



THE DIFFERENCE

CORNISH COLLEGE MAGAZINE SEMESTER 2 2018

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ISSUE**

**BEST EDUCATIONAL GARDEN IN VICTORIA
PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS BOOST STEM SKILLS
EXPLORING FAITH, GRACE AND POSITIVE ACTION
PERFORMING ARTS PROMOTING LIFE SKILLS**

Delivering on what matters most

Principal's Message



In August 2016 more than 100 members of our community participated in an appreciative inquiry of Cornish College to tell us what they wanted us to consider in developing the key strategies of our Strategic Plan 2017 - 2021. The propositions that emerged from that day reinforced the community's commitment to the values and educational philosophy of the College.

First and foremost, our community recognised the importance of students developing their knowledge and skills to both equip them and

enable them to solve real life problems. Our college has been at the forefront in understanding the preparation young people need in order to be engaged citizens, working and participating in a complex and changing world. Literacy and numeracy remain core skills, but we need to extend our students further. The Foundation for Young Australians 2016 report *The New Basics* proposes the 'enterprise skills' that are essential today: problem-solving; communications; financial literacy; critical thinking; creativity; teamwork; digital literacy and presentation skills.

As we approach the end of the school year, I have witnessed our students' various exhibitions of learning, with students from Years 6 to 10, demonstrating the development and application of such enterprise skills. I have spoken with students who shared details of their thoughtful inquiries into many significant concepts, ideas and issues, and saw parents and our dedicated teaching team enjoying the culmination of this valuable learning process.

At Cornish we understand the significance of learning in the domains of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for students today. We place a strong emphasis on STEM across all year levels through curriculum development and improvement in science and mathematics, integration of technological studies in the curriculum and offering specific electives through our Years 9 and 10 Breadth Studies program. Students' interests in STEM are further encouraged through activities such as lunchtime clubs and professional partnerships that we have developed to access external industry expertise - see our feature to find out more on pages 6 and 7. We also offer a variety of extension activities, particularly in mathematics, organised through our enrichment and extension program, *Imagine*.

Our community was also clear at our appreciative inquiry that they wanted Cornish to focus on its environmental credentials. Community members wanted us to 'walk the talk' and we have since engaged Cherry Energy to assist in reducing our energy consumption. They installed LED lights throughout the College and significantly extended our energy from solar, with additional solar panels over the Kerry Bolger Centre and the gymnasium. As a result, these investments have more than halved our electricity consumption from the grid and daily energy costs.





Energy usage:

- October 2017 – 800 kWhs a day
- October 2018 – 360 kWhs a day

This represents a **55% reduction** in our energy usage and costs, which is a fantastic outcome for the College, with just under 15,000 kgs of CO₂ emissions saved.

Daily energy cost:

- October 2017 - \$200.00
- October 2018 - \$90.00

Another positive is that our solar system now generates rich energy data that our students can use within the curriculum, this can be used to support student learning with real world information. To get complete energy freedom, or an 'off grid' scenario, we need to be able to store this energy for use outside of sunlight hours. While this is possible, it is just a little too expensive at present. We look forward to planning for this exciting next phase as the cost of storing energy becomes achievable for the College.

It is clear that the opinions shared during our appreciative inquiry two years ago still hold true today. Many parents have taken the opportunity to meet with me this year during regular small group meetings over coffee, and have reiterated the reasons for choosing Cornish College are for our values, our educational philosophy and size. We place a high value on knowing our students and each year level is based in a cluster of classrooms with common areas. The completion of the construction of our new Senior Studies Centre in winter 2019 will see the delivery of contemporary learning and informal study spaces designed to suit the needs of our senior students. Its opening next year will mark another important milestone in the life of Cornish College and the delivery of quality learning and academic care in our unique setting.

As we continue to deliver an innovative curriculum and put children and young people at the centre of everything we do, we see our students developing vital skills and knowledge for future success. More than this though, we see them develop into incredible humans that live the Cornish values both within our school and beyond. As Cornish graduates, our Class of 2018 are young adults who are now going on to tertiary education and into employment with the capabilities, and the motivation, to make a positive difference in the world. Together, we can feel proud of the difference our educational experience and strong community makes. I leave you with the powerful words of this year's Valedictorian, Zach, who summarised what a Cornish education means when he said "Cornish treats you like a better person, until you become one".

Ms Vicki Steer
Principal



News in brief



BEST EDUCATIONAL GARDEN IN VICTORIA

and the awards don't stop there

Recognition of the breadth and depth of learning opportunities provided by the Cornish College EcoCentre keeps coming and we have been announced as State Winners at the Victorian Schools Garden Awards, for Prep to Year 12 schools.

The centre also picked up the Regional Victorian Schools Garden Award for Most Engaging Student Garden for Learning, despite there being an increase in the number of entries in this popular category. Both awards follow hot on the heels of the Dandenong Sustainable Community Award that the EcoCentre won earlier this year.

