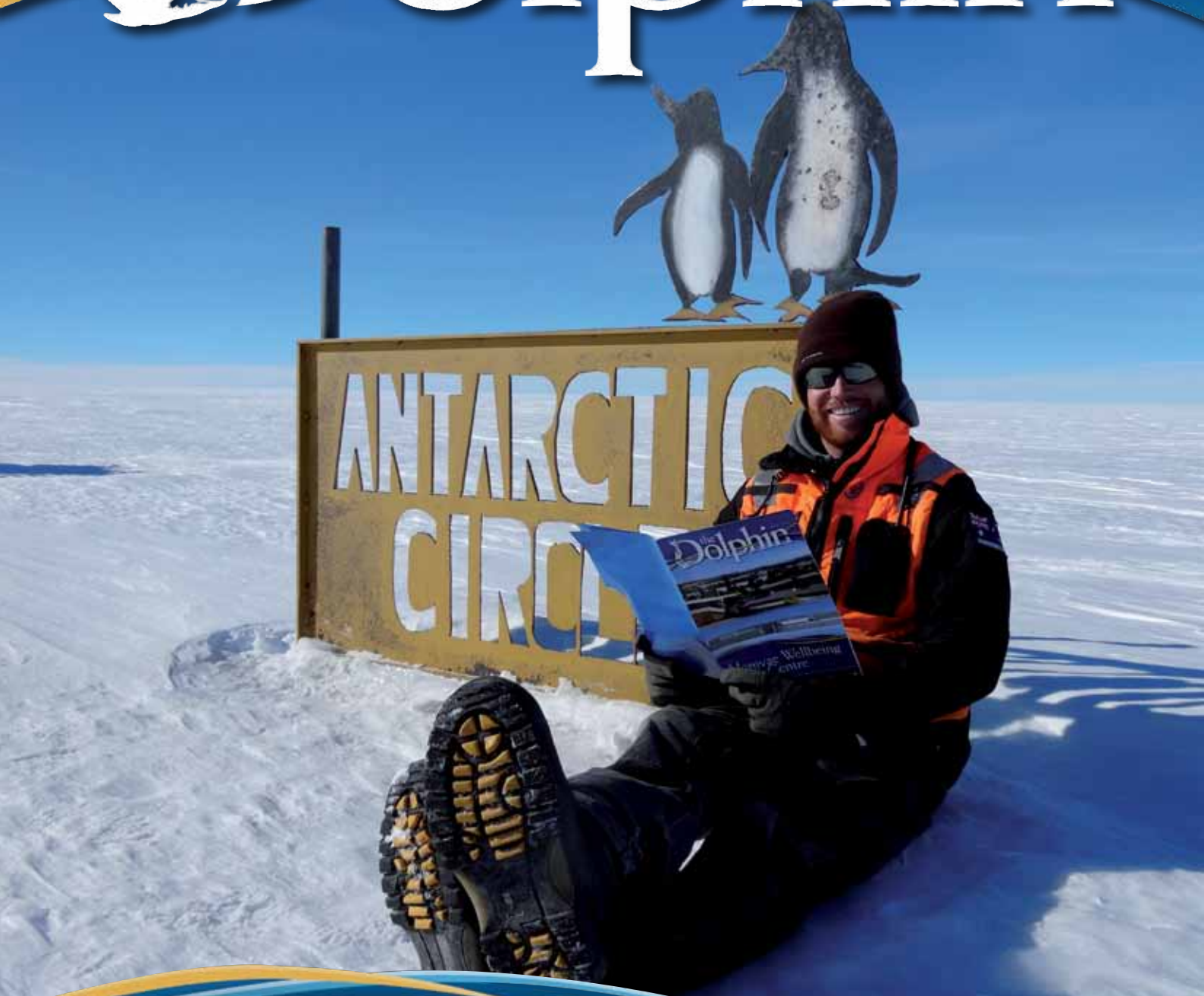


# the **Dolphin**

May 2014 Issue 25



## Where's Watty?



# MOCA

## Where's Watty? (Cover story)

Merron Riddiford - Class of '87  
MOCA Chair

We are heading into that time of year when classes come together for their reunions, be it 1, 5, 10, 20, 30 or 40 years. These are great events and thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance.

Next year, my former class members will meet for our own 30 year reunion. Although still over 12 months away, we are already making early preparations to ensure we celebrate our milestone in the best possible way. It will, after all, be another 10 years before we come together as a group again.

The success of each of the reunions to date has been due, in part, to those Old Collegians that have stepped up and mustered the troops so to speak. In doing so, they have had input into how their respective reunions have been held.

With this in mind, the MOCA Committee would like to nominate a representative from each year level in a reunion year to be a part of the MOCA Committee. At the 2014 MOCA AGM on October 26, a representative from each class with a 10-40 year reunion in 2015 and 2016 will be appointed to the committee. In doing so, each year level is assured an enthusiastic former student at the helm of their reunion, offering a voice for the broader group during the preparations. To nominate, simply send a brief email to Simon McKinley via [smckinley@monivae.vic.edu.au](mailto:smckinley@monivae.vic.edu.au) and include your class year.

While at Monivae recently, I had a moment to browse through the MOCA Visitor Book, located in the school's foyer. With entries stretching back to the 1980s, it was great to see so many people have made the journey back to Monivae at some point, taking the time to add their names to an impressive list of Old Collegians. Many have added comments either about their school memories or where they were in life at the time of their visit. Not only is the Visitor book an interesting read, from my perspective as an historian, it is a wonderful record of those who attended Monivae, capturing a moment in their lives post secondary school.

Everyone is welcome to drop into Monivae, the staff are more than happy to show an Old Collegian around so they can take in the positive changes since our school days. While you are there, sign the MOCA Visitor Book and in doing so, contribute to a valuable document in Monivae's rich history.

Class of '05 member Nicholas Watt took some time to tell us what he has been up to since he left Monivae and how he came to be reading Issue 24 of the Dolphin in Antarctica.

Upon leaving Monivae in 2005 I moved to Melbourne with a few classmates and studied to be an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. At this time, although the prospect of working for Qantas was appealing, I needed a little more adventure and joined the Royal Australian Air Force. In hindsight this was a great decision.

After almost two years training in Wagga Wagga at 1 Recruit Training Unit and RAAF School of Technical Training I was off to my first flying squadron working on C-130 Hercules medium lift aircraft. This is high tempo squadron supporting a huge variety of operations, from ferrying personnel around the country to disaster relief and search and rescue.

Early 2012, it was deployment in the Middle East Area of Operations and funnily enough, I ran into a few old Monivae students. It was a real eye opener for me but a great experience.

Upon my return, looking for the next adventure a newspaper article caught my eye, "Work in Antarctica". This was it and before I knew it I was off to Tasmania to begin training as an Aircraft Ground Support Officer with the Australian Antarctic Division.

