

THE DIFFERENCE



CORNISH
COLLEGE

Summer 2024 Edition

Our award-winning school / Celebrating students' work/
Growth of Design Futures / 2023 VCE Results / Memorial
Garden / Outdoor classroom / Pushing boundaries

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Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of *The Difference*

So many unique aspects contribute to a Cornish College education, many of which are set out in the schools Vision and Mission statements, the *Learning Master Plan* and the award-winning *Strategy Story*. However, what is even more impressive than this documentation is that our students, past and present, are able to articulate what makes a Cornish education so special and our key College documents are not just stuck in a cupboard somewhere, they are working documents. They are not only reflective of our practices, they are also aspirational for our future.

When I ask students what they think the key elements of a Cornish education are they all mention the same things – sustainability, nature, community, and innovation – and in this edition, we celebrate some of these. We celebrate our commitment to sustainability and the achievements in this area; our understanding of the importance of nature and the role our amazing 100-acre classroom plays in a Cornish education. You can read about our new memorial garden and the importance we place on reflection and gratitude.

In our feature articles you can read about some of our educational innovations including Design Futures and how we celebrate students work in exhibitions such as the Year 8 Night of Decades. We have also included a snapshot of the *Class of 2023* VCE results, so we can celebrate their achievements as a community.

Our students value that they are part of the Cornish community. This sense of belonging and being valued is reflected in our student success stories and interviews with past students. We are delighted to report on our reunion program. We also farewell long-serving staff members and thank them for the wonderful contributions they have made to our community. As always, we thank our Parents Association for their hard work and support, in particular, their organisation of the College Fair, which also featured the Summer Showcase and the Art Walk.

In our regular 'From the Archives' section we continue with part two of Mike Davis's stories about some of the animals who have lived at Cornish over the years.

So a lot to read about and celebrate, lots of beautiful photos which capture what it is like to have a Cornish education.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as I enjoyed engaging with members of our community to collect their stories.

Should you have any feedback regarding the magazine, do not hesitate to contact us via email communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

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Front cover image:

Baany House Captains Marcus Cincotta and Clancy Critchlow celebrate winning the House Cup at the 2023 Celebration Evening

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation, as the original custodians of this land who have lived here for thousands of years. We respect their relationship with the land and are committed to caring for this place and those who come here now and in the future.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I often find it challenging to decide what to write about when it comes to our wonderful school. Not because there is any lack of inspiration, but because there is almost too much! With the wonders of a year in education at Cornish College, it is not always easy to find a single theme or to narrow in on a particular story or idea – which is what I like to do.

I think without even looking for it, inspiration comes all year round at Cornish College – it's filled with stories of growth, of challenge, of creativity, courage and change. It's in the stories of the children, the generosity of the staff, the kindness of parents. It's in a book I've read – far from school, in a poem I've heard, a moment I've observed. It's in a family gathering. It's in the words of a thank you card written by a student who has come so far. It's in our observations of play, of learning, of children just being.

The truth is, when you work in education – in schools, I suspect, and particularly at Cornish – inspiration is everywhere.

Throughout the school year, the Cornish College calendar is filled with the most wonderful events. To name a few, we have the ELC Living Portfolio, Primary Art Walk, Year 4 Strings Concert, Year 7 Recital, Year 8 Night of Decades, Year 9 MADE presentation, Summer Showcase Festival, Primary Awards Assembly, Prep to Year 4 Christmas Concert, Secondary Celebration Evening, Year 12 Graduation Evening, the Colour Celebration and the list goes on! It's exhausting, but, it is also very energising and oh so important.

As I write this, we are just commencing the school year. Each year we strategically plan ahead to ensure that each little step we take culminates in something significant at the year's end. Each celebration of growth, each new step brings a smile to faces, puts a spring in our steps and fills our hearts with hope and wonder. Our celebration events, concerts, academic award assemblies and even visits to classrooms, remind us how much we grow in a year and this creates an internalised sense of reward that each member of our community ought to be proud of. From our youngest student to our oldest volunteer – every step makes a difference at Cornish College.

Many of you will know that the smallest of pieces in the game of chess, but the one with strength in numbers, is the pawn – it only moves one step at a time. The chess players amongst us will also know that by taking it one step at a time, that pawn can get to the end and become something much greater. Each step we take as a school, small in number, mighty in strength – leads us to greater things.

We must keep moving and we must keep hoping for better things – for our children, our community, our world. Cornish College is a wonderful place – we're offering a different kind of education and we should shout it from the rooftops. We should be so proud of what we are doing as a community to seek and create a better schooling experience for young people.

As I wrote in my introduction, I'm always looking for inspiration for my writing. I am reminded as we commence this school year that every day we walk into Cornish inspiration is all around us. We needn't go far at all to know we are doing all the good we can do. I am so grateful to our community for being part of something that truly makes a difference. Let's look forward to and plan for another great year.

Nicola Forrest



Early Learning Centre children performing as part of the ELC Living Portfolio



Nicola Forrest presents an award to Daria Pogromskaya at last year's Celebration Evening



2024 College Captains (L-R) Maddie Hare, Lucy Allison, Mason Planner, Eva Sherring

LATEST NEWS

Our award-winning school

2023 saw Cornish College win a variety of prestigious national and regional awards. Further to the news that Cornish College's environmental achievements had been recognised with the presentation of three significant awards as part of the *Five Leaf Eco-Awards National Ecumenical Environmental Awards* program and also receiving an *Excellence Award* at the Australian Education Awards 2023 for its new strategic plan, *Cornish College Strategy Story – Toward 2030* (see Winter 2023 edition of *The Difference*), the College was delighted to receive another national award from *The Educator*.



The Educator's 5-Star programs Recognition Award

Cornish College was one of 25 schools to be recognised in *The Educator's* inaugural 5-Star Sustainable Programs, which highlights schools at the forefront of sustainability and environmental education programs across Australia.



