

# THE DIFFERENCE



**CORNISH**  
COLLEGE

## Winter 2022 Edition

10 Year Anniversary Gala Dinner / ANZAC Commemoration /  
A Celebration of Courage / Girls in Space / Inaugural Giving Day

# Contents

## Editorial

### From the Principal 1

### Features 2

10 Year Anniversary Gala Dinner

ANZAC commemoration 3

A Celebration of Courage 4

New Podcast: Voices of Courage

Exploring faith 5

Founders' lunch

Speaking their minds 6

Girls in space

Ration Challenge

Focus on sustainability 7

Gumboot Recycling and  
Exchange Program

Winter Sleepout 8

Bonne Fête Nationale!

Cornish Conversations

From the Archives 9

A culture of giving 10

Inaugural Giving Day

### Student Success 11

### Cornish Collegians 12

### Community News 15

#### Cornish College

T: +61 3 9781 9000

E: [office@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:office@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au)

#### Admissions

Kylie Jones/Karen Giaccone

T: +61 3 9781 9008

E: [admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au)

#### Marketing and Communications

Dennis Freeman

Director of Community Relations

T: +61 3 9781 9014

E: [dennis.freeman@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:dennis.freeman@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au)

Lainey Foster

Communications Manager

T: +61 9781 9011

E: [lainey.foster@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:lainey.foster@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au)

#### Front cover image:

Current staff member Daniel Wormell  
and Nikki Taylor (CC2007) performing at  
the 10 Year Gala Dinner

# Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of *The Difference*.

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Cornish College, this issue features several articles, penned within a spirit of celebration and reflection.

The College hosted a very successful 10 Year Gala Dinner at the end of July, celebrating the strength of our community. This is something which has been critical in enabling Cornish to become a school in its own right – and one which continues to grow and thrive.

Complementing this are two articles which introduce our commemorative book, *A Celebration of Courage*, and corresponding podcast, *Voices of Courage*. Both seek to provide insight to 'official' and 'unofficial' accounts of our relatively brief history, whilst underscoring the core values that will guide this school into the future.

You will find a feature article on the establishment of our Memorial Garden, forever reminding us of the ANZAC legacy of courage and sacrifice. The recent planting of a Lone Pine and Gallipoli Oak tree comes with a fascinating origin story, taking us back to the Gallipoli Peninsula during the First World War.

Other highlights from the first half of this year include the inaugural Giving Day for which the College community raised considerable funds towards the Robert Johnson Scholarship, and the official launch of the Cornish College Business Directory at our inaugural Business Breakfast – both of which can be read about under the 'Culture of Giving' and 'Community News' sections, respectively.

We report on several day-to-day activities taking place across the College and celebrate recent examples of student success, as well as an update on our ongoing sustainability initiatives at Cornish and some of this year's activities overseen by the Parents Association.

As ever, we are pleased to feature former students achieving great things in their professional careers. In this edition, you will hear about two young men who attended the campus in the early 2000s and are now pursuing exciting careers within the arts and trade industries. It is wonderful to learn about the positive influence that Cornish has had upon their life beyond school as they share some of their own words of wisdom for our current senior students.

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

Leighton Triplow (CC2010)

Editor

## Follow Us

For more updates and to find out more about Cornish College, visit our website [cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](http://cornishcollege.vic.edu.au) or connect with us via social media.



Like us @CornishCollege



Follow us @cornish\_college



Follow us @cornishcollege



Follow us @cornish-college

## Acknowledgement of Country

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

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## What it takes

As members of Cornish College community gathered at the Frankston Arts Centre for the recent 10 Year Gala Dinner, we were reminded of just what it takes to build a successful school with an enduring purpose and a strong sense of community.

That evening the room was filled with parents past and present, staff, alumni and friends of the College and filling any space that remained was a terrific and palpable positive energy. This broad range of people, with their strong commitment to our school, their positivity and goodwill is a huge part of what it takes to make our school great. Of course, the missing element on the night was our impressive student cohort but, in many ways, they were what the evening was all about.

In my address, I had the pleasure of acknowledging many special guests, giving pause to reflect on the generosity of those who have contributed to our wonderful school. We welcomed Board Members past and present, including our inaugural Chair, Rev Dr Robert Johnson, and members of the original committee who founded Cornish College in 2011 and 2012. Kerry Bolger, our Founding Principal, joined us for the evening, and reminded us about the power of community. A number of other invited guests, including former Principal Vicki Steer, were unable to attend the dinner, but were with us 'in spirit'.=

Our generous 10 Year Anniversary sponsors from the Driver Group, Noone and South Eastern Cleaning were there to share the evening with us and we were so grateful for the work of our tirelessly supportive team from the Cornish College Parents Association, led by Amy Jayasuriya-Clifford, who facilitated the Silent and Live Auctions.

We were reminded too, that acknowledging and honouring our history is also part of what it takes to know who we are becoming. Cornish College aims to influence the lives of all members of our community and throughout our ten-year history we have remained committed to education for sustainability; to making a difference in the world; to upholding our values and those of the Uniting Church; and to believing in the agency of young people. We are incredibly proud to be launching a beautiful hard-cover book that honours this ten-year history with contributions from many people that, again, remind us what it takes.

The Gala Dinner gave me an opportunity to reflect on what shapes Cornish College today. We've had a bit of a laugh about the fact that, these days, you could play Bingo when you listen to any well-informed member of our community talk about Cornish College – and I know that is especially true of me! Whether it be staff, parents or students, you will often hear us speak about community, sustainability, make a difference, opportunity, innovation, gumboots, Design Futures, inquiry, agency, care, humanity and of course, 100 acres. These words and phrases will be on the Bingo card of any passionate Cornish College supporter. We know that our shared values are an integral part of what weaves our very strong story together. Our commitment to making a difference and indeed, being the difference, is lived through our values – respect, integrity, compassion and creativity. And, of course, we know that what it really takes to be the school our young people need us to be, is courage.

