Old Collegians’ Gala Dinner and Mercy Honour Roll Inductees

On Saturday 20 June, the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Old Collegians’ Association hosted its fourth annual Gala Dinner in Centennial Hall. As well as an opportunity for the extended community to celebrate together, the night also recognised four Old Collegians who were inducted to the Mercy Honour Roll for 2015. Profits from the evening will go towards a 2016 Year 12 Scholarship open to all students currently in Year 11.

We were fortunate to have Rev Bishop Mark Edwards and Sisters of Mercy, Beth, Madeleine, Teresa, Eileen and Margaret as guests on the night.

Old Collegians’ AGM 2015

On 1 September at the fifth annual AGM, Peter Ruscitti, Lucia Tabacchiera, Dean De Munk and Lynne Bentley were re-elected as Office Bearers. John-Michael McLindon resigned from his role as Co-Vice-President saying “I have loved being involved with the Old Collegians since its inception and am very proud to have played a small role in helping the team to get the group up and running.” The committee acknowledged John-Michael’s contribution and voted in stalwart committee member, Luke Stephens to the role of Co-Vice-President. Olivia Cox, David Inglese and Shirley Hill also joined the committee. Next year we will be celebrating 120 years of Mercy Education in Lilydale and this will be the focus of the Newsletters and events throughout the year.
Dear Members of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College community and in particular those Old Collegians who are interested to read our newsletter.

As I sit and write to you all I am mindful that two very significant events have happened in the weeks that surround me and yet their significance will be lost on many or many will simply not know that they occurred.

The first was the Annual General Meeting of the Old Collegians’ Group where Peter Ruscitti was re-elected President for the fifth year in a row, Lucia Tabacchiera and Luke Stephens, Co Vice Presidents, Lynne Bentley, Secretary and Dean De Munk, Treasurer. This was pleasing to me and I congratulate Peter and the Office Bearers on their reappointment, but more importantly I thank them for their generosity of spirit and heart. The new Old Collegians’ group is now five years old and I know that this is at least the third reincarnation of the idea. I wonder how successful it would be without them. Peter is a great ambassador for our College and its history. Every time I visit him at his shop, Trevor Dudley’s Menswear, I undoubtedly meet a new person who has some connection with the College and am told a new story that I have never heard before. These stories are important and the Old Collegians’ Association is the living history and memory of our College.

Further I was pleased that the AGM was not a struggling few weeks that surround me and yet their significance will be lost on me. I wonder how successful it would be without them. Peter is a great ambassador for our College and its history. Every time I visit him at his shop, Trevor Dudley’s Menswear, I undoubtedly meet a new person who has some connection with the College and am told a new story that I have never heard before. These stories are important and the Old Collegians’ Association is the living history and memory of our College.

At this year’s Gala Dinner it became apparent to me the strength of the MLMC Community when I observed the attendees spanned up to six decades. This year’s inductees of the Mercy Honour Roll were: Mr Kevin Farrelly, Maria McCarthy, John Van Gastel and Christine Linden. It was a cold night, but another enjoyable and successful dinner, and being the College’s 40th Anniversary of co-education, it was fantastic to catch up with “mates” of 1975!

A special thanks to Michael Johnston for his interviewing skills and Lucia Tabacchiera and Annie McCooey for their hosting and introductions. Also Ayesha Desai for her event management skills in putting together the Gala Dinner. And of course, the volunteers and performers (too many to mention individually). We are very fortunate to be a part of such a great community that will help out in any way they can.

The Business Breakfast was also another success. The guest speakers; Sr Beth Calthorpe rs and Michael Napoleone captivated the audience with stories of determination, crossing hurdles and ultimately success, as portrayed by teacher and student.

Earlier in the year Lucia organised a promotion stand at the Lilydale Farmer’s Market. It was a great public awareness exercise and many thanks go to Lucia for her efforts. Dave Holloway also took advantage of the day by recruiting players for the Old Collegians’ Football team.

The Association congratulates Monique Kiker and Gabrielle Savaris, this year’s Scholarship recipients. We wish them and all the Year 12 students success with their final year at MLMC and look forward to welcoming them back next year as “Old Collegians”.

I look forward to the Memorial Mass in November and pray for a safe and happy second half of 2015.

Let us keep the recruitment up and make the mailout by Leonie Ziolkowski pass the 4,000 mark!