Working in a team of four we built and maintained a 2700m snow runway, 10km from Casey Station in East Antarctica. Supporting science projects throughout the region we had two aircraft stationed with us and the occasional visit from a US Air Force C-130 which made for a very busy season.

Antarctica is amazing to say the least, with ice that seems to go on forever, glaciers creating gigantic icebergs and wildlife from penguins and seals to killer whales. It is a mind blowing



place and I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to live and work in the region.

The cover photo was taken at the Antarctic Circle which is the northern most point in the southern hemisphere which experiences both 24 hour daylight and 24 hour darkness.

More information on Australia's Antarctic program can be found at [www.antarctica.gov.au](http://www.antarctica.gov.au)

Nic Watt - Class of '05

Footnote: Nic's siblings Glenn ('99), Fiona ('01) and Dean ('03) all attended Monivae.

## Leaving a Better Footprint

In this day of modern technology and social media there are many ways in which we communicate with one another. The Monivae Development Office is continually updating contact details for Old Collegians.

We currently send out over 5,000 copies of the Dolphin in the mail twice a year. But is this the way you would like to receive it? You can opt to receive the Dolphin by email, but we need to have your current email address details. Also we would like to use SMS text for reminders of reunions.

If you are reading this, then we have your current address, or someone has forwarded this issue to you, but we may not have your mobile number or email address. Send us a quick email with your details to [smckinley@monivae.vic.edu.au](mailto:smckinley@monivae.vic.edu.au)

Details provided are kept at Monivae College in accordance with all relevant Privacy Legislation. These details are never provided to third parties.

## From the Principal

This year we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Monivae College. Over its 60 years the College has had a significant influence on the lives of many students and their families. While Monivae is very highly regarded in the Western District and beyond it is not an elite school and accepts people from all walks of life. Indeed a feature of Monivae over the years has been its enrolment of students whose families have not been in a position to afford the full fees.

Since 1998, the Monivae College Foundation, established by a group of supportive Old Collegians, has made significant financial contributions to the College to assist with major capital expenditure such as the Science Wing, the Girls Boarding House, the upgraded car parks and the bus interchange. The Foundation also assists with the provision of scholarships to acknowledge student excellence in a particular field and bursaries that provide a fee reduction for those in need. The College also currently has 16 Indigenous students who are on scholarships to attend Monivae - three of these are young girls from Kalumburu a remote community in the Kimberley.

The demand for bursaries has grown considerably over the last few years. An increase in single parent families where one parent chooses to have no involvement with their children leaving the other to raise the children with very limited finances is a common example. A number of parents have also been affected by redundancies where some of the businesses in town have closed down recently. These parents still wish for a Monivae education for their children. When parents come to withdraw their children or ask for financial assistance at enrolment, as a Principal it is a wonderful thing to be able to state that 'Generous Old Collegians contribute to our Foundation so that needy students may still be educated at Monivae'. These families are incredibly grateful that they are still able to give their children the wonderful educational opportunities that Monivae provides. Some of those that receive assistance are among our most impressive students and make the most of every opportunity.

Students are faced with many challenges in our modern world and 'The Chevalier Centre', our new building that will focus on the wellbeing needs of students, will assist by providing great facilities as well as programs that will help students deal with many of these issues. I very much appreciate the assistance from the College Foundation in helping to raise the funds for this wonderful initiative.

It will be a great hub for wellness in the College and certainly assist in refurbishing an area of the College that has become a little tired. Indeed the ability to sit on rollout stadium seating for assemblies rather than a freezing wooden floor in winter will be much appreciated by the students.

I acknowledge particularly the very generous support and incredible commitment of Mr Bryan Roberts OAM who has been Chair of the Foundation since 2005. Bryan stepped aside from the position of Chair at the AGM in April and Mr Laurie Cogger (OC '73) has now taken on this important role. At this exciting point in the College's history the need for financial assistance from the Foundation for both The Chevalier Centre and the funding of scholarships and bursaries is as great as it has ever been and I encourage Old Collegians to assist wherever possible.

Mark McGinnity  
Principal

## The Chevalier Centre

In Issue 23 of the Dolphin, plans were unveiled for the Monivae Wellbeing Centre. Finalised plans have now been sent to tender and one of the largest undertakings in the College's history will begin construction in 2014; and will be known as 'The Chevalier Centre'.

Monivae is taking the necessary steps which will, over time, continue to produce an effective environment for the nurturing of positive wellbeing in young people so they can make the most of their education.

The College has the competence, the confidence and the compassion, underpinned by its MSC ethos, to do this well as it has done over many years.

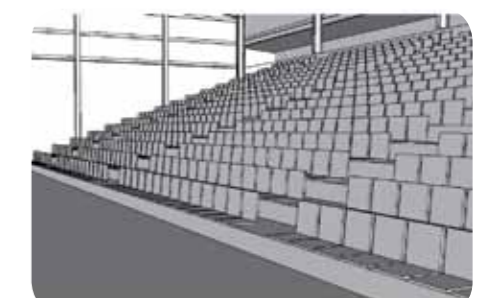
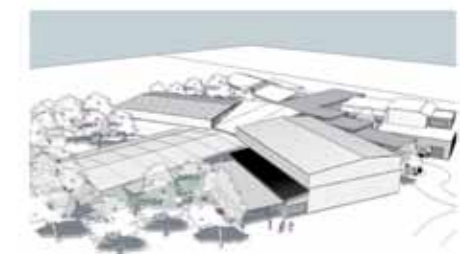
The links between health, wellbeing and student engagement have long been established. The Centre will provide an extension to the strong existing pastoral care and wellbeing approach

and services of the College, as well as a solid research and philosophical base for the development of wellbeing at Monivae in the future.

Stage 1 of the project will see the construction of a new building situated between the Performing Arts Centre and the Stadium which will be the home for the Wellbeing programs and resources at the College.

This stage will also see significant upgrades in the stadium including new toilet and shower facilities, retractable stadium seating, new gym and the building of a roof and heating of the existing swimming pool. For more information and to view the plans on this project visit:

[www.monivae.com/wellbeing/chevaliercentre](http://www.monivae.com/wellbeing/chevaliercentre)





# The Wright Stuff

George Wright left home in the Melbourne suburb of Ringwood mid-way through his Year 10 school year in 1983 to become a full-time boarder at Monivae. "Looking back, the decision to go to Monivae and board was one of the most important of my life." George told the Dolphin.

The almost impossible task of skipping school as a boarder (a practice I was very experienced in back at my old high school), the deep and life-long friendships I made at Monivae, and the compulsory three hours study a night were life changing experiences for me. I loved the people I met at Monivae. People such as Jason Kearney, Brad Brabham, John Koop and all the Edmonds boys and Evans girls.

And I also remember fondly many of those who taught me – Chris Cole, Jessie Wu, Fr Dennis Uhr, David Kearns and especially Caroline Wheeler whose intellect and influence sparked my interest in literature and history – both of which I ended up majoring in at Melbourne University.