So, what does it take to become great? It takes our people, our history, our story of becoming and all our courage. I thank each and every one of our community for making this happen.

## Nicola Forrest



(L-R) Year 2 students Blair Miller, Stanley Pantazopoulos, Grace Pearce and James Vagvolgyi with Rebecca Tampion



Nicola Forrest and Isaac Rattan, ELC4



# FEATURES

## 10 Year Anniversary Gala Dinner

What a celebration we had on Saturday 23 July at the Frankston Arts Centre and what a proud moment it was for our community. It certainly was a 'gala' occasion filled with great music, beautiful food, plenty to drink, some wonderful auction items and with over 250 in attendance there was much to celebrate about our 10 years as Cornish College.

It was a fabulous opportunity for many of those who played such a vital role in the establishment of the College to come together to relive the past and share their memories of the events of 2011. It was also was a fantastic opportunity for parents, staff and Board members, both past and present, alumni and friends of the College to reflect on the amazing progress that has been made over the last 10 years and to share their passion for what the College has meant to them.

In welcoming everyone, Founding Principal Kerry Bolger noted the courage and sacrifice that those who fought to save the school showed and how, out of this unique experience, lifelong friendships have been established.

Principal Nicola Forrest reminded everyone of the qualities that make Cornish College such a unique and much-loved place and how the values established when the College was formed remain as the foundations of the College's growth and development today.

As a most fitting reminder of what has been achieved, Nicola launched the College's 10 Year Anniversary book entitled, *A Celebration of Courage*. This beautiful hardcover book tells the Cornish College story to date and features more than 50 personal reflections and anecdotes on the College's early history and its growth and development over the last decade.

After the challenges of the last few years people were ready to celebrate what truly has been an amazing achievement and we certainly did that. It was a great night for all who attended and we look forward to opportunities to celebrate the College's future successes.



(L-R) Steve McJorow, Ann Paton, Tiffany Johnson, Blair Gardner, Sarah Dodd



Guests enjoying the dinner



Nicola Forrest

## ANZAC commemoration

This year's ANZAC commemoration at Cornish College was a very special and significant one, given that we were able to join as a whole school community at the site of our new Memorial Garden. This is a place where we, as a College, will come together to remember on these special days.

In 2022, we celebrate our tenth anniversary, and the establishment of this garden will serve as a wonderful and lasting legacy for future generations of Cornish students and families.

In the garden, we are commissioning a physical memorial for which we acknowledge the support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs for providing a grant for its construction. We are also grateful to have received support from Legacy in the form of a Lone Pine and Gallipoli Oak tree.

We were honoured to have David Hale from Legacy and Legatee John Bitcon from the Lone Pine Program join us for this important and historic commemoration. They were, in turn, grateful to meet our students, 'the young people represent[ing] the future of our great country'.

Our guests of honour shared with us the story of the Battle of Lone Pine which was fought on a ridge of high ground known as 'Plateau 400' on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey during the First World War. All pine trees upon this ridge had been cut down by Turkish soldiers and used for camouflage, or to line their trenches – except for one prominent tree. On 6 August 1915, and for the days that followed, this single Turkish pine saw Australian and New Zealand troops attempting to gain control of the Turkish trenches and, consequently, the loss of countless lives.

The single Turkish pine upon this ridge – now known as 'Lone Pine' – was, at the time, destroyed by artillery shells. Nevertheless, Private Keith McDowell from Wonthaggi, Victoria collected a cone from the tree and carried it in his haversack throughout active service in both Gallipoli and in Northern France until returning home in 1916.

Private McDowell, upon his return, handed the pinecone to his wife's aunt Mrs Emma Gray from the Warrnambool area, whom he knew to be a keen gardener.

From this single pinecone, Mrs Gray was able to propagate four seedlings, and before long, each had grown into a magnificent tree, bearing both beauty and historical significance. In June of 1933, she planted one of these trees at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, thus blossoming into a living symbol of the courage and sacrifice displayed by our ANZAC soldiers during the Battle of Lone Pine.

It is the great grandchild, or fourth-generation descendant, of that original Turkish pine that stood on that ridge on the Gallipoli Peninsula which we are so honoured to have received and planted on our Cornish College grounds. This juvenile Lone Pine tree, together with a Gallipoli Oak, will form part of our College's Memorial Garden and forever remind us of the ANZAC legacy of courage and sacrifice.

Lest we forget.



(L-R) Tim Richardson MP, Nicola Forrest, Joel Walmsley, David Hale, Michael Weissenfeld and Alex Widman



David Hale and John Bitcon



Harry Serong, Year 12



# A Celebration of Courage

For our ten year celebrations, we want to recognise the story of the establishment of Cornish College – and the genesis of that story.

Schools tend to wait somewhat longer to write their first history; however, we sense that it is important to record our stories now whilst key individuals from the early days of the College remain involved in the school community. The past ten years have indeed been critical in shaping the College and form a crucial part of the future story of Cornish College.

We are delighted that current parent Louise Zedda-Sampson has served as the editor of this book and are indebted to those within the Cornish community who have contributed personal stories, anecdotes and photos. Special thanks goes to Mike Davis whose photography features so beautifully throughout.