Again, thank you to Patricia Olson and her volunteer helpers from the Heritage Room for all her drive of the MLMCOCA.

Thank you to Philip Morison and Dean de Munk for their support, and finally a big thank you to every committee member of MLMCOCA.

God Bless,
Peter Ruscitti
President
Invitation to Mass of Remembrance, Sunday, 15 November 2015

On the reformation of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Old Collegians’ Association in 2011, a Mass of Remembrance to commemorate those community members who had entered Eternal Life was initiated. The purpose was to offer support to the bereaved by paying tribute to loved ones no longer with us.

This year the Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 15 November at 2pm and will be followed by afternoon tea in Mount Saint Joseph’s. Names of deceased loved ones will be acknowledged in the Prayers of the Faithful during the Mass. A Memorial Book is located in the Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegians’ Chapel and if you wish to have a family member’s name included in the Book and the Prayers, please contact Patricia Olson, olsont@mlmc.vic.edu.au or phone 9237 1356.

John Renier Van Gastel
John attended MLMC from 1980–84 and has achieved success in all areas of the arts, music, theatre and dance. Since 1992 he has been Business and Creative Director of Van Gastel International Costumes, designing and producing for many stage and television programmes including Kath and Kim, Strictly Ballroom, Burn the Floor–London and World Tour, Dancing with the Stars-Live Series 1–13, Australia’s got Talent-Series 2–6 and the film “The Dressmaker”, starring Kate Winslet to be released later this year.

Christine Linden
Christine attended the College from 1987-1992 and subsequently studied Accounting at Swinburne University. She is now an accomplished corporate leader with an impressive resume. Christine previously worked with Ernst & Young Corporate Restructuring with experience in eight countries. She is currently State Manager of Small Business Banking (Victoria and Tasmania) for the ANZ Banking Group and leads a team of 189 people servicing 150,000 customers.

Kevin Farrelly
Kevin was the first lay Vice-Principal of Mount Lilydale College as it was called in 1975 when he was employed by the Sisters of Mercy as the College moved towards co-education. For over twenty years Kevin was a member of the College Administration team and a supportive Deputy to four Principals, Sister Joan Doolan, Sister Beth Calthorpe, John Goodfellow and Sister Nancy Freddi. An excellent teacher, role model and mentor to the students he was well respected by the whole school community.

Maria McCarthy
Maria was a student at the College from 1971–1975. Maria ran her own business in Lilydale for 20 years and served on various local committees. These include Melba Support Services, Yarra Valley Italian Cultural Group Secretary, Lilydale Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Yarra Valley Ratepayer’s Association. A councillor for many years representing the Billanook Ward, Maria was this year voted in as the Mayor of the Yarra Ranges Shire.
BRENDAN FITZPATRICK – CLASS OF 1975

I’ll always consider myself very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to complete my secondary school education at Mount Lilydale. I know that my decision to become a teacher was heavily influenced by many of the teachers that were simply quality and caring educators as well as being outstanding role models. I have never forgotten Mr Michael Pennyfather’s immortal words as he handed out Geography tests in Form 3 – “If you pass, pass well. If you fail, make sure you completely bomb out, no one likes mediocrity!” I also love the fact that we were the ‘first’ cohort of boys that started in Form 1 (Year 7) in 1975.

I remember my first day at Mt. Lilydale College in a brand new ‘groovy’ (very innovative in those days!!) uniform. Yellow terrycloth body shirt and crew neck blue jumper. That didn’t last long, the school changed the uniform back to a standard yellow cotton shirt and blue V neck jumper the next year. Forming great friendships was also important in those early years. I met Brendan Cox on the first day (there was no such thing as Grade 6 to Year 7 Transition in those days!) and he and I were mates right through to HSC (Year 12).

My early memories of Mt. Lilydale include playing downball in the quadrangle (it’s now become an absolute hit at my school at Woori Yallock!). A definite highlight was playing footy at VFL Park Waverley under lights in 1979 against Ringwood High School in the VFL Herald Shield. From memory, our game was played as the curtain raiser to St Kilda vs Hawthorn. We must have all been overcome with excitement because I think we lost by about thirty goals!

I am also eternally grateful for the typing lessons that took place upstairs in the old convent building. It was always fantastic to get to class early and get onto the only electric typewriter! That skill has stayed with me for forty years and has been a great asset in terms of university study and of course now in my current position.

