A Woman Sings in Bronze

Medallions dance with life and story
To the rhythm of surf and rolling hills:
Image on image fairly shouts endeavour
Where molten bronze
Escapes the bondage
And is akin to melody.
A saga of tiny sailing ships
From Carrick-on-Suir to Lilydale,
From Erin to far Australia.
A dream of hope and mercy
With culture on the Mount –
Youth straining to the challenge.
Epic of a century caught in silent bronze
Is speaking now for ever
And its speaking is a song.

Mary O’Neil rsm

(After viewing sculpture by Gael O’Leary rsm, Commissioned for Mt Lilydale College Centenary)
Principal’s Message from the desk

On behalf of the College I am delighted that the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Old Collegians’ Association has been formed. It has been one of my dreams to see such an Association exist. It will provide opportunities for so many friends to keep in touch with each other and to continue an association with their school, a school which I believe provides many great opportunities and happy memories for its students. There is always a touch of sadness when teachers say goodbye to a group of students each year and when friends of 6 years duration part at the end of Year 12 to move on to other areas of life. The bond that held the friendships and relationships together, their school, no longer plays a role in their lives. That is unless there is something like an Old Collegians’ Association to act as the bonding agent.

I thank Patricia Olson for accepting the challenge as Executive Officer of the Association and for calling the inaugural meeting of the Association. I also thank the Old Collegians who have accepted nomination as Officer Bearers and Committee Members. We face exciting times and I encourage all Old Collegians to join the Association. Please ensure that you provide us with your contact details.

One of the most important roles of the new Association has been to honour the memory of Old Collegians who have died. We are taught that it is a good and holy thing to pray for the dead. Now we have had an opportunity to pray together as a community of Old Collegians for those of our community who have died. This was on November 6 when we gathered for an anniversary Mass. It is hoped that this will be the first memorial Mass of what will be an annual event in the first week of November.

Later in the year we will commence construction of the ‘Our Lady of Mercy Memorial Chapel’. This Chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy will be a memorial to all Old Collegians who have died and we hope to eventually have a record of the names and the dates each person entered eternal life in a place of reverence inside the Chapel. Old Collegians and their families will be invited to 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. The Chapel will be available to Old Collegians as well as current students and staff.

In addition, I hope that the Association will be a stimulus to Old Collegians to continue their works of Mercy and Justice. So many students participate in social justice activities whilst at the College but find it difficult to continue these good works when they leave because they lose contacts with a support group.

I also hope that old Collegians will be able to support each other in times of need and that networks can be established to facilitate this. This could be extended to the provision of employment opportunities. Support to current students could be provided by participation in career talks and interviews and offering Work Experience placements to students.

Each day when I come to the College I am brought to life by the joyful exchanges between students and fellow students, staff members and parents. I hope and pray that the Old Collegians’ Association will provide opportunities for these joyful exchanges to continue amongst its members. Catherine McAuley once wrote “Be cheerful, animating all around you” and this is my prayer for the Association.

Bernard G Dobson
Principal

---

Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegian Memorial Chapel

Since 1896 thousands of students and parents and hundreds of teachers and support staff have been part of the community of Mount Lilydale Mercy College. All members of our community have been touched by the lives of these people, many of whom have now entered eternal life. It is important for us to continue to remember these people and a Memorial Chapel honouring both Our Lady of Mercy and all members of our community who have died is a way of doing this.

A Chapel close to students will serve as a constant reminder of the importance of liturgical celebrations, the need for prayer and our need to acknowledge those who have touched our lives. The site chosen for our new Chapel is at the entrance to the College, situated adjacent to the Calthorpe Year 12 Building and opposite the new Mansfield Year 7 Learning Centre.

The chapel is designed in the form of a circle, representing God as the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. In a section of the wall we will have a memorial resurrection window. The memorial book that records the names of deceased members of our community will lead down to a special Mercy window overlooking the valley. All members of our community, past and present, are invited to submit names of people for inclusion in the Memorial Book. The Chapel entrance will invite the students to enter from the busyness of life into the sacred. A suitable water font will be present to symbolise the water of baptism and entry into spiritual life.

