

THE DIFFERENCE





Our Principal, Ms Vicki Steer, takes a look back at a significant milestone for College Cornish and a look ahead to the future.

s a relatively new school, we have the benefit of being able to establish events and practices that help build our College culture and reinforce the values that we hold dear. In time they will become valued and memorable College traditions. Accordingly, we began 2017 marking the College's fifth anniversary with our first Foundation Day celebration.

One of the most significant occasions in the life of Cornish was its official opening on Sunday 12 February 2012 by the Honourable Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Federal Member for Isaacs. We held our Foundation Day celebrations on 16 February this year. Our school assembly included singing

'In This Place', a composition of former student Andrew Olzewski. Speeches were given by current and past students, Emily Crooks, Jack Kiddell, Alice O'Sullivan and Eliza Wilton, recounting the Cornish story and their experiences of the earliest moments in the College history. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Cornish and a huge 5th birthday cake was cut by three students, the youngest and oldest and the 700th student enrolled. The students spilled out of the gym into the sunshine, each to receive a Cornish cupcake. There was certainly a festive atmosphere. That evening was the occasion for the adults in the wider Cornish College community to gather and celebrate the

achievements of five years. Over drinks in the Sustainability Centre, looking out over the wetlands, parents, staff and friends, past and present, gathered to reflect on the amazing community effort that brought about the establishment of this wonderful independent school.

At the end of this first semester, the College Council Chairman and I presented Cornish College's Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 and the College's 20-Year Master Plan to the community. Both plans have been developed in consultation with staff, students and parents over the past ten months. A highlight in the process was the attendance of over one hundred people on

a Saturday in August 2016 at our planning summit, to provide input and help shape our plans.

The Strategic Plan reaffirms the College's vision for 'an education as citizens who make a positive difference in contributing to a sustainable future'. Key actions in the next 18 months include: incorporating nature pedagogy into our Learning Master Plan; ensuring continuing success in the VCE for our students; developing our Wellbeing Master Plan; improving feedback and professional learning for our staff; commencing the first building under our new Master Plan; establishing an association for alumni, past staff and

friends of Cornish; and maintaining steady enrolment growth. More information is included on our centre pages.

We look back and give thanks and we look forward filled with our future plans for Cornish College.

Ms Vicki Steer Principal

News Round-up



PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS

team of students have talked themselves to a win, taking home the trophy as 2017 SIS Public Speaking Champions.

Aaron (Year 7), Sara (Year 8), Tierney (Year 9) and Nikki (Year 9) made up the team who each presented two speeches; one pre-prepared and the second impromptu.

Aaron delivered a clever and thoughtful prepared speech on 'The ultimate superhero', Sara's view on 'The pen is mightier than the sword' was sophisticated and both Tierney and Nikki presented powerful and thought-provoking speeches on 'Feminism is just for women'.

With only five minutes preparation time, students chose from the following topics to present their impromptu speech on:

- 'If I could change one thing...'
- · 'Life is unfair'
- 'The quality I admire most'

Tierney was named runner-up overall best speaker and their four combined high scores ensured Cornish came first place.

Year 8 student Sara summed up the performance: "We couldn't deny the fact that we were somewhat apprehensive, especially since we were aware that we wouldn't discover the impromptu topic until the day. Despite having mixed emotions about our performance, we came first!"

MULTI-AGE MASS PLANTING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

More than 600 students from Prep to Year 12 rolled up their sleeves and got hands-on during Make a Difference Week (or 'MAD Week') when they planted out 300 new heathland plants on the Cornish College campus.

