

The Difference

CORNISH COLLEGE MAGAZINE WINTER/SPRING 2016



INSIDE:

Primary commendations

Educating for a sustainable future

Make a Difference

Learning through doing



CORNISH
COLLEGE



A GROWING SCHOOL, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

Our school is thriving, with enrolments nearly doubling since we opened in 2012. We have 615 Cornish College students this year, from ELC through to Year 12, and we're growing by 10% on average each year. We expect our enrolments will increase to over 700 within the next 2 years.

With this growth comes great opportunity as we provide an increasingly wide range of academic and co-curricular activities. However, we also need to accommodate all those extra bodies, minds and school bags. This year we unveiled our first new building since we opened our doors as a new College four years ago.

Named after our founding Principal, the new 'Kerry Bolger Centre' provides space for flexible teaching and creative learning for our Years 4, 5 and 6 students.

We're not stopping there though. A new Year 7 Centre is the next phase of our Buildings and Grounds Program and is planned to open in time for the 2018 school year.

The Centre will provide purpose built facilities with spacious classrooms equipped to enhance learning, and a central space for students to connect with each other. Students across many year levels will benefit too, as the new Centre will free up valuable space where the existing Year 7 classrooms are.

Find out more at www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



WELCOMING OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

This year we welcomed Ms Vicki Steer to the Cornish Community as our new Principal.

Vicki joins us after 11 years as Principal of Ravenswood School in Sydney and brings a huge amount of teaching and leadership experience with her. We are delighted to have her on board and asked Vicki to share her thoughts about joining the team.

"I feel honoured to join the Cornish College community and work with a committed teaching team and engaged student body. The College's commitment to education for a sustainable future and its holistic and innovative approach to student development is strongly aligned with my educational philosophy.

The story of the foundation of Cornish College in 2012 is one of community effort, persistence, courage and vision. This school thrives today because of the community's deep belief in our educational philosophy of preparing students for life.

We recognise the importance of academic rigour, creativity and developing strong foundation skills for learning. Our students are learning about how they can make a difference today and as adults too. Our vision of sustainable living is all encompassing and truly helps to prepare students to make a positive impact on the world when they leave Cornish College.

This is a remarkable time to be working with young people in education as we reframe the experience of schools in response to a rapidly changing world. I am excited to be here because my first semester has shown that the College's vibrant school community really lives out its values, with a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning."

For more information about our educational philosophy and Vicki's experience and skills, visit www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



"I have only been here for a short time but it is clear to me that Cornish College is flourishing thanks to our community's support over a period of many years. I want to say thank you for everything you have helped us to achieve so far, it is because of you that we can continue to grow and help our students realise their potential." Ms Vicki Steer, Principal



JARROD PICTURED WITH (LEFT TO RIGHT) DEPUTY PRINCIPAL NICOLA FORREST, WIFE KELLY DAVIES AND PRINCIPAL VICKI STEER



NEWS ROUNDUP

We've been busy as always in our first semester with our **Outdoor Education and Camps Program**, **Interschool sporting competitions** and a **wide range of inquiry units**. There's always more going on though, and here's a round-up of other highlights.

SHARING LEARNING

For the fourth year in a row, our Early Learning Centre is hosting Professional Information Sessions to share its learning and best practice with others working in the Education Sector or with children.

Our service is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for children aged 3-5 years. It also received the top rating of Exceeding in all seven Quality Areas of the National Quality Standard and the National Regulations. Staff will share their learning when they open their doors for two professional learning events on 26 August and 21 October.

The sessions run from 9.30am to 2.30pm and include tours and learning sessions. They also include specific information about how the Centre weaves together influences such as the Reggio Emilia philosophy, International Baccalaureate and nature pedagogy, with the Early Years Framework and National Quality Standard, to deliver high quality education.

More information about the full program and how to book can be found online at www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au under latest news, or contact Marissa Tunks on 9781 9000.

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COMMENDATIONS FOR PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM

The unique features and strengths of our primary years program have been commended and demonstrate 'exemplary practice'.

External evaluators assessed how we implement the International Baccalaureate standards, and reported many practices as going over and above expectations. This includes commending the College for:

"its committed and multi-faceted approach to ensuring international-mindedness remains in the forefront of the school's consciousness on a day-to-day basis."

"the depth to which its philosophical approach to personal sustainability, is expressed through all aspects of school life, by all members of the school community."

"the way in which it is building an integrated system of data collection, analysis, synthesis and distribution, so that teaching and learning is tailored as much as possible to student needs."

