President, Mr Peter Ruscitti introducing keynote speakers Sr Nancy Freddi rsm and Old Collegian, The Hon James Merlino MP at the Business Breakfast held 21 March 2012.
The benefits of an active Old Collegians’ Association are already being felt. In addition to this Newsletter being produced and distributed the Committee is already preparing several functions that will help current and past students develop a great sense of pride in ‘their school’. The Business Breakfast on March 21 was sold out in advance and brought together many successful Old Collegians and the Old Collegians’ Dinner to be held on June 2 will be another special celebration.

The impact of the Newsletter has been very significant with many people showing great interest in the stories of life at the College which have been published. Many people have been encouraged to write something of their own story and hopefully these different stories will continue to bring life to the Association and the College.

We hope to commence work on the development of the Heritage Rooms in the Mount St Joseph Building during the April holidays. Early next term we will have some displays of the history of the College. You will be most welcome to visit the Heritage Centre and any donations or loan of documents and memorabilia will be gratefully accepted. Once the Old Collegians’ Memorial Chapel has been completed in September, the existing Chapel will be converted into a Board and Heritage Room.

The Memorial Mass for Old Collegians will continue this year and will be celebrated in the Chapel. I remind Old Collegians that we intend to honour all Old Collegians who have died by recording their names and date of passing into eternal life in special Memorial Books. Please submit names of family members and friends to Patricia Olson so that we can prepare these Books.

I remind you that donations towards the construction and furnishing of the Chapel will be gratefully received and that these donations are tax deductible. Old Collegians and their families may contribute to the Chapel Appeal by making a general donation or by purchasing specific items of furniture, religious art, sacred vessels and the like for use in the Chapel.

On May 3 we will officially Open and Bless the Mansfield Learning Centre and the Dublin House Administration Centre. The Mansfield Learning Centre is named after the town of Mansfield from which the first Sisters of Mercy travelled to establish our school. The Administration Centre honours Catherine McAuley and the early Sisters who lived and devoted their lives in service in Dublin. If you have not visited the College for a few years, you will be amazed at the Mansfield Centre in particular. At the recent Special Persons’ Day we had one grandparent express the wish to come back to school as his classrooms were not as engaging as this new learning centre is.

At the front of Dublin House you will see a cream brick cross built into a red brick wall. The cream bricks were part of the Convent that stood on the site of the Mansfield Learning Centre and the red bricks are the same colour as the bricks used in the original Mount St Joseph Convent built in 1896. This cross stands to honour the work of the Sisters who lived and worked in both convents.

There are many reasons for you to pay your school a visit. Know that you will always be welcome.

May God Bless you and Keep you.

Bernard G Dobson
Principal

Reunion Class of 1991

The class of 1991 celebrated its 20 year reunion on October 15, 2011 at Sixteen Ellis Street, a lovely venue in South Yarra. The night was a resounding success. As people arrived I could feel the nerves, in some cases I could see the nerves in the shaking hands but it was literally seconds before the joy hit. As each person took a sip of their drink and looked around their faces lit up. It didn’t go as I had expected, as you see it in the movies. Everyone left their egos at the door and had bought their best pair of dancing shoes. The conversations flowed easily and the laughter even more so. It felt as though we had never been apart. People came from all over Victoria and even our American exchange student, Ginger, made it across. It was such fun and the best night I have had for many, many years.

Kathryn MacDonald
Arts Officer – Arts Victoria
It is now one hundred and sixteen years since Mount Lilydale College began. Those who were there at the start have left us, and time has dimmed the memory of others of more recent times who could tell us of their experiences. However, all is not lost. We are fortunate to have people like Carla Potts, who in the first issue of Old Collegians gave us a glimpse into the past at Mount Lilydale College.

Kevin Farrelly
Deputy Principal 1976–1996

Do you know of anyone who could add to the information that has already been gathered as part of what has been a wonderful story of human endeavour and human emotion in the pursuit of a cause?

