

Ventured



Newsletter of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association (MCAA)

Issue 13, May 2018

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

Editorial

By Barbara Dowling

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2018. I must start with an apology for the delay.

Unfortunately, we have lost the services of our wonderful typesetter Sue, who is unable to continue helping us due to pressures of other voluntary work. We thank her sincerely for her fantastic work over several years.

Our wonderful printer, ex-student David Downie, has arranged the layout for this issue, and will continue to print it for us. We encourage you to support his company – Kosdown Printing Co Pty Ltd – for any future printing or digital requirements. Their contact details are shown at the bottom of this page.

The Committee has not been idle, however, and digitisation of hundreds of slides from the McDonald Collection is continuing.

Our Historian, Paula McCarthy, has been busy collecting more memories, photos and stories from past students.

Please continue to submit anything you may have relating to you or your family's time at Mordialloc College (MCHS), as each little snippet/story adds to the rich history of our school.

Send your contribution to us via email at **admin@mordialloccollegealumni.org** or via normal mail to **PO Box 5121, Mordialloc 3195**.

As mentioned previously, plans are underway for a Quiz Night a little later in the year, so watch this space.

We recently welcomed three new members to the Committee as follows:

- ◆ Bella Barker – Vice President and Sponsorship;
- ◆ Dylan Styles – Vice President and Membership; and
- ◆ Cathy Milward-Bason – Assistant Historian.

It is very pleasing that we continue to gain more support and interest in the alumni, and as the numbers interacting on the social media sites grow, we urge you to encourage friends and acquaintances to become financial members, as we rely on annual subscriptions to continue our work.

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: www.mordialloccollegealumni.org.

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



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by Max Nichols

The start to the year has had some exciting months for our Alumni Association, with much progress and hard work happening thanks to some of our fantastic Committee.

One of the recent achievements for the Association has been our commencement of the digitisation of slides and negatives

from the school's extensive archival collection of historical photos, using the City of Kingston grant obtained last year – thanks to an immense amount of support from our members.

The first 8,000 of these photos have already been sent off to be processed so they can be put on the Association website for everyone's enjoyment at the touch of a finger at mordialloccollegealumni.org.

If you – or someone you know – may have slides and negatives you would like to share, these can be included in the next round of images to be scanned and returned back to you once completed.

All images would be greatly appreciated to help grow our collection and continue to paint the picture of Mordialloc College through the years.

Additionally, some exciting news has come in the form of fresh faces joining our Committee, including Bella Barker, Dylan Styles and Cathy Milward-Bason to help with progress.

Cathy has a background in library services and has willingly jumped aboard the Committee. Her expertise will aid immensely in the archival aspect of the work we do.

Bella was College Captain during her final year in 2014 and went on to study at the University of Melbourne, while Dylan graduated from Mordialloc in 2011 to go on to study at Victoria University. The pair have graciously taken on the responsibility as Vice-President together, most definitely no small task.

The addition of Cathy, Bella and Dylan is greatly appreciated and will prove to be extremely fruitful with the superb work I know they are capable of.

As always, work continues on accumulating memories to be used for the Mordialloc College history publication proposed for the rapidly approaching centennial anniversary of the school in 2024, as well as for inclusion in future volumes of *Ventured*.

So, if you have a great memory or story of your time at Mordialloc High or, an anecdote about how Mordi had prepared you for any occasion since you left that you'd like to share, please do let us know and we would love to get in touch so we can help share it.

We are eagerly looking forward to hearing from anyone. Best regards until next time.

Principal's Report



by Michelle Roberts

We have seen a significant increase in our Year 7 enrolments over the last four years and this

year, 180 Year 7 students started with us, making a Middle School of over 500 students. This brings our total school enrolment to approximately 850 students. Year 11 and 12 are the only two smaller year levels left now in the school.

As these year levels move through the school and the larger intakes at Year 7 continue, it is anticipated that the school will grow to more than 1,000 students by 2020.

On Monday 5 February, Regional Director Stephen Gniel and Senior Education Improvement Leader Jen McCrabb visited the school to take a tour with me to see the school in action, and we dropped in to classrooms to speak to students and teachers.

Mordialloc College has been identified as a leading school in the region, due to our significant achievements over recent years and a number of successful programs in operation.