Deputy Principal, Nicola Forrest explains how the EcoCentre is supporting the curriculum across the year levels: "We're delighted that the educational opportunities provided by EcoCentre have been recognised by this State award and are excited by plans to expand the learning further. Prep to Year 10 students can already engage with the centre to connect conceptual understanding to real life spaces and purposes. The EcoCentre also supports VCE Environmental Science and Breadth Studies electives for Years 9 and 10 students. We're now working with Monash University to develop opportunities for students to gain deep understandings in science, technology, engineering and maths, through an 'Internet of Things' pilot project, which launches in 2019."

Principal, Ms Vicki Steer, said: "This award recognises the significant effort put in by students and staff to develop an educational garden

and outdoor learning space for all year levels, from ELC to Year 12. The breadth of learning opportunities is outstanding with an aquaponics system, enclosures for chickens, ducks and guinea fowl, bee hives, vegetable and native plant gardens, worm farms and composting for example. I would like to congratulate everyone involved and invite the wider community to visit and find out more about this incredible asset to our school."

And the accolades don't end there. Food Technology students were rewarded for their hard work as they prepared cupcakes, biscuits and slices for the Dandenong Show. Their sweet treats earned them a range of prizes across a number of categories in the Art and Craft competition and, overall, Cornish came third in the Secondary School section.

Food Technology teacher, Ms Lisa Lang, said: "I would like to congratulate all of the students who participated in producing a baked product for the Dandy Show exhibition. You should be proud of your efforts."

Students also took a selection of products grown in the EcoCentre for the horticulture competition categories. Awards included a second place in the 'vegetable grown above the ground' category and students proudly displayed a wide range of cut herbs including oregano, mint, Vietnamese mint, lemon thyme, pizza thyme and Italian parsley.



DEBATING THEIR WAY TO VICTORY

Congratulations to our intermediate SIS debating team who qualified through rounds of competitive debates to make their way to the finals, and win!

Year 9 students Annabelle, Amelia, Sara and Jordan returned to Cornish as champions after being the affirmative in the debate topic: "Australians should have to obtain a license to vote." Other topics in the intermediate competition included:

- extra-curricular should be included in academic credit
- live exports should be banned
- driving should be taught in schools
- the media should be allowed to report on politician's private lives.



Four teams of four students competed this year, with two in the Junior section (Years 7 and 8) and two in the Intermediate section (Years 9 and 10). During each round of competition this year, a member of a Cornish team has won best-speaker, with Jordan taking the prize in the finals.

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR SENIOR STUDIES CENTRE

There's been a great deal going on progress this semester as builders, Raysett Constructions, have been busy laying the foundations for our new \$4million Senior Studies Centre.

More than 30 trucks came onsite in convoy with fill, which gave the community an idea of the size and shape of the centre for the first time. More recently they returned with concrete as they poured the 1,090m² slab.

Year 10 students Freya and Niall were part of an official event to turn the first sod and will be amongst the first students to enjoy the facility. Asked what they are looking forward to, Niall said he is excited about the capability of the new building and the opportunities it will create. Freya said she's looking forward to the collaborative learning space and both agreed that the open nature of the layout will be beneficial "Having teachers so accessible, especially during our senior studies, will allow us to ask questions and share ideas easily."

Head of Senior School, Mr Bradley Phillips, is delighted with progress and said: "The senior school teaching team is excited to see everything is going to plan, which should see our Years 11 and 12 students move in by Semester 2 2019. We're most looking forward to guiding students through their VCE studies in a purpose-built space that better enables collaborative learning and study in a range of flexible spaces for students and staff."

The Senior Studies Centre will have a prime position on the Cornish Campus, adjacent to our Sustainability Centre, overlooking the wetlands. It has been made possible thanks to \$2 million in funding from the Victorian State Government and will offer:

- Flexible teaching and learning spaces to enable formal, informal and small group study
- Technological solutions to reflect future workplace environments and help prepare students for further studies
- Space to connect with friends informally and socially with comfortable common areas featuring fireplaces and home-away-from-home furniture
- Study spaces shared with the teaching team, providing a greater opportunity for better educational, social and emotional support and outcomes.