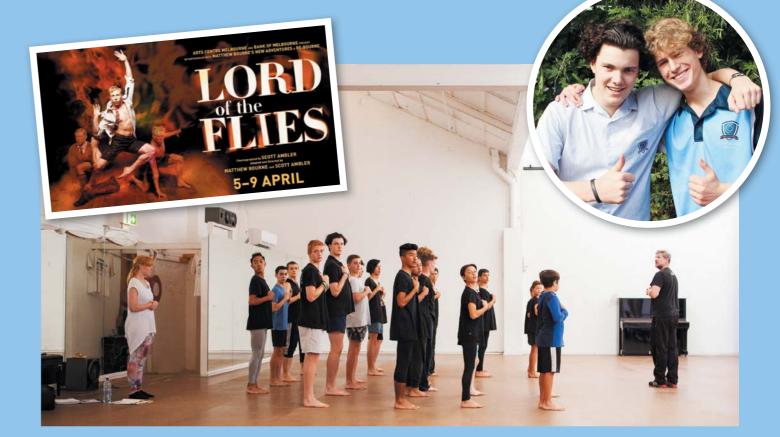
The plants were purchased with funds that came from a successful bid for a \$1,000 Momentum Energy Junior Landcare Grant.

Tom Humphreys, Cornish College's Grounds Manager, and parent David Jupp, have coordinated the mass planting, with David volunteering his knowledge and time. Tom said: "This planting is a great start to building an understory below the established gums behind our oval. The understory will increase biodiversity and attract a broader range of bird life."

The project took place over three days and aimed to both educate and inspire students. Sessions started with David providing a presentation about the type of animals the plants and new habitat will attract. After a short demonstration of the correct way to plant a tube sock, groups of approximately 200 students each day set off to dig, plant, tree guard and water their plants.

Ms Vicki Steer, Principal said "MAD Week is a wonderful opportunity for students to get involved in improving their 100-acre campus. It's also great to see older and young students working together in multi-age groups and further cementing friendships that span year groups."





STUDENTS CAST IN LORD OF THE FLIES

Arts Centre Melbourne staged 'Lord of the Flies' earlier this year and our very own Year 11 students Gus and Gabe were amongst the cast!

Gus and Gabe were selected to join the ensemble cast after an extensive audition process involving hundreds of boys from

across Victoria. Twenty-three amateur dancers in total joined professionals from Australia and the UK for the production, which was directed by internationally renowned choreographer, Sir Matthew Bourne.

Sir Matthew Bourne's adaptation of Lord of the Flies was produced through the charitable arm of his production company,

at the CSIRO, and a Cornish parent, and

helped students learn the principles of

coding to create apps and games.

At the very same moment libraries,

across Australia read aloud the same

schools, bookshops and homes all

Simultaneous Storytime

Re:Bourne, which he established to deliver projects, training, courses and productions to find, develop and inspire the next generation of dance-theatre professionals.

UPCOMING TOURS

Tuesday I August ELC and Primary Tour

Wednesday 2 August Secondary Tour

Saturday 26 August
ELC, Primary and Secondary School

Thursday 26 OctoberTwighlight Tour

Saturday 18 November ELC, Primary and Secondary School

Tours start at 10.00am, except the Twighlight tour, which starts at 6.00pm

Please register online at www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD

Poet in residence

Joel McKerrow, renowned performance poet and social justice advocate, demystified

the poetry writing process for secondary students. Students took part in workshops as part of our Imagine program, which offers enrichment, enhancement and extension opportunities for students of all ages.

Coding club

Students from Years 3 to 12 joined Dr Cathy Trudinger for Coding Club. Dr Trudinger is a Mathematical Modeller



over the moon' by Tony Wilson and Laura Wood was entertainingly brought to

life as part

of National

storybook.

'The cow

tripped

Simultaneous Storytime by our storyteller, Stig Wemyss, and a spontaneous cast of students from ELC to Year 8. Stig is a performer, writer and narrator of audio books for children and young adults.

GET SOCIAL

For more news and updates follow us on Facebook @CornishCollege Twitter @Cornish_College or search Cornish College on LinkedIn

Environment Education Victoria Excellence Award for Deputy Principal

Environment Education Victoria has honoured Deputy Principal, Ms Nicola Forrest, with an Excellence Award for her leadership and embedding sustainable education into the Cornish College curriculum.

icola Forrest works with students, staff, parents and others in our community to deepen understandings of what sustainability is. She leads a passionate teaching team and ensures our curriculum promotes sustainability in its widest sense.

