

Ventured



Newsletter of the Mordialloc College Alumni Association (MCAA)

Issue 18, June 2019

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Awards for Our Alumni



Former MCHS students: Greg Evans with alumni member Morrie Hartman, at a City of Casey Australia Day function.

Congratulations to our Alumni Committee member Morrie Hartman, who was named by the City of Casey as their Senior Citizen of the Year for 2019.

Morrie is a volunteer with the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) in two of their volunteer programs: the Community Guardian Program, and the Independent Third Person (ITP) Program.

He has been volunteering with the Community Guardian Program for 25 years. In this role, Morrie is formally appointed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeal Tribunal (VCAT) to act for vulnerable Victorians who are no longer able to make decisions for themselves. Many of the cases that Morrie has handled have been highly complex, and all involve clients with cognitive disabilities.

Morrie has been an ITP volunteer with OPA for 12 years. In this role, he attends local police stations and assists and supports a person with a cognitive disability when they are being formally interviewed by the Victorian Police. He makes himself available for interviews at Endeavour Hills Police Station, seven days a week.

Morrie also volunteers with the City of Casey as a transport driver, a role he has performed for the past five years. He takes people to medical appointments and/or to visit hospitals or nursing homes.



Congratulations and thanks also to our Alumni Historian Paula McCarthy, who received a nomination for the City of Kingston Woman of the Year Award, which was announced earlier in the year on International Woman's Day.

Paula's nomination was among a very impressive list of women who, it was stated, have demonstrated excellence, commitment to the community, and have inspired others to achieve. Paula has spent countless hours digitising photos, collecting memories and profiles of past students and teachers. She has also started an Edithvale-Aspendale History group which currently has 1.8K members.



Paula McCarthy



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Principal's Report



by *Michelle Roberts*

On 2 May, we held a most successful Open Night for prospective

students and parents, with up to 800 visitors seeing the whole school in action from 6.30pm.

The success of such events is testament to our strong sense of community where staff, students and parent representatives from our College Council all play important roles. The level of support and enthusiasm from all involved was extremely positive and affirming. I would like to acknowledge all staff for their attendance out of school hours and for organising some terrific displays and highly engaging interactive workshops; to all the students who acted as tour guides or assisted with the interactive workshops, and were so proud to showcase their school; and to the parent representatives from College Council, who were very enthusiastic and proud to speak about Mordialloc College to prospective parents.

On Thursday 9 May, we held the SEAL entrance exam for next year's Year 7 and we were again overwhelmed with the interest in this program and the very high calibre of applicants.

All applicants (77 students) also sat an interview with myself and Alice Leppin on the panel, as part of the selection process.

Our new Sports Excellence Program, including Netball, Basketball and Football will be available for Year 7 students in 2020. Applications closed on 31 May and selection trials are to be held in August.

Staff Service Awards

On the afternoon of Friday 24 May, we held the Mordialloc College School Service Awards.

This is an annual event we have 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 College Council.

This year we recognised six staff. All received a framed certificate, with any staff member serving 25 years or more eligible for a small gift.

Staff Awarded were:

- ◆ Justin Wischusen, Tim Wischusen and Lisa Ip for 10 years' service; and
- ◆ Di Douglas, James Evans and Emily Court for 15 years' service.

Work Experience

During May, our entire Year 10 cohort of students went out on work experience for a week, as part of the compulsory VCE unit that all Year 10 students undertake at Mordialloc College, called Industry and Enterprise.

Completing this unit not only gives all of our Year 10 students credit towards attaining their VCE, it also is a more meaningful way to deliver the careers curriculum.

Students undertake organised placements in a huge variety of workplaces and locations across Melbourne. These include placements in real estate, hospitality, vet clinics, accountant and business firms, graphic design, education, information technology, automotive, law, health and fitness, building and construction.

A big thank you must go to our Pathways Coordinator Emma White, Year 10 Coordinator Aaron Davis and Education Support staff assistant Kim Cowain-Menzies for all of their hard work in supporting our students to find suitable work placements for this week; and to all of the local businesses not only in our community but extending well beyond, in being prepared to accept a student for the week into their place of work.

Webmaster Report

DET Literacy Case Study

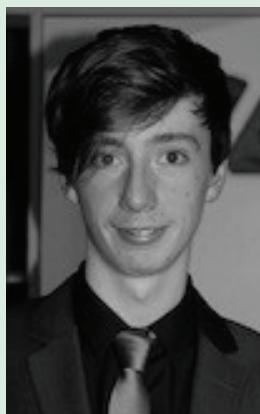
In addition to our excellent VCE results, the Department of Education has been impressed with our NAPLAN results, and last term I was contacted by the Department's Performance Division asking if we would participate in a case study to be published to showcase our school and support other schools' professional learning.

