Old Collegians’ Memorial Mass
Dear Old Collegians of Mount Lilydale Mercy College

Welcome to the new year and to this our first official communication with you. I am constantly thrilled when attending functions scattered around the local area that people that I have never met wander up, introduce themselves and explain that they are Old Collegians. The joy with which they speak about their “alma mater”, the stories that they are quick to tell and the readiness with which they choose to be associated indicates to me that essentially, despite some hardships, school life was good and success has followed. What a wonderful Legacy.

Personally I am always interested in hearing of the life stories of our Old Collegians, but more importantly we as a College remain interested in documenting them. Success is measured in many ways and with a history of nearly one hundred and twenty years I am sure that there are many stories to be told.

Interestingly the College theme as chosen by our Year 12 Prefect Group for 2014 talks of Legacy.

"With every opportunity we take, the greater the legacy we make”

And in choosing this theme they were keen to emphasise that by taking advantage of the many opportunities available to them, not only would they benefit individually but they would help to create the sort of community that builds a strong bond and culture. In talking about Legacy they were not so much interested in how they would be remembered but rather the gift that they could leave behind.

The gifts to the students that follow, the gift of inspiration, the gift of a dream, the gift of community.

This too should be your Legacy.

We would dearly like to know your story and your successes. We are interested in hearing of the paths taken by our Old Collegians and publishing them. These stories not only become a good way of keeping others informed, but they also become exemplars to current students. It is always good for them to know that local people from their school have achieved. Patricia Olson is always keen to make contact with you to hear your story so please contact her through the College.

A group of Old Collegians also meet regularly to advance the processes and viability of our Old Collegians’ Association, which history tells us, has had at least three incarnations over the years. Hopefully this is the one that will see it grow, prosper and help to provide opportunities to the students that are yet to become Old Collegians. Hopefully our Association can become a real part of that Legacy.

Please consider your talent and skill set. Please consider your benefit from a Mercy education. Please consider becoming a part of the formal structures of this association and work to improve connectivity of Old Collegians.

Omnia Cum Deo

God Bless

Philip A Morison

Principal

In 2006, Mansfield House (built in 1952) became the home of our first Archive/Heritage Centre. An enthusiastic team of staff and old collegians set about displaying the vast array of archives in this lovely old building.

What a delight it was to be part of this challenging project, with so many generous people contributing their time, effort and expertise to bring it to fruition. We were especially indebted to Pauline Bennett who made the habit for Mother Agnes Ryan, and Sister Margaret Sheehan who undertook the delicate task of the dressing of our first Principal, according to strict directions from the Mercy Order! The official opening of the Heritage Centre was carried out on 30 August, 2006 by Sister Beth Calthorpe [Principal 1976–1989].

Since that time, many old collegians, students, staff, parents and grandparents have made the journey to view these archival exhibits, showing their delight as they recognised various articles and relics of bygone days at Mount Lilydale College (MLMC).

Unfortunately, in 2010, Mansfield House was demolished to make way for the new Year 7 Learning Centre. Many people felt sad and expressed their dismay at this decision. When it was announced in 2012, the new Heritage Centre was to be relocated in the beautifully renovated downstairs rooms in the Mount St Joseph building, there was much relief and joy. Historically, this building was not only ideal for housing the archives, but allowed the Sisters of Mercy, old collegians and their families to, once again, walk down memory lane.

Through the kind generosity of the Principal, Philip Morison, and volunteer help from former staff, Marilyn Doherty, Jeanette Suhr and old collegian, Marie Phelan, the upkeep of the archive collection continues. It is also gratifying to acknowledge recent gifts of antique chairs, table and piano stool, courtesy of Mrs Joan Francis (Temby), Child of Mary dress and veil by old collegian, Sr. Teresa Dennis, and an original handwritten letter donated by old collegian, Moira Burgi, dated 1897, from Sr. M. Patrick [McGuire] to her mother.

I hope and pray that students, past, present and future, continue to enjoy these significant archives and are proud to be part of the rich heritage, which is Mount Lilydale Mercy College.