But after completing Years 10 and 11 and commencing Year 12 at Monivae I came to the decision that I had enough of boarding life. I phoned my mum on a Wednesday night from the old pay phone outside the Library at Monivae and told her I was coming home. I left Monivae on Friday, started back at Norwood High. I can't recall returning to Monivae since – but have taken with me a big part of Monivae on the journey of my life so far.

Some of my closest friends today, I met in my years in Hamilton - Chris Mackenzie, Ross Couper, Paul Fallon, Terry Hannaford, Jeremy Bush, Peter Murphy and Phil Kenna. I am also forever grateful for the experience that living in country Victoria and with many country people at Monivae gave me – I can't exactly put my finger on what it is – but I think it's down-to-earth and good and I know it is now part of me and will be forever.

I completed my HSC at Norwood High and after graduating, worked in the construction industry for a year before commencing an Arts Degree at the University of Melbourne. I completed my degree majoring in English Literature and received an Honors degree in History. I turned down a Commonwealth Scholarship to complete a Masters in History to pursue the true passion of my professional life – politics.

I got a job as a trainee in a union recruiting and organising cleaners and manufacturing workers – an experience which taught me much about how hard life can be for so many people in such a wealthy country. I did various jobs in the Australian union movement, negotiating



on behalf of workers in banks, insurance companies and factories and running public and political campaigns against rural bank branch closures.

In 2000 I moved to work at the Australian Council of Trade Unions under the Secretary Greg Combet. This was a great time in my professional life. After a few years at the ACTU I was appointed Director of Policy and Communications. In this role I developed and implemented a number of high profile campaigns on issues I am deeply passionate about.

Working with Greg and ACTU then President Sharon Burrow, we ran successful campaigns to secure the payment of entitlements for 16,000 workers who lost their jobs when Ansett Airlines collapsed.

We campaigned for and won justice for victims of James Hardie asbestos products securing an \$8 billion fund from the company to make sure those who had been affected by James Hardie asbestos products were properly compensated.

Then in 2005 the then Howard Government announced their intention to introduce its WorkChoices changes to Australia's industrial relations laws. The campaign against WorkChoices was the biggest I had ever run. We ran a significant highly effective TV advertising campaign – huge national rallies – a ground breaking on-line campaign and an effective and strategic free media operation. The campaign was run to its successful conclusion which culminated in the defeat of the Howard government and the end of WorkChoices at the 2007 Federal Election.

In 2008 I accepted an offer to work as Press Secretary to the then Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. While this was an exciting,

challenging and exhilarating job, with a young family Canberra wasn't for me and I left the PM's Office in late 2008.

After taking a few months off to re-acquaint myself with my wife Susana, my daughter Maria and our pets Serge the cat and Gala and Diego our dogs, I took a job as General Manager of Public Affairs at the National Australia Bank at its head-office in Melbourne. Working with NAB CEO Cameron Clyne, I advised the bank around its decisions to remove a number of unpopular and unfair customer fees and helped develop the bank's home mortgage strategy which cut interest rates below the other major banks and grew NAB's market share of home mortgages.

In May 2011 I received a phone call from then Prime Minister Julia Gillard asking me whether I would serve as National Secretary of the ALP and run Labor's Federal election campaign. Initially I was reluctant to do the job as it meant spending a lot of time in Canberra and away from my home and family in Richmond. But in my line of work this is the biggest gig you can get – I love the Labor Party and the things it stands for and in the end I accepted.

The ALP National Secretary is campaign director of Labor's federal election campaigns. They are also effectively the CEO of the Labor Party's National organisational and administrative functions.

Its key jobs include managing political polling and research, political strategy, fundraising, supporting the ALP Leader and Parliamentary Party, running the Party's governance and decision making structures and most importantly running the Party's federal election campaign – a \$30 million plus project executed under enormous scrutiny and pressure. Little did I know what I was in for?

2011, 12 and 13 were awful years for the former Labor government. Racked by leadership instability and internal division it was almost impossible to develop and execute an effective political campaign strategy. Little more than a month after Kevin Rudd returned as Prime Minister we were in an election campaign.

The intensity and mental and physical pressure of working at the heart of a federal election campaign – especially a losing one as Labor's 2013 campaign was – is hard to imagine. It was an amazingly tough experience with many moving parts – but like everything hard, you learn and gain more than you lose. I'm now working hard with my team at the ALP to rebuild Labor and prepare to fight – and hopefully win – the next federal election.

I love this job – it's punishing and frustrating and exhilarating all at the same time. But it's not a job you can do for ever – and one day after the next federal election or two I hope to get out of politics.

In my personal life I am 15 years happily married to the beautiful Susana de Pedro who I met in my first union job. Susana's family is Spanish and we married in her mother's home village in Northern Spain and we get back there as often as we can to visit relatives. Susana also holds down a busy job but we work hard to ensure that with our 13 year old daughter Maria we spend as much time together as a family as we can – this often happens down at a remote Victorian beach where we have a small house and I have an even smaller tinny boat that I love going fishing in.

I'm a passionate Hawthorn supporter and my 13 year old daughter is already a 14 year member of the great club. Maria, my father George who also lives in Richmond, and I religiously attend all of Hawthorn's games at the MCG which is walking distance from where we all live.

George Wright - Class of '85



# Fr Castley

Where is Fr Paul Castley these days? It is a question often heard from Old Collegians. So here he is.

Some years ago I would have tried to describe myself as semi-retired. Now, at 78 I say that with a smile as there seems to be plenty to do and I am in excellent health so my days are reasonably filled with all sorts of things.

Since I left Monivae finally in the early 70s I spent a number of years in parish Ministry especially a wonderful few years in our Brisbane Parish of Camp Hill. I've spent quite a while in our MSC seminary responsible for the pastoral formation of our students. As a help in this role I became a qualified supervisor in the field of Clinical Pastoral Education. Though several religious sisters reached this level (and beyond) I think I was the first Catholic priest in Australia to become a second level supervisor. It was very ecumenical and I worked with ministers and pastors from many Christian traditions.

In the late 80s I became a staff member at the MSC Spirituality Centre in Melbourne. I ran programmes for the formation of chaplains, pastoral workers, parish ministers and school counsellors and then moved on to supervising programmes for the formation of spiritual directors - those who accompany others on their spiritual journey to God. It was very demanding but very rewarding.

I am still involved in spiritual direction and the supervision of people in ministry as far afield as Tasmania. I also spend many a weekend in parishes and can be called on to run prayer days and retreats and to facilitate various groups. I have had a very satisfying life.

Blessings, Paul.

Below: Sitting on the signpost to the Hamlet of Castley in North Yorkshire in 2006.





# VCE 2013 41 Year Record Broken

The academic achievements of the Class of 2013, is something that the College can be very proud of, with 11% of this cohort receiving an ATAR score of 90 and above.

The Class of 2013 immersed themselves in the many opportunities that the College has on offer as well as dedicating themselves to their studies. Endeavours such as Mission Experience, School Production, Cadets, House Events, College Liturgies and sports were all enjoyed throughout the year and balanced with a regular dedicated study regime.

