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Connecting with the land

- Looking after our land
- Empowering student leaders
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- Diving into the Cornish College Archives

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Front cover image:

Sustainable Land Management students investigating life in the lake.

Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of *The Difference*.

It's been a year of new challenges for us all, and I'm sure that many of us are looking forward to a relaxing, summer holiday break.

Despite those challenges, it's been an exciting year, and one filled with change and growth. When I wrote almost 12 months ago that "Change is invigorating and helps us remain positive, energised and looking forward to the future with optimism and enthusiasm", it might have been nice to be able to look into the future, as there certainly has been lots of change!

However, as a school, Cornish College is in an exciting period of consolidation and growth. 2021 marks the tenth year of our wonderful College and in 2022 we will officially celebrate our tenth anniversary. This is a real milestone and something that we should all be very proud of – there is a real sense of pride when we reflect on the early days of Cornish and the journey thus far.

Next year, in preparation for 2022, we will be commissioning a brief history of the College, and I'm in no doubt that we will come across some inspiring stories as we delve into the archival history of the College. If you would like to share your own knowledge of the history of Cornish, or the educational site that has been here since 1987, our archivists would love to hear from you – they can be contacted at archives@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

In this edition of *The Difference*, we're delighted to include an article about three important initiatives that we've implemented to help look after our land – the most precious of our resources.

There is an update on changes to the Cornish College Board and some exciting news about refreshing our brand.

We're also delighted to present some terrific alumni stories – it's always so inspiring to read about the achievements of our Cornish College graduates – and we welcome three alumni, who are now undertaking work at the College.

We look forward to 2021 and letting you know about all the exciting things happening at Cornish. In the meantime, please enjoy reading this edition of *The Difference* and enjoy a relaxing Christmas/New Year holiday break!

As always, if you have feedback about the magazine, we're keen to hear from you via email communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Dennis Freeman

Community Relations Manager

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the 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



In a year when the track we travel along for quality teaching and learning has been filled with obstacles, bumps and unexpected twists and turns, we really learn what it means to be explorers in education. The Cornish community worked out very early on this year that the best way to meet the challenges we've faced is to do it together and in line with our values of creativity, integrity, respect and compassion, but also to go ahead with courage.

This year, it is as a community that we have pioneered new ways of learning, of teaching, of connecting and of supporting each other. None of this really surprises me – because that is what we've come to expect of the Cornish community. That is what being a Cornish explorer is all about. That is... *The Difference*.

Perhaps one of the most asked questions of me this year has been, "What is it like being a principal in 2020?" My answer has been that I truly feel blessed to be the one learning and leading with Cornish College this year and I am grateful for such a rich opportunity.

This remarkable year has provided us with the opportunity to reflect critically on not just how we educate but why we educate. Why do schools exist? What is our core purpose and how do we best serve our community? Cornish College is a leader in education for a sustainable future and our conviction remains that this is a vision worth striving for. It is with courage that next year – our tenth year as Cornish College – we will take so much of what we have learned in 2020 and ensure we use it to make a difference for the futures of all in our community, establishing ourselves as the explorers that our education system needs.

Thank you to all our community – students, parents, staff, Board members, volunteers and extended families – for the support and goodwill you have shown throughout the year to make this the best year it could possibly be.

Nicola Forrest



Clockwise from top left: Nicola and Donovan Prakash, ELC3, Nicola and Tiara Wickramage, Year 8, and Year 12 students enjoying their Valedictory Lunch.

FEATURES

Changes to the Board

There were a number of changes at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Cornish College Board. Following the retirement of Rev Dr Robert Johnson, long-serving Deputy Chair Max Verberne was elected as the new Chair of the Board and Tara Broderick was elected as the new Deputy Chair.



Max Verberne and Bev Menner

Max has been a member of the College Board (previously the Council) since the inception of Cornish College in 2012 and he has a wealth of knowledge and experience about the College. His two children attended the College. Tara Broderick joined the Board in July 2018 and she is Chair of the Marketing, Community and Culture Committee. Her three children attend Cornish College.

In addition, Dr Bev Menner was elected to the Board in July and is a member of the Governance Committee. Bev is an executive director at the pharmaceutical company CSL and has experience in research science, genetic counselling, governance and strategy. Her son is a student at Cornish and she is excited to be part of the team setting the strategic direction for this unique school.

Robert Johnson Scholarship

Following the recent retirement of Rev Dr Robert Johnson as Chair of the Board, the Cornish College Board has instituted a new named scholarship to recognise his outstanding contribution to the College.

The Robert Johnson Scholarship will be awarded annually to a Year 7 student who would not otherwise be able to attend the College and enjoy the benefits of a Cornish College education.

We will be seeking support from the Cornish College community to implement this scholarship in 2021.



Refreshing our brand

In 2022, we will celebrate ten years since the establishment of Cornish College, as a new, independent school. It will be an exciting milestone for a school built on the tireless efforts of many passionate volunteers and members of the community.

Cornish College officially opened in 2012, although it already had a rich history of offering something different in education, stemming from its roots as St Leonard's Patterson River campus, which opened in 1987. Much of what was used to establish Cornish for the beginning of the 2012 school year came from the historical connection with St Leonard's.

Over the last ten years, we've grown, developed and matured as a school and we now need to more accurately align those developments in the way that we present ourselves to the outside world. Following an extensive 12-month consultation period with stakeholders, we have undertaken a 'refresh' of our brand. Our refreshed branding will be progressively 'rolled out' from the beginning of 2021 – things such as signage, letterhead, advertisements and our website will all be updated.