My involvement with the College came as the result of a chance meeting with the Principal in 1974, and a subsequent invitation to join the staff for the following year. I accepted the invitation and commenced in 1975. As many know, this was the year of transition from a Girls Boarding School to a Coeducational College. As one might expect, this was not without its challenges, bigger probably than I remember them right now, as time is the great distortioner! However, by dint of hard work, long hours, and experience in dealing with students, most of the challenges were resolved as they arose. The days were extremely busy with classroom teaching and in planning for the future.

I thoroughly enjoyed my years on staff and I regarded it as a privilege to be following in the footsteps of the founders of the College.

In all my years at the College, I regarded one building as the soul of the College. That building is the Mount Saint Joseph building. It is a simple, unpretentious building that could be classed as ordinary if it were not for the tower that sits somewhat uncomfortably at the front right hand corner of the building. This tower seems to me to be an odd addition to the building, but I am sure the designer had good reason to put it there. Put simply, the simplicity of the building belies its importance in the history of the College. It was central to the beginning of the College. In all the years that it has stood there, sentinel like, it surely must have asked questions of passers-by and locals alike. This building welcomed the first Sisters of Mercy, it welcomed the first boarders, and it ushered in the first day pupils. More than that it was home to many of these people. This is where the first roots of the College took firm hold. It has undergone some internal change to meet various needs, but basically it is the same building as ever it was.

With a little background history a walk through this building can conjure up images that reach back into the past where we can in our imagination be a student or staff of a different era. Fortunately, it has avoided the wrecking ball that has sent so many of our country’s historic buildings into oblivion! To lose this would have been a tragedy. Perhaps we should record in some permanent, visible way, the part that this one building played in the development of this College.

The pioneer sisters who took up work here in 1896 would, I am sure, be proud of what exists at Mount Lilydale Mercy College today. They would be stunned at the proliferation of buildings, but they would be pleased that the seeds of Mercy which they planted all that time ago had not withered, but had multiplied and were now reaching far beyond whatever they could have imagined.

Kevin Farrelly
Deputy Principal 1976–1996
Since her arrival at Mount Lilydale in 1977, Sister Carol Terpstra msc has dedicated herself to the service of others. After completing her nursing studies at St Vincent’s Hospital in Melbourne, Carol moved to Sacred Heart Hospital in Moreland, where she worked as a nurse in the emergency department. She also served as a pastoral carer and later as an administrator, with a deep commitment to the well-being of staff, students, and parents. In 1991, Carol took her first vows and gained experience in midwifery. Returning to Melbourne, she worked at Sacred Heart Hospital until 1996, when she was transferred to the newly established Royal Melbourne Hospital, where she continues to minister to patients.

During her time at Mount Lilydale, Carol attended Mount Lilydale Mercy College from 1977-1982. After graduating, she completed a degree she never intended to use, then escaped overseas. On returning home, she was much surer of herself but still so unsure of what she wanted to do. She knew, however, that it definitely needed to be about people.

And so, when an opportunity came up to work for the St Vincent de Paul Society, an organisation she had volunteered with since her uni days, she took it. The problem was its location – Darwin of all places! Now seven years later, I am so thankful that I came, it has been the most significant time of my life - the amount that I have learnt, the people of our country that I have seen, the people that I have been blessed to work alongside.

Working for Vinnies and now the Catholic Diocese of Darwin, my work is about creating opportunities for young people to experience something of the life and mission of our Church. This means many things – retreats, bush camps, outreach programs, pilgrimages, leadership development and simply being with young people and those working to support them. Last year we took a group of 42 to Madrid for World Youth Day. Next year we’ll take a group to Rio.

Working across this remote diocese which covers the whole of the NT, my eyes have been continually opened, misconceptions continually corrected and my heart increasingly touched by the people in this unique part of Australia. ‘Just because it’s different, doesn’t mean it’s wrong’, a helpful mantra.