The 2013 Dux of the College was Valarian McCaskill. Valarian's ATAR score of 98.30 placed him in the top 2% of the state. Valarian received a study score of 41 for Mathematical Methods and 41 in English. Valarian has accepted a tertiary offer at Monash University in Commerce & Engineering.

With the following students receiving ATAR scores of 90 and above, all received their first preference of a university offer.  
 Beau Nieuwveld 90.5 (Arts, University of South Australia in 2015)  
 Errol Gracias 91.0 (Double degree in Law, Australian National University)  
 Cameron Straw 93.45 (Science, University of Melbourne)  
 Georgia McLennan 94.75 (Pharmacy, La Trobe University, Bendigo)  
 Ashleigh Minney 96.40 (Double degree in Nanotechnology and Applied Science, RMIT in 2015)  
 Joshua Murray 96.75 (Biomedicine, University of Melbourne).

The following students received study scores of 40+ in the following subjects.  
 Joshua Murray, History Revolutions 47, Religion & Society 46, Mathematical Methods 40, Ashleigh Minney, Mathematical Methods 42, Physics 40, Religion & Society 40, Cameron Straw Mathematical Methods 43, Justin Field Further Mathematics 44, Georgia McLennan Further Mathematics 44, Breanna Millard Further Mathematics 40, Errol Gracias Legal Studies 41, Gorgia Sealey Studio Arts 43.

Congratulations Class of 2013.



The saying 'the older I get, the better I was' rings true when you hear some of the tales that are told at Monivae reunions. Some feats stand the test of time, like Bill Picken's 100 metre record.

In 1973, Bill Picken ran the Open 100 metre race at the Athletics Carnival in a new record time of 11.40 seconds. On the same day he also ran the Open 200 metre race in a record of 23.10 seconds. Both records have been the longest Monivae Athletic records and have remained untouched for 41 years.

Enter Year 12 student Duncan Cameron, the son of Old Collegian Fiona Cameron (Kelly) Class of '83. Duncan is a boarder from Goroke near Horsham.

Bill's record looked to be in danger on the day with Duncan having run times in 2012 of 12.69 and in 2013 of 12.03 seconds. Duncan is taking his running seriously, being coached in Horsham, and after 41 years it was always going to take someone who was giving everything to the sport of running to break the record.

Below: Duncan competes at the Stawell gift and for Monivae (right).



## Get Social



Monivae College, in conjunction with the Monivae Old Collegians Association (MOCA), has Facebook and Twitter sites so you can be engaged on what is happening in the Monivae community.

Facebook: [facebook.com/MonivaeCollege](https://www.facebook.com/MonivaeCollege)

Twitter: [@monivaecollege](https://twitter.com/monivaecollege)

# Gifts from the Past

Old Collegian ('65) John Curtin has kindly donated the embroidered crests from his College blazers from his time as School Captain in 1964 and 1965.

The 1964 crest which appeared on the top pocket of the College blazer has the College name and motto but this crest was that of Downlands College at the time. It was a shield, square at the top and pointed below. Above a bar-dexter on the fields of gold was the Sacred Heart monogram, a simple cross was added to elements of the State of Victoria flag, the five stars of the Southern Cross on a field of sky blue. On a scroll across the bottom was the College motto, Fortes in Fide common to all MSC schools.

The 1965 crest is that which we know today and represents a history going back to the fourteenth century. The name Monivae stems from the Gaelic 'muine-an-mheadha' meaning 'shrubbery of the mead' which Monivae is the English form of the Gaelic.

Monivae Castle was built about 1550 by Malachi O'Kelly and its tower is still stands 90 miles from Dublin. Later the castle was owned by the Ffrench family and a descendant, Acheson Jeremy Sidney Ffrench came to Australia in 1838. His large estate on Port Fairy Road, Hamilton was called after the family castle in Ireland.

The crest has two dolphins, part of the French coat of arms, which is an ancient symbol of friendliness to man. Its Christian meaning is someone who is keen to know, love and follow Christ. The symbols of the sword and the

battlements add the idea of fortitude.

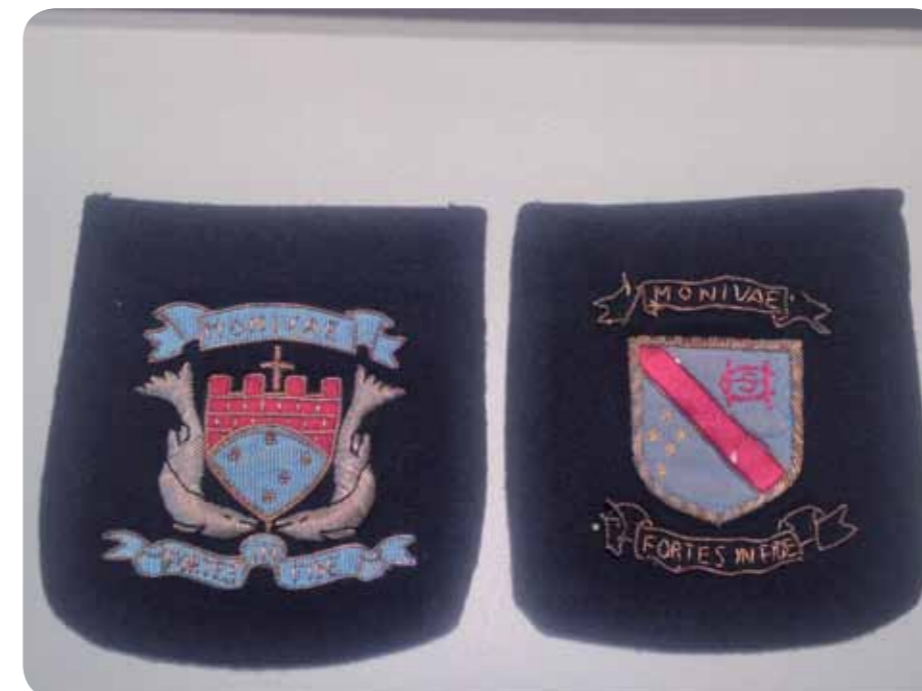
The Southern Cross links Victoria and Major Mitchell's Australia Felix – part of which is the Western District. Hence, the school motto 'Strong in Faith'.

John has had a long association with the Monivae College. Not only was he a boarder who attended the College for five years he was also College Captain for 1964 and 1965. John has also been a very generous benefactor to the College and one of the College's most esteemed Year 12 Awards is named in his honour, 'The John Curtin Award for Loyalty and Perseverance'.

John attended Monivae when enrolments were 354 students which included 250 boarders and Fr Anthony Prentice was Rector (Principal). In 1964 Monivae celebrated its 10th birthday since starting at the 'Old Monivae' site on Port Fairy Road, the Cadet Unit was in its second year, the cadet dinner was a dance, there were three students from Hong Kong and six students from Nauru, academic results and scholarships were published in the College Annual, and a new science block was in the planning stage.

