This year marks the fortieth anniversary of Mount Lilydale Mercy College as a co-educational school. In January 1975, 144 boys were enrolled and today the number stands at 676 with a total enrolment of 1467 students. 2015 is a great year of celebration commencing with our Business Breakfast where two guest presenters engaged the audience with lively stories associated with those early years.

On 20 June a Gala Dinner will be held in Centennial Hall commencing at 7.00pm. We would be thrilled to welcome as many Old Collegians as possible. Make up a table of 8 or simply register through Try Booking http://www.trybooking.com/128239. It is sure to be a memorable night. Tickets are $80.00 which includes a 2 course meal, drinks and wonderful entertainment. The night also recognises new inductees to the Mercy Honour Roll.
Dear members of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College community

The process by which our student leaders arrived at the wording of our theme for this year was a little different in that usually we simply let them talk about it and give us a theme. This year before they started the process I talked to them about the concepts of leadership within a Catholic setting. We discussed ideas of servant leadership and of being of service, we talked about leading with rather than leading for, we discussed leading by doing and then we discussed Shepherd Leadership.

These leadership styles may be very different from the traditional styles like those proposed by psychologist Kurt Lewin in the 1930s of Autocratic, Democratic and Laissez – faire and I know that there are many other models of leadership theory that we could have discussed.

Our College theme this year given to us by our student leaders is beautiful and is centred around Shepherd leadership and specifically it states:

Be the Shepherd who walks with us
Be the Shepherd who watches over us
Be the shepherd who guides our way.

Our concept of Shepherd Leadership has two distinct sources:

The first is Psalm 23 written by King David, a shepherd, and we know it as “The Lord is my Shepherd” and the second is the Gospel of John (John 10:2-4) where Jesus informs us that he is the good Shepherd.

A previous Pope and shepherd himself in a homily once explained: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”: the beautiful prayer begins with these words, evoking the nomadic environment of sheep-farming and the experience of familiarity between the shepherd and the sheep that make up his little flock. The image calls to mind an atmosphere of trust, intimacy and tenderness: the shepherd knows each one of his sheep and calls them by name; and they follow him because they recognise him and trust in him. This is a most intimate relationship.

The shepherd tends his sheep, looks after them as precious possessions, ready to defend them, to guarantee their well-being and enable them to live a peaceful life. They can lack nothing as long as the shepherd is with them.

This concept of the Lord being our shepherd invites us to renew our trust in God, abandoning ourselves totally in his hands in the knowledge that we will be safe and that we will have everything that we need.

But our College theme does even more than that:

Our theme as well as asking us to accept Jesus as the good shepherd, compels us to act as a shepherd for those around us. It compels us to protect and lead to the warmth and light of Jesus’ message. It compels us to ensure that everyone in our community is being looked after and that no one is ever lost or feeling that they are lost.

Each of our staff members and each of our Year 12 students are wearing a new badge that is the College Crest with a Shepherd’s Staff emanating from it. It is our Shepherd’s Staff. It declares that it is our responsibility to create that place of peace, of tranquility where everyone can trust. When we trust in each other we learn.

As well as trusting in our Lord, we can trust in each other.

Congratulations to our Year 12 Prefects who have given us a particular focus for 2015.

Omnia Cum Deo

God Bless

Philip A Morison
Principal

As the Old Collegians’ Association continues to grow, we are working on ways to bridge the gap between our former and our current day students. The College is immensely proud of its former students and their many achievements. So we have decided that it would beneficial to invite those who are available, back to the College, to discuss their careers, failures and successes since leaving school.

So far we have hosted Rohan Spong, Casey Welch, Julia Doeven, Eloise Dean, Anna Baird (Cullen) and Fiona Edmonds. Despite their varying stories and life experiences, they have all been entertaining, honest and inspiring! We would like to sincerely thank all guest speakers so far who have offered their time. When we have had students staying back to ask questions and to rub shoulders with our old collegians, we know that the program is a winner. We hope to inspire the students of the college to go on and achieve their goals whilst promoting the mercy ethos.