Only eight schools in Victoria have been approached to do this and we are one of them.

After an initial phone interview with me, they sent a team out two weeks ago to interview key leaders and teachers and talk to students. A video will be made later this term.

The focus of the visit and questions was around our literacy intervention program, and teacher practice focused peer coaching which is supporting literacy improvement at the College.

Thanks to Andrew McConchie, Julie Pretty, James Sadler, Liz Evans (who came in from leave), Alice Leppin, Bryony Lowe and Amy Webber, who all were part of the interviews on this day, along with myself and four of our Year 9 students.



by Mitchell Sundstrom

Recently, efforts have been put into place in order to improve the overall performance and usability of the current MCAA website.

Part of this has been giving more of our pages a much-needed redesign, including our Sponsors and Alumni Business Registers. Additionally, we have been exploring avenues of improvement which aim to provide a better online presence of the Alumni on the Internet going into the future.

One major goal we have for the website is a much more elegant and interactive way of engaging with and exploring the archived material, in order to experience the stories and impact behind particular images and videos.

While this is all still in an early planning stage, I'm excited for the future of the MCAA website and the experience it will provide.

Calling All Artistic Alumni!

My name is Megan Furphy. I'm one of the current art teachers here at Mordialloc College. Each year at the beginning of Term 4 we hold our annual art show. This year, I am hoping to get in contact with some past students who have worked as an artist or in the design industry. I am wondering if you could assist.

We are hoping to showcase some work from community artists and/or designers alongside the student work, and I think it would be a wonderful opportunity to involve Mordialloc College Alumni. It would be amazing for the students with an art/design passion to see people who have gone on to have success in the creative industries.

Interested artists/designers would be able to enter anything from a single artwork to a small display.

There is also potential for the sale of artworks during the show. We are also always looking for guest speakers if someone is willing to be involved.

If you're interested, please email me at furphy.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone me on 9580 1184.



Moments in Time

1957

Mr J O HOTTON,
DTSC, TTSC, (Man. Arts), 1st Hon.



*Mr Hotton with Snr. Prefects Desmond Rycroft and Rosemary Day alongside him.
Photo Courtesy of Janet Webster (Mr Hotton's granddaughter).*

This fantastic photo of Mr Hotton surrounded by students was taken on the day he retired from the Education Dept. after 46 years. Prior to his coming to MCHS he had taught at Coburg High School for 14 years as Senior Art Teacher. An immensely popular teacher, he was renowned for his rich, dignified voice as he recited classical poems.

One of Mr Hotton's reflections on his leaving Coburg High School to take up his appointment at MCHS was of his last Form V class to take external Leaving Certificate exams: 16 students – 16 passes. One of his students had three paintings selected for a UNESCO exhibition.

Early in his career teaching at Mildura he was very encouraging towards young students, persuading them to continue with their education longer than the expectations of their time. His popularity continued right throughout his career.



Bruce Lines (MCHS 1952-56)

I have fond memories of Mr Hotton who was my Art teacher during my years at MCHS.

I remember clearly his attire; a blue suit with waist coat. His thumbs were often inserted in that waist coat as he surveyed the scene in front of him or walked down the aisles, encouraging students as they worked on their current project.

When students were not meeting his standards of behaviour he often admonished us by telling us: "You will never be an Ashley Cooper or a Dick Ploog" – both of them being former students he had taught at Coburg High. He had a point, as Dick won a cycling Bronze Medal in the Sprint at the Melbourne Olympics and Ashley Cooper was regarded as the World's best tennis amateur in 1957 and 1958.

Mordi Memories

Stan Alves, OAM

MCHS 1963

AFL coach, elite athlete, media personality, entrepreneur and successful businessman, Stan Alves is one of those rare individuals whose multifaceted ability has taken him



from the elite sporting arena into that of business management, back to sport and once more to the business world. In 2008, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to Australian Rules Football as player, coach and commentator, and to the community as a supporter of charitable organisations. His memory of his time at MCHS follows:

“I came to Mordi High in 1963 to complete Year 12, which was then called Matriculation. I had relocated from Bonbeach High, which only went to Year 11. The subjects I took were English Expression, Accounting, Economics, Geography and British History.

“The transition was difficult, having come from a school where I had been Form Captain, House Captain and Prefect, and had made strong relationships with the teachers. Not so now where, for example, I had to constantly remind my Form Teacher Mr Rhoden that I was called Stan and not Neil. I never established a meaningful relationship with the teachers, which I have come to believe is very important.

