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ISSUE**

Vicki Steer's outstanding contribution to Cornish College
Senior Studies Centre officially opens

A wonderful year of achievement by the Class of 2019

How Cornish College is contributing to a sustainable future

Why STEM is the way of the future

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Front cover image:

Eli Williams enjoying the Colour Celebration
on 10 December 2019

Editorial

There is one constant in life and that's change. Change is invigorating and helps us remain positive, energised and looking forward to the future with optimism and enthusiasm. Change also can be challenging – do we feel comfortable with a new way of doing something; how do we view the change; how does it impact on what we have been doing previously? These are natural responses and can make us feel unsettled or unsure. However, once we look at our responses objectively and understand their impact and why we're reacting in a particular way, we can then accept and embrace change and look forward to the effect of that change on our future collective and individual achievements.

As you read the Summer 2019/2020 edition of *The Difference*, I hope you'll get a sense of the huge variety of things happening (including some changes) at our wonderful school.

We farewellled Vicki Steer as the second Principal of the College in July. Vicki has done much to consolidate the way we do things at Cornish and you can read about some of her achievements in one of our feature stories. We also welcomed our new Principal, Nicola Forrest, in August. Nicola has been a passionate advocate for the ethos of Cornish and a well-known member of our teaching staff for some years, and we look forward to seeing the impact of her ideas at Cornish. We've covered our *Class of 2019* results, and have highlighted a number of recent sustainability initiatives undertaken at the College.

We've also covered our secondary production, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*; the wonderful STEM achievements of one of our Year 9 students, Gemma Wildermuth; two key and much-loved events at the College, Night of the Decades and the Year 6 Exhibition; and also some snapshots of individual student success – academic, artistic and sporting.

We're also fortunate to have some very passionate graduates of Cornish College. Four of their stories are featured in *Cornish Collegians*, and each of them is achieving success in their chosen, and diverse, fields.

Lastly, you'll notice that the design of this edition of *The Difference* has evolved – we hope that you enjoy the refreshed design. As always, if you have feedback about the magazine, we're keen to hear from you via email communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

How wonderful it is to be part of such a supportive, caring, friendly and confident community that is making a difference today for a thriving tomorrow.

Dennis Freeman

Community Relations Manager

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Boon wurrung people, a clan of the Central 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



Eva Santos discussing her Year 6 Exhibition project with Nicola

In 2019 we celebrated another remarkable year in the history of Cornish College.

Do you ever get to the end of the year and start thinking about all the things you've done over the past 12 months? The rewarding things, the challenging things, people you've met, people you've had to say goodbye to, the holidays you've been on, a new pet, a laugh, a special meal, an awkward moment – whatever it might be that's locked away in your memory of the last 12 months?

I had such a moment towards the end of 2019. I started the year as Deputy Principal, took six weeks leave, walked the Larapinta trail, had a week of peaceful rest in Palm Cove and then travelled around the coast of Western Australia with my partner, Brendan, where we camped on beaches, snorkelled off shores and swam with whale sharks. And then I came back and was Principal of Cornish College – it honestly challenges me to realise that all this happened in just 12 months!

It means a great deal to me to be Principal of Cornish College, and I'm beginning to understand why I am meant to be here in this role.

I'm here first and foremost to serve you – a community who have committed to an education that requires more than bricks and mortar, more than educating the child. A community who have committed to an education that makes a difference now, for a better tomorrow, always with courage and together. Cornish College is about the education of a community – one where the Board and the Principal play their role not at the top, but in the heart of a network of vital and productive relationships.

Being Principal of our great school means caring for and committing to community. It means being there for people and keeping communications open and honest. It means keeping a few extra pairs of shoes in my office, as you never know when a day is going to call for heels or gumboots. A colleague did suggest to me that that would make a great title for a book: *High heels and gumboots – memoirs of a Principal*. Well, it is a little too soon for that, but I did like the sound of it!

But being Principal also means being part of a team. Firstly, our Cornish College parents; the Parents Association, led by Lara Sinclair, and our wonderful students. The Cornish College Board is also an integral part of this team. Their extraordinary dedication and passion for Cornish College is incredible and they are a great example of what diversity in teams can achieve.

Every staff member at Cornish College is essential to our team. They give so much more to our College than they can ever be rewarded for and I thank each and every one of them for choosing education as their career and for choosing Cornish College to *make a difference*.

Particular thanks to Vicki Steer, the second Principal of Cornish College, for

leading our school through the first half of 2019 and to our wonderful Executive Team, who stepped up to serve the College graciously in a time of change.

It has certainly been a busy five months for all of us, but if this five months is a sign of what we can do when we work together, just imagine what we will achieve in the future. Our vision and strategy for education of a different kind is as strong as ever and we will move forward with integrity, respect, compassion, creativity, and always with courage.

One morning last year, I was sitting outside under a tree on the Village Green, doing some work in what I like to think of as my *outdoor office*. Finn Sinclair, a Year 10 student, wandered past me. We had a wave at each other and, as he took in the scene of me sitting outside doing my work, he commented, "Only at Cornish." Moments later, Rose Wallace from Year 9 called out *hello* and asked me what I was doing. She, too, commented, "That's very Cornish, Ms Forrester." Later, Reagan Morel and Jess Tetley from Year 9 popped into my office to talk about *high fives* and secret *coordinated handshakes*, which we decided we'd work on for another time. And you know what Reagan said? "That's so Cornish." Three such comments in the space of a couple of hours.

You know what I love about this place? We know who we are. We know what it means to be Cornish and that only comes from truly being a community. There is a lot in education that is "only at Cornish" and we're proud of all of it.

