

THE DIFFERENCE



CORNISH
COLLEGE

Summer 2022 Edition

A celebration of courage / Richard Cornish /
New Song Competition / Reconciliation Action Plan /
Focus on Sustainability

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Contents

Editorial	
From the Principal	1
Features	2
A celebration of courage	
Richard Cornish	
Retiring staff	3
ACEL Fellowship	4
2021 VCE Results	5
Giving Voice to ADHD Awareness through Research	
Design Futures	6
Blue Day	
Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant	7
Reconciliation Action Plan	
Nesting Box Project	8
Ration Challenge	
New Song Competition	
Timor-Leste program	9
Seeds in space	
Focus on Sustainability	10
Uniform redesign	11
From the Archives	
Student Success	12
Cornish Collegians	13
Community News	16

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Front cover image:
Zebedee Howell, Year 10

Editorial

I write this editorial with a sense of *déjà vu*, recognising that many of the disruptions brought about by the pandemic in 2020 have continued to plague us throughout 2021. On the one hand, lockdowns have caused frustration and heartache in necessitating the cancellation of in-person events and for our beautiful campus grounds to fall eerily silent; on the other, they have prompted us to become flexible and creative in reshaping our educational offerings for an online environment. We hope that the challenges of the past two years are largely behind us and that the year ahead will be one of renewal, reconnection and celebration.

Our feature articles for this summer edition of *The Difference* are penned in the spirit of reflection, first with a piece on the legacy of campus founder Richard Cornish whose bold vision for a unique learning environment rests behind the model of learning on offer today. Second, we take the opportunity to formally farewell and celebrate the contributions of several long-serving members of staff who have made a sizeable impact upon life at Cornish. We trust that you find their personal achievements, reflections and amusing anecdotes to be of interest.

We are delighted to report on numerous student successes and innovative learning experiences in the form of fundraising events, community engagement and real-world environmental projects. We provide a snapshot of the *Class of 2021* VCE results and insight into the Design Futures pilot program. There are also updates on the new uniform, archival collections and our *Reconciliation Action Plan*.

As ever, we are pleased to share with you the successes of Cornish alumni making a difference through their respective career pathways. In this edition, we invite you to read about two inspiring young women in the early stages of their careers within the sciences. Building strong connections with alumni remains a priority and we will continue to expand this network as we enter an exciting phase of College development.

So, we embark upon 2022 refreshed and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead. Over the coming months, we look forward to reconnecting with the community and celebrating what we love about Cornish.

If you have feedback about the magazine, we are always keen to hear from you via email communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Leighton Triplow (CC2010)
Editor

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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 pivoting to adapting

The 2020 and 2021 school years taught us a great deal about the need to build adaptive capacity in our young people, and indeed our community. As much as we had hoped 2021 would be very different to 2020 we found ourselves with repeated challenges – but alongside this were also repeated opportunities. Two years of having to be adaptive in schools gave us the opportunity to consolidate our thinking around what schools must do differently to best prepare young people for the future.

In their book, *The Adaptation Advantage*, Heather McGowan and Chris Shipley (2020) tell us, “Adaptability enables us to navigate ambiguous situations and work through challenges even when not all the information is clear or even known” (p 107). At Cornish College, our commitment to a concept-driven, inquiry-based approach to learning evolved from an understanding that we are no longer in a knowledge economy, but in a world where creativity, critical thinking and adaptability hold the key to a sustainable future. 2021 has reminded us of the importance of being flexible and being able to ‘pivot’, but more so of the importance of learning, unlearning and relearning. Whilst flexibility helps us to pivot, adaptability helps us to actually bring about change – “to drop that method, unlearn it and develop an entirely new one” (McGowan and Shipley, 2020).

So, whilst we handled challenges with compassion, integrity and creativity in 2021, we will move forward as a community with courage and ensure that what we have learned will bring about the change that our education system requires. A curriculum and pedagogy that centres on building capacity to develop the ‘adaptation advantage’ will continue to drive growth and improvement at Cornish College.

We are proud to be a school where exploring perceived boundaries of the system is embraced and we are grateful to have a community who has the courage and foresight to work with us on the changes that ensue from our explorations. Our inaugural year of Design Futures 100 was an early and rewarding step in our travels and is an example of an opportunity taken amongst challenges. In 2022, we introduce Design Futures into aspects of our primary school program as we extend our commitment to making a difference today for a sustainable and thriving tomorrow.

In 2022, we look forward to celebrating 10 years of Cornish College with all our community past, present and emerging and continuing to see the opportunities that exist within the challenges as we move from pivoting to adapting.

McGowan, HE & Shipley, C, 2020, *The Adaptation Advantage*, John Wiley & Sons, New Jersey

Nicola Forrest



FEATURES

A celebration of courage

In 2022, Cornish College celebrates its tenth anniversary. From the ‘ashes’ of one school has grown a wonderful new College offering a remarkable program and leading the way as it explores new educational horizons.

Whilst 10 years may be a relatively short time, what has been achieved in those 10 years at Cornish is remarkable and we need to acknowledge the foresight of those who fought for the school in 2011 and 2012 and all those who have contributed to the consolidation and growth of the College over the last 10 years.

We have a number of special community events planned and hope that many of you will be able to join in our celebrations by attending one or all of those events. Given the current challenges, we need to be flexible and agile with dates, so will give you as much forward notice as possible, although it may be shorter than usual.