As part of this process we have also determined that we're the Explorer archetype. Some of the words that are used to describe this archetype are:

- Leaves the known to explore uncharted territory. When the crowd is going one way, explorers choose the path less travelled
- Most fulfilled when they can seek out new perspectives and approaches
- Naturally independent, authentic and curious, they're able to follow unique paths and motivate others to do the same
- Usually the first to spearhead a new movement

We think that many of these words will sound very familiar and really resonate with our community.

Keep 'an eye out' for the exciting new 'look' of Cornish College at the beginning of 2021.

Looking after our land

Our First Nations people have over 60,000 years of tradition living off the land and the land where Cornish College sits was once part of the Carrum Carrum Swamp that stretched from Frankston to Mordialloc. It would have been one of the most significant and vibrant gathering places in Victoria where food (eels), birds, and plants were in abundance, allowing time to gather for ceremonies and multiple nation gatherings.

As we celebrated NAIDOC Week this year, we were proud, as a College, to acknowledge the rich history of the land where Cornish College is located by launching three important new initiatives, which we hope will recognise and help preserve that incredible history.

Firstly, we have updated our 'Acknowledgement of Country', which we incorporate into College life by saying it at the beginning of assemblies, chapel, events, *Dhumba-dha biik*, College Board meetings and more. Our updated text reflects that Cornish lies on contested land and, not wanting to privilege one group's interests in Country over another, we have removed the reference to the Boon wurrung. We also see it as an opportunity to not 'recite it by rote', but to give real meaning by using it to share and celebrate with our community the oldest living culture on the planet.

In discussing the relevance of the 'Acknowledgement of Country' with Camm Myrtle, a current parent and proud member of the Taungurong Nation, and whether it can become tokenistic, rather than something with depth, integrity and significance, he said "I feel Cornish's Rings of Sustainability in many ways align with Indigenous thinking of 'giving back' to the environment and the land and not taking everything – so it feels like the acknowledgement is meant in good spirit. It's more than the person delivering it – it's about what the school stands for and the overall intent. If the intent is good, the acknowledgement has more meaning."

Cornish College Acknowledgement of Country

"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the 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."

The second initiative is that we launched our *Cornish College Biodiversity Master Plan 2020 – 2025*. As a College that cares for the environment and recognises the central importance of natural sustainability and as part of our ongoing engagement with the ResourceSmart Program, we felt that it was important to produce a master plan that has the protection and enhancement of biodiversity as its core mission. This sits alongside the *Cornish College Master Plan* to ensure that planned and future developments align with the College's values as a school that educates for a sustainable, thriving future and that we are doing our part in a world where the realities of climate change are already being felt.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is all components of the living world – the number and variety of native plants, animals and other living things across our land, rivers, coast and ocean. It includes the variety of their genetic information, their habitats and their relationship to the ecosystems within which they live.

Our restoration vision

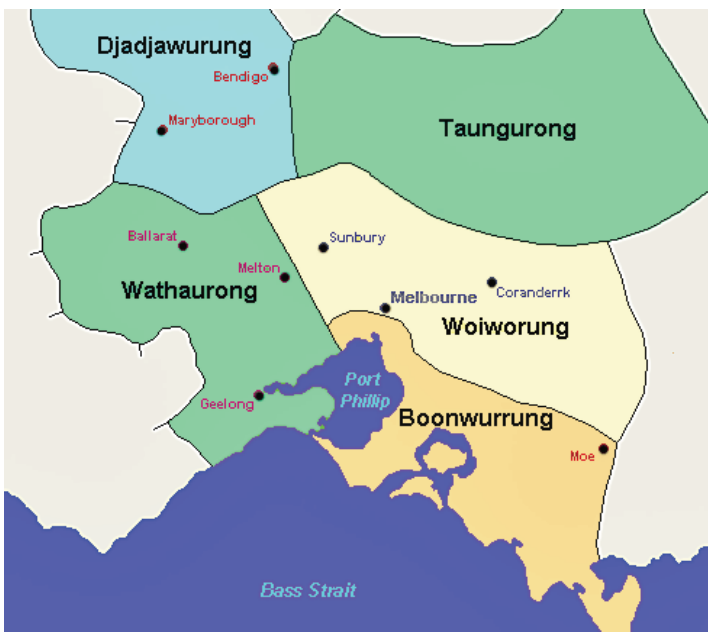
Our vision is to ensure that the grounds and surrounds of Cornish College reflect our love and care for the natural environment, and that they enable us to educate for a sustainable future with biodiversity and nature as the fundamental underpinnings.

This will be achieved when:

- All staff and students and stakeholders are aware and support the site management plan
- Appropriate planting happens at appropriate times. Broadly speaking, planting should occur in Autumn/Winter
- Staff and students can participate in and support the biodiversity plan
- Partnerships with the wider community flourish as a result of our demonstrable care for country

The third initiative was the establishment of a working group to develop a Cornish College *Reconciliation Action Plan*, a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. *Reconciliation Action Plans* are developed by many organisations across Australia, including workplaces, universities, schools, government and community organisations.





These plans help build and encourage strong relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader Australian community, help foster and embed respect, and give all participants a greater cultural awareness and professional development. A *Reconciliation Action Plan* demonstrates that we are forward-thinking about reconciliation and committed to making positive change.

