

THE DIFFERENCE



CORNISH
COLLEGE

Autumn 2023 Edition

10 Year Anniversary Ceramic Tree / 2022 VCE Results
/ Toward 2030 / A reflection of who we are and how
we learn / Focus on Sustainability

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Front cover image:

Alfie Miller (Year 1) enjoying our 100 acre classroom in his new uniform

Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of *The Difference*.

As we conclude our 10 Year Anniversary commemorations, we reflect upon a fabulous year, underscored by the themes of renewal, reconnection and celebration. Equally, we turn our attention to the story yet to be written upon entering the second decade as an innovative school. We trust that you will find articles of personal achievement, community-led action, and future development, to be of interest.

In this edition, several feature stories focus on the decade ahead with the introduction of an updated school website, new uniform, and plans for moving toward 100% solar offset. We invite you to read about the launch of our *Cornish College Strategy Story - Toward 2030*: an aspirational strategy and set of guidelines which will help to inform operational and strategic decision-making of the College going forward.

You will find reflections from our new College Captains on what 'leadership' and 'responsibility' mean to them, as well as their plans for the year ahead. We also congratulate the *Class of 2022* on their outstanding VCE results.

Alongside updates from the Parents Association, Cornish Collegians, College Archive, and Bush Chapel, we take the opportunity to formally farewell and celebrate the contributions of two long-serving members of staff who have made a sizeable impact upon life at Cornish. These reflections, achievements and amusing anecdotes are sure to please!

As ever, we are delighted to share with you the successes of alumni making a difference in their respective career pathways. We invite you to read about two young women who attended Cornish in the early 2000s with exciting early careers in the sciences and creative industries. Building strong connections with alumni is a priority of the College, and you will hear about how we are continuing to expand this network upon entering an exciting new phase of College development.

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

Leighton Triplow (CC2010)

Editor

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Acknowledgement of Country

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Honouring the past, shaping the future

Gathering as a school this year, out by the wetlands for our Foundation Day Assembly, I found myself looking at the sea of over 700 students and feeling a sense of celebration for the changes we are making at Cornish College that challenge some of the out-dated norms in schooling and education. At the same time, I was sharing a message with our community about honouring and celebrating the past and respecting our foundations – for that is what Foundation Day is about.

It may be seen as a dichotomy – to celebrate both change and foundation. It could be considered that if we truly honour foundation, history or tradition, that change would not be necessary. It is true that some institutions see change as somewhat disrespectful to their foundations. At Cornish College, though, our very foundations are built on the courage for change that gives us the drive for contemporary practice.

Education for a sustainable future, necessitates change. In order to keep our world in balance we must always be forward-thinking, challenging the status-quo and making changes that will counter-balance one area of sustainability with another. This is very much what seeing the world through the lens of our Rings of Sustainability is about. When we see change as a result of urban-technological advances, for example, we look for ways to adjust our personal, socio-cultural and natural sustainability to find equilibrium. Thus, if change in our world is a constant, which it clearly is, then change in our schooling and education must also be continual. What is important at Cornish College, is that we find the space between the new and the old to connect change to our foundational principles.

The changes we celebrate at Cornish College today – whether they be to uniform, curriculum, our biodiverse land or to our infrastructure – are all made with reference to that space between the new and the old. In ecology we might refer to this space as the ‘ecotone’ – the transitional area between two compatible systems. It can be a place for productive tension and the generation of unique and thriving species. When the changes we make are based on the foundations of education for a sustainable future and our motto, ‘make a difference, be the difference’ then we know we are creating habitable conditions in which our entire learning community can thrive.

To honour our past *and* prepare our young people for the future, we must continue to operate in this space where change and foundation are seen, not as dichotomous, but as connected drivers for education of a different kind. It is indeed an exciting time to lead a community through an ‘ecotone’ that brings currency to education and fulfilment to the schooling experience for our students. That’s the Cornish College difference.



Nicola Forrest



Foundation Day Assembly 2023 (L-R) College Captain Chanul Kulatunga, Reconciliation Leader Madeline Innes, Amanda Davis, Mike Davis and Nicola Forrest

FEATURES

10 Year Anniversary ceramic tree

A magnificent ceramic tree has now been completed, bringing to a close the series of community events and celebrations for our 10 Year Anniversary. Led by our Art Department and former staff members Geraldine Pollock and Gavin Byrt and with assistance from another former staff member Cheryl McHugh, the result is a collaborative art installation depicting a tree in full bloom.

During the course of 2022, members of our College community had the opportunity to create their own piece of the tree with the many hundreds of ceramic pieces gradually coming together to make a final artwork.

This mural is not only representative of who we are as a thriving community, but that of our commitment to sustainable practice, respect for the land, and collective creativity. It is very much in keeping with a long-standing tradition of creating art for display around the school.

Our 10 Year Anniversary ceramic tree can be viewed on the exterior wall of the Dave Clark Art and Design Centre.



(L-R) Ceridwen Foran, Gavin Byrt, Geraldine Pollock, Bex Hinton and Cheryl McHugh

A paper presentation on the world stage

Cornish College is very proud of Gemma Wildermuth (CC2022) who recently visited Paris to deliver a paper presentation at the 72nd International Astronautical Congress, held by the International Astronautical Federation.

In short, Gemma was approached by one of her robotics team mentors who asked if she would like to contribute to a paper he was writing for a conference around engaging senior school girls in STEM subjects. Gemma respectfully disagreed with her mentor's theory, arguing that, in her experience, high school is too late a time to garner such interest. She theorised that girls can be shown that STEM is not as daunting as it might seem by way of combining a multifaceted approach whereby senior school role models work with middle-to-upper primary students within short, fun, and engaging activities. In measuring confidence levels between boys and girls, she found the latter to be less confident yet very much capable of STEM electives.

These conversations evolved into Gemma not only contributing to her mentor's paper but actually assembling her own paper, finding that the idea and theory would make for a compelling submission in its own right. It transpires that Gemma's abstract was accepted to form the basis of a public presentation at the organisation's forthcoming conference in Paris, attended largely by university lecturers and heads of big corporations.

