

Ventured



Newsletter of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association (MCAA)

Issue 15, September 2018

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Veho Spes Juventutis

By Paula McCarthy

World War II dominated the first half of the 1940s, and many school activities were based around the war effort. The MCHS archive photos shown on this page were taken as Australia was beginning to emerge from the war into peacetime. Although post-war restraints and shortages prevailed, prosperity and optimism were beginning to grow.



These students had lived most of their secondary school lives through the cloud of war. No doubt there was constant concern for family and friends in service. Next came

resettlement and adjustments for those who returned. There was overwhelming sadness for those who did not come back.

Reflecting on these photos from 1947 (courtesy of Isabel Priestley), these MCHS scholars would have been looking forward to a brighter future to “carry the hopes of youth”.

We will soon commence construction of an honour board for those who served. Our thanks go to George Raphael, who has assisted us with this project. Please advise us if you know of past students who served so that they can be added.

We are actively searching for more memories to bring to life all eras at MCHS. If you haven't had the opportunity to provide your story and/or if you know of someone who we should approach, please contact me on 0409 300 720.



1947 Prefects

Back (L-R): Roy Taylor, Don Meckiff, Adrian Gallienne, Arthur Methers, Jeff Stafford
Front (L-R): Betty Dossor, Beth Caldwell, Ann Hughes, Isabel Priestley, Alice Crosland, Judy Dabner



1947 Basketball Team

(L-R): Betty Cantlay, Beth Caldwell, Isabel Priestley, Isabel Anderson, Greta Keleher, Ann Hughes, Grace Timewell, Betty Clark



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Principal's Report



by Michelle Roberts

I look forward to conducting a tour for our former students on Tuesday 13 November at 9.15am. These tours have been very popular, and I encourage people to come

back again as the school is continually changing as it continues to grow.

Congratulations to all students (cast and crew) who were involved in this year's school production of *The Addams Family*. I am sure everyone in our school community would agree with me that it was a fantastic show of the highest quality in all respects, and showcased our wonderful talent pool at the College.

The production was held over four nights this year (instead of three) in our Performing Arts Centre from 22-25 August, with a matinee performance for our local primary schools on the Wednesday as well.

Former School Captain Josh Mulcahy again produced the show in partnership with our wonderful teachers: Mara Sears (Production Co-ordinator and Performing Arts Co-ordinator) and Demis Danoudis (Music Co-ordinator), along with teachers assisting,

Adelle Stevenson, Ariana Nickou, Kelly Ferguson, Andrew Fisher and Liz Evans. Highlighting the sense of community that prevails at the College, a number of former students returned to assist – Natalie Wood and Imogen Kane as Assistant Directors, Hannah Blavo as Assistant Choreographer, Finn Mc Henry assisting with the crew, and Rhian Wheel and Gemma Benci as part of the 'pit singers'.

On Tuesday 21 August, Stan Alves returned to the College to speak to our Year 12 students. It is a critical time in the year as they complete final assessments before preparing for the final exam weeks in Term 4. Stan spoke to students about getting the best out of themselves, no matter what their career aspirations are and having no regrets. "If it's to be, it's up to me".

It was wonderful to have Stan reconnect with the College and offer his services as a way of giving back to a great school that supported him many years ago. The students were highly engaged during his presentation, and found it most worthwhile.

Individual course counselling interviews for students entering Years 10, 11 and 12 in 2019 have been held this term with members of the College leadership team.



Former student Stan Alves with current students

It is a very important opportunity for parents and students to discuss potential pathways, and to submit their intended courses for 2019. Strategies are also put in place to ensure achievement and effort over the remainder of the year are sufficient to guarantee places in chosen subjects. We have a vast array of VCE and VETiS subjects on offer, and our VCAL program is another possible pathway.

This term, Premier of Victoria Mr Daniel Andrews visited the school, along with our local member Mr Tim Richardson and Federal member Mr Mark Dreyfus QC.

After taking them on a tour of the school, and speaking about the future direction of the school and current building needs to cater for our growth in student enrolments, it was very exciting to hear Mr Andrews announce an \$8.5 million commitment to Mordialloc College if Labor is re-elected in November. This will allow us to complete stage 2 of our masterplan in the building of a new Year 8 Learning Centre, a new VCE Study Centre, and Senior School learning hub.