Religious art and liturgical furnishings such as Altar, Lectern, President’s Chair, Sanctuary Lamp, Candle Sticks, Resurrection Crucifix, Water Font, Stations of the Cross and Sculpture or Painting of Our Lady of Mercy will be included.

The Chapel will be available for use by Old Collegians and their families on weekends, after hours and during holidays for weddings and other religious services.

We are relying upon donations to undertake this construction. In addition to the costs of the building estimated to be $1,750,000 we would like to furnish the Chapel appropriately. Some people may like to donate to pay for the religious art and liturgical furnishings whilst others may be happy to make a general donation. All donations of $2 or more are tax deductible and a receipt will be issued. To make a donation you are asked to contact to the College. Donors may make a single donation or commit to a pledge over a period of time. Donations can be made by cash, cheque or credit card.

To make a donation you are asked to contact the College. Donors may make a single donation or commit to a pledge over a period of time. Donations can be made by cash, cheque or credit card.

Bernard G Dobson
Principal
Maria McCarthy

I Remember...

My years were from 1971–1976. I started my year in Form 1. (It was meant to be a composite year). We were known as the “Brown’s Cows” because our uniforms were brown and it was common knowledge that Mount Lilydale College was surrounded by cow paddocks in the early years, thus we earned the nickname “Brown Cows”.

My winter uniform included brown hat and gloves. My summer uniform included a straw hat. We had to wear pinafores to keep our uniforms clean. Our sports uniforms were blue. I remember having to kneel on the concrete in the quadrangle to measure the length of our uniforms.

From the concrete, our summer and winter uniforms had to be 5 inches and 7 inches for our sports. If they were short the stitches were pulled out which meant it had to be fixed by the next day. Most of us utilised our belts to hitch up our uniforms to make them shorter so that we were not caught out.

I remember the joy of sharing Miss Wrzesinski’s wedding, now known as Mrs Hart. I remember when the boys started in 1975. It was a time when the nuns started to number less than the lay teachers. Gone is the nun with the nicknames, “Twinkle toes” and the one who used to scare me with just from the colour of her glasses.

I remember how excited I was to do my Deb in May 1976. Coincidentally, I married my partner and we recently celebrated 35 years together.

Then my children, Christopher and Andrea attended Mount Lilydale from 1995–2002 and they were taught by Mrs Hart and Mrs McClue just as I had been.

The quadrangle was still there as was the black and white lino in the passageways. The school has grown with buildings everywhere.

I have had two host daughters attend MLMC. But I can still see my Mount Lilydale College, all be it as a memory of a time gone by.

The quadrangle was still there as was the black and white lino in the passageways. The school has grown with buildings everywhere.

I have had two host daughters attend MLMC. But I can still see my Mount Lilydale College, all be it as a memory of a time gone by.

MLC is part of the person I am today.

I was proud of it then.

I am proud of the success of what MLMC is today.

I always think of the forethought the Nuns had, to know to choose the land that is known today as MLMC. What great business women they were.

Anne Marie Italiano

Sharing reflections on my years at Mount Lilydale College.

I started at Mt Lilydale in January 1972, my classroom was a little weatherboard building, at the time there were boarders and primary school levels hence I was in prep. Our uniforms were brown and we had gloves and hats, I did not think so then but looking back we were smart looking.

Some of my memories of the first few years were of having milk at morning recess, even when it was warmed in front of an open fire that we had in our class room; coming from a large family milk was on limited supply at home. I also remember Father Trick paying a visit with his two dogs Fish and Chips, being let loose to cause all sorts of havoc, running over our books on top of the desks. The students loved it, as for the teachers I don’t think so.

I remember doing performances in the early years, at the time the school did not have a place large enough to do these shows so we had to go to Lilydale High School. One performance was Peter Rabbit. I can’t remember what part I played, I do remember singing, and I loved it. Then they stopped. I remember only doing one or two. I also made a special friend in those early years who is still very special to me.