Gemma was most pleased with the overall response to her 15-minute presentation, noting that the room was full and attendees were clearly engaged with what she had to say.

While it was perhaps a little intimidating to speak at an event not ordinarily intended for high school students, any anxieties were quickly replaced with a feeling of excitement for the fact that this body of work was finally going to be shared with others. Judging by the note-taking and carefully crafted questions from the room, delegates were genuinely interested in this presentation.

Gemma believes that there is potential for her paper to be developed beyond its current scope, with some of her ideas therein to be problematised on a much larger scale. Since Paris, her mentor has, in fact, shared this work with a couple of individuals in the field who would be motivated to see it developed further. Going forward, Gemma is considering studying a double degree in Engineering and Architecture whilst continuing to work with her robotics team. She hopes that there will be ample opportunity to share with other young students the great insights and knowledge acquired through this invaluable, international experience.

She is grateful that the focus on student-agency at Cornish gave her the opportunity to work with Year 5 students to confirm her theories about STEM.



(L-R) Nicci Rossouw and Gemma Wildermuth

2022 VCE Results

The College was thrilled when the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) results were announced at the close of 2022. Our students have, once again, risen to the challenge, having embraced this year with dedication and positivity, to achieve outstanding results.

As the eighth cohort to complete the VCE at Cornish College, the *Class of 2022* represents our community's commitment to continuous improvement with our highest results to date.

Eight Cornish College students (15% of the cohort) achieved ATARs above 90, placing those students among the top 10% of the state.

Our focus on continuous improvement is highlighted this year with over 40% of the cohort achieving an ATAR in the top 20% of the state with an ATAR of 80 or above. Furthermore, in 2022 our mean and median ATAR have risen again to the highest to date, as have our mean study scores for English and Further Mathematics. We are delighted to announce that our 2022 Dux is Eliza Mason with an ATAR of 99.15. Joining Eliza with scores above 90 are Zoe Allison, Charlotte Davies, Vincent Day, Jake Ormsby-Goard, Mathilda Maas, Lara Veldstra, Thomas Vidotto.

Congratulations also to the students who achieved study scores of 40 or above, placing them in the top 8% of the state for those subjects:

- **Zoe Allison** – Sociology
- **Charlie Atkins** – Further Mathematics
- **Amber Byrnes** – Sociology
- **Charlotte Davies** – English
- **Vincent Day** – Further Mathematics
- **Ebony Ingram** – Environmental Science
- **Eliza Mason** – Biology, Literature, Chemistry
- **Samantha Moloney** – Psychology
- **Lara Veldstra** – English
- **Thomas Vidotto** – Further Mathematics
- **Sarah Wilson** – Equine Studies
- **Atlas Yates** – Sociology

In addition to all 55 students successfully achieving their VCE, we congratulate four students – Teddy Beeby, Charlotte Davies, Eliza Mason and Lara Veldstra – who also achieved the VCE-Baccalaureate.



(L-R) Dux Eliza Mason, Cornish Award winner Ned Critchlow, Nicola Forrest



Zoe Allison

Charlotte Davies

Vincent Day

Jake Ormsby-Goard

Lara Veldstra

Thomas Vidotto

Eliza Mason

Mathilda Maas

Toward 2030

An aspirational strategy

We are a community of change-makers here at Cornish College; we do not accept that what has been done before must remain the same in the future, yet neither do we make change without reason, data and positive intent. As a community of 'explorers', exhibiting both commitment and courage, we invite the entire Cornish community to join us in living our values without compromise, and taking informed risks to make a positive difference in our world.

In October we launched the *Cornish College Strategy Story – Toward 2030* which has gradually evolved through significant community consultation. This strategy is the result of the input of many shared voices that both understand our history and commitment to the future. This is an aspirational strategy, focused on who we are becoming as we move into our second decade as an innovative school. Embedded throughout are a set of guiding pathways that determine our direction and set

the scene for who we are becoming. These pathways provide focus toward our vision and mission, informing operational and strategic decision making – including the funding of new initiatives – and provide detail around how Cornish College will deliver its educational philosophy over the years to come.

To view the *Cornish College Strategy Story – Toward 2030* on our website, visit

www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/about-cornish/strategy-story/

Alternatively, if you would like a printed copy, please email communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



The impossible made possible

Congratulations to our Extend Before and After School Care service which has received an overall *Exceeding* National Quality Standard (NQS) rating for its recent assessment, going above and beyond what is expected at the *Meeting* level.

To receive an *Exceeding* rating, four of the seven quality areas need to be met:

- Educational program and practice
- Children's health and safety
- Physical environment
- Staffing arrangements
- Relationships with children
- Collaborative partnerships
- Governance and leadership

We are delighted to say that Extend Cornish College has received an Exceeding rating on five of the seven criteria, demonstrating extraordinary care, strong relationships with the family and school community, and inspiring and educational programs.

Karlie Katsambis, Service Coordinator and Nicolene Cottrell, Programs Manager, are to be congratulated on this outstanding achievement. Karlie has worked at Cornish College for seven years and her love for the children in her care and continued dedication to the families is certainly demonstrated through this accomplishment.

Many in the industry claim that it is 'impossible' to receive such a rating in the OSHC sector, yet Extend at Cornish College has proved that it can indeed be done. We thank Karlie and Nicolene for their ongoing dedication to the service and efforts in achieving this fantastic outcome – we are extremely proud!



Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

In 2022 the College achieved several great results from its tenth year of participating in the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge.

The Reading Challenge, open to students from Prep to Year 7, saw 180 registrations with 72 students successfully reading the required number of books. Running from the beginning of Term 2 until the close of Term 3, the Reading Challenge, requires students to read a certain number of books during the given period. Some titles are to be selected from a specified list, thereby encouraging participants to read widely and, in the process, explore new authors and genres.