Each entry was assessed for detailed information, impact, metrics and true innovation – along with benchmarking against the other entries – to determine the final list, and the College was thrilled to have received this award.

Environmental and Sustainability Award

Late in the year we were also very pleased to receive news that the College had won the Environmental and Sustainability category at the South East Business Awards 2023. Presented by the Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce, these awards provide recognition for outstanding business achievements and contributions to the South East area of Melbourne. The Environmental and Sustainability Award recognises and celebrates the College's commitment to sustainable business practices and our efforts to reduce the impact of our operations on the environment.

This award acknowledges the work of many staff over a number of years and we were thrilled to have won it.



South East Business Awards 2023, Renee Haoust and Dennis Freeman

FEATURES

Celebrating students' work

To truly engage students in their learning and encourage agency, students need to know and feel that their efforts are valued and are valuable. Every year as a rite of passage a series of exhibitions from Years 6 to 9 are held. The final exhibition for the year is the highly anticipated and much-loved Year 8 Night of Decades.

Night of Decades

Throughout Term 4, our Year 8 students work in teams to undertake an inquiry into a decade of history. Through their work, they develop a number of critical thinking skills and an understanding of a range of aspects of their decade. By taking an interest in the work of the other teams, they develop a chronological understanding of the cause and effect that major events and significant people have had on our world. This integrated inquiry provides them with the skills and knowledge that are essential for success in their senior years.

The term's work culminates in what is nothing less than an extravaganza, the Night of Decades, where parents and families are invited to view the wonderful work that



has happened throughout the term. The gymnasium is filled with information booths and the students are dressed in iconic outfits for their decade. A highlight of the evening is always the dance routine, which involves all Year 8 students.

The fun and informative nature of the Night of Decades makes it a memorable event for all those involved – students and their families and the staff who guide and support the presentation of this uniquely Cornish event.



Growth of Design Futures

We are extremely proud that we have won many awards over the years for our innovative approach to education. We have a strong belief that education for a sustainable future needs to be education of a different kind. With such a clear educational vision combined with a deep moral purpose, we are committed to continued educational innovation.

One of our new curriculum choices, Design Futures, is an example of our individual student-focused approach to education.

The Design Futures program is recognition that university pathways are changing and moving away from ATAR-only to ATAR-plus, demonstrating real world problem solving, critical and creative thinking skills. Students who complete 100 hours of the program receive accreditation in the form of 'Digital Badging' to add to their portfolios and potential tertiary applications.

The students team up with a steward or mentor whose role is to stretch, challenge and facilitate their learning. We are very pleased that Tom Humphreys, previously the College's Property Manager, will share his substantial land management knowledge by taking on the role of a Design Futures steward in 2024.

To support the continued growth of future-focused and project-based learning throughout the school, we are delighted to announce that Lucas Johnson has been



appointed to the new position of Director of Design Futures. A highly qualified and sought after educator, Lucas has a deep knowledge and interest in STEM, design, systems thinking and enterprise education. Under his guidance, we are excited about the potential for further innovation to support the future needs of our students.

You can go to our website to read stories about some of the many students who have taken the opportunity to co-create their own interdisciplinary inquiry through our Design Futures program

<https://www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/design-futures/>

2023 VCE Results

After another wonderful and fulfilling year at Cornish College, we were proud to once again celebrate the successes of our students upon completion of their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). The *Class of 2023* are to be congratulated on their achievements, their resilience and their commitment to being the well-rounded and well-grounded young people we are so proud of.

Our Year 12s also received their Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) which provides many of our students with an avenue for entry into tertiary study. Whilst receiving this score is significant for students, we also recognise those students who had already secured steps toward their desired pathways and passions. These included successful uptake of apprenticeships, early entry offers for tertiary education for a number of students and immediate employment for others.

Here is a snapshot of results and achievements from the wonderful group of students who completed Year 12 at Cornish College in 2023:

- Six Cornish College students (11% of the cohort) achieved ATARs above 90, placing those students in the top 10% of the state
- 19% of our students received an ATAR of 85 or higher, placing them in the top 15% of the state

Amongst the key improvements were our school's results in Mathematics (both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics), English and a range of subjects across the broader curriculum, including the languages, visual arts and humanities.

We are delighted to announce that our 2023 Dux is Orlando Schwerdt with an ATAR of 97.55. Over two years of his VCE, Orlando successfully completed the following Units 3 & 4 studies – English, English Literature, French, General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Theatre Studies.

Joining Orlando Schwerdt with scores above 90 were:

- Mailli Atkins
- Ebony Ingram
- Sarah Killeen
- Samantha Moloney
- Matilda Sinclair

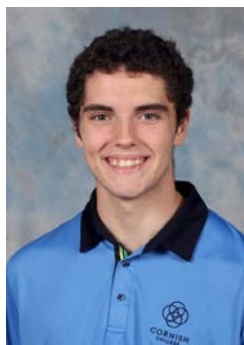
Congratulations also to the students who achieved study scores of 40 or above, placing them in the top 8% of the state for those subjects:

- Mailli Atkins – Music Contemporary Performance
- Tara Covey – English
- Sebastian Bearsley – General Mathematics
- Sarah Killeen – English, Psychology
- Samantha Moloney – Environmental Science
- Siena de Nardis – Business Management
- Orlando Schwerdt – Literature, General Mathematics, English
- Matilda Sinclair – English
- Aaron Voulgaris – Mathematical Methods

In addition to all our Year 12 students successfully achieving their VCE, we congratulate three students, Orlando Schwerdt, Matilda Sinclair and Jarrod Oakley, who also achieved the VCE Baccalaureate.