Sustainability has been at the core of the Cornish College curriculum since the school opened and it is inextricably linked to the culture of the school. This is important to Nicola because she believes in, and has a passion for, education that provides the necessary skills for a global world. This is with the aim of developing lifelong learners who will choose to act sustainably and be alert to the many possible ways we can make a difference.

On accepting the award, Nicola said "It is a privilege to have the responsibility of educating young people to be the next generation of positive change-makers. It is a pleasure to be involved in the leadership of the passionate staff at Cornish College who go out and make a difference every day. It is an absolute priority to educate for a sustainable future. I am so lucky to be part of the Cornish College community who really embrace this vision for a better

Ms Vicki Steer, Principal, added "I'm delighted that Ms Forrest's efforts to promote sustainable education have been recognised by Environment Education Victoria. The Excellence Award is well deserved and recognises our Deputy Principal's tremendous leadership in embedding and driving forward environmental education in our

Just some examples of environmental initiatives that have benefitted from Nicola Forrest's leadership are:



"It is a privilege to have the responsibility of educating young people to be the next generation of positive change-makers."

VICTORIA'S INTERDEPENDENT ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Following a submission made by Nicola Forrest, Cornish College became one of 12 Primezone Partner Schools funded by the Primary Industries Educational Foundation Australia. The funding helped a Year 9 class establish an Aquaponics system as part of their unit of inquiry into Victoria's Interdependent Ecology.

SENSORY GARDEN GRANT

Nicola Forrest's successful application for a \$500 Sensory Garden Grant as part of the 2016 Victorian Schools Gardens Awards, was based on an aim to build a labyrinth for everyone in our community to enjoy. A design in now in progress incorporating many indigenous plants.



In each edition of The Difference we will introduce a member of our passionate and highly skilled teaching team. This time it is the turn of dedicated sustainable education expert Mr Jon Stevens.

ife is Beautiful', written, directed by, and starring Roberto Benigni, is Mr Jon Stevens' favourite movie. "It's an amazing film about a father's love for his boy," said Mr Stevens, and the same measure of passion and commitment can be said of Mr Stevens' classes.

Mr Stevens shares his enthusiasm for all things sustainable and natural with Cornish students, teaching VCE Biology, Outdoor and Environmental Studies and Environmental Science. Mr Stevens also teaches the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Imagine class during Breadth Studies. Weekly Breadth Studies provide Years 9 and 10 students with extended classes to delve deeper into topics of interest. Students are developing new skills to apply information and communications technology to find creative solutions to problems. Currently they're building digital electronic programmable porotypes.

Classes are hands-on with collaborative discussions between students and guided by Mr Stevens. Max (Year 12) takes VCE Biology and likes that Mr Stevens makes sure that everyone is included in class discussions. Mr Stevens is "very informative and passes on information really well." Last year a student of Mr Stevens achieved a study score of 50 for an Integrated Technology subject, putting them in the top 1% of the state and they were awarded a VCE Premier's Award.

Mr Stevens joined Cornish College in 2017, "Cornish has a caring, open and accepting culture. This culture invites you in and makes space for you," he said. "My favourite thing about Cornish is teaching and working with others who value sustainability. The evidence is all around us with vegetable gardens, recycling measures, animals and a student built aquaponics

Mr Stevens speaks highly of his peers, "The trait I value the most in others is a combination of caring and intelligence. No wonder I'm a teacher at a school like Cornish. Students can be confident knowing they are surrounded by teachers who have the ability to work with them to achieve the very best."

The greatest challenge in his role is not getting involved in too many things.

is clearly passionate about teaching and is interested in us as people. He's a fantastic new teacher to have and I'm looking forward to finishing the year with him in both Biology and Outdoor Education." Jack (Year 12)



"Cornish has so many exciting programs and initiatives running, you can't do it all without compromising." Even so, Mr Stevens has taken on the responsibility of coordinating the year level camps, putting his love of nature and sustainability on display further. It is true; life at Cornish is full of opportunities for students and teachers to be involved in activities outside the curriculum. You'll find everything from environmental and humanitarian initiatives, to coding clubs and leadership activities. If Mr Stevens ever does need a moment to put up his feet, you might find him dreaming of Wilson's Promontory. Aptly called 'Refuge Cove', this is the favourite place of a teacher who gives so much to his students and clearly demonstrates that a passion for knowledge can lead to A Beautiful Life.