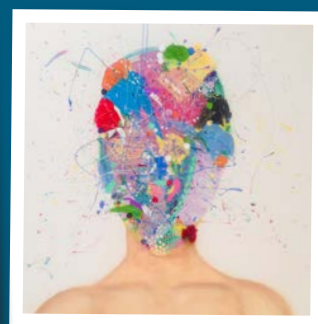
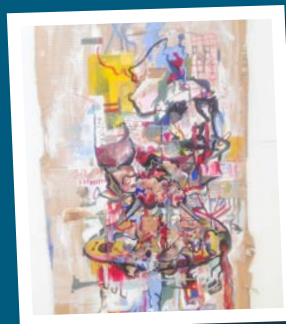


Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, The Hon. James Merlino MP, Member for Mordialloc, Mr Timothy Richardson MP, and the Federal Member for Isaacs, the Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, turned the first sod of earth on the construction site to mark the official start of the build

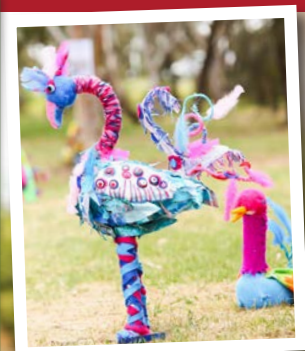


CREATIVITY ON SHOW

Works by talented senior school artists were proudly displayed at the 'Hallway 18' exhibition. This student-led initiative was open to parents and friends of Cornish to view VCE Visual Arts creation, VCE Media photography and videos, and other senior creations. The exhibition was well received and will now be an annual event on our calendar.



The community was also treated to a display of visual arts pieces set along a walking trail in our grounds as part of this year's Art Walk. ELC, Primary and Secondary students' works were included en route and amongst nature.





Developing 'STEM' skills with expert partnerships

A focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

"International research shows that building STEM capacity across the population is critical in helping to support innovation and productivity regardless of occupation or industry. Consistent with this research, industry surveys show that STEM literacy is increasingly becoming part of the core capabilities that Australian employers need. PricewaterhouseCoopers has estimated that changing 1 per cent of Australia's workforce into STEM-related roles would add \$57.4 billion to GDP."

National STEM School Education Strategy 2016-2026, Education Council

The future job landscape is changing. The rate of growth in STEM related jobs - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths – has been increasing at 1.5 times the rate of other jobs¹ and therefore, the importance of developing STEM skills is also increasing. The National STEM School Education Strategy recognises this, aiming to increase the uptake of STEM subjects. This will ensure more school graduates have the skills, knowledge and capabilities needed to go on to tertiary STEM education and be successful in the future jobs market.

One of the ways in which Cornish College is tackling this is by developing partnerships with experts in STEM careers and research. This is part of a strategy to establish an exemplary model for STEM within our curriculum and prepare students for future challenges that don't even exist yet

PARTNERING WITH REAL TIME LEARNING AT BOSCH

Real Time Learning hosts STEM workshops for upper primary and middle school students (Years 5 to 8) in industry locations that are facilitated by industry professionals and engineering postgraduates and undergraduates.

Students are required to demonstrate they have an interest in how things work and making things, as well as a willingness to collaborate, during an interview process for this program. Selected students then take part in 'tinkering' workshops, so named because tinkering is a valuable way of learning by doing.

Luke Kerr, founder of Real Time Learning, explains "We focus on 'fit' for the workshops, for example is this student curious about how things work, do they like to tinker? This is critical as students are not explicitly told what to do and are encouraged to pursue learning they are most passionate about. Students typically grow in confidence

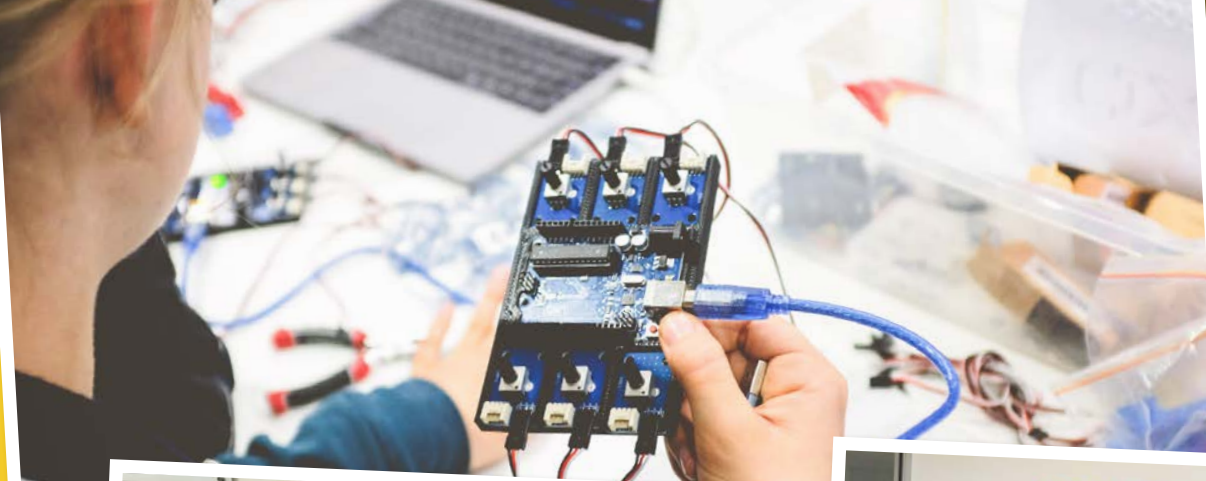
whilst getting a better appreciation for what opportunities can come as a result of taking up a career in engineering."