Mailli Atkins



Sebastian Bearsley



Tara Covey



Ebony Ingram



Sarah Killeen



Samantha Moloney



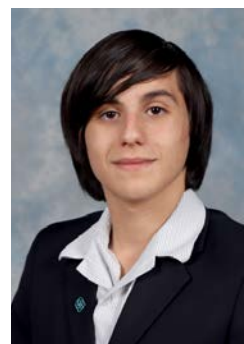
Siena de Nardis



Orlando Schwerdt



Matilda Sinclair



Aaron Voulgaris

Memorial Garden

A beautiful memorial garden is the latest in a number of special spaces established on the College's beautiful 100 acre parkland. Thanks to a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs through the 'Saluting their Service Commemorative Grants Program' the College has been able to develop this new area, which is near the tennis courts.

It is a place where we, as a College, will come together to reflect on the sacrifices of all people in past and present conflicts and acknowledge events such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. The establishment of this memorial garden is a wonderful and lasting legacy for future generations of Cornish students and families.

The focal point of the garden is a large and striking, three panel plaque made of corten steel. The middle plaque bears the words of the *Ode of Remembrance*, the fourth stanza of *For the Fallen*, a poem by English poet and writer Laurence Binyon, which is commonly recited at memorial services to commemorate wartime sacrifice, and the two side panels feature poppies. Underneath the plaque is a native garden bed, and behind the three panels there will be three flagpoles, which will be installed shortly.

We were also thrilled to receive support from Legacy, who have given us a Lone Pine tree and Gallipoli Oak tree. These two trees are located near the Memorial Garden and will forever remind us of the ANZAC legacy of courage and sacrifice.

It is expected that with the establishment of this new memorial garden, teachers will incorporate this new area into their classes when examining and discussing the role, service and sacrifice of Australia's defence personnel in past conflicts around the world.

With our strong focus on outdoor learning, this new area will provide a respectful and appropriate, new outdoor space to discuss, reflect on and explore Australia's wartime heritage for students from the Early Learning Centre to Year 12.

Lest we forget.

New uniform

Our community has enthusiastically embraced the new College uniform wardrobe, launched in November 2022 (see Autumn 2023 edition of *The Difference*). With a transition period of two years, it is fantastic to see around 80% of students already wearing the new uniform. With a wide choice of garments in the wardrobe which provides a range of uniform combinations, our students are able to express their own personal style.

The less formal elements of the uniform, allowing students to access our many play areas in greater comfort than a traditional uniform, have been particularly popular. Our new uniform is being worn with pride and anyone visiting the campus and seeing the students would agree that they look fantastic.

In keeping with our commitment to sustainability, we are proud that we have been able to re-purpose our old uniform and none of it has gone to landfill. Some of the uniforms were taken to the Fatequero School in Timor-Leste, others are going to a school in Africa and unusable items were taken to a company called Upparel, who recycle the clothing for other uses.



Remembrance Day 2023. (L-R) Eva Sherring, Mason Planner, Maddie Hare, Lucy Allison and Darcy O'Malley



Remembrance Day gathering



Senior students proudly wearing their new uniform

Outdoor classroom

Since 2017, Cornish College has wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of Outdoor Classroom Day. This is a global movement designed to inspire and celebrate outdoor play and learning in schools. In 2023 students from across the College engaged in a range of fantastic lessons and experiences in our 100-acre classroom.

At the heart of our educational philosophy lies our *Learning Master Plan*, which champions the notion that learning outdoors is not just a classroom extension. 'Learning outdoors connects us to our land, reinforcing our important role as custodians and provides an authentic context for learning and inquiry. It inspires curiosity, teaches life lessons, gets us in touch with beauty, enhances physical and mental wellbeing, promotes risk-taking, energises, inspires, builds independence, knowledge, resilience and confidence and allows for limitless exploration and discovery.'

We are truly fortunate to utilise our outdoor environment to provide year-round opportunities for all students to grow and flourish.



Year 5 mathematicians



Year 3 scientists



Year 5 Performing Arts

Pushing boundaries

At Cornish, we have confidence in our young people and their ability to make a difference. We encourage them to push their boundaries and realise that they do not have to wait until they are adults to do this. Lukas Barker, Year 9, is a wonderful example of this.

We are extremely proud to say that Lukas has been cited as co-author of a recent research article published in *The Australian Journal of Learning Difficulties*. The article is entitled "I want to help kids like me be heard! A survey about schooling from the perspective of adolescents with ADHD." This is a fantastic achievement as the peer-reviewed academic journal provides a forum for both theoretical and empirical articles on topics related to the assessment, teaching of students with learning disabilities, and learning difficulties.

Lukas conducted the research for this article in 2021 when he investigated ADHD for his Year 6 Exhibition, by designing a survey to explore what it was like to be a school student with ADHD. In 2022, he presented his findings at the Faculty of Education, Monash University

to over 700 Monash graduates, where he drew the attention of the lead author of the article Dr Kathy Gibbs of Griffith University. Dr Gibbs says that there has been only limited research conducted on adolescents with ADHD and particularly from their perspective.

Lukas should be extremely proud as his research may help to make a real difference to all those who have ADHD.

For more information on Lukas's research on ADHD, please see the 2022 Summer edition of *The Difference*.



Lukas Barker

Flying high

Over the years, we have shared our beautiful 100 acres with a variety of different community groups. The longest association has been with the Melbourne Radio Controlled Helicopter Club, which has been located at the College since its formation in 1987. One of the early members Roger Chapman is still very involved with the group and speaks highly of the relationship the club has with the College. The group has given demonstrations at school fetes and recently Roger, along with the club's President Jeff Sussman, gave a presentation to all Year 7 students. Roger and Jeff enjoyed sharing their passion and were able to relate their talk to the Year 7 Science curriculum. They were particularly impressed with how engaged the students were and the terrific questions they asked.

From a modest beginning, the club has developed and prospered. Over the years, literally hundreds of people have had the joy of learning to fly, including a young David Chambers who learnt to fly as part of his involvement with the Make A Wish Foundation, which caters for children with terminal illnesses.