ornish College's first Strategic Plan has been heralded a success with a thriving, well established college in place just five years after it opened its doors. Now the College Council is looking to the future and has launched its Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

The Plan is based on a clear Vision and Mission and supports the College values of respect, compassion, integrity and creativity, and its motto: Make a Difference. It has six Strategic Pillars, with clear aims and actions that will help Cornish College to deliver its educational philosophy. These pillars are:

PILLAR I: STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

Inquiry, engagement, rigour, creativity and innovation are the hallmarks of learning at Cornish where all students are encouraged to do their best and engage in education for a sustainable future.

PILLAR 2: STUDENT WELLBEING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our approach to learning is holistic, encompassing student wellbeing, personal development and academic care. All students at Cornish should feel safe, happy and empowered.

PILLAR 3: STAFF

Our students' learning is enabled by knowledgeable, creative and gifted teachers. The commitment of our talented and energetic staff strengthens our community and contributes to our learning environment.

PILLAR 4: RESOURCES

Cornish College will provide the resources needed to support our vision for teaching and learning. We will model the sustainable practice in the development and use of our land, buildings and technology.

PILLAR 5: COMMUNITY

Our community of students and their families, teachers, Council members, alumni and friends work together to support the learning and development of our students and enrich the lives of all.

PILLAR 6: GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Innovation and sustainability defines the approach to the governance and management of Cornish College.

The Strategic Plan will be regularly evaluated with Community Reports each year to show progress against actions. A summary document clearly sets out more detail, including some key actions for 2017-2018. You can view the document online at www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



Vision

An education as citizens who make a positive difference in contributing to a sustainable future

Mission

Cornish College is a vibrant community dedicated to engaging students in learning for the lives they live in a fast changing, globally connected world.



Ambitious new Master Plan

he College Council has developed an ambitious 20-year Master Plan, in conjunction with the Strategic Plan 2017-2021, which outlines significant changes to the campus that will make best use of our 100 acres.

The aim of the Master Plan is to guide and inform the physical development of the College's buildings and grounds over the next 20 years. Our greatest physical asset is our beautiful, open grounds, and the building and landscape plans have been developed to provide facilities that support our curriculum.

The Plan has been carefully thought out to make the most of the space available and our Principal Ms Vicki Steer explains some of the ways the campus will change over time: "We are excited about this long-term plan for an improved Cornish College, it is visionary and will bring about many benefits for students and teaching staff. With the completion of each stage of the Master Plan, learning areas will be established with stronger connections to the external environment and green, open spaces, protected from strong winds. Facilities will

be constructed using sustainable design and building techniques. This will support our commitment to sustainable practices. Importantly, safety will be improved as we remove the internal road and separate vehicles from students by establishing new car parks with access directly from Riverend Road. We hope to start work on the first car park within the next two years.

Ms Steer added "We will develop most of the campus buildings over the course of the Plan. New buildings will be located in logical places and we will develop precincts for each stage of a student's education, with clear lines of circulation across the campus. I am delighted with the process we have gone through and the end result, and I am confident students and parents will be too."

The Master Plan will deliver an array of new classrooms, outdoor learning and play areas, state-of-the-art sporting facilities, as well as a new performing and visual arts centre, and science and technology learning spaces. Most elements of the current campus will be further developed to meet the needs of future lifelong learners, and the developments are show below.

Our **educational philosophy** is based on these core tenets:

- A vision for the whole community of sustainable living based around the sustainable thinking dispositions
- Emphasis on knowledge, creativity and the development of thinking skills
- Differentiated curriculum to cater for different learning styles
- Strong emphasis on building foundation skills for learning through structured inquiry
- Students and staff work together collaboratively in a team structure

The College Council is currently considering the first stage of the Plan and we hope to make announcements soon. For further information, and details of how you can support the Master Plan developments, visit www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au.





HALFTIME ACHIEVEMENTS

Cornish students have diverse opportunities to engage in the cocurricular program from sport through to public speaking. Six months into 2017, students have already achieved so much.