The program brings students together from different schools at Bosch. During their time, they learn how to:

- Build a robot
- Build a micro controller and how to code it
- Design material in CAD and 3D print
- Create Augmented Reality.

They also gain exposure to online tools, such as the project management tool Trello, which help them to collaborate during and between the sessions with each other.

In 2019, some students who have been part of this program will take on a role as Student STEM Facilitators. These students will work with teachers and other students as we expand coding in the curriculum through the use of Micro bits and Arduino as tools for data collection, analysis, problem solving and automation.



PARTNERING WITH MONASH UNIVERSITY - INTERNET OF THINGS, KITCHEN GARDEN (IOTKG)

Cornish College hosted the inaugural meeting of select schools that are part of an 'Internet of Things Kitchen Garden' project with Monash University, which will launch as a pilot program in 2019.

The IoTKG project aims to provide an evidence based approach to introduce students to STEM, where they can better understand a problem and apply appropriate technology to solutions. The program focuses on STEM in Years 3 to 8 using sensor technology to collect meaningful environmental data in the kitchen garden, to use in scientific inquiries. At Cornish, we also intend to extend this to our EcoCentre and wetlands.

The program aims to build skills in data-centric reasoning and entrepreneurship. Examples of application include:

- Employing sensor technology with sensors detecting that there is not enough moisture in the soil, and starting a process for automatic watering.
- Discovering the optimal conditions for plant growth, investigating growth speeds, yield or health.

By delivering STEM education in a way that engages with students' interests and demonstrates how these skills can intertwine with their lives, students will develop meaningful connections and deeper understandings.

STEM graduates cite higher order skills in research, logical thinking and quantitative analysis as the return on their degrees; alongside the qualities of creativity, open mindedness, independence and objectivity.²

FOCUS ON STEM BREADTH STUDIES 'ADOPT AN ENGINEER'

In Breadth Studies, Years 9 and 10 students self-select courses, allowing them to explore their interests and discover new skills and passions. Through another partnership program with Real Time Learning, the 'Focus on STEM' class adopted an engineer. Monash University Engineering student Akash Ramaswamy joined the team to provide significant support and extension for students who are highly able in this area.

This offers a special opportunity for both Cornish and undergraduates. Akash has gained valuable industry related work experience, whilst students and teacher, Mr Gary Morton, have benefited from drawing on his expertise and passion. We anticipate that this partnership will continue in 2019.

These programs are not designed to promote coding and robotics alone. They aim to develop deep understandings and problem solving skills by connecting student learning to real world problems. There is great value placed on collaboration, creativity and curiosity and students gain an understanding and appreciation of how the modern world works so they can meet the challenges of the future.

Luke Kerr from Real Time Learning suggests in the same way we need to prepare the soil for optimum growth conditions as in the IoTKG, we need to cultivate the optimal learning conditions to provide opportunities that awaken a students' latent passions.

Exploring religious worldviews, grace and positive action

As a Uniting Church school, we are committed to building our community on the College values of respect, compassion, integrity and creativity. Cornish College students from Prep to Year 7 participate in Religious Education, and in Year 8 we teach Ethics. Chaplain, Mr Jarrod Davies, explains our approach to sharing a Christian worldview, supporting students as they explore worldview and faith and translating grace into positive action.

“As a Uniting Church school we have a strong conviction with a Christian worldview that is respectfully shared with our students. This begins in the lower primary years with discussions about stories and characters from the Bible to help students better understand Christianity and values. Influential characters demonstrate values or the International Baccalaureate learner profile with Esther and Moses, for example, demonstrating risk-taking and showing what it means to have integrity.

I believe it is helpful to think about a ‘worldview’ rather than religion alone though, and this is a concept we explore with students from Year 5. We begin to

identify that people will see the world differently because we all have different lived experiences that influence us. The emphasis is on exploring students’ own worldviews as well as other religious worldviews, and we compare and contrast these to Christianity. We also include units on ‘Making a Difference’, encouraging our students to consider social justice and community-building issues.

It is important that we respect individuals’ different worldviews and, at Cornish, we firmly believe that children and young people have the capacity and right to make up their own minds about religion. We support them to ask open-ended, respectful questions to help them form their own worldview, in their own time. Here we have people of faith and non-faith, and those who are agnostic. Many have a Christian worldview but we also have families with Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu worldviews.

Our College is strengthened by people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds who share our core values and add to the richness of school life.