"One's ability to sit in their discomfort is critical to changing and challenging the future."

Donald Grant Jnr, Be About It Conference 2020

As Camm Myrtle said "It is important that we acknowledge the events of the past and the impact on Indigenous people. Reconciliation, if done correctly, can help us to better embrace and respect our First Nations people and be totally proud of them, their way of life and what they stand for. At the moment there is fear and misunderstanding, and therefore resistance to want to understand. The resistance is widespread in our community, so much so, that many truths are too hard to fathom."

Our *Reconciliation Action Plan* will provide a framework for our community to celebrate and share the responsibility for reconciliation and we are so grateful for all those within the Cornish community who have offered their time and knowledge to support this process. The working group will collaborate over the next six months and aims to have a draft plan for discussion by July 2021.

If you would like to contribute to the plan or find out more about the working group, please contact Sam Millar or Jeanette Russell via email samantha.millar@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au or jeanette.russell@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



Celebrating the Class of 2020

The College farewelled our Year 12 students with a wonderful Valedictory Lunch and final assembly on Friday 30 October.

Students were celebrated in the Year 12 Final Assembly and then enjoyed individual lunch hampers on the Vicki Steer Green as they heard from Nicola Forrest, Principal, Sarah Dodd, Deputy Principal – Head of Secondary, and *Class of 2020* Valedictorian, Freya Dawe. Year 12 staff also shared their reflections about the students and their journeys at the College.

Following the lunch, it was heart-warming to hear cheers and laughter from students and staff throughout the College grounds as they formed a guard of honour to farewell the *Class of 2020*.

In the evening, students and their families enjoyed delicious hampers together at home as they watched videos of the Valedictory Lunch and Year 12 Final Assembly and photos from the celebrations.

The day was a lovely way to farewell the graduating *Class of 2020*. Despite the unique challenges they have faced this year, their spirit and resilience are stronger than ever. Our Cornish community wishes them all the very best with their future endeavours and looks forward to welcoming them back to the College as alumni.



Empowering student leaders

Leadership is important in all areas of life. In the media, at our workplace, and within our community, we see leaders making changes and influencing society in many ways. Around the world we are seeing more young people using their voices to positively influence others and help our future.

At Cornish College, we want to inspire students to be drivers of change. From House Captains to Sustainability Leaders, students at Cornish College can apply themselves to projects and areas of the community that they are passionate about. We believe it is integral for young people to use creativity, compassion, respect and integrity to become a positive influence for others. Student leadership offers our students a chance to build relationships and make a meaningful contribution to their school and community.

We have many leadership positions for students of all year levels to pursue. These roles have different responsibilities tailored to the interests and specialties of each role. Student leadership positions serve as a stepping-stone for students to refine their skills and become the effective and open-minded leaders we need now and into the future.



2021 College Captains (L-R) Jonathan Wood, Olivia Buckley, Layne Planner and Tom McWha

As the current Year 12 students finish the year and begin to prepare for their final exams, our new College Captains are elected by their peers and teachers. Their responsibilities include working with others both inside the school and within the wider community – for example, meeting with local government officials, contributing to Student Representative Council meetings, and working closely with senior leaders and the Principal, to make their own initiatives come to life.

In 2021, we are delighted to have Olivia Buckley, Tom McWha, Layne Planner and Jonathan Wood representing our College as our College Captains.

Alumna publishes children's book

2020 has given many of us time for new projects. For Cornish alumna Emma Young (CC2013), this included publishing her first children's picture book, *Bruce the Mongoose*!

Inspired by her love of literature from a young age, particularly Dr Seuss, Emma used her spare time this year to write. With a rhyming theme throughout, the story follows Bruce, who looks like a moose but waddles around more like a goose. As Bruce encounters different animals in his forest home, they ask why Bruce looks like a moose but has goose feet. Together, they discover everyone is special in different ways.

Emma hopes the story will educate children about the importance of diversity, acceptance and being the best person you can be.

"The key theme is acknowledging that everyone is different and that it doesn't matter what we look like, everyone is special and unique in their own way. It aims to address that we shouldn't

be defined by our physical features and that no one should be afraid to embrace who they are."

Emma began at Cornish in 2006 in Year 5 and she left the College in 2011 to complete VCE closer to home. She then completed a Bachelor of Food Science and worked casually in traffic control at a local primary school, where she enjoyed "interacting with children and seeing them grow and develop". This inspired her to undertake a Master of Primary Teaching, which she completed in October 2020.

Emma's time at Cornish has influenced her teaching methods, with experiences such as the Night of Decades and the Big Experience (now known as the Make a Difference Experience) encouraging her to "think as a global-minded citizen and consider life through a sustainable lens."

"I was always taught to have an inquiring mind. Every teacher at Cornish helped to bring out my best qualities

and also expose me to experiences outside of my comfort zone."

Emma hopes to expand *Bruce the Mongoose* and encourage children to enjoy the benefits of reading and writing. She would also like to teach English in disadvantaged communities overseas, particularly in Africa.

"My time at Cornish [was] one of my favourite parts of growing up. There will always be a special place in my heart for Cornish, and the fond memories and experiences I have of Cornish have made me the person I am today."

Bruce the Mongoose is available online.



Exhibition sparks a wonderful connection

In 2019, Olivia Rivera-Burke contacted award-winning screenwriter, film-maker and author Cath Moore to gain some perspective about her Year 6 Exhibition project. What followed was a totally unexpected, but wonderful, connection.