A major focus of the year will be our 10 Year Anniversary (black tie) Dinner to be held at the Frankston Arts Centre on Saturday 23 July, so please put that date in your diaries now.

We have also recently selected the winners of our New Song Competition (see page page 9 in this issue of *The Difference*) and can’t wait to share two wonderful new songs with you.

We’re also compiling a book about Cornish College, *A Celebration of Courage*, which will be launched at our 10 Year Anniversary Dinner.

Our celebrations will be joyful, embrace the whole community and we look forward to sharing them with you throughout the year.

Richard Cornish

The foundations of a sustainable school

In trawling through the school’s archived multimedia, I have unearthed a VHS from the late ’90s featuring former St Leonard’s College Headmaster, Richard Cornish, whose name is positively synonymous with the origins of the then-named ‘Cornish Campus’. In this recording, he speaks candidly to several senior school students about an overarching vision and the initial decision-making for the campus, from identifying the best possible school location to advancing an educational focus on the outdoors.

You might be interested to learn, Cornish could have been constructed on the opposite side of the Mordialloc Freeway in what is now the Harbour Town (Patterson Lakes) residential development. Subsequent internal discussions considered the exact placement of a small lake and its islands on the property. As for an educational foray into sustainability – which now sits very much at the core of the Cornish ethos – it is evident that such deliberations occupied a slice of the teaching approach from decades past. In fact, the students tell Richard Cornish of their study of on-campus farm animals, gardening projects, the storage of rainwater from the roof, and science-led discussions around the design of a future solar panel and windmill.

When asked, ‘has the campus lived up to your original vision?’ Richard Cornish confidently replies, ‘yes, absolutely, and as time goes by, it surpasses that vision’. Two decades hence, as we celebrate the ten-year milestone of Cornish College as a school in its own right, I think it is fair to say that this initial vision for a unique learning environment continues to grow and thrive. Our archival collections are indeed in lockstep with such developments, affording priceless insight to the school’s beginnings whilst supplying the critical infrastructure to house those stories yet to be written.

Leighton Triplow (CC2010), College Co-Archivist



Richard Cornish shows students the cover of the 1985 Leonardian year book which features an aerial photograph of the recently-purchased Patterson River property.

Retiring staff

Farewell and thank you



(L-R) Pete Westwood, Michael Davis, Nancye Banks and Beverley Wende

In the life of a school, there are frequent comings and goings, mirroring the pulse of a vibrant learning environment. At the close of 2021, we farewell several long-serving members of staff – Beverley Wende, Nancye Banks, Ursula Culleton, Pete Westwood, and Michael Davis – whose contributions to life at Cornish will be felt for many years to come. In an ever-evolving school, their daily presence has seemed somewhat of a constant. Indeed, over the past decade, they have provided continuity for the gradual transition from the St Leonard’s College era of the school to that of the thriving campus which we enjoy today.

In ‘passing the baton’ to the next generation of educators, they have shared some of their personal reflections upon their time at Cornish. While these stories certainly conjure a sense of growth, matching the school’s long-term development, there is also one of continuity around the ideals of striving for a quality education, inspiring our future innovators, and making a difference. Personal musings of this sort help to articulate a school’s narrative above and beyond what can be captured within an ‘official history’; they are the untold stories that validate what we collectively cherish about Cornish.

Beverley Wende

Beverley started at the Patterson River Campus – or ‘Patto’ – in 1990 after answering a job advertisement in the local Chelsea newspaper for a Geography/History teacher for the Years 7 and 8 cohorts. While teaching Geography at the secondary level remained a focus, she also shared several classes with other staff, such as Global Sustainability and The Big Question (TBQ), as the school introduced creative and interdisciplinary subject designs. Across the decades, an emphasis has remained on sustaining a relaxed environment, conducive to focused study, and bringing year levels together through regular whole-school activities, such as the chance to dress up for Olympics-themed sports carnivals.

Perhaps the strength of the Cornish community is best epitomised by the turbulent months surrounding the imminent closure of the school in 2011. Beverley recalls that in the face of tremendous uncertainty, and a rapid decline in student numbers as parents scrambled to find alternative schools, there remained a core group of parents with faith in then Principal, Kerry Bolger, and his vision for the campus’ continuation. A decade on and Cornish’s future has never looked brighter. Beverley now looks forward to a retirement featuring many travels abroad, although, will miss the contact with staff and students.

Nancye Banks

Nancye, like Beverley, commenced at St Leonard’s College in the ’90s, moving to the Cornish Campus in 1999. As the Years 9 and 10 Team Leader for over a decade, she has taught numerous subjects including Accounting, Business Management, Economics, Legal Studies, and Australian Politics. Global Sustainability and Super Studies also form part of this impressive list. What is not noted here, however, is the wider role that Nancye has played in many aspects of student life from chairing meetings of the Student Representative Council to facilitating community service initiatives for the benefit of the local area.

Nancye reflects fondly upon overseas study trips with students and the opportunity to experience life in remote communities. Now taking a so-called ‘gap year’ of her own, she will have much more of a chance to explore our vast country. As she takes a pause in what has been a dynamic career within education, Nancye acknowledges a supportive staff, enthusiastic student cohort, and motivated wider community for their help along the way. We will miss her positive outlook, caring attitude, and infectious sense of humour.



