

GENERATIONS

by Barbara Dowling & Bruce Lines

A school is so much more than “bricks and mortar”. Teachers, students and their families come together to form a community within a locality. In addition to the development of knowledge and skills, friendships are formed and experiences remain in peoples’ memories long after their school days. Of course education does not remain static – a school of the 2000s is markedly different from a school of the 1920s or 1930s. Some issues though are experienced by generation after generation, and each of us will work through them in our own way. Our 1989 Venture Revisited item (Page 7) is one such example.

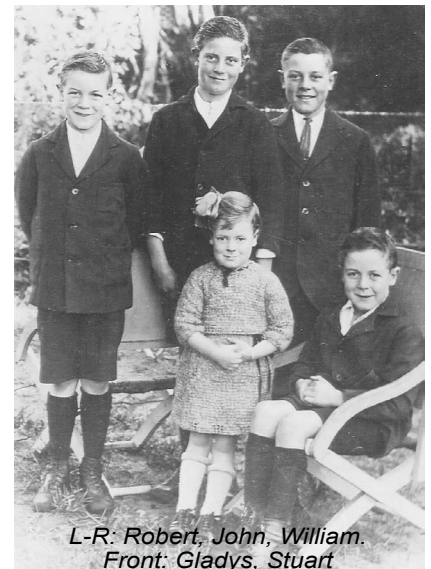
In the earlier years of our school, populations were much less mobile, and there were far fewer schools to service the educational needs of society. Families often stayed in the one area, and many generations attended the same schools as their parents and grandparents. The **COLLINGS family** is one example of three generations who attended MCHS/Mordialloc College.

Robert Collings (Bob) 1913-1975, was among the first intake of students in 1924 of the Mordialloc District High School. Pupils were temporarily accommodated in the Mechanics Institute, and the school has undergone several name changes to become Mordialloc College. Robert had the distinction of becoming the first Sports Captain, and it is said that he would rather inflate footballs than attend class. His three siblings John (Jack) 1914-1995, William (Bill) 1916-1975, Stuart 1918-1984, and Gladys 1921-2000, also received their education at the school. Robert had four children, Ronald, Hilda, William and Eunice. Ronald followed in his footsteps, attending the same school as his father

The next generation carried on the family tradition.

Ronald married Lois Wood, (see Memories P6) also a former student of MCHS. They had four children who all attended MCHS.

Ellen 1973-1977, Patricia 1975-1980, Robert 1976-1979 and Linda 1980-1984. Ellen attributes her love of photography to teacher Mr. Ian McDonald. She also remembers vividly the Year 10 Geography trip to Tasmania. The senior mistress, Miss Jeanes, was enthusiastically taking photos along the way. They had reached Hobart when a loud shriek emanated from said teacher when she realised she had been “snapping away” with no film in the camera. Today’s technology no doubt has eliminated such problems.



L-R: Robert, John, William.
Front: Gladys, Stuart

For those of us who attended MCHS forty, fifty, sixty years ago, the physical changes are evident. We remember classrooms that were basic – a cupboard in the corner, a table and chair for the teacher, a chalk ledge and not much else. Compare that with today’s whiteboards, touch screens, computers, laptops, air conditioning, central heating and carpeted floors. One thing that hopefully has remained constant is the quality of education provided by our alma mater. Recent visits suggest this is definitely the case.

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

Where Are They Now?

By Bruce Lines (MC: 1952-56)

Where Are They Now? is designed to let you know where life's journey has taken some of your classmates after leaving Mordialloc College. We would be delighted if you can provide information about yourself or friends you made at school for publication in future editions of *Ventured*. Some ideas you might like to mention include: tertiary education, employment history, engagement, marriage, family, special achievements, hobbies, your favourite memories of school life and so on.

CAMPBELL HARRISON - 2010-2015

When I came to Mordialloc College, I knew almost nobody. Aside from a few acquaintances I had met in passing over the years, I was moving from primary school to secondary school on completely new terrain,



and starting totally from scratch. To say that I was terrified was an understatement, but after six years at Mordialloc, I'm so happy with what I've come away with.