As Louise writes in her opening Editor's Note: 'A gleam in Richard Cornish's eye all those years ago, became a Cornish way of life. It was no wonder that when the school was set to close in 2011, so many stepped up and said "No". Reading through the heartfelt contributions, one cannot help but be moved by the sentiments and recollections of staff, students, parents and alumni of their time at the College'.

Louise, in reviewing these personal accounts, has found it a heartwarming experience to reflect upon what has been achieved in ten short years. The same will, no doubt, be true for anyone associated with, or interested in, the school's history. Each and every story in this book reinforces the view that a place is much more than its separate parts, and that when everyone bands together with integrity and courage, truly great things can be achieved.

*A Celebration of Courage* will be on sale shortly via the Cornish College website and provides a fascinating insight into the first ten years of Cornish College.



## New Podcast: *Voices of Courage*

This year, our community celebrates an exciting milestone: the first decade of Cornish College. You may have already spotted various projects and events taking place to commemorate this significant year. Such activities, of course, seek to involve the community in celebration of all things Cornish.

One project currently underway is that of a new podcast, *Voices of Courage*, in which you shall hear from members of the Cornish community in conversation with me, College alumna, Josette Mulcahy (CC2016). Teachers, alumni, parents and friends will discuss their unique connection and fondest memories of Cornish within spirited and thought-provoking episodes.

This podcast seeks to capture varied perspectives from the Cornish community at what is an important juncture in our relatively short history. These precious oral history records will indeed sit centrally to our multimedia collection within the Cornish College Archive, providing unique insight to the current time and place in which we find ourselves for the benefit of future generations.

As you listen and reflect upon our collective history, take a moment to consider the exciting future yet to be written. We trust that this podcast will be enjoyed by the Cornish community for many years to come.

*Keep an eye on our social media channels to be notified when the podcast goes live!*

## Exploring faith

Challenging times can provide an opportunity to explore tricky questions around faith: we have recently started a new bush chapel at Cornish College for all ages, drawing upon the values of Cornish and our work in the areas of sustainability and Reconciliation.

At our bush chapel, we share in sacred stories and a choice of a creative activity, a discussion or reflective walk with questions – whatever the consensus of those attending. Our hope is that this will become an ongoing community gathering for exploring faith and God upon these 100 acres.

If you'd like to join or are just curious, please email our Chaplain, Rev Claire Dawe, at [claire.dawe@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:claire.dawe@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au) or call her on 9781 9058. The bush chapel is held on the third Sunday of the month from 3.00pm–5.00pm around the fire pit (or undercover in the case of inclement weather).

Warm clothes, gumboots, something simple to eat and questions are all you need to bring!



(L-R) Miles Hay, ELC4, Chantal Ferris-Hayes, Ayla Hay

## Founders' lunch

2022 is a special year for Cornish College as we celebrate our tenth anniversary. So far, the College has hosted several events to acknowledge this milestone; however, one event on 29 March was particularly memorable in welcoming a number of 'founders' of Cornish College back to the school. These founders played a key role in ensuring that a new school emerged out of the closure of the Cornish Campus of St Leonard's College.

For some, many years had passed since last seeing the site, so a tour of the campus supplied an ideal opportunity to showcase the notable changes – our Senior Studies Centre being an outstanding example – and share in memories of the College from those early days.

A visit to the art department afforded an opportunity to decorate ceramic leaves for our ten year mural which is soon to be installed near Reception. There are clearly a number of enthusiastic artists among the group! What followed was an outdoor lunch which served as a superb way of thanking and acknowledging the support of the founders.



Heather Lyon and Lister Hannah with their leaves



(L-R) Nicola Forrest, Christine Marks, Andrew Maher, Chris Begg, Bruce Stradling, Trevor Gurr, Phil Broderick, Adrian Stagg, Lister Hannah, Martin Massey, Tara Broderick, Rachel Evans, Clinton Evans, Heather Lyon, Tom Humphreys, Tim Richardson MP, Maria Wilton AM, Kerry Bolger, David Loader OAM, Heather Bolger



## Speaking their minds

Cornish College continues to excel in the realm of public speaking with several individual and team successes in recent years.

Congratulations to those students who represented the school at the 2022 Southern Independent Schools Public Speaking Championships: Isaac Willoughby, Year 11; Tara Covey, Year 11; Charlotte Smith, Year 10; Harrison Walsh, Year 9; Declan Molloy, Year 9; Maddie Fantas, Year 9; Evelyn Bannan, Year 8; Emily O'Shea, Year 8; Hudson Lacey, Year 7 and Phoebe Popp, Year 7.

The championship, awarded to the highest scoring school, was won by Cornish College continuing a fine tradition in public speaking.

Each student was sensational, and the synergy demonstrated within the team was terrific to observe. Our older students acted as helpful mentors and our younger students were in awe of their 'senior' speakers.

Year 11 student Orlando Schwerdt was awarded 'Best Speaker in the Prepared Speech' for the Senior Division, whilst Aaron Marrone in Year 12 received the inaugural 'Most Entertaining Impromptu Speech' for the Senior Section.

Cornish College has won the championship five times in the past 6 years. This success stems from giving students, at all year levels, a variety of opportunities to present in front of an audience. Students are encouraged to pursue diverse interests and support causes with passion, integrity, respect and confidence culminating in excellent speeches that are intelligent, courageous and compassionate.



(L-R) Tara Covey, Declan Molloy, Aaron Marrone, Evelyn Bannan, Orlando Schwerdt, Charlotte Smith, Emily O'Shea, Harrison Walsh, Isaac Willoughby, Maddie Fantas

## Girls in space

Later this year, one of our Year 12 students, Gemma Wildermuth – a STEM and robotics specialist – will co-present a research paper at the International Astronautical Congress in Paris, France. The title of her paper is *Using inquiry-based learning and role modelling as a motivator for increasing the participation of girls in space science*.