Ursula Culleton

Ursula has served the Cornish community over the past decade, beginning as an Integration Aide for ELC3 in 2013 before assuming the role of ELC Co-educator thereafter. She has valued the opportunity to experience many incredible learning moments of wonder, beauty, and discovery with the young people in her care as

well as sharing in a love of nature. Highlights at Cornish include the Winter Sleepout, *Dhumba-dha biik* sessions, and Outdoor Education classes with Mike Davis and his faithful companion Kosi. The annual visit to Timor-Leste IMPACCT (2016 - 2019) made for a particularly memorable experience above and beyond the boundaries of Cornish College’s 100 acres.

Pete Westwood

Pete has, similarly, contributed to campus life in recent years, beginning his tenure on 4 May (Star Wars Day) in 2015. He has served as a Years 3 and 4 homeroom teacher

with additional excursions into Numeracy, Inclusive Education, and a time as Primary Years Programme (PYP) Coordinator. Countless highlights, alongside co-teachers and the student body, are situated within this impressive '100-acre classroom', such as, developing an EcoKids garden. Pete has also helped students at all levels to develop their numeracy skills. In the immediate short-term, he looks forward to riding a motorbike and taking the time to enjoy the (hopefully) sunny Melbourne weather.

Michael Davis



We step back in time for our final reflection piece to thank an educator who needs little introduction; an individual whose name is, no doubt, synonymous with the culture of Cornish and whose Herculean labour in documenting the school's history in countless photos will have a lasting legacy upon this place.

Michael started teaching at St Leonard's College, Brighton in 1981 before forming one of the seven founding staff of the new Patterson River Campus in 1987. In his first decade at Cornish, Mike taught primary classes before gravitating towards the role of Timetabler and Daily Organiser in conjunction with full-time classroom

responsibilities. In 1999, he took on the Daily Organiser and Primary PE teacher roles as well as serving as the school's District Sport Coordinator until around 2011. More recently, he has taught lower primary and ELC in conjunction with responsibilities as Director of Operations.

Michael and his wife Amanda recently reflected upon a poignant moment within Cornish's expansive 'unofficial history': *'There was a time in the early '90s when an elderly couple would enter the school grounds and perch by the lake. The man would paint whilst his other half would quietly enjoy the peacefulness of the surrounds. Eventually, the man started visiting on his lonesome to sit by the lake and paint. It transpires that his wife had passed away following a battle with cancer. The couple had no connection with the school apart from a simple regard for the peaceful location.'*

We are truly indebted to Michael for recording thirty-plus years of the school's history in images, delighting us with his trusty animal companions, and for his ever-friendly demeanour. It is perhaps little surprise that he hopes to develop KDog Photography and work on his night photography skills during retirement. We look forward to future conversations with Michael about a dedicated 'Mike Davis Collection' within the College Archives in order to catalogue this wealth of priceless material.

Conclusion

The contribution of these five educators, who have devoted so much to the Cornish community, cannot be overstated. Between them, they have inspired generations of students and laid the foundations for a new era of the school moving forward. Their names are firmly etched into the ongoing story of Cornish in the form of documents, multimedia, and anecdotes. So, Beverley, Nancye, Ursula, Pete, and Michael, we thank you for your outstanding service to Cornish and wish you all the very best with your future endeavours.

ACEL Fellowship

The College was thrilled that the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) VIC has conferred an ACEL Fellowship on our Principal, Nicola Forrest. ACEL VIC honours those educational leaders who, in the view of their peers, have made a significant contribution to the understanding and practice of educational leadership.

It is wonderful that Nicola's enthusiasm, passion, vision and leadership of Cornish College have been acknowledged in this way. The College also recognises the support of other staff at Cornish, as the judges themselves noted this year, these awards require collaborative teamwork.

'As we celebrate the achievements of these outstanding educational leaders, ACEL VIC also acknowledges the contributions their colleagues have made in supporting the awardees and their leadership. Without teams who actively collaborate and encourage educational excellence, inspirational and strategic driven leadership is not possible. Awards are presented to individuals; however, the leadership teams and colleagues of all awardees should be proud of the collective achievements which are also acknowledged by ACEL VIC.'

Cornish College community congratulates Nicola on this prestigious, educational leadership award.

2021 VCE Results

We congratulate and farewell the *Class of 2021* – a group of agile, independent and confident young adults who have proven their ability to be resilient and find creative solutions to problems.

Snapshot of VCE results

- Over 25% of Cornish College's VCE students were placed in the top 15% of the state with an ATAR of 85 or above, with the three highest ATARs above 90, placing those students in the top 10% of the state
- Highlighting our school's commitment to continuous improvement, over 50% of the cohort achieved an ATAR in the top 25% of the state. Further, in 2021 our mean and median ATAR and study scores continue to increase to be our highest to date
- The 2021 Cornish College Dux is Sara Scully with an ATAR of 96.50. Joining Sara with scores above 90 were Jonathan Wood and Silvan Howell

- Congratulations also to the students who achieved Study Scores above 40, which places them in the top 8% of the state for those subjects, including perfect Study Scores of 50 in German for Mathilda Maas and Health and Human Development for Eliza Mason
- In addition to all 55 students successfully achieving their VCE, we congratulate Mackie Edwards, Lily Manfre and Sara Scully who achieved the VCE-Baccalaureate. This provides additional recognition for students who choose to undertake the demands of studying both a higher-level mathematics and a language in their VCE program along with achieving a study score above 30 in English

We thank the *Class of 2021* for their contributions to Cornish College and will watch with great interest as they continue to make a difference throughout their lives.