We were fortunate enough in primary school to go on some camping trips; the first one was to Swan Hill. It was wonderful, we went to Swan Hill pioneer settlement village, to an old homestead and a museum. I guess looking back now the idea was to show us how the pioneers lived and how they opened up the Mallee. It is a great way to learn because you do not realise you are learning.

The next year was a trip to Canberra, another great experience when we learnt about the Parliament and where it operates. We also saw the War Memorial, Gallery, Mint and the Embassy houses. The last trip was Tasmania but unfortunately I was not allowed to go on this one. I have since taken my own family to these great places.

Secondary school was the start of having boys in my class, our Year Seven had boys although that was not the way the co-ed started, it wasn’t until year nine for other years, it just happened that year was a large enrolment so they mixed us up. It was the first time I had a male teacher also, and I did enjoy Year 7 coming from a large male influenced home.

These are some of my memories of school life. My children are now at the College and I have continued my involvement in the College community as a member of the Parents and Friends and assisting with the Organisational Skills program.

Anne-Marie Italiano (Moxey)
My name is Marie Williamson. My mother Maggie Roberts attended Mount Lilydale Convent as it was called then. I took my mother to the Centenary. I was very happy to see the photo I had enlarged on the internet which was taken in 1912. Since then my mother died in 2002. And I had a stroke in 2005. I now live in Hawthorn and I have the photo on my wall so many people comment on it. Thank you, God bless.

Regards Marie


I started teaching at Mount Lilydale College in 1966 as a replacement teacher. I brought my daughters Sally (aged 4) and Elizabeth (aged 2) with me and the Sisters of Mercy Nuns looked after them during class time. In 1972 I was a replacement teacher for the combined Prep, 1 and 2 class which included my daughter Kathleen. By 1975 Sally was in Year 7, and I was an emergency teacher. From 1976-1982 I taught full time in Year 7–10 taking Integrated Studies, Geography and Craft subjects. Over this time my daughters Elizabeth and Bernadette and my son Jim were also attending Mount Lilydale College. My time with the college extended further when my grandson Jacob Caswell completed VCE at Mount Lilydale in 2005.

So the Caswell family is grateful to the Sisters of Mercy for providing Mount Lilydale College with religious and lay teachers over the years.

Jim Caswell 1977

John Kenwright and I conspired to be in the second year intake of boys attending Mount Lilydale. Sport was harder, as the ground was so rough compared to the smooth sports tracks we were used to at Aquinas College. My Homeroom teacher was Mrs Johnstone who was popularly known for her tough but fair methods – she sent me out of class in our first lesson.

Sally Caswell 1975–1980

Starting Year 7 the year MLC went co-ed. There were 3 classes of Year 7. Craft in the old convent with Mrs Heath. New school uniform included a bright yellow polo shirt under a royal blue crew-necked jumper. Friday afternoon electives included ice skating at Ringwood and creating gem stone jewellery with Mrs Barnes. School camp in Year 9 to Harrietville. Got heaps of blisters on my feet hiking up a snow-capped Mt Feathertop. Mr Pennyfather woke us at 6 am for a jog each morning. Year 10 Art classes in the old kitchen convent rooms with Mrs Olson giving each student their own unique subject in a different medium each week. Eating a piping hot pastie for lunch in the cold quadrangle during winter. The Year 11 play ‘Our Town’ by Thornton Wilder with Mr Coffey doing his best to get us organised. Playing rotating ping pong with my Year 12 cohorts in the new senior school campus.

Elizabeth Caswell 1976–1981

Training every lunchtime for Cross Country past the oval, up the hill, over the ridge and coming out at the old railway line. Sadly, on Race Day, I got injured and had to be rescued on Maroondah Highway by Mr Dunn. Mum at School Sports Day in 1977 when Jim nearly won the 100m sprint. She was jumping up and down cheering so hard, she flicked off both shoes! VCE started the year I was in Year 12, so suddenly, there was a creative component in the scoring of Craft. Mrs Heath and Mrs Olson were very encouraging of my folio pieces which included montages of paint, woven wool and pottery beads whilst Mr Dettman kindly fixed my accompanying flashing light display so as to stop it catching fire!

