



A.C.N. 006 660 984

# NEWS

# Lowther

**CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF GIRLS' EDUCATION**



ISSUE NO. 39

AUGUST 2000

**INSIDE** 80th Birthday Picnic  
Breaking New Ground in the Classroom and Beyond  
Staff, Past Students and Parents Activities  
From Past to Present Through the Archives



## From the Principal

*"In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught."*

Baba Dioum

Three presenters at Global Connections IV, held in June at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, each included this quotation, a coincidence too remarkable to ignore. The theme was Environmentalism and the participants a group of principals and teachers from schools around the world. I was privileged to attend, having also been at Global Connections II at Geelong Grammar in '98, with Robyn Kronenberg having represented us last year in the UK. A powerful learning experience, this seminar was compelling in its charge to delegates to extend their schools' environmental programs, locally and beyond. Lowther Hall students, already passionate about environmental matters, will work with teachers and parents in setting our priorities for developing projects to 'green' our campus and make a difference in our community. The conference finished with an agreed Deerfield Declaration stating our aims and commitment to global links and to education for a sustainable environment.

For ten days I studied with friends' old and new, from countries around the world. Global connections between our students and staff are a further expected outcome of the meeting of principals and teachers. Information communication technology is bringing us closer together but no web page or email can match the reality of travelling and living in different communities and cultures. For two weeks prior to Deerfield I was fortunate to spend time in Singapore and England, learning about schools and educational trends, after

which I attended the annual conference of the USA National Coalition of Girls' Schools, held at Dana Hall School just outside Boston, and spoke on behalf of the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia.

I enjoyed being part of the celebration of girls' education, with sessions focusing on what works best for girls in girls' schools.

Eighty years of Lowther Hall education are celebrated in this edition. My opening quotation might well be applied also to this acknowledgment of the school's achievements since 1920 - or since 1890 when the tradition of girls education began in Moonee Ponds and Essendon. We have conserved what we love and understand, namely the traditions and values which form the foundation of our learning community; we are also conserving the knowledge and wisdom which comes from 21st century learning. Education 80 years ago was significantly different from today but some learning is timeless.

May the achievements and the learning flourish for the next 80 years!



Ms Noelene Horton.

## ROTARY'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

During May, ten Year 11 students from Lowther Hall joined 74 other students from around the state at the Model United Nations Assembly Weekend hosted and funded by Rotary at Kings Resort Wantirna.

In pairs, the delegates were assigned a member nation of the United Nations. Lowther Hall students were chosen to represent Libya, Spain, South Africa and Poland. Each pair researched their country and dressed in national costume for the weekend's proceedings.

All students present took part in debate on world issues from nuclear war to world poverty. They were required to put their own opinions, backgrounds and beliefs aside as they argued the stance of their allocated country.

Lowther Hall's delegates were Alexandra Bence, Louise Foster, Abby Grave, Bryony McCormack, Jessica Mociak, Jacqueline Nguyen, Muna Rahman, Stephanie Sarantakos, Agnes Swierczak and Emma Turnbull.

They reported that alliances were formed both in and out of the mock UN assembly and expressed their appreciation to Rotary for providing the opportunity to learn about the world, and perhaps more importantly, themselves.



Left to Right: Jacqueline Nguyen, Louise Foster and Muna Rahman dressed in national costumes for the Model United Nations Assembly.

## LOWTHER HALL ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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FRONT COVER: Reflections of Lowther Hall's 80th Birthday picnic. Top: Students enjoying the day. Left to Right: Kassandra Hamilton Year 6, Erin Doherty Year 8 and Tess Campbell-Juresko Year 8. Bottom Left: Hindley Captains present and past. Kat Clancy (left) and Barbara Gunthorpe, who was visiting from the USA. Bottom Right: Rev Jean Penman, Chaplain, Hayley Bulman, School Captain and Mrs Wendy Lewis, Deputy Principal, all played a major role in the day's proceedings.



## HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS 2000

For the first time, this year's House Performing Arts competition, which involves every student from Year 7 to 12, was held in the evening at Dallas Brooks Convention Centre, enabling parents, family and friends to attend.

For the Year 2000, the topic was *Great Movies of the Past*. The Houses and their chosen movies were Booth – *Romeo and Juliet*, Clarke – *Oklahoma*, Hindley – *Saturday Night Fever*, Lees – *Dirty Dancing*, Moorhouse – *Fame* and Perry – *Muriel's Wedding*.