Not only does it equip students with a focus for their reading, but can build a sense of achievement in approaching more challenging material. Importantly, such initiatives contribute to increased literacy levels and allow for parents to become involved in their child's reading development.

We are grateful to Naki Khan who introduced the Reading Challenge, to our Cornish community a decade ago and acknowledge her enormous support in both running the initiative and encouraging student participation for the first six years. In 2023 we plan to open registration to our Early Learning Centre cohort to inspire a love of reading for a wider student demographic and their families.

Presenting Cornish to the wider community

We were delighted in early November to launch our new Cornish College website – an initiative that has been in development for quite some time. Not only does the website exhibit a fresh 'look and feel', but, more importantly, truly captures the essence of Cornish.

Our website stands as the key way in which we present online to the wider community and, in keeping with an approach taken by many other schools, replaces what was traditionally a printed *Prospectus*. We include additional information around new academic aspects of the College and the Executive Leadership Team, as well as the Cornish Shop where you can purchase Cornish-branded items.

We are encouraged by a wealth of feedback received to date, including this message from a member of staff following their conversation with an external school camp provider: 'I contacted a sustainable bushland camp regarding accommodation options. While explaining that they are no longer accepting school groups, they were nevertheless so impressed by our sustainability philosophy and actions from our website that they would be glad to accommodate us'. High praise indeed!

We invite you to visit our new website www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au

Blue Day

We were overwhelmed by the community response to our annual Cornish College 'Blue Day' Christmas drive. It is wonderful to be able to contribute to the Asylum Seeker Refugee Centre.

Thank you to those who generously donated items including stationery, tinned goods, pantry items, cleaning and hygiene products. On the day, our students and staff enjoyed dressing in blue to promote hope and calmness.



Timor-Leste Colour Celebration

The last day of the school year is marked with the Timor-Leste Colour Celebration. Cornish College has developed a special and important relationship with the Fatuquero School in Timor-Leste, with Cornish students and staff having undertaken service trips there since 2016. Our school is dedicated to making a difference for the lives of the students and teachers of the Fatuquero School through regular fundraising events helping to support this initiative.

As part of the Colour Celebration, our community raised a total of \$2,227.20. These funds will make a significant difference in our commitments for student scholarships in 2023–24: tertiary scholarships at US\$250 each, and eight secondary students at US\$100 each. Two tertiary students completed their studies at the end of 2022; we will commence two new scholarships for Years 8 or 9 students from the beginning of 2023.

Fatuquero student scholarships

Each year, Cornish commits to providing two new educational scholarships for students at the Fatuquero School who exhibit a commitment to their ongoing education, an aptitude for learning English, and that come from a situation of financial hardship. The scholarship continues for their entire educational journey, typically beginning in Year 8 and continuing until the

end of their tertiary studies. Secondary school students receive US\$100 per year, which increases to US\$250 during their tertiary years.

Volunteer teachers

Some adults without employment offer themselves to local schools as volunteers to support the education of young people in their community. In 2018, Cornish began supporting volunteers with a modest living allowance of US\$50 per month to encourage their commitment and acknowledge the significance of their contribution – such support has continued to date.

Cornish is proud to currently be supporting twelve students on scholarships. We are also supporting one of the volunteers as they study to become a qualified English teacher.

Timor IMPACCT experience

Twelve students from Cornish College will participate in the upcoming 2023 Timor IMPACCT (Immersion, Mission, Partnership, Action, Challenge, Culture, Teaching) Experience.

Should you like to be involved in sponsorship, please contact may.judson@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



A reflection of who we are and how we learn



In 2021 we launched our new branding which represents the forward thinking, caring and innovative school that we have always been and will continue to strive to be: we are explorers with the commitment and courage to redefine schooling for a sustainable future.

As a natural extension of that process, we were proud to launch our new Cornish College uniform in November which draws on the work of many people from our community over the past 18 months. There will be a transition period in 2023 and 2024 where both new and old uniforms can be worn, but from 2025 all our students will wear the new uniform.

With a proud reputation for innovation and strong belief in the capability of all students, we seek to honour student agency in every aspect of their schooling.

Focus on sustainability

Our students have continued to contribute to several key initiatives which not only seek to raise awareness about sustainable practices, but put these ideas into action.

Sustainability Action Team

Teams of students have been working hard around the school on sustainability initiatives as part of their PYP units of inquiry. During Term 4, the Year 3s focused on sustainable action, forming groups which probed several areas of sustainable thought across the College, such as, reducing litter around the grounds, strengthening our waste collection strategies, and exploring sustainable transport options.

Sustainability Think Tank

In 2022, a team of College staff formed the 'Sustainability Think Tank' – a space where ideas around sustainable practices and the ethos of 'make a difference' can be shared and discussed. To date, a wealth of ideas have been brainstormed with two such initiatives entering the progress stage.

Our new 'uniform wardrobe' recognises that our young people can make informed and independent choices about what to wear to school each day.

Whilst they can choose their own combination of clothing, the wardrobe builds on the strong sense of belonging that we nurture, and offers a range of items that proudly identify students as part of our community.

The wardrobe includes some elements of tradition and formality for students who feel that is what suits them best, together with a range of casual and activewear choices to meet other preferences.

There are no gender-specific requirements and students can choose from either tailored or relaxed fittings for some items.

The range is cross-seasonal, meaning that items are no longer linked to particular times of the year and each item can be worn all year-around.

In keeping with the College's values and underpinning ethos, we have utilised sustainable fabrics in key garments such as the polo shirt, shorts and trousers. We acknowledge that this needs to be 'in balance' with affordability, wearability and durability.

At the beginning of 2023 we were delighted to see so many students proudly wearing the new uniform.