After leaving Monivae, John studied dentistry at Melbourne University and is now a well renowned Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon in Melbourne. He has interests in implant surgery and general oral surgery.

Thank you John for your wonderful gift.



The old College flag had been missing for a very long time. In fact it has been missing so long, no one currently at the school can recall when it was last seen.

An interesting gift arrived at Monivae late last year, the package was opened and much to the delight of staff the old Monivae flag with the Sacred Heart Crest was inside.

The curious thing about this package was that the name and address on the package did not seem to match up with any of our records.

Where has it been? Who had it? Did they even go to Monivae?

The College is glad to have such an important part of the College's history returned but we think it would make a great story. There is no blame to be laid, or fingers to be pointed, but if you know anything about the returned flag we would love to hear from you so that the mystery can be solved.

Bottom: Current School Captains Allie Gorman and Dylan Gracias hold the returned flag.



## Story Ideas

Do you have an idea for a story? Do you know an Old Collegian who you think has something worth sharing.

Send ideas, or even full articles to [smckinley@monivae.vic.edu.au](mailto:smckinley@monivae.vic.edu.au) or via post to

Development Office  
 Monivae College  
 PO Box 423  
 Hamilton, VIC 3300



# It's a Dog's Life

On January 11th 2014 there was a reunion of the band "The Dead Livers" at the Victoria Hotel Warrnambool. The band of course included two Old Collegians - Marty Atchison ('67) and Michael Schack ('67).

As an adjunct to this event the idea of having a reunion of their old school band "The Dogs" was floated. The original 1965 formative members were Marty Atchison, Michael Schack, Kevin Rooney ('66), Leo Tellefson ('67), Paul Van Kalken ('70) and Malcolm Thomas ('67). The band continued for two more years and later inclusions were Frank Borbiro ('68) and Tim Carracher ('67).

Contact was made with as many as possible and Marty, Leo, Kevin, Paul, Michael and Tim agreed to give it a go. The disparate geographic spread of members (Adelaide, Melbourne, Donald, Portland and Warrnambool) made rehearsal impossible until the day of the suggested performance.

The six reunited for the first time in about 49 years at an emotional gathering at Kevin Rooney's former family home in Warrnambool and tried to remember some songs. Eventually they settled on "Around and around" (A Chuck Berry song covered by the Rolling Stones), "It's All Over Now" (another Rolling Stones cover) and "Money - That's What I Want" (covered by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones).

The performance at night took place during an interval in the Dead Livers' show and included a supplementary guitarist and drummer to round out things. The three songs went without a hitch (well, almost) and The Dogs seemed to momentarily regain the enthusiasm and energy they displayed in the sixties. The crowd danced ardently and applauded generously at the end of each song.



Above: Tim Carracher (drums), Michael Schack (guitar), Marty Atchison (vocals).

The long hair of the sixties had been replaced by the baldness and greyness of the over sixties, but it was a night to remember for all.

Michael Schack  
Class of '67

Below: L to R: Kevin Rooney, Tim Carracher, Paul Van Kalken, Marty Atchison, Michael Schack and Leo Tellefson.



Bottom: L to R: Leo Tellefson (keyboards), Mark Meallin (from the Dead Livers) (guitar), Marty Atchison (vocals), Richard O'Keefe (from the Dead Livers) (drums), Michael Schack (bass), Kevin Rooney (guitar), Paul Van Kalken (tambourine and vocals), Tim Carracher (vocals)



It's a Dog's Life - From the 1967 Annual.

Quite early in the school year, a small group of boys was banded together and, armed with some of the necessary talent and equipment, called themselves "The Dogs". After many short, hectic practice sessions, they made their debut into the world of entertainment at the Y.C.S. Concert and, much to the delight of the audience, proved a highlight of the evening. The next public appearance was slightly less formal, held one Sunday afternoon, and was almost a school outing. At the small fee of sixpence, a riotous hour of R & B echoed through the school, amidst the stamping and cheering of the enthusiastic fans. Then as a finale to the year's activities as a group, The Dogs of Hamilton were contestants for 3YB's 'Battle of the Sounds', this time playing to an audience of one thousand. Although not acclaimed in this outing, the Dogs will be more remembered by the boys at Monivae as more popular relief from Symphony Concerts.

Anonymous!

Above L to R: Leo Tellefson (piano), Michael Schack (guitar), Paul Van Kalken (tambourine and vocals), Malcolm Thomas (drums), Marty Atchison (vocals), Kevin Rooney (guitar)

## What Happened to all Those Cookes?

Monivae students through out the nineties were quite familiar with the name Cooke.

Parents Peter and Jan were both teaching and Nathan ('96), Gareth ('94), Erin ('00) and Christopher ('03) were students for a varied number of years. Three other children, Joanne, Alistair and Brendan had left the nest, so home accommodation was less crowded.

The family had moved house frequently as teaching positions dictated and Jan only returned gradually to full time teaching when Principal John Mulrooney asked her to qualify as an Indonesian teacher. Some of her ex students still refer to her as Bu.

Due to regular house moves Erin was the first child to complete six years at the same secondary school.

Continued Page 10.



Above: L to R Front: Nathan, Pete, Jo, Jan and Erin

L to R Back: Alistair, Brendan, Gareth and Christopher



# The Cookes (cont.)

Nathan's introduction to Monivae was spent learning what boarding life was all about while his parents organised rental accommodation. He still recalls with some trepidation the welcoming antics that Hugh Nailon and Joel Rainey played on him. One of his fondest memories is playing a good game of footy under coach Molan on the then Western Oval, making the Dougie Hawkins wing his own.

Nathan is currently a professional Texas Hold'Em card player and is still a sports tragic.

Gareth was not suited to the demands of school life, particularly when he somehow became part of his father's year 9 RE class! He has led an exciting life, working mainly in the area of landscaping. Gareth is a regular visitor to Hamilton as he loves to return to his many friends there.

Everybody remembers Erin. She possessed enormous charisma in her many stage performances and received rave reviews for Bye Bye Birdie and The Wiz. Erin completed



a Bachelor of Music Theatre and worked in the entertainment field for some years, seeing the world as a cruise ship performer and recently being nominated for a Guild award for her role as Valma Kelly in Chicago.

Then she decided that she needed a real job with some security so she is now Constable Cooke stationed at Brunswick, living with her partner in Moonee Ponds.

And finally number seven, Christopher. Gary Simkin would not be surprised to hear that Chris is a Corporal in the Army, based in Brisbane. Always one for adventure, both in and out of the classroom, Chris has seen action in the Solomon Islands, East Timor and Afghanistan. Both he and his partner are involved in the latest crossfit craze and all his brothers are in awe of his physique.

What about Jan and Pete?

Those who know Jan would not be in the least surprised to learn that after Monivae she was welcomed into the MSC community of Downlands in Toowoomba, not as a teacher

but as Head of a girls boarding house, mothering and guiding over 50 girls from all over Australia and the Tiwi Islands for nearly nine years.