Nicola Forrester



(L-R) Principals of Cornish College - Vicki Steer, Kerry Bolger and Nicola Forrester

FEATURES



Vicki Steer, pictured at the opening of the Vicki Steer Green

An Outstanding Contribution

The College farewelled Vicki Steer as the second Principal of Cornish College in July 2019. It's timely to reflect on her contribution to the consolidation of our school.

Vicki Steer became the second Principal of Cornish College in January 2016, after significant positions of educational leadership as Deputy Principal of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar, and as Principal of Ravenswood College in Sydney. The

College considered itself fortunate to be able to appoint someone of such stature and experience to lead our young school.

Cornish College had only commenced four years prior to Vicki taking up the position and there was much work to be done in establishing the school on a firm foundation. Vicki led Cornish in a successful extension of its registration as a school as one of her first tasks; led the College in developing strong and clear policies; and obtained a revised Constitution, separate incorporation as a legal entity and the transfer of all lands to the College.

A revision of Cornish's Strategic Plan was an early undertaking; building on wide consultation with the Cornish community and resourcing the Board and staff with a strong plan for the next five years. That led onto a process of reviewing the school's property and physical resources, the appointment of consultants to enable a wide-ranging consultation in order to develop a far-sighted Master Plan, which changed the way in which the Board viewed the property and opened up exciting possibilities over the next two decades and beyond.

Arising out of that Master Plan, planning began for the construction of a new Senior Studies Centre, a very large and significant project, which was opened on 26 July 2019, just before Vicki concluded her term as Principal. Alongside the school buildings, Vicki continued the school's commitment to sustainability and oversaw the growth of an emphasis on outdoor learning, which has been widely acclaimed.

The most important resource of a school is its staff, and Vicki constantly encouraged the professional growth of all staff and substantially improved College systems and processes. She has driven the Cornish College educational philosophy forward as we continued to grow, with a deep belief that education must prepare students to make a positive difference in the world.

To acknowledge her contribution to the College, the outdoor area between the Sustainability Centre and the new Senior Studies Centre was named the Vicki Steer Green and officially opened, during a short ceremony, on Tuesday 26 November.

We thank Vicki for her leadership of the College and wish her well as she moves on from Cornish into educational mentoring and consulting.

Building a Sustainable Vision for Powerful Learning

26 July 2019 was a significant milestone in the history of Cornish College as we celebrated the opening of our Senior Studies Centre by the Hon James Merlino MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education. The construction of this remarkable building was made possible through funding from the Victorian Government, the Cornish College community and support from the Cornish College Parents' Association. Mr Merlino, who was joined by Tim Richardson MP, State Member for Mordialloc and Parliamentary Secretary for Schools, spoke warmly of the need for thoughtfully designed spaces to enhance learning experiences for Victorian students.

Rev Dr Robert Johnson, Chair of the College Board, dedicated the building and spoke of the vision shown by then Principal Vicki Steer in bringing the project to life.

Our four College Captains, Polly Draper, Phoebe-Rose Perry, Fern Myrtle and Daniel Gerber were in attendance to represent our Years 11 and 12 cohort and to assist with cutting the ribbon.

The feedback from students, staff and the community on the quality and feel of the building has been extremely positive and has set a benchmark for all future building projects at the College.



(L-R) Tim Richardson MP, Hon James Merlino MP, Vicki Steer and Rev Dr Robert Johnson pictured at the opening of the Senior Studies Centre.

A Wonderful Year of Achievement by the *Class of 2019*

Each of our students sought to achieve personal academic excellence and the College is very proud of their results.

Class of 2019 VCE results:

- Three students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, placing them in the top 10% of all students in Victoria
- 14% received an ATAR of 80 or above, placing them in the top 20% of all students in Victoria
- Seven students achieved a Study Score above 40, one of which was a perfect Study Score of 50, placing them in the top 8% of all students in Victoria

2019 Dux

Congratulations to Polly Draper, who achieved an ATAR of 95.60, and who also received an academic excellence award for her Extended Investigation thesis!

Polly explored the topic "Women, Workplace and Success: Attitude and Appraisal of Transactional and Transformational Leadership" in her thesis, which she completed through Virtual School Victoria, supported by her learning coach at Cornish.



Congratulations to the Class of 2019

A Sustainable Future Starts Now

Cornish College has recently signed the Victorian Government's TAKE2 Pledge, which is "Working together, we pledge to play our part and take action on climate change for Victoria, our country and our planet". We are aiming to become, amongst other initiatives, to become a Five Star ResourceSmart School and also become a community hub for sustainability.

Our ResourceSmart committee of staff and students is working hard to identify areas where we can make a difference in areas such as operational, teaching and learning and whole school community engagement. One area that was identified by a group of Year 10 students was our canteen – see their amazing findings on page 5.

Cornish College's TAKE2 Pledge

Our vision is to educate students who will make a positive difference in contributing to a sustainable future.

Our simplest definition of sustainability at Cornish College is making a difference for a world where there is enough for all, forever.

We believe the best way to achieve our vision is to embed sustainability, in its widest form, within our curriculum. We do this through our four Rings of Sustainability and by regularly connecting children to nature through our commitment to an outdoor learning pedagogical framework. We recognise that connection to nature is linked to pro-environmental behaviour moving forward into adulthood. Through careful and purposeful curriculum planning, direct teaching, inquiry and action we develop an appreciation for and connection to the natural world. This helps us all to understand how important it is to make wise and careful decisions moving forward into the future.

The challenge for us, indeed for everyone is to put these ideals into practice on a daily basis. The College is committed to being leaders in education for a sustainable future and we pledge to do our part to create a world where our actions mitigate against runaway climate change.