Lukas Banks (Year 12) completing an energy audit for the College

Special mention goes to staff member and head of our golf program Sean Kirschenberg, who was motivated to launch a 'walking bus' project by utilising a parking area close to the school. Year 2 classroom teacher, Kylie Yeomans, meanwhile, has launched 'Roving Refills' to coincide with National Recycling Week. The small business 'Roving Refills' in Frankston adopts a 'zero waste' mindset in its selling of eco-friendly cleaning products – and certainly aligns with our long-term sustainable vision for the College and connections with the local community.

Gumboot Recycling and Exchange Program

It is fairly common in the primary years that students will outgrow their gumboots before they outwear them, potentially leading to perfectly good items going to waste. We have, therefore, started a gumboot exchange and recycling program. When people have outgrown their gumboots, they can either donate or exchange them for a larger pair, thereby encouraging reuse and preventing perfectly good boots from entering landfill. It is a 'win-win' situation and something we will continue in 2023.

Our solar investment

As Cornish College moves into its next decade, Echo Group Australia has been enlisted to review our current solar investment and consider potential strategies and storage solutions. We are delighted to be able to share with you some further details around this initiative: At present, 33% of the energy used to power our property derives from solar, offsetting over 90,000 kilograms of CO2 and totaling savings in the thousands of dollars. With forthcoming increases to the wholesale cost of energy, adding additional solar capacity and storage seems a logical step forward. Over the coming years, there is scope to move towards 100% solar offset with an additional 150 kilowatts of solar capacity, plus a subsidy in the form of the Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificate. In due course, all solar power will be produced on the property and weekend consumption exported back to the grid. We often hear

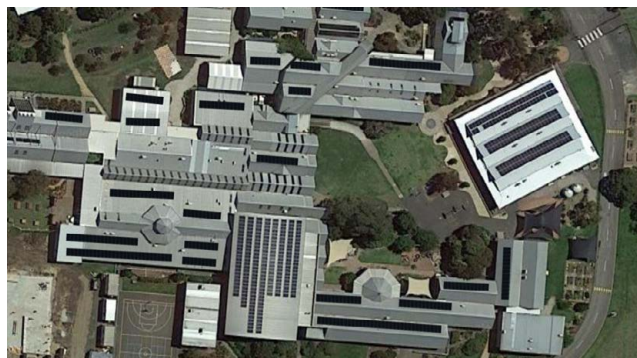
From the Archives

Perhaps a 'silver lining' emerging from widespread disruption and upheaval over the past few years is that Josette Mulcahy (CC2016) and I have found time to contribute to the development of the Cornish College Archive. In the absence of usual work assignments, educational placements, and day-to-day happenings, we could shift our attention to putting in place the core infrastructure for a workable and user-friendly archival resource for the years ahead.

I am pleased to advise at this point of time that we have ordered the collection chronologically and assembled sets of documents, such as, yearbooks and annual publications according to a logical, numerical catalogue. Through this process, we have uncovered both internal and published documents which help to tell the story of Cornish across the decades. Iconographic evidence, in the form of Mike Davis' treasure trove of photos, examples of student work, and video commentary which speaks to our ongoing connection with this expansive property, likewise, document the past and present with an almost 'three-dimensional' quality.

The task of item digitisation is a substantial one indeed – and one that will, no doubt, demand the attention of College archivists over the coming decade. Like the National Archives of Australia, we are up against the clock when it comes to digitising older forms of multimedia at risk of becoming unreadable. A twenty-first

We look forward to building upon our existing sustainability initiatives in 2023, such as the '123Read2Me' and 'Breadtags for Wheelchairs' programs. Our engagement with programs offered by Sustainability Victoria, as well as wider-reaching initiatives like that of 'Earth Hour' and 'Clean Up Australia Day', certainly complement a quest to promote a sustainable mindset and change habits for the better within our creative, forward-thinking environment.



in the national conversation that solar is one of several renewable energy sources that will power Australia's future; this review process certainly allows Cornish to consider its own sustainable future and to start moving more decisively in that direction.

century archival resource ought to be both accessible in hard copy and the digital space to keep pace with emerging technologies, thereby minimising the chance of losing material whilst increasing means of accessibility.

In 2022, we trialled collating sets of yearbooks and decade-specific photos for display at College alumni functions, finding this type of exhibit to be very popular with attendees for its strong nostalgic factor. So too is the concept of a 'virtual' school tour for those alumni attending our off-campus events. Initiatives of this sort are certainly true to our overarching aim to make archival content readily accessible to the wider school community.

Any archival resource, far from existing as a mere set of dusty shelves and seldom-opened boxes, might, rather, be perceived as a 'living document' which evolves over time in response to continuities and changes. To that end, the Cornish College Archive will certainly continue to grow in size over the coming decades as each consecutive year brings with it new stories and the rediscovery of artefacts from decades past. There is ample work ahead, for example, digitising photo collections, cataloguing existing documents, and establishing ties with local historical societies; however, such contributions will be built upon a strong archival framework and culture of giving back to the community.

Leighton Triplow (CC2010)

A visit from Mark Dreyfus

As we reached the end of the 10 Year Anniversary celebrations, our College Archivists have discovered significant photos from the early days of Cornish College. Here, for example, is an image dating from 2012 of Federal Member of Parliament, Mark Dreyfus who visited the College for the naming of the Dave Clark Art and Design Centre.



(L-R) Eliza Wilton (CC2015), Georgia Bell (CC2015), Kerry Bolger, Mark Dreyfus, Kathleen Kiddell (CC2015), Robbie Boag (CC2015)

We welcomed Hon Mark Dreyfus KC back to Cornish in 2022, having received a letter from Year 6 student Liam Cusack about his project on the topic of homelessness and the need for greater funding towards housing projects. Mr Dreyfus spoke to students and had an opportunity to see how Cornish has evolved over the intervening years.



Liam Cusack and Mark Dreyfus

Art Walk

How very proud we are of our creative students, who with the support of our amazing Art Department, produced bright and colourful artwork that was displayed as part of our Cornish College Art Walk in Term 4.

It was a joy for our community to walk across our 100 acres and to discover this artwork along the way – and not be hampered by inclement weather in the process.