As students move into their secondary school years, Religious Education supports the curriculum emphasis on ‘The Big Question’, with students considering the Big Questions of Life. They take a deeper look at selected religious worldviews, and revisit their own. Students also focus on the word ‘advocacy’ and are given opportunities to express this concept via a Make a Difference project.

Throughout the year levels, Religious Education helps students to understand the concept of Grace as an undeserved gift of favour from God to each of us. Students learn that the Christian worldview should inform our actions, leading to positive action, not to earn God’s favour but to bless others unconditionally. There is great congruence then between all of our teachings within Religious Education, adopting the College values and living the motto at the heart of our school ‘Make a Difference’. When we are blessed we want to be a blessing to others and there is no greater joy than that.”

For more information, The Uniting Church in Australia’s Basis of Union can be viewed at: www.uca.org.au/about/basis-of-union.





CHAPEL

Fortnightly chapel services at Cornish College are designed to be fun, engaging, challenging, interactive, and reflective. Students are encouraged to feel that they can be involved in the learning that takes place. A typical chapel service will likely have prayer, a Bible story or passage, music, clips, discussions, links to College values, student leadership and 'dodgy' games.

This year, we introduced our first Community Chapel to provide a space for families, friends and staff to come together to experience a typical Cornish chapel service. We intend to hold Community Chapel services once a term throughout 2019 and extend a warm, open invitation to all who would like to join us.

ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE

We also enjoy an Annual Church service with students from selected year levels and their families. This year we heard from Cam Greenwood, founder of the charitable organisation the Monsta Foundation.

Cam shared his inspirational story of establishing the Monsta Foundation to give back and offer practical support to projects locally and overseas. Every project the Foundation supports has a major focus on sustainability and community empowerment. Offerings from the 2018 Annual Church Service raised over \$650 and Cam said: "We really appreciate the donation to our Foundation. That's fantastic and will go a long way to bringing clean water to six new communities."



CROSS CONSTRUCTION

Make a Difference Week 2017 (better known as MAD Week) saw a group of dedicated students and staff collaborate to create a large cross to erect in our grounds. The collaboration included adding 'stained glass' and the College values to the structure, which was completed this year.

The cross was blessed this semester with the students who created it tightening the final bolts to complete the construction project. The cross is now used for outdoor chapel services with groups meeting there to talk about the Christian world view in a natural, open-air environment. This time and space encourages people to reflect and allows them to process their own thoughts.



Community matters



Getting to know...

Ursula Culleton



"I love Mrs Culleton. She helps people not be silly. She helps the turtles. She always looks after people that get hurt."

"She is fun because sometimes she sprays us with the hose on a hot day."

"Mrs Culleton is really good at reading books and makes silly songs up."

Ask our four and five year olds how they'd describe their Early Learning teacher and it's clear that Ursula is

much loved, having developed strong bonds over the two years she's taught them.

Ursula joined the Cornish teaching team six years ago, shortly after her own children started at the school and tells us more about being part of the Cornish community: "I knew this was the right school for my children before I even got out of the car. I was looking for somewhere that would support and take care of my son, as well as develop him academically. We went on a tour with a Year 10 student and I thought 'that's what I want my sons to be like'. He connected with them in a way that really touched me."

"I knew that I'd also like to help others to have a positive educational experience in this unique environment by working here. I initially joined as an integration aid and I'm now an ELC coeducator with Meaghan Geleit. I love supporting the younger children, they know how to keep it real!"

Asked what she most enjoys about her role, Ursula says: "There are so many aspects I enjoy but a key one is the focus on outdoor learning. To see children out in nature is a joy, and it is beautiful to witness their awe at what they discover. That includes self-discovery as well as what they learn in nature."

"We go out for weekly walks, have outdoor education and a beautiful outside space that used daily. I believe there's huge value for children as they explore the island, climb the 'mountain' with ropes, climb trees or even just play with sticks. They learn, very early on, how to venture safely, under our guidance, and that extends their learning. A stick can be anything, from a walking stick, to a wand, a sword, or a joust. Children use their imagination and self-regulation, learning about boundaries and how to push them."

"Another incredibly special thing is the community and sense of inclusion. Every parent and member of staff at Cornish is happy to talk to you, it's like an extended family. It helps that in the ELC we spend two years with the same group of children. That's because strong relationships are critical to a child's emotional and social development. It means we get to know children so well, understanding their strengths and where they need support. We extend and challenge them, and they still surprise us every day, even as we approach our ELC4 children's graduation. I get very emotional when we get to the end of two years together but I love it when they come back in Prep and visit the ELC in later years."

In her spare time, Ursula is a self-described 'fitness freak', enjoying running, boxing, walking, swimming and anything that gets her heart rate going. This energy is evident as she gets involved in a range of Cornish programs that aim to make a difference to local and overseas communities. Ursula has taken part in the Winter Sleep Out for the last five years and more recently joined Mr Tim Lake and other Cornish teachers to develop a partnership with a school in Timor Leste.