(L-R) Eliza Mason, Jonathan Wood and Lily Manfre



(L-R) Mackie Edwards, Mathilda Maas and Silvan Howell



Giving Voice to ADHD Awareness through Research

Congratulations to Year 6 student Lukas Barker, pictured with his mum Heike, who has undertaken research on ADHD as part of his PYP Exhibition Inquiry.

Not only did Lukas survey over 180 students to receive input from those with ADHD, but proceeded to analyse their answers and prepare a detailed summary paper. He then took the initiative to contact deans of education at universities to share his research. As a result, the story has been shared in the media and both Monash University and Melbourne University, inviting him to appear on several panels and speak to students within teaching courses.

This is an incredibly powerful piece of work which showcases what happens when you truly allow for authentic student agency and voice. Heike proudly explains, 'Cornish's motto is "Make a Difference", so it is exciting to know that Lukas is able to play a small part in making the next generation of teachers more aware.'



Jessica Tetley, Year 11, reflects on her experience in this pilot program



Design Futures is a subject that allows us, as learners, to explore our chosen interests and, with the help of our learning stewards, work toward outcomes that will help us throughout our lives. It has helped us learn, create, design and, most importantly, explore. We have found a new way of thinking, creating and even learning. Design Futures is not only a subject that helps us explore our different learning styles, but helps us grow as people.

From completing 100 hours of Design Futures, we have had the opportunity to apply our learning to make a difference and contribute to a sustainable future. It focused on self-authored deep inquiry into an area of interest or aspiration to sit alongside our VCE programs. From our selected area of inquiry we learned to view our thinking through different systems, for example, systems-thinking and design-thinking. To complement this thinking, we developed communication skills to seek and express our ideas

and learnings. We were encouraged to push our learning beyond the prescribed boundaries of a VCE Study Design and challenge the status quo of schooling and education – to seek more than a score.

We worked independently and collaboratively with peers, learning with our stewards and designated industry mentors to create a student-led curriculum that accommodated deep inquiry and transferable skills and understandings. Through our newfound understanding we *make a difference* by giving back to others in a self-determined way.

Design Futures has evolved my idea about wanting to train for netball at school into helping people with challenges discover their own fitness and wellbeing journey. This has helped me grow as an individual and, with the help of design-thinking, systems-thinking and the understanding of connections, uncover my own path. My idea now is to continue to educate everyone, as well as developing my personal health and record it to create a healthy, personal and achievable program that others will be able to connect with.

Design Futures is a journey that looks at different aspects of understanding and creating. Throughout our 100 hours of Design Futures we, as learners, have slowly captured our understanding and created our own stories. Although stories usually have an end, Design Futures has shown us that, even though stories can start at the same point, they can all have different adventures and end points. Each new understanding is just a chance for a new chapter – never an end.

It allows students to explore many different interests and directions. But the one thing that connects us all is that we've all learned so much about ourselves – that is something I've never found in a school book.

Blue Day

The Cornish community has supported Lentara Uniting Care – a not-for-profit agency that provides support to asylum seekers awaiting visa approval – through our Blue Day initiative. Students enjoyed dressing in blue as well as donating items including stationery, canned food, cleaning agents and hygiene products towards the cause. Congratulations to our Year 7 to 9 Make a Difference (MAD) Leaders and Social Justice Leaders for guiding this year's activities.



Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant



We are delighted to have recently received a Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant.

The Victorian Government, through the Department of Land, Water and Planning – Victorian Landcare Program, is funding these grants to provide young Victorians in schools, groups and communities an opportunity to participate in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground projects, and environmental learning activities that provide both environmental and educational outcomes, as well as health and social benefits.

This grant will enable the College to rejuvenate the wetlands with the planting of native trees, which will encourage a greater diversity of wildlife including rare species of birds such as the Latham's Snipe. It will also improve the overall quality of the habitat and enhance the health of the ecosystem. Cornish's 100 acres of natural parkland host over 100 species of birds. Find out more about *Cornish College's Biodiversity Master Plan 2020 – 2025* on our website.

Reconciliation Action Plan



After twelve months of meetings, conversations, consultations and discussions we were very pleased to be advised by Reconciliation Australia that our

Reconciliation Action Plan had been approved. This is a very important and exciting step for Cornish College as we begin the journey and confirm our commitment to reconciliation.

The Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group is motivated group of teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, students

and community members. They have worked tirelessly in understanding where our community is, at present, and implementing new reconciliation initiatives.

They have identified 18 actions, some of which are ongoing and others already completed. These actions will play out in the classroom, around the school, and with the community with a focus on:

- Relationships
- Respect
- Opportunities

Cornish's Reconciliation Action Plan is a dynamic living document that will be systematically reviewed and updated, ensuring we are living by and meeting our Vision for Reconciliation.

Vision for Reconciliation

Cornish respects that authentic reconciliation involves acknowledging Traditional Owners, the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation, as the original custodians of the land in which our College is situated. We respect their relationship with this land and are committed to caring for this land in which we learn and those who come here now and in the future. Reconciliation also requires us to support healing through the truth-telling and acceptance of Australia's history. This acknowledges the sustained impact of colonisation and the resulting social and cultural dispossession on Australia's First Peoples. It requires respectful engagement with their communities – learning about, embracing and celebrating their long and rich cultural history and heritage and their contributions to our society. It means standing for equality and justice; and supporting a voice for Australia's First Peoples and their path to self-determination.