A Culture of Giving



As we begin the second decade of Cornish College, we would like to acknowledge the generous support of the whole Cornish community – all those who have supported the College over the past decade and those who will help build on that legacy over the next decade and beyond.

From the earliest days of the College, the Cornish community has always been incredibly generous in supporting our school – whether it be through involvement in the Parents Association, serving on the College Board and its committees, assisting with class activities or supporting our Building Fund, Scholarship Fund and Giving Day campaigns with a financial commitment, your contribution is valued.

Our students also raise funds for numerous events – many being social justice initiatives outside the College, such as Backpack for Beds, Rug Up Day, Blue Day, the Winter Sleepout, Ration Challenge and Timor-Leste IMPACCT program.

All those who ‘give’ to Cornish are motivated by a deep and genuine connection to our wonderful school and we applaud their selfless contribution – one and all.

STEM Centre

We anticipate beginning construction of our new \$3.79 million STEM Centre early in the second half of this year and are delighted that this building project assists us in making a significant impact for student learning and futures in line with the goals of our *Strategy Story – Toward 2030* and of our *Building Master Plan* launched in 2017.

The centre will comprise a contemporary maker space, outdoor learning areas, a breakout room, storage and a large digital technologies hub.

If you would like information about how you might support the College with this wonderful project, please contact the Director of Community Relations, Dennis Freeman at dennis.freeman@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au or by calling 9781 9014.

STUDENT SUCCESS

We congratulate **Grace** and **Charlotte Costigan** on their recent ballet successes with opportunities arising in both Melbourne and beyond.



Grace, currently 11 years of age, is studying classical ballet under the coaching of Claire Campbell-Mahon. Training for as many as 15 hours a week, she is a student of the Australian Ballet

School's *Interstate Training Program* and in late 2022 performed in the end of year production of *Butterfly* at the Arts Centre, Melbourne. Grace has enjoyed other recent successes, including several solo roles in Brisbane City Youth Ballet's production of *The Wizard of Oz*, competing in the finals of the Australian Classical Grand Prix, and progressing to the finals of the Asian Grand Prix to be held in Bangkok in December. In 2023, she will participate in the Australian Classical Challenge (Newcastle), Alana Haines Awards (Wellington, New Zealand) and an opportunity in August to attend the Youth America Grand Prix International Summer School in Italy.



Charlotte, currently 9 years of age, is also studying under Claire Campbell-Mahon with a training schedule of 10 hours per week. 2022 was a busy year for Charlotte with involvement

in the cast of Brisbane City Youth Ballet's production of *The Wizard of Oz* in July and a successful audition for the Australian Ballet School's *Interstate Training Program*. She was a finalist in the Ballet Teacher's Workshop in August, making the top 20 of over 150 competitors – and being the youngest in her category. She was also awarded a Merit Award at the Asian Grand Prix semi-finals in Sydney in September.



Year 8 student **Al Stevens** has always had a love of cricket and has played with his local cricket club 'Baden Powell' since he was seven years old. Late 2022, Al was selected to play in the Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union Shield Championships representing the

Mornington Peninsula Cricket Association. He was selected in the Under 14s Division 1 side which included the top 13 players from his region. Al and his team performed very well finishing fifth in the Russell Allen Shield.

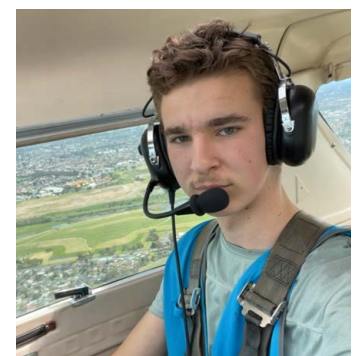


Congratulations to **Belle Connolly** from Year 7 who competed as our only Cornish College athlete at the Southern Metropolitan Regional Athletics Competition in October. Belle qualified in the high jump and had an outstanding performance on the day. Congratulations to Belle for qualifying and competing at such a high level of competition.

Congratulations to Year 12 student **Millie Unwin**, who has been nominated for the *Woman of the Year Awards 2023* for the City of Kingston. She has been nominated for her work at the Dingley Tennis Club, where she has been developing the digital footprint of the club and helping it grow, while promoting health and wellbeing through the practice of sports. She has used her network and social media to promote, attract and support new members, in particular females, to the club.



Year 12 student **Alex Widmann** has always wanted to become a pilot and commenced his VET aviation studies in 2022. Alex booked himself in for as many flying lessons as possible, and in October, went on his first solo flight in a Cessna 152. Alex's second solo flight was rather eventful as he encountered a radio failure during the course of the flight, and while inexperienced, remained calm and consulted his checklist for solutions to the problem. Alex safely landed the plane without air traffic controllers to guide him. We congratulate Alex on his dedication, hard work, enthusiasm, and achievements on the way to becoming a pilot.





Congratulations to **Arthur Hall**, Year 4, on winning the Year 3–4 category of the Arts Learning Festival 2022 Student Poetry Competition with his poem *What to Write*. Year 4 students Seth Atley and Sophie Vega-Hennessy received honourable mentions for their written poetry entries titled *Hard Choice* and *The Gum Tree*, respectively.



As part of National Science Week, Year 5 student **Alice Stoessiger** won the poetry division in the Remember the Wild’s ‘Amazing Spider Crabs of Nairn’ art competition.

Leading the Cornish student community

Our 2023 College Captains are Mailli Atkins, Isabelle Gardner, Max Gregg and Chanul Kulatunga. As they look toward their new roles, they reflect on what motivated them to apply and consider challenges they may face as a College Captain:

Mailli

I have long been invested in “leadership” and “responsibility” through competitive sports, cocurricular activities, and past leadership roles at the school. Such experiences have enabled me to understand how one might employ the school’s values whilst working with students and teachers of all ages – always with enthusiasm, courage, and hope. I understand the importance of encouragement and serving as a role model for younger students in order to help them to discover their own voice. I want to leave a lasting impression, encouraging my peers to seek out adventures and take steps into the unknown.