Gemma's research is inspired by her experiences within inquiry-based learning at Cornish College and Goal 5 in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, reading, 'to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'.

The research component of Gemma's paper requires her to work with a group of female students in upper primary for four sessions across a period of four weeks. She has done this with our Year 5 girls at Cornish during their scheduled STEM classes.

The College is very proud of Gemma's achievements on the 'world stage' and look forward to her paper being published.



Nicci Rossouw and Gemma Wildermuth

## Ration Challenge

This year, 127 Cornish students, staff and parents participated in the Ration Challenge. Each lived off food rations, similar to those a refugee would have access to over the course of a week, thereby equipping participants with a deeper understanding of the hardships faced by refugees.

Congratulations to our wonderfully resilient Cornish community for participating in this initiative. The \$13,406 raised will help to save lives by providing emergency food, healthcare, and life-saving support to those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are heartened by this show of determination to embody our school motto: Make a Difference!



## Focus on sustainability

What a delight it has been to return to campus for the first half of 2022. We have certainly reconnected with the property, as well as each other, and refreshed our focus on all things 'Sustainability'.

### ResourceSmart

Cornish recently achieved its second star, 'Discovering', under the Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart initiative and is near to finishing the 'Energy' module. Our 'Core' and 'Biodiversity' modules were successfully completed at the end of last year. Once our 'Energy' module is verified, we will commence the application process for our third star, 'Transforming'.

In working towards the aforementioned 'Energy' module, our Sustainability Action Team and interested primary students participated in an Energy Audit. Through this process, we discovered that in order to be energy efficient, it is important to remind one another to turn off lights and keep heaters running at between 18 to 20 degrees. A new Sustainability Monitor in each primary class will remind us to switch off lights and heaters, plus new signage carrying this message is now displayed across the school.

### Clean Up Cornish Day

Our Clean Up Cornish Day – associated with Clean Up Australia Day – was a tremendous success with everyone, including our youngest students, participating in the sizeable clean up. A new campaign by our Year 2 students to 'check it before we chuck it' will help everyone to properly select the correct bins going forward.



### Nude Food



Day	Tally Points	Total
Monday	HHH 1	6/12
Tuesday	HHH HH III 13	13/14
Wednesday	HHH I I I	7/13
Thursday	HHH HH I I I	11/13
Friday	HHH HH III 13	13/13
CLASS: ...		TOTAL STUDENTS: 15

We recently commenced a Nude Food initiative at Cornish, following the suggestion of primary students attending their weekly Sustainability Action Team meeting. The idea is to reduce the amount of excess plastic and packaging that makes its way onto campus as well as to promote healthy eating options. A competition across the primary cohort will not only highlight key messages

about waste reduction, but seeks to introduce topics such as percentage calculations and tally marks.

### Solar Cones



In order to support a waste reduction strategy, we have installed three solar cones to compost organic waste. You can find these devices on the Village Green, within the ELC, and in front of the entrance to the Senior Studies Centre. Our Year 3 classes are currently investigating compost as part of their inquiry into 'Systems' and are looking forward to visiting the Gould League Sustainability Centre to learn more on the subject.

We are excited about how far we have travelled on our sustainability journey to date and look forward to continually enacting small changes that seek to make a difference here at school, in our homes, and for the planet.



## Gumboot Recycling and Exchange Program

This recycle and exchange program invites you to bring your gently used boots and exchange them for a larger pair. Or, feel free to make use of these boots if you need them and then return them for others to use.

The boots rack is located outside Alex Parrington's office near the Prep and Year 1 classrooms.



## Winter Sleepout

To raise awareness of homelessness in Australia, 42 students from Years 6 - 12 and 22 staff members participated in the Winter Sleepout on Friday 29 July. The night involved a range of activities including night golf, peer led discussions, campfire, BBQ dinner and sleeping in a cardboard box to gain a better understanding about the hardships of sleeping rough.

Many 'Blessing Bags' made up of essentials such as dental care, hygiene products and food items were also created during the Winter Sleepout in support of Blessing Bags, a Melbourne-based initiative that distributes hygiene packs to those experiencing homelessness and/or disadvantage.

We are thrilled to announce that the Cornish Winter Sleepout raised \$14,000 for the Backpack Bed for Homeless - Fire Retardant Polar Fleece Sleeping Bag Program.



(L-R) Kosi the dog, Amelia Marshall, Isabelle Gardner, Max Gregg



(L-R) Lydia Radov, Erin Fairlie, Marine Noury, Mailli Atkins, Orlando Schwerdt

## Bonne Fête Nationale!

Bastille Day was extra special this year as we were joined by Philippe Noury, International Coordinator at our sister school, Institution Mongazon in Angers, France. Philippe and his daughter Marine were here to promote the advancement of international understanding and strengthening of cultural ties between our two countries.

We hope to send four of our Year 11 students to Angers at the end of this year, whilst we will be hosting three additional French students at Cornish in July of 2023.

## Cornish Conversations

### A focus on inclusion

A recent Cornish Conversations featured Ro Allen, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, and Kaye Bradshaw, LGBTQI+ policy lead for the Uniting Church Victoria/Tasmania. It was an absolute privilege to have such a dynamic and insightful pair assist our community in learning about the challenges facing young LGBTQI+ students and how we can create a far more grounded and positive pathway forward aligned with our values of respect, integrity and courage.