The group has run many State and National events even organised a World championship. Club members get together at Cornish most weekends and public holidays to fly and chat about their model radio controlled helicopters.

STEM

We believe that it is important that our students have a deep practical understanding of what they are learning. We want students to apply their knowledge to real world examples and have the type of transferable knowledge and critical thinking skills which cannot be obtained from textbooks or rote learning. That is why STEM, an acronym which stands for science, technology, engineering, and math is a lens we use across all disciplines. In addition to the STEM classes led by Erica Smith, our Design Technologies and Futures Hub Leader, STEM principles are applied in art rooms, humanities classes, our award-winning EcoCentre and throughout our 100 acre classroom.

In STEM classes in 2023 students were involved in a wide range of exciting inquiry projects. Our Prep students loved creating stop motion animations. They made all of the sets and characters themselves and then utilised an iPad application to record photos and combine it together as a stop motion. They also designed and made their own music for the animation in Garage Band.

Our Year 4 students were challenged to create a simulation of a sustainable colony on Mars using Minecraft education, which utilises real Mars landscapes. They also built robots using Make block mbot2 robots and then added Lego Technic modifications and robots to solve missions in a replica of their colony.

Year 5 students explored the use of artificial intelligence and our Year 6 students used drones to fly and code autonomous missions through different obstacle courses. These unique inquiries had the students totally engaged and are examples of education of a different kind and demonstrates our innovative approach to education.

We were also thrilled to have had a team of students who took part in the First Lego League. This international event with a regional competition involves four key

We are proud that Cornish College has the opportunity to be the home for this club.

They always welcome new members, so please contact Roger Chapman rogercathyl@optusnet.com.au if you'd like to know more about this great community group.



Jeff Sussman with his Jet Ranger

areas, robot design, robot game, and innovation project and core values. As a team, students had to design, build and code a robot to solve as many missions on the game board in a 2-hour 30 minute game. The focus in 2023 was on designing Virtual Reality solutions.

We are all very excited about the new STEM Centre currently being constructed behind the CLIC and which will provide an amazing environment for our students to continue to explore STEM. We expect this wonderful new centre to be open at the beginning of 2025.



Year 6 STEM students



Year 2 students design a marble run arcade game



Year 4 students take cuttings of native plants to replant around the Cornish grounds

FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

Driving sustainably

As a school with sustainability as one of our key underpinning values, we were very pleased to participate in a recent trial offered by our bus partner, Driver Group. Over the course of a week, one of their regular 57-seat buses was replaced by the same sized electric bus.

Driver evaluated the bus to see how it performed and, despite the possibility of some teething issues with new technology, everything went extremely smoothly (no pun intended!). The bus had a safe range of 350km from a full charge, so there was plenty of battery power to operate the Cornish bus route each day.

‘Going on the electric bus for the first time was thrilling. It not only had a comfortable feeling of luxury but also gave you an amazing feeling knowing that you are riding on a guilt-free electric bus. The silence was so calming and it is exciting thinking about the possibilities for Cornish’s more sustainable future in electric vehicles.’
Year 7 student.



Students' delight from a smooth ride on the new electric bus

Sip and sew

The vision of our College is to provide an education that makes a difference today for a sustainable and thriving tomorrow. On a daily basis, the message of sustainability is evident in every part of the College. This desire to be an example of sustainable practices does not just relate to the classroom and it is a shared aspiration by all members of our community, students, parents and teachers.

During this year’s Timor IMPACCT program in Timor-Leste, our students discovered that not every student at the Fatuquero School had a school bag. To address this, some of our Year 12 students – Maddie Hare, Charlie Fasham, Caitlin Tetley and Lucy Allison – devised a brilliant initiative to repurpose old Cornish uniforms into bags.

Putting their ideas to the test, they collaborated with Cornish staff and rallied the Cornish community to participate in a ‘Sip and Sew’ session during the school holidays where they enjoyed sipping cups of tea in between sewing the bags.

The bags will be sent to Timor-Leste and will also be made available for purchase, with proceeds contributing to our ongoing support of the Fatuquero School.



Caitlin Tetley, Maddie Hare, Claire Dawe, Charlie Fasham and Lucy Allison proudly wear their bags made out of repurposed old Cornish uniforms

100 Acre Club

The Cornish College 100 Acre Club is dedicated to caring for and maintaining the 100-acre parkland that serves as the classroom for Cornish College.

The 100 Acre Club meets once a month during the school term between April and September. Typically each session will last for approximately two hours and will take place on a weekday after school drop off in the morning – all are welcome.

To register your interest or find out more, please email Dennis Freeman, Director of Community Relations dennis.freeman@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au or Tom Humphreys tom.humphreys@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Animal stories - part two

In part two we continue to hear from Mike Davis about some of the many animals who have made an impact on our community.

Gus the Goose (and Mildred)

Gus the goose arrived at the school around 1991. He literally waddled in off the road, down the driveway and set up camp by the lake. He became a bit of character around the place, as one of the jobs on rotation with the upper primary classes was chook duty. Each afternoon a class was assigned the job of collecting the eggs and feeding the chooks. Part of this entailed running the gauntlet past Gus, who would protect his newfound home quite vigilantly, chasing anyone who came past.



Gus and Mildred on an adventure

After a year or so, we acquired Mildred and the two geese thought they owned the land that is now an outdoor assembly area.

Footnote: Chook duty had many hazards. At some point, the school acquired a rooster, Fabio, who took his job of looking after the hens quite seriously. So much so, that chook duty required a third team member, whose job was to distract Fabio and protect the rest of the team. If not done well Fabio would attack them.

Cows

In 1994, my family was living in the original caretaker's house, which is now Reception. One evening in winter, we heard sounds from outside. Stepping out onto the front porch on a very foggy night, we were confronted by about 15 Hereford cows, all-standing around looking in at us. They had found a hole in the fence and made their way onto the school property. There was not much we could do, so we decided to retire inside.