Endless hours before, during and after school were put in by House Captains, their deputies and senior students to create a performance that was totally produced by the students. The girls were set the task of organising rehearsal schedules, costumes, props, sound and lighting effects. The three performance areas of dance, drama and music also had to be combined to produce a smooth-running and entertaining piece.

This year's judges were esteemed performers Linda Hamilton, Tim Smith and Phillip Gould. Choosing a winner from such a high standard of competition was a difficult task, but Clarke took out the honours.

Congratulations to every girl for their team efforts and thank-you to Mrs Kronenberg, the dedicated staff in the Performing Arts Department and Mrs Barbara Watson.

CHANTELLE JAMIESON - Drama Captain  
LISA SHEPPARD - Music Captain  
JACINTA WHITE - Dance Captain



Year 12 students Left to Right: Brigid Maiden, Hailey Boyd and Tehani Suafoa, the main characters in Booth's performance of *Romeo and Juliet*.

## LOWTHER HALL HOSTS REGIONAL SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

On Thursday May 11, Lowther Hall hosted the 2000 Regional Schools Constitutional Convention. Visiting schools represented by senior students and staff were Ave Maria College, Copperfield Secondary College, King Khalid Islamic College, Overnewton Anglican Community College and St Columba's College.

The convention was the initiative of the Constitutional Centenary Foundation and the topic set down for discussion was: *Should The Constitution Expressly Recognise The Indigenous Peoples Of Australia?*

Guest speakers for the opening sessions were Ms Morag Fraser, editor of *Eureka Street*; Mr Michael Warby, Fellow of the Institute of Public Affairs; Ms Dimity Fifer, The Centre



Conference speakers (Left to Right); Irene O'Loughlin, Bruce Knox, Morag Fraser, Dimity Fifer, Michael Warby and Larry Walsh enjoy an informal discussion with Lowther Hall students (Left to Right); Katelyn Whinfield, Simonette Foletti, Elli Jacovides, Emma Turnbull and Abby Grave.



Conference delegates gather for a group photograph on the steps of the mansion.

for Indigenous Studies, The University of Melbourne; Ms Irene O'Loughlin, Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, Monash University; Mr Bruce Knox, Honorary Research Associate, History Department, Monash University; and Mr Larry Walsh, Melbourne's Living Museum of the West.

In the final session, each group reported on their discussion and decisions. A vote was taken on the title question and the result was 54 in favour to 24 against.

Lowther Hall's representatives at the convention were Rebecca Adams, Alexandra Bence, Simonette Foletti, Abby Grave, Jacqueline Nguyen, Kate Nicholson, Roberta Sien, Leiarna Tosto, Jessica Trumino, Emma Turnbull, Katelyn Whinfield and Jingning Xue.

The student organising committee comprised Antoinette Cerantonio, Sarvath Hussain, Elli Jacovides and Elena Tzimas. Staff members who took part in the convention and made major contributions to the success of the day were Mrs Robyn Kronenberg and Mrs Nicola Sabbadini.



## FRANCE AND GERMANY TOUR

On Saturday April 8, twelve girls from Years 11 and 12 accompanied by staff members Mr Richard Hunt and Ms Noelene Williams, embarked on an 18 day tour of France and Germany. For some, it was the first overseas experience, but for most, it was about to be an experience of a lifetime. Here are some extracts from our diaries:

**Paris 5.45am the first day of our tour of Europe.** Although surviving the day without falling asleep proved a challenge, as soon as we were out in the streets of Paris all fourteen eager tourists managed to awaken with energy. This was to be the first day of our sightseeing

**Over the nine days spent in France,** we managed to visit the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur and naturally, a visit to Paris wouldn't be complete without a trip up the Eiffel Tower. Although the day tours were great, one of the most memorable moments in Paris was the night cruise on the River Seine.

**Of course, a visit to France wouldn't be complete without shopping,** which we managed to do, any spare second of the day. The highlight was the Galleries Lafayettes in Paris, with its famous stained glass ceiling in which some girls spent up to five hours.

**We found that the closer we travelled to the French-German border, the more the architecture began to resemble that of the Germans.** Nothing however, could prepare us for the magnificent university town of Freiburg. Our first stop was at the bank, where we grappled with the concept of exchanging French francs to German marks and worried about getting a fair exchange rate. Here, we also experienced our first German market. The food available was exactly what we had pictured and included bratwurst and pretzels.