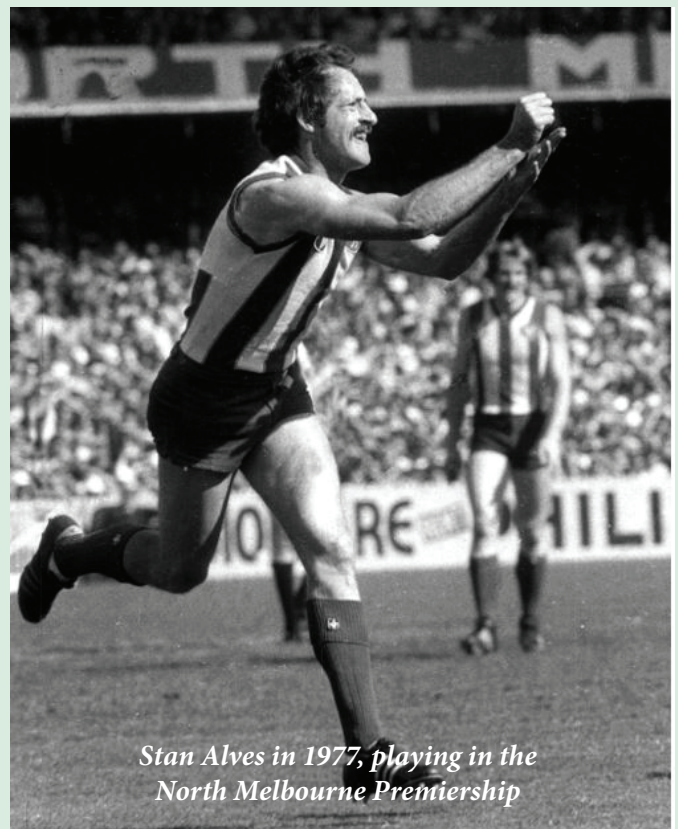
“However, it was made easier because there were other students who also came from Bonbeach High School. Being part of sporting teams where I would be awarded school colours for Football and Athletics helped me fit in with the other students.

“Early on, I struggled academically, which in part was due to my failure to concentrate on my studies and give it my full commitment. Sport was playing a major role in my life!

“In addition I, along with some mates from Edithvale, became entrepreneurial and started up a Jazz Dance every Friday night in the local life-saving club. My social life was booming!

“This brings me to my favourite memory of my time at Mordi, although I didn’t think so at the time. Following an adverse half year report from my Form Teacher, Mr Rhoden, in which he wrote ‘The quality of his work is not up to the required standard. Regular and planned revision is necessary for learning subjects.’ I was summoned into the office of the Headmaster, Mr Butler. Mr Butler had done his homework on me. Here I was given a stern talking to about the priorities required for the completion of a successful education at Mordialloc High School. This was followed by an ultimatum... Quit the Jazz Dance and knuckle down on your studies or you will be banned from all school sport for the year.

“The advice was heeded and I would pass all subjects at year’s end. Thank you Mr Butler.”



Stan Alves in 1977, playing in the North Melbourne Premiership

More Mordi Memories

The Dowlings – a 60th Wedding Anniversary Tribute

by Paula McCarthy

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Barbara (née Harding) and Jim Dowling on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Jim attended MCHS from 1945-1948 and Barbara was at the school from 1951-1954.

Jim and Barb met in 1955 via the 'Exies' Association when new member Barb was elected to the Committee, which Jim had served on since about 1951.

Their marriage in 1959 was described in old scholars' circles as the "ideal team" and they continued as valued Committee members.

The December 1962 issue of the ex-students' newsletter *Boomerang* features a tribute to Jim and Barb as they were farewelled due to Jim's transfer to Sydney with Australian Radiation Pty Ltd. Jim was at that time the President of the Ex-Students Association and a member of the MCHS Advisory Council.

"Jim has been a tower of strength and his interest and natural leadership have added much prestige to the club". Barbara's skilful achievements as Secretary were also acknowledged and would be greatly missed.

Barbara describes the work of publishing the official newsletter of the club then and now:

"I can recall us printing several issues from our home – I typed a stencil and then we had to produce it on the Exies old Fordigraph machine. Even though I've uttered many swear words at the computer, it is certainly so much easier these days.

"It is very interesting to get an idea from the old newsletters and magazines of how active the old Ex-Students Association was.



Barb and Jim's wedding day, March 1959. Colin Gaskell and Wilf Harding (both also MCHS) are best man and groomsman.