We would also like to extend our invitation to any other past students who would like to take part in this program by contacting Trish Olson at olson@mlmc.vic.edu.au

We hope to attract many stories and career paths!
"Live for something
Write your names in kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of those you have come in contact with
You will never be forgotten"

Thomas Chalmers

On Friday 28 November Mount Lilydale Mercy College recognised almost 100 years of service from three retirees, Terry Dunn, Adrian Reilly and Colleen Anglin. Principal Philip Morison welcomed guests and former Principals, Sisters Beth Calthorpe, Nancy Freddi and Bernard Dobson.

Longest serving staff member, employed 41 years ago by Sister Gabrielle, Terry is renowned for his friendly manner and enthusiasm for life. He competes in Masters athletics and cricket and introduced weightlifting to the curriculum. Former students participated in the recent Commonwealth Games. His contribution to sport was so significant a House was named after him.

Adrian commenced in 1985, teaching History, RE and English. A gifted writer, he produced the book chronicling 100 years of Mercy for the Centenary. He was admired by his students for his comprehensive knowledge of history, generosity of spirit and deep humanity. In 1993 when the College was rocked by the tragedy in Central Australia, Adrian was the bulwark of strength for all.

Colleen received her education from the Mercy Sisters and was employed in 1987 to teach English and RE. She established Public Speaking as a formal part of the curriculum and also spent some time as Head of English. Colleen was the chief organiser of the Frayne Festival initiated in 1996 for the Centenary which was so successful it is now an annual event across all Mercy Schools in the region.

The College is grateful to these stalwarts of Catholic Education and wishes them a wonderful retirement. Their mercy will continue to resonate in the hearts of all they have touched.

ALBERT LI (Class of 1994)

Whilst it may seem bizarre to some, the Mount Lilydale memories I treasured most were the kicks up the backside I richly deserved in Year 10, just a few months from the all-important Year 11 & 12 VCE years.

I was a reasonably talented, but easily distracted student. I was lucky to have Mrs Olson, Mr David Hurley and Mr Michael Burke as teachers. They are passionate teachers. Whilst they had no obligation to do so, they took the time to give me “gentle” reminders that my academic efforts in Year 11 and 12 would have a direct impact on my future. Moreover, they showed a lot of faith and belief in me. Without their passion, their genuine care for me, heaven knows where I would have landed. As a result of the “pep talks”, I focused and my VCE results were pretty good and from that moment on, I have not looked back.

I believe passion is the cornerstone to live a happy and meaningful life. I’ve had a fantastic career thus far. A two-part 14 year journey with BP (Australia and Overseas); a two year stint with a successful Brazilian firm; I recently joined Medibank Private as their “Head of Overseas Portfolio”. On reflection, my career flourished after I realised what my passions are in life. It gave me the “compass” to live life. For me, I am passionate about creating: creating new pathways, new opportunities and creating paradigm shifts.

I try to live and breathe this passion every single day. Outside my day job, I co-founded Project New Dawn (PND) with The Salvos in 2007. A not-for-profit, homeless-employment-housing initiative that helps the destitute who are ready for positive changes, it is humbling to witness the remarkable resilience of the homeless people we’ve paved a pathway for, watching them transform their own lives. Present day we have BP, Bunnings, Radio Rentals, Salvation Army, Mission Australia, ACSO, Clayton Utz and numerous other partners.

www.projectnewdawn.com.au

Recently, I founded Scuba for Change (SFC), a scuba diving social enterprise operating in developing nations, where 100% profits will be reinvested back into local communities. It is the first operation of its kind in the scuba industry, and probably, the tourism sector. Profits will fund programs that stop child exploitation and better the livelihoods of locals. It is a big dream, but we are only moments away from our first operation in the Philippines. I do hope you can visit us at some stage.

www.scubaforchange.com

So how do I find the time and energy to do my day job, PND and SFC? Firstly, I have an amazing, supportive and tolerant wife for the hours that are consumed. Secondly, living my passion gives me a strong sense of purpose and I know I am making a difference in my own small way. It has given me personal growth, joy and fulfilment in ways I’ve never imagined. So the challenge for me is to learn to stop, rest and not forget to spend time with loved ones.
LIZZIE BLANDTHORN
In the recent state election Lizzie Blandthorn (Class of 1995) was elected to serve as a Labor Member of Parliament representing the people of the Pascoe Vale District.