We believe education is a powerful way to shape people and society. We have a moral obligation to recognise and meaningfully embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content, histories and perspectives into the curriculum and daily practice, and share this with the wider school community, to help lead our community through the reconciliation process and make a difference to the lived experience of Australia's First Peoples.

Cornish's Rings of Sustainability represent our philosophy of sustainable thinking and of taking action. It supports walking the path of reconciliation and learning from Australia's First Peoples. We honour Australia's traditional custodians through our sustainable thought and action, to ensure people, cultures, cities and our natural environment work in balance for a sustainable future for all to share.

Nesting Box Project

In the face of challenging lockdowns over the past two years, Year 6 teacher Sam Millar has been on the lookout for new ways in which to engage her students within an online environment. She was particularly intrigued by the Collins Street Peregrine Falcons livestream and considered how a similar project might be pursued at Cornish. At a time when our ability to connect with nature is significantly reduced and reliance on technology greatly increased, livestreaming projects of this sort appear to bring joy, entertainment and education to the community at large.

In October of 2020, the Cornish College Nesting Box Project was borne out of conversations with Year 5 students around constructing nesting boxes in one of the existing hollows on our grounds. One student even suggested that a livestream could enable the community to observe this project at any hour of the day or night. Then, as our students commenced Year 6 in 2021, they entered a process of observation, data collection, experimentation and research via the construction of sixteen nesting boxes from recycled materials. We were fortunate to receive the support of specialist STEM primary teacher Erica Smith together with other staff members.

We were thrilled to discover a pair of Rainbow Lorikeets inspecting one of the nesting boxes, delighting in the fact that they would cheekily pop their heads out of the opening and peer down at us. We noticed that they had started to incubate their four eggs and it was not long before a tiny chick appeared. Although we were momentarily concerned that our human intervention might have led to the parents abandoning the nest altogether, they eventually returned to care for their chick—a perfect end to a rich learning experience.

Ration Challenge

In 2021, we had almost 100 Cornish students, staff and parents participate in the Ration Challenge. Each participant lived off the food rations similar to those a refugee has access to for a week, thus providing participants with a deeper understanding of the hardship refugees face.

Congratulations to our wonderful, resilient Cornish community who participated in this initiative. The \$11,232.39 raised will now help to save lives by providing emergency food, healthcare, and life-saving support to those hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. We are extremely proud of your determination to ‘live’ our school motto: Make a Difference!



New Song Competition

One of the exciting initiatives for 2022, as we look forward to the next ten years and beyond with maturity and understanding of who we are as a community, was the commissioning of a new school song.

A school song is a way of capturing the values and traditions of a school in a musical format. It is, essentially, a musical ‘celebration’ of the school, suitable to be performed at a variety of school events.

In the lead up to our 10 Year Anniversary celebrations, the College was delighted with the quality and number of entries in our recent New Song Competition and so appreciative that members of our community had taken the opportunity to ‘make a difference’ in a musical sense. We also loved the way that all the entries had incorporated references to Cornish College into their words.

We are delighted to announce that we have now selected the winners of the New Song Competition.

- Student category - *Home To Stay* written by Reagan Morel, Year 12
- Adult category- *Make A Difference* written by current parent, Natalie Jack

Our warmest congratulations to both winners and we look forward to sharing these two new songs with you all very soon.



Reagan Morel



Natalie Jack

Timor-Leste program

On Picnic Day 2021 we were proud to hold the inaugural Timor-Leste Colour Celebration, previously known as the Colour Celebration. Cornish College has developed a special and important relationship with the Fatuquero School in Timor-Leste, where Cornish staff and students have undertaken service trips since 2016. Cornish is dedicated to making a difference for the lives of the students and teachers at the school and hold regular fundraising events.

At the Colour Celebration all students and family visitors were asked to bring a gold coin donation, with the total of \$825.35 raised on the day. These funds will make a big difference to the Fatuquero School whether it's through the provision of resources, student scholarships or volunteer teachers.

Fatuquero student scholarships

Every year Cornish is committed to providing two new educational scholarships for students at the Fatuquero school who show a commitment to their ongoing education, have an aptitude for learning English, and come from a situation of financial hardship. These scholarships continue for their entire educational journey, usually starting in Year 8, and continuing until the end of their tertiary education. Secondary students receive US\$100 per year and this increases to US\$250 during one's tertiary years.



Volunteer teachers

Some adults without employment offer themselves to their local school as volunteers to support the education of young people in their community. In 2018, Cornish began supporting volunteers with a modest living allowance of US\$50 per month to encourage their commitment and to acknowledge the significance of their contribution – this support has continued ever since.

Timor IMPACCT Experience

In 2019, Cornish College students participated in the first Timor IMPACCT (Immersion, Mission, Partnership, Action, Challenge, Culture, Teaching) Experience and they returned challenged, changed, and motivated with a new perspective. We look forward to resuming these opportunities in the future, when we're able to safely travel to Timor-Leste again.

Conclusion

Cornish is proudly supporting 12 students on scholarships and we are also supporting one of these volunteers as she studies to become a qualified English teacher.

Contact Tim Lake, via email

tim.lake@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au, if you'd like to be involved in sponsorship.



Seeds in space

Cornish College EcoKids were selected by the One Giant Leap Australia Foundation to send native golden wattle seeds to the International Space Station.