If you had told me at school that I would end up working for the Catholic Church, I never would have believed you. But I am ever so thankful; it continues to be such an enriching time in my life. I’ve experienced such joy, vision, strength, sorrow, healing and love. They used to speak about that guy Jesus when I was at Mt Lilydale; I had no idea who he was. I do now and I thank him every day for the beauty he has shown me.

Sister Carol Terpstra msc

Carol attended Mount Lilydale Mercy College from 1977-1982. After graduating, she studied nursing at St Vincent’s Hospital and on completion, travelled in South America. Returning to Melbourne, Carol commenced work at Sacred Heart Hospital, Moreland. Interested in the apostolate of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, she joined the order, taking first vows in 1991. For the next three years Carol lived in Kew and visited New Guinea as her brother Frank had done in the eighties. Carol worked in Peru from 1996-8 nursing in Lima, Huaraz and remote villages and back in Australia took final vows and qualified in midwifery.

In January 2000, Carol departed for the Philippines where she has worked ever since in Isidora Hills on the outskirts of Manila in a number of aid programs. Along with a retired volunteer husband and wife doctor team, she cares for tuberculosis patients and during the past four years has worked at a Women’s Refuge providing support for street kids and prostitutes aged 10-25. She lectures on health and nutrition and instigated a Livelihood Program for 38 women who work in different areas producing handicrafts, beads and jewellery, and dishwashing and laundry products. The ladies live simply, the money raised being used for family emergencies.

More recently, Carol has overseen a 24 week feeding program for 90 children in semirural areas. Such programs are ongoing and include providing food, nutritional help and regular health checks. Carol has twice visited Rome to do administration courses.

To support Carol’s work, her father John and family friend Chris De Vincentiis set up facilities for the sale of tomato seedlings at the College and gifts of toys, clothing and books are sent regularly to the Philippines.
Debra Marks (Nee O’Neill) 1966–1970

Hello from Debra Marks. I went to Mt Lilydale College from 1966-1970 and the whole structure of the school is different from what we knew back then. No more climbing rusty barbed wired fences and passing cows in the paddock to get to another paddock called “The Oval” for sports. I loved all sport, except swimming; I liked to keep my feet on solid ground. When I commenced in Year 7 there were only 76 of us, divided into two classes of 38 students. Apart from the Science Room, we never left the Class Room, as the teachers all came to us. I made a number of good friends during my years at the College and some of them I still see today. Coming back to visit after 40 years was certainly a pleasant experience and special thanks to Patricia Olson.

Brendan Moffitt (Drew)

Following the completion of Secondary Education at Mount Lilydale Mercy College in 1993, I studied Directing at NIDA, graduating in 2004. I have worked at San Francisco Opera Centre, Houston Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, New York City Opera, The Santa Fe Opera, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Midwest Institute of Opera and the Manhattan School of Music. I have been based in New York since 2007 and have been appointed the Chair of the Cultural Committee for the American Australian Association, a chamber of Commerce established in 1948 to secure economic, trade and cultural relations between Australia and the United States. We issue grants to Australian artists with advice and contacts, and was delighted to read in an earlier edition of the Newsletter of Rohan Spong’s film, Rohan and I met up in New York in December. I am currently undertaking a Global Master of Arts [GMAPI Class of 2013 at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. My daughter Clara is eight years old and her Godfather is another Old Collegian and member of your Committee, Luke Stephens.

Brenda Moffitt Stage Director, Chair, American Australian Association’s Cultural Committee, Artistic Advisor, Australian Music Foundation North America Inc.

Stephen Oxley

It is a great privilege to write about my journey as a young boy growing up in Lilydale to becoming a loving husband and father to two beautiful children and the Director of the largest Drafting Firm in the Yarra Valley. I was lucky to attend Mt Lilydale College and graduated in 1990.

At the age of 4, I used to cut out floor plans from mum’s magazines because I was fascinated by house designs. As the years progressed I became interested in Architecture and studied graphics with Trish Batty (later Trish Portbury) (the best teacher Mt Lilydale ever had). I was recently given an insert from my year 12 Year Book in which I stated that all I wanted was to get into Architecture.