Olivia's project focused on "being of two or more different races", which she wanted to normalise. "I wanted to raise awareness that some questions that might seem harmless can actually be a bit offensive. I didn't think a lot of people realised that, because I didn't even realise that."

Olivia invited Cath to the College to talk about racial identity from the perspective of someone with a mixed racial background. Cath is of Irish/Afro-Caribbean heritage, was born in Guyana and raised in Australia. She has contributed to works such as *Growing Up African in Australia*. Olivia is "half-Filipino, half-Irish", so Cath was someone she could relate to.

"I don't know many people who are quite like me with my ethnicity, so it was really cool that Cath and I had a lot in common. We had really long discussions and it really helped with my project."

Cath recently invited Olivia – now in Year 7 – to the launch of her first novel, *Metal Fish, Falling Snow*. The launch was particularly special for Olivia because Cath thanked her and called her "an inspirational young person and a talented writer. While she was reading out her acknowledgements, Cath mentioned my name. It was amazing. I never expected that – it was really humbling.

She also sent me a signed copy of her book and said to look on page 228, where she mentioned my name in her acknowledgements."

Olivia is also a keen writer and Cath has been "a great inspiration". She sent Cath some of her writing after the interview, and they have remained in touch ever since. "We email back and forth when we see something the other might find interesting. I watched a program about racism and told Cath maybe she should watch it. She also sent me links to Australian writing competitions."

Olivia plans to stay in touch with Cath, and hopes her project will continue to raise awareness about being respectful and considerate when getting to know others.

"Be aware that being bi-racial is normal. It's fine to be curious, but you need to be careful with what you're asking."

Super Studies — providing skills for the future

Perhaps now more than ever, students need a curriculum that develops skills for the future, yet at the same time, one that will meet their current academic and wellbeing needs. With this in mind, our Super Studies program for Years 8 and 9 students creates space for a vast range of subjects outside of the core curriculum, responding to students' interests, developmental needs and aspirations.

Entrepreneurship in action

What can you do with \$20? It might not seem like much, but with an entrepreneurial mindset and some inspiration, Year 9 students Isabelle Gardner and Amelia Marshall were able to support a range of businesses in the Cornish community.

In a wonderful initiative, they created the *Cornish College Community Pages* – a business directory for Cornish parents, alumni, staff and friends of the College to advertise in. The directory features businesses large and small and encourages members of our College community to support local businesses.

Isabelle and Amelia created the directory as part of an Enterprise elective in the Years 8 and 9 Super Studies program. The class challenges students to create business ventures using a \$20 start-up fund provided by

the College, developing the skills and thinking necessary for entrepreneurial success, such as creativity, design and product development, decision-making and financial literacy. They present a business proposal and, if successful, implement it. They must also adhere to ethical standards and Cornish's *Rings of Sustainability* to ensure they can repay their \$20 loan plus \$1 interest at the end of the term.

"We were inspired to create something that our community can use and benefit from. We decided to utilise our small business to bring the community closer together with a directory that anyone in the Cornish community can use.

"COVID-19 has been both a blessing and a challenge for this project, because more than ever, our community needs to

use and support small, local businesses. In these trying times, we experienced a few hurdles, but this taught us communication skills and resilience."



Leadership — a hole-in-one

Designing and constructing a mini golf hole isn't your typical school project – unless you're a Cornish student in the Mini Golf Community Leadership class, that is!



Under the guidance of Sean Kirschenberg, Golf Program Coordinator at Cornish and PGA Professional, Years 8 and 9 students have been working towards the design construction of a mini golf hole, analysing existing courses and golf physiology to build a sustainable, innovative, fun and safe mini golf hole for all ages and abilities.

The class is part of the Super Studies program and combines diverse interests such as design, engineering, mathematics, mentoring, teamwork and creativity with a foundation of values developed through other golf opportunities at Cornish, including the purpose-built golf course and cocurricular program. It has been a hit with students, who have enjoyed seeing their hard work come to fruition.

"Mini Golf Community Leadership has been a great subject in many ways," said Samuel Hay, a Year 9 student.

"It has helped to develop my leadership skills as well as my people skills. It has also helped give me a taste for the structure of a job, where everyone has a role to play, and it has been incredibly inclusive."

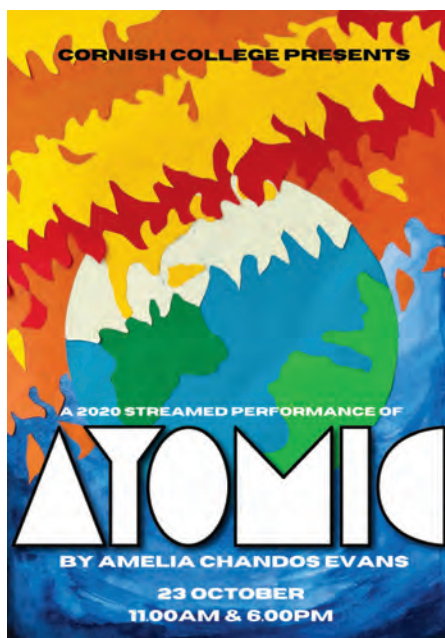
Sean has also found the experience rewarding. "The students were amazing and provided some incredibly innovative ideas – particularly the use of colour – and they have ensured that students of all abilities and ages will be able to enjoy the finished course."