Overall I absolutely LOVED my time at Mt Lilydale and I have such great memories of the staff and students that made it such a wonderful school. I’m very proud to call myself an ‘Old Collegian’.

Brendan Fitzpatrick
Deputy Principal – Wandin Yallock Primary School

MAUREEN PATRICIA ROBINSON (NEE LEGGETT)

Maureen was born at home on 11 April 1924 at Mt Evelyn and passed away peacefully at the Corumbene Nursing Home at New Norfolk, Tasmania aged 91 years on 10 June 2015, a true Lady.

Brought up in the country with her parents, Eileen and Arthur Leggett, the family owned the Merchandise store supplying grain and merchandise to the area. The steam trains had wagons of products and supplies for the horses and bullock teams working the area, for forestry and working on the Silvan Dam supplying water to Melbourne, later to be patrolled by the military due to the war.

Maureen went to the Mt Evelyn primary school and later attended the Convent at Lilydale travelling by steam train every day, sometimes on her horse. Maureen stayed with her Aunty Mary and Harrold Lysaght (a bank manager at the Commonwealth Bank) when doing religious studies. Her uncle provided river black fish from the local streams (using cotton from Maureen’s sewing kit) and veggies for Maureen to take to the Nuns at the Convent. The Nuns taught her to be a Lady, saying “Little ladies don’t sit on the ground”, in later years never forgotten.

Maureen studied to be a Nurse and worked at a number of hospitals including the Sacred Heart Hospital in Moreland in Victoria, and a Private Hospital “Milton House” in Melbourne. Then during WW2, Maureen worked for the American Military at the huge supplies depot at Port of Melbourne. Maureen also donated her time to the VATs voluntary aid detachment, later to be issued with a medal in recognition for her service.

Maureen loved ballroom dancing, at the local Mt Evelyn Hall, and also the “Leggett’s Ballroom”, at St Kilda owned by her relatives. At a dancing venue during the war, Maureen met her future husband Athol Robinson who often helped when on leave from the Air Force, with the grain and the family merchandise store. Maureen and Athol were then able to spend time together in the country. They were to later marry on 8 October 1945 at St Patrick’s Lilydale, Victoria.

Maureen all her life held high values and continued to help family and others in need until the end, always offering shelter.
As volunteers in the Heritage Centre, we work to preserve and share the stories and history of Mount Lilydale Mercy College. Our small group works closely with Patricia Olson and consists of past staff and students: Irene McClue, Jeanette Suhr, Margaret Feely, Maree Phelan and Marilyn Doherty. Currently we have displays of memorabilia in the Mount St Joseph’s building available for students and others to view.

Our days are spent sorting documents and photos, preparing a database of the vast eclectic collection and preparing visual displays. We have been fortunate to have the support of other Mercy School archivists.

It is for special events such as the annual Old Collegians’ Gala Dinner, 40 years of co-education and the upcoming 120 years of Mount Lilydale that we draw on the wealth of material housed in the Heritage Centre.

Our work builds on that of others, including Margaret Farrelly (RIP), Irene McClue and Jan Battaglene. We are indebted to the enthusiastic leadership of Patricia Olson, the support of the College Principal, Mr. Philip Morison and the practical assistance of Leonie Ziolekowski, Carrie Rudd and other office staff. Much has been achieved but the task is endless.

What a privilege it is for all of us to spend time learning and sharing the Mercy tradition.

Irene, Maree, Jeanette, Marilyn and Margaret
Heritage Volunteers

Vale Joan Francis
14 August 1929 – 9 June 2015
LISA COOK (NEE FOLEY)

I graduated from MLMC in 1992. When I recall my years at the College with Sister Beth as our Principal, I was taught so many values and life lessons that have carried with me over the years both personally and professionally. My son, Jack Woods commenced Year 7 at the College this year which was a very proud moment for me. Jack was voted as class captain, he said proudly to me "I'm following in your footsteps mum", that he is.

My life’s pathways were opened up when in Year 10 I had the opportunity to volunteer through the College at the Sisters of Mercy Women’s refuge and delivering food to the Collingwood Housing Commission flats. This opened my eyes to a whole new world of vulnerability and disadvantage. It was in reflections over time that my path of life was directed to making a difference for those less fortunate in our community.