In 1991 I started my studies in Architecture & Design but later that year I was a passenger in a bad car accident in December, shattering my left femur. I had to reconsider my study options as I had a strenuous recovery period at T.A.C and had to learn to walk again. I spent the next 2 1/2 years on crutches and a cane. Though this time was difficult I worked part time whilst completing my studies.

My Architectural career was amazing; I set out to learn every facet of Architecture so for 10 years I worked for Builders, Architects and Design offices, sifting through what Architecture could offer. It was a long and often unrewarding period but through determination and a great experience I gained knowledge in Residential, Commercial and Industrial & Town Planning. In 2002 my wife Jacqueline (Sauzier) convinced me to take a leap of faith and open my own office, and so began Cadox Building Design Pty Ltd. C.A.D. standing for computer aided drafting or design/drafting and the Ox, from my surname Oxley.

Small business is extremely hard but at the peak of the housing industry a few years ago Cadox employed 12 draftys/ admin and consultants. We currently have an office in Main Street Lilydale and have been in Lilydale for 8 years.

My family is the most important factor in my life as they are the supportive mesh that holds everything together. In 2002 my daughter Rhani Lee Oxley was born and in 2007 my son Zachary Dean Oxley was born. We are currently building our family house in Lilydale. My kids will follow in my footsteps and attend Mount Lilydale.

I have fully recovered from my accident and still play much sport. Over the years I played soccer for Victorian under 17’s and still play indoor soccer and last year was fortunate enough to make the state over 35’s indoor cricket side.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story, it’s always nice to take a walk down memory lane and smile as you relive the moments of a wonderful life, all thanks to my parents, my education and my family.

Stephen Oxley

Sean and Justin Starrenburg

Sean attended Mount Lilydale Mercy College from 1995–2000, after which he applied for a job with the Royal Australian Air Force. He has been to Afghanistan twice, as an Air Surveillance Operator, to serve his country in the fight against terrorism. On Australia Day 2012, Sean was awarded an Australia Day Medallion in recognition for his work in Afghanistan and Qatar.

Justin was a student at the College from 2004–2009 and after Graduation, like his brother before him, applied for a job at the RAAF. Today both brothers are enjoying successful careers in the Royal Australian Air Force and have fond memories of their days at Mount Lilydale.

Written by proud mother, Monique Starrenburg
A Tribute… Glenys Heath

In reflecting on what to write in this piece on Glenys Heath I realised there were many others who were better placed to do this. It was only really in the final few years of her life that I came to work closely with Glenys. I consider myself very fortunate to have had such a fine mentor and someone who I could always rely on for wise counsel.

For those who don’t know, Glenys Heath is a name that will forever remain an important chapter in the history of Mount Lilydale Mercy College. The current Year 10 complex is named in her honour. But what of the person? Glenys was an extremely patient and kind person who transferred this compassion into her vocation as an educational leader. During a seventeen year career at the College, Glenys performed many roles – as leader in the Creative Arts faculty she helped forge a strong and dynamic area of the College that continues to flourish. She would be enormously proud of the Callaghan Building and the wonderful facilities it offers students in the fields of wood, food technology and textiles. Glenys would think it most appropriate that her friend and sparring partner, Neville Howell has a room in the building named in his honour.

It was as Senior Mistress of the Years 10–12 Campus (Senior College) that Glenys arguably had the greatest impact on the school and people. As I look back I believe she was a woman ahead of her time. Her understanding of student wellbeing was an innate quality of her as a person and she devoted so much time to the marginalised students. No amount of post graduate study can substitute for a lack of empathy or encouragement when it comes to dealing with young people. Glenys enjoyed the confidence of everyone she worked with. Her ability to achieve a positive outcome in difficult circumstances is a stand out memory for me. Glenys was diminutive in stature yet there were many times when she would have strapping Year 12 boys shaking in their boots – not with a raised voice but just clear explanations of consequences flowing from decisions made. I would sometimes be present for these interviews and as the ‘apprentice’ I was in awe of her ability to elicit the truth. She made me want to own up to misdemeanours I hadn’t even been part of!

