

# Ventured



Newsletter of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association (MCAA)

Issue 24, December 2020

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## Victorian Education Excellence Awards 2020: Congratulations, Andrew McConchie

Andrew McConchie, classroom teacher and Director of Literacy at Mordialloc College, recently received an award recognising outstanding endeavour and achievement in improving student outcomes. He also won the highly-coveted Lindsay Thompson Award for Excellence in Education, an overall award covering all government schools in Victoria.

Mordialloc College has achieved successive wins in this category – last year's winner was Michelle Roberts for her win as Outstanding Secondary School Principal.

Andrew has demonstrated a commitment to public education through his quality teaching practice, delivering targeted literacy interventions to improve student outcomes.

He has created a culture of collaboration in literacy instruction, initiating Literacy Implementation Groups and a Literacy Intervention Team to work with staff to deliver a whole-school literacy program within a guaranteed and viable curriculum.

He believes it is the collective expertise and energy of the teams and community he works with that underpins the sustained success of the students at Mordialloc College.



Over the past three years that Andrew has worked with the College, English results at VCE level have improved significantly.

He intends to expand on contributions to system-wide improvements by developing a framework for teachers of literacy to self-evaluate the fundamentals of English teaching, provide mentorship to his peers in public education and create resources for teachers to further enhance their quality literacy practice to impact student writing skills.

We congratulate Andrew on this recognition of his outstanding efforts and successes.



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## Principal's Report



**By Michelle Roberts**

This year has been like no other, with our school community and wider communities

across Victoria having been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Our teachers have responded with incredible professionalism and resilience to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19, and our students and families have been united in support of one another as we navigated these uncertain times.

By Monday 26 October we had welcomed all staff and students back onsite for the remainder of the year, operating in a COVID-normal school environment where we adhered to social distancing requirements to the best of our ability, heightened our awareness of hygiene practices – especially around regular washing of hands and the use of hand sanitiser – and the compulsory wearing of school masks to and from school and during the school day.

In addition, we enforced both staff and students staying home and getting tested if feeling unwell.

Despite the restrictions, we were still able to go ahead with some key celebratory events on the College calendar, albeit in a different format.

### The Great Debate

Our traditional and one of the most anticipated events for the year – the Staff vs Student debate – was held on Monday 26 October after being pre-recorded the week before. It was watched by the whole school in their

respective classrooms, on the topic *The best things in life are not free.*

Representing the staff were Ms Greenhalgh/Mr Moffat as a team, Mr James Nicklen and Ms Amy Webber.

Representing the students were James Vicendese, Calvin Lee and Callum Roberts.

It was a very engaging, entertaining and close debate, with the students taking out the competition this year by one point, with the proposition being rejected.

Joining me on the judging panel were Ms Bastin, Elisa Barone and Jack Phillpotts.

### Art Show

A key event on our College calendar each year, and always a highlight, is our Annual Art show.

This year, we welcomed all members of our College community to a special virtual streamlined event, to celebrate the talent and achievements of our VCE students and some of our Year 10 students across VCE Studio Arts, Visual Communication and Design, VET music, Drama and Media Studies.

This event opened on Tuesday 27 October and is accessible for the rest of this year.

An incredible amount of work went into the preparation and the Arts Learning Area team deserves the highest praise for their commitment to their students and dedication in ensuring the delivery of this quality showcase event, although in a different format to our traditional Years 7-12 Arts/Technology exhibition in the EZ.

Congratulations to all students who entered their work for exhibition. We hope you feel as proud as we do for your outstanding efforts this year under difficult circumstances.

Special thanks to our Art Show Co-ordinators this year, Leah Bright, Alex Trevisan and Megan Furphy, ably supported by the rest of the Arts/Technology team.

### Year 12 Final Assembly

To celebrate the achievements of our Year 12 students, on Thursday 29 October, instead of holding our usual whole school farewell assembly in our gym with Year 12 parents in attendance, we streamed our pre-recorded event to the whole school during period 3.

The link to access the assembly was also sent to all Year 12 parents.