We have been asked to enter a School Improvement Partnership with another school to support their improvement journey over the next 12 months, with funding support for both schools available from the Department.

Continuing to Aim High

My ongoing mantra to everyone here has been to set 'high expectations' in everything we do.

These high expectations apply to our own performance, as well as to those we influence, whether student, teacher or parent. Underpinning this focus are our core values of personal best, integrity, respect and responsibility.

It is very important that these values continue to be evident in how we all work together throughout the year. As a school community focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for all of our students, we need to continually reflect on and seek improvement in everything we do.

A Quick Recap

Here is a reminder of the Goals and Key Improvement Strategies in our Strategic Plan (2017-2020).

Our Goals:

- ◆ Student Achievement – to improve the VCE all study score to above the State average, and to maximise student learning growth for all students 7-12 across all learning areas.
- ◆ Student Engagement – to develop confident and engaged students who have an authentic voice in planning their own learning pathway in and beyond school.
- ◆ Student Wellbeing – to empower confident, healthy and resilient students.

A number of key improvement strategies have been planned over the life of the Strategic Plan aimed at achieving these goals and the specific targets set.

These include to:

- ◆ Develop precision in teacher practice, using agreed lesson structures and challenging learning tasks that reflect our high expectations for student learning, and strengthen feedback and coaching for staff.
- ◆ Develop and embed rigorous, reliable and well-differentiated assessment practices to support quality learning outcomes for all students.
- ◆ Develop and implement processes and practices to strengthen transition into, through and beyond the school.
- ◆ Plan learning sequences and activities that strengthen the authentic student voice and self-directed learning.

- ◆ Build student resilience, and identify and respond to the needs of specific groups or individual students through a documented and implemented wellbeing approach.

In terms of the Curiosity and Powerful learning initiative and our implementation plan, we will continue to focus on the theory of actions introduced over the past two years in:

- ◆ High Expectations and Authentic Relationships and Learning Objectives, Success Criteria, Narrative and Pace (2016); and
- ◆ Teaching Protocols (our Instructional Model) and Development of Challenging Learning Tasks (2017).

In addition, we are introducing two additional theories this year: Higher Order Questioning and Connecting Feedback to Data.

These are linked into our first two key improvement strategies above.

Well-Earned Recognition

On Monday 26 February, we formally recognised our students who have been successful in achieving leadership positions for this year.

A whole school assembly was held, with the parents who were able to attend, and special guest speakers and presenters – Mr Tim Richardson MP, Member for Mordialloc, and Mrs Monica Bladier representing Mark Dreyfus MP, Federal Member for Isaacs.

Students were presented with their leadership badges from the College, and leadership certificates signed by Mark Dreyfus.

I am proud of the leadership structure we have in place at Mordialloc College, with many opportunities being available to our students. This includes School Captains, Middle School Captains, Year 12 leaders, House leaders from both sub-schools, and SRC representatives from each year home group/mentor group. This adds up to a total of more than 100 leadership roles.

I congratulate all the students who were prepared to nominate and go through the selection process.

We look forward to a positive year ahead!

Mordi Memories



by Peter Gawith,
MCHS 1964-1967

As one ages, I'm sure that memories become more important and more interesting.

My (nearly) four years at MCHS were a huge influence on my life.

Let me tell you a bit about it.

I was *very* excited to be going to High School from Aspendale Primary.

I had the new uniform which I tried on more than once; I had mates from Aspendale going also, so I didn't feel daunted at the prospect of meeting new people. All was ready!

Unfortunately, the day before and in the morning of the big day, I started to become ill – headache, nausea, temperature, etc. – but there was no way I would miss going to my new school. Very excited, but feeling increasingly unwell, I could only manage an orange for lunch.

In the afternoon, the entire school was being welcomed by Mr Butler (a lovely man) and addressed in the quadrangle.

I became faint and nauseated in the heat of a February afternoon, and left the line to speak with a teacher, saying that I felt sick. I think it was Mr Van der Meche. Rather than put me in the shade, he put me in a chair at the rear of the assembled school and got me to sit there. It didn't take long... the orange came up, and my first day at my new school was to be remembered as the day I threw up in front of the whole school – pupils and staff!

The worst part of this was that I missed the first week with gastroenteritis, and when I did return, the whole thing had to start again.