Glenys was always immaculately groomed. Never a hair out of place and her fashion sense was well known. She would always impress upon the students the need to present well. When it came to occasions such as the Debutante Ball and Year 12 Graduation, she would let it slip that she found them to be extremely anxious occasions for her. Yet when it came to the role of acting as MC for these events, Glenys would carry out the duties with great aplomb, charm and humour.

As it became clear that her health was failing, another side of Glenys’ nature could be seen. The courage and determination that she displayed during her fight with cancer was truly remarkable. After a round of chemotherapy she would appear in her office and conduct herself in such a way that very few people would have known how ill she was. The Year 12 group of 1992 will have clear memories of an increasingly frail Mrs Heath still having a strong presence in the school. The SRC group of that year were moved to such a degree that they introduced the Glenys Heath Memorial Award. To this day it remains one of the most prestigious awards to be presented at the annual Year 12 Graduation ceremony.

To think it is 20 years since Glenys passed away. Along with others who worked with her, I count myself very lucky to have known her as a woman of great intellect, charm and compassion.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal – Director of Students

Weddings and Birth


Melanie Massarotti married Ben Baird on Saturday 17 December 2011 at St Patrick’s Church, Lilydale. Melanie attended Mount Lilydale from 1997–2002 and was College Captain in her final year. She has now been teaching at Mount Lilydale for the past four years.

Leslie (Katzen) & Fabien – Lucca Tortora was born at Mercy Hospital for Women in Heidelberg on 11 December 2011. Weight 3.16 kg, Length 51cm. Lucca is pictured with his proud parents.

‘The Apprentice & The Teacher’
A young Michael Johnson with Glenys Heath
For most of last year, the College witnessed two wonderful buildings being constructed on the site of the old Convent. A new Administration Building, housing Finance, Student and General Reception and our Senior Members of staff within the College. This building is most welcoming. In front of the main entrance stands two large opaque glass structures containing the Mercy Cross.

The area beside the entrance holds our large fountain that bears tribute to those affected by the Black Saturday fires. A large waiting area adorned with student art work awaits visitors inside. This building has retained its previous name ‘Dublin House’.

Our new Year 7 Complex, named ‘Mansfield Learning Centre’ has been designed with learning at its core. The most recent theory on students’ learning and teaching has gone into designing a building that provides collaborative spaces, independent learning areas, and most importantly, the opportunity for team teaching. Two walls in each classroom are built to slide away creating open spaces conducive to modern learning practices. Adjacent to each room is a large learning street—such areas in the past were used to house lockers. Now we have allocated reading nooks, student presentation areas, conversation corners and wireless computer connections.

All classrooms include data projectors, a sound system that projects the correct decibel level for greater concentration and interlocking ‘daisy’ desks that provide a multitude of different learning spaces and wireless connection for each student’s apple iPad. This new creative and flexible learning space is currently being maximised by our dedicated teaching staff who attended numerous professional development activities at the conclusion of last year on ICT applications in the classroom and on differentiating programs to enable optimal learning within flexible learning spaces.

Victor Miles, Deputy Principal Director of Staff & Chair Building & Planning Advisory Group

GALA DINNER AND LAUNCH OF MERCY HONOUR ROLL SATURDAY 2 JUNE 2012

A Gala Dinner and the launch of the Mercy Honour Roll will be held on Saturday 2 June at 7.30pm in Centennial Hall at the College. Buffet Dinner and drinks will be included as well as an evening of entertainment. The cost is $80.00 per head and tickets must be prepaid and purchased online by logging on to www.trybooking.com and selecting buy tickets. Alternatively tickets may be purchased by phoning the College on 9237 1315. Special tables are being sought for 1987 Old Collegians for their Silver Jubilee. Please RSVP by 18 May.

The purpose of the Mercy Honour Roll is to acknowledge inspiring Alumni who have achieved success in a recognised field and who would serve as role models for future Mount Lilydale Mercy College Students. A copy of the criteria and nomination form is available by clicking on the Mercy Honour Roll link on the College Website. Nominations close Monday 30 April.