Secondary school for me, particularly from year 9 onward, was a massive balance between my athletic goals and my academic obligations. Whilst competing domestically and internationally in Sport Climbing (competitive indoor rock climbing), I was training as many days as I was at school, and sometimes more.

Whilst it was really tough at times trying to meet my own expectations, as well as those of my teachers, and even my friends, I learnt a lot about time management and commitment to effort in my years at Mordialloc because of it. The school gave me a lot of support in taking the time off needed to compete across the globe, as well as the extra leeway in balancing my workload, but never let me slack off or have it too easy, which is something I'm really grateful for.

The group of mates I built throughout my years at school have stuck by me to this day, and I honestly see us being friends for the rest of our lives. Especially in our final year, I felt all of us grow so close together.

Despite our differences and diversity, we, for the most part, existed together as one supportive, cohesive group. My absolute fondest memories of school were in the few weeks of study time before our final exams, which I spent just relishing the school time I had left with a great group of people I had really come to appreciate over the years. Even as life steers us in

different directions, I'm always so excited when I get to catch up with the people I spent my last years of secondary education with, and I'm flooded with so many memories of not only the stress that came with VCE, but the good times we shared also.

At Mordialloc I got to experience new things. I was exposed to art, culture, and history in so many different mediums. A true passion of mine that I discovered in high school was the performing arts, and whilst they are less a part of my life now, I feel great fondness for the many hours of rehearsal myself and the rest of the cast and crew put into every production that I had the privilege of being a part of. I had to cut back on, and ultimately abandon, my role in the performing arts department due to my commitments to school and sport, but I gained a lot of joy and confidence from performing whilst at school. I think it is probably the thing I miss most about Mordialloc. The last time I sang for an audience was at my Year 12 valedictory dinner, and I hope that I get another opportunity to pursue this part of myself in the future.



Since having left school I have travelled the world, further pursuing my sporting goals throughout Australia, Europe, and Asia. I'm working hard in order

to do more of this as the years go by, but I know that I can't be an athlete forever. After a year off, I've started studying a double degree of Business/ Arts at Monash University. I'm loving the new challenge that university brings, as it is so different from high school, but I'm able to apply all of the skills I learned in secondary college, as well as build upon them, to best take on this new part of my life.



2015 Graduation Group Photo names L-R: Campbell Harrison, Gemma Benci, Shae MacBryde, Lucy Murley, Mikayla Turner, Briony-Rose Bruce, Max Nichols.

Principal's Note

Michelle Roberts, Principal

On Monday 24th April, the Minister of Education and Deputy Premier, James Merlino accompanied by Mr Tim Richardson, State Member for Mordialloc attended Mordialloc College to officially open our new Performing Arts Centre in the morning.

We had a number of special guests attending, including, Jenny Cocks and Jane Briese the Directors of MINX architecture, Managing Director – Mr. Duncan McPherson OAM and the Director – Mr Peter Rahilly of 2Construct Pty Ltd, Chris Ironside – Education Improvement leader – representing the South East region, School Council president Nicky Hersey and Vice President Ian Fox.

After taking the minister on a short tour of the school, the official proceedings took place in the Performing Arts Centre, with speeches by myself and Mr Merlino, and then the official ribbon cutting! Performing Arts Coordinator, Adelle Stevenson, Performing Arts Captains Francois Van Der Berg and Hannah Blavo, School Captain Finn McHenry and Vice-Captain Scott Kingsbury, all enjoyed being part of this ceremony with me.

We look forward to the substantial contribution this facility will make to the teaching of Drama and Music at our school. The individual learning needs of all students are catered for through the integrated approach to teaching and learning possible within this facility, with the centre providing flexible and collaborative teaching spaces both indoors and outdoors.