Isabelle

I decided to apply for a College Captain position as I have a genuine passion for Cornish and the values it espouses – I have truly loved growing up in this incredible school since commencing in ELC. At the end of this year, I want to feel proud of my contributions to Cornish alongside the efforts of my fellow captains.

Max

As a College Captain, I will share ideas for the school and endeavour to benefit the community whilst spending time to learn more about the art of leadership. I hope that in twelve months’ time, I will have helped to make the College an even better place, knowing that I have given it my all and left a pathway for other leaders and students to follow.

Chanul

I seek to contribute to the culture at Cornish, building upon the amazing work of past captains who I have respected for their efforts. Being a College Captain enables me to positively influence my peers and grow as a person. By the end of 2023, I would like to feel that I have left the school in an even better state by establishing strong relationships with the other captains and across the student cohort.

It is clear from the above reflections that our new College Captains will seek to serve the Cornish community in a spirit of idea-sharing, encouragement and unmistakable enthusiasm. In vouching to work across the student body, they will, no doubt, make a positive impact during their tenure in alignment with the College’s values. So too will they sustain a tone of responsibility and positive thinking for the benefit of our future school leaders. We wish them every success in their endeavours over the year to come!



(L-R) Chanul Kulatunga, Mailli Atkins, Isabelle Gardner and Max Gregg

Cornish Campus Reunion / Reconnecting and reminiscing

In a much-loved addition to our annual schedule of alumni events, we are excited to have introduced alumni gatherings specifically catering to the St Leonard's College era of Cornish. It underscores the value that the College places on our alumni network in an attempt to establish long-standing connections with past students across the span of four decades, not only the past decade since Cornish College has existed.

On the evening of Friday 19 August, past students and friends of Cornish, largely from the St Leonard's College years, descended upon 'The Bay Mordi' for a convivial evening of conversations and reflection. Throughout the night, old friends reminisced about their school days in a

low-key atmosphere, providing the perfect way to kick-off the weekend.

A display of yearbooks and familiar faces sparked many a conversation whilst a 'virtual tour' of the various landmarks around Cornish transported our most senior of alumni back in time and place. Past staff members, including Mike Davis and Mark Byrne, similarly, helped to usher in an air of nostalgia.

Events like this are important for sustaining connections with our newest and eldest of past students – a span which will continue to grow as the years pass by.



(L-R) Alysha Genn (CC2008), Jacqueline Smith, Leighton Triplow (CC2010)



Catharine Payton (CC2009) and Charlotte Baker (CC2019)



Matt Taylor (CC2009) and Louise Berger (CC2010)

Class of 2021 - One Year Reunion

It was wonderful for our *Class of 2021* to reunite with school friends and their former teachers at Strike Bowling Bayside at the end of November. In celebration of one year since graduating, attendees enjoyed a couple of games of bowling and refreshments as they caught up on various developments in their post-school lives. It is always a fun evening for our recent graduates as they begin to make inroads with their next journey within the working world, travel, or further study.



Class of 2017 - Five Year Reunion

There was an all-round positive atmosphere for our *Class of 2017* Five Year Reunion at the Melbourne Cable Park in early September. Former students revisited Cornish for a tour of the grounds before moving to the Cable Park for a relaxed evening of conversations and rekindling of memories. A highlight was to watch one of Mr D's famous slideshow presentations from years past, prompting many laughs and long-forgotten stories. We are certain that in no time at all, we will be inviting the cohort back for their Ten Year Reunion!



A career in creativity



Louise Berger (CC2010) also attended St Leonard's College in the early 2000s. Being an outstanding visual arts student at the time – known to regularly design banners and posters for Cornish events – she has gone on to pursue a career in the field of design, enjoying a mixture of freelance and team-based experiences to date:

I could not be more grateful for my years at Cornish; the strong sense of community, focus on sustainability, encouragement to be yourself, and ethos of making a difference in the world were hugely formative for me.

Following Year 12, I studied a Bachelor of Communication Design at RMIT. This degree equipped me with the skills to run my own freelance graphic design business for several years which was equally challenging and rewarding.

Like so many freelancers, the COVID-19 pandemic was difficult and isolating, and after 2020, I felt a strong pull to change tack and return to becoming part of a team. I made the significant decision to switch from working as a designer in my own business to a role where I would instead help others to design.

Today, I work as a Project Manager for Paper Giant – a strategic design and research consultancy in Melbourne. While this was certainly a big change for me, I have never forgotten that Cornish has instilled in me the importance of finding a way to use one's skills to make the world a better place. Upon first reading Paper Giant's Mission Statement – to help organisations deliver better services and policy for a more equal and just society – I knew that I had discovered the right place for my next career step. I am fortunate to have the flexibility one day a week for personal and freelance projects, such as, volunteering as a graphic designer for animal sanctuary Edgar's Mission and proudly sitting on the Cornish Collegians Management Committee.

If I were to offer one piece of advice to senior school students, it would be to take things step-by-step, because you have plenty of time! If you stay true to understanding what matters to you as an individual, and are prepared to put your best effort in, good things are sure to follow.

A love of learning



Dr Shreya Rana (CC2010) attended the Cornish Campus of St Leonard's College from 2005 to 2008 before completing her VCE studies at the Brighton Campus in 2010. Since then, she has enjoyed a wealth of scholarly and early career opportunities within the discipline of medicine, reflecting upon the impact 'The Cornish Experience' has had on her motivations and interests to date:

I am currently a junior doctor in the third year of my early career, working across Monash Medical Centre, Dandenong Hospital, and the Monash Children's Hospital. Following Year 12, I commenced a five-year course at Monash University's Medical School before deciding to take a 'lateral step' and dipping my toes into research. This initial scholarly curiosity culminated in a four-year commitment, resulting in a PhD. Beyond that point, I sought to complete my final year of medical school and move into work as a doctor at Peninsula Health. Medicine is certainly a rewarding career, but

it can prove to be physically and emotionally demanding. And while there is a greater focus on mental health among medical professionals and associated changes to support networks, there is still a long way to go.