In her inaugural speech to Parliament, Lizzie spoke of the things that have inspired her involvement in politics and her journey to the Parliament of Victoria.

The greatest influence on Lizzie’s perspective has been the example set by her parents, Anne and Ian, who have dedicated their lives to working for social justice. Lizzie also spoke of the influence a Catholic education has had on her journey. Lizzie and her brothers John-Paul and Daniel, went to Eymard Hill Primary School (which was then part of the Mooroolbark parish) and Mount Lilydale Mercy College. For Lizzie, a Mercy education reinforced what she learned at home – everyone is entitled to a standard of living which is consistent with human dignity.

And that people have an obligation to fight for those who are most vulnerable – children, refugees, workers, the unemployed, the homeless, the elderly and the sick.

Lizzie also acknowledged that she is particularly grateful for the teaching and example set by her mentor and friend, Deputy Principal Michael Johnston. She is very proud that it is a Labor government that will legislate for 25 per cent linked recurrent funding for Catholic schools. And that Labor will allocate $120 million for new and improved infrastructure at Catholic and Independent schools. Lizzie is passionate about equal educational opportunities. She believes that from the early years to post-secondary, children and young people deserve a world class education, in first rate facilities whether they attend in the Catholic and Independent system or in the State system – so that every child and young person can achieve their full potential.

Lizzie also takes to her new role a promise to represent the interests of working families and a commitment to Victoria’s multicultural communities – so many of which are represented in the Pascoe Vale district. She is also passionate about animal welfare.

Since her election, Lizzie has also been elected as Chair of the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee in the Parliament of Victoria. A key responsibility of this committee is to ensure that legislation is not incompatible with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights. She is looking forward to this challenge.

Lizzie honed her public speaking and debating skills in extracurricular activities such as inter school debating whilst at Mount Lilydale Mercy College and she is now looking forward to using those skills to argue for the constituents of Pascoe Vale in the Parliament of Victoria.

MARIA MCCARTHY
Newly elected Yarra Ranges Mayor Maria McCarthy, Old Collegian, has promised to keep advocating for the community during her mayoral year.

“I want to spend my time listening to the community and help lobby for what they want and need, I love meeting new people, talking with them and seeing how I can help them.”

Cr McCarthy’s background as a small business owner and Lilydale Chamber of Commerce president led her to run for Council in 2012.

“During my time as part of the chamber I learned about how Council works and was able to build relationships within local government to help local business,” she said. Now Cr McCarthy is spreading her influence further. “While I’ve got to know many people in my Billanook ward, I’m looking forward to helping the broader Yarra Ranges community as Mayor”. “There are so many wonderful people doing so much for our community. Whether it’s the local shop or football club, as Mayor I want to support these people as much as I can,” she said.

Cr McCarthy was elected Mayor at a special Council meeting on Tuesday night 2 December and Cr Jason Callanan was elected her deputy for the next 12 months.

DR CATHERINE KIDMAN
It has been a busy time for the Cox family of late with Victoria marrying Salvatore La Fauci (pictured page 7). Catherine also celebrated with the family when she was presented with her degree of Doctor of Philosophy on 17 September 2014 at the University of Adelaide. As part of her PhD studies, Catherine in collaboration with A. Favero, P. Dry, M. McCarthy and C. Collins published her first article “Rootstock Effects on Primary Bud Necrosis, Bud Fertility, and Carbohydrate Storage in Shiraz” in the American Journal of Enology and Viticulture in the May/June 2012 issue and has since published a second article – “Reproductive performance of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot (Vitis vinifera L.) is affected when grafted to rootstocks”.