(L-R) Kaye Bradshaw, Ro Allen



# From the Archives

## Our stories in the land

I recently presented at a staff conference in April where I communicated to our team of non-teaching staff the principles, aims, and priorities in establishing a user-friendly archival resource for the College going forward. One of the key messages of my talk concerned the question of documenting an ‘expected’ history of a school from year to year – as determined by significant events on the annual calendar – as well as sufficiently detailing personal anecdotes that are reflective of a special culture which has been steadily built at Cornish over the years.

Physical items like award certificates, concert flyers, and House banners tell the story of an ‘official’ or ‘objective’ history, whereas samples of student work, candid photographs, and oral histories inch closer to recording a rich tapestry of ‘unofficial’ or ‘subjective’ episodes across space and time. An archive of this sort ought to preserve a sense of the multifaceted community at play, supplying insight to changing styles of student learning, teaching methodologies, and a wider social outreach spanning several eras of the school. Ideally, it is a resource that articulates our continued connection to this spacious property beyond the four walls of the classroom, highlighting the distinctiveness of Cornish’s semi-rural feel, complete with lake and 100 acres of land.



*Tending to the farm*

Over recent decades, a burgeoning field of literature on climate change has driven timely discussions around sustainable practices, in turn, influencing the way our grounds have evolved as a product of their time – perhaps even ahead of their time. Various sustainable initiatives across campus are a testament to the people-led response in tackling this global challenge. Those at Cornish in the early 2000s will recall a protracted drought which rendered the lake little more than dirt and dust. In

fact, a staff member not long ago confessed to me that they did not realise a lake was on site until many years into their tenure! These memories stand in stark contrast to the thriving ecosystem visible today and form part of the Cornish story in its blossoming into the current school.

Regardless of when one attended Cornish, the land upon which we stand is both a unifying thread and bastion of nostalgia, connecting the furthestmost and newest epochs of the College. Indeed, many of our alumni, upon rediscovering the property, remark that its natural beauty and expanse is something featuring prominently in foremost recollections of their time here. Some will, no doubt, harbour memories of environmental classes, cross country days, and community-led markets taking place on the grounds – and now the inauguration of our new faith community, ‘Coracle Collective’, seeks to provide another avenue through which to explore this most cherished outdoor resource. Beyond that, personal anecdotes paint the picture of a truly unique learning environment.



*Early drilling works*

The land is an integral part to our story at Cornish, told through the preservation of images, artworks, and artefacts, to which priceless oral histories contribute an additional layer of depth. There are so many chapters yet to be written for which our archival resource will exist in ‘lockstep’ with future developments, ensuring that this tale is both thorough and personable.

**Leighton Triplow (CC2010)**

## A culture of giving

The Cornish community has always been incredibly generous in supporting our school, right from the earliest days of the College.

This 'culture of giving' continues today; many within our community give generously, whether it be through helping to run the Parents Association, serving on our College Board and committees, organising a multitude of annual activities and events, or supporting our Building Fund and Giving Day campaigns with a financial commitment.

Our students also raise funds for numerous events – many being social justice initiatives outside the College – such as Backpack for Beds, Rug Up Day, Blue Day, the Winter Sleepout, Ration Challenge and Timor-Leste IMPACCT program. They are motivated by a deep and genuine connection to our wonderful school and we applaud that selfless contribution – one and all.

In this, our tenth anniversary year, we acknowledge and thank all those who have supported the College over the past decade and look forward to building upon that legacy over the next decade and beyond.

## Inaugural Giving Day

On Wednesday 15 June, our College hosted its first-ever Giving Day, in partnership with Charidy, as we raised funds for the newly established Robert Johnson Scholarship. We were thrilled by the generous support of the Cornish community, enabling us to exceed our initial target of \$60,000 to reach a total of \$78,240.

Every dollar donated over the course of the day was doubled by our wonderful matching donors:

- Cornish College Board
- College Executive Leadership Team
- Cornish Collegians
- Johnson Family
- Kiddell Family
- Driver Group
- Noone
- South Eastern Cleaning Services
- Campion Education

Thanks also goes to our team of volunteers who made an impressive total of 832 phone calls in seeking support for this wonderful cause.

The Giving Day serves as a great example of our College community 'coming together' to support an important new initiative.

Many positive comments were shared throughout the day, such as the following:

- What an amazing school, so grateful to be a part of this community
- Great to hear about this scholarship, fabulous!
- For the Robert Johnson Scholarship with thanks for all his efforts
- Creating opportunities for our next generation of *pioneers*



Advertising campaign



Telephone volunteers



# STUDENT SUCCESS



(L-R) Reagan Morel, Mailli Atkins, Rafi Cali, Nico Gerber, Sam Weiss, David Atkins

## Musical Excellence

We are thrilled that current students Mailli Atkins, Year 11, Reagan Morel, Nico Gerber and Sam Weiss from Year 12 were able to join bass guitarist Rafi Cali (CC2021) on stage during March at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Rafi was selected to appear in a 'Top Class Sound & Music' performance with the other students playing with him as his backing band. This concert is presented as part of the prestigious VCE Season of Excellence, run annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Congratulations to Rafi and all members of the band – what a wonderful opportunity to showcase this talent on the stage of a highly regarded Australian venue.



(L-R) Jack Newman, Clelia Foran, Isabelle Broderick

## Monash Scholars Program

Three of our Year 10 students – Jack Newman, Clelia Foran, and Isabelle Broderick – have been offered places in the prestigious Monash Scholars Program. This program provides selected high-achieving students from Years 10 to 12 with a unique opportunity to engage with Monash University, giving them a head start on university life.