Kathleen Caswell 1972, 1979–1983

Being an excited 5 year old Prep student dressed as a magpie for our school play, performed outside on the hill and also being mesmerised by the garden grotto of Mary. Fr Tric always bursting into the classroom and revving everyone up and Br Dan teaching us to meditate. Being admitted into the ‘secret world’ of Altar Serving (due to a lack of males!) for Thursday lunchtime Mass in the Chapel by Mr Munroe.

Mr Ryan, Mr Coffey and Mr Mowbray whose inspiring teaching fuelled my love of literature. In Year 10 our teachers put on a play about some students. I was horrified when Mum jumped out in a black leotard and leggings, Calisthenics-dancing across stage – As ME!!

Bernadette Caswell 1983–1987

Having the lead role of “Dorothy” along with our family Labrador dog, Tips, as “Toto” in the school production of The Wiz directed by Mr Bramble. Attending the Central Australian trip in 1987 and meeting lots of other schools and dingoes at camping grounds. Discovering that there wasn’t a Coke dispensing machine at the top of Ayers Rock. I can still remember the song we made up about our bus drivers.

Travelling to Nunawading as one of the grand finalists in the Home Economics “Gas & Fuel Cooking Competition” organised by Mrs Ryan. Being the very first class of Outdoor Education, taught by Mr Andrew Feher (AKA Corporal Feher) in 1987.
To say I was thrilled when dear Sister Basil offered me a job as a Typing Teacher at Mount Lilydale all those years ago would be an understatement. It was like a dream come true. I felt God had brought me there for a purpose.

I remember shedding tears as I drove out, overcome by the breathtaking scenery and the thought that I was going to be a pioneer teacher in the Coeducational era. I recall my first Homeroom in 1975; Form 1C with 38 students, including Lynnette Atkinson, now Lyn Bentley.

In those early days the whole school met in the quad for assemblies, masses or to be addressed by Sister Beth, who always got everyone’s complete attentions. For 13 years Sister Beth moved the typewriters around until a Secretarial block was created in Mount St Joseph’s building in 1984.

The new technological era was approaching so I completed a Grad Dip in Office Systems Education, and then a Grad Dip in Information & Communication Technology Education to ensure students were taught with the latest technology.

I am ever thankful to Sister Marg Sheehan for her encouragement and support and to Mr Goodfellow, Sister Nancy and Mr Dobson for the opportunity I was given to teach in Computers, IT, RE, Industry & Enterprise, Ed Support, teach the children’s children and be appointed School Archivist.

Although I can recall many happy times, I also remember times when we grieved the passing of staff, students, parents and family members. However, instead of making us bitter, it seemed to strengthen our faith and resulted often in a deep concern for others in our community and beyond.

As I faced the final era at my Retirement last Friday, I was overjoyed to see my family, Sisters, colleagues, ex-students and friends sharing the story that helped create that special bond of love that epitomises the rich tapestry of MLMC.

Irene McClue

Neville Howell was a member of staff who is very fondly remembered by colleagues and students. In January of 2004, Neville lost his battle with cancer.

Nev was a larger than life figure who was a tremendous educator. He was master of his domain in the wood technology area.

For many students the woodwork room was a haven and Mr Howell was accepting of all. With classical music playing in the background it was a space where the broader lessons of life were also taught. Nev believed that as a teacher he had a responsibility to mould young people and that building a trusting and respectful relationship was the key ingredient to this. Nev came across as someone who was very firm in what he expected of students yet he always provided a compromise position that allowed the student to maintain respect in the eyes of their peers but left them in no doubt who won the battle of wills.

Nev had a wonderfully subtle sense of humour and often it was only when he gave the cheeky grin that you realised he was winding you up. He took great delight in keeping people guessing and enjoyed the sense of mystery. Part of the mystique related to the Secret Men’s Business (SMB) that he founded. He believed it was good for men to share the company of other men in a social setting and would try to ensure that such gatherings were shrouded in secrecy and mystery. Not that Nev could ever be accused of being sexist – some of his closest colleagues would have been Glenys Heath, Mary Ryan and Patricia Olson, women who would never tolerate even the slightest hint of behaviour that would be deemed sexist.