Irene McClue

Volunteer and former Archivist
Reuben Nieuwesteeg
It is a strange task to summarise your experiences, and to retrospect on a time so long ago you find it hard to recognize with, but childhood is the foundation stone for our life. The form that my life has taken is vastly more complex and beautiful than I could have envisioned in those years. Having dyslexia, my schooling years were, to say the least, challenging. It is labeled a learning disability but I would describe it as a memory retrieval problem. In retrospect, it has given me drive and determination and, most importantly, a unique perspective.

I started at MLC in 1993 as a very small fish in a very big pond. My previous school had fewer kids than in my class. I felt privileged to go to Mount Lilydale. After leaving at the end of year ten I studied horticulture, a family tradition that I was happy to continue. I worked for my father propagating rose plants. I studied guitar and spent many years writing and performing.

In 2005 I began my hospitality career as a chef. I’ve been fortunate to work in some beautiful places across the Yarra Valley, London and Melbourne. In 2009 I married Nicole and we now have two sons, three year old Archer and one year old Maynard. In 2010 we opened a restaurant named Billy Goat Hill Brasserie in Mt Evelyn. We try to take a holistic, sustainable approach, with the menu sourced locally and all food prepared on site.

We are all teachers and students, our lessons are to observe and learn, to ask and to question and to pass on, our task now in our current society is more difficult than ever. We have gained intelligence but this has come at the cost of wisdom. Mount Lilydale has very deep foundations that I hope will continue building people up.

After attending primary school at St Peter Julian Eymard in Mooroolbark, I recall feeling both excited and extremely nervous when I commenced Year 7 at Mount Lilydale in the summer of 1993. My two older siblings Michael and Ann Marie had attended the College in the 1980s, which significantly helped in my transition into the Mount Lilydale community.

By far, my most rewarding time at the College was my final two years in senior school. Undertaking the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) was transformational. My Year 11 and Year 12 studies opened up educational opportunities and ignited my curiosity about the wider world, travel and literature.

During my time at the College I particularly recognize the supporting influence of key teachers such as Julie Shields, Clare Lyons, Deborah Barker, Marianne Ward and Dianne De Munk.

Following secondary school, I commenced study at The University of Melbourne, graduating in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts (Majors in English Literary Studies and Geography) and a Bachelor of Theology from the Melbourne College of Divinity.

After completing my undergraduate studies I followed my interest in education, and for the past 12 years have worked at the University of Melbourne. My current position is Manager of Student Recruitment in The University’s Office of Admissions with a focus on tertiary admissions, marketing the University and prospective student engagement.

My career enables me to actively engage with secondary schools and students in promoting the role of education in bringing about change and opportunity. My work has also provided occasions to travel across Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the Gulf / Middle East and build relationships with educational institutions and meet with prospective students.

A number of years ago I moved to Brunswick where I currently live with my partner. I also enjoy travelling and have visited nearly 30 countries. Some of my best and most memorable adventures have included travels in Brazil, Mongolia, Russia and most recently Iceland.

15 years after graduating from Year 12 some of my closest friends are classmates from Mount Lilydale. In the past few years I’ve also been delighted by the opportunity to reconnect with the school via my nieces Lucy and Emma and nephew Mason, who are now current students at the College.
Old Collegians’ Newsletter