Pete went along to keep her sane and forced himself to play bowls and bridge when he wasn't involved in emergency teaching.

They both play bridge now and of course have come across a mother of ex Monivae students, Kath Critchley, whose son Maurice featured in the December Dolphin.

Jan and Peter remember fondly their years in Hamilton and at Monivae.

They were overwhelmed by the reception they received from staff, who either won't leave, or keep returning to the place, when they popped in recently. Obviously the MSC spirit they came to love is still alive and well.

They would love to hear from anybody who remembers them (hopefully for the right reasons) and contact information is available from the school.

# To Teach and Learn



Following 28 years of passionate teaching at Monivae College, we asked Mrs Elizabeth Robertson to remember her time at Monivae.

I clearly remember walking across the courtyard at Monivae College in early 1986. It was the first day of students and the first student I saw graciously welcomed me to Monivae. It was very typical of the welcoming strength of the school.

This was a time of great change in education as 1987 saw the VCE (Victorian Certificate of

Education) replacing the HSC (Higher School Certificate) and the four-term year was also implemented for the first time.

We were concerned then, as now, with ensuring that students had a wide range of subject choice and were doing the best that they could, academically as well as in their personal development.

I note with interest that Fr Mick Reis' Principal's address of 1986 cited the inclusion of 15 electronic typewriters and a dictaphone into the typing room! The need to be up to date with improving technology has certainly been a constant challenge.

Many of the changes over my time at the College have been gradual but profound. The obvious example is the decline in numbers of professed MSCs on staff, both in the day school and in the boarding house. It was a momentous change when our first lay Principal Mr Peter Gurry was appointed in 1996 to follow the leadership of Fr John Mulrooney our last MSC Principal. There were a number of procedures put in place to maintain the very important MSC philosophy of the school.

The rebuilding of the Science block, carried out largely under the guidance of Mr Peter Gurry, was a delight to work in and continues to function quite effectively. It was a vast improvement on what had been.

The Cadet program has been an important part of Monivae in all my time at the school and has provided many opportunities for students, and staff, to develop skills outside the classroom. I clearly remember one of the recruit bivouacs with a total fire ban in place. The night followed with thunderstorms, torrential rain and flooded hutchies. On packing up, I think the same year, there was much excitement and noise as one of students discovered a snake taking cover under the ground sheet. Leadership qualities of the girls came into play as the snake was dealt with quickly, efficiently and with minimum of fuss. No one injured and no delay with getting to the buses on time. Cadet bivouacs and camps have been wonderful experiences over many years.

The classroom has always been the place that I have enjoyed over the years at Monivae College. It is always a delight to meet past students and to see the successes that they have made in their lives, both in their chosen careers and in the community.

In 2013 I had the privilege of teaching four delightful Year 9 Science classes as well as an excellent Year 11 Chemistry class. What better time to leave Monivae College, with such fond memories, and to move on to the other things that are calling. My thanks to all colleagues and students, over the last 28 years, who have provided me with many life lessons and memories to treasure.

# Close Call

Peter Patterson was the first Monivae Old Collegian to play VFL football when he pulled on the black and white for Collingwood, going on to play 58 games. Michael Close joins the list of VFL/AFL players, joining recognised names like Delahunty, Picken and Jamison by playing football at the highest level.

Drafted from the North Ballarat Rebels in 2012 with pick 32, Michael proved one of the standouts on the training track during his first pre-season, with impressive results in the Lions' time trials. However, a foot injury would ultimately keep him on the sidelines for the opening seven weeks of the season.

He made his first appearance for the club in the maroon, blue and gold with the Lions Reserves in Round 8 and proceeded to play out the remainder of the season in the NEAFL helping the Lions Reserves win the 2013 NEAFL Premiership.

Another strong pre-season saw Michael rewarded with a Round 1 debut against Hawthorn in Tasmania.

It was a big moment, Michael told the Dolphin with his family all making the trip to watch the match.

"Getting the chance to play AFL football, it's a childhood dream and it was great to have that opportunity."

In April it was announced that Michael had signed on for an additional three years with Brisbane.

"It was easy for me because I love it up here, it's a good club, we have a good future and I think we are going places. Also my family love it up here, it's a bit of a holiday for them from down in Victoria, getting away from the cold."



After playing in the first three rounds of the season, Michael returned to the Reserves for Round 4 to keep working on developing his game and to assist the Brisbane Lions as they look to have further success in the NEAFL.

Michael has kept in touch with Monivae helping to support a small project that is currently being undertaken.

Major up-coming works on the stadium at Monivae as part of the Chevalier (Wellbeing) Centre, has given rise to updating the photos of former VFL/AFL players in the stadium foyer. The photos have long been on display and thoughts turned to how to best update them. Michael was the first Old Collegian to come on board for this project.

Michael has sent down an autographed Lions jumper signed by himself and the other Lions players which will be framed and displayed at the College, as a reminder to all Monivae students to set your goals and then put in the work to achieve them.

Other Old Collegians who have agreed to be involved include current Carlton player Michael Jamison ('04), former West Coast player Tim Houlihan ('06) and former Kangeroos player Donald McDonald ('74). The College will get in touch with all Old Collegians who have played senior football at VFL/AFL level in the coming months to hopefully be a part of this project.

Congratulations to Michael from all in the Monivae community and we wish him well as he follows his dream.

If you would like to follow Michael's career then join him on Twitter. @michaelclose33.

Below: The Close family, from left Robert, Bernadette, Michael ('12), Christopher, Anna-Grace ('12), Anthony ('10) and Simon ('09).

# Debut

The fashions may have changed, but the Presentation (formerly Debutante) Ball at Monivae is certainly still the highlight of the Year 11 calendar.

This year's Ball was held in March and seven very proud Old Collegians witnessed their son or daughter enjoying the night of nights.

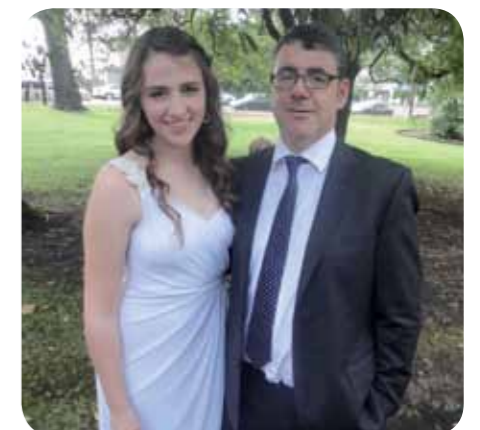
The theme of 'Winter Wonderland' showcased the effort's of the students, staff and parents in what was a wonderful event.

Kellie Watson's ('93) son Jayden; Jeremy Bush's ('84) daughter, Mairead; Leonie Wolfe's ('86) son, Tom; Kylie Langley's ('90) daughter, Samantha; Patrick Gill's ('82) son Brad and Meg Watson's ('82) daughter Alex were all part of this year's event.