This was also an important opportunity for me to speak to James and Tim about further State Government funding to complete our masterplan and cater for the increase in our student enrolments. They

acknowledged that there was a need for further facility development and were receptive to our plans for the future including the development of a new Visual Arts/Technology Centre, new Year 8 Learning Centre and a new Senior School study Centre with classrooms attached.

The Alumni are sponsoring and organising a "Notables" board that is now placed in the hub to recognise former students with a short paragraph about their achievements since leaving Mordialloc College. Each term they are going to come and change this to have a different lot of four people. They will only be displaying those who have signed consent forms (or next of kin have). This week Dorothy Meadows OAM visited the school to officially unveil the first board of people. Dorothy has been the driving force behind this initiative, supported by Bruce Usher who donated his time to make the frame.



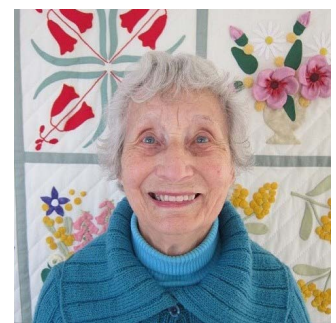
Committee News

We are sorry to inform members that our Vice-President and Historian, Dorothy Meadows OAM has reluctantly stepped down from the Alumni Committee.

Dorothy, a former teacher at the school, has spent countless hours collecting and archiving memories, photos and information so that the history of MCHS/Mordialloc College may be preserved. She has been pivotal to operations for a number of years, and we acknowledge our debt of gratitude for her years of service.

Her prize, the "Dorothy Meadows Prize in History" presented annually to a student at the school, will continue until the centenary year, 2024.

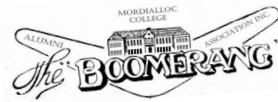
Committee member Paula McCarthy was elected to become our new Vice-President.



President's Message

By Martin Davies

Issue 10 - June 2017



The months and years roll by and it is tempting to think not much has happened.

The MCAA is in what I would call a norming phase of its development. You may not have heard of Tuckman's (1965) forming, storming, norming, performing model of group behaviour, but you don't need to be an academic to have a passing familiarity with the words.

The forming stage—as the name suggests—is when the group is formed and when everyone is motivated, enthusiastic and nice to each other, but are relatively unfamiliar with the tasks ahead. The storming stage, is a stage of dispute, when boundaries are determined and roles are established. Conflicts can occur in this stage and many groups dissolve at this point. Those groups that survive enter the norming phase. This is when antagonisms are resolved and everyone works toward a common goal. (The performing stage is the stage of peak efficiency and productiveness.)

The norming stage is pretty much where we are at: very functional as a group with a large amount of work done, but much more still to do. We are all clear about the challenges and the path ahead. Everyone knows their role.

Much of the work at this point is very slow and tedious:

1. Thousands of photos uploaded to the website need to be back-checked with the hard copy archives. Do we have a digital copy of everything?
2. Digital photos we do not have in the hard copy archives need to be printed.
3. An inventory needs to be done of everything. Imagine, if you will, writing an inventory of every photo you have in the family collection (multiply it by a few thousand photos to get a sense of the task). Add to this every document, magazine and yearbook. Of course, we have families and jobs, so this work needs to be fitted in when we can.
4. The website needs finessing. Things need to be improved and tweaked for added functionality. Updates need to be made regularly. We had an issue recently when the link to the gallery of photos was lost. This was caused by the site memory being exceeded. Some careful coding changes needed to be made—by an expert, and that costs us money.
5. Work continues on funding our efforts. Two grant applications have been completed: one for the Public Records' Office and one for Kingston Council—our wonderful sponsor. Grant applications require a lot of effort, writing budgets, soliciting referees, and so on. We find out the outcome in August.

The McDonald Collection of negatives—6000 photos—remain to be digitised (specialised equipment is needed). The new "First Aid Room" Collection, another 2000 negatives and many documents, still need to be digitised.

There is still a long road ahead.

