

Ventured



Newsletter of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association (MCAA)

Issue 29, April 2022

✉ PO Box 5121, Mordialloc 3195 📧 admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org 🌐 www.mordialloccollegealumni.org

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 11 MARCH 2022

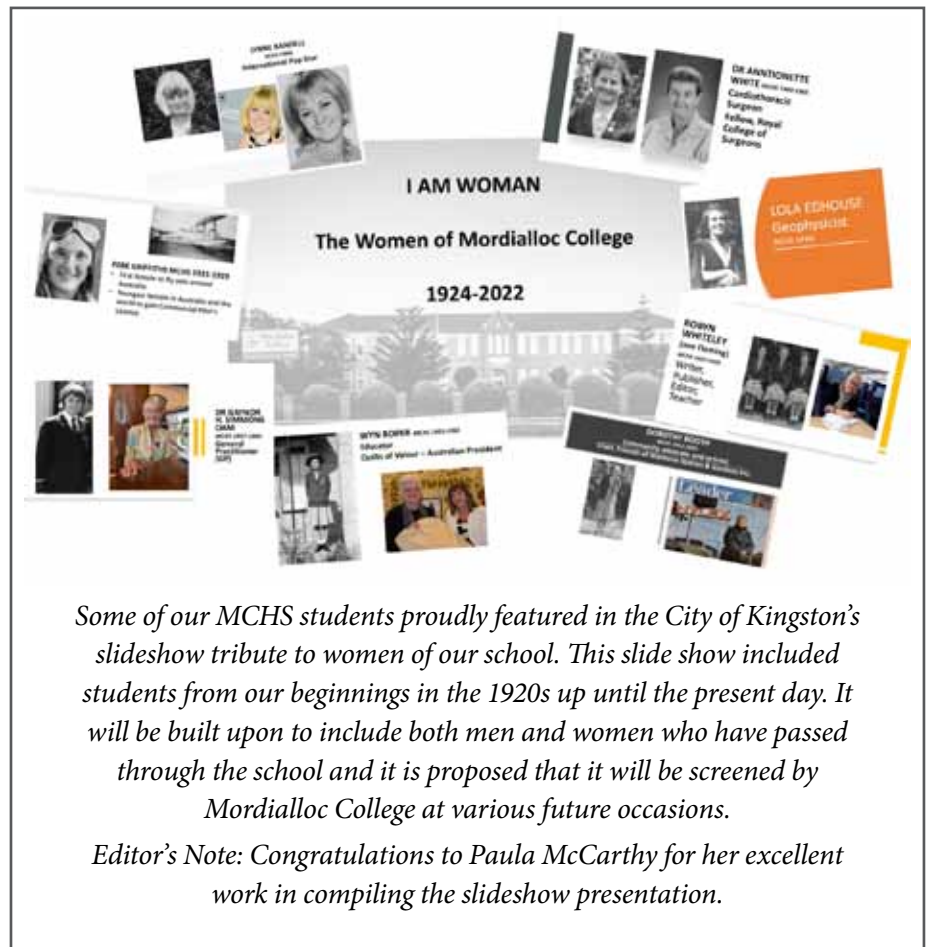
The MCAA was asked to contribute to a slideshow at the City of Kingston's celebration of International Women's Day on Friday 11 March at the Moorabbin Town Hall.

Originally, it was planned to feature past students of other City of Kingston secondary schools but the slideshow evolved into a pictorial exclusively featuring students who have passed through the corridors of our school over its 98-year history.

The shift to focusing on Mordialloc College is a tribute to the MCAA's capability to mobilise resources due to the fabulous groundwork of our Committee over a period of time, and our ongoing archival and history projects.

It was a powerful and moving collaboration with the Cheltenham Secondary College musical and vocal ensemble performing Helen Reddy's *I Am Woman* as the slideshow was played to a packed hall of hundreds of attendees, including local dignitaries.

Thank you to the City of Kingston organisers for showcasing the history of our school and to everyone who assisted and 'answered the call'.