The students were presented to Mr Danny Franc, Monivae College Director of Faith and Mission who was the student's Year Level Co-ordinator in 2013.

Below: Leonie Wolfe ('86 nee Watts) with daughter Madison ('12) and son Tom who will be part of the Class of 2015.

Bottom: Jeremy Bush ('84) with his daughter Mairead who is a Year 11 boarder and will be part of the Class of 2015.





# Where Are They Now

## Laura Cranage – Class of '99

After spending most of my early twenties living and working abroad in London and Dubai, I finally settled in Melbourne just over eight years ago and joined the family financial business,



Cranage Private Wealth. Paul (my father) established the business 30 years ago, with Ben, Sam and I all following suit as Financial Advisers within the company. Hannah has recently joined the team as our Business Development Manager so it's great to be growing the business together as a family.

I reside in Elwood and whilst I don't see myself living abroad again I'm always planning my next trip - to South America is on the cards for early 2015. Between now and then I'll be enjoying the odd weekend in Port Fairy to visit Mum and her husband Bill Thurgood.

We are still very much a close knit family, possibly even more so this year after the recent arrival of Ethan James Cranage, the first son of Sam and his wife Brooke and first grandchild for Paul and Trish.

Ben, Sam, Hannah and I are all grateful to have had the opportunity to grow and learn in a small, close knit community such as Hamilton. We will always have a strong affinity with South West Victoria and Monivae College

## Emma Stubbs – Class '08

After completing VCE in 2008, I took a GAP year and worked as a receptionist at the Hamilton Spectator for 13 months.

In 2010, I moved to Melbourne and completed my Bachelor of Food Science and Nutrition (with Distinction) at Deakin University. During my degree I undertook several volunteer roles for Nutrition Australia, with corporate and private practice dietitians, and was a Jump Rope for Heart student ambassador at the Heart Foundation. This extra-curricular work and bachelor degree enabled me to gain entry

into the 2013 Master of Dietetics program at Deakin.

I completed my Clinical Dietetic and Food Service placements at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and am currently completing my final community placement at Darebin Community Health reviewing the diabetes service. I finished my Masters in June 2014, and whilst I ultimately want to gain a clinical dietetic position, I am open to any dietetic job opportunity – state, national or international!

I have developed a keen interest in gastroenterology and renal nutrition, and I'm currently completing a professional development project furthering my knowledge in the area of Eating Disorder management. I am passionate about providing accurate and credible nutrition advice to the public and just received the great opportunity to complete a six-month blogging internship with 'The Scoop on Nutrition' website which I'm super excited to commence.

Aside from my passion about nutrition, I spend a lot of time drinking tea, running, exploring Melbourne's foodie hotspots, and have contracted the travel bug after travelling Europe in Dec 2013/Jan 2014.

## Katherine Johnson – School Captain '07

Since finishing Year 12 in 2007, my life has followed a path full of countless surprises and I have found myself in a place I never would have envisioned me being six years ago. I set out with the goal of studying Arts at the University of Melbourne and whilst I eventually achieved this goal, it did not happen as I thought it would. Five years after commencing the degree I graduated with a major in Anthropology and Social Theory. In those five years, I dropped out once, studied nursing for a semester, lived overseas twice and finally went back to my Arts degree. I am now living in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

In the middle of my studies I went to Cambodia to volunteer for a few months. Little did I know it, I was about to meet my now husband. I came back to Australia to continue my studies but we were somehow brought together again! Life is beautiful when we let it be! I've been living in Phnom Penh for over a year now and every day is full of new challenges. I am teaching five year olds at an international school and whilst it's not what I want to do forever, I'm constantly learning and being pushed to confront my limitations. Phnom Penh is an interesting place to be. It's a place of rapid development in the middle of quite an impoverished country. I spend my days listening to kinder kids compare the latest Apple and Samsung products. Never a dull moment!



Above: Katherine with some of her students.

Whilst living in another country has inevitably led to many new and enriching experiences, my husband and I are planning to move back to Australia soon. Growing up, I couldn't wait to see the world and now, ironically, I can't wait to come home! I'm not sure what is in store for us when we return but I am excited to start the next chapter.

Looking back, I am grateful for my time at Monivae and the values it instilled in me. I began such an adventure when I finished Year 12 and could not possibly have dreamt what life would throw at me in the years to come. It turns out that life doesn't always go as we plan but I've found that if we can be open to opportunities as they present themselves, it very subtly leads us to where we are meant to go.

## Geoff Dening - Class of '80

Robe is one of South Australia's most popular holiday destinations and for Geoff Dening it is a place of solace he loves to call home.

Having spent a lot of his life travelling the world and honing his skills as a comedian, the funny man has settled into country life.

A boarder at Monivae in 1979 and 1980, Geoff grew up in the seaside town where his father was a lobster fisherman.

"Going to Monivae way back in the last century when the only Apple was a fruit. Mobile phones were ones you threw out the window from a moving car. Which I never recall happening, so it was even before the mobile phone was invented. Computers were the size of small houses, so in simple terms the schooling was totally different from what students endure today. No apologies from me, I went to school because I had to and I enjoyed it. One thing stood out at Monivae as a school and that was the sense of community, that is possibly the most important aspect that is still relevant in 2014."

The world has not got any smaller, it has simply become more accessible. Many of us will travel far and wide in our lives. Monivae is a small crucible which will nurture the minds of

present and future students to be able to step out beyond their current boundaries into all of the adventures, of life. Monivae is in essence to me a place that takes a disparate group of people and creates a community. This is a shared bond that circumvents age, location, or social status for all students. In the words of Australia's national poet Adam Lindsay Gordon, "Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone, Kindness in another's trouble, Courage in your own".

Following Monivae, Geoff worked as a clerk in local government before he chased the sun in 1987 and worked at a gold mine in the Northern Territory.

A passion to entertain manifested in this time and from 1990 on, he focused on making people laugh.

Having written television commercials and stage shows as well as acting in them, it has been an action packed career for Geoff, to top it all off Geoff runs a bed and breakfast in Robe.

"The bed and breakfast is keeping me busy, along with many other things I have on the horizon."

"I've stayed in motels all over the world and all I did was watch television and drink alcohol. I wanted to offer something different. I've had all sorts of people stay here from all over the world and they love to talk about anything."

In today's age, there never seems to be enough hours in the day as Geoff wakes up before 6am to work on projects outside his day job of running the bed and breakfast.



Above: Geoff in Tasmania and after a hole in one (centre top).

# Dan the Dolphin

Each year, the outgoing Year 12 class buys the College a gift under the guidance of Year 12 Co-ordinator and Class of '80 Old Collegian Darren Beks.

Recent gifts have included a 'House Points Board' for the stadium to see which House leads the House Aggregate Shield, a new lecturn and the Class of 2012 purchased a much-needed BBQ for the College.