Having arrived in Australia from South Africa with his wife Madge and children, Lyndsay and Rowan in 1980, Neville’s teaching career commenced at Mount Lilydale. He was wonderful company and the conversation would flow for hours. Possessing an inquisitive mind, Nev was always keen to question the social mores of his newly adopted country. Having experienced first hand the injustices of apartheid in South Africa, he would often marvel at the relaxed lifestyle that he discovered here.

Comparing the education systems of both countries was another topic he enjoyed. The segregated schools in South Africa meant that politics could not be separated from the education process and the role of the teacher was often that of peacemaker and protector. He thought Australian classrooms to be a stroll in the park in comparison.

The final role that Nev had at the school before illness prevented him from working was to manage the wonderful new facility of Centennial Hall. He had a tremendous appreciation of history and saw the signifi cance of this building in terms of our school history. Nev made sure that everyone who used the facility treated it with the care and respect it deserved.

Nev was a great friend, colleague and mentor to many people throughout his time at the school. His cheerful disposition never deserted him even during the period of his illness. Many people have passed through the school over the years but only a few have left a lasting impression on the lives of people they touched. Neville Ian Howell was one such man and even today as we tell stories of Nev it brings back some truly great memories. It was an honour and privilege to work with him.

Michael Johnston, Deputy Principal – Director of Students

Monica was a student from 1982–1987. She was also the founding president of the Old Collegians’ Football club and remained President for 7 years. Her daughter, Zoe Lawson will be commencing Year seven at the College next year, something her mother would be extremely proud of. Monica is the daughter of Maureen and Michael Carolan, and sister to Patrick, Louise and Jacinta (all four children attended the College).
Daniel Dickson

Old Collegian, Daniel Dickson – 2010 College Captain, participated in a charity rally which set off from London on 23 July with 2 Brits and 2 other Aussies. The team, dubbed ‘Party of Five‘ made the journey as part of this year’s Mongolia Rally, which saw over 250 teams of adventurous fundraisers depart the UK to make the 12,000 mile trip to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. The aim of the Rally was to raise money and awareness for the plight of those in Mongolia.

The team travelled through 12 countries; taking in Western Europe, Bulgaria, Romania and then Turkey, where they caught a ferry across the Black Sea to Russia. They then crossed the unruly desert plains of Kazakhstan, before finally reaching Mongolia. The roads were dangerous, their mechanical knowledge limited and the car (ambulance) was entirely unsuitable. However, it was all for a good cause and at the end of the trip the ambulance they used was donated to the people of Mongolia.

Births

David & Kellye Barton (Semmens) started at Mt Lilydale Mercy College in 1995 and both finished in the Year 2000. After spending 5–6 years at University (David – Bachelor of Law & Bachelor of Commerce, Kellye – Bachelor of Science & Grad. Dip Ed.), they both moved to Yarrawonga so that David could complete his Article Clerkship for Law and was admitted to practice in 2008. Kellye worked in a Scientific Laboratory across the border testing interesting materials for the Defence Force.

They were married on 17th of January, 2009 at Elmswood Estate in Wandin East, and shortly after moved back to the suburbs and started new jobs. David working for Shine Lawyers in Reservoir and Kellye working in a Laboratory in Kilsyth for Merck Pty Ltd.

In 2010 they bought a house in Lilydale and on 23rd of February 2011 welcomed Niamh Stella Kate Barton to the world. Niamh was born at Mitcham Private Hospital and weighed a healthy 8lb 8oz.

Chayse Anthony Warr was born on 4th May 2011 at 21.46pm to Ruth (FitzGerald) and Jaye Warr. Chayse weighed 2380 grams (5 pounds) and was 49cm in length.

Chloe Michelle Warr was born on 16th September 2008. She arrived at 12.42pm weighing 749 grams (1 pound and 10oz) and was 30cm in length. Chloe was born at 28 weeks as Ruth had severe Eclampsia or H.E.L.L.P Syndrome, Jaye and Ruth love both children very much. They are very thankful to The Mercy Hospital, and to all the thoughts and prayers from family, friends and the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community.