Some of our MCHS students proudly featured in the City of Kingston's slideshow tribute to women of our school. This slide show included students from our beginnings in the 1920s up until the present day. It will be built upon to include both men and women who have passed through the school and it is proposed that it will be screened by Mordialloc College at various future occasions.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Paula McCarthy for her excellent work in compiling the slideshow presentation.

Our appreciation goes to Joe Oliveri for use of his fabulous image of our stately building.

Mordialloc College Centenary

In two years, we have the 100th anniversary of the beginning of MCHS and plans will be accelerating

to finalise the history publication. If you would like to assist us or join our Committee, please drop us a line at admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org or call 0409 300 720 – we are still actively collecting images and stories so your help would be greatly appreciated.



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



By Michelle Roberts

It's hard to believe it's April already, and so much has been packed into 2022 so far!

This year, we had 247 Year 7 students starting with us, which makes a Middle School of just over 700 students and our total school enrolment of approximately 1200 students.

We are hoping to stabilise the student population at this number over the next few years by limiting our Year 7 intake each year to 200 students.

We look forward to all students continuing their positive attitude into 2022, staying focused on achieving their personal best and always striving to improve.

I am proud to be the Principal of Mordialloc College and I hope that everyone is proud to be a part of the Mordialloc College community.

I am looking forward to the remainder of the year ahead and hope that all students make the most of the opportunities and challenges that are presented to them.

Given our experience of the previous two years, I really hope students have a genuine appreciation for what it means to be back onsite for face-to-face learning.

We should take nothing for granted and cherish the vast range of experiences that our school provides for our students.

COVID Safe

We started the year distributing free rapid antigen tests (RATs) to our 1200 students and 130 staff so they could conduct the twice-a-week testing which was strongly recommended for both students and staff.

In addition, for the first four weeks of term, staff and students were required to wear masks while indoors.

This rule was lifted on 28 February, and it has been fantastic to see our students' faces again in class, after two-plus years of mask wearing.

We are still reinforcing the key behaviours required for reducing COVID-19 transmission risk.

This includes staying home when unwell, washing hands regularly and use of hand sanitiser, no sharing of drink bottles or food and, where possible, social distancing.

We look forward to running our normal extra-curricular program of events for students this year, including our house sport carnivals, camps, excursions, inter-school sport, school production, music spectacular, art show, awards night, valedictory dinner, school formals and the vast array of lunchtime clubs that we offer.

Excellent Year 12 Results and DUX 2021

I would like to congratulate all our 2021 Year 12 students on achieving excellent Year 12 VCE and VCAL results after such an extraordinary and most challenging two years.

Some of the highlights of our Year 12 VCE achievements included:

- ◆ 9.1% of our Year 12 students achieved ATARs over 90, and 13.6% over 80, thus close to a quarter (22.7%) scoring over 80; and
- ◆ 6.5% of study scores were in the 40s.

And huge congratulations go to our top performing VCE students who achieved results in the top 2-10% of the State:

- ◆ **Charlie Guo** achieved an ATAR score of 98.3 and was awarded College Dux for 2021.
- ◆ **Meike Berg** achieved an ATAR of 96.85, **Victoria Vasilenko** an ATAR of 95.55, **George Newton** an ATAR of 93.25, **Samuel Bloxham** an ATAR of 92.5, **Fasika Abera** an ATAR of 92.4, **Natalie Politova** an ATAR of 92.35 and **Hannah Grieve** an ATAR of 91.3

These students were successful in receiving offers in the following courses: Biomedicine, Science and Arts at Melbourne University; Science/Global Studies, Psychology (Honours), Engineering (Honours)/Science, Arts at Monash University; Architecture at RMIT and Psychology (Honours) at Deakin.

Congratulations also go to all our Year 12 VCAL students for completing all course requirements and receiving offers to complete diplomas, traineeships and apprenticeships.

It was a wonderful set of results and a credit to the staff and students who worked so hard to achieve so much,

not only over the past two years amid a pandemic with many transitions into and out of remote learning, but over the course of the six-year journey for these students.

While we celebrate individual student success stories, it is important to remind everyone that your final ATAR score does not define you as a person.

In the end, it is just a rank for tertiary admission.