Strolling through a German village. Left to Right; Josephine Barbaro, Fiona Edwards, Hailey Boyd, Monicá Przybyszewski and Elli Jacovides.



The group sightseeing in Paris.

**The next morning we were excited at the prospect that we would be, if only in passing, in three countries in the one day.** The reason for this was that we were travelling to the Rhinefalls at Schaffhausen in Switzerland and travelling through Austria on our way back to Germany. At the Rhinefalls, the force of the water rushing down was enough to cause many of us to stop and stare in awe. The bus trip back to Germany gave us some picturesque views, such as the distant Austrian Alps covered in snow.

**Our last night was spent in Frankfurt.** Here, we came across high rises for the first time. Despite the modern appearance of the city, the main square radiated the presence of traditions, due to the architecture we had become accustomed to seeing throughout Germany.

Fiona Edwards and Monicá Przybyszewski

## YEAR 10 ASIAN STUDIES

For several years, Lowther Hall has been a member of the Access Asia Network and as a result of the resources and information that the network has provided, a unit on Asian studies has been part of the Year 10 curriculum since 1996.

Ms Noelene Williams is the teacher of Asian studies. She points out that the course is designed to examine Australia's changing relationship with Asia and that students are required to look at the effect Asian countries have on this country and all the people who live here, including themselves.

One specific unit of study is Contemporary Japan, focusing on tradition and change. The strong links Lowther Hall has made with our sister school in Japan, the Osaka Shin Ai School, give the students opportunities to see and hear for themselves what life is like there for young women at the beginning of the 21st Century.

The assessment for this unit requires students to write a lifestyle article about an aspect of modern-day life in Japan. Students choose their own topic, based on personal interest and use the internet as a major resource.

The Asian studies course is designed to encourage discussion and research. Lowther Hall's Asian students and those with Asian ancestry help their peers to gain a depth of understanding when

they speak about their own experiences and those of their families.

The subject provides a solid background for several VCE subjects including Year 11 History and Year 11 and 12 Geography.

Asian studies students will soon be taking part in the Asia Wise Competition. This is a one-week research based exercise run throughout Australia and New Zealand, which tests knowledge of the geography, history and culture of the Asian region as well as mapping and research skills.



Year 10 students Ayla Ramsay (left) and Selona Ng share ideas in Asian Studies.

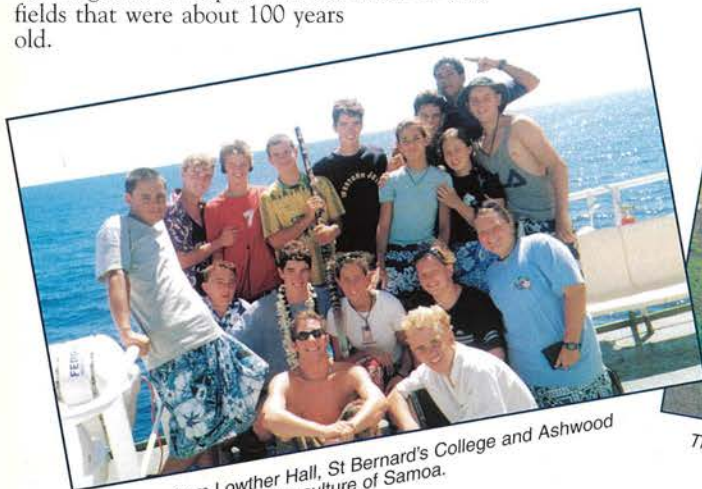


## EXPERIENCING THE CULTURE OF WESTERN SAMOA

On April 1, Year 10 students Katie Godsell, Caitlin Hardman, Stephanie Ho and Nicolette Quinn joined fifteen Year 11 students from St Bernard's College Essendon and one student from Ashwood College on a flight to Western Samoa. They were to take part in a three week cultural immersion experience organised by Quinn Educational Consultants. Here are their impressions:

Samoa is made up of two different islands and is found close to Fiji in the South Pacific Ocean. It is over the international date line so we left on the 1st of April and arrived on the 31st March. After the 8 hour flight we arrived at the Samoan version of an International airport, which was a big tin shed that was sectioned off into arrivals and departures. We all melted as we stepped off the plane as it was about 30 degrees at 11.30 at night. Everybody boarded a Samoan style bus and we headed out to Rainbow Springs, where we were to stay. We found a Fale (a house with no walls) and at 1.30 in the morning we were all extremely thirsty, sweating a lot and busy hanging up mosquito nets.