Often this gift is well-known to most of the staff and students before it is presented, but the Class of 2013 were being very secretive.

It was with much surprise that at one of their final assemblies they unveiled a school mascot. Dan the Dolphin had arrived.

Affectionately named after Br Dan Geary (with his permission) Dan the Dolphin has been a fixture at many inter-house and inter-school events.

The School Leaders of each year will have the responsibility of looking after Dan and making sure his home (the Monivae pool) is well looked after and that Dan himself is also well-cared for.

So keep an eye out for Dan at Monivae functions, after all the Dolphins have watched over Monivae for decades and will continue to do so.



The internet is a crucial tool for the young at heart entrepreneur and he believes his generation needs to stop acting dumb when it comes to technology.

"A lot of my work is internet based, which is important in this day and age. If you're not real savvy with it, then become savvy as it's crucial. It's all about learning the ins and outs. I get up early and until about 9am I work on my shows, blogs and websites. I wonder how I got through before".

To view some of Geoff's work visit [www.reverbNation.com/geoffdening](http://www.reverbNation.com/geoffdening)

Editor's note: Portions of this story used with the permission of the Mount Gambier Border Watch newspaper.

# In God's Care

## Daniel Wicks – Class of '08

Daniel was tragically killed in a car accident near Geelong on the 11th of April this year. Daniel attended Monivae in 2007 as a boarder from Purnim before he left to pursue work opportunities. The Monivae College community extends their sympathies to his parents Rod and Sue and his sisters Shae and Sophie.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus Be Everywhere Loved. Forever.



Above: Principal Mark McGinnity with Class of 2013 Captain Sophie Thornton and Dan the Dolphin.



# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Parthenon

It is funny how stories make their way into the Dolphin. Someone mentions at Monivae that they heard about a Old Collegian on holidays who ran into a fellow a Old Collegian on the other side of the world and this is how we catch up with Matthew Christie, Class of '81.

Earlier this year I had the good fortune of travelling to Athens for a fortnight of R&R. Having travelled to Europe previously and laboured through the old four countries in 10 days scenario, we (partner Alison) decided on this occasion to stay in the one place for the holiday. Having not been to Athens previously there was a degree of trepidation with the stories around the GFC and the state

of Greece generally. What we found however was quite the contrary, the people were warm and friendly, the food was delightful and affordable and the local wine was a pleasant surprise. The historical sites and antiquities were remarkable to say the least.

Renting an apartment in the district known as Plaka close to the centre of Athens reminded us of a cross between the Melbourne suburbs of Richmond and South Yarra. We were spoilt for choice in terms of restaurants from the ubiquitous family owned and operated taverna to "Daphne's" where Hilary Clinton apparently dines regularly on her visits to Athens. We actually ate at an Indian restaurant on one night.

The Plaka area is located in the shadow of the Acropolis and we assumed that the restaurants

located close by were in response to the many tourists visiting the site each year. Plaka is also home to a fantastic flea market selling a wonderful array of trash and treasure. Al actually picked up a Charles and Di embossed dinner plate for 25 euro and yes.... they saw us coming!

The Plaka area is made up of a maze of streets, alleyways and pockets of vibrant activity. We spent days exploring these with surprises at every turn. Now to the point of this story. On one such expedition we came across a jewellery store named appropriately "Atlantis". Al decided that we should venture inside as she often is want to do with jewellery stores. We engaged with one of the attendants inside who asked where we were from, on answering "Australia" the second attendant piped up... "so am I but you wouldn't have heard of my home town", I replied try me. He replied Minyip, it's near Horsham. And then of course the obvious question... which school did you go too, to which he replied "Monivae". Turns out we had quite by chance run into **George Xenakis, Class of '84** who I believe left Australia soon after graduating to return to Greece and had been there for some time. We spent the next half an hour recalling our various Monivae experiences, even down to the football team that finally defeated St Pats which I believe George was part of.

Small world we live in. In summary we can absolutely recommend Athens as a destination and if you find yourself in the Plaka area drop in and say hello to George, I am sure he would appreciate it.

Matt Christie - Class of '81



Left: Matt at the Parthenon.

In Issue 26 of the Dolphin we catch up with George Xenakis in the second part of this story.

## Reunions

40 Year Reunion - Class of '74  
Saturday, 11th October 2014  
Venue TBC

30 Year Reunion - Class of '84  
Saturday, 23rd August 2014  
Grangeburn Motor Inn  
Ballarat Rd, Hamilton

20 Year Reunion - Class of '94  
Saturday, 30th August 2014  
Grangeburn Motor Inn  
Ballarat Rd, Hamilton

10 Year Reunion - Class of '04  
Saturday, 18th October 2014  
Monivae College  
Boarders Dining Hall

5 Year Reunion - Class of '09  
Saturday, 25th October 2014  
Grand Central Hotel  
Gray St, Hamilton

1 Year Reunion - Class of '13  
Friday, 14th November  
(Night before Dunkeld Races)  
Monivae College

2015 30 Year Reunion - Class of '85  
Saturday, 25th July 2015

Monivae Old Collegians Association  
Annual General Meeting  
Sunday, 26th October 2014 - 4pm  
(Following Cadet Parade)  
Monivae College Boardroom

## Happy 60th Monivae College

As the Second World War was coming to an end, Bishop O'Collins, the Catholic Bishop of Ballarat, went looking for a group of priests or brothers to open a boarding school for boys in the west of his diocese. He was concerned that country people who were so important in the life of the church and the nation should have the benefit of a good education, and that there would be sufficient school places to cope with the increase numbers of people attracted to the land by post-war settlement schemes and migration. He invited the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC), centred in Sydney but with a seminary in Melbourne since 1939, to begin the school. They had begun a boys' boarding school in Toowoomba in 1931, and agreed to come to the Western District. The Bishop chose Hamilton as its site.

Classes began on Tuesday, 2 February, 1954. There were 38 students, 18 in Form 1 and 20 in Form 2. Fr Bob Hyland, himself a Western District man, was the non-teaching Rector, and there were three priests teaching in the temporary weatherboard structure. The Spectator reported as follows: 'There is something appealing in a small intimate schoolhouse, consisting of three schoolrooms, one of which is the science department. This is the meat in the sandwich made up by the regular classrooms, one on either side. In its truly rural setting the school is itself an incentive to think and to work. In the modern style it is 'all windows' and from one side there is a splendid panorama of smooth fields - from the other the sight of tall, sighing pines behind which is the old Monivae mansion in its rugged bluestone beauty'.

To celebrate 60 years the College will be throwing open its doors and inviting all of its community, including our Old Collegians to see that the vision for Monivae some 60 years ago, is alive and well today. Whilst celebrations in 2014 will not reach the levels of the Golden Jubilee in 2014, much has changed in the last ten years and this event will be an opportunity to reflect on the past whilst looking to the future.

60 Years of Monivae  
Saturday, 25th October 2014  
Held at Monivae College

Further details to follow. For more information contact:

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