This was in collaboration with the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency. Half of the seeds had lived in space for six months, then returned to Australia in time for Science Week 2021, and the other half stayed here on Earth. This project is supported by the Australian Space Agency and the ‘What’ll happen to the wattle?’ program was offered to schools around Australia and our bid was successful!

Congratulations must go to the following students for their creative input and production of the video part of the application: Belle Connolly, Belle Van Gils, Mikayla

Battas, Isla Gill, Sara Catala Prieto, Lewis Gallardo and Alice Stoessiger, EcoKids in 2021.

The students will be asked to germinate and grow their seeds, recording data about germination and seed growth. The data will then be uploaded to the ‘What’ll happen to the wattle?’ program App. Throughout the program, the One Giant Leap Australia Foundation will run teleconferences and provide educational support to the students.

This twelve-month to two-year project will result in the creation of a nationwide map identifying the location of Australia's space wattle trees. Truly, a historic opportunity for our EcoKids!

Focus on Sustainability

Despite the manifold challenges of 2021, our focus on educating for a sustainable future remains steadfast across the College community.

Our primary students have contributed to the existing body of knowledge around local biodiversity through citizen science activities such as the ‘Frog Census’ and ‘Aussie Backyard Bird Count’. Programs including Global Sustainability and Sustainable Land Management, meanwhile, provide a glimpse of sustainability-led inquiry at the secondary level – photos of which are below.

Class explorations

Our Years 2 and 3 students were delighted to explore the challenge of a ‘sustainable future’ in conjunction with our sister school – Chiben, in Japan – by probing concepts such as that of ‘preservation’ and ‘change’. This collaboration has emphasised the fact that we, as a global community, face many of the same challenges regarding the environment.

For their Primary Years Programme (PYP) Exhibition, our Year 6 cohort have considered a plethora of issues framed around the Rings of Sustainability. The Year 5s have, similarly, taken the Sustainable Development Goals as a basis for identifying an aspect of our world that is ripe for improvement by way of sustainable innovation and design.

Our Year 8s, for their Day of Decades unit, created a simple game in which to survey approaches to sustainability within their respective decade. Students

brainstormed several concepts and events arising from the era before challenging Year 9s to locate and discuss the pros and cons of this particular time period in terms of a sustainable approach.

Campus initiatives

If you walk along the main corridor, keep your eyes peeled for our digital sustainability monitor, displaying the production of energy by our campus solar panels as well as overall energy usage and CO2 savings. Another ongoing initiative is that of our solar cones which work to compost organic material onsite, thereby reducing unwanted transportation costs and additions to landfill.

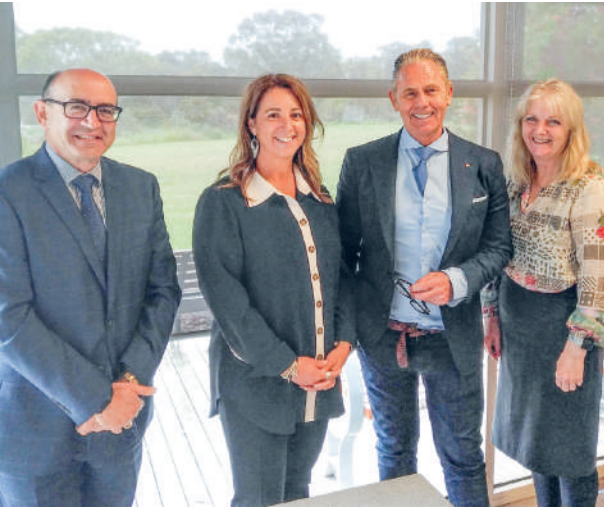


Sustainable and ethical business models

Finally, special mention goes to Isabelle Gardner, who as part of her Design Futures inquiry, has explored various considerations around both sustainable and ethical business models. She anticipates that greater attention towards the state of the environment within large organisational structures will, in time, translate into real-world positive change.



Uniform redesign



Despite the challenges of lockdown, our Uniform Design Committee has held a number of meetings with Jonathan Ward, the designer of our new Cornish College uniform. The design process is now well underway, the design iterations have evolved. Following upcoming community feedback and consultation, we will be close to creating a modern wardrobe with the functionality we are seeking.

Pictured at a recent meeting are (L-R) Michael Farrugia, Managing Director of Noone, Nicola Forrest, Jonathan Ward and Melanie Whitling, General Manager-Sales & Marketing from Noone.

This is an exciting project for the College and an opportunity to design a distinctive and individual new uniform, with a contemporary edge, that will last for many years to come.

From the Archives

It has been another busy six months as Josette Mulcahy (CC2016) and Leighton Triplow (CC2010) catalogue the College’s archival collections. Over that time, they have continued to rediscover priceless material in the form of publications, press clippings, and images. Their attention is particularly drawn to those items which occupy a special place in the early history of Cornish College as we near the tenth year of the school’s inception.

In the 2011 Year Box, they have located a selection of documents which articulate the decision-making and business strategy for Cornish to function as a school in its own right following separation from St Leonard’s College. Deliberations around potential names for the new school, uniform designs, branding guidelines, and a draft school prospectus for new admissions constitute but a few examples from this substantial collection of paperwork.

Multiple newspaper and magazine articles herald the commencement of Cornish College, sporting an array of headlines, such as, ‘Birth of a New School’, ‘Sustainable Creation’, and ‘Fighting Spirit’. It is a comfort to read through these passages of optimistic tone, knowing that our College has continued to evolve and thrive since those early deliberations. It’s also interesting to note that the translation of the draft motto is ‘always striving for better things’.