The primary years team has updated their Action Plan to ensure the program continues to go above and beyond expectations as they implement the next stage.



COMMISSIONING OUR CHAPLAIN

Mr Jarrod Davies is a central part of the Cornish College community, well known and well loved by students, staff and parents alike.

Jarrod is the Cornish College Chaplain and he was formally commissioned into the role in June. The event was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many ways he supports our community.

Principal Vicki Steer addressed the school and special guests on the day, and added "The morning was a real celebration of Mr Davies' vital contribution to our College and we welcomed his lovely family as well as representatives from local Church communities. We all thank him for everything he has done for us so far and offer our support for the future".

Jarrod added "I really enjoy working with students and staff here and finding, and adding value to a unique community, one that is passionate about making a difference. I love the opportunity I have to encourage and support others, communicate my passionate faith, develop leaders, advocate for social justice and be involved in lunchtime programs".

MORE THAN A PLACE TO SIT

Our active Parents' Association provided funds for a new Buddy Bench, helping students to make new friendships during play periods.

The Primary 'Make A Difference' Leaders chose to put the bench where students can foster new friendships and meet up with others before going to play.

The bench is made from recycled plastic and may include soft plastics collected by students here at Cornish College, as part of the innovative REDcycle program. Representatives from Sustainability Victoria, the National Packaging Covenant Industry Association and the RED Group joined the handover event and made addresses.

Student Leaders from the Sustainability Action Team also explained more about recycling and waste initiatives at Cornish College on the day. An important part of these initiatives is 'closing the loop', that is purchasing products made from recycled materials.

The team are now hard at work preparing a report to implement as part of our involvement with ResourceSmart Schools.



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Cornish College is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) school. The PYP has a focus on international mindedness and developing children as a global learners.

IB students strive to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. These positive attributes go beyond intellectual development and academic success, equipping students to succeed in real-world situations.



EDUCATING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Educating for a sustainable future is at the core of our curriculum. But what does that mean? We take a deeper look at how sustainability is embedded in life at Cornish College.

We asked our passionate teaching team to explain our Rings of Sustainability and how Cornish College embeds sustainability in everything it does.

“Our College emblem shows four interlocking rings. Each one represents a different aspect of sustainability, which combine to create a holistic view of a sustainable world. The Rings of Sustainability must be in balance to ensure a world where there is enough for all, forever.

We look through these four rings as lenses when we design our curriculum, on an ongoing basis, and ask ourselves how each and every unit will help us educate for a sustainable future. This truly embeds sustainability in our teaching.

We believe this helps students grow into well-rounded individuals who don't just learn the theory but choose to act sustainably. They will have the skills to effectively problem-solve and to make a difference in their community and on a global scale”.

Nicola Forrest, Deputy Principal

“Teaching natural sustainability ensures students leave school with an understanding of the natural systems that support our society. The 100-acre campus provides the perfect opportunity for viewing a wide range of subjects, including Science, Mathematics and Outdoor Education, through the natural sustainability lens.

Through having unlimited access to onsite wetlands, a small farm and a sustainably managed golf course, education about natural sustainability becomes a rich experience that will stay with students well beyond their school years. Keeping abreast of current research, the curriculum is designed for inquiry, where teachers guide student interests to ensure understanding about our world”.

Josh Ambrosy, Secondary Science teacher

“Many of our units of inquiry suit the lens of Urban and Technological sustainability. They lead to investigations into how cities can be sustainable and how they interact with rural areas. Students think about what it means to be a responsible urban citizen and how they can be technologically sustainable. Urban and Technological sustainability includes how we access information technology to broaden and deepen our inquiries.

This year's Make a Difference Week focussed on this ring with students planning play and learning spaces and questioning how our built environment connects with natural, personal and socio-cultural sustainability”.

Triesha Hueneke, Librarian at the Cornish Library and Information Centre

“Personal sustainability focuses on developing skills, attitudes and behaviours that support positive student wellbeing and resilience. Being part of Cornish College means students are able to establish a sense of belonging and connectedness as valued members in the classroom, the school and the wider community.

In addition to dedicated Personal Sustainability classes, personal sustainability is incorporated within all aspects of teaching and learning and extends well beyond the traditional classroom. In all aspects of College life, students are encouraged to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and on others in order to develop and maintain positive relationships. This ensures that students are best placed to be physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually healthy, happy and productive members of society with the skills and resilience to navigate the opportunities and challenges they may face at and beyond school.”