ALL YEARS’ REUNION FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER FROM 5.00PM—8.00PM

Tours, entertainment, refreshments will be served

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 10.30AM

This will be held in the new Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegians’ Memorial Chapel and will be followed by morning tea.

For any enquiries please contact olsont@mlmcilydale.catholic.edu.au or ziolkowl@mlmcilydale.catholic.edu.au or Phone 9237 1356
With only a few weeks till our official round 1 match, pre-season is really heating up with 3 practice matches and 2 intra club matches leading into the season opener at home against North Brunswick on April 21st. New senior coach Gavin Green is thriving in the role, with his impact resulting in excellent pre-season numbers and the recruitment of many new players.

We are also pleased to announce the formation of the club’s adjoining netball team. Playing on Wednesday nights in the Croydon league, the girls have started their season well and are on the lookout for more girls to join.

The club’s Season Launch and Jumper Presentation will be held on April 14th at the Quarry Road club rooms. Tickets can be purchased through the club, with everyone welcome to attend what should be a fantastic night of festivities.

With the superb ground renovations, the newly formed girl’s netball team and a young enthusiastic coaching staff and committee, there has never been a better time to join the club and get involved. We encourage any students or members of the Mt Lilydale community who are interested in playing football or netball, to please contact senior coach Gavin Green on 0421 083 512, or netball team captain Cassie Dykstra on 0433 806 920.

The club is also on the lookout for match day boundary umpires. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, or if you have any other general enquiries please contact the club’s President Bryn Boomsma on 0403 171 825.

Bryn Boomsma
President, Old Collegians’ Football Club

Old Collegians’ Soccer

To all committee members, supporters, volunteers & all past/present players, the MLOCSC senior squad has forfeited season 2012.

Our main reason is player commitment and recruitment. To date our numbers have been very low and this has unfortunately forced the club to cancel its league application because simply we are unable to field a full squad for the upcoming 2012 season.

The committee held an open club forum on 28 February and all present were in agreement that it was best to forfeit this season, but maintain an on-going effort to re-establish a squad for the 2013 season.

Prospects for 2012 include:
• MLOCSC will look at launching a junior soccer program incorporating with Mount Lilydale Mercy College and local schools.
• The club will hold its annual poker function and offer additional room hire for social functions throughout the year.
• MLOCSC home-ground is currently undergoing renovations; due to this exciting development the club will be organising a summer Five a Side competition | Stay Tuned: details to come later in the year).

Finally, the current committee is dedicated to getting the club back to a healthy state for 2013. If you feel you can make a difference and would like to help please express your interest and contact us via email: info@mlocsc.com.au

President: Adem Tahir
Mobile: 0434 555 092
Email: ademtahirovski@hotmail.com
Vice President: Vince D’Alessandro
Mobile: 0434510146
Email: cenzo911980@yahoo.com.au

Club Secretary: David Chioda
Mobile: 0411 139 954
Email: davidchioda@hotmail.com

We express our gratitude to everyone who has supported the club since 2006. We thank you and we hope to see you back in 2013.

Mt Lilydale Old Collegians’ Soccer Club Committee

FROM THE EDITOR

We hope you are continuing to enjoy the Old Collegians’ Newsletter. We are constantly endeavouring to update our database and would appreciate it if you could take the time to update your contact details and in particular email addresses. The Newsletter will continue to be forwarded to one member per household unless notified otherwise. If additional copies are required please contact the College with your details. If you would like to receive the Newsletter and any correspondence via email, please send an email with your name, address and telephone details to oc@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au.

Do you have any news about yourself or another member of the College Community who would like to be recognised and could be included in the next issue of the Newsletter? If so, please forward to Patricia Olson or Leonie Ziolkowski. We want to hear from you!

Email: olsont@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or ziolkowl@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or Phone 9237 1356.

www.facebook.com/mlmcoldcollegians