A permanent copy is available on our YouTube channel.

The recording took place on Thursday 22 October from 9.30-1.30pm, with Woohah Productions putting it together for us, to have as a permanent record for the whole school community.

The actual event goes for around 65 minutes and includes speeches by key leaders, our Council President Ian Fox and our School Captains.

Each mentor group was presented 'on stage' wearing academic gowns, one student at a time, focusing on some key highlights for each of them at the College. They were presented with certificates from myself, our Council President and Year 12 Co-ordinator, Tim Randell.

The assembly concluded with a final farewell and acknowledgement of all Year 12 students.

## Awards Night

We followed the same process as we used for the final assembly for our Awards Night, another significant event on the College calendar.

To recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students across all year levels this year, we pre-recorded this event, again using Woohah productions.

The pre-recorded event became available to all families to watch on December 10, along with a permanent record being made available to share with our community.

Students who were nominated for Academic Excellence Awards, Sport Awards, Music and Art Awards, various subject awards and our special sponsored awards, were invited to attend our pre-recording session in the Performing Arts Centre on 1 December. Presentation on the awards was staggered throughout the day to include each year level and to ensure we followed social distancing guidelines.

Given our Awards night usually goes for 2.5-3 hours at the City of Kingston Town Hall, we needed to streamline the event this year given it was being pre-recorded. This meant that students who were nominated for Endeavour Awards had these presented instead in our Year Level Assemblies.

Unfortunately, it was also not possible under COVID-19 restrictions at the time to have our usual array of musical and dance performances. However, we did showcase some snippets from the Performing Arts.

## Staff Service Awards

On the afternoon of Monday 16 November, following social distancing guidelines, we held the Mordialloc College school service awards over a Google meet, with groups of staff in various locations across the College linking into this event online.

This is an annual event held since 2016 to celebrate and recognise staff who have spent a considerable part of their career to date at Mordialloc College.

It is a most worthwhile event sponsored by the College Council. This year we had six staff recognised and presented with a framed certificate – Janine Danckert, Kathryn Bevan, Stuart McIntyre, Tim Randell, Amelia Hargreaves and me, all for 10 years' service.

## Facility Development Update

After being delayed due to COVID-19, the tender process for the construction of a new two storey Year 7 and 8 Learning Centre

officially opened for our project earlier this term.

The Victorian Schools Building Authority (VSBA) has now awarded the contract for our project and, all going well with the process, and given the shut down over Christmas, the earliest the successful construction company will be setting up onsite is 11 January next year.

This will mean the complete site set up is secure and safe before students return to school in 2021.

In addition, we are getting another mod 5 portable (two classrooms) to cater for the ongoing growth in the College.

We were not able to hold our annual Alumni tour and morning tea at the College this year, but hopefully we are able to do such again next year, along with many more of our normal events.

**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 our newsletter.

Why not contact your friends and refer them to the Secretary at [admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org](mailto:admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org) or our website at [www.mordialloccollegealumni.org](http://www.mordialloccollegealumni.org)





# KNOW A STUDENT AT MORDIALLOC COULD THEY BENEFIT FROM \$1,000 TO PURSUE

The Richard Williams Scholarship Fund aims to foster excellence in a chosen field by assisting a Mordialloc College student to pursue their passion.

The Fund will award up to \$1,000 a year to a student of Mordialloc College from any year of study in 2021 to spend on items that they need to pursue an interest. Some examples of the items or activities for which the funds could be used include:

- Electronic equipment such as camera, laptop, printer, tablet, scanner;
- Art supplies;
- Musical Instruments;
- Software such as drawing, movie making, communication, design apps;
- Tutorials for activities such as painting/drawing, musical instrument, movie making;
- A community project such as mentoring group, theatrical production, landcare/coastcare-type project, pandemic rebuilding project, public artwork.

Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis, upon presentation of a receipt for purchase of the goods. In cases where a student does not have the money to make an up-front purchase, the Fund will consider making payment directly to the supplier.