We look forward to sharing more historical finds of this sort with the wider school community during the next twelve months in celebration of this import milestone. So too will we continue in our task of item digitisation in order to improve accessibility to historical information.



Students form the Rings of Sustainability on the front oval

Special thanks to our 10 Year Anniversary Sponsors





The Principal and Members of the Council of
Cornish College
warmly welcome you to the
Grand Opening

65 Riverend Road, Bangholme
Sunday 12th February 2012



CORNISH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Program booklet from the Grand Opening of Cornish College

A possible logo, motto, and name for the new school

STUDENT SUCCESS



Mateo Ratcliff, Year 4, was highly commended for his story submitted to *Kids News Short Story Competition*. His story *The Hat with No Home* is a sweet story about a lonely hat looking for an owner. The hat then develops a relationship with the wind who helps them in their search, resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship with their new owner.



Ben Banks, Year 9, received the Best Effort Award in Accelerated 1 German from the Victorian School of Languages Distance Education.



Jake Ormsby-Goard, Year 11, received the an Academic Achievement Award for 11 German from the Victorian School of Languages Distance Education.



Charli Davies, Year 11, was a finalist in the Whitlam Institute's What Matters? writing competition this year.

Charli enjoyed the challenge of undertaking this writing task as she has always enjoyed writing, but has never been confident in her abilities. On reflection, she feels this experience provided her with a real confidence boost. She was determined to write something 'real' and feels that she achieved her goal, enjoying the whole experience and proud of the courage it took to attempt something so close to her heart.



In 2020, **Mia Courtie**, Year 9, signed with a modelling and acting agency. She recently participated in kids fashion week, walking catwalks and runways and is fortunate to have been selected for the 2022 show being held in January. Mia was also featured on a movie set as an extra – this was an amazing experience working with Hollywood stars.

She has been shortlisted to represent brands such as Country Road and DECJUBA. Mia is thankful for all the experiences she has been given thus far and can't wait to see what is in store for the future.



Mailli Atkins, Year 10, is a singer and songwriter who explores life, friendship, and ideas through her writing – this was especially heightened during the past two years.

Mailli is a member of the College's Funk Soul Band. In 2021 she decided to record 'In Disguise' and released it on Spotify, this was a fantastic learning experience in how to release music publicly. It was a thrill for her to see repeat listens from as far away as France and the UK!



Class of 2020 - One Year Reunion

It was great to see so many familiar faces at the *Class of 2020* One-Year Reunion on Friday 12 November 2021 and so lovely to come back together and have some fun at Strike Bowling Bayside, after not being able to reconnect for much of the year.

Everyone enjoyed a game of bowling, food and drinks as they caught up with former classmates and teachers and shared stories about their Cornish days. We were also glad to welcome former staff member Gavin Byrt, who welcomed everyone on behalf of the Cornish Collegians Management Committee.



Class of 2016 - Five Year Reunion

We were pleased to welcome alumni to the *Class of 2016* Five-Year Reunion on Friday 26 November 2021. Following a tour of the school, where many memories were rekindled, the event was hosted at the Melbourne Cable Park. It was also great to welcome Principal, Nicola Forrest, and former Principal Kerry Bolger, both of whom were keen to catch up with the *Class of 2016* and find out what they have been up to since they left the College.

Josie Mulcahy (CC2016), President of the Cornish Collegians Management Committee, spoke about the special connection that Cornish students form with each other and the community during their time at school. She encouraged the *Class of 2016* to stay in touch as these friendships and connections are lifelong and will remain with them wherever the future takes them.



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 new 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



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 our community, the application fee for children of Cornish Collegians is waived. Applications can be completed online via www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-information/

Changing lives for the better



Alumna Michelle Johanson (CC2011) attended Cornish from primary school to Year 10 before moving to the Brighton Campus of St Leonard's for Years 11 and 12. Upon finishing school, she studied physiotherapy at Monash University and pursued this across a range of professional

contexts. A deep-seated passion rests behind her career choice to help others make a difference in their lives.

During my years at Cornish, I was able to discover my style of learning and think about how best to make a difference in the wider world. The ability to change lives for the better is certainly something that has followed me in the years since finishing school. Helping people through exercise so that they can live their lives to the fullest resonated with me and I have been fortunate to follow this interest through full-time study and a professional career.

Over the past six years, I have worked as a physiotherapist in private practice, aged care, and now the disability sector. I am particularly fond of the 'Make a Difference' message, which in relation to my specialisation, is to help people live their lives in ways that might not have been possible previously. One of my biggest workplace highlights to date involved helping a previously wheelchair-bound person to walk over 100 metres without stopping.

I have also been able to share my love of basketball with the wider community through playing and coaching representative basketball. I have a clear memory of the competitiveness of staff versus student games at Cornish all those years ago! That passion and competitiveness has never dimmed and I am enjoying being able to support the next generation of basketball stars in Collingwood.

From passion to profession



Dr Jasmin Pender (CC2010) graduated from the Cornish Campus of St Leonard's College before pursuing a career in veterinary science. Here, she shares with us her reflections upon recent professional highlights as well as the influence that Cornish has had upon her work with animals and specialisation within the sciences.