The family headed by parents Rosemary and Kieran had five children who all attended Mount Lilydale College. They were active members of the Mount Lilydale community for some 15 years. The eldest, Olivia Cox graduated in 1994, Elizabeth Cox (now Gibson) graduated in 1996, Catherine Cox (now Kidman) graduated in 1999 and twins Charles Cox and Victoria Cox (now La Fauci) graduated in 2004.
What some of our Old Collegians are up to

Danielle Attorre

It is true that post high school years seem to fly past at hyper-speed and all of a sudden we are attending 40th and even 50th birthday celebrations. The VCE exams in 1990 and post completion relief are still rather memorable I am sure, for most of us. However those formative years in the 1980s at Mt Lilydale can also feel like a lifetime ago.

Initially it was confronting leaving the well protected environment provided by school, the local community and of course home. However after following a transitional year at Deakin University Burwood where I studied Business majoring in Accounting, I found my path. Admittedly I focused more intently on my role as the University magazine Chief Editor during my second year given writing feature articles, being involved with campus life and arranging copy was more exciting than Financial Accounting and Auditing.

Following the completion of my degree it was decision time and I chose financial security over creativity. I secured a position in an accounting firm (performing financial accounting tasks and audit assignments) then switched to my preferred environment of corporate accounting and became a CPA.

In my mid-twenties my good work friend and I joined some other good work friends in London for the clichéd Australian pilgrimage to Old Blighty. We were there for a good time, not a long time with the aim of living life to its fullest. My short term plans were derailed however when I met my future husband, a London local, during a work assignment.

We lived and worked in central Italy for six months which was incredible however I quickly learned that the reasons why one loves to holiday in Italy are the exact reasons why one does not love to work as an accountant in Italy. I was extremely grateful that I had persisted with Italian at Mt Lilydale up to and including VCE. Everything has a purpose.

I had persisted with Italian at Mt Lilydale up to and including VCE. Everything has a purpose.

We returned to London for another four years and travelled as often as humanly possible. I worked various contract accounting jobs until we relocated to Pittsburgh USA for three years. Once again I was appreciative of my CPA status and secured various contract positions.

This allowed us to travel extensively throughout the U.S. and one of my roles took me to India and back to Europe for a few stints.

Our first child, Alex was born in America and shortly after we headed home to Australia. There was no way I would have ever imagined when I boarded the plane for London in February 1999 with a backpack and my Timberlands that it would be eight years before I returned to Australia to live.

While I initially thought our move to the beachside town of Thirroul, 13 kilometres north of Wollongong, would be a stepping stone back to Melbourne, now it is home. Our second and third children, Leo and Luca, were born here and with three young boys, life is full of energy and noise. We enjoy quite a substantial amount of ‘outdoor time’.

Inspired by the beautiful beach environment, I completed certificate III and IV in Personal Training and created an outdoor fitness training hobby business. It was extremely rewarding helping others maximize their potential and reach their personal goals.

In 2012 we all relocated to Beijing for a year which was an incredible challenge on virtually every level imaginable. However it was also an amazing gift to experience an environment and people so completely different to our own and although I had lived and worked in three foreign countries previously, Beijing was still a huge culture shock.

The experience helped me gain perspective, deepened my empathy for others and enabled me to develop a wonderful sense of gratitude when we returned home. I had never been so appreciative of the simplest of pleasures such as fresh air, drinkable tap water and relatively trustworthy food sources.

Life is really great. As my children embark on their own school adventure, I feel excited at the prospect of what learning opportunities are ahead of them both inside the classroom and in their greater world. This is no doubt, in part due to the wonderful experiences I am able to reflect on during my time at Mt Lilydale.