2017 GOLFVICTORIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mid-semester, eight keen golfers from Years 7 to 12 represented Cornish College at the Independent Schools Golf Competition. Due to the atrocious weather, the event was cut down to 7 holes. This didn't dampen our spirits though and under the direction of Mr Sean Kirschenberg, Cornish College's Golf Program Coordinator and certified PGA Golf Professional, we were proud to take three podium finishes.

- Tim L 2nd Junior
- Finlay H 2nd Senior
- Bailey O 3rd Senior



HOUSE COMPETITION

Our students have been very active in House competitions in our first semester. They have completed the major House sporting events in swimming, cross country and athletics as well as our annual House Performing Arts competition, which combined dance, drama, a massed song and music ensemble.

In the Junior school, Wiiny House won swimming, Biik won cross country and Baany won athletics and the inaugural Primary Choral Festival for Years 2 to 4.

In the Senior school, Wiiny House took to the stage as winner of the House Performing Arts, and Biik dominated House sport with wins in swimming, athletics and cross country.

INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

Cornish College is a member school of the Southern Independent Schools (SIS) association, competing in sporting and cultural competitions. We're very proud of our achievements so far which include a Merit Award and overall third place at the SIS Cross Country. Our U/I5 Girls also took home the pennant for their age group.

SIS SWIMMING

After two consecutive wins at the SIS Division B Swimming Carnival, our swimming team were promoted to Division A in 2017. We're really thrilled to have won the Merit Award, overall the Girls placed third and U/13 Boys took the win.



SIS JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL

What a great performance by our Years 7 and 8 girls football team who won 59 to 35 in the interschool SIS Junior Sports competition during term 2.

SIS JUNIOR MIXED TABLE TENNIS

Our Junior Mixed Table Tennis team finished 2nd after a stellar Term 2 - with four wins and one loss.
Well done team!

IMAGINE...

IMAGINE...a program for enhancement, enrichment and extension. Students explore subjects deeply, develop advanced skills and work with like-minds. Let's take a look at what some of our students have experienced as part of the IMAGINE...Program.



ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

Year 12 students with a strong interest in initiatives such as the Respect Alliance, The Women's Series and the Social Justice Initiative, attended the inaugural Model United Nations Conference at Government House to discuss the topic of 'Achieving Gender Equality: Empowering Women and Girls.' These six students made fantastic contributions as they role-played representing the UN member states of Fiji and Bolivia, discussed global issues and practiced their diplomacy skills in a fun, dynamic environment. Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, hosted the historic event.



DA VINCI DECATHLON

A team of Year 7 students put their teamwork and higher order thinking skills to the test at the Regional Finals of the da Vinci Decathlon. The da Vinci Decathlon is an academic interschool gala day covering 10 disciplines; engineering, mathematics and chess, code breaking, art and poetry, science, English, philosophy, creative producers, cartography and general knowledge.

The team of eight placed 2nd in creative producers and general knowledge, 3rd in cartography, 4th in engineering and 5th in English. Their scores from all 10 disciplines saw them finish in 5th place out of 16 teams.

Activate your mind and give the following code breaking question a go:

GREEK GREATS

The famous Greek orator, Desdemones, made the following speech:

"Tell all, tell one, that your time has come. We must treasure all that we know and all that we can do. To be our very best we must pass our discoveries to our descendants and then theirs. A way must be found to do this, otherwise we will never be the truly great being of this wondrous Earth."

After hearing the speech, a Greek aware of the mythical treasure made the following code: I $6\ 35\ 56\ 52\ I\ 2\ 5\ I\ I\ 50\ 5\ I\ 43$

Answer: Tell your descendants of the treasure that must never be found

Alumni and community news

PAST STUDENTS SAVETHE DATE: 14 OCTOBER

This year marks 5 years of Cornish College and 30 years of the Cornish campus opening its gates to students. We are calling for all past students, who have completed at least a year of education on the campus, as well as past teachers and parents, to update their contact details and join the launch of our new Alumni Association on Saturday 14 October.

