder Officer, working in the resources and environment area.

After two years, I decided to head to Northern Australia to understand more about the priorities and experiences of Australia's first nation. There I discovered a passion for health promotion. Over the last four years, I have worked for Eastern Health and have led some innovative work in preventing family violence in Melbourne's Eastern Region. We have supported community partnerships, run initiatives to increase women's confidence, driven new investments in promoting healthy masculinity in men, and established strong partnerships with sporting leagues to normalise positive and respectful relationships between men and women and to challenge gender inequality.

In my school days I recall being spurred on to feel that I could make a difference in the world. I have learned that there are so many different ways we can contribute, earn a living and have an impact. One of the most important things that has helped me is a strong sense of who I am and a drive to 'captain my own ship'. There are no shortages of challenges in life, however, with a strong sense of connection to our own spirit, heart and drive, we can choose how we navigate them.

Looking back I understand why my parents chose OLMC for me. The nurturing, focus and support I received were an incredibly strong foundation for what lay ahead.

Josette O'Donnell

Class of 1997

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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GRATITUDE

At their Graduation, the 2019 Student Leadership Team presented the College with a Gratitude Journal, filled with messages from Year 12 students. The following are excerpts from the journal.

I am forever grateful for the empowering environment at OLMC. I am honoured to be a part of a community that values women and respects one another.

Michelle Huang

I'm especially grateful for the support of the OLMC community in the creation of Eco-Justice. The success of our projects this year, and the growing presence of the group, couldn't have been achieved otherwise.

Ava Rossi

To be surrounded by love and support from both students and staff every day for the past six years has shaped my values and what I aspire to be – simply, a good person. This red brick school built me and I will be forever grateful for that!

Kate Keenan



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