College production with a difference

This year saw some wonderful creativity from our students and staff, including our first online streamed Years 6 – 12 College production, *Atomic*!

The production was recorded entirely on Zoom – a new medium for our students and staff. Despite remote learning and physical distance from one another, the cast and crew demonstrated a fantastic ability to learn, adapt and evolve as they told the story of *Atomic* by Amelia Chandos Evans – a kaleidoscope of absurd and poignant scenes exploring the stages we go through in a climate crisis and the power humans have to change the world, for the better and for the worse.



Congratulations to the cast and crew for creating something unique in the face of adversity. *Atomic* was a streaming success, with more than 150 people tuning in to watch the show on Friday 23 October!

Some members of our audience also enjoyed delicious sweet and savoury treats while watching the show, courtesy of catering businesses within our Cornish community. Thank you to all who supported our College production.

A brilliant Book Week

Cornish celebrated a brilliant Book Week from 19 to 23 October, focusing on the theme *Curious creatures, wild minds*. And what better way to discover about the world and wild adventures than to have an adventurer join us? Our Years 4-7 students were delighted to hear from writer Tim Cope, who shared stories from his captivating and inspiring adventures whilst trekking through Mongolia, Russia and Hungary.

We were also excited to announce our Premiers' Reading Challenge Champion, Prep student Ned Weatherburn-Gregg! Ned was not only the first Cornish student to complete this year's Challenge, but also continued to read and record books long after he had reached the required target. Ned's love of books made him a fantastic Challenge Champion for 2020.

No Book Week celebration is complete without a dress up day, and Cornish students and staff ensured this year was no different. Superheroes, witches and all kinds of wonderful creatures roamed the classrooms and the school grounds, and it was lovely to see students and teachers transformed into their favourite book characters and sharing stories together.



Diving into the Cornish College Archives

Cornish College recently engaged two former students, Josette Mulcahy (CC2016) and Leighton Triplow (CC2010), to oversee the College's archives. Since 1987, the College has accumulated quite a collection of archival material including photos, CDs, DVDs, posters, artworks, trophies, and uniforms. Our archivists will collate, preserve, catalogue, and present these items for the benefit of the wider community now and into the future.

Even a young school such as ours needs to document its history for current and subsequent generations. It is important to do so with a system that is equally accessible, in line with modern technologies, and that conforms to professional practices in modern records management technology.

If you have any archival material that you'd like to share with us, please let us know via archives@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



Josette Mulcahy

It has been wonderful to return to Cornish in a new and exciting role. As a College archivist, I will be working with Leighton to catalogue the history of the College. We hope to create an interesting and accessible resource for students, teachers and community members for generations to come. We have a big job ahead of us, but we feel encouraged by the support of the community that we will do it justice.

It has been great wandering around the campus, seeing familiar faces - and so many new ones too! Every time I visit Cornish, it has changed in new and wonderful ways and I feel privileged to be able to spend time each week in a space that is so welcoming of alumni. It is heart-warming to see the campus buzzing with energy, and the messages of support for the current Year 12 cohort, who have experienced a year unlike any other, demonstrate a resilience characteristic to Cornish.

Leighton Triplow

I am delighted to return to Cornish in the role of archivist alongside my colleague Josie, with my scholarly interest informed by my university studies into seventeenth-century English performance practice and music theory. Although my time at the school ended in 2008, I continue to possess a coherent knowledge of the campus layout, noting even the smallest details that have changed and those that remain

the same. It is this attention to detail that we will bring to the archival collection over the coming months as we sift through a substantial amount of material – from student artworks to old signage – that has accumulated over several decades.

Credit must be given to Mary Parker and Mike Sutton for their previous work in collating and sorting this 'Aladdin's cave' worth of precious material. We intend to build upon their accomplishments by cataloguing, decluttering, and digitising so that a comprehensive and streamlined system is, in time, made available to future generations.

It feels somewhat surreal to return to this 100-acre classroom with an adult frame of mind, especially when it comes to conversing with teachers who are central to the story from many years ago. So, too, is the freedom to drive to and from campus rather than rely on mum's taxi service! I look forward to reconnecting with the wider school community through the potential communications, conversations, and public events afforded by this exciting opportunity.

Thank you again to the Cornish community for welcoming us back. Come and say hello – you'll find us nestled amongst a big pile of photos and yearbooks!



The College c.1992



Artwork by Alana Winter (CC2004)



A slice of our archive storage space

STUDENT SUCCESS

Cornish had many passionate student competitors in the Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge, including Year 6 students **Alex Sofis**, **Dylan Wells** and **Liam Weston**, who received High Distinctions, and **Evelyn Bannan** and **Chloe Stradling**, who received Distinctions.

The challenge began in 2014 and is now run through CSIRO Digital Careers. Bebras, founded in 2004 by Professor Valentina Dagiene from the University of Vilnius, Lithuania, is an international initiative aiming to promote Informatics (computer science, or computing) and computational thinking among school students of all ages. It began with 3,470 student participants from 146 schools and has now grown to almost 60 countries with over 1.6 million students participating each year, including Cornish students.



(L-R) Alex Sofis, Liam Weston, Evelyn Bannan, Chloe Stradling and Dylan Wells



(L-R) Eliza Mason, Charli Davies, Amber Wilkeson

Three Year 10 students, **Eliza Mason**, **Amber Wilkeson** and **Charli Davies**, have been selected for the prestigious Monash Scholars Program.