If you have been a student on the campus at any time since 1987, we hope to hear from you. As part of our Alumni Association you will stay connected to the vibrant Cornish community and will be able to:

- Join events we will send you details of reunions, networking events, social gatherings and foundation day celebrations
- Catch up on developments you'll receive a copy of The Difference twice a year
- Support the next generation share the skills you developed as a lifelong learner with current students or offer work experience
- Receive priority enrolment all Alumni receive priority enrolment for their children to attend Cornish College



So save the date and register or update your details online at: www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au.

AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY - OUR 100-ACRE VOLUNTEERS

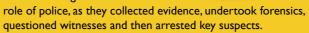
Past students and parents have joined current parents as part of our new community land management group, the '100-acre volunteers'. Our volunteers are working with our Grounds Team to improve our outdoor campus. They have planted and protected grasses on our on-site golf course, and planted trees to provide screening along our border so far and there are many, many more projects planned.

Anyone interested in lending a hand can contact us at office@cornishcollege.vic.edu or call 9781 9000 to register your interest.



LEGAL STUDIES WITH RETURNING DUX

The mysterious death of Marty (the science lab skeleton) has been investigated over a number of weeks by Year 11 students acting the



The annual 'Body on the Island' case has been running for five years, and to the misfortune of Marty, has become more sinister each year. This year the 'Who Dunit?' involved an elaborate plot where students from a Years 9 and 10 Breadth Study course were provided profile cards of their characters in order to be witnesses in the case.

The Year 11s then formed into two teams of prosecution and defence. Cases were prepared and a bail application was heard in front of a Year 12 Legal Studies student. After much research and plea bargaining, the trial was held. Robert Boag, Cornish College's Dux of 2015 and current Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts at Monash University student, returned to the College to be judge.

A jury of 12 students was empaneled and court personnel appointed. A vigorous and intense trial found the accused guilty, and sentenced to a non-parole period of 35 years in jail. Justice has prevailed for Marty...until next year that is.

PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

We have been asking our active and engaged community to support the 2017 Annual Giving Campaign as we look to the future and launch our ambitious 20 year Master Plan (see centre pages).

More news will be coming over the winter and spring months as we plan the first improvements that we'll make as part of the Master Plan. These are exciting times and it is hoped that new developments will be realised as early as 2019.

As a first step we're asking people to consider donations to our building fund and we will recognise this generosity with a paver that will form part of the new Cornish Campus. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and receipts can be submitted as part of your 2017 tax return if you make a donation before 30 June this year, or as part of your 2018 return if you donate later.

Find out more at: www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au and donate online. Or, contact Rhiannon Matthews, Community Relations Manager, on 9781 9000 to discuss a donation, pledge or bequest.

The campaign will run until 31 August 2017.



Annual Giving 2017 donation form

1y choice of donation to the Cornish College Building Fund is:	
\$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other amount: \$	
I would like my donation to remain anonymous	including Cornish College in my will
itle Name	
address	
mail Phone	
lease compete your payment details and return this reply slip to Cornish College, 65 Riverend Road, E	Bangholme, VIC 3175
I enclose a cheque (payable to:The Cornish College Building Fund)	
Please charge my Mastercard Visa	
lame on card	Expiry date /
ignature	Date / /
I will make a direct deposit	
account Name: Cornish College Building Fund	
Account Number: 56-5786 BSB 033-002 Reference	

For direct depost, please email Rhiannon. Matthews@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au with an electronic receipt or details of the deposited amount.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and we will issue a tax receipt to the address you provide on this form.

We will contact you to ask for more information about the message you would like to include on a personalised p

We will contact you to ask for more information about the message you would like to include on a personalised paver if your donation is \$140 or greater.

We will provide regular updates about the Master Plan progress and the difference your contribution has made (please let us know if you would prefer not to receive emails or hard copy information). The campaign will run until 31 August 2017. Thank you.



Register online for a tour:

ELC and primary – Tuesday I August, 10.00am Secondary – Wednesday 2 August, 10.00am Whole school – Saturday 26 August, 10.00am Twilight tour – Thursday 26 October, 6.00pm Whole school – Saturday 18 November, 10.00am