## ABOUT THE FUND

Richard (Dick) Williams was an unsung, local hero. He worked tirelessly for others, and always put other people before himself.

After his passing in 2020, a few of his close mates, who he'd been friends with since they were students together at Mordialloc College, got together to create this Scholarship Fund in his memory.

## APPLY NOW!

Applications for 2021 Student's Award opened on 1 December 2020, and close on 1 March 2021.

Students themselves can apply, and third parties may also nominate a student who they believe deserves or needs this Award.

Download the application form from the link at [rwscholarship.org.au/apply/](https://rwscholarship.org.au/apply/) (this form can be completed on screen – there's no need to print it out and fill it in with a pen unless you wish to do so). Completed applications should be emailed to [apply@rwscholarship.org.au](mailto:apply@rwscholarship.org.au) by **1 March 2021**. The successful applicant will be notified in mid-March.

Dick spent his formative years at Mordialloc College and was a devoted member of the Mordialloc Cricket Club, so it was decided that it would be only fitting to direct the Fund's assistance to young people who attend these organisations.

It will grant two separate Awards each year:

- Student's Award: Will be granted to a Mordialloc Secondary College student, who could use some extra financial help to further their studies and interests. To apply or to find out more about the Student's Award, go to [rwscholarship.org.au/apply/](https://rwscholarship.org.au/apply/).
- Cricketer's Award: Will be granted to a young cricketer from Mordialloc Cricket Club who could use some extra financial help to further their ambitions in their cricket endeavours. The Cricket Club will select the recipient in consultation with the Fund's Board, so no application is required.



# COLLEGE? AN INTEREST?

APPLICATIONS  
ARE NOW OPEN!  
JUST GO TO  
**WSCHOLARSHIP  
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Please consider donating to the Richard Williams Scholarship Fund, to help us continue to support young members of the local community.

To donate, just go to the website, where you can donate directly, or to obtain details to make a bank transfer.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



## POSTPONED TO 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on the number of people permitted to attend social functions, the distancing rules in place to prevent any possibility of COVID-19 transmission, and that we are still required to wear face masks in certain

situations, we have decided to postpone our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion to next year. It has been re-scheduled for **Saturday 20 November 2021**.

We trust that all travel restrictions between the States remain as they currently are (that is, open!) over the next year to allow us to attend what could be our last hurrah together, able to recognise each other and mingle freely in a Mordi High sort of way, just like back in the day.

Meanwhile, we encourage everyone to make some form of contact with the crew that you used to hang with to re-build the relationship that you remember having with various schoolmates, just for fun.

Some interim dialogue may help to make our reunion easier and more familiar when the time does come around. In the 50 years since school, a lot has happened – so there's lots to share.

Let's do what we can to make this a truly memorable event.

Stay tuned for further details!

***Class  
of 1970  
50 Year  
Anniversary***



*The Class of 1970 (clockwise from top left):  
1965 Form 1A, 1968 Form 4A, 1970 Form 6B, 1970 Form 6C*

## Mordi Memories



### **DOTTIE KING/FLANDERS MCHS 1951-1953**

Back then, my name was Dorothy Flanders and I lived in McKinnon and travelled to school by train.

It was approximately eight miles (12.8km) from McKinnon railway station to Mordialloc station and it took 25 minutes to get there by train. There were seven stations between McKinnon and Mordialloc and the train stopped at all stations.

One of the stations, Cheltenham, had a golf course close to the station. The next station, Mentone, had a boys Grammar School. As the boys from that school caught the same train as we did, we became friends.

One day, they suggested we get off the train at Cheltenham and explore the golf course.

Along the way there, we found a baby possum all on its own. One of the boys suggested that I put it under my blazer where it took to clinging to my school jumper.

By this time we were running late for school so we had to run to catch the train to Mordialloc and the possum was still with me. After a few hours in class the possum, which had been asleep, starting weeing, which started us all giggling. Of course the teacher found out what we were giggling about and I was made to take the possum back to the golf course and serve detention.