The next morning as students arrived, the first thing they saw as they turned into the school was a herd of cows sitting in the middle of the front cricket oval. Eventually the owners came to collect them.

Cockatoos

As caretakers, the new house (now Cornish House on the left of the driveway as you enter), was a great break from having lived six years virtually as part of the school. It did however attract some new 'friends'. We started getting visits from cockatoos who would land on our porch looking for food. We had a bird tray out in the front yard and if there was no seed left they would come up onto the porch railing and stare at us through the window. If we did not get the hint, we would notice that the heads of various flowers in our pots would be removed!

Eventually we started getting up to 25 of these birds sitting on the fence. Finally, one day Tom Humphreys, who was then the Property Manager, popped his head in and asked if we could stop feeding them. It seemed that once they had finished with us they were making their way to the tennis courts and pulling up the astro turf!

Dusty

In the late 1980s the school had a rabbit named Dusty and she had a free run of the classroom and, at night, Dusty was able to roam around inside the building. In those days, our gym was an area that is now the CLIC. One day the PE teacher was getting ready for a class and got out the mats and as he laid them out on the floor he noticed that one mat had lost a large proportion of one corner... courtesy of Dusty!



Dusty on the shoulder of Samantha Condy, Year 5, 1987

We eventually lost Dusty one day when we think that a door was left open while the cleaners were doing a final lock-up and Dusty decided it was time to explore the wide blue yonder.



Thumper, with Lee Howard, Year 5, 1988

A CULTURE OF GIVING

Our culture of giving is defined by gifts and care from many sources and in many forms—some are time, some are expertise, some are financial donations. They represent our belief that education is the greatest gift you can give. We honour every volunteer, donor, partner, and community member and are grateful for every gift of every form and every size, knowing that all will make an impact on the lives of current and future students.

By investing in their potential today you will ensure that Cornish College graduates can ‘make a difference and be the difference’ in their local, national and international communities tomorrow.

STEM Centre

We are delighted that construction work has begun on our new \$3.79 million STEM Centre and we look forward to keeping you updated on its progress over the next 12 months. This building project assists us in making a significant impact for student learning and futures in line with the goals of our *Strategy Story – Toward 2030* and of our *Building Master Plan* launched in 2017.

Bequest Program

Cornish College would not be the school it is today without the involvement of passionate and committed supporters and in 2024, as we build our ‘culture of giving’, we are establishing a Bequest Program.

Gifts in the form of bequests help support the provision of quality facilities and scholarships that are offered to worthy students. It is this commitment to the future of Cornish College – ‘make a difference and be the difference’ – that lies at the heart of our philanthropic programs, and all those who join our Bequest Program become members of the Cornish Circle.



Black swan cygnets on Cornish College wetlands

If you would like more information about how you might support the College with this wonderful project, please contact the Director of Community Relations, Dennis Freeman at dennis.freeman@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au or by calling 9781 9014.

Thank you to those who have already made a donation towards the STEM Centre.

If you are considering supporting Cornish College with a bequest, follow this link for more information www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/giving/make-a-bequest/

If you prefer a confidential discussion on how your gift can make a difference, please contact the Director of Community Relations, Dennis Freeman at dennis.freeman@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au or by calling 9781 9014.

French Visit

On 2 December, four Year 12 students, Tiara Wickramage, Jess Conway, Amber Myrtle and Jed Yates, travelled to our sister school Institution Mongazon in Angers, western France. Jed writes about his time in France below.

For the Cornish students, this was a new style of schooling experience with school days starting earlier and finishing later. As it was winter in France, this meant that we most often spent all the daylight hours at school.

Classes were challenging, with most subjects on topics I knew little about and I really had to concentrate to follow the conversations.

My favourite moment was a soccer match I was able to attend – the crowd was electric and were much more interesting than the actual match!

Overall the trip was a real eye-opener into the difference between our two cultures. French people were more independent, yet welcoming and hardworking. It was such a terrific experience for all the Cornish students.



Cornish students together with their hosting partners from Mongazon Institute (L-R) Lilian Baviera, Azélie Vincelot, Philippe Noury (supervising teacher), Anaïs Manceau, Ambre Mallegol, Tiara Wickramage, Jess Conway, Amber Myrtle, Jed Yates

The College looks forward to our next French Study Tour which will take place in March, when eight Years 10 and 11 Cornish students will join with students from Kingswood College to visit Oyonnax in eastern France. In July, students from Institution Mongazon in Angers, will visit Cornish for six weeks followed by Cornish students reciprocating this visit in December.

STUDENT SUCCESS

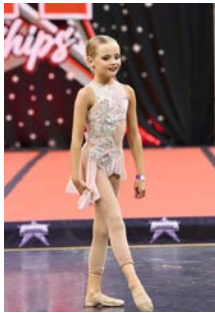
Zhara Christ, Year 9, loves sport and enjoys playing both netball and football for Bonbeach. She is also in the Chelsea Squad Netball team. She is also part of the St Kilda Next Generation program and is the captain of the Next Generation Division 2 team. Zhara was awarded best on ground in her first game in 2023. It seems whatever sport she tries she is a natural and she came first in the SIS cross country in 2022 and second in 2023.



In 2023, **Lucy Allison**, Year 12, took part in the 18 and under Girls School Sport Australia Soccer championship, a week-long tournament held in Canberra. The team trained for several weeks prior and played a game a day across two locations in Canberra. Lucy enjoyed the experience and we look forward to seeing what sporting success she will achieve in 2024.



Alice Johnson, Year 3, is a competition dancer at Mathis Dance Studios. Throughout the year she has been a member of their Youth team, competing in the sections of Jazz, Lyrical and Hip Hop. Her team has competed successfully all year - most notably taking out 1st place in Hip Hop at both the Victorian State and Australian National levels.