It won't necessarily determine where you will go in the future or how happy you will be.

All students should feel proud of their efforts and be satisfied that they have given their personal best.

Building Program Update

Students are now able to enter and exit the school at one of our main entrances near the Discovery Centre and new Year 7&8 Learning Centre, with the completion of the new pathway here.

At the time of writing, we are still on track for an end of Term 1 handover of our new building for our Year 7&8 students to occupy from Term 2.

The complete upgrade of our four outdoor courts to blue plexipave and new court lines, posts and fencing will continue into Term 2 with a completion date yet to be finalised.

The refurbishment of our current Year 7 Learning Centre and outside grounds to create our new Senior School precinct will commence ASAP, once our new building is complete.

Once Senior School move into their new area, the refurbishment of D1, D3 and office spaces will occur for the development of our new Wellbeing Centre.



WEBMASTER'S REPORT

The Next Generation Digital Archives



By Mitchell Sundstrom

A large portion of Alumni resources go into recovering, scanning, and carefully archiving physical records – such as photographs, diaries, and memorabilia – with the purpose of curating a significant digital archive of Mordialloc College's history.

With the substantial growth of our digital archives over the past few years, our online showcase should also evolve to match those accomplishments and allow our members to fully appreciate what our archives have to offer.

Recently, we have been completely redeveloping our website and are

keen to share some details on what to expect.

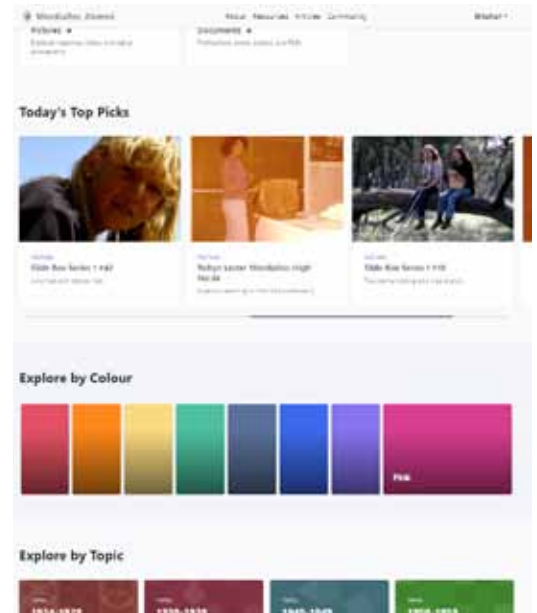
This can be broken down into three primary focus points.

❶ Broadening the options available in which to discover digital resources.

You may not always know what you want to find, which is why we are introducing various features aimed at providing unique ways of exploring what you are interested in.

In addition to expanding resource tagging to be much more flexible, you will soon be able to find photos by colour, year, or even what objects are featured in the photo itself.

❷ Establishing points of interaction between digital resources and other members.



To promote more of a community feeling, we are adding more options to interact with other members through personal timelines.

Your timeline will showcase your comments, your likes, and your own additions to the digital archive.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Membership of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association (MCAA) is open to all past students, teachers and friends of the school.

An annual fee of \$10 provides access to our extensive archive of photos,

magazines etc. and four issues of *Ventured*. So why not contact your friends and refer them to the Secretary at **admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org**.

Alternatively, scan the QR code on the left, or go to **mordialloccollegealumni.org**

MORDI MEMORIES

③ Improving the overall usability and appeal of the online experience.

Building our new website from the ground up, we were able to ensure that usability was at the forefront of design choices to make it not only easy to use, but pleasant to look at.

We hope that through our new and improved online presence, the Alumni will be able to explore new avenues of storytelling and showcasing Mordialloc College's rich history.

Keep an eye out for news on when you can start exploring our new website soon.

Be part of the story

We welcome stories and photos from your time at MCHS/Mordialloc College.

Just send them to

admin@
mordialloccollegealumni.org

or

PO Box 5121,
Mordialloc 3195



Aerial view of our school circa mid 50s – photo source: State Library of Victoria

VAL MITCHELL (NÉE HATCH), MCHS 1946-1949

In a previous issue of *Ventured* we asked if anyone had memories of the Nissen Hut and we were very pleased to hear from Val who recalled for us: “the Nissen Hut was outside the boys’ entrance to the quadrangle (nearest to the creek) and it was the PE Hall!