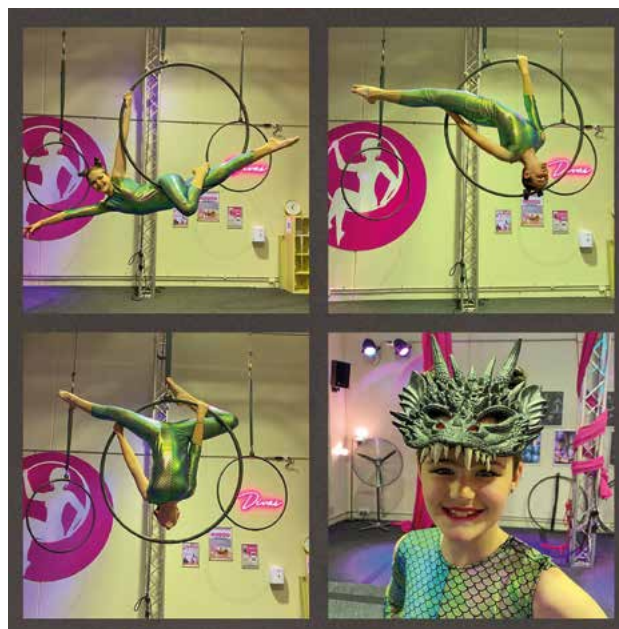
Across a two-year period, scholars are expected to spend roughly 20 hours per year towards on-campus events, after-school commitments, and activities during the holidays. Those scholars who successfully secure a place at Monash once completing Year 12 will continue to benefit from additional opportunities, including leadership and ambassador roles.



Congratulations to Year 12 student, Mathilda Maas, who received a Premier's VCE Award for German for her outstanding VCE result in 2021. A total of 298 of Victoria's brightest students were recognised in this year's Premier's VCE Awards and we are thrilled with Mathilda's success. Cornish College's flexible thinking and agile approach to designing student pathways supported Mathilda in her German studies at the Victorian School of Languages and one of our Cornish parents, Heike Barker, provided extra tuition.



Year 8 student Dion Gordon was selected to represent Victoria and Cornish College at the School Sport Australia Swimming Championships in Brisbane. Dion will compete in the very challenging 200m butterfly, as well as the 100m butterfly and 50m butterfly, which is a huge achievement. Congratulations Dion!



Ruby Campbell, Year 7, successfully auditioned on lyra (the aerial hoop) for the Victorian heats of the Little Lyras competition, and competed in the state level competition recently at the Drum Theatre in Dandenong.

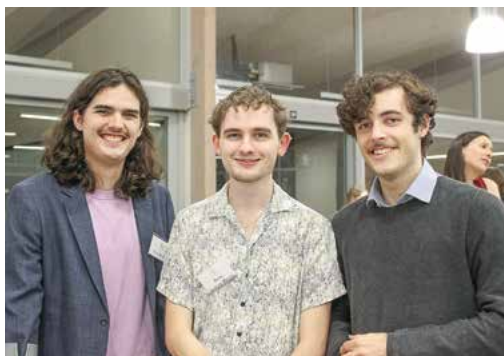
## Alumni Cocktail Party

It was a pleasure to welcome more than 70 alumni and friends of Cornish College to our Alumni Cocktail Party, held in the Senior Studies Centre on a cool autumn evening at the end of May. Attendees spanned diverse eras of the school, stretching as far back as the late '90s right up to graduates of the past few years.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful spread prepared by our catering team and took delight in flipping through old yearbooks or viewing an assortment of aerial photographs of the property. Mark Byrne and Sarah Dodd, among other current members of staff, similarly helped to usher in an air of nostalgia.

In welcoming everyone, Josette Mulcahy (CC2016), President of the Cornish Collegians Management Committee, spoke passionately about the importance that Cornish places on its alumni network, drawing particular attention to our Alumni Connect and Cornish College Business Directory initiatives.

Many alumni commented on the impressive look and feel of our Senior Studies Centre, and were delighted to hear that the College is thriving at the time of its tenth anniversary. Throughout the evening, the room remained abuzz with chatter as old friends reminisced and reconnected – certainly the sign of a great night all round!



Lane Booth, Dylan Mleczo, Tim Robertson  
(all Class of 2019)



Xavier Johnson (CC2020), Cooper Maher (CC2020), Joel Hardman (CC2020),  
Grace Power (CC2019), Annalise Leopold (CC2019), Bridie McKenzie (CC2020)



Andrew Goodman, James Ormrod, Michael Pearson, Scott Holden (all Class of 2008)



A friend, Darci Kelly, Maddie Czigler, Miranda Fielder, Sienna Poynton (all Class of 2021), Sarah Dodd



Josette Mulcahy (CC2016)



Sarah Moody (CC2008), Alysha Genn (CC2008)



## Alumni Connect

In early June, eleven alumni visited the College to speak to our Year 11 and 12 students about their careers since leaving Cornish and what might be in store from life post-school. This is the second time that we have run an annual Alumni Connect morning, finding it to be highly valuable for our alumni and current students alike.

This year's event, in featuring both university students and those in the workforce, provided a good sense of balance between recent Cornish graduates, early career professionals, and those already established in their careers.

President of the Cornish Collegians Management Committee, Josette Mulcahy (CC2016), welcomed everyone and introduced our keynote speaker, Emma Halliday (CC2014), who has recently been admitted as a lawyer – it was inspiring to hear both speak passionately about their career choices.