Chayse Anthony Warr

Weddings

Leslie Katzen – The wedding of Leslie Katzen (completed Year 12 in 1999) and Fabien Tortora took place at Potters Receptions in Warrandyte on Friday, 5th August 2011. Leslie is a Registered Nurse working at the Epworth Hospital in Box Hill. She also works as a Nurse Counsellor for the Cancer Council of Victoria and she is currently working on a Master’s degree in Nursing. Her Husband, Fabien Tortora comes from Belgium and works as a Petrochemical Engineer. Leslie’s father, Danny, is Science Faculty Head and has completed 21 years of service to the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community.

Leslie Katzen

Alison Schlueter

Old Collegian, Alison Schlueter (completed Year 12 in 1995) and Fabien Tortora took place at Potters Receptions in Warrandyte on Friday, 5th August 2011. Leslie is a Registered Nurse working at the Epworth Hospital in Box Hill. She also works as a Nurse Counsellor for the Cancer Council of Victoria and she is currently working on a Master’s degree in Nursing. Her Husband, Fabien Tortora comes from Belgium and works as a Petrochemical Engineer. Leslie’s father, Danny, is Science Faculty Head and has completed 21 years of service to the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community.
College Building Program

Developing an environment conducive to student learning and teaching is an endless process. With the ongoing changes in technology and teaching pedagogy, our physical resources are constantly under review. Our latest building project includes a new Administration Centre and a Year 7 student complex.

The Administration Centre will function as student and general reception areas and accommodate support and secretarial staff, finance, Registrar, the Deputy Principals of Mission, Students and Learning and the College Principal, Mr Dobson.

The new Year 7 complex has been developed with the most contemporary teacher pedagogy in mind. The classrooms are flexible structures with moving walls, to enable team teaching, extensive group work and independent learning.

Both levels of the two storey structure include ‘learning streets’ that provide the opportunity for small group work, presentations, reading areas and audio visual displays.

A wet area is also provided for those messier tasks that require students to use different mediums. The area will also provide full wireless networking for application of computer technology and a full soundfield system has been installed in all classrooms to provide better acoustics and improve learning outcomes for all.

Both buildings should be completed at the end of this year and be ready for the start of the new school year in 2012.

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

Grounds For Change

On my arrival at Mt Lilydale College (as it was then known) the first thing I noticed was wide open spaces and very little vegetation. The main buildings had some established garden beds with three eighty year old peppercorns in different areas as well as a handful of established trees. Over the years we’ve tried to enhance the beauty of the property. Large areas of the College have been landscaped, most noticeably at the front of the School. Elsewhere hundreds of trees and shrubs have been planted. Of great support to me is teacher, Dave Banfield. He and the students of his horticultural class, have worked tirelessly in growing and planting both native plants and fruit trees throughout the property over a long period of time.

At the rear of the College is a small vineyard that provides red wine (cabernet sauvignon) for College functions and gifts. The School is situated on 15 hectares on the main property and leases 6 hectares in Quarry Road. Five years ago a decision was made to transfer the Athletics Carnival to the Quarry Road Complex and each March/April a 400 metre 6 lane grass track and 100 metre sprint track are set up on the main football field (used in season by our Old Collegian Football Team).

Shot put and discus cages have been constructed as well as bitumen long and triple jump pits. Whilst we were in the midst of the twelve year drought, a water bore was drilled and a 260 thousand litre tank installed for garden and toilet use. When first employed, I also worked in the convent garden, a place of tranquillity away from the hurly burly of school activities.

Currently, I am the only full time groundsman but work with contractors Mick and Rosie Fitzgerald and Andrew Comerford, enthusiastic people who work very hard at maintaining and improving the beautiful lawns and grounds of the College.

Overall I’ve been fortunate enough to meet many interesting and wonderful characters and to work in such a friendly environment with great surrounds makes work enjoyable. In the 22 years we have progressed from humble beginnings in terms of our equipment, to fantastic machinery which makes the job easy.