“Miss Fellows was our PE teacher and she was kind and friendly – she always seemed to ‘come down to our level’. She may have been from Hastings way and had very short hair in a somewhat masculine style. She called a spade-a-spade and was very down-to-earth at a time when the teachers were usually well-to-do and more distant.



“We wore navy Swedish Bloomers – known as ‘Swedes’ with elastic around the waist and legs. At this time, shorts were not apparel that was ‘in’ but we all felt very comfortable and modest. Boys were not in our group.

“We did extensive training in the Hut on straw mattresses to ready for the formal concert at Mentone City Hall. We excelled in doing double tumble turns in pairs together. We thought we were very smart and clever!”

We will be featuring Val and her amazing memories in a forthcoming issue of *Ventured*.

Photos show: [top] The sports uniform of this era illustrated by Isabel Priestly (MCHS 1943-1947); and [bottom] A version of the ‘Swedish Bloomers’ remained a part of the uniform until the 1970s.

MORDI MEMORIES



and it is a great time for all girls and boys of that age to attend such a well organized school as it keeps you on your toes and makes you fully realise you have something to live up to. Every quarter at the school we have a "social" and I am very pleased to be able to say that the one boy in the school who was the idol of all the girls, asked my permission to escort me home and was I surprised, as along with all the other girls we already had our minds made up that he was interested in "Elsie" the brunette beauty of the school, anyway Reg and I became firm friends and I met & liked his people too, my own mother liked him very much and I think she thought I was going to

Marjorie Brooking and an entry from her journal.

MARJORIE BROOKING, MCHS 1928-1929

We take our MCHS time machine back to the 1920s and to the recollections of Marjorie who commenced at MCHS in 1928 after attending Glenhuntly State School with a group of very fond friends.

At the end of 1927, decisions were made by Marjorie's parents and those of her friends as to what direction the education of their 'little troop' would take.

At the age of 11, Marjorie had already completed her Merit Certificate and was academically advanced.

With one pal off to Melbourne High, another to business college and another who would stay on until aged 14 at 'Glen Huntly', we pick up Marjorie's story through her diary when she arrives at MCHS without her primary school friendship group and is placed in D3 which we can discern was the equivalent of Form 3:

My parents sent me to the Mordialloc High School.

I was fortunate to be a new pupil in a new school, as the year I commenced was the first year for the school itself – prior to that the old Mordialloc Mechanics Institute had served the purpose.

It was a great time for all the girls and boys of that age to attend such a well organised school as it kept you on your toes and made you fully realise you have something to live up to.

Every quarter at the school or, rather I should say at the end of every term, we had a 'social' and I am very pleased to be able to say that the one boy in school who is the idol of all the girls, asked my permission to escort me home – and was I surprised, as along with all the other girls, we already had our minds made up

that he was interested in Elsie, the brunette beauty of the school.

Anyway, Reg and I became firm friends and I met and like his people too.

My own mother liked him very much and I think she thought I was going to marry him eventually.

We jump to 1930, and Marjorie has left the school to commence work and she describes her new position and the teacher that had assisted her:

I have left school after passing all the tests for typing and shorthand and am about to become one of the 'big city' working girls.

The position I have taken was obtained for me by Mr Davis Morris – one of the teachers at the High School who was very good to me and helped me particularly before the exams.

Mr Morris was a bachelor and we found out later that he was to have been married a few years ago but his bride died just before the wedding; he mentioned to one of my friends that I was remarkably like his 'late fiancée' and so no doubt that is why he had more than the usual interest in one of his pupils.

The position I took was with Robertson + Mullens, Melbourne's 'Leading Booksellers and Stationers' and I started as junior typist and assistant to the ledger-keepers and I liked it very much.

Now I was 15 years of age when I took this position and I had been very young, only 11 when I obtained my 'Merit' at the State School and nearly 14 when I passed the 'Intermediate' at High School.