Thanks to Sabrina Berg, Annie Ea and Strong Sirachantankorn for joining me as representatives of our student leadership team. Our visitors were very impressed with the students and staff they interacted with as we toured the school and visited classrooms.

Endorsing our reputation as a leading education provider in the area is the continued growth in our student enrolments. We have 76 Year 12 students leaving at the end of the year, and between 190 and 200 Year 7 students coming in at the start of next year! Our total student population next year will be approximately 974 students (including our international students).

Our growth to over a thousand students will occur in 2020 as the last remaining smaller year level (2019 Year 12 – 96 students) leaves the school and another larger intake comes in at Year 7.

SCHOOL TOUR

We have another school tour for past students, conducted by Principal Michelle Roberts, on Tuesday 13 November at 9.15am.

This is a great opportunity to see what has changed – and what hasn't – at your old school, and to reminisce about your time there.

Past tours have been well attended, and the participants have enjoyed the tours and the morning tea supplied by the school.

To assist us with planning, we need an indication of numbers.

If you are interested in attending, please email admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org or phone Lynette on 0422 647 742 or Barbara on 9551 1273.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association will be held as follows:

Venue: Mordialloc Sporting Club,
Main Street, Mordialloc

Date: Saturday 13 October

Time: 10.30am

The official business will be brief, and elections for office bearers for the coming year will be held.

This will be a good opportunity to come along and catch up with other past students.

It could also be a good time to toss around ideas for future directions of the Association.

Everybody is welcome!

Mordi Memories



Gary (Gus) Johnson
MCHS 1964–1968

Gus Johnson (birth name Gary) started at MCHS in 1964 and travelled to school from Edithvale on his bicycle he named the ‘Red Terror’.

He doesn’t recall much about his first year in 1D,

but does remember being pleased with his 90% score in Music.

He also remembers Lynne Randall performing and comfortably winning that year’s Talent Quest, which he had also entered – playing an excerpt from the theme for the tv show *Peter Gunn*. Although petrified, he was selected by Mrs Thomson to win the encouragement award.

1965 was a year he vividly remembers. He joined the athletics team for Cheltenham House and won quite a few medals and ribbons for sprinting, and subsequently represented the school in State Championships.

Again he entered the Talent Quest, this time with a band. At the completion of a rehearsal, rhythm guitarist Andrew Hodgkinson, yelled out, “that was great, Gus!” and the name stuck. (He officially changed his name in 1971 from Gary to Gus.)

Form 3B in 1966 was important – he was still doing well in athletics, had many musically like-minded friends, and again entered the Talent Quest as part of a band called *The Weak End* with Peter Gawith playing drums, Colin Oke on bass and Jan Meagher on vocals. They performed the song *Tar and Cement*.



Photo shows: Gus Johnson (centre), Colin MacMillan (front left) and Peter Pullen (front right)

Every lunchtime, Gus and a new kid from England, Alan Tompkins – a great bass guitarist – would borrow two acoustic guitars, find an empty classroom and jam, learn songs and indulge in all things musical. Gus remembers 1967 as an excellent year when he was in Form 4E, an all-boys phys-ed experimental Form. They were trained in a vast array of sports, and were also given tuition in how the body works – muscle, bone, diet, etc. He says that Science, Physics, Botany and Biology, with experiments conducted by Bernie Smith, were fantastic.

After leaving school, he played as lead guitarist with several bands including *Tapestry*, *Platinum Riff*, *The Movies* and *Living Proof*. He worked with many artists including John Farnham, Billy Joel and James Reyne. His first solo album, *Ocean of Dreams*, had its worldwide release on 2 July 2004. He is currently working on his fourth album with its release due this month.

In the late 1980s, he decided to further his education, and was accepted as a full-time mature age student at Monash University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Accounting, then worked as a Senior Auditor for the Australian Taxation Office. In 2007, he moved from Melbourne to Brisbane. During 2006-2012, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate for his work, *A History of Gospel Music and its Impact on Contemporary Music*.



Mordi Memories



Andrew Murphy
MCHS 1974-1978

My memories of Mordi High go right back to day one a treasure trove of memories mainly full of fun.

I met so many people and still know lots of them today we tried hard in the classroom but excelled when out to play.

Day one was registration in the freezing Le Page Hall feeling very nervous at our very first roll call.

The years flew by so quickly but the highlights always came the games, the fights, the partner swaps were most kids' claim to fame.

Smoking somewhere out the back was always quite a thriller until out of nowhere came the voice of Mr Albietz – 'Killer'.