It was a co-ed school and still is. One of the headmasters was Mr Campbell. When he retired, a headmistress was appointed and her name was Miss Carpenter. She was a fearsome person who handed out punishment for misdemeanours. She just happened to be the headmistress at Mac Robertson Girls High School when my sister was there.

Each time I got caught doing something that I shouldn't have, I was hauled before Miss Carpenter and was told "Lesley would never do anything like that" Little did she know because Lesley never got caught! I think the reason I became a little rebellious is because of that attitude

When I left primary school to go to high school, three girls from the same class as mine transferred too. Margaret Somerville, Faye Howarth and Elaine Booth.

I know that Faye's father was a policeman and he was transferred to a country town in western Victoria. Faye and I kept in touch for a short while.

Sadly, I don't know what happened to Margaret and Elaine. I wonder how their lives turned out?

The school swimming competitions

were held at a pool in Hastings, 45km away (28 miles in the old measurement). We were taken there in buses and the trip took over an hour.

Somehow I was competing in the relay race. I can do this, I remember thinking, as I was standing on the starting block. I took a perfect dive into the pool that was more of a belly flop, and came up spluttering, then took off down the lane but half way down the lower part of my body started to sink! And I got slower and slower. Needless to say I was never asked to swim again.

I was not cut out to be a sports person.



Dottie and her husband moved to Queensland in 1985. Sadly, her husband passed away in 2012, but Dottie still lives in the same house they bought on the Gold Coast 35 years ago.



*Dottie at Sports Day*



## Mordi Memories



*The school's 1947 girls' athletics team*

### NANCY HEIGHWAY/THOMAS MCHS 1945-1949

I was a student at Mordialloc-Chelsea High School from 1945-1949 and they were very happy years with excellent teachers and good friends. Because of the shortage of teachers at this time, we were very fortunate to have experienced people who had been called back into the workforce.

In Form 1, Mr Campbell stimulated my continuing interest in history and his description of the Trojan Wars was brilliant. Mrs Harvey was our English teacher, and Mrs Mitchell instructed us in the proper way to cook and serve food. I think my greatest joy was my introduction to classical music. We were very fortunate to go to the Melbourne Town Hall to listen to the Symphony Orchestra conducted by Bernard Heinz as they led us into the world of music.

Our maths teacher in Form 4 was 'Rockfist' Rogan. It was not his fault, but I have hated maths ever since. Form 5 was called the Leaving Certificate and we had to sit our exams in the Mordialloc Methodist Hall.

It was the end of our time at Mordialloc High School, unfortunately, and I went to Frankston to complete my Matriculation whilst my friends went to Mac Robertson Girls High School.

Sport was an important part of school life on Wednesdays. The girls had a choice of Hockey or Basketball, whilst the boys played Football. I played Hockey and was happy to be the captain of the school team.

They were happy days, and I hope this will bring memories to other ex-students.



The Annual General Meeting was held 'virtually' on 14 November, as a Zoom meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Annual reports were presented, after which all Committee positions were declared vacant. Outgoing Committee members were thanked for their work, especially during a difficult year due to the virus. Retiring President Dylan Styles was thanked for his service to the Association, and it was noted that he had decided against re-nominating for the position of President. The new Committee was elected as follows:

**President:**

Imogen Kane

**Vice-President:**

Hannah Blavo

**Secretary:**

Lynette Williams

**Treasurer:**

Ivor Donohue

**Historian:**

Paula McCarthy

**Newsletter Editor:**

Barbara Dowling

**Webmaster:**

Mitchell Sundstrom

**General Committee:**

Gillian Nash

Eb Rabich

Morrie Hartman

Kim Puleio

Dylan Styles

Natalie Wood

Bruce Lines



New President  
Imogen Kane



New Vice-President  
Hannah Blavo

### Welcome to our New MCAA Members

We extend a warm welcome to all our new members!

Cheryl Gay

Bill McIntosh

Robyn Hill

Russell Charles

Gail Cummins

Alexander(Sandy) Frame

Lillian Yau

## 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](http://mordialloccollegealumni.org).

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

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 printed by Kosdown Printing.