I like to blame this bad start for my lowly academic career at 'Mordi'. Any excuse will do!

It wasn't all bad, though. In June that first year, Mike Dufty's big sister Jill got us tickets to The Beatles at Festival Hall in Melbourne. I recall that day quite well.

We had notes so we could be out of uniform (very cool being asked why you weren't in uniform). We were to go straight from school to Mordialloc station and make our way to Festival Hall. On our own! Things were simple in those days.

Our lockers were on the bottom of three levels in the quadrangle. Forms 1-2 bottom level, Forms 3-4 middle and Forms 5-6 on top. Our Head Prefect was a very popular fellow, loved by all. His locker was on the top level above mine. His name was John Bertrand!

When I showed him the Beatles ticket he was thrilled for me. "Peter, you're so lucky!" He was a genuinely lovely bloke who seemed like a man to a 12 year old.

Of course, he went on to bigger and more famous things than Head Prefect at MCHS.

It seemed (looking back) that there were a lot of interesting people attending MCHS in those days.

There was a huge oil painting outside Mr Butler's office, done by a past student who had become a painter of some note. I don't recall her name.

Quite a few sporting people come to mind. Rex Hunt played VFL for Geelong and Richmond, but is better known now for kissing fish and calling AFL on radio. (We weren't surprised that he became a policeman. He was a tough guy.)

Not as tough as Ray Rigby, though. Ray went on to represent Australia in shotput and weightlifting, and while not overly tall, was muscle on muscle. He won Gold in the 1970 Commonwealth Games in the Super Heavyweight class.

Another footballer of note was Michael Moncrief who played full forward for Hawthorn in premierships. I can recall him taking a mark over my head in the school yard. He was a big, tall fellow and very strong, although at least one year younger than me.

He looked down at me and said "What are you doing here Gawith?" He was in another league already.

His family owned the milk bar across the Nepean Highway, where the senior boys would buy lunch. A whole pipe-loaf cut in two and filled with salami sausage was a favourite.

There was music talent at MCHS, also. In the Talent Quest of '66, the winner was Lynne Randell. Among other successes she went on to have an international hit with *Ciao Baby* and toured with The Monkees and (wait for it!) Jimi Hendrix! In the USA. It's no wonder that we lost to talent like hers.

But our little band, 'The Weak End', performed a couple of songs that year and won the 'Most Popular' award. An all-star line-up with Gus Johnson (who made music a huge part of his life and continues to write and record his music to this day) and, on bass, no other than Alan Oke, who a few years later started Oke Surfboards that are used the world over. I know that I played drums and there were other members, but the memory fades.

As my fourth year at MCHS ground to an academic halt, I recall a conversation with Mr Magnussen. I think he was Deputy Principal and a very nice, gentle man. He carefully pointed out that school didn't seem to suit me and perhaps my place belonged in the work force. He was one of the good guys. There were many!

Mr Butler was a great leader and ran a good show – we respected him. The teachers were fun, friendly and/or feared. Mr Jamieson taught us Geography and always had my attention. Miss Sampson was our glamorous, smiling Art teacher. All the while, there was Mr Brett in his 'Brett-mobile', a tiny little Austin that always seemed to get the treatment during the end-of-year pranks. Looking back, they were all better teachers than I was a student.

As I mentioned at the start, memories become more interesting as you age, and I can only look back with some wonder and much gratitude to all those people, students and staff alike, who provided these great memories for me.

As it turns out, my own grandchildren now attend Mordialloc College. I hope they too attain good memories of their time there.



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.

Follow the guidelines for publication in *Ventured* available on the website, and send your contribution 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.

VALE

WILLIAM ("SCOTTY") RANKIN

1935-2017 ■ MCHS 1948-1952

It is with sadness that we advise of the death of Bill ("Scotty") Rankin in September last year.

Bill came to Australia from Scotland as a young boy, and enrolled at MCHS. He quickly lost his Scottish accent due to unrelenting 'ribbing'.

He loved his time at Mordialloc High, and had great memories of his teachers.

He was a champion runner, played soccer for Victoria and, after meeting his wife Kathleen, became a one-eyed Hawks supporter. He went into the import/export business and became one of the youngest branch managers in Victoria. He was known as "The Professor".

Bill relished the renewal of many friendships through his membership of the MCAA, and contributed many memories and photos. (He was featured in the second edition of *Ventured* in 2015.)