Congratulations to Year 9 student **Maddison Graham** who was one of only four riders chosen from over 100 other riders, to represent both Victoria and Cornish College in the National Interschool Championships in October 2023. Maddison only started riding in February 2022 and has loved training her own horse and has already been ranked as 16th best Intermediate preliminary Dressage rider in Australia.



Dulcie Sverduik, Year 9, has been swimming since the age of four and currently trains about 8 hours a week. Last year she swam in the Victorian Metro Championships in the 50 metre freestyle and then went on to be a member of the relay team in the Victorian State Championships. Dulcie is to be congratulated on achieving the Silver Level of the Junior Excellent program of Swimming Victoria.



Year 11 students **Sketch Aitken, Jonty Robison and Madeleine Fantas** are to be congratulated on being selected for the Monash Scholars Program for 2024. This is a prestigious program for high-achieving students and will give them an early experience of university life, with the opportunity to work with other students to focus on global issues.



Congratulations to **Gabrielle Chandler**, Year 11, who was awarded a prestigious Kwong Lee Dow scholarship for 2023. Gabriella will now have the opportunity to take part in an exciting two-year program of events and activities at Melbourne University designed to support high achieving students.



Scout Evans of Year 9 joined the Moorabbin Archery Club last year and, in a very short time, he has proven his talents for the sport. He won the under 16 Compound Archery division for his club and continues to train hard to achieve his best. At this early stage, he has already earned himself over 50 certificates of merit and is moving very quickly through the ranking, achieving Junior Bowman status.



We are all proud of **Isabelle Covey**, Year 10, who represented Victoria at the National Netball Championships last year in Perth. The team went through the week undefeated and took out the Championship titles, against South Australia. Isabelle has proudly represented her region for the last two years and has been selected for the State titles again for 2024. She has also been selected for the Netball Victoria Talent Academy.



Alex Stevens, Year 9, 2023, was invited to train with the St Kilda Next Generation Academy and was one of 26 boys selected to represent the Under 14s Boys Division 1 FDJFL (Frankston & District Junior Football League) Interleague team. The carnival took place in June 2023 where his team played against the South East & Mornington Peninsula Leagues and his team won the cup after finishing undefeated.



Wellbeing and balance

Kim Gray (CC1996) has very fond memories of her time at 'Patto', as the Cornish Campus of St Leonard's was affectionately known at that time and our students were lucky enough to hear her speak at a recent assembly.

Kim currently works as the Wellbeing Lead at Melbourne Vixens and with the Victorian Institute of Sport Netball Development program. Her role with the Vixens is to support the athletes, coaches and staff and she always starts with understanding each person and what their values, goals and needs are. All people go through multiple transitions in their lives and Kim says that balance is crucial not only for athletes, but for everyone. As in sport, in life it is about knowing yourself, knowing what makes you tick, and what makes you happy. It is also very important to know what you need to pull yourself up again if the going gets tough. Her message of wellbeing and the need for balance in your life really resonated with all those at the assembly.

When Kim started at Cornish College in Year 5, the campus was only in its second year with just 111 students and she says the closeness of the community was a huge thing when she was there. "We knew everyone and you had friends from Prep to Year 8. I loved being at 'Patto', but appreciate it so much more now. The thought of having all of that open space to go to school every day, not to mention the menagerie of roaming animals, was just the best. I think the presence of Nikki the dog, Rastus the cat and the goat definitely calmed down many a wild Patto child".



(L-R) Lucy Allison, Kim Gray (CC1996) and Eva Sherring

Kim says that one of the many highlights for her was Mr D's end-of-year slide show, a tradition which has continued over the years.

Although life is very busy for everyone, she has managed to keep in touch with many former 'Patto' students. She made mention of past students Geordie and Hamish McMillan, Julianne Smith (now Raitelli), Robert McHaffie, Luke Shaw, Hayley Baker (Dymond), Anna (Gatt) and Alex Featherstone, Sam Tilley, Karli Robinson (Grinberg), and Renee Anquetil. Kim said that group of past students had also stayed in regular touch with Patrick White who sadly passed away in 2017.

She says it is also great to stay connected to Mr D, Mr Byrt and Ms Burke via Facebook and she would always have a special place in her heart for Patto.

Class of 2018 – Five Year Reunion

There was a great atmosphere for our *Class of 2018* Five Year Reunion at the Melbourne Cable Park in early September and it was terrific to see most of the former students from that class at the event. Some spent time touring Cornish before moving to the Cable Park for a relaxed evening of conversations and rekindling of memories. Highlights of the evening included watching Mr D's end-of-year video from 2018 which prompted many laughs and long-forgotten stories and, of course, reconnecting with some of their former teachers.

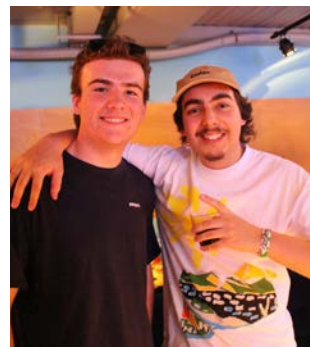


Class of 2022 – One Year Reunion

As always, the One Year Reunion for *Class of 2021* at Strike Bowling Bayside at the end of November was a terrific night and so good for our alumni and some of their former teachers to catch up and hear about what they've been doing over the last 12 months.

In celebration of one year since graduating, everyone enjoyed a couple of games of bowling and refreshments as they caught up on the news of their post-school lives.

It was a fun evening for our recent graduates as they begin to make inroads with their next journey within the working world, travel, or further study.



Former Staff Reunion

The first official Cornish College staff reunion was held on 19 November in the Senior Studies Centre. It was fantastic to see about 50 former staff there, with a number of apologies from those who would have loved to attend.

It was a wonderfully relaxed event, with a lot of catching up and conversations before, during and after a delicious BBQ lunch.