2006. Tim and Lucy loved and love teaching at Mount Lilydale, enjoying Tim and Lucy met as colleagues and were married on 30 December College from 2003–2008. Lucy, a Psychology and Religious Education teacher began at the College in 2004 and is currently on maternity leave. teacher began at the College in 2004 and is currently on maternity leave. A Chemistry, Maths, Science and Religious Education teacher at the College where he felt he was well supported by his teachers whom he had very positive relationships with. Tim holds close education at the College where he felt he was well supported by his teachers whom he had very positive relationships with. Tim holds close many opportunities that the College offered in areas such as debating and sport. Tim was Ryan Prefect in Year 12. He loved his six years of sport. Tim was Ryan Prefect in Year 12. He loved his six years of graduating from Year 12 in 1998. He has fond memories of his time as a student at the College where he enjoyed his studies and took up many opportunities that the College offered in areas such as debating and sport. Tim was Ryan Prefect in Year 12. He loved his six years of education at the College where he felt he was well supported by his teachers whom he had very positive relationships with. Tim holds close to him the friendships that he formed when at the College and is still close friends to many people that he spent 1993–1998 with. Mount Lilydale has also been a place of work for Tim and Lucy. Tim was a Chemistry, Maths, Science and Religious Education teacher at the College from 2003–2008. Lucy, a Psychology and Religious Education teacher began at the College in 2004 and is currently on maternity leave. Tim and Lucy met as colleagues and were married on 30 December 2006. Tim and Lucy loved and love teaching at Mount Lilydale, enjoying the students and the various responsibilities that they held at the College. Mount Lilydale holds a special place in both of their hearts. Tim went to school at Mt Lilydale College beginning in Year 7 in 1993 and graduating from Year 12 in 1998. He has fond memories of his time as a student at the College where he enjoyed his studies and took up many opportunities that the College offered in areas such as debating and sport. Tim was Ryan Prefect in Year 12. He loved his six years of education at the College where he felt he was well supported by his teachers whom he had very positive relationships with. Tim holds close to him the friendships that he formed when at the College and is still close friends to many people that he spent 1993–1998 with. Mount Lilydale has also been a place of work for Tim and Lucy. Tim was a Chemistry, Maths, Science and Religious Education teacher at the College from 2003–2008. Lucy, a Psychology and Religious Education teacher began at the College in 2004 and is currently on maternity leave. Tim and Lucy met as colleagues and were married on 30 December 2006. Tim and Lucy loved and love teaching at Mount Lilydale, enjoying the students and the various responsibilities that they held at the College.
Jean Moriarty

Memories of my school days at Mount Lilydale College 1946–58

Myself and my two older sisters attended the school, each of us being the only students to complete year 12. The school was not well known for its academic achievements at that time. When I left, we three sisters were the only ones to go to university. Mostly girls left at year 10 after doing typing/shorthand courses and became secretaries, or year 11 and went into primary teaching.

The school was run by Mother Ursula Slater of whom I have fond memories. Most of the other nuns I remember as old but they wanted the best for us and for the most part were kind. The only lay teachers were Miss Murphy who taught elocution and Miss Grabbe who taught us dancing (for want of a better word) and several young men at different times who came to teach singing. They only ever lasted a term or two. We gave them a hard time I’m afraid. My mother, a fully qualified teacher worked at the College in my last few years there.

During my school days there were roughly 50 boarders and 50 day pupils from prep to year 12. There were also a couple of three year old babies boarding there as well. As there were only two secondary schools in the vast area (Lilydale High School and the convent) buses would bring students daily from Yea, Noojee, Gladysdale, Porelltown and Warburton. As a result many students would board Monday to Friday and go home for weekends.

My sisters tell me when they started school, initially, they went in a horse and cart and a little later by steam train, except in winter when it was too cold. I was at least 10 years old before there was a bus service.

The school then owned a couple of hundred acres and had cows, vegies and fruit trees in abundance (much to the boarder’s delight). There was a succession of chaps to milk the cows and keep the gardens tidy. As it was a lonely life in the bachelor quarters most did not last long. They were ably assisted by one of Nellie Melba’s nieces, a fine horsewoman who wore jodhpurs much to the nuns’ disgust. She drove the tractor and looked after the horses in the front agistment paddock, as some students rode to school daily.

We used to play a game called Figaro (an ancient form of Rounders) in the paddock beyond the tennis courts but we had to be careful to avoid the cow pats. The only science education I remember was the nuns taking us mushrooming which we enjoyed of course but it did little to enhance our knowledge of physics and chemistry. Times certainly have changed – how much for the better I sometimes wonder. Those days of yore were never stressed.

Nelly Maloney (Nee Rauch)

I attended the Memorial Mass at Mount Lilydale Mercy College so I could go down memory lane. I was a boarder and starting in 1952 for two years. I was quite young when my parents had to place me there as there was no one to look after me while they worked.