Bill adored, and was adored by, his wife Kathleen, four children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

NANCY MILLER (née WEBB)

1931-2017 ■ MCHS 1942-1946

We also mourn the passing of another past student, Nancy Miller (née Webb) on 6 December 2017.

Nancy attended MCHS in the years 1942-1946, and was Girls Head Prefect in her final year.

She loved her time at the school, and retained close school friendships throughout her life.

She and her beloved husband Rudi were long-time members of the former Ex-Students Association.



Webmaster Report



by Mitchell Sundstrom

Over the past few months, I've been hard at work analysing website activity and looking at ways to continue to improve users' experiences

when travelling through our digital archives.

A soon-to-come addition is a helpful interactive guide to assist new users through the registration process.

We hope that this will open the doors to new members who otherwise would have had difficulty creating an account.

EX-STUDENTS WHO SERVED



We are gathering information to honour ex-students of our school who are war veterans or war service personnel.

Information may be sent to our Historian, Paula McCarthy, at:

Mordialloc College Alumni Association,
PO Box 5121, Mordialloc 3195, or

via email to

paulamc@optusnet.com.au, or

by calling Paula on 0409 300 720
or George Raphael on 9798 4883

Venture Revisited

In this section we reprint extracts from previous school magazines.

Our selection for this issue is from the 1979 *Venture*, written by Chris Hickey, Year 11D.

Old Snuffy

You know, I heard that old Snuffy, the derelict, croaked it the other day. He died just as he lived, lying in his own filth at his home, which was the Council toilets on the beach.

We gave old Snuffy hell when we were kids. We'd jeer and tease him as he searched around town for empty bottles to buy his metho. Dad once described Snuffy as the local connoisseur of the garbage cans. The old derelict, well he'd just smile at us in his own drunken way and then shuffle off to scrutinize another garbage can for more delicacies.

Thinking about Snuffy makes me remember when I was about nine – I'd just cleaned my room for Mum and she'd given me an empty Coke bottle as reward. Setting off with my fortune, I ran unerringly towards the pin-ball parlour as fast as my nine-year-old legs would take me.

As I hurtled down the street, trying in vain to breach the sound barrier, I collided with Mr Kroke, a teller at the bank who had run out trying to hail a taxi. My small body rebounded from Mr Kroke, sending my beautiful bottle flying in a glittering arc to smash into the gutter. Mr. Kroke faltered, glanced back and gave me a look of severe exasperation, then continued to his taxi.

Limping over to the gutter, I sat by my shattered dream, mourning the destruction.

Sitting dejectedly in the gutter, the familiar stench of old Snuffy wafted down to me. He grunted as he sat his stinking carcass beside me.

"Busted yuh bottle, huh, son?" he said to me, wiping his nose on a dirty sleeve. I simply ignored him because I didn't feel like talking to dirty Snuffy about my troubles.

We sat there for about five minutes just staring at my broken bottle. Maybe it was just my imagination, but I felt old Snuffy knew what I was feeling. After a few minutes I felt his shaking hand upon my shoulder and smelt his foul breath blowing into my face.

"Listen son, I got a bottle here in my old school bag and don't feel like a drink tonight, so why don't you just take mine."

I didn't want to accept anything from an old derelict, but he seemed to be almost pleading to me with his eyes to allow him to do me this favour. I just looked at him, seeing his face as though I'd never seen it before, and then took the offered bottle from his stained fingers.

I couldn't bring myself to thank him so I just nodded, stood up and walked towards the pin-ball parlour.

Looking back, I saw the lonely old vagrant sitting in the gutter looking down at my broken bottle, smiling at it as if he were smiling to a friend.

After that day I couldn't find it in me to tease old Snuffy when my mates did. Instead I simply ignored him. Once or twice I caught him looking at me contentedly and I always looked away nervously.

I suppose the only aspect of Snuffy that anyone will remember will be the stink. The Council had to pay for his coffin and funeral, which nobody attended.

When I heard that Snuffy had died the other day, I thought about him for the first time in quite a few years.

Thinking about old Snuffy made me feel so strange that I willed myself to forget. So, apart from me telling you this now, I am going to forget Snuffy just the same as everyone else will.

I can't help it, but I still think about him.

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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