Paul Wilkinson

I attended Mt Lilydale College between 1979 and 1984 and probably didn’t study enough in Year 12 as I didn’t achieve the marks required to get into my lifelong dream job of being an Air Force pilot. After working at Coles in Mooroolbark during 1985 I was accepted into the RAAF as an Airborne Electronics Analyst on board the P-3C Orion aircraft and moved to SA in 1986. In 1991 I met my wife to be and in March 1993 we married in Tusmore Park near Adelaide. I took a commission in 1995 to become a RAAF Officer and in 1998 our first son, Chris, was born. In 2002 we were posted to Sale, Victoria and shortly afterwards we welcomed our second son, Ryan, into the world. We returned to SA in 2006. I am currently an Air Combat Officer still flying on the now upgraded AP-3C aircraft with number 11 Squadron but I am looking forward to retiring in 2021. I enjoy making wooden furniture, running, although I am currently recovering from a knee reconstruction and walking our 2 year old black German Shepherd.

Past Pupil News

Mount Lilydale Mercy College
Renee, Toby and Ollie McKinnon
Renee, Toby and Ollie McKinnon welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Eloise Aleida, to their family on 2 December. Eloise weighed 3.87kg (8 pound 5 ounces).

Brendan and Kellie Doherty
Brendan Doherty (Old Collegian 1984–1989) and his wife Kellie welcomed their precious baby boy, Charlie Patrick, on 21 October 2014. They are living in Reedy Creek, Gold Coast, Queensland.

Matt Gibbs and partner Emma

Dean and Janelle de Munk
Both Dean and Janelle de Munk are proud to announce the safe arrival of baby William James de Munk aka Billy the Kid. Billy is a younger brother to Nathan, Taylah, Kaitlyn and Thomas and came into this world on January 2 this year.

Marita and Michael Weighell
Stacey Beth Weighell was born 11 Feb 2015 at Mitcham Hospital to Marita (Doherty – Year 12 1995) and Michael Weighell. Little sister for Teagan, Lucy, Lachlan and Thomas.

Elise Hopkins and Mark Powell
Elise Hopkins (class of 2008 and Sports Prefect) and Mark Powell married at Marybrooke Manor in Sherbrooke on 29 December 2014, prior to honeymooning on the Gold Coast. Elise is currently the PE/Sports specialist teacher at Mt Elyn primary school and Mark is the business partner of Andrew Hopkins (class 2006) who was the best man.

Farhaana Desai and Jason Kneebone
Farhaana Desai (Graduate 2000) married Jason Kneebone on 28 February. The wedding party included Farhaana’s younger sister, Ayesha Desai as maid of honour and school friend, Candice Huigen. Guests included many old collegians and staff of Mount Lilydale Mercy College.

Amy Schneider and John Thomson
Amy Schneider (class of 2007) married John Thomson in a bright, summer garden wedding on Saturday, January 24th at The Country Place in Kalorama. All seven bridesmaids were Old Collegians as was the mother of the bride. Amy was walked down the aisle by her younger brother, a current student at the College.

Manda Koochew and Luke Hetherington
Manda Koochew (Old Collegian 1999–2004) and Luke Hetherington (Old Collegian 2001–2005) were married in Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegian Memorial Chapel on Sunday 25 January 2015. Matron of Honour, Chloe Jones and groomsmen, James Stanley and Dane Butler, are also Old Collegians.

Ashley Lawrence and Tony Buckley
Ashley Lawrence who graduated from Mount Lilydale Mercy College in 2004 was married on 6 October 2014 to Tony Buckley at Summerfields Country House and Estate on the Mornington Peninsula. She was attended by fellow class mate Emma Amore and sister Breanna. Ashley is teaching in Cranbourne East.