The memories I have are good ones. I remember the grotto in the garden and the Chapel, the stairway leading to the dormitory up-stairs where my bed was. Also the trees outside where I would hear the birds in the morning. I had a silver napkin ring with my name on it at meal times, but I don’t know where it went. I also remember going to the fields with a basket to gather mushrooms which I thought was great fun.

Sadly though I only have these few memories as I was only about three or four years old. I have photos of myself in school uniform taken in the car park beside our old car. Sometimes the car would break down on the way and my mother would finish our journey by train.

CLASS OF 1993 REUNION

Above: Playing in the Noel Coward production “Fallen Angels” 1983
dancing school that I was at since the age of 13. I was studying the technique as a student teacher as well as taking to the competition floor.

Having completed my formal schooling, I was teaching, learning and gaining my qualifications at the dance school and travelling competing nationally with my partner. Naturally I was designing our fabulous costumes and they must have left a good impression because soon enough I began designing for other dancers and this resulted in my first business of Dance Couture, working out of my flat in Glen Iris. It was also the introduction to the mechanics of TV as we were often invited to dance for the ABC show That’s Dancin’, which they shot at the San Remo Ballroom in Carlton.

I was offered a very good dance partner in Sydney. I moved, got settled and started working with my new coaches. The costume business was greeted well in Sydney and flourished. I was designing for dancers from here and abroad and had many trips to Europe and especially London where the heart of Ballroom is. Eventually I stopped competing myself and dedicated my efforts to the business of costume. I stayed in Sydney for 15 years and took up Flamenco dance as a personal interest.

In 2000 I moved back to Melbourne. Dad passed away in 1995 and I felt the need to be nearer the family. They were shooting a film “Blonde” here in Melbourne, an American production. I got a job as cutter and made a flawless bias silk slip for the actress and this started the next phase of my career working in Theatre Film and TV. Most recently on Underbelly Squirzy, Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries for the ABC and 13 series of Dancing with The Stars of course. I was wardrobe supervisor for an Andrew Lloyd Webber production that toured Beijing and Shanghai, where we did concerts at The Great Hall of The People and the Shanghai Opera House. I have designed costumes for Jason Giliksons’ Ballroom and Floorplay and Barry Humphries commissioned me to design dresses for Edna. I have cut or designed everything from a fish nibbled dress worn by a corpse to a pink frenzy of ostrich feathered showgirls.

I wish to thank all my teachers, mentors and family for encouraging me to pursue the creative path. It has been fun as well as hard work and always very interesting.

Howard Bentley

I left Mount Lilydale College in 1979 and commenced employment with a wholesale plant company Brushy Park Nurseries in Wonga Park. I worked in various departments as a labourer and it quickly became evident that the childhood appreciation of plants and gardens that I received from my mother’s love of gardening had indeed rubbed off. Plants became my source of employment which developed into a hobby and as time went on, my passion.

In 1983 Brushy Park Nurseries merged with another company to form a new entity in Plant Growers Australia Ltd. Unfortunately difficult economic times took a toll on the company and a number of staff were laid off and unfortunately I was one of those although I was re-hired some two months later. I decided at this time it was probably the kick in the pants that I needed and it made me realize that this was the career that I wanted.

Twelve months after being retrenched I was appointed Despatch Manager overseeing a crew of up to 25 staff. From this position a few years later I was appointed Operations and Production Manager and responsible for a 13 acre production site as well as a 5 acre propagation site and up to 50 staff. Along with Sales and Marketing Manager Michael Cole and Malcom Dickson Finance Manager we managed the business on behalf of the owners up until 2001 when we were offered the opportunity of a management buyout. Since the buyout our business has grown substantially as has our directorship with two more in Steve Eggleton PGA Managing Director and Chris Sargent PMA Managing Director.

Plant Growers Australia (pga.com.au) has an international reputation as a leader in horticultural marketing and promotions and as a major player in the introduction of new plant varieties. In the same year as purchasing PGA we also purchased a small Intellectual Property company called Plants Management Australia or PMA which manages plant patents for breeders in Australia and around the world. After a lot of hard work from all involved PMA (pma.com.au) is now recognised as one of the pre-eminent plant licencing companies in the world.