I knew from an early age that a love for animals would result in me working with them for a living; I sincerely believe that being surrounded by animals at Cornish helped to fuel this passion. After completing VCE in 2010, I studied the Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (with Distinction) at The University of Melbourne, graduating in 2016. Since then, I have worked as a small animal general practitioner veterinarian in Melbourne before recently moving to Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

My tertiary education has led to many opportunities, including the chance to seek professional pathways interstate. Given a worldwide shortage of veterinarians, finding a job has not posed a problem; however, deciding upon a suitable and engaging career trajectory is somewhat trickier. For now, I have decided to continue with general practice as I enjoy the day-to-day challenges of that role, yet am cognisant of other subdisciplines worth exploring in the years to come. Some of my university cohort have, for example, branched into research or biosecurity following their earliest years in the workforce.

I believe that the Cornish experience has allowed me to 'think outside the square' and embrace challenges—both of which are vital skills as a veterinarian. I believe that the school excels in encouraging students to follow their interests and is supportive of individual skill sets. In fact, I only discovered my strength in science once starting at Cornish and was encouraged to pursue this area of potential. I am deeply grateful to those staff – especially Dr Marcia Behrenbruch – for sparking an initial interest in the sciences and for laying the foundations of both theoretical and hands-on work. I suspect that I would not be where I am today were it not for the chance to flourish at Cornish.

2022 Cornish Collegians Management Committee

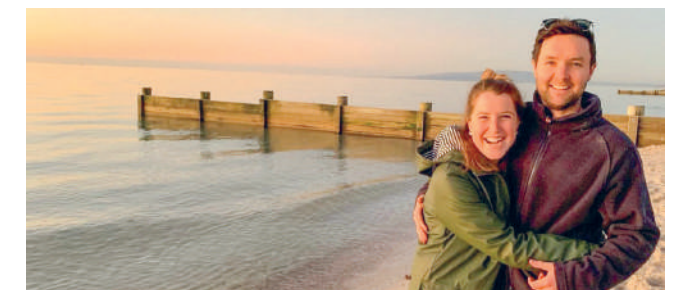
Congratulations to the following Office Bearers, who were elected at the recent Annual General Meeting.

President: Josette Mulcahy (CC2016)
Vice President: Jacqui Gurr (CC2009)
Secretary: Dennis Freeman (Co-opted for 12 months)
Treasurer: Rick Mleczo (CC2015)
Past staff representative: Kerry Bolger (Former Principal)
Committee: Robbie Boag (CC2015), Kath Kiddell (CC2015), Leighton Triplow (CC2010), Alannah Hayes (CC2016), Gavin Byrt (past staff), Louise Berger (CC2010), Catharine Payton (CC2009)

Engagement

Murray – Bourke

Alex (current staff) and Dan on 22 October 2021.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Sharing the joy of literature



Jo Morel started covering books for Cornish when her son started at the school in 2015. At that time, she answered a 'callout' from the CLIC to cover a bag of around twenty books. Upon returning to the CLIC, she noticed that additional books required attention, so offered to repeat the process. Jo has gone on to cover an amazing 165 books!

Jo believes that a love of libraries and reading stemmed from her mother. As an immigrant family arriving in Australia in the '70s, the local library opened up a world of opportunity and gateway to undiscovered fictional lands. She recalls the joy of reading with her parents during childhood and the excitement of choosing one or two books to take home from the library each week. These days, she tends to read via a Kindle device to support sustainable practices, but still treasures the feeling of reading a hardcopy book alongside family or curling up on the couch.

As a working mum, unable to attend as many parent events as she would like, Jo has viewed covering books as a means of supporting the Cornish community. She is delighted to see an array of titles on offer in the CLIC and students engaging in literary experience. Jo appreciates that the ability to read is a foundational skill and one that should never be taken for granted. We thank Jo for setting aside the time to undertake this task and making a difference at Cornish College.

Annual Golf Day

We were pleased to see more than 60 keen golfers enjoy our annual Golf Day held at Southern Golf Club on Friday 26 November. It was a grey, but warm day with a tricky wind to challenge the skill of the players in the 18-hole Ambrose competition. We were most grateful for the support of our generous sponsors who helped make the day a great success.



Course Sponsors



Major Sponsor



Lunch Sponsor



Sustainability Sponsor



Prize Sponsors



10 Year Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 23 July
7.30pm - 11.30pm

Frankston Arts Centre
Black Tie Dinner

- Live music
- 3 course meal
- Silent auction
- Live auction



Upcoming School Tours

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

Thursday 24 March (Twilight Tour)
6.00pm to 7.30pm

Saturday 30 April
9.30am to 11.00am

Thursday 2 June
9.30am to 11.00am

Book online via
www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/discover-cornish

For more information, please contact Admissions on (03) 9781 9008 or via admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Supporting our community businesses

At Cornish, we actively seek to strengthen ties within our College and local communities – the **Cornish College Business Directory** showcases a range of businesses from our parent and alumni communities. This user-friendly directory lists businesses from electronics and business support to wellbeing and leisure. We would encourage all members of the Cornish College 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 +61 3 9781 9000.

<http://businessdirectory.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/>

Alumni Cocktail Party
Friday 27 May
6.30pm - 9.30pm
Cornish College

Class of 2017 Five Year Reunion
Friday 2 September
6.00pm - 9.00pm
Cable Park

Class of 2021 One Year Reunion
Friday 11 November
6.00pm - 8.00pm
Strike Bowling