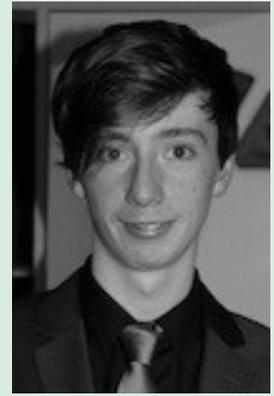
Sprung again as usual not liking the attention but so much more importantly hating the detention.

Then there was the locker room – the noisiest place in the world a hundred kids all yelling out while many bags were hurled.

The canteen's a special memory the comfort food the best hot buttered roll with tomato sauce was always my request.

The quadrangle, the other hall, painting down by the creek, Woodwork, Drawing, learning French that we would never speak.

I could go on forever of the good times at this school to sum it up in just one word? MCHS was COOL!



by Mitchell Sundstrom

Working towards the goal of a more user-friendly experience on our website, more of our pages have been given a much-needed redesign, including our Sponsors and Alumni Business Registers.

Our most-used resources have also been made more accessible via the website footer to allow quick and easy access to the pages you visit most.

An exciting addition is the introduction of a Public Photo Gallery which is fully accessible to guest visitors who have not yet registered as members on the website.

This gallery features a small selection of our extensive photo archives which documents the history of the College.

In the future, you will begin to see more pages transform to make them more useable and informative to better improve your overall experience while exploring our website.

More Mordi Memories

Nancy Pond (née Sirett)

MCHS 1956-1958

Nancy remembers travelling to school on her bicycle, wearing her school uniform – dress length below knee. Woe betide anyone who was not in full uniform, both there and back home. Her best subjects were Arithmetic and French (much to her surprise) and she also loved Science.

On reaching Form 3, she was disappointed that girls were not allowed to do Science – instead they had to do Mothercraft and Needlework, both of which she disliked.

She played tennis at lunchtime and loved hockey, but it broke her heart when she was stopped from going on the school hockey team after the following ‘incident’:

“It was free study time, and as it was a lovely day outside, I asked if we could study outside under the trees. The teacher said no, to which I responded ‘oohh!’. The teacher sent me to Miss Carpenter for being impertinent. It took a while to explain exactly what I’d said, and though she sympathised, I was stopped from going on the school hockey team. It broke my heart, but I eventually joined the Mordialloc Hockey Team as a full back, so still got to play my favourite sport.”

On the other hand though, Nancy recalls that Miss Carpenter was very fair and had a love of dogs. (Mr. Tippett tried to get the dog catchers to catch a stray that used to wander around, and Miss Carpenter put a stop to it.)

Other memories include making Cornish Pasties (she still has her school recipe book), going to school dance lessons in the Mechanics Hall, and the little shop opposite the school where you could get one penny milk ice-blocks.

After leaving school, Nancy completed a six-month training course at RMIT, studying Pitman’s shorthand, typing and English, and then went on to work for several years at the Commonwealth Acoustic Laboratory.



Nancy, aged about 13 or 14, wearing the skirt her Mum completed for her so that she wouldn’t totally fail at needlework



Nancy played the trombone for many years in the Daylesford Municipal Band

Later jobs included five years as secretary to the Production Manager at 3AW, six months as secretary to the Secretary of Works on Nauru (where she met her husband, Gwyn), then temporary work for a while.

She enjoyed an 18-month caravan trip up the East coast of Australia with her husband and David, the first born of her two sons.

She went on to work for 21 years with the local Credit Union, starting as a teller and eventually as Policy and Procedures Co-ordinator.

Sadly, her “gorgeous husband” Gwyn passed away in 1991.

Nancy played the trombone in the Daylesford Municipal Band for many years, and was Secretary on the Band Committee, as well as doing stints as President and Treasurer. She was awarded Life Membership, and tells us that she no longer plays in a band – “I doubt I’d have enough wind to blow, nor the energy to march”.

She now spends her time reading a lot, doing crossword puzzles, occasionally gardening, playing on the computer, and line dancing twice a week with a lovely group of ladies. She now lives in Maryborough. Nancy has two sisters, Pat/Trish and Jan who also attended MCHS.

Venture Revisited

In this section we reprint extracts from previous school magazines. Our selection for this issue is from the 1990 Venture 2 by Suzy Barratt, Year 11.

Suzy Barratt on television: Does television reflect society, or does society reflect television?