Over the years PGA and PMA have collected some awards and the credit goes to all the amazing and passionate people we are lucky enough to have as part of our companies. I’m especially appreciative of the help and support I get and always had from my wife Lynne. Seeking her advice and being able to bounce ideas off her is invaluable as well as affording me the countless numbers of days spent away from home on business.

The following are some of the initiatives and awards that PGA and PMA have been able to implement and achieve over the years: One of the first nurseries to recycle irrigation and run off water PGA; First wholesale nursery in Australia to have a website PGA; NIAA 1999 Marketing Award winner PGA; The Age Victorian Business Award winner for outstanding Business and Financial achievement PGA; Australian Business Award for Product Innovation PGA; Savewater Awards Finalist for Large Business PGA; Prime Minister’s Water Wise Award finalist PGA; Telstra Tasmanian Business of Year PGA and Telstra Australian Business of the year finalist PMA.
Congratulations to the authors of Mount Lilydale Mercy College’s Coolock and 2013 College theme “Dream together, Embrace change, Strive as one”. It can be so complex, yet so simple... Well done!

The MLMCOCA’s calendar is well in progress for 2014, and at the time of printing this report, we are preparing for the Business Breakfast being held on 19 March (7.00–9.00am). This year, our two speakers are Angela Wood and Terrence Dunn. Past student and Old Collegian, Angela specializes in tax and is a partner of Maddocks Law Firm. “Terry” even though older, is not officially an Old Collegian because he still teaches sport at Mount Lilydale! Planning is also underway for the Gala Dinner which has been brought forward this year and is to be held on 17 May. I encourage and invite nominations for the Mercy Honour Roll. Please direct any enquiries for nominations to the school and to the attention of Patricia Olson.

Discussions have commenced for Mount Lilydale Mercy College’s 120th year celebration in 2016. This is most exciting because our most mature Old Collegian, Moira Burgi, will be celebrating her 100th Birthday!

Best wishes to the 2014 Old Collegian Scholarship recipient, Rachel Ward and her fellow Year 12 students with their studies and goals.

God Bless the community of Mount Lilydale Mercy College and a double blessing for Moira Burgi!

Peter Ruscitti
President

What some of our Old Collegians are up to

Neal and Adele Haining
Our wonderful, special and forever memorable day took place at Paynes Rise Wines in Seville on 14 December 2013. The day was perfect as several days of rain cleared to give us crystal clear skies and 25 degrees. Amongst the grace of a century old oak tree, and within a promise circle, we made our vows and sealed our lives together with a kiss; but not before enjoying some ceremonial wine. Lawn games, a live band and dancing were then the order of the evening before too soon we drove away to bask in the memory we’d created...can’t wait for the rest to come along.

Lucia Tabacchiera & Clinton Ruyg
Lucia Tabacchiera (1997) married Clinton Ruyg on Saturday 19 October 2013 at Inglewood Estate where the celebrations continued with family and friends. They met three and half years ago in 2010. The couple honeymooned in the Maldives and Singapore. All Lucia’s bridesmaids were past Mount Lilydale Students.
Lucia has worked at the College for the past 8 years and Clinton teaches primary students at a local private school.

Mark and Leearna Van Der Linden.
Mark and Leearna were married on 7 December 2013 in Warranwood. Mark was a student at the College from 1994 to 1998. Mark and Leearna spent two weeks in New Zealand for their honeymoon.

Haylee Jones and Ken Murphy
Haylee and Ken were married on 23 November 2013 at St Brigid’s Mordialloc Bridesmaids Bridget Jones, Laine Amos, Jacqui Nielsen and Groomsman Anthony Knight are all Old Collegians.

Roseanne (Hollier) and Brendan Roby welcomed their new baby Theodore [Ted] James on 4 May 2013. A beautiful bouncing baby brother for Archie Laurence 3 years old.