Mick Hill

Mount Lilydale Mercy College • 7
To mark the celebration of 115 years of Mercy Secondary Education in Lilydale, a meeting was held on October 8th to attempt to formally set up an Old Collegians’ Association with the strong endorsement of the Principal, Mr Bernard Dobson. The evening was chaired by Michael Johnston, Deputy Principal in charge of students who has worked at the College for many years. About 40 past students were in attendance and several others had tendered an apology but were keen to be involved. After much lively discussion and sharing of memories, the election of Office Bearers took place. The first initiative of the committee was the Memorial Mass on November 6th which is planned to be an annual event. Reunions and various other events are planned for 2012 and will be advertised on the College Website.

Old Collegians’ Association

President: Peter Ruscitti
Co Vice-Presidents: John-Michael McLindon
Amy Newcomb
Secretary: Lynne Bentley
Treasurer: Dean De Munk
Principal’s Nominees: Patricia Olson, Leonie Ziolkowski

FROM THE EDITOR

We hope you enjoyed the first two editions of the Old Collegians’ Newsletter. We are 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. This edition of the Old Collegians’ Newsletter has only been forwarded to one member per household. 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 number 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.

Andrew Delahunt

Old Collegians’ Soccer & Football

Soccer

Get on Board 2012 season!!

2012 looks to be a defining year for The Mighty Goats. With a new committee supporting six fresh faces, Mt Lilydale Old Collegians SC is proud to announce Adem Tahiri as the new club President for 2012. We would like to thank the departing joint presidents from 2011, foundation member Ernesto Lando and Clubman Jason Kelly for their services.

Every year we look to build on our past success. We welcome all current and past collegians who are interested in joining us, whether for social or competitive reasons to contact Adam Tahiri on 0434 555 092 or Michael Blazincic on 0418 175 259. Check us out on Facebook MLOCSC. Come support The Mighty Goats push for success 2012!!

Preseason
Date: Wednesday 18th January
Time: 6:30 – 8:30
Location: Mt Lilydale Sporting Complex, Quarry Road

Football

The year 2011 will be recorded in history books as a wet winter. Playing football at Mt Lilydale, as a student or as an old collegian, meant a weekly routine of sloshing and washing, training and playing in the mud heap and then giving the washing machine a heavy workout. So it is fantastic news to hear the school is investing in the sporting facilities for Athletics, Soccer and Aussie Rules and that it will be installing drainage on the Quarry Road ground. It is a big investment, but one that will provide a far better experience for students in the coming years.

This started me thinking on the improvements since my playing days, and how beneficial the College – Old Collegian partnership has become. I remember playing school sport, in the middle of winter when the ovals were sodden, finishing the game and then traipsing along the road and back to the dank change rooms between the middle and senior school.

When the footy club started, the players provided a hard yakka investment, building the social rooms and change rooms at Quarry Road. These rooms are now enjoyed by the students – both boys and girls play footy these days, by the footy and soccer clubs, and by past old collegians. The school provided a loan to kick-start the construction, and the partnership was born. Since those days the ground has developed further, with wonderful gardens tended by the industrious maintenance team. No more does the ground look like a paddock, with no amenities or even toilets for the kids!

A few years back the Athletics Carnival was relocated to Quarry Road, and it has become the biggest and best day on the sports calendar! Safety was enhanced with the introduction of jumping pits, plus shot put and discus zones. But with the entire school dressed in house colours, it is a sight to behold – imagine a teeming, heaving, screaming mass of coloured kids all running and jumping faster and further than we ever could!

So the partnership between College and the Old Collegians has benefited both entities. There is no doubt this will continue and bring plenty of success and happiness to the sporting kids and adults from Mt Lilydale.

The footy club is anticipating 2012 will be a successful and fun year. The ground will be renovated and dry, there is a new coach and a team ready to play finals and I can sense it will be an exciting year.

All players are welcome and you don’t need to be an Old Collegian, but be ready to have fun and enjoy footy at its social best!

Training starts 6pm 15th November
Contact Gavin Green (Senior Coach) on 0421 083 512

Andrew Delahunt

Mercy Secondary Education Inc. A00356608B