Dr Julie Cooper, Secondary Maths, Science and Health Teacher (Past Student at Cornish Campus)

“Socio-Cultural Sustainability means ensuring students understand other cultures, histories, beliefs, values, and how societies work. Through the arts, languages and humanities we inquire into a broad range of religions and examine our own, and other countries' economic, political and legal systems.

We explore cultures more deeply during French and Japanese studies, hosting visits from sister-schools and visiting them in return. We incorporate indigenous studies throughout the College and recognise the importance of the Boon wurrung people, as the original custodians of Cornish College land. Our camps program, debate clubs and lunchtime philosophy jams are some of the other ways we ensure students get to delve deeper into life beyond our own community”.

Alex Parrington, Primary Years teacher





A MAD WEEK PROJECT TO CREATE ONE OF TWO NEW FROG BOGS



KRISTEN AND HANNAH KEEP WARM AFTER WINTER SLEEP OUT

LIVING OUR MOTTO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“Individually we’re great but together we’re awesome” - a MAD week message that students really take to heart. Here are some of the ways they come together to make a difference.

MAD WEEK

Make a Difference Week takes place every year in the last week of Term 2. We reinvent the timetable for a week and bring students and staff together across year groups as one big community of learners to ‘make a difference’.

This year’s focus was on our ‘Urban and Technological’ Ring of Sustainability and we took time to consider our rapid growth and how we can create learning and play spaces that represent our values.

Projects included creating new Frog Bogs and an Aquaponics system that raises fish and grows vegetables sustainably, both by Year 9 Science classes. Primary students developed a Music Garden and a playground that reflects our values as learners. All classes designed a display to make our College Values visible. We also raised money for others through the Great ‘not only’ Book Swap, which made \$445 for the Indigenous Literacy Project.

SLEEPING OUT FOR HOMELESS RELIEF

Sixty students and 11 staff swapped their warm beds for cardboard boxes when they took part in our annual Winter Sleep Out in June. The event raised over \$12,000 to buy Backpack Beds for people who are sleeping on the streets, through the charity Swags for Homeless.

Students also made 560 cheese and vegemite sandwiches on the night for the Eat Up Australia program, which feeds local children in our community who go hungry.



BOTTLE FOR BOTOL

Cornish College partners with social enterprise ‘Bottle for Botol’ to help prevent plastic waste entering our water streams, rivers and oceans each year.

A committee of students raises awareness of the importance of changing from single-use plastics to protect our environment. The committee sells stainless-steel water bottles and, for every sale, Bottle for Botol donates the same reusable bottle and water station to an Indonesian partner school. The money raised also puts students through an educational program about the impacts of plastic on the environment.



ROBERT BOAG GIVING HIS SCHOOL CAPTAIN’S SPEECH AT THE 2015 CELEBRATION EVENT

LIFE AFTER CORNISH

Last year saw our first Year 12 students complete their VCE Studies and move on from Cornish College. Our Dux Robert Boag achieved an impressive ATAR of 98.70. He tells us what he’s doing now and how his time at Cornish College has helped him make the transition from senior study to University.

“I am currently studying a double degree in Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts at Monash University. Within my Arts degree, I am planning to complete a double major in French and International Relations.

I am studying with a view to qualify and practise as a lawyer. In particular, I’d like to practise in international law, as it combines my interest in both law and international relations.

I believe that my time at Cornish has been excellent preparation for university. Cornish teachers are remarkable people, who truly have a passion for education and inspiring the best in their students. I have been extraordinarily lucky to benefit from their experience and guidance. My time at Cornish has allowed me to develop the skills to study independently and effectively, whilst engaging critically and analytically with the ideas that I study.”

We are proud to have taught Robert and his peers, and to have supported them through their VCE Studies. Our next cohort of Years 11 and 12 students are now going through our VCE program which goes ‘beyond boundaries’. That means our students are not restricted by timetable constraints, course restrictions, mode of delivery, or other boundaries as much as possible. Instead, we tailor individual courses for each student in order to meet the needs of their career pathway choices.

While proud of his ATAR score, Robert finishes by saying *“Perhaps most importantly, my time at Cornish has taught me the importance of making a difference. Cornish taught me that success is not defined merely by academic results, but by improving the world around you. The challenges of the future will not be solved by exam results or ATAR scores, but through innovative thinking by engaged and compassionate people. This philosophy continues to strongly influence the way I approach my study and life at university.”*



LEARNING THROUGH DOING

Our skilled teaching team use a range of flexible methods to challenge and engage students, including rolling their sleeves up and giving things a go.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Our Year 11 Environmental Science students donned their lab coats and goggles to put theory into practice and help others at the same time.