"The Crazy Whist nights continued for many years, with a core group going strong up until about ten years ago. Another long-serving member of the Exies, Hugh (Jock) Macphee, still organises reunion lunches every November."

Hugh and Fay also celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in February this year.

As the club has evolved over the years into the MCAA, we have been extremely fortunate to have Barbara back on board as our esteemed editor of *Ventured* and as a hard-working Committee member. We admire Barb's way with words, her organisation skills and determination in delivering our fine newsletter regularly to our members. We know that Jim is a quiet achiever in the background, assisting with the task and doing the shopping when it's deadline time.

The happy occasion was celebrated with their four children and their partners at a weekend of fine pursuits on the Mornington Peninsula.

Congratulations Barbara and Jim, and thank you for all you do for our old scholars' community.

Venture Revisited

In this section we reprint extracts from previous school magazines. This issue's selection is from 1984, by Melissa Flintoff (8F) with drawings by Cathy Fletcher.

Ventured 84

THE OLD FOLKS' HOME

The old folks' home's on Seventh Street,
He mocks and jests to himself,
"The tucker's pretty good here and,
They keep you in good heath."

His chair it rocks, his chair it rocks,
His chair it rocks all day,
He sits beneath the mulberry trees,
Dreaming time away.

For the men he'd killed he was sorry,
For the things he'd left undone,
Simple things he'd liked the best,
To dance, to sing, to run.

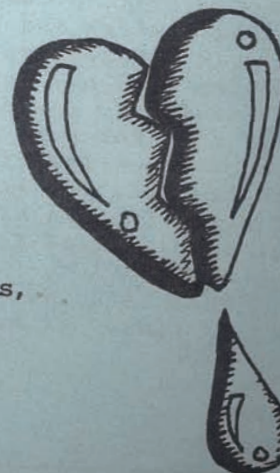
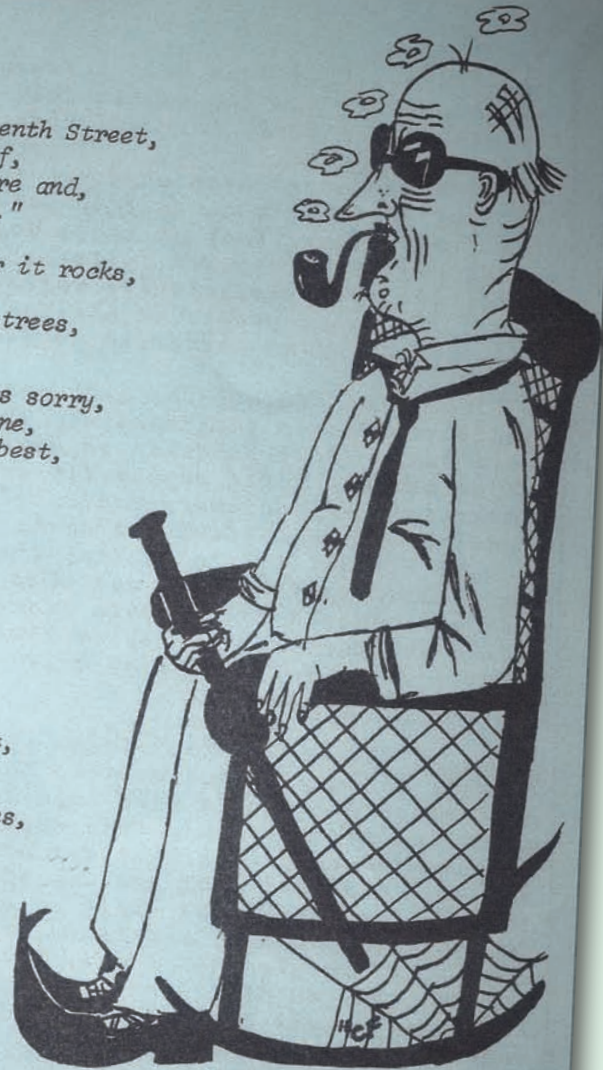
His tears fell into drizzle,
To Hell he made a toast,
But he knew deep down inside him that,
The good times mattered most.

As the rain pours down he contemplates,
His loves, his life, his gains,
Thoughts of war and family times,
Are flooding through his veins.

His body drenched with water,
His heart was old and sore,
His chair it rocks, his chair it rocks,
His chair it rocks no more.

Winters pass and summers bloom,
A stillness fills the air,
The trees, they whisper silent taunts,
Did anybody care?

Melissa Flintoff (8F)



Drawings by Cathy Fletcher

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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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