I finished Year 12 and went on to RMIT and completed a BA Youth Affairs and worked on the streets of Melbourne working with high risk adolescents and in a homeless youth refuge. I have since spent over 20 years working, leading and skilling people and organisations in both not for profit and within the Department of Human Services in protecting children, informing and creating systems and new legislation for the homeless, those with mental health issues, alcohol and drugs and for people with all abilities to ensure they have a voice in the community for change. I have worked in this space to provide quality services, advocating for systemic change with the government and Royal Commission on a State and National level, which has been both extremely challenging and very rewarding.

I have been studying for the past two years my Masters of Business Administration (MBA), and am working for CatholicCare. I have a wonderful and supportive husband Allen who runs his own business as well as 3 beautiful children, Jack 13, Madelyn 11 and Kaden 6. They are passionate in the world of basketball so our daily lives are very busy! I know that as my children go through MLMC as I did, they will learn to live life both for themselves, their family and friends but most of all in supporting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community.

Lisa Cook

DAVE MCDONALD

I completed Year 12 at the College in 1999 with fond memories and a keen passion for politics and literature, thanks to wonderful teachers that included Patricia Olson and Mark Prest. I left to do a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Criminology at the University of Melbourne. This led to a PhD, also at the University of Melbourne, that examined shifts in social constructions of child sexual abuse and paedophilia from the 1970s onwards.

Since this time I have worked as a Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Melbourne (which essentially means I’ve never left!), with research interests that coalesce around crime, media and scandal. I have published research that examines debates about child sexualisation, the Bill Henson controversy, and the relationship between artwork and ‘obscenity’; legal responses to serious sex offenders and the issues they raise in the context of due process and the rule of law; the politics of hate crime and the protection they can or cannot offer to paedophiles who are the victims of vigilante violence; and the cultural imagination of serial killing and social phobias and anxieties that underpin this.

Later this year I’m off to Washington DC to speak on more recent research, before spending the first half of next year in London on sabbatical where I’ll be developing a book that examines the politics of collective emotion in the context of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Beyond work, I live in Brunswick with my partner and a very spoilt little dog called Lola.

Dave McDonald
Lecturer in Criminology, The University of Melbourne

David and Lisa Chioda are proud to share the news with the Old Collegians of the birth of their daughter, Kiara Rose born on Wednesday 24th June 2015. David having completed Year 12 in 1997 is very proud of their first child.

Marie Pisotek (class of 1999) married Hamish Lee on Wednesday 1 April 2015 at Campbell Point House.

The wedding party included Marie’s sister Natasha Leaumont (who teaches at MLMC) as Matron of Honour, sister in law Samantha Pisotek and good friend and an old Collegian Alanna Carritelli.
ON THE FIELD

2015 saw the club re-join Division 4 of the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA). The return to D4 was an important step in rebuilding the club and required us to field Seniors and Reserves teams.

Thanks largely to the fantastic recruiting work of our coaches Ben Oakes (Seniors) and Tim Van Strijp (reserves) we have been able to introduce over 35 new players to the club. This has enabled us to meet our goal of fielding two competitive sides.

Throughout the season there were also a whole heap of highlights.

- The seniors finished one spot out of finals in 7th spot with seven wins and nine losses
- After a slow start we won five out six in a mid season surge
- This included beating finalist North Brunswick and the previously undefeated Point Cook
- We had three players named in the competition’s Team of the year. Big congratulations to Daniel Dimitriou, Pete Atkinson and Adam Thorne.
- We had four players reach the 100 game milestone
- Our reserves finished 9th with two big wins and many brave performances over the course of the year

OFF THE FIELD

As if the challenge of fielding two sides was not enough the committee took on the extra challenge of rebranding the club, designing new playing jumpers and launching a new website. See right for new jumper design and logo and visit www.mtlilydalefootball.org.au for more information about the club.

OUR COMMUNITY

Throughout the season we have been working closely with the soccer club who are now playing on a Saturday. Whilst this has required some work from both committees the outcome has been fantastic. Having the two codes on at the same time has created a great atmosphere and resulted in some decent crowds enjoying two games at once.

This year the club also reinvigorated its two major events, the Sportsman Night and the Ladies Lunch. The Sportsman Night was at the wonderful ‘Stones at the Yarra Valley’ and saw 120 Rams supporters enjoy great food, wine and some wonderful guest speakers headlined by the one and only John “Sammy” Newman. The ladies lunch was organised by Sara Oakes and was a massive success, not only did we get a record attendance but we were also able to support a family from Mooroolbark that has a sick child. Amongst the silent auctions, clairvoyants and Punt Road Wine it was great to see the club provide some financial support to a local family in need.