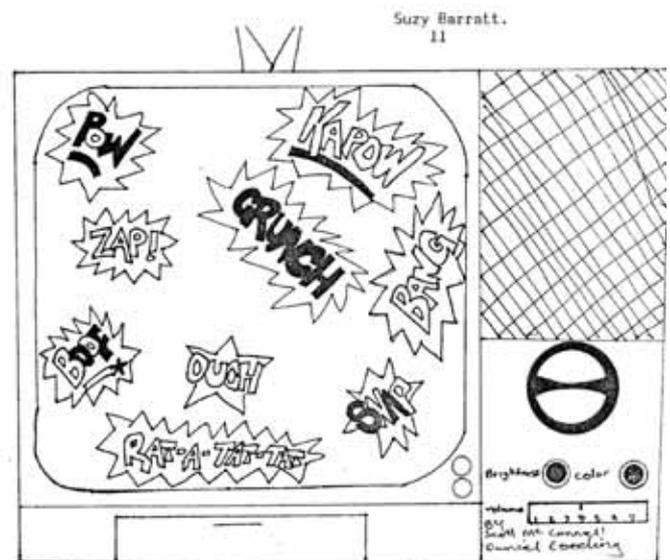
The statement “media is influencing our children” is debatable due to the range of material available. Television is a form of entertainment, and is often used throughout the world. The average five year old has watched 2,000 hours of television but within these, she/he has seen 18,000 screen murders. To a five year old, at present, it may be regarded as entertainment, but in the long run it may result in violence and crime.

It is a babysitter used by many, as it is an easy way to keep children amused, but only ten per cent of mothers surveyed in America monitor the child’s viewing, therefore the world of crime and violence is introduced to the child. There is no message before or after to let children know that violence is illegal and should not be done. To make matters worse, five of the best-selling toys are war toys. These encourage minors to act out crime and violence, yet how many boys in the world would rather a real gun when they get bored with the one that goes ‘click’ instead of ‘bang’?

“We are all capable of violence”, Wilson, a leading sociologist states. This statement is true but if children are sheltered from the violence on television until they are old enough to understand the seriousness, a more mature and responsible attitude would follow.

Cartoons are animated television shows, easy for minors to understand, attractive and often brightly coloured. They are perfect viewing for a child when you ignore the fact that in 1984 there were two war cartoons on television. In just six years, that number has risen to twenty-nine. Ninja Turtles is a prime example of a cartoon containing violence and crime.

The Ninja Turtles set out to free the world of crime by defeating Shredder, a character whose aim is to take over the world. Although the Ninja Turtles are the ‘goodies’ and the scripts have the traditional storylines



of good overpowering bad, the Ninja Turtles use the same violent weapons (such as nunchucks and swords), if not more, than Shredder. Due to the popularity of the show, a large number of toys related to the Ninja Turtles are sold throughout Australia.

War cartoons are not only available to young, gullible minds, but they are attracted to it due to its presentation and the availability of toys to act it out. Crime is more prevalent in the USA than it is in Australia. This could be due to the fact that guns and other weapons are more available in the United States. Due to humans’ ability to feel emotions of jealousy, envy, and fear, by making weapons available, the country is providing big children with big toys. Toys that are powerful enough to kill.

Media often shows violence through news broadcasts. The real-life situations have more of an effect on the public because of their reality, for example wars and robberies. The responsibility of the media is to limit the level of viewing when children are most likely to be watching television. Robberies, murders, wars, etc, are still widely taped and the commentary to these incidents tells a story classified in the same category as a bedtime story, but better due to the realism.

As more and more violence is shown on television, crime will increase and so will taxes to cover the costs of imprisonment and police forces. Not only does the economic system suffer, but so too does the human race.

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About Ventured

Ventured is the newsletter of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association (MCAA). *Ventured* welcomes member contributions, including stories and articles about the school; people or events of the past related to the school; and insight into what has happened to people after leaving school.

All information in *Ventured* is provided in good faith and is derived from sources believed to be accurate and current as at the date of publication. The Editor is not obliged to publish a submission and reserves the right to edit submissions. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed or approved by the MCAA or Mordialloc College.

All contributors are requested to read the submission guidelines on the website: mordialloccollegealumni.org.

Contributions should be sent by email to Editor Barbara Dowling, at admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org or via normal mail to PO Box 5121, Mordialloc 3195.

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