Our group got to be well known in Samoa. We appeared in the national newspaper and on television several times. We visited graves on top of hills and went to lava fields that were about 100 years old.



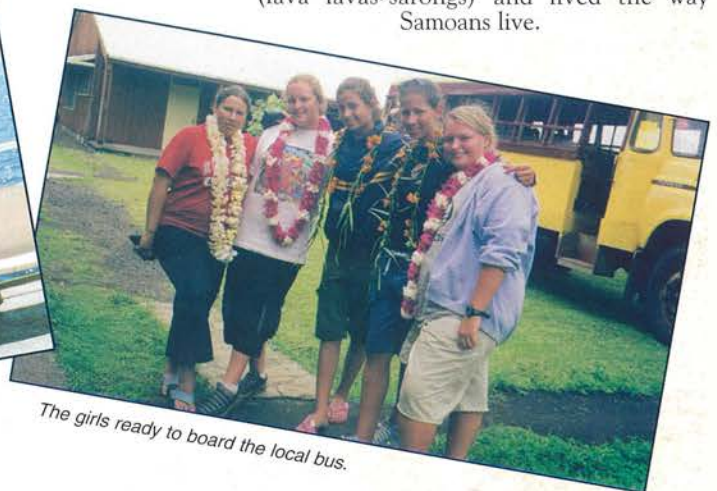
The group from Lowther Hall, St Bernard's College and Ashwood College "immersed" in the culture of Samoa.

We went swimming in a cave pool and had a few run ins with the feral dogs and big spiders in toilets. We went to beautiful beaches, swam in clear blue water and stayed there all day.

We travelled to the island of Savaii and took part in a homestay with a school there. Whilst on homestay we ate different foods such as Samoan chicken (grown in the backyard) and cocoa rice. On the big ferry (as it was called in Samoa) we were able to go on top deck and see all around us. We also saw dolphins swimming next to the boat.

We were divided into groups and each day were given a job to do, which ranged from going shopping to cleaning the toilets. The groups had to work together and decide how they were going to spend the money they were given. Each person was given 10 tala (about \$7) a day. This was to buy taxi rides, bus fares, water, snacks and more drinks. We quickly learned what to spend money on and what not to.

The idea of the trip was a cultural immersion and we found ourselves very immersed in the atmosphere. We were appreciated by the locals and little children were fascinated by the colour of our skin. We tried traditional food which is cooked in an umu (underground fireplace), wore traditional dress (lava lavas-sarongs) and lived the way Samoans live.



The girls ready to board the local bus.

## ANZAC SERVICE IN HAWAII

Year 10 student Lara Westbury attended an ANZAC Day service at Hawaii's Punchbowl Memorial Cemetery. The service was conducted by the Australian Consulate General in Hawaii and attended by many high ranked officers and important dignitaries. Here is Lara's report:

Each year, a handful of Air Training Corps cadets are chosen to attend the ANZAC Day memorial service in Honolulu, Hawaii. This year, I was fortunate to be one of them. I left Melbourne on April 18 with three other cadets and an Air Training Corps officer. We were to be hosted by the 66th Composite Civil Air Patrol Squadron, who were located at Hickam Air Force Base.

For the first week of our visit we stayed at a hotel in downtown Waikiki. During the week we went to Hunama Bay, Waikiki and many other beaches, explored the shops and the Polynesian Cultural Centre. The Centre looks at the seven major Polynesia Islands-Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, Marquesas, Tahiti, New Zealand and Hawaii. One of the most exciting experiences was going to a luau there.

During the second week we stayed with host families with the Civil Air Patrol. My host family lived on a military base, like a good deal of the population in Honolulu. I will always remember seeing the frequent fly-overs by F-15's and other jets. I am an only child, so it was also a real experience to live in a family of six children.

I learned that Hawaii has enough military history to last a lifetime. While we were there we were able to board and view the USS Missouri, USS Lake Erie, Arizona Memorial and the Bowfin Diesel Submarine. We were also given a guided boat tour around Pearl Harbour by the US Navy.



Lara Westbury (second from left) and fellow Air Training Corps cadets explored the military and cultural history of Hawaii.