I am currently working towards a career in paediatric surgery. That said, medicine is quite unique in that there is adequate scope to 'pivot' and investigate different areas of specialisation in order to find the best fit – so who knows where I might end up. I feel incredibly lucky to have had 'The Cornish Experience' for my secondary schooling. What stands out in my mind is the encouragement and development of lateral thinking, fostering a drive to 'make a difference', and the opportunity to engage in a range of subjects. A particular stand-out for me was the Indigenous Studies class taught by Chris Grummet.

While a maths-minded student, I also harboured a keen interest in music. I thought that such an interest would remain a hobby-level, extracurricular activity, but the performance opportunities at Cornish gave me the encouragement and confidence to continue music at the VCE level. For me, Cornish was truly a formative experience, not simply in schooling, but in developing a sense of self and has significantly shaped the person I am today.

Births



Lloyd

To Gemma (current staff) and Matt Lloyd on 27 September 2022, a daughter, Matilda Josephine Moylan.
A sister for Alfie.



Tommasini

To Daniel (former staff) and Vanessa Tommasini on 26 November 2022, a son, Micah Lucas Tommasini.
A brother for Isaac.



Wormell

To Daniel (current staff) and Rebecca on 6 February 2023, a son, Jackson John (JJ) Wormell.

Marriages



Judson – McDonald

May (current staff) and Lachlan (CC2010) on 14 January 2023.



Cansdale – Fairnie

Anne (current staff) and Pete on 17 March 2023.

Updates

We would love to hear your latest news so that we can share it with our Cornish community. If you're about to start an exciting new job, undertake further study, or have recently become engaged or married, please let us know!

Please contact the Community Relations team via alumni@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au to share your updates.

Follow Us

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



@CornishCollegeAlumni



@cornishcollegians

Priority enrolment

We welcome children of alumni to the College and recommend that you register your application for enrolment as early as possible. Applications are prioritised based on the date of receipt and many families apply shortly after their child is born. As valued members of our community, the application fee for children of Cornish Collegians is waived. Applications can be completed online via www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/enrolment/enrolment-information/

Important Dates

Class of 2018 Five Year Reunion

Friday 25 August
7.00pm - 9.30pm
Melbourne Cable Park

Class of 2022 One Year Reunion

Friday 10 November
6.00pm - 8.00pm
Strike Bowling Bayside



2023 Cornish Collegians Management Committee

Congratulations to the following Office Bearers, who were elected at the recent Annual General Meeting.

President: Josette Mulcahy (CC2016)

Vice President: Louise Berger (CC2010)

Secretary: Dennis Freeman (Co-opted for 12 months)

Treasurer: Rick Mleczko (CC2015)

Past staff representative: Kerry Bolger (Former Principal)

Committee: Kath Kiddell (CC2015), Catharine Payton (CC2009), Alannah Hayes (CC2016), Robbie Boag (CC2015), Leighton Triplow (CC2010), Nick Kiss von Soly (CC1997), and Mark Byrne (Former staff)

COMMUNITY NEWS

10 Year Anniversary Chapel Service and Summer Music Showcase

While the wild and woolly Melbourne weather may have hindered our planned 10 Year Anniversary Picnic earlier in 2022, we were, in true Cornish fashion, determined to ensure that the show would go on!

The day of Saturday 5 November turned out to be quite beautiful indeed. The sun was shining as students, teachers, parents, staff, alumni and friends of the College gathered for our 10 Year Anniversary Chapel Service, followed by a fabulous Summer Music Showcase.

Performances by our talented musicians created a delightful atmosphere for the afternoon. Families watched the entertainment from their picnic rugs, shopped at the Young Entrepreneurs Market where our Year 6 students sold items they had made, painted leaves for our 10 Year Anniversary ceramic tree and frequented various food trucks.



(L-R) Rev Claire Dawe, Rosanne Pedersen, Rev Sung Hyun Joo, Reagan Morel (CC2022), Lily Turner (Year 9), Chanul Kulatunga (Year 12), Mailli Atkins (Year 12) and Nicola Forrest

Bush Chapel

Following an initial trial in 2022, we are pleased that the Cornish Bush Chapel will be continuing in 2023.

A unique aspect of the chapel is that it always meets outdoors, even in the case of inclement weather. A pair of gumboots or suitable shelter on the deck of the Sustainability Centre can always suffice, ensuring that these meetings keep their focus on connecting with *land* and *creation*.

Rev Claire Dawe describes the Bush Chapel as ‘a way of doing church and experiencing spirituality outside’; it provides an opportunity for the curious of all ages to share in stories, to connect with the land, and explore both personal and collective spiritualities.

An afternoon at the Bush Chapel tends to revolve around a particular theme of the day with attendees discussing and partaking in activities connected to that theme. In 2023, such discussions will be linked by an overarching exploration of the stories of Jesus for which participants can bring along those stories which hold special meaning to them. Significant national dates, including the

Day of Mourning and Reconciliation Day, will also be acknowledged at the appropriate time.

We look forward to welcoming all those interested to the Bush Chapel – an inclusive space where everybody is welcome.



Staff Farewells



Mark Byrne

At the end of 2022, we said farewell to long-serving member of staff Mark Byrne whose selfless contributions to life at Cornish will be felt for many years to come.

Mark began working on a full-time basis at the Cornish Campus of St Leonard's College from 2007 and helped to guide the transition to Cornish College in the early 2010s. In sharing his memories of teaching, Mark believes that a core strength of the school is its learning environment:

I have always valued the freedom at Cornish to work towards individual student strengths and contribute to creative and interdisciplinary subject designs. Beyond its academic scope, I feel that the community spirit and sense of belonging are strengths of the school. I

have been able to build rapport with students and am truly grateful for their generosity and exchange of ideas over the years. Equally, the relaxed study environment, focus on sustainable thinking, and outdoor classes have made it a joy to come to work every day.