Cornish produce celebrated at the Dandenong Show

A range of products grown and nurtured at Cornish College throughout 2019 won prizes at the inaugural Dandenong Show in November.

Olives grown and brined collaboratively by our Years 5, 9 and 10 students placed second, while Cornish sage received third prize, and both our mixed herbs and our Cornish honey won first prize!

Broad beans harvested by our Year 4 Eco-Kids were also very successful, receiving third prize. These beans were planted from seed and nurtured by the students until they grew to be mature plants. The Year 4s enjoyed snacking on them while gardening, as well as creating new dishes with them in the Eco-Kids kitchen (they were particularly delicious when served with chunky vegetable soup and mint and feta dip!).

It's fantastic to see our students sharing their fresh produce with the wider community.



Year 4 students Thomas Menara and Cayleigh Sandy-Hayes tending to broad beans in the Eco-Kids garden

Reducing the impact of marine plastics

A passion for the environment and a small note on plastic bottles around Patterson River inspired Jake Ormsby-Goard, Year 9, to meet with Sonya Kilkenny MP, Member for Carrum, about a container deposit scheme.

While auditing the Patterson River, Jake and his classmates in Outdoor and Environmental Studies were devastated by the severe impact plastic has had on marine biodiversity and water acidity levels. Jake decided to meet with Ms Kilkenny to discuss a container deposit scheme – an ideal solution.

"In states like South Australia, where they have the 10-cent refund for plastics, the plastic levels in water have gone down dramatically and the water quality has improved a lot," said Jake.

"It has also changed a lot of their culture, so I thought it was an all-around solution."

Jake said Ms Kilkenny was "very open" to his idea and agreed to pass it on to the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister of Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Jake is waiting to hear more, but his idea has gone "as far as the Treasurer of Victoria." He hopes his idea can result in a trial along the Patterson River, with the end goal being a state-wide scheme.

Contributing to a sustainable world

As part of their *Enterprise* Years 9 and 10 Breadth Studies class, Thomas McWha, Mitchell Meredith, Edward Reed, Nicholas Reiterer, Sebastian Smith and Addison Loffler sold sustainable chopping boards they crafted out of pallets from throughout the College and the community. Their board sales were part of the Foundation for Young Australians \$20 Boss program, in which students learn about enterprise and launch a small business idea using a \$20 fund per student that is repaid, with interest, at the end of the year.

While the students had a very successful semester, taking home a profit at the end of the project, they focused on the importance of making a difference through sustainable choices:

"As members of the Cornish community, we have a responsibility to ensure that we do everything in our power to contribute to a sustainable world. This is why we decided to repurpose a product that would have otherwise gone to landfill."



Edward Reed and Addison Loffler, pictured, selling chopping boards



The Outdoor and Environmental Studies class studied dolphins in their natural habitat

Other projects in Jake's class included a farm of mealworms, which can break down plastics that do not decompose naturally, a rap song warning of the dangers of marine plastics while providing solutions to reduce their impact, a house being built entirely from recycled materials and plastics, and a biodegradable form of plastic.

After a fantastic semester, the students swam with dolphins and studied them in their natural habitat. This reminded them that their work in reducing the impact of marine plastics is more important than ever.

Clean canteen

In 2018, seven Year 10 students investigated how we might provide more sustainable packaging choices in the canteen. As part of their Breadth Studies class, they investigated packaging, utensils and cups used in the canteen and researched more sustainable options. Now in Year 12, Lucy Borg, Molly Dinan and Freya Dawe, pictured below, recently presented their results to the College's ResourceSmart Committee.

They recommended the College move to sustainable packaging and cups, with the small additional cost of biodegradable products being incorporated into the cost of purchase. The committee was very impressed by their presentation, and have agreed to implement their recommendations as soon as possible.



(L-R) Lucy Borg, Molly Dinan and Freya Dawe recently made recommendations to the College's ResourceSmart Committee

Production Delights and Immerses Audiences

Our secondary production of CS Lewis's beloved classic *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* not only invited audiences to Narnia, it took them by the hand, led them through the wardrobe and immersed them in the wonderful, white land of Narnia.

The production drew upon promenade theatre, encouraging audiences to stand and, at times, walk through sets around the actors. This helped audiences develop an intimate bond with the characters in ways traditional performances do not allow. This, director and producer Lauren Zeigler said, was crucial.

"Narnia is a place to be immersed in, marvelled at, escape in," said Lauren. "There are at least ten different locations in this play – rivers and forests, mountains and palaces. This is where the possibility of a promenade-type theatre emerged."

The production was based on an adaptation by Glyn Robbins and featured over 50 students in the cast and crew. Due to unprecedented demand, a fifth show was added to the schedule.

Music facilitator Rebecca McPhail said finding the right music to "tell the story" was a challenge, but students faced this with collaboration and creativity.

"Often in education, we talk about the process being just as important (if not more) than the end result. This was truly the case with this project," said Rebecca. "Facilitating a piece of theatre that students could have a sense of ownership over was fantastic."

Audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive but, for Lauren, the highlight was watching students develop their own interpretations of the story.

"What was really exciting during the process of this production was that the students started uncovering their own understandings," said Lauren. "What a powerful experience to collaborate with such responsive young artists."

We can't wait to see what our next production holds!



A Language and Cultural Day for Year 7s

On Wednesday 20 November, all Year 7 language students came together to celebrate the art of *Manga* (Japanese) and *Bande dessinée* (French) and their first year of secondary language learning.

The highlight was a workshop organised by a professional manga artist, Kenny Chan. Students learnt the basics of how to draw comic characters, including how to use space effectively, how to create younger or older looking characters, and how to create different expressions. Some students were especially interested in drawing different hairstyles – the mullet seemed quite popular!