Ursula explains: "I have travelled as part of a teaching trip to Timor for the past three years, teaching English to students and staff in a school we've developed strong links with. I'm now due to travel again in 2019, and this time we'll be taking students as part of the new IMPACCT experience (standing for Immersion, Mission, Partnership, Action, Challenge, Culture, Teaching). I'm beside myself with excitement and am so looking forward to seeing our students connecting with those at the school and further strengthen our international relationship."

It's clear that Ursula values the opportunity to make a difference: "Everyone traveling to Timor lives our motto but this new program gives a great deal back too. Our staff and students will gain a great deal. I'm delighted that my son has been successful in his application to take part and it will be exciting to share this life-changing experience as a parent."





VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

The tremendous dedication of volunteer Tony Girt (better known by all in our Early Learning Centre as 'Big Poppy') has been recognised in the McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards. Tony was selected as a finalist in the awards and honoured for his exceptional commitment and significant contribution to the ELC program.

Tony has been actively involved in our ELC nature education program twice a week for the last nine years... that's over 700 weekly walks! He began volunteering back in 2010 when his eldest granddaughter joined the ELC3 class and he continues to support the program even though all of his grandchildren have now moved into Primary classes.

Head of ELC Jeanette Russel and ELC educator Meaghan Geleit explain more about the value of Tony's contribution: "The children know and love Tony as Big Poppy and at the commencement of each year he spends time interacting with each child, getting to know them. By sharing in the experiences of our weekly walks, Tony helps the children feel safe and supported as they grow in confidence to explore and learn. Being part of the community is important to Tony and on walk days he arrives as parents are dropping off their children, building connections with the parents and younger siblings."

"We have many children who do not have grandparents living close by and Tony has become a substitute grandparent who knows about their family, takes an active interest in their lives and helps them to achieve many milestones in their learning. Tony teaches them how to look after the animals on our property, how to be safe around the edges of the lake or near the fire pit. He supports them as they learn to take risks, climb trees, get stuck in mud or use the rope course. Tony is able to observe the children, knowing which ones need more support or guidance and when they may just need an adult to listen as they talk about their discoveries."

"As teachers, Tony's exceptional commitment has helped to ensure our Nature Pedagogy program's success. We know he will be there, keeping children safe, supporting their learning, anticipating where he can help out." Thank you Tony, we greatly appreciate your support!



CORNISH CONVERSATIONS: PARENTING 101

Cornish parents and parents from the wider community heard from CEO of the Odyssey Program and Inspire for Girls, Jane Higgins, at our recent Cornish Conversations parent seminar.

Jane works with our Head of Middle School, Ms Sarah Dodd, to run both programs with Years 7 and 8 students. The fun and interactive workshops help students learn more about relationships and self-identity as they discuss friendships, respectful relationships, resilience, decision making and how each of us is unique. And, for the students' learnings to have a better chance of success, Jane shares similar messages with parents, so they can support their children through what can be a challenging life stage.

Jane's presentation took parents through supports they can put in place to guide children through preteen and teenage years. Attendees valued her advice which included a range of strategies, such as educating yourself on the teen world, play Fortnite for example or use Snapchat! The world has changed significantly in one generation so these are ways to better understand what it is like to be a teenager in 2018. Jane also stressed the importance of researching and reading or listening to podcasts about parenting and using the school's library of Parenting books. We couldn't agree more and welcome all parents to visit the CLIC and speak to our Library team about the books and resources we have that can help.

Jane's final words of advice are something we hope everyone takes head of "Be kind to yourself, forgive yourself if you stuff up!"

Cornish Conversations are a joint venture between the College and the Parents' Association, to support parents as they in turn support their children to tackle life's challenges. Future dates are published on our website www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au or via Facebook @CornishCollege



Performing for a productive life

'The true purpose of arts education is not necessarily to create more professional dancers or artists. (It's) to create more complete human beings who are critical thinkers, who have curious minds, who can lead productive lives.'

Kelly Pollock

Each Cornish student is unique, and their desire to be involved with performing art different. We know that performing arts is not just for the 'dramatic' or the 'storyteller'. In fact, we know that the majority of our students will never directly enter a career in the arts industry.

So why are we passionate about the Performing Arts?

As with all projects that have an end result, it is the work that goes on prior to get that point, the process, that we as performing arts teachers are most interested in. Picture the iceberg with the production, song, or dance being the bit sticking out of the water. The huge big lump underneath that supports the rest is where the magic happens.

All this begins in the classroom. In a fast paced world such as ours where decisions are made and expected almost instantly, a Performing Arts classroom offers students the opportunity to improvise, try things out, take risks, fail, then try again in a safe environment.