Salvatore La Fauci and Victoria Cox
Salvatore La Fauci and Victoria Cox were married on 28 September 2014 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Elsternwick. Salvatore was a teacher at the College from 2007 until 2014 and Victoria was a past student of the College, graduating in 2003.
IRENE McClue

When I started teaching at Mt Lilydale in 1975, I loved being part of the Mercy family and sharing special occasions, especially welcoming new babies. I always hoped one day I would join the Grandparents’ Brag Club, but it seemed unlikely until 2013 when Ewan [Emac] and Jen announced a baby was due in July 2014. What a gift! Little Lachlan (Warrior of the Lochs) arrived prematurely at the Mercy, Heidelberg and ended up in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit being monitored/tested for unexplained non-breathing episodes. With wonderful one-on-one nursing and lots of prayers, especially from the Sisters at Baggot Street, Dublin, our little warrior started to improve and was allowed home. Great relief came when ‘episodes’ and need for 24/7 monitoring eventually ceased.

Seven months down the track, we thank God that Lachlan is now a happy/healthy little boy. As his proud Granny Mac, I must say I think he’s very cute and a joy to behold!

LUKE Dobson

I attended Mount Lilydale from 1987 to 1992. When I started year 7, I was selected to join a focus group with Sister Madeline on how to deal with the transition from being a leader of the School in Grade 6, to being at the entry level and youngest in Year 7. For me this was an interesting group to participate in and showed me that the school cared about the transition for its newest students.

Travelling the world was a real draw for me in my twenties and it brought me to the home of my ancestors in the UK, where I live today with my English wife and daughter.

The photo attached is taken in Cookham, where I live, in an 11th century Church on Sunday, 11th of August, 2014. This was the day Isla was baptised.

President, David Holloway was pleased to be at the Lilydale Farmer’s Market with the Old Collegians’ Association in late February, where he successfully recruited some prospective new players. Founding member of the Football Club and local Business Entrepreneur, Michael Napoleone was a Guest Speaker at the recent Business Breakfast along with former Principal, Sister Beth Calthorpe. Both left the College in 1989 but have kept up the association in various ways. The restaurant at the Lilydale Motor Inn was packed and guests enjoyed hearing the reflections of both presenters which, despite coming from separate businesses, were inextricably linked in many ways.
2014 was the year the Old Collegian’s Soccer Club made a massive step in being considered not only a social and local soccer club, but a club that attracts local talent and is revered and known in the Eastern Suburbs as being a fun, friendly, family oriented and skilful competitive club!

In 2014, the club was competing in the Premier League of the Bayside FA League competition. Our seniors were successful, finishing 3rd after 18 home and away games with our Reserves finishing a respectable 7th. The Senior team also made the final of the Bayside FA Cup (a knockout tournament) for the first time in the club’s history. The seniors finished Runners-Up in a fierce and compelling final game down in Rosebud.

In October 2014 our committee applied and were accepted to enter into the 2015 FFV (Football Federation Victorian) State 5 East Competition. The club was also entered into the ever growing FFA Cup competition and recently won their opening game v. Baxter SC (2-1) to qualify for Round 1.

The announcement into FFV and the FFA Cup made local and state headlines across Victoria, with articles being written in the local Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader and Herald Sun newspapers respectively. We have also been covered by local radio 3WBC Summer Sports Show 94.1FM.

All of this media attention has been fantastic exposure for not only the soccer club but also the Mercy College with which we are proud to be associated. Working with the school, our playing ground has also been reconfigured to official FIFA standard size, with the inclusion of new FIFA approved rounded goals and coloured netting, thus making it one of the best soccer surfaces in the eastern suburbs.

The club would like to acknowledge the continued support and effort of the ground staff and Business Manager in making these realisations come to fruition in conjunction with the club committee.

To keep with the club's heritage, the committee agreed to keep a team for the Sunday League. This team will be a social but competitive team, aimed at players who cannot play on Saturdays. This team is known as our “Old Collegians” team and has attracted a lot of attention from past students.

Lastly, we invite and encourage the Old Collegians community to come along to ‘Quarry Road’ on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning to watch some of the best soccer action in the local area. We would also like your involvement within the club. Please stay updated online http://mlocsc.com.au/home or via the club’s Facebook page.

Make an enquiry today and go ‘The Mighty Goats’!

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

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@mlmc.vic.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@mlmc.vic.edu.au or ziolkowl@mlmc.vic.edu.au or Phone 9237 1356.

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