After some practice, students were put to the test and asked to work in small groups to create their own character and write a description using the language they had learnt during the year. They also used an editing process to ensure they refined their writing skills.

To create a sense of belonging and celebration, students were also encouraged to dress up as a *Manga*/ *Bande dessinée* character.

To wrap up the day, students could also eat a crepe from the Crepes for Change van. The money raised by the students went towards helping Melbourne's homeless youth. In total, Cornish raised \$1,400, which paid for 56 hours of workplace training for young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. All in all, it was a great opportunity for some learning and to experience the culture of Japan and France, while also making a difference. That's the Cornish College way!



Samuel Leard hard at work

STEM: The Way of the Future

It's been a busy 12 months for Gemma Wildermuth. Along with her Year 9 studies, Gemma participated in a range of extracurricular STEM activities, including camps, competitions and conferences.

Gemma has also been working on a “self-sufficient and sustainable” fodder machine to ensure farmers have “a reliable source of feed for their animals”, particularly during droughts.

Gemma enjoyed presenting her fodder machine at the 2019 Global Table Conference, where she also introduced keynote speaker Dr Howard-Yana Shapiro, Chief Agricultural Officer of Mars Incorporated, and sat on a panel about start-ups.

“The Global Table Conference was amazing,” Gemma said. “It was the first time I’d actually spoken at a conference, and I presented my project on a global stage in front of 2,000 people. I was also invited to sit on a panel that discussed the incubation and acceleration of start-ups, and I helped them with the questions. It was really fun.”

While Gemma couldn't say much, she is preparing a working prototype of her fodder machine. Gemma hopes it will support farmers who are struggling with drought by providing solutions to common problems with other fodder machines, which are expensive, high maintenance and have mould issues.

Gemma's interest in STEM spans a range of conferences and international science camps, as well as robotics competitions such as Robo Cup, FIRST LEGO League, and Real Time Learning. In 2018, her LEGO League team won the Strategy and Innovation Award at the Nationals competition, and they progressed through to the Internationals in Uruguay. Gemma said this was “absolutely incredible.”

Moving on to New Challenges

Jarrod Davies has worked at Cornish College since 2010, firstly as a PE teacher and then for the last six years as chaplain. Jarrod has been a wonderful colleague and has brought a smile to many faces over the years with his love of “dodgy games”, in particular dodge ball, and also his passion for parking correctly! He now feels that the time is right for him and his family to move into the next phase of his ministry and he has accepted a pastoral leadership role at the Footscray Church of Christ.

Jarrod is looking forward to the challenge of ministry as a pastor and also being much closer to the home of his beloved *Shinboners* at Arden Street, North Melbourne!

We also farewelled several other staff members who moved on to new challenges at the end of 2019. We thank all of them for their commitment to Cornish College over the years and wish them well in their future endeavours.



Gemma Wildermuth with her FIRST Tech Challenge awards

Gemma also founded Dangerous Minds – the only FIRST Tech Challenge team in Victoria. They recently competed in Sydney to qualify for Regionals and, along with being part of the winning alliance, they won the Inspire Award – the equivalent of a champion's award. Gemma said this has been important for other students.

Gemma said the support of her peers and teachers has been invaluable.

“Cornish has encouraged me to go beyond just the classroom, and if I have an interest in something, to pursue it and follow it,” said Gemma. “My teachers and peers are very supportive in what I’m doing outside of school. It’s amazing to have their support.”

In the future, Gemma hopes to pursue further studies after Cornish at Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Caltech in America, before starting a robotics company to “make a difference in people's lives.” She hopes others with an interest in STEM can pursue their passions as well.

“Everyone should also realise that STEM is not just about science – it's about all kinds of sciences, technologies, engineering and mathematics. It is a pathway for our future.”



Jarrod Davies at his farewell function

A fond farewell to:

- Lindy Powell, Primary Academic Care Leader
- Trudi Sampson, Japanese teacher
- Karen Bastidas, Primary teacher
- Brenna Carrigy, Individual Needs Coordinator (secondary)
- Cassie Dixon, Primary teacher
- Hannah Booth, Secondary art teacher
- Lynda Fleming, Private drama teacher
- Neringa Smith, Psychologist (Term 4, 2019)



A Celebration of Learning

The Night of Decades is a celebration of learning and a demonstration of rigorous, independent and self-directed inquiry and teamwork. It is the outcome of over a term's work that has been presented to the school community in the second last week of Term 4 for the last 16 years. In 2019, 67 Year 8 students were involved, and they were well-supported by the Year 8 teaching team, with more than 20 teachers from across all disciplines.

The essential understanding for the Night of Decades is *No change happens in isolation. One change leads to another.* Students are required to explore this understanding through the concepts of change, causation, effect and legacy. The overarching concept is sustainability and students enjoy using the Cornish *Rings of Sustainability* to consider the many factors that influenced and challenged the sustainability of their chosen decade. They make connections between the significant people, events, issues, discoveries and concepts that have and continue to affect change. Through the disciplines, they demonstrate their understanding and the connections made.

In teams, they explore a chosen decade from the 20th century and become immersed in the political, social, technological and environmental events and issues of the time. They become an expert on a significant person and undertake an inquiry into one important *change point* from that decade. Their knowledge and understanding

are presented to their parents through the disciplines of English, history, geography, politics, economics, mathematics, science, art, drama, music, dance and food technology at a Night of Decades Celebration Evening.

At the start of the evening, the students became living statues as they adopted poses while costumed as their chosen significant person. The Year 8 band entertained the guests with a number from the 1970s and Year 8 drama students coordinated the evening and provided many laughs with various send ups of the Y2K scare of 1999.