Web Master's Report

by Mitchell Sundstrom

An alumni obituary is now featured on the website as a digital memorial to students of the college who have since passed away, with written tributes from family or friends about their time and enjoyable moments. This page can be found under the "Alumni" section of the site navigation. If you would like to add to this digital memory, write about them and your experiences with them, and send together with any memorable photographs to admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org.



Other memories or moments in your time at Mordialloc College may be sent to <http://mordialloccollegealumni.org/live/memories>.

These may be included in the proposed historic centennial book which is being compiled to celebrate the upcoming 100th year of Mordialloc College.

Mordi Memories

LOIS COLLINGS (neé WOOD) — 1945-1948

I attended MCHS from 1945-1948. Brigadier Langley was headmaster and later went on to be headmaster at Melbourne Boys High School. The deputy was Mr. Tonkin – he taught Maths and Algebra. In those days we sat two to a desk. One day two boys in the desk behind me were not paying attention. Next thing we knew, a piece of chalk and a duster flew between the girl and I, and hit the boys. They never played up again, as we realised that Mr. Tonkin used his glasses like a mirror with the blackboard.

The girls' teacher was Miss Lear. I also remember Misses Connor, Calder and Fanning. There was a Miss Carey who taught English and History. She wore glasses for close work as she was long sighted, so if you misbehaved she sent you to the BACK of the class. Miss O'Leary was a Maths teacher who wrote with both hands. If she spoke to the right side of the class she used her left hand and vice versa. We had cooking and sewing, which is now called Home Economics.

In third and fourth form there was a Commercial course which was Typing, Shorthand and Bookkeeping. For sport there was Tennis, Hockey, Basketball (now Netball) Rounders and Softball. The last two we had to walk to McCully's paddock to play. For P.E. we wore a white blouse and navy Bombay bloomers, white socks and sandshoes. The P.E. hut was an ex-army hut outside the quadrangle, near the Woodwork rooms on the creek side. This was also used to teach us to dance for the school ball. The school concerts and balls were held in the Mentone City Hall.

For Geography we had to learn all the countries of the world and their capital cities. History was about the monarchs of England, and how Australia was discovered and its colonization – and also America. If we had homework we only took home what books we needed, as we had lockers to keep everything in – not like today where they have to carry it all with them.

After I left school I went to work at Pelaco, where they made pyjamas, men's shirts and ladies' blouses. I don't know if they still exist. I married in 1956 and had four children. All four went to MCHS and were the third generation to do so. Their grandfather, Robert C. Collings was the first Sports captain at MCHS.

P.S. I also remember these teachers . . .

Mr. Barraclough	Science
Mr. Templeton	Woodwork and Metalwork
Mr. Rhoden	English and Latin

EDWARD HARTLEY — 1940

I thought the Polio epidemic was in 1938, but I can date the end of it for you – it was when the flying boats were visiting, and were down at Williamstown. I was taken down to see them and was very "niggley" all morning. On the way home I collapsed in the Flinders St./Swanston St. intersection and Dad had to pick me up and take me home on the train. Our doctor diagnosed Polio but as the epidemic was nearly over he let me stay at home. I had it in the right leg, and at the time the standard treatment was to encase the leg in plaster, and you finished up with a withered leg. However, I was left to crawl around and today the right leg can be seen to be slightly thinner than the left, but otherwise it does everything I ask of it.

I started at MCHS in 1940 and had spent the previous year at Cheltenham State School, having recovered from Polio. By 1941 the war was well underway, and we were digging air raid trenches in the clayey soil alongside Mordialloc Creek. An older boy, Wilton Oakes, came to school all the way from Black Rock on a motor bike – we were most impressed.

JOAN CURNOW (neé TEMPLETON) — 1940-1944

The boys used to torment the French teacher. They would move the desks in a V pattern before she came into class. Then, when she told them to put them back, they would put "cherry bobs" onto the seats, which exploded when the class sat down.

Miss Calder used to put her hanky up her knicker (briefs) leg. Knickers were not brief then. We called her "bottle legs".