Mark estimates that he would have taught thousands of students across his career for which there are sure to be innumerable anecdotes and fulfilling teaching moments. School trips to Vietnam, Thailand and regional Australia were just some of his highlights on account of allowing students and teachers alike to establish meaningful connections and develop a greater sense of the wider world beyond the classroom.

In retirement, Mark plans to carry out some 'serious landscaping' upon his property and spend time seeing more of Australia and New Zealand. While we are saddened that Mark is 'passing the baton' to the next generation of educators, we are thrilled to say that he will sit on the Cornish Collegians Management Committee in 2023 as a past staff representative. Mark will, no doubt, have a hand in helping to plan events and make for a familiar face at alumni reunions because 'once Cornish, always Cornish'.



Deb Jones

We also say farewell to Deb Jones who has been a much-valued member of staff since 2013. As the school's first VCE Coordinator, Deb has watched the College grow and thrive over the years. She not only introduced different levels of learning within the Year 10 cohort, but was able to work towards individual student strengths and interests. The students will certainly miss collaborative knitting, poppy making, and designing Christmas cards at different times of the year.

We thank Deb for her selfless dedication to student learning and wish her all the very best with the next chapter.

Volunteers Thank You Breakfast

We had an opportunity to thank our considerable band of volunteers across multiple aspects of College life at our Volunteers Thank You Breakfast on the morning of Friday 25 November.

Attendees shared their memories of Cornish over the decades and spoke passionately about their particular contribution to the school, whether as a parent, former student, office-bearer, or member of the local community. There was an air of excitement and anticipation among attendees about what the next decade might hold as we move towards the end of our 10 Year Anniversary celebrations.

Whether contributing to the Giving Day, donating to the Cornish Kitchen, helping in the CLIC, assisting in the upkeep of the College Archive, or serving as a class representative, the thread of volunteerism is integral to the community spirit and success of Cornish – for which we are deeply grateful.



Parents Association



The Parents Association (PA) was, once again, very busy throughout 2022 in supporting and servicing events. The annual Ladies Luncheon in May, featuring a fashion show styled by Toni Newman, was an early highlight. In June, the PA ran a canteen at the Winter Showcase Festival, and in August, a Candy Bar for the Secondary Production, *The Truth Behind the Scoop*. The annual Mother's and Father's Day stalls were highlights of the calendar with both providing sustainable, ethically-made gifts from local businesses. The PA also took a key role at the Summer Music Festival, hosting a food stall within the Cornish Student Market, as well as organising several food trucks and a coffee van.

Cornish has always strived to view itself as part of a wider community and broader conversation, cognisant of the land upon which we stand and bearing a profound sense of community service. Consider, for example, the 'Cornish Kitchen' which is a service providing home-cooked frozen

meals for families experiencing hardship. The PA recently donated a freezer towards this initiative as well as putting out the call for meal donations. The Timor-Leste Colour Celebration, likewise, has the power to instil in our children a sense of service towards the global community – plus an opportunity to recognise student achievements and have some fun in the process. The PA assisted with the distribution of fresh fruit for the occasion.

In 2023, the PA will continue to actively support both school and community via a range of social and fundraising activities organised across the calendar year, with a key objective being to maintain and strengthen a sense of community. In overseeing College-based ventures, such as gift and food stalls, they seek to enhance the experience of families at such events whilst doing so in a way that is true to our overarching values of sustainability and community. To that end, the association is grateful to those volunteers – businesses and individuals – that helped to make 2022 such a success.

2023 Parents Association Committee

The Parents Association recently elected their 2023 Office Bearers:

President: Amy Jayasuriya-Clifford

Vice President: Alicia Parker

Secretary: Rod Novotny

Treasurer: Craig Courtie

Annual Golf Day

We were delighted to hold our annual Cornish College Golf Day at Southern Golf Club on Friday 25 November with perfect weather fitting the occasion. 79 friends of the College joined us at the Southern Golf Club, and 66 keen golfers competed in the 18-hole Ambrose competition. Tarquin Blackmore, Ned Costigan, Andrew Trivett and Ted Trivett were overall winners whilst the straightest drive went to Oliver Franceschini, longest drive won by Josh Trivett, Nearest the Pin (3) Scott Hunter, Nearest the Pin (6) Josh Trivett, Nearest the Pin (12) Phil Newman and Nearest the Pin (16) James Meldrum. We are grateful for the support of our generous sponsors who helped to make the day a tremendous success.



Course Sponsors



NOONE



Prize Sponsors



Major Sponsor



Sustainability Sponsor



PORSCHE

Lunch Sponsor



Fun Run/Walk Save the Date

When: Sunday 7 May, 9.00am - 10.30am

Where: Cornish College

Business Breakfast Save the Date

When: Friday 28 July, 7.30am - 8.30am

Where: Frankston Arts Centre



2023 Golf Day - Save the Date

When: **Friday 24 November**
Lunch at 11.00am, shot-gun start at 12.30pm

Where: **Southern Golf Club**

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

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

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!

Supporting our community businesses

Our Cornish College Business Directory showcases a range of businesses from our parent and alumni communities. We encourage all members of the Cornish community to support these businesses.

If you are interested in having your business listed, do not hesitate to get in touch at **communications@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au** or on **(03) 9781 9000**.

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



Cornish Shop

Check out our new online Cornish Shop for branded memorabilia and other goods. On sale now are recycled cardboard pens, KeepCup glass coffee cups, and our publication, *A Celebration of Courage*, telling the story of Cornish College over the first ten years. A must read for everyone passionate about Cornish!

Please visit **www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/shop**

Upcoming School Tours

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

Saturday 29 April
9.30am to 11.00am

Thursday 1 June
9.30am to 11.00am

Book online via **www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au/enrolments/tours**
For further information, please contact Admissions on **9781 9008** or via **admissions@cornishcollege.vic.edu.au**



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