Guests were invited to a variety of Learning Centres to hear a selection of *Who am I?* verses written by the students to reflect their chosen persona, to listen to student-created radio programs, to view museum pieces collected by the students and to reflect on the key questions, understandings and generalisations students had formulated during their inquiries.

Students presented their chosen *change point* through a visual presentation that illustrated their oral presentation. The Night of Decades concluded with a well-received 1970's-themed Decade Supper prepared by students during food technology and a high-energy dance item performed by 44 students, who presented a 1990s inspired hip-hop dance routine.

The Night of Decades is an important part of the Year 8 concept-driven, inquiry-based and integrated program and is an eagerly anticipated rite of passage at Cornish College.

Exploring Key Issues

The Year 6 Exhibition encourages students to inquire about societal issues and reflect on how they can help make a difference. Students choose an issue that is important to them, thoroughly research a topic, write a report and create a display of their findings to share with members of the College community at their exhibition. It was fantastic to see the range of topics covered at the exhibition in November, including *climate change*, *bullying*, *social media*, *anxiety*, *body image*, *food sustainability*, *respect and tolerance*, *screen time*, and *many more*.



Important issues: students, including Daisy Hinton (L) and Yanzhen Chen (R), focused on a range of topics, such as mental health and climate change

Fresh idea for inclusiveness

For his exhibition project, Zac Livanos decided he wanted to make a difference for someone very close to his heart. Zac's older brother, Michael, has autism and does not use speech, so Zac explored some creative solutions to help Michael be part of the wider community.

Zac's big idea was *Fresh Air Friends* – a program that would see people with disability paired with members of the wider community for a walk. Sharing a walk together could help break down barriers and encourage people from different parts of the community to get to know each other, improving community access for individuals with disability and reducing the isolation they can sometimes face.

Zac's teachers, parents and peers were extremely supportive of his idea and his project. Zac hopes he has helped raise awareness about understanding differences, and that his idea will help make a positive difference for people living with disability.



Respect and tolerance

While most of his peers were enjoying their Term 3 school holidays, Samuel Bourbon met with the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP to discuss *tolerance and respect* for his exhibition project. Samuel has been interested in problems faced by the LGBTQ+ community recently and, in a fantastic display of initiative, he organised an interview with Mark Dreyfus, Federal Labor Member for Isaacs. Mr Dreyfus has been involved in marriage equality debates and campaigns in recent years, including *Isaacs Says Yes*.

Samuel said the interview went really well and Mr Dreyfus's answers gave him some important context about current events, equality in Australian laws and empathy in public debate. They also discussed "what Mr Dreyfus plans to do in the future" to increase acceptance and respect for minority groups, which helped Samuel reflect on how to make a difference in this space.

"In the future, I would like to see more acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community by everyone," said Samuel.



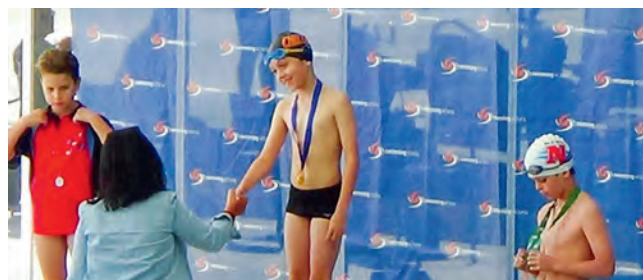
STUDENT SUCCESS

Following on from a fantastic 2018, Dion Gordon had another year of spectacular swimming achievements throughout 2019.

In 2018, Dion represented Cornish College and Victoria at the School Sport Australia National Championships as a member of the Victorian team, where he achieved a National medal.

During 2019, Dion achieved 1st place in the 50m butterfly and 2nd place in the 50m freestyle at the School Sport Victoria Southern Metropolitan Region competition, and won both the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle events in the School Sport Victoria Kingston Division competition.

Dion was a State medallist in the Victorian All Junior championships for the third year in a row, and also made a National qualifying time of 35.60 seconds in the 10 year old boys' 50m butterfly!



While most students were winding down after a busy year at school, Orlando Schwerdt was in Sydney to promote the new film, *True History of the Kelly Gang*. Orlando plays young Ned Kelly in the film – a role he was thrilled to play.

After a year-long audition process – which even included horse riding lessons – filming for Orlando's scenes primarily took place in Wangaratta and Marysville throughout July and August in 2018. He said he "absolutely enjoyed" the experience.

"Filming was amazing," Orlando said. "Everyone was really professional but they were also really lovely people."

"My teachers and peers have also been really great about it," he said. "Mr Holland sent me all of the work that I had to do, and that was really lovely of him. I think I managed to keep up!"

Orlando has also featured in other stage shows, musical productions and short films, including *Matilda the Musical*, Opera Australia's *Carmen*, the independent

film *Incubator* and, most recently, *School of Rock the Musical*. He also enjoyed playing Edmund in the Cornish production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Orlando said acting is "an amazing hobby" that he would love to pursue after he completes his schooling at Cornish. He is also keen to study at university and become a barrister or a lawyer.

True History of the Kelly Gang is out now.

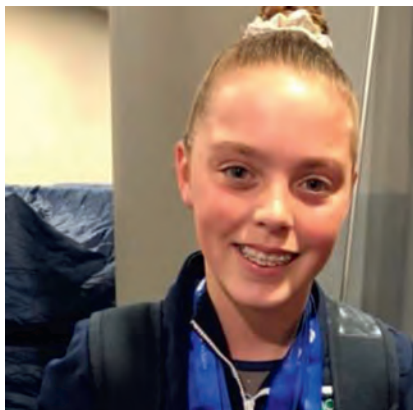


Congratulations to some of Cornish's sporting superstars, who achieved great results in 2019!