THANK YOU

Football clubs take a lot of commitment from a lot of people so I wanted to take the chance to say thanks.

Our major sponsors in Landmark Harcourts, EE Muir & Sons and Red Rich Orchards have been incredibly supportive over a long period of time. Their assistance is very much appreciated. The school continues to be very supportive, Mick Hill and his team have done a brilliant job with the ground such that it is now one of the best surfaces in the VAFA. Furthermore Dean De Munk and the school management have provided guidance and support all year round. Our coaches Ben Oakes and Tim Van Strijp have been brilliant all year and have created a great opportunity for our players to improve and enjoy their footy. Our volunteers and helpers have been sensational and presented the club in a great light so a big thanks to all. Last but not least, our playing group have represented the club in brilliant fashion and they should be very proud of their efforts.

WHAT DO WE NEED HELP WITH?

- Players – everyone is welcome – no experience necessary
- Paid Roles – We have many paid positions and our strong preference is to fill roles with people from the Collegians’ network (Current Students or Old Collegians)
- Volunteers – We are always looking for helpers to fill various roles so if you would like to get involved in a family friendly club please give us a call or send us an email.
- Sponsors – We are heavily reliant on fundraisers and sponsors to pay our affiliation fees and other costs. The club is a great vehicle to increase awareness in the broader community so if you are keen to be involved in 2016 please let us know and we can send you a sponsorship information pack.

LOOKING FORWARD

The future looks bright for 2016 and beyond. We have reappointed Ben Oakes as Senior Coach and we have appointed a new playing assistant coach who will be introduced over the next few weeks.

Player recruitment has commenced already and the initial signs are we will have, at least, 10 to 15 new players to add to our existing group. We expect to retain most of the current playing group with the exception of a couple of players moving for work.

Thanks to everyone who has helped our club take great steps forward in 2015. We look forward to more success next year and beyond

Go Rams.

Dave Holloway
President, Mount Lilydale Old Collegians’ Football Club
To all of our members, supporters, volunteers and all past and present players, Season 2015 has been a defining season for our soccer club by having for the first time, three full teams.

Two teams playing in the FFV State 5 East Competition on Saturdays and one team playing on Sundays in the Bayside FA Division 1 competition, which is mainly made up of Old Collegian students.

This year the club played its first inaugural season within the FFV State 5 League. In a highly competitive league the club has done itself proud by finishing 3rd overall and only just missing its chance for promotion and advancing into the FFV State 4 leagues next year. Earlier in the year our club made local and state newspaper headlines by participating in the national FFA Cup knockout competition, making a dash through into Round 3 after qualifying for the competition.

The club is very proud of all the players’ achievements throughout the year, it has been challenging, competitive and a real enjoyment to see the excitement and work that has been poured into making the club competitive, structured and most importantly; a strong organisation.

Important to our survival and longevity is sponsorships, we again would like to thank all of our club sponsors in supporting us this year, without your support we simply could not sustain the running of our club financially.

The club would like to acknowledge the school’s commitment in maintaining and upgrading its facilities for usage and the support from school Principal Mr Philip Morison, Business Manager Mr Dean De Munk and the maintenance staff led by Mick Hill. All your efforts and support is very much and always appreciated.

Finally, our current committee is dedicated in getting the club ready for the upcoming 2016 season and we welcome you and the wider community’s support. If you feel you can make a difference and would like to help, please express your interest and contact us via email: info@mlocsc.com.au or directly via our club contacts page http://mlocsc.com.au/contact.

We express our gratitude to everyone who has supported the club since 2006. Thank you and we will see you all back in 2016 for a bigger and stronger year.

Vince D’Alessandro
Club President – Mobile 0434 510 146

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.

www.facebook.com/mlmcoldcollegians

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Old Collegians’ Staff Update

Former Staff Member Terry Dunn with his wife Pam at Five Bridges County Cricket Ground near Crawley in Sussex. Terry was representing Australia in the Masters Cricket Tour on Sunday 12 July. Former students John and Victoria Olson as well as Terry’s colleagues, Patricia and Allen Olson were spectators on the day.