Mark Byrne who has recently retired from a remarkable teaching career, including a long period of time at Cornish, gave a short speech and read sections from the inspirational anniversary Cornish book *A Celebration of Courage - 10 years of Cornish College*. This was followed by a heartfelt speech from Kerry Bolger, the founding Principal of Cornish.

Following lunch, some enjoyed a school tour lead by three of the 2024 College Captains, Lucy Allison, Maddie Hare and Mason Planner, while others took the opportunity to view the annual Art Walk which, fortunately, was still on display from the previous week's events at the College.



There have always been strong bonds between Cornish staff and, as expected, the conversations flowed as if no time had passed at all. Everyone was keen to see the many innovations and changes made over the years and were also keen to catch up again for another event like that – the consensus seemed to be that every second year would be the ideal timing!

Cornish Campus Reunion

We were excited to offer another opportunity for alumni specifically from the St Leonard's era of Cornish College, so on Friday evening 1 September, we hosted a gathering of former students at Sunny Boy Beach Club, Mordialloc.

It was a great night enjoyed by those who attended and some terrific ideas were discussed about how we can grow this event, to engage with a wider group of Cornish Campus alumni.



Birth



McDonald

To May Judson (current staff) and Lachlan McDonald (CC2010) on 1 November 2023, a son, Jude Heathcote McDonald.

Marriages



Geoffrey McMullen (CC2010) and Amelia McDonald on 24 November 2023 at Barwon Heads.



Rebecca Little (current staff) and Andrew Fifield on 25 August 2023 at Sorrento Beach. Rebecca was walked 'down the aisle' by her daughters, Cornish students Sienna, Year 9 and Scarlett, Year 7.



Sarah Davis (CC2011) and Pat Klein at Cornish College on 2 December 2023. This was particularly special as not only was it the first wedding held on the school grounds, but Sarah attended Cornish as a student and also grew up at the school, having lived in the caretaker's house with her family.

Death



Peters

Leonie Peters (former staff) on 12 December 2023. A wonderful teacher librarian who established the first library at Cornish College.

Leonie trained as a secondary English and History teacher, but after raising three children, she re-trained as a librarian. She joined the St Leonard's Patterson River campus, as it was then, in the mid-1980s, and once the enrolments justified this, she was

able to set up and run the campus library. In this context, she discovered and enjoyed her true element, working

with younger children, and introducing them to the wonderful world of literature. She loved kids, and, judging from the cards and letters she received from many of them, her genuine warmth, her kindness and wisdom and her enthusiasm for her subject were really appreciated by them.

She took Book Week very seriously, and always managed to dress as a popular character, such as the straw man from *Wizard of Oz*.

In all, her contribution to the Cornish campus had spanned more than 20 years when she retired in 2007.

Contributed by Geoff Peters

Alumni Updates

We would love to hear your latest news so that we can share it with our Cornish community. If you're about to start an exciting job, undertake further study, or have recently become engaged or married, please let us know!

Please contact the Community Relations team via alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au to share your updates.

Follow Us

To find out more about Cornish College alumni, follow us on Facebook and Instagram



@CornishCollegeAlumni

Priority enrolment

We welcome children of alumni to the College and recommend that you register your application for enrolment as early as possible. Applications are prioritised based on the date of receipt and many families apply shortly after their child is born. As valued members of the community, the application fee for children of Cornish Collegians is waived. Applications can be completed via www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-information/

Important Dates

Alumni Cocktail Party

Friday 23 February
7.00pm – 9.00pm
Cornish College,
Senior Studies Centre

Class of 2019 Five Year Reunion

Friday 23 August
6.00pm – 9.00pm
Cornish College/
Cable Park

Class of 2023 One Year Reunion

Friday 8 November
6.00pm – 8.00pm
Strike Bowling



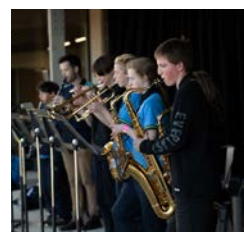
COMMUNITY NEWS

The Cornish Fair/Summer Showcase Festival/Art Walk

After a hiatus of several years, we were thrilled to host, once again, the Cornish Fair on 17 November. The weather could not have been better and the afternoon included not only the College Fair, but also the annual Summer Showcase Festival and the Art Walk. By combining all three events, there was something for everyone. The main ensemble performance space was located on the verandah of the Senior Studies Centre and with large mats provided, families set up their picnics on the beautiful Vicki Steer Green and were entertained in the beautiful sunshine by a wide variety of performances from our talented students. Performances included ensembles such as the Contemporary Band, the Junior and Senior Choirs and the Concert Band.

With the stunning backdrop of the lake, there was a choice of refreshments from a variety of food and drink trucks. There was also a number of Fair activities including a large rock-climbing wall, games, a train and a large slide. One of the most popular activities was the Dunk Tank with the opportunity for students to dunk a favourite (or not so favourite!) teacher. Inside the Sustainability Centre was a market featuring stalls selling items produced by our students and local businesses. A photo booth also provided a fun reminder of the fair.

Beautifully curated by Bex Hinton and the Visual Arts team, many took the opportunity to enjoy the Art Walk around the lake and enjoy the colourful, creative artwork of our primary students. There were dragons, owls, crabs and even mice chasing a cat.



A big thank you to the Parents Association, who organised the Fair, the Art team for the spectacular Art Walk which always provides such a wonderful experience for our community to share, and the Music team who have guided and nurtured our young musicians as they develop their performance skills. Thank you also to the Property Team, as the school looked wonderful. If you have not taken a walk around the lake, make the time, as it will remind you how lucky our students are to spend their days in this place.

Annual Golf Day

The annual Cornish College Golf Day was held at Southern Golf Club on Friday 24 November 2023 and it was a wonderful success. With record numbers of entrants and support from our commercial partners, 92 friends of the College joined us for lunch, with 76 keen golfers competing in the 18-hole Ambrose competition.