Erin Weinberg and Michael Frost welcomed Elena on 9 September 2013. Sister to Oscar.
Old Collegians’ Soccer

The Mount Lilydale Old Collegians Soccer Club committee is excited and ready to commence a successful 2014 campaign. Over the summer break the club secured two very important appointments - a new Reserves and Senior Coach. The club formally announced the appointment of Paul Psathas as Senior Coach for seasons 2014 and 2015. Paul’s return and appointment creates the stability and continuity required for the club to be a competitive force in the Bayside Premier League and into the future.

Secondly the club was delighted in announcing the appointment of Mal Holt as Reserves Coach for season 2014. Mal comes to the club following a successful playing career; playing for over 30 years with a variety of clubs and different leagues and levels.

The Soccer club will be fielding two teams, Seniors and Reserves in the 2014 Bayside FA Premier League. The club is now building its foundation for entry into FFV State League, which is played on Saturdays, from 2015 and beyond. We are looking forward to this exciting opportunity for the club. Mount Lilydale Old Collegians Soccer Club is now seeking players and off field supporters. Please visit our website for information and all club contacts: www.mlocsc.com.au

Send us your enquiry: info@mlocsc.com.au

Follow us on Facebook: “Mt Lilydale FC”

Please do not hesitate to contact the committee if you require any further details.

We welcome your involvement in the 2014 season and beyond at Mount Lilydale Old Collegians Soccer Club

Vince D’Alessandro
Club President

Old Collegians’ Football

On behalf of the Mount Lilydale Old Collegians’ Football Club welcome to season 2014

This year finds the football club in somewhat of a rebuilding phase having dealt with a difficult 2013 season. As a result we will field just one side in 2014 playing in the VFL’s club 1B championship this year.

The season starts 5th April and we are training strongly in preparation.

We have a terrific and tight-knit group of players, though recruits are welcome so if you would like to play for the old boys please call the coach Ben on 0405 940 676.

Having experienced Club 1B football before I can assure you that the standard of footy is very high, often better than D4 seniors, and that we will need to be on our game to have the success that we all want to achieve. In moving forward as a club we have much to be positive about.

Ben Oakes has been appointed as our coach, Ben has been a player at the club for a number of years and has a great passion and understanding for the game. Ben’s positive, no nonsense, attitude will help drive the culture that we need to move forward as a club.

We have established a strong and determined committee that will help drive the club forward. The new president David Holloway is backed by many old collegians including Pat Carolan, Michael Napoleon, Tania Del Biondo, Dave Callanan and Francis Varga.

The committee has 2 key goals for the year:

1. To provide an environment that just allows the players to enjoy their footy, continue to develop as footballers, and ultimately achieve on field success.

2. To develop, and execute, plans that will help us move forward as a club. This involves building a recruiting plan, implementing a communication strategy, forging closer links with the college and taking the time to build strong support with all old collegians and friends.

As a committee we understand that we have much work to do. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our fantastic sponsors, they have all been long term sponsors and provide the financial support needed to keep the club moving forward.

In particular I would like to mention our major sponsors in E.E. Muir and Sons and Landmark who have both signed on again for 2014.

Preparations for the season have been in full swing, with fundraising a big focus. We’ve co-opted young and potential Mount Lilydale students to work the sausage sizzle – its great advertising for the club! Lastly to the players, thanks for representing our club this year, you should be proud to wear the yellow and blue of Mount Lilydale. In the words of our song: Lots of fun, heaps of fun, enjoy yourselves today.

Mt Lilydale boys are hard to beat when they come out to play!

Dave Holloway

Upcoming Events

GALA DINNER AND INDUCTION TO MERCY HONOUR ROLL – Saturday 17 May, Centennial Hall

TRIVIA NIGHT – Friday 10 October 7.30pm, Centennial Hall

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS – Sunday 23 November 2.00pm. This will be held in the new Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegians’ Memorial Chapel and will be followed by afternoon tea. A Memorial Book has been placed in the Chapel and all members of our community, both past and present, are invited to submit names of Old Collegians for inclusion.

For any enquiries please contact olsont@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or ziolkowi@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or Phone 9237 1356

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 ocl@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 Ziołkowski. We want to hear from you! Email: olsont@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or ziolkowi@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or Phone 9237 1356.

www.facebook.com/mlmcoldcollegians

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