We thank all those who made the day such a success, particularly the following alumni for their generous support of this initiative: Alysha Genn (CC2008), Paulina Mech (CC2007), Shreya Rana (CC2010), Niall Culleton (CC2020), Jack Kiddell (CC2017), James Cochrane (CC2019), Zac Baruhas (CC2018), Max Kearney (CC2016), Archer Hall (CC2018) and Rocco Angelone (CC2020)



Shreya Rana



Zac Baruhas

## Births



### Bourke

To Alex (current staff) and Dan Bourke on 6 April 2022, a son, Monty Francis Bourke.



### Holland

To Emma and Geoff (CC2008 current staff) on 31 May 2022, a daughter, Genevieve Elodie Holland. A sister for Mackenzie.

## Engagement



### Little – Fifield

Rebecca (current staff) and Andrew on 11 June 2022.

## Wedding



### Banks – Cashion

Taylor (CC2010) and Emily on 11 February 2022.

## Death Notice



### Baulch

Matthew Lawrence (former staff) on 4 March 2022. A wonderful musician and teacher.



### Wickenden (CC2016)

Freya Billie on 27 July 2022. 'Soaring high on currents of love'.

## 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](mailto:alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au) to share your updates.

### Follow Us

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



@CornishCollegeAlumni



@cornishcollegians

### 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/](http://www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-information/)

## The world is your oyster



**James Padley** (CC2008) will be a familiar face to those who attended Cornish in the early 2000s, remembered for his leading role in the 2005 secondary musical 'Man of Steel', talent for public speaking, service on numerous student councils, and time as Head Boy of the campus in 2006. James has continued to inspire others and pursue the performing

arts in a wide-ranging, international career:

It has proved an interesting task to reflect upon my career to date, given that it has not necessarily followed a linear trajectory. After finishing my VCE in 2008, I studied a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts, graduating in 2011. Following that, I travelled internationally as a performer for Life Like Touring's theatrical production of the beloved 'Peppa Pig' franchise, as well as the odd performance during Fringe and Comedy festivals.

Much of my success has come from various voice-over roles for clients including Monash University, Specsavers, Simonds Homes, and others. I hosted 'The Breakfast Show' on Kiss 87.6 FM from 2019 to 2021, and currently provide the voice over for 'Live from St Kilda with Ben Murphy' on Foxtel and Channel 31 – the latter for which I also serve as a writer and camera operator.

When I jot down these accomplishments, it all sounds quite glamorous and busy, but the truth is that the arts is a punishing industry with jobs often appearing few and far between. To compensate, I have spent the past eight years as a Team Leader and Senior Presenter at Elevate Education. This is a position that asks me to deliver engaging, funny, and interactive seminars to students, parents, and staff across a diverse range of schools. I never expected to pursue such a career, yet have found it to be incredibly rewarding and one that has provided amazing opportunities to live and work in both the UK and across Asia for extended periods. At all times, my goal has been to help students improve their study habits and mindset towards school.

Given recent challenges owing to the pandemic, I have decided to return to university to complete a Master of Media at RMIT University. It is my hope that additional knowledge of the media industry will enable me to 'pivot' into a somewhat more consistent full-time role whilst creating my own work outside of standard hours.

For soon-to-be Cornish graduates seeking a career in performance and creative industries, do not be disheartened if things evolve more slowly than you had hoped; you must be willing to play the 'long game' and work a variety of jobs – not all of them particularly glamorous. On the plus side, you can broaden your knowledge and perhaps even discover things that bring you joy in unexpected places. I find it hard to envision what my career might look like next year, let alone five or ten, but that is 'the nature of the beast'. As long as I am playing a role in the creation or telling of stories, then I will be happy.

## Building onwards and up



*A quiet achiever, and son of well-known former Cornish teacher Nancye Banks, the ever-personable and enthusiastic **Taylor Banks** (CC2010) graduated from Cornish in 2008 before sharing his motivation and commendable work ethic with the wider community. Here, Taylor reflects upon his journey*

*across various career options over the past decade and offers some pertinent advice for our current senior cohort:*

My time at Cornish from 2005 to 2008 is something that I will forever reflect upon with great admiration. This unique place of learning encouraged my classmates and I to be ourselves and helped us to establish vital life skills for the future.

So often we are told in our final years of school that university is the only 'smart choice' once graduating. I myself enrolled in clinical science at Victoria University, and whilst recognising this to be a great pathway ripe for scholarly exploration, never sensed it to be quite the right fit. Put simply, I lacked the desire and motivation to

continue along this path. During those years I, nevertheless, worked as a labourer and subsequently fell in love with the trade of carpentry. Being a visual, hands-on learner, I found this to be the perfect work environment.

Since completing a mature-age apprenticeship, I am now a qualified carpenter running my own business with a fantastic team. It is fair to say that not every day is straightforward – a strong work ethic is vital – but I am passionate about the career I have chosen. I enjoy problem-solving tasks 'on-the-go' and the sense of accomplishment in completing a job. Over the coming years, I will seek to grow the team and take the necessary steps to becoming a licensed builder.

Cornish is a place that taught me the importance of responsibility and commitment, as well as that of sustaining relationships – particularly crucial when you interact with a range of people across this substantial industry. My sincere advice for senior students unsure of their 'next move' in search of a fulfilling career is to give everything a go. Remember that you have plenty of time to grow into your professional interests and will continue to identify your strengths and weaknesses in the long term. Find your motivation and work hard!



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Annual Ladies Luncheon

The Parents Association held its Ladies Luncheon at Sandhurst Golf Club on Friday 20 May. This year's event was more eagerly anticipated than usual, given the 915 days that had elapsed since the previous event.