Digger Campbell had been to World War One.

I enjoyed Home Economics, Art and Needlecraft. Mr. Solomon taught Science.

I used to take turns spotting for aeroplanes from the roof of the shed behind the Bridge Hotel.

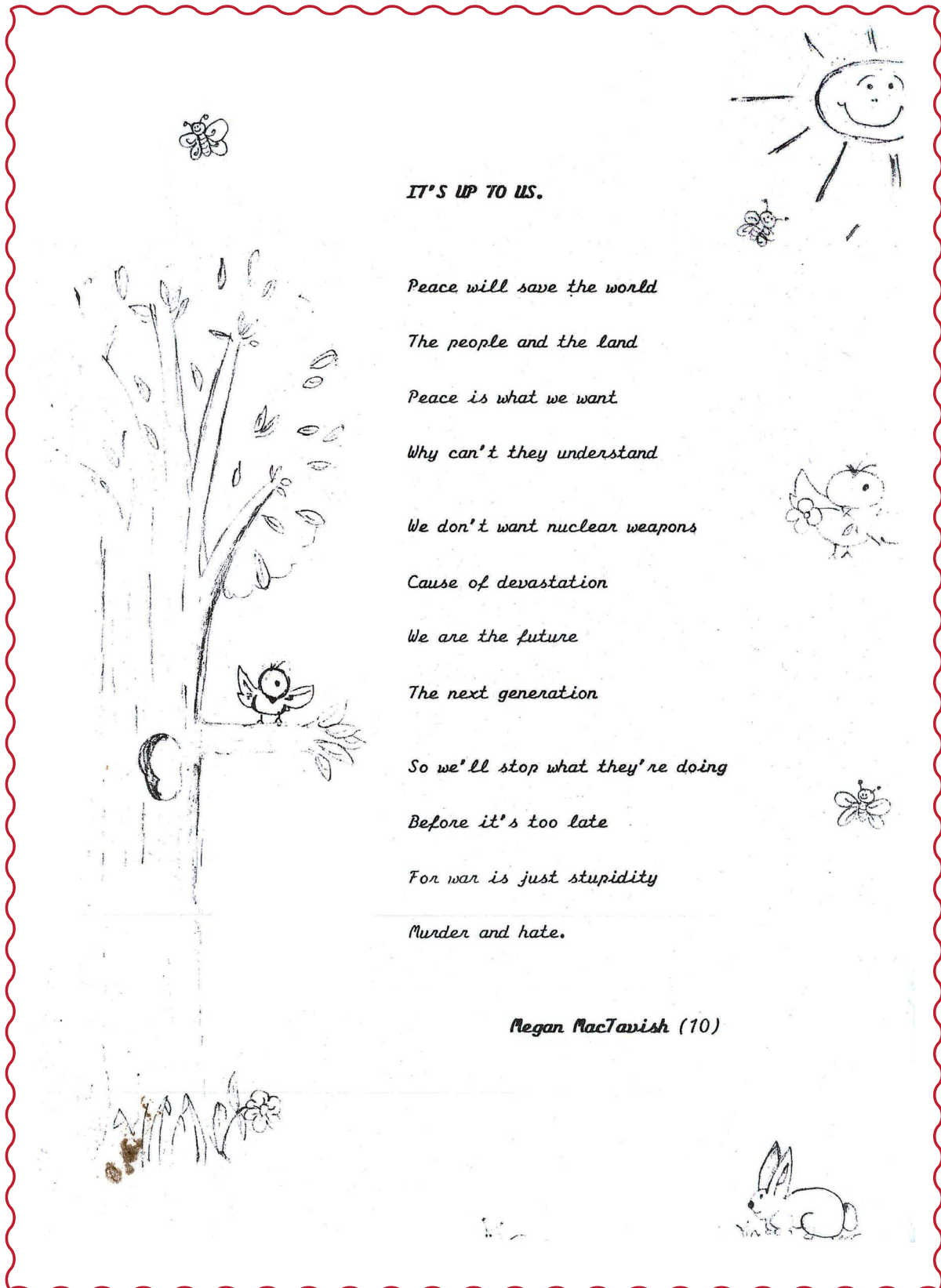
Having my father (Mr. Templeton) a teacher at the school, the kids were wary of me, but some of them used to call me "Sarah" because they thought it was my name and would get them into Mr. Templeton's good books. I always said I would have to go into the country to get a husband and that is what I did.