Jessica Tetley was selected for the Netball Victoria Talent Academy in 2019, proving her hard work and training has paid off.



Bethan Woodbridge competed in Level 6 at the State Championships for gymnastics and was placed 1st on vault, 3rd on bars and 2nd in the all-around! Bethan's team also achieved great results, being placed 1st in vault, 2nd on bars and 2nd overall.



Woodley Hall competed in the Merimbula Kite Surfing Classic, where he was placed 2nd in the Junior division and won the Ben Wilson Kite Week and Namotu Island Prize (also known as the 'BW Kiter of the Future' award).



Samantha Moloney represented Victoria in the School Sports Australia Touch Football tournament in Canberra as part of the girls' 15 Years and Under team. Samantha's journey began in July, with three trials to be selected for the Victorian team, before training hard each weekend to prepare for the tournament. She played nine games over four days and had lots of fun making friends in different state teams from throughout Australia.



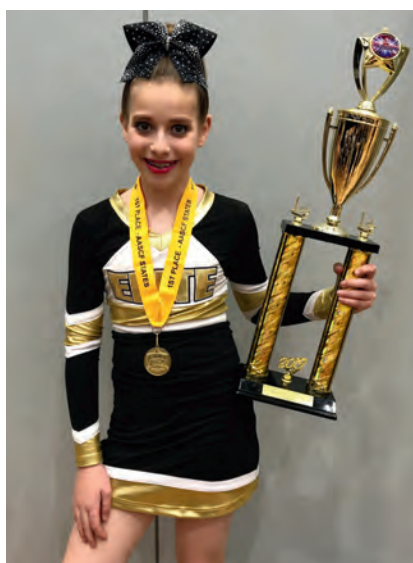
Thomas Brookes competed at the Australian Junior League Australian Championships in baseball, representing the Southern Mariners. Thomas and his team won every game against 12 teams from across Australia and made it into the grand final! It was an extremely close final that went to two extra innings. The Southern Mariners lost by 1 run, 8-7, just missing out on the chance to represent Australia at the Junior League World Series, in Michigan, USA.



Loretta DeNittis competed at the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships in Broadbeach Queensland, and obtained a Bronze Medal in Beach Sprints final for the State Championships held at Warrnambool. She also represented Cornish, winning the Flags at the Victoria Police Surf Carnival in March.



Emma Chantry and her "Elite All-Stars" team came 1st (for the third time in five years!) at the Australian All Star Cheerleading Federation (AASCf) States.



Georgia Nelson competed at the Victorian Equestrian Interschool State Championships, where she won the High Points Award for Years 7 to 10 for her efforts in showing! Judges awarded points based on manners, paces, riding and overall appearance.



2019 Awards

Congratulations to the following students for their wonderful achievements in 2019.

Outstanding Citizenship

Year 5 - Fraser Longmuir
Year 6 - Emily Dodd
Year 7 - Isabella Meldrum
Year 8 - Isaac Willoughby
Year 9 - Reagan Morel
Year 10 - Zoe Spence
Year 11 - Tierney Khan
Year 12 - Polly Draper

Federal Member's Award for Community Spirit and Leadership
Primary - Lilli Meldrum, Year 5
Secondary - Freya Dawe, Year 11

State Member's Award for Outstanding Student Citizen
Year 6 - Talia Aitken
Year 12 - James Cochrane

Australian Olympic Change Maker Award
Oliver Stevens, Year 11

Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Award
Sara Scully, Year 10

Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award
Olivia Buckley, Year 10
Ruby Findlay, Year 12

Melbourne University Principal's Scholarship
Polly Draper, Year 12

Cornish Award
Sophie Mackey, Year 12

Cornish Collegians Alumni Association

The Cornish College Board recently approved the *Rules* of the *Cornish Collegians Alumni Association*, which is another exciting step towards establishing a formal alumni association to represent all those with a love for Cornish, including former students, former staff and friends of the College.

This year, we will begin the process of electing a committee, which will be responsible for managing the activities of the Association, so please consider whether you would like to be involved and, if so, watch out for further news of when elections will take place.

Save the Date

On Friday 21 February, we're delighted to announce that the College will be hosting a cocktail party for all alumni who attended either the Cornish Campus of St Leonard's or Cornish College. It will be held from 6.00pm-8.00pm in the new Senior Studies Centre at the College.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to catch up with school friends, hear about the exciting developments at Cornish and also see our wonderful new building.

Further details about the evening will be shared soon, so if you haven't already updated your contact details, please do so via our website

www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/alumni/ or email us directly at alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Raising Environmental Awareness

Since graduating from Cornish College, Lara Williamson (CC2016) has been completing her Bachelor of Environmental Science at Deakin University, majoring in Wildlife and Conservation Biology. She has also been involved in a range of climate activism groups and initiatives. Lara shares more about her experiences here:

"After completing my schooling at Cornish in 2016, I jumped straight into an Environmental Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology) degree at Deakin University. Even as I faced the trials and triumphs of tertiary education and the challenges of adulthood, my commitment to conservation and climate activism were my tethers. I have explored small mammal trapping, radio tracking, dung beetle and frog surveys, hooded plover monitoring, vegetation management (aka lots of weeding!), geology and landscape evolution, pest and weed management, as well as statistics and computer code.