A performing arts classroom is not like your average classroom. It seldom has chairs and desks, and may be filled with instruments, lengths of material, discarded household items that have found new purpose, or pin boards full of last week's ideas. It's often noisy and busy. If you were to bustle by, the untrained eye may well see what looks a little chaotic. However, if you were to stop and look a bit closer, you will see a hive of negotiation, leadership, risk taking, creativity, group dynamics and communication. Similarly, if you were

to ask a student what they are doing at any particular moment they will tell you the exact task they are engaged in; that they are going over a part that didn't work the first time, trying to negotiate some idea with their group, nutting out the end 'cause it just doesn't make sense', going over criteria to make sure they've covered it all, exploring, experimenting and renegotiating.

'Creativity boils down to making the best choice. Every day we make thousands of choices. Creativity to me could be defined as finding and making the best decision, not the easiest, not the first, not the typical or traditional, but the best.' Beth D. Slazak

It's at that moment of 'busy' that students are submerged in layering and transferring knowledge from other subjects; a movie they've seen, a moment in history they've studied, a conversation they've had, an emotion they've felt, often without realising until they reflect later on.





The potential lawyer will require the confidence and ability to persuade, the potential sports coach will be required to project their voice and inspire others, the future scientist and inventor will require creativity to discover new solutions to sustained problems, the future social worker or teacher will require empathy and emotional intelligence, the future surgeon has developed their spatial and kinaesthetic intelligence. Each of these essential qualities are practiced, nurtured and experimented with in the Performing Arts experience at Cornish.

'The Arts enable students to develop their creative and expressive capacities by learning about the different practices, disciplines and traditions that have shaped the expression of culture locally, nationally and globally. Students are both artist and audience... The Arts present ideas that are dynamic and rich in tradition... Students are entertained, challenged and provoked to respond to questions and assumptions about individual and community identity, taking into account different histories and cultures. The Arts contributes to the development of confident and creative individuals...' Victorian Curriculum.

Ms Lauren Ziegler and Mr David Atkins
Performing Arts Drama and Music teachers



Cornish Collegians News

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST COLLEGIANS

The Class of 2018 have just finished their final exams and we hope are feeling proud of the commitment they have shown to their education. This term, Cornish acknowledged them at various events which included welcoming them to the Cornish Collegians as official Cornish Alumni. Robbie Boag (Class of 2015) attended the school assembly to gift the new Collegians their Alumni pin. The pin is engraved with the Cornish Collegians' tree and Robbie explained "This tree symbolises the roots which you have left here on the campus, as well as the growth that you have achieved here at Cornish, and will continue to achieve in the future."



Life in the fast lane

You may remember Luke Lineham's name from the scoreboard, when as a student, he continually blitzed the field in swimming. Whether it was his own age group, or age groups up to six year levels above, he certainly made a name for himself in the pool.

We spoke to Luke (Class of 2015) recently about how he continues to make waves at Cornish today. "I remember swimming at a house sport event in Year 7. I competed in every event; Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. I won them all" he says with a smile. Mr Andrew Goodman, Head of Sport and Cocurricular, taught Luke and said "His ability was right up there with the best. He broke many records at school and in Southern Independent Schools competitions. In fact, he still holds eight Cornish records.

Luke describes himself as 'chill,' and perhaps it was this 'chilled' approach led to his post Year 12 journey. After seeing Luke chilling in the Year 12 common area, Deputy Principal, Ms Nicola Forrest, saw an opportunity for Luke to make his mark on our 100 acres. After a conversation with Property Manager Mr Tom Humphreys, Luke was put to work, and it didn't take long for Mr Humphreys to request he stay on as a member of the team. "He had a passion for vegetables, propagation and aquaponics, and embodied the Cornish approach to sustainability with an interest in recycling."

In a matter of weeks he'll finish an apprenticeship in General Gardening with his practical work being undertaken here at Cornish. He has focused on the EcoCentre development, working alongside current students to advance the EcoCentre and enhance learning opportunities.

When not at Cornish, Luke is still swimming, training seven days a week, as a member of both Mordialloc Life Saving Club and Bayside Swimming Club.

Luke began swimming competitively at 12 years old, and recalls fond memories with family always close to the water. This history with water means that Luke has never been afraid of it, "I know that I have 2 to 3 minutes of breath in me, and so I trust myself in the water." This is to the frustration of Luke's competitors. "If they're looking tired, don't show them you are too." Luke takes heed of his father's advice, and remains composed when others clearly show their exhaustion. "I can psych them out...I'm quick, but not explosive, and I enjoy the grind."

As for Luke's future, he'll swim as long as he is able to, and professionally, he'll upcycle a parent-donated hot house, to create a variety of aquaponics systems, for vegetables and freshwater fish. So it seems he'll never be too far away from the water.