The overall winners were:

Nearest the Pin

Jonathan Spencer,
Phil Newman

Second Prize

Paul Cavey, Tammy
Cavey, Amy Clifford, Paul
Clifford

Straightest Drive

Phil Broderick

Third prize

Scott Avery, Luke Duggan
Adrian Stokes, John
McEncroe

First Prize

Jamie Edwards,
Matt O'Brien, Cain Tetley,
Phil Newman



Major Sponsor



Course Sponsors



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Prize Sponsors

Lunch Sponsor



Staff Farewells

Sharon Edmunds

Sharon Edmunds joined the Cornish community in 1998. Over the years, nearly everyone at Cornish be they staff, students or parents have worked with or have known Sharon. This is a great testament to a wonderful contribution made by an outstanding staff member.

Sharon has made a difference in the lives of many. Being the Science Laboratory Manager, she assisted with Science classes, prepared resources and practical requirements for experiments and activities. She also assisted with Technology, Performing Arts, Mathematics and really anyone who asked for her help, such was her generosity.

For many years, Sharon also supported students with individual learning needs. She was so committed to the students that she completed extra study to further her skills and effectiveness and extended her support to accompanying the Year 9 students overseas on the Make A Difference Experiences.

Sharon involved herself across all levels and all areas of the school and we are all the richer for her wonderful contributions. Sharon will be missed by our school community, but her influence and contributions will live on for many years to come and we wish her all the best for her retirement.



Christopher Hodgson

Christopher joined Cornish College in 2013 as part of the property management team and immediately became known to as CJ. Over his ten years at the school, CJ made an invaluable contribution to not only the maintenance of our beautiful 100 acres, but also to the creativity of the ever changing and improving gardens and spaces.

From day one CJ was a perfect fit for the property team and Tom Humphreys said that in the last 10 years not one day had gone past without CJ making a wise crack, a pun or a dad joke. CJ's sense of humour and fun was one of his favourite things about working with him.

CJ has had a very positive influence on those around him, especially the students and his leadership on school camps was greatly appreciated.



Kate Large

At the end of 2023 we farewelled Kate Large, who has worked at the school in the Music department for 19 years. In that time, Kate has taught over 180 individual piano students and has organised over 28 piano soirées. Kate is an extremely dedicated teacher so much so that the music staff believe that realistically of her 19 years at Cornish, she must have spent at least four full days walking around the school looking for student who had forgotten to turn up for their lessons.

Not many at Cornish knew that, in her spare time, Kate is a light aircraft pilot and she is looking forward to spending more time in the air over the coming years! We thank Kate for her service to the school.



Daniella Winik

We often hear the phrase 'time well served' but this doesn't seem sufficient when we reflect on Daniella's 21 plus years at Cornish. Her journey began as the school psychologist when the Cornish campus was part of St Leonard's. Since then she has seen the campus transition to Cornish College, worked with a number of Principals, counselled countless number of young people as they navigated the challenges of life, raised her own three children, run staff wellbeing days, attended camps, and taken wellbeing classes across the school.

In all this she has been unwavering in her dedication and service, and her tireless efforts and invaluable contributions have left an indelible mark on the lives of staff and students alike at Cornish College.

As Daniella leaves to embark on the new adventure in her life, it is with immense pride and admiration that we acknowledge her remarkable journey at Cornish College and express our deepest gratitude. Thank you from us all and best wishes!



2024 Cornish Collegians Management Committee

President: Louise Berger (CC2010)

Vice President: Nick Kiss von Soly (CC1997)

Secretary: Dennis Freeman (Co-opted for 12 months)

Treasurer: Catharine Payton (CC2009)

Past staff representative: Kerry Bolger

Committee: Mark Byrne (past staff), Alannah Hayes (CC2016), Rick Mleczo (CC2015), Josette Mulcahy (CC2016), Sofia Phoenix (CC2015), Leighton Triplow (CC2010), Lara Williamson (CC2015)

Fun Run/Walk

Cornish College and the Cornish Parents Association present this exciting College event to be held on Sunday 19 May from 9.00am – 10.30am. Enjoy a wonderful circuit of our 100 acre classroom whilst supporting our relationship with Fatuquero School, Timor-Leste.



Supporting our community businesses

Our Cornish College Business Directory showcases a range of businesses from our parent and alumni communities. We encourage all members of the Cornish community to support these businesses.

If you are interested in having your business listed, do not hesitate to get in touch at **communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au** or on (03) 9781 9000.

<http://businessdirectory.cornishcollegevic.edu.au/>



Lifeblood Team



One in three Australians will need blood at some point in their lives. This could be a parent, child, friend or even you.

We want to make a difference and help support other communities by 'rolling up our sleeves' and giving blood, so we've established our own Cornish College Lifeblood Team and we invite all members of the Cornish community to get involved.

You may be already be a donor or perhaps thinking about it. Either way, by linking your donations to the Cornish College Lifeblood Team when you make your next booking, we are collectively 'making a difference'.

We are encouraging our community to donate to support other communities across Australia – every donation counts!

Upcoming School Tours

Discover why Cornish College offers an education of a different kind. Join us for one of our upcoming school tours:

Saturday 17 February
9.30am – 11.30am

Tuesday 19 March
(Prep Discovery Tour)
9.00am – 10.15am

Thursday 21 March
(Twilight Tour)
6.00pm – 8.00pm

Saturday 27 April
9.30am – 11.00am

Book online via **www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/enrolments/tours**

For further information, please contact Admissions on **9781 9008** or via **admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au**

Cornish Shop

Check out our new online Cornish Shop for branded memorabilia and other goods.

On sale now are recycled cardboard pens, KeepCup glass coffee cups, umbrellas, and our publication, *A Celebration of Courage*, telling the story of Cornish College over the first ten years. A must read for everyone passionate about Cornish!

Please visit
www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/shop