"I also extended my learning overseas. I completed a month of volunteering with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand in November 2018, seeing first-hand the impact invasive mammals are having on native bird populations. In early 2019, I secured a placement working with Earthwatch Australia on verifying data from their ClimateWatch Program – a citizen science website/application that records the relationship between animal/plant sightings and climate change.

"In May, I got involved with Extinction Rebellion (XR) – a social movement to encourage government and corporate action on the climate and ecological

emergency. Since then, I have been coordinating an XR Frankston/Bayside group, been appointed to the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Coastal Committee for Mornington and have continued to work casually in retail.

"The past three years out of Cornish have been about finding my place in the world, and I have the Cornish community to thank for all that I have had the courage to achieve."



Short Film: A Success

Since leaving Cornish, Angus Klarenaar (CC2018), pictured third from left, has been studying a Diploma of Screen and Media at Swinburne University. He recently won *Best Short Film* in his diploma for *Occult Attraction* – a short film he worked on as part of a team assignment. Angus and his team have submitted their film to local festivals in Australia – we’re keeping our fingers crossed!

Angus is looking forward to the challenge of continuing his studies at Swinburne as he completes his Advanced Diploma.



Exploring Chemical Engineering

Liam Giezen (CC2015) is currently studying a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (Honours) at Monash University and recently moved to Geelong, where he has been accepted into the Viva Energy Australia Summer Internship Program at the oil refinery based in Corio (formerly owned by Shell).

Below he shares some insights into his experiences:

“The refinery supplies 50% of Victoria’s fuel and 25% of all liquid fuels in Australia as well as being Australia’s only bitumen manufacturer. It’s an excellent place to work as a chemical engineer and I’m super passionate about working in this field. The plant itself is kilometres wide and we use bicycles to get around the plant to minimise the number of potential ignition sources on site.”

“In my time at the refinery, I’m expected to develop and implement a plant-wide electricity usage optimisation strategy to reduce the plant’s net electricity import at specific times when electricity prices spike. This usually occurs on hot days when demand is high and there is instability in the electrical grid.”

“At university, I’ve recently completed my final year design project, which was a conceptual design study for a sulfuric acid plant based in Western Australia. This included analysing the design to quantify – as much as possible –

the social, economic and environmental impacts of the plant, and to evaluate the overall viability and sustainability of the plant design (sound familiar?).”

“I’m set to graduate by the end of semester one in 2020, after which I’ll have to wait and see where else my degree takes me.”



Outstanding Musical Achievement

Leighton Triplow (CC2010) attended the Cornish campus of St Leonard's from 1998 to 2008, before moving to the Brighton campus for VCE. Since then, Leighton has pursued his passion for music in tertiary studies, including his recently-awarded PhD in musicology and classical singing. Below, he shares some reflections on his time since Cornish.

"2019 was a busy year of music-making, concluding with my graduation from The University of Melbourne with a PhD in musicology and classical singing. This special occasion signified the end of a decade of tertiary education and is the beginning of my new chapter as a freelance musician and independent scholar.

"In the period 2011–2019, I focused on several years of doctoral research on the English composer Henry Purcell (1659–1695). I was most fortunate to visit Europe and the United Kingdom on study exchanges to the University of Birmingham and Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, being granted a unique opportunity to consult world experts in the field of Purcellian scholarship. Highlights included organising and performing in a musical soirée at the Australian High Commission, London, and at the Handel House Museum.

"In this new decade, I want to advance my career as a classical soloist, dabble in events management, and engage in performance-based research projects at the postdoctoral level. Wherever these scholarly pursuits may take me, I am forever indebted to Cornish for the significant role that it played in my early education—particularly a strong music curriculum overseen by Liz Furman—and countless fond memories provided by the unique learning environment."



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 gotten engaged or married, please let us know!

We welcome children of alumni to the College and recommend 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/enrolments/policy-and-procedure/

Contact: Dennis Freeman or Cassandra Tonkin via alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Follow Us

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

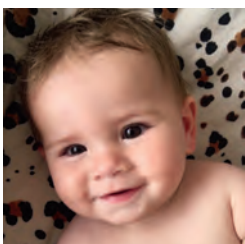


@CornishCollegeAlumni

Births

Payne

To Shaun Payne and Flynn Pitt (current staff) on 7 May 2019, a daughter, Luna Bobbi, a sister for Maddox and Arlo



Engagements

Holland - Robbins

Geoff (CC2008)(current staff) and Emma on 8 July 2019



COMMUNITY NEWS

New Underpass a Vital Link

It's been 10 years in the planning, but a 200m stretch of pathway between Patterson Lakes and the Riverend Road precinct was finally opened on 12 August. The path which connects the Longbeach Trail, the Patterson River loop and the Dandenong Creek Trail now provides safe pedestrian and cycle access under the Mornington Peninsula Freeway. The underpass links houses on one side of the freeway with the Melbourne Cable Park, National Water Sports Centre and Cornish College on the other side.

We are all very grateful to Sonya Kilkenny MP and Tim Richardson MP, who lobbied hard for this project and also members of our own community, led by former President of the Parents Association and current Board member, Tara Broderick, for petitioning successfully for the upgrade of this path, used by many of our students.



(L-R): Tim Richardson MP, Gia Pando, Naomi Kah and Sonya Kilkenny MP at the opening

Golf Day

The 2019 Cornish College Golf Day at Sandhurst Club was a resounding success. It was a beautiful, sunny day with perfect conditions for golf as we raised funds for Cornish College's Building Fund. Thank you to our guest speaker, Australian professional golfer and 1999 Australian Masters winner, Craig Spence for his wonderful speech, and to our generous sponsors who helped make the day such a success. We are grateful for the support of:

- Driver Bus Lines
- Programmed Property Services
- South Eastern Cleaning Services
- Rack & Shelf Labels (Australia) Pty Ltd
- Extend After School Care
- Hunter Industrials Pty Ltd
- Choices Flooring
- Noone Imagewear

Thank you to all who supported this wonderful fundraiser.