Upon arrival, attendees were treated to a glass of sparkling and canapés, followed by a two-course lunch. A bespoke market of small local businesses hosted a substantial display of luxury goods whilst a silent auction afforded an opportunity for guests to bid on items kindly donated by local community members. To that end, generous bids from many helped to raise funds for the school. A table draw and photo booth, likewise, allowed attendees to 'let down their hair' and partake in the festivities.

A particular highlight was a fashion show sponsored by Myer Chadstone and styled by Cornish mum Toni Newman from Toni + Co. A diverse group of female models walked the runway and shared some interesting facts about themselves, underscoring the themes of 'community', 'appreciation', and 'celebration' throughout the day.

All in all, this year's luncheon was a tremendous success and a true celebration of the 'here and now'; it afforded an opportunity to connect in more meaningful ways above and beyond the fleeting interactions of the day-to-day, and contributed to the future of Cornish via various fundraising incentives. A room abuzz with chatter perhaps gives some indication of a fabulous outing and definite highlight on the Parents Association calendar as we seek to build a spirit of community.



*(L-R Back Row) Kindra Logan, Paula Yates, Michelle Covey, Amy Jayasuriya-Clifford, Tania Stacey, Shawna Lavis  
(L-R Front Row) Rebecca Paul, Sue Tetley, Jennifer Robinson, Cristina Karvonidis, Peta Nuttall*



*Year 12 Mums L-R Nerida Laslow, Sabine Schroeter-Mass, Lisa Day, Janette Padinis, Meryn Serong, Jo-Anne Morel, Penny Hardman, Zita Watkins, Belinda Crtichlow, Jane Annells*



## Business Breakfast

In late March, we were most excited to officially launch the Cornish College Business Directory at our inaugural Business Breakfast, held at the Melbourne Cable Park.

Robert Novotny from the Cornish College Parents Association spoke passionately about the importance of community at Cornish, and attendees enjoyed some light musical entertainment from two of our senior students, Mailli Atkins and Reagan Morel.

Ian Clark, Managing Director of the Melbourne Cable Park, gave a terrific presentation as guest speaker, detailing the history of their site and future plans.

The Cornish College Business Directory continues to grow as a resource connecting our College with local communities and showcases a range of services from business support to leisure.

If you would like to have your business listed, please get in touch at [communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au) or on +61 3 9781 9000.

You can access the Cornish College Business Directory via the following link: <http://businessdirectory.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/>



*(L-R) Robert Novotny, Nicola Forrest, Ian Clark*

## A fitting farewell

On the afternoon of Thursday 2 June, colleagues, family and friends gathered to celebrate the stellar career of Mike Davis who retired at the end of last year. Attendees were treated to amusing anecdotes across Mike's four decades at Cornish and learnt a little about what life is like bringing up a family within this beautiful setting.

We will miss Mike's familiar presence on campus, but look forward to seeing him in a casual relief teacher capacity from time to time. Our College Archivists, Josette Mulcahy (CC2016) and Leighton Triplow (CC2010), also plan to discuss with Mike a permanent home within the Cornish College Archive for the thousands of photographs that capture life at Cornish from the very beginning.



Mike, his wife Amanda, and two daughters Sarah (CC2011) and Rebecca (CC2013)



(L-R) Recently retired staff Pete Westwood, Beverley Wende and Mike Davis celebrating a combined effort of 118 years of service to teaching

## Parents Association

The Parents Association recently elected their 2022 Office Bearers and General Committee.

### Office Bearers

Amy Jayasuriya-Clifford	President
Alicia Parker	Vice President
Glen Dymond	Treasurer
Rob Novotny	Secretary

### General Committee

Annabelle Coomerawel-Mortimer (Class Representative Coordinator), Kate Deegan, Jacqui Embleton, Sheryl Feldman, Angela Hotz, Kate Kenny, Sarah Lambert, Jim Poussard and Carol Widmann.

### Mother's Day Stall

A Mother's Day Stall was offered on Thursday 5 May for children from the Early Learning Centre through to Year 6. Rather than offering 'mass-produced' goods for sale, this year the Parents Association worked in collaboration with two local, female-owned small businesses to source sustainable, ethically and locally made products that could be of use for busy mums. Three beautifully presented items for sale – candles, tea, and soap – were extremely well received with all items being sold.



Rev Claire Dawe and Oliver Walmsley, Prep

Special thanks  
to our 10 Year  
Anniversary  
Sponsors







## 2022 Golf Day - Save the Date

**When:** Friday 25 November  
Lunch at 11.00am, shot-gun start at 12.30pm

**Where:** Southern Golf Club

This is a fantastic opportunity for community members to enjoy a round of golf while raising money to support the Cornish College Building Fund.

Golfers will enjoy an 18-hole Ambrose competition with a shot-gun start, with a range of prizes on offer.

## Upcoming School Tours

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

**Saturday 15 October**  
9.30am to 11.00am

**Wednesday 16 November (Twilight Tour)**  
6.00pm to 7.30pm

Book online via  
[www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/discover-cornish](http://www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/discover-cornish)

For more information, please contact Admissions on (03) 9781 9008 or via [admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au) or on +61 3 9781 9000.

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



## Lifeblood Team



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

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

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

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

## Important Dates

### Class of 2017 Five Year Reunion

Friday 2 September  
6.00pm - 9.00pm  
Registrations at:  
<https://bit.ly/CornishCollegeClassof2017FiveYearReunion>

### Class of 2021 One Year Reunion

Friday 11 November  
6.00pm - 8.00pm  
Strike Bowling