Marjorie's daughter Merrill would go on to attend MCHS, and her son Wayne attended Aspendale Technical School.

Thank you Wayne for allowing us to transcribe Marjorie's diary and for the fantastic photos.

Wayne and his wife Sandra live at Mordialloc's historic Coolullah which he has painstakingly restored to its art deco grandeur – and Sandra attended MCHS too!



The MCHS staff in 1928 – we can assume Davis (or perhaps David?) is amongst the unnamed male teachers in this image. A David J. Morris, occupation teacher, appears in Census records.



Marjorie's daughter, Merrill photographed by Maxwell Williams of Glenhuntly circa 1960.



Merrill Imlach at MCHS in 1958 Form 2C – 4th from left, 3rd row.

VALE

RONALD WILLIAM (BILL) KUPSCH, 7 SEPTEMBER 1940 – 25 FEBRUARY 2022



Bill attended MCHS from 1952 to 1956. He is a younger brother of Bob (who sadly passed away in 1998) and Ken and Joan, all of whom also attended MCHS.

His sporting and academic attributes feature prominently throughout the Venture yearbooks of those years. In 1955, he captained the MCHS Premiership Junior Football Team and he also played in the senior teams of both football and cricket.

In 1956, Bill was honoured as a Prefect and was House Captain of Chelsea. He was the recipient of the 'Ex-Students Sports Award'.

He played for Chelsea Football Club and then for Collingwood U19s in 1957-1958.

Bill became a school teacher and taught at various regional schools when he left teachers college. He then taught at Chelsea, Edithvale and Mordialloc - where he was the principal - and also at Cheltenham. He was highly regarded and popular wherever he taught.

Later in his career, Bill and his family moved to Bendigo and he retired in the region.

Bill's brother Bob had a stellar career with Collingwood and St Kilda Football Clubs, and his brothers Bill and Ken also followed in his footsteps as VFL players.

Our condolences go to Bill's wife Lindsey and his children Janeen, Bill, Heidi, Chris and stepdaughter Georgia, to his beloved brother

Ken and sister-in-law Carol, to his sister Joan, and to all his nieces and nephews in the Kupsch family - many who have also attended MCHS. Thank you for your help with this tribute.

We had been actively trying to bring together our school history with the Kupsch and Kohry story and will endeavour to this over time.



Junior Cricket Team: [back row L-R] G Roe, P Newell, G Pope, R Thomas (Vice Captain), R Thornton, C Wellock, [front row L-R] W Kupsch, A Jamieson, W Stevens (Captain), B Lines, R Read.



Bill, Bob and Ken Kupsch pictured as VFL players, pictured during their time with Collingwood in the late 50s.

ALUMNI COMMUNITY NEWS

The Class of 1970 - 50 Year Reunion



Delayed for two years due to Covid, the dream-team Class of 70 Committee managed to get this fabulous event off-the-ground, over-the-line and done-and-dusted!

The party was celebrated on Saturday 19 March at the beautiful venue and surrounds of Rossdale Golf Club.

There was a lot of love in the room and many, many stories to tell – it was the gathering of a great crew!

Our roving MCAA gate-crashing reporter was fortunate to catch up with many of the warm and welcoming personalities in the room. It was a wonderful day.

Congratulations Gillian Nash, John Davison, Steve Merson, Robyn Beesley and Anne Williams/Bateman and all who attended for a sensational day.

A few photos have come through of this great occasion –this one’s just a sneak peek!

**We can help
with your
reunion!**

If you would like to arrange a reunion, please get in touch with us – we may be able to help you connect with classmates and get the word out to the wider school community!

Just email us at:

admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org

ALUMNI COMMUNITY NEWS

We have lots of significant events and milestones to celebrate – if you have news, please contact us so that we can share and celebrate our alumni community.

If you think we are missing some celebrations here, please get in touch! The MCAA's eye-in-the-sky can only do the best they can with the intel they have. Just contact us at admin@mordialloccollealumni.org.



John Mylonas, MCHS 1974-1979

John was able to take a break from his role as Asset Integration Manager at Metro Trains to celebrate his 60th birthday in February at Ninety Mile Beach. Congratulations John, and thank you for your support of the MCAA over many years.