Happy golfers at the 2019 Golf Day

2020 Golf Day

Friday 21 August
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 shotgun start, with a range of prizes on offer. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please contact Martin Massey, Business Manager, on 9781 9000 or via martin.massey@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



Upcoming School Tours

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

Saturday 15 February
9.30am to 11.00am

Saturday 2 May
9.30am to 11.00am

Thursday 4 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 9000 or via
admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Cornish Conversations

Study skills for parents of students in Years 5 to 12, presented by Elevate Education

Wednesday 4 March
Cornish College
7.00pm

This seminar provides parents with strategies to get on the same page as their children so that the skills taught in class are reinforced at home.

Topics covered include:

- Time management
- Study support
- Motivation

Parents will also be provided with access to the Elevate Parent e-book with advice for supporting their child throughout their studies.

Book your free ticket online via:
bit.ly/CornishConversationsStudySkills

For more information about Elevate Education, please visit their website: au.elevateeducation.com





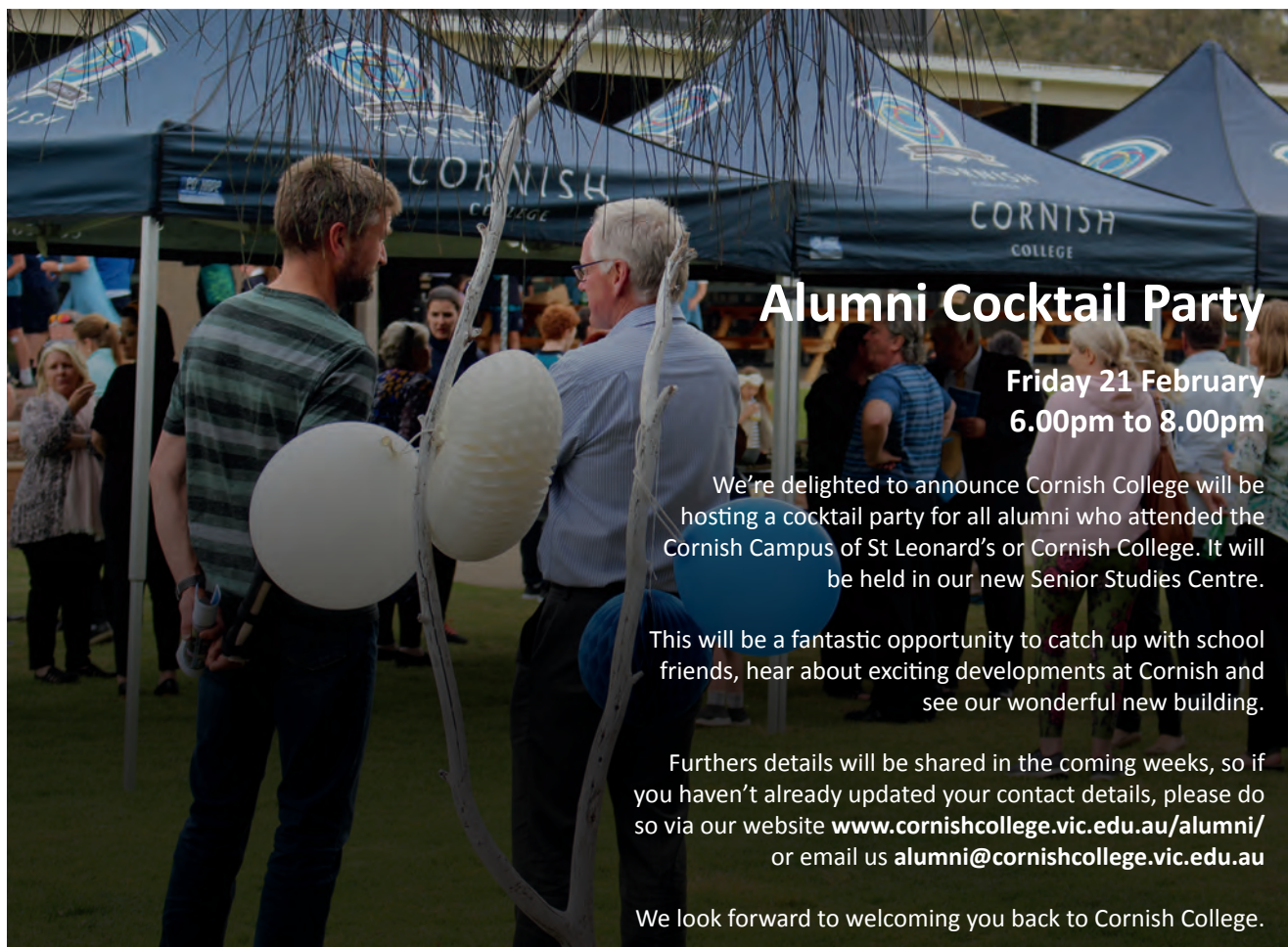
Years 7 - 12 Open Evening

Thursday 19 March
4.00pm onwards

Come to our Years 7 - 12 Open Evening and discover how we are shaping leaders who are making a difference now for a sustainable future.

Book Now
www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/discover-cornish

For more information, please contact Admissions on (03) 9781 9000 or via admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



Alumni Cocktail Party

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6.00pm to 8.00pm

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Further details will be shared in the coming weeks, so if you haven't already updated your contact details, please do so via our website www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/alumni/ or email us alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

We look forward to welcoming you back to Cornish College.