Offered by Monash University, the Monash Scholars Program gives high-achieving secondary students a unique head start into university life.

Eliza, Amber and Charli will have opportunities for personal and academic development over the next two years, giving them the knowledge, skills and confidence to make sound study choices so they can build a professional network, and also develop unique insights into life as a university student.



Congratulations to Year 4 student **Will Hotston**, who has achieved some terrific sporting results this year at the Chelsea Athletics Club.

- Under 10 Age Group Champion (3rd year in a row)
- Junior Jumping Champion (2nd year in a row)
- Runner Up Centre Champion (Centre Champion in 2019)
- Centre record for High Jump 1.21cm (he broke the previous record by 11cm and broke the centre record four times this season)

Although it didn't take place due to COVID-19, he qualified for the State Championships for High Jump and he was also awarded 1st place in the Regional competition and 2nd place in the Long Jump.

What makes a good public speaker? Year 12 student **Tierney Khan** can give you some ideas, having been named the Victorian State Champion in the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's Plain English Speaking Awards.

Tierney progressed through several stages of the competition, which took her from an original field of around 200 competitors down to six finalists. Judges announced Tierney as the winner after noting that the speeches in this final round were of the highest quality.

Reflecting on her success, Tierney believes it's important to be honest, to have something meaningful to say and to genuinely care about your subject. She says the key is to get the audience to understand and empathise with what you have to say, even if they can't directly relate to the topic.

Tierney certainly achieved this in the finals, with one of the judges moved to tears with her prepared speech, 'Not another speech about feminism'!

In addition to a prepared speech, the finalists all presented an impromptu speech on the topic 'It's time'. With only four minutes to prepare, each finalist presented their 2-3 minute interpretation of the topic.

A date for the National competition has yet to be announced, but Tierney spoke at The Wheeler Centre, a literary and publishing centre founded as part of Melbourne's bid to be a UNESCO Creative City of Literature. It is renowned as a leading institution for the art of conversation, and a champion of the transformative power of informed public discussion and debate.



Year 5 student **Leigh Harvie** was selected to represent Victoria at the Qingdao International Optimist Training Camp and Regatta in China. This regatta is part of a reciprocal exchange program between the Victorian International Optimist Dinghy Association and the Chinese Yachting Association.

Although unable to attend, Leigh's excellent sailing skills in the Optimist Nationals and State Championships earlier this year earned him a place in the top 6 Victorian Intermediate sailors and, as such, a place in the regatta - a wonderful achievement.

Year 8 student **Bethan Woodbridge** is striving to 'make a difference' in her local community, having completed a Surf Rescue Certificate and become an active volunteer member of the Bonbeach Life Saving Club.

Bethan started lifesaving in the Nippers program and has been competing in carnivals since she was 8. She has attended the Junior Lifesaving State Championship event for the last four years, where she was placed 3rd in the 2-person Rescue and Resuscitation event and 3rd in the March Past event with her team last year.

Bethan is also a keen gymnast but has continued lifesaving as she sees it not only as a sport, but also a vital community activity that keeps our beaches safe. She loves to patrol and assist with water safety and the Nippers program for younger students.



Supporting Year 12 students in challenging times

To provide extra support, the Cornish community banded together and sent messages of hope and motivation to our Year 12 students. Inspired by their spirit, former College Captains created video messages while the Cornish Collegians Management Committee, alumni and others wrote to congratulate them on their strength and resilience, urging them to look into the future at all the opportunities that will come their way.

The *Class of 2020* have been determined and resilient, and we hope the support of our community helped them along the way. The unique experience of this cohort is one that will be remembered for years to come.

We wish all our Year 12 students the best of luck with their results and endeavours in the near future.

Coming back to Cornish

Currently completing a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce at Deakin University, Alice O'Sullivan (CC2018) has focused a majority of her studies around communications – marketing, public relations and advertising, amongst other things. While taking up an internship is something she had always planned to do, seeing an advertisement for a Marketing Intern position at Cornish made it all the more special.

"Since day one, I have been able to put into practice theory and skills I continue to work on at university and have the privilege to get a 'behind the scenes' look at many things happening at the school," she said.

"It has been wonderful to see all the changes that have taken place here since I graduated in 2018 – the new Senior Studies Centre, the EcoCentre, and the growth that the school continues to experience.

"Having been a student at Cornish since 2004, I have seen this place grow from a small, tight-knit community to one that continues to exceed all expectations and accommodate new faces and ideas, while keeping that essential Cornish atmosphere."



Births

Bird

To Dean Bird (current staff) and Jill Robinson-Bird on 24 April 2020, twin boys, Solomon Archie and Donovan Huey.



Dillon

To Hannah (current staff) and Andrew Dillon on 1 December 2020, a daughter, Winter Ann-Lidia.



Winter-Hinds

To Eloise Winter (current staff) and Matt Hinds on 20 July 2020, a daughter, Primrose.



Engagement

Wormell – Williams

Daniel (current staff) and Rebecca on 18 September 2020.



Renewable energy a priority

Cornish College “...definitely influenced me in terms of my gap year,” says Catharine Payton (CC2009). “I went to Vietnam for the Big Experience and we built a house in [rural] Vietnam. It was such a great experience – I really liked the idea of giving back. That’s why I did a volunteer role teaching English in China.