Near the end of 1944 there was an appeal from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories for ex-students to work at the laboratories 24 hours a day on the Salk vaccine, Penicillin. Dr. Blaxley was in charge. I went canvassing for volunteers and my friend Jean Mitchell and I went to work there. We stayed until we got married.

Venture Revisited

Venture Revisited articles are selected extracts of students' original work previously published by the College each year in *Venture*. This was an annual publication for which we have copies commencing in 1929.

Our selection for *Venture Revisited* is from 1989 by Megan MacTavish from Year 10.



RUSSELL MANSFIELD — 1961-1966



I remember all the great times at MCHS as well as the pressure of studies and exams. Sadly, I applied myself more to having a good time rather than to examination results. Occasionally I surprised myself. During those six years I managed to top my class in Art, History, Applied Maths, French, General Science, Woodwork and English . . . disappointingly these achievements never came in the same year and by Year 12 my successes were confined to the sports field. I envied those who had the determination to go home and study for two to three hours, while I would be heading out to kick a footy or play street cricket.

Over the years I sat next to Bob Martin, Howard Collins, Chris Papas, Col Mason, Graeme Elmer, Trevor Davey and a couple of others. We mucked around so much that we got a bit of a reputation with the staff as being nuisances at worst . . . entertainers at best. Ironically, most of us became school prefects. Maybe staff saw that as a way of straightening us out. We were a cohesive and happy bunch, made obvious by the fact we still get on really well together at our reunions 60 years later.

In senior years I chose the Maths/Science pathway, which in hindsight, was probably a little ambitious for someone with such poor study habits. Graeme Elmer ("Fudd" as he was affectionately known) was a smart student and a lot of fun. One time we locked him in a cloak locker in the quadrangle just before assembly began. He played along and we assumed he would wait in there quietly till we let him out after assembly. However, half-way into "Brush's" (the Vice Principal) serious rhetoric . . . with 900 students hanging on every word . . . this single locker started rocking backwards, forwards and side to side. Moving awkwardly with banging and scraping sounds, it came to rest in a position of its own on the science room footpath, away from the other lockers. The quadrangle went silent. The children gasped in horror at this metallic, ghost-like apparition which was appearing to their right. The staff on the rostrum gazed in amazement, some juniors looked very frightened, a few screamed . . . while a group of five Year 11 boys rolled on the ground in hopeless hysterics.

I was in the education system for 27 years, 19 of those as Principal. It was ironic that half of those prefects who had spent years giving teachers a hard time, went on to become teachers themselves. Sick of the government politics surrounding the education system, I resigned and ran a Teacher Agency for 22 years. Finally in 2016, my wife Janet and I began working towards retirement by the end of this year.



Prefects 1966

Russell is in the middle back row.

Would you like your details to appear as an alumni profile? It's easy! Just send us a bio – something that you would like to share. Following the guidelines for publication in *Ventured* available on the website, and send it to the Editor by email: admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org, or upload it via the website. Make sure you include the years you attended the College; and a clear head and shoulders photo as a jpeg file. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want the photo back. The Editor reserves the right to edit your submission to size.

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:

<http://www.mordialloccollegealumni.org>.

Contributions should be sent by email to the Editor, Barbara Dowling:

admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org.

Thanks to the many people who have contributed to the production of *Ventured*, and to our wonderful sponsors. We are grateful for their support of public education. *Ventured* is produced using InDesign and based on a template designed by Jenny Pesina of the University of Melbourne. *Ventured* is printed by Kosdown Printers in Port Melbourne.