CLASS OF 2017 - 1 YEAR REUNION

We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2017 back for your first year reunion. Look out for invitations over the Christmas period.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday 15 March,
approximately 4.00pm
onwards

JACK JOINS IN WITH GOLF

Jack Kiddell (Class of 2017) supported Cornish's inaugural Golf Day held in August at the Keysborough Golf Club. The wet weather didn't stop anyone from making the most of the day, with teams hearing from guest speaker, Australian professional golfer and 1999 Australian Masters winner Craig Spence, before heading out on to the course.

After some 'varied' performances throughout the day - particularly from our teachers' team who finished rock bottom (perhaps the less said the better!) - event sponsors, Hunter Industrial, were eventually crowned the winners.

Jack (pictured third from left) joined a team with current Cornish parent Dale, and Cornish father and son duo Michael and James.

Thanks to the wider community for supporting this event too and to all of our sponsors who helped to raise funds for the Senior Studies Centre. Special thanks to Gold Sponsors Driver; Coastal Bus Services, Silver Sponsors; South Eastern Cleaning Services and Bronze Sponsors; Hunter Industrials, Noone, Choice Flooring by Smiths and NGS Super.



MEET YOUR INTERIM ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Since the establishment of the Cornish Collegians alumni association in October 2017, we have been very fortunate to have been guided by a dedicated interim committee. Please meet the committee:

- Robbie Boag (Class of 2015)
- Kath Kiddell (Class of 2015)
- Eliza Wilton (Class of 2015)
- Mary Parker (Former teacher)
- Vicki Steer (Cornish College Principal)
- Karen Dew, née Fersterer (Class of 2002)
- Kelly Williams (Class of 2002)
- Rhiannon Matthews (Cornish College Community Relations Manager – not pictured)
- Martin Massey (Cornish College Business Manager – not pictured)

Thank you to Mary Parker for supporting the College by managing the ever-increasing archives. Mary is now leaving the committee and planning to spend time with family and travel in 2019. We really appreciate your support Mary!



If you are interested in joining the committee, and/or supporting the Cornish Collegians by mentoring students or assisting College programs, such as music or drama performances, please get in touch at alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au.

A sense of community

Thanks to our wonderful Parents' Association, members of the Cornish community enjoyed some key events with likeminded people this semester. Planning is now well underway for the next big event, the Cornish College Twilight Market and Fair on Friday 22 March 2019 – be sure to save the date so you can join us there!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION GREAT GATSBY BALL

With a Great Gatsby theme, the school community got into the spirit of the 1920s. The organising committee put on a glittering night with a flapper girls dance routine, music from the Something Borrowed duo and an auction with the help of Buxton Real Estate.

The PA is kindly making a donation from the funds raised to the Senior Studies Centre building project and thanks go to sponsors Whitestar Group, McLeod Trees and Prime Group for their generosity, as well as that of all prize donors and attendees on the night.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Events like these happen thanks to people who generously volunteer their time and skills to put support the Parents' Association and they would love to hear from people who can support future projects or events. All offers of help are appreciated, whether they are big or small.

So, if you are a current parent, past parent, former staff member or student, or a friend of Cornish and would like to get involved, or if you are someone who could offer sponsorship or donations and help to make the next Cornish College Twilight Market and Fair a success, please contact: pa.president@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION LADIES' LUNCHEON

The third Ladies' Luncheon was a sell out with mums, grandparents, staff and friends of Cornish coming together for lunch at Sandringham Yacht Club. Attendees heard tips on how to simplify life from guest speaker and professional organizer, Robyn Amott of Bless this Mess, enjoyed good food, fashion, shopping and pampering.

Sponsors Myer Fountain Gate brought giveaways for everyone and pampered ladies with free beauty sessions, whilst Cornish Parent and Director of The Styling Business, Toni Newman, treated everyone to a fashion show (with the help of some brave, risk-taking Cornish mums who modeled beautifully). One person from each table of ten also won a beauty hamper from Liberty Belle valued at \$366 each! Thanks go to the organising committee, the sponsors and many companies who generously gave their time or gifts to help raise funds for the school.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Parents' Association is now planning a major community event with the Twilight Market and Fair at Cornish College on Friday 22 March 2019.

The twilight market will feature stalls with a wonderful selection of artisan gifts, homewares, accessories and more.

The fair will include major rides, side-show alley, family fun and entertainment, sporting activities, gourmet food and much more.

Congratulations and thanks goes to India from Year 5 who entered an art competition to design a poster for the Twilight Market and Fair. India's design won and she wins an unlimited ride wristband and meal voucher for the event.

Add the Twilight Fair and Market to your diary and keep track of the event on Facebook at bit.ly/CornishCollegeTwilightMarketFair. We look forward to seeing you there.



FRIDAY 22
MARCH 2019