“I also really liked the idea of sustainability that Cornish promoted, and I think that’s indirectly linked to what I’m doing today.”

Following university studies, Catharine interned with General Electric and progressed to a role in the graduate program, gaining experience across a range of businesses throughout the organisation. She has worked in cities in Australia and the United States and currently works as the Projects Finance Manager in General Electric Renewables, overseeing wind farms throughout Australia.

“My role involves everything financial when it comes to wind farms,” Catharine says. “I manage project cash flows, project revenue recognition and assist with the project budgets at a high level.”

She is enjoying her role, which combines her interest in sustainability and accounting. She says her time at Cornish helped shape the choices she made after Year 12, with sustainability concepts and her service work through the Big Experience – now known as the Make a Difference Experience – playing an important role.

Catharine held leadership roles at Cornish, including House Captain, Swimming Captain and Deputy Head Girl. She believes these roles and Cornish’s learning environment helped her gain the confidence to pursue new challenges after Year 12. She took a gap year after Year 12 to travel and volunteer in China, before completing a Bachelor of Business and Commerce, majoring in Accounting and Human Resources.



Catharine Payton (left) at the Mumbida wind farm in Western Australia

“Cornish prepares you for being able to work independently and also to understand what you can achieve by broadening your horizons. I was very shy and it brought out my personality and allowed me to take bigger steps once I finished school.”

Catharine is yet to decide what the future holds, but is exploring the possibility of moving interstate or overseas. She hopes to continue working in the renewables sector – an area she is passionate about. Whatever happens, she says she will cherish her Cornish days and the connections she made with her Cornish friends and teachers. “I really value my time at Cornish. I couldn’t speak more highly of Kerry Bolger and the teachers I had there. It’s an absolute credit to the school that, 12 years later, there are still those teachers around. It shows the environment that the school has managed to create.”

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!

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/

Please contact Dennis Freeman or Cassandra Tonkin via alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au to share your updates.

Follow Us

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



@CornishCollegeAlumni



@cornishcollegians

Helping others grow and progress



Kate Rodgers (CC2014) “didn’t ever want to leave” Cornish as a student, so it’s no surprise that she returned for her final teaching placements!

Kate commenced at Cornish in ELC3 and then completed VCE at the Brighton campus of St Leonard’s. She then spent two years working and travelling throughout Europe and Asia, before commencing a Bachelor of Education (Primary), which she will complete at the end of December.

Kate recently completed seven weeks of placement at Cornish and also volunteered, gaining online and face-to-face experiences throughout the year. Cornish teachers and her time spent coaching horse riding students inspired Kate to teach.

“I found a love for helping others and seeing them grow and progress.

“All of the teachers at Cornish have been so helpful, kind and caring. They’ve all inspired me to be an amazing teacher too.”

Kate will be qualified to teach the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme – something Cornish provided unique insights about.

“I was very excited to do my final placement here because Cornish is very different to other schools. The *Dhumbadha Biik* program – where they go out to do outdoor learning – is so unique and an important part of learning for students. They should be outdoors and engaging with the environment, especially now when there’s so much technology. It’s awesome.

“Cornish also has a very strong practice of inquiry and the teachers are very giving. They’re always pondering, wanting to do more and always asking ‘How can we do this better? How can we change this?’ I’ve been very lucky to have amazing mentors here.”

Although it was “a bit strange” at first, Kate soon settled in. Growing up, Cornish “felt like a home and a family”, so she was glad to be back.

“The culture has very much stayed the same in terms of *Make a Difference* and sustainability. Some buildings have changed and it’s a lot bigger, but a lot of staff are still here and it feels very similar to when I was here.”

Kate has “a passion for seeing different cultures and diversity”, so she hopes to travel and teach in different schools, including in Western Australia, and pursue leadership roles to mentor other teachers. Wherever she ends up, she won’t forget her Cornish experiences.

“Cornish has so many people working here who were students as well, which shows the kind of people they create and that the school draws people back. Even the motto, *Make a Difference*, is exactly what the school is – they’re about helping students become amazing so that they can make the world a better place.”

Stepping up to the challenge



Kennedy Loffler (CC2018) is keen to make a difference as a nurse and midwife. This dream became one step closer in August when she commenced working as an undergraduate nursing student at hospitals throughout the Peninsula Health network.

Many student placements were cancelled this year, so Kennedy applied for the role to gain more experience as she completes her Bachelor of Nursing. She hasn’t looked back.

“It’s been so rewarding. I’ve learnt so many new techniques and things I haven’t done before. I’ve loved every part of it.”

Kennedy was placed in a hospital’s COVID ward and assisted doctors, nurses and specialists with patients who had tested positive to the virus. She also assisted in the rehabilitation ward. The role was a bit daunting at first, but Kennedy says it was inherently rewarding.

“It was full-on in the beginning and there have been some challenging times because I was working with COVID patients, but I’ve learnt so much. I was a spotter, so I was to watch the doctors, nurses and specialists, and put on and take off their personal protective equipment.

I was also assisting wherever possible and making sure that we had a lot of stock in the ward. It's amazing being in that sort of position."

As case numbers have declined, Kennedy has moved to different wards, gaining greater experience and specialisation.

"I'm now working at Frankston Hospital because they need extra help with patients who are not COVID positive. It's been fantastic having that one-on-one interaction with the patients. I'm loving it."

Kennedy believes her time at Cornish helped her gain the confidence to build

connections with others and support them – vital aspects of nursing.