St Anne's Primary School in Seaford needed to understand more about their soil before planting vegetables. They asked our Environmental Science students to test their soil and make recommendations on any work they needed to carry out before they could start planting.

Our students rose to the challenge, designing and carrying out tests for acidity and hydrophobia. They then collaborated on a report for the St Anne's students. Environmental science student William said "I always learn better with hands on tasks, this was a great opportunity to apply my knowledge." Elila agreed, adding "I liked the opportunity to help the local community and learn at the same time."

CONTAINER TO KIOSK

Our 'Breadth Studies' program gives Years 9 and 10 students the chance to learn new skills through two half day sessions one day per week. The program gives students a taste of elective study in senior years and develops individual talents.

One of our options has seen 19 students working hard to convert an old shipping container into a fully functioning kiosk that can be used by the College community.

It's been challenging but the group are nearly there, and will fit the final container with a fully functioning kitchen. Another breadth studies group will develop a functioning café to sell coffee and sausages among other things.

SHOUT OUT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Our first year entering the Southern Independent Schools Public Speaking competition saw four Years 8 and 10 students take an impressive 2nd place. This year the event was hosted by John Paul College in April.

Year 8 student Tierney tells us about their achievement: "We had to prepare a speech on topics we were given. For the intermediates, Gabe and Alice, it had to be between 3-4 minutes and for the juniors, Nikki and myself, it had to be between 2-3 minutes. We also had to write an impromptu speech on the day, getting the topic and writing the speech within five minutes of presenting it to the adjudicators.

After the first round of prepared speeches, we were in the lead. However, after the impromptu, we were over taken and ended in second place overall. Overall it was a great day with a great final result. Good job team, we smashed it".



BE A SPORT

Our cocurricular program engages students in sport, music, drama and dance. We take a closer look at some of this semester's sporting highlights.

CLIMBING HIGH

Our Sport Climbing Team is going from strength to strength with three students competing in the National Lead Sport Climbing Titles in Sydney in June. Year 10 students Songkran and Ben completed some excellent, strong climbs. Year 7 student Jordan's speed climb and heats saw him make the finals.

Around 40 students from ELC to Year 12 regularly train as part of the Sport Climbing team at nearby Bayside Rock in Carrum Downs. More information about Sport Climbing can be found on our cocurricular page at www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au.

GOLF LEADERS

It was fantastic to host comedian and media personality Andy Lee in March at our Cornish Links Golf Course, where he learnt more about our Golf Leadership Program. The program develops leadership abilities and positive character alongside golf skill development.

Cornish Links is the first 9-hole golf course at a school in Australia and has been specifically designed for children. Overseen by Mr Sean Kirschenberg, Certified PGA Golf Professional, our golf program is for students from ELC right through to Year 12. The golf team also partners with nearby Keysborough Golf Club, providing limited access to their course for specific golf program groups. Find out more at www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au.

BACK TO BACK SWIM CHAMPS

Congratulations to our SIS Swimming Team for winning the Southern Independent Schools Division B Swimming Carnival at Melbourne Swimming and Aquatic Centre for the second year in a row.

Cornish College won the Junior Shield (total points for U13/ U14 girls and boys), Intermediate Shield (total points for U15/ U16 girls and boys), the Girls Aggregate Shield (combined total points for all girls) and the Overall Champions Shield (combined total points for all ages girls and boys).





Lifelong learners. Unique environment.

www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Find out more about how Cornish College can make a difference for your child by booking a tour online.

Semester two 2016 tour dates are:

Wednesday 10 August
Saturday 3 September
Thursday 13 October (6.00pm Twilight Tour)
Saturday 22 October
Saturday 19 November

All tours start at 10.00am (except our Twilight Tour).

We can help your child get to school with our extensive bus service. We cover a wide area, from Hampton in the north to Mount Eliza in the south and Lyndhurst in the east, with many more Bayside suburbs in-between.

If you're unsure if the service runs in your area, contact us and we'll let you know how we can help.

Check our website for more information about bus routes, including timetables and maps, at cornishcollege.vic.edu.au.



ELC to Year 12



Cornish College is a co-educational independent
Uniting Church school set on 100 acres of parkland.

Cornish College | 65 Riverend Road, Bangholme, VIC 3175 | Telephone +61 3 9781 9000