◀ Photo shows John enjoying Ninety Mile Beach during his birthday celebrations.



George Raphael, MCHS 1938-1942

Congratulations George on your 96th birthday from all of us at the MCAA. Our thoughts are always with you and we thank you for all you have done for the past students associations of MCHS.

▲ Photo shows George (standing third from left) with the MCHS 1941 cricket premiers team.

Mandy Gunn née Mitchell, MCHS 1974-1979

Congratulations on turning 60 in January, Mandy! And thank you for all your support of the MCAA over the years, as well as helping with the cataloguing of 100s of archival photos.

▼ Photo shows Mandy (on the right) with Resa Dalton and Jeanette Russell in 1979. In the background is the newly-built MCHS library. Did you have a uniform pass for those shoes Miss Mitchell?



David Downie, MCHS 1974-1979

David celebrated his 60th birthday in December. He is a principal sponsor of the MCAA, and his company, Kosdown, has been printing *Ventured* on our behalf over all the years since our alumni came back to life. Thank you David and congratulations on turning 60! (Thanks also to Libby Niven – the woman behind the great man and who works on all our graphic design for *Ventured*.)

▲ Photo shows David as MCHS school leader in 1979. He reckons it's the neatest he ever looked in his entire time at the school!



Peter Pullen, MCHS 1964-1969

Peter turned 70 on 31 March!

Here's a quick run-down on our Peter: Married to Julie in 1972; two children – a pigeon pair; five grandchildren; has owned and run Masterlay Floorcoverings for the last 50 years, still going strong (but Peter jokes he might expire in some person's house while still working).

Peter's second job is umpiring Aussie rules footy: 300+ senior games; 400+ junior games; 9 years' umpire coaching; and still running around on field. His footy nickname is 'Tugger Pullen'. Congratulations Peter – you can contact PP on 0418 352 054 if you want to be floored or umpired or just say hi.

▲ Photo shows Peter looking fit and fab at nearly 70!



**Lorraine Jones
née Barlow,
MCHS 1954-1956**

Congratulations Lorraine on the celebration of your 80th Birthday.

◀ Photo shows Lorraine in transit to exotic celebrations up north with lovely daughter Fiona (in a quite colour co-ordinated manner!).

Lorraine celebrated in style at Cabarita Beach in Northern NSW and then headed to Noosa to kick-on with the festival of Lorraine's 80th. (BTW, very special thanks to those minding the chooks back in Parky...)

NEW SPONSOR!

**Carly Dalton
née Wheelhouse,
MCHS 1981-1986**

Thank you so much to Carly who, as Managing Director of Greenhaven Unique Funerals, has recently become a sponsor of the MCAA.

In future editions, we will feature Carly's life at MCHS and then beyond school. Carly was involved in all aspects of life at MCHS and we look forward to featuring her and doing a deep dive into the archives to pay tribute to her talents!



**Kären Hayden née Krause,
MCHS 1974-1978**

Congratulations on your 60th birthday – there can be no doubt you celebrated in style! Best wishes, Kären, and thank you for your long and ongoing support of the MCAA.

▼ Photo shows Kären keeping the stats as it was done on sports day in the 1970s. She is seated next to Bev Jeanes – an ex MCHS student and a long-time teacher at the school.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to these new members:

Paul McMillan	1965 - 1969
Peter Bethell	1970 – 1975
Catherine Moore	1977 – 1981
Ashley Tasker	1993 – 1998
Ian Heath	1956 – 1958
Kelsey Walker	2012 – 2017
Susan Stinchcombe (née Oakes)	1984 – 1989
Wayne Miller	1970 – 1975
Rose Patel	2021 – current
Judith Anderson (née Lewis)	1965 – 1968
Denise Dwyer	1967 – 1968
Gai Cooke	1965 – 1967
Debra Cairns	1977 – 1980
Carly Dalton (née Wheelhouse)	1982 – 1987
Peter Smith	1958 -1964

OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to all the organisations and individuals that have donated money, vouchers, or in-kind items. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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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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