"Cornish was an awesome experience. It's made me who I am, with the confidence it made me build. The connection with teachers also boosted me to be a person who's aware of my surroundings and not afraid to ask questions – that was definitely something that I took from Cornish.

"Making a difference is another big thing that I've always had in my mind, so moving on to my future career and going to university, it's always stuck with me."

Kennedy's contract runs until the end of December, but she is "truly grateful" to have been able to work in her dream career and make a difference during these challenging times. She hopes to become a midwife in the future and use her nursing skills and knowledge as a strong foundation to work independently in both fields.

International mindedness sees a world of opportunities



When Brett McGeorge (CC2006) began studying German in Year 7, little did he know that it would lead him to work and live overseas. Although he had some ideas about what he wanted to do after Cornish, the international mindedness he developed at school opened up a new world of opportunities.

To practise his language skills, Brett became pen pals with a family in Germany. This is a friendship that continues to this day and one which encouraged Brett to live in Germany for some time, working in marketing and business development for a large German manufacturer of solar products. These connections undoubtedly shaped his life.

"I still speak German fluently and I'm in regular contact with my friends in Germany. Some of their children's kids are my godchildren, and I usually visit them two or three times per year. As I lived and worked in Germany, I've also got an enormous group of friends there. These experiences have absolutely shaped me and steered my career and life in a particular direction."

After attending the Cornish campus from 1994 to 2004, Brett completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma at St Leonard's, Brighton. He then completed a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts at Monash University, majoring in marketing, German language and linguistics, before working in Germany, London, and later in Sydney. Since then, Brett has worked in senior marketing and development roles in the education sector, including his current role as the Director of Marketing and Business Development at Australian Education Assessment Services (AEAS).

Brett's global perspective is particularly useful at AEAS, which helps international students, parents, and schools with their application and enrolment processes through admissions testing, advocacy, events and marketing. Despite this year's unusual circumstances, Brett is enjoying the role, which is "equal parts interesting and challenging". He says this year has highlighted the importance of community and social connections among students – something he recalls fondly from his time at Cornish.

"One of the things I enjoyed the most about Cornish was that we all knew each other. You'd pass people in the hallway and even if they were three or four years above or below you, you still knew who they were – personal relationships were important.

"It was also a really friendly place. The teachers were all lovely, there were always parents around and events on, and there was always a really great feel about the place – it felt really welcoming with a great sense of community."

Brett's community has grown significantly since his days at Cornish, but no matter where his international interests and connections take him, he plans to stay in touch.

"I have lots of good memories from my time at Cornish. Of the really good friends I made at Cornish, I still see three or four of them fairly regularly. I'm absolutely interested in maintaining a connection with Cornish College – it's very important to me."

COMMUNITY NEWS

New ways to make a difference



Over the past four years, students and teachers from Cornish College have travelled to Timor-Leste to teach English at the Fatuquero School. Although this was not possible in 2020, some wonderful new opportunities to support the Fatuquero community arose.

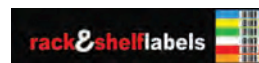
As a community, we raised over \$5,000 through the sale of fantastic items generously donated for our silent auction, along with the sale of choc tops, some personal donations and a grant from the All-Souls Opportunity Shop in Sandringham (who have provided generous donations for Cornish's work in Fatuquero over the past few years).

As a result of fundraising activities, the Cornish College Fatuquero Committee has been able to provide scholarships for ten students at the Fatuquero School, as well as the funding necessary for a dedicated volunteer, Elvie (pictured left), to become a qualified teacher.

Golf Day

We were very pleased to see more than 60 keen golfers participate in our annual Golf Day held at Southern Golf Club on Friday 27 November. It was a very warm and sunny day, providing ideal conditions for golf and, as well as an 18-hole Ambrose competition, there was a golf clinic for 'first-time' golfers.

We were most grateful for the support of our generous sponsors, who helped make the day a great success.



Community Picnic and Market

Saturday 27 March
12.00pm – 5.00pm
Cornish College

Please save the date to join us for a wonderful day of community and fundraising. There will be delicious food, a DJ and music, market stalls, a silent auction, a sideshow alley, fashions on the green and more!

Funds raised will support improvements to the primary playground.



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!

Alumni Reunions in 2021

One-Year Reunion

Class of 2019

One-Year Reunion

Class of 2020

Five-Year Reunion

Class of 2015

Five-Year Reunion

Class of 2016

We look forward to sharing more details about these events early in 2021.

For updates, please register your contact details via our website www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/alumni or email us alumni@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 6 February
9.30am to 11.00am

Saturday 1 May
9.30am to 11.00am

Thursday 18 March
4.00pm – 7.00pm
(secondary focus)

Thursday 3 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



2021 Golf Day - Save the Date

When: Friday 26 November
Lunch at 11.00am, shot-gun start at 12.30pm

Where: Southern Golf Club

Business Directory

We're seeking expressions of interest to advertise in our upcoming Cornish College Business Directory. Now, more than ever, we need to support our Cornish College community, so this is a great opportunity to advertise your business to our community.

There is no cost to advertise and we're able to accommodate any sized business, from a home tutoring service to a large company.

If you are interested in advertising in the directory, please email us alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au a brief summary of your business, what you're offering and also your contact details and a logo or image.



CORNISH COLLEGE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Connecting the Cornish community through businesses