# CELEBRATING THE

## LOWTHER HALL'S 80TH BIRTHDAY PICNIC

On Sunday March 5, Lowther Hall celebrated two historic events. The school's 80th Birthday and our one hundred and tenth year of involvement in the education of girls. Winstow in Essendon and Blinkbonnie in Moonee Ponds combined to establish Lowther Hall in 1920.

Current and past students, families, staff and school councillors attended a morning Church Service of Thanksgiving, were entertained by Lowther Hall's fabulous Stage Band and Concert Band, conducted by Mr Corey Hall as they enjoyed picnic hampers in the sunshine and joined the walking tour to the original sites of Winstow and Blinkbonnie.

Mrs Mary Armour, whose name is synonymous with Lowther Hall cut the Birthday cake, which was served for afternoon tea. Mary is a past student, teacher and parent. She is a past President of the Old Grammarians' Association, her granddaughter Caroline currently attends the school and son Mark is a member of the School Council.



Left to Right; Ms Noelene Horton, Bishop Andrew Curnow and Rev Jean Penman after the Church Service of Thanksgiving.



Mrs Mary Armour cuts the 80th Birthday cake.



The walking tour takes to the streets of Essendon.



The Stage Band in action.



Picnic blankets were the order of the day on the lawns.

### CLASS OF '99 AFTERNOON TEA

At the end of Term 1, Lowther Hall hosted an afternoon tea for Year 12 students from 1999. They were joined by many of their former teachers in the Mansion's Drawing Room.

On-campus activities at various universities, balancing study, work and social life, learning to drive and news of old friends were the main topics of conversation.

VCE teachers were interested to hear their former student's impressions of tertiary study and the courses they had chosen.

Class of '99 students Julie Elder (left) and Cara Burns enjoy a return visit to Lowther Hall.





## NEW BANNERS FOR WORSHIP

Lowther Hall is now lucky to have a beautiful variety of banners to use for many worship occasions. The banners, which have been lovingly and skillfully made by school parents, are rich in colour and symbol.

The first two banners made, depicting Christmas themes, were used on the front pillars in St Paul's Cathedral for our Carol Service last December. Two newly made banners aesthetically transformed the front of the auditorium of the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre for the Thanksgiving Service on the school's 80th Birthday.

The banner project began over two years ago in Art classes with the then Year 8 students. Their imagination was stretched as they designed motives for the various seasons of the Church's liturgical year and created sample patterns of banners that could be later made up in fabric.

A very special thank-you to all the parents and past parents who dedicated their talents to enrich the spiritual nature of school life: Mrs Judy Chapman, Mrs Pat De Marco, Mrs Kristine Hamilton, Mrs Beryl Hedger and Mrs Barbara Watson.

*JEAN PENMAN, Chaplain*



Two of Lowther Hall's colourful new banners on display at school Church services.

## STAFF REUNION

The Joan M Garde Cultural Centre was abuzz with conversation and laughter on Sunday April 2, when current and past members of staff travelled to the school from near and far for a reunion.

Highlights for those in attendance included seeing old faces from the 1950's to current times, having the opportunity to visit old haunts in the school as well as discovering new developments and learning that almost half of their former colleagues are still working in education.



Remembering the 80's. From left; Kate DeLacy, Darren Adey, Eileen Langwell and Liz Allan.



Administration staff from left; Margaret Radford, Barbara Falla, Kristine Hamilton and Murray Ensor.



From left; Beverly Saunders, Shirley Langton and Adele Fletcher.

## NEW PARENTS COCKTAIL PARTY

The Lowther Hall Mansion was the perfect setting for a cocktail party for new parents, hosted by the school and Friends of Lowther Hall on a very balmy summer evening.

Many new parents, whose daughters had started in CDC, Junior and Senior school in 2000 were joined by members of staff and the School Council.



Kindergarten parents from left: Jude Barling, Rowan Barling, Collin Akers, Deborah Akers.



From left: Ms Jackie Dalzell, School Council member, Mrs Robyn Kronenberg, Deputy Principal, Bruce and Jenny Hudson, Year 6 parents and Mrs Noella Kershaw, Head of Junior School.



## LIFE'S A BALL IN YEAR 8

During Term 2, Year 8 students participated in *Life's A Ball*, a national life skills program funded by the Federal Government, which utilises AFL players as positive role models.

The 90 minute sessions were conducted by Essendon footballers Michael Prior and Jonathon Robran, who have undertaken extensive life skills training. Their aim is to assist young Australians improve their communication skills and make positive lifestyle choices.



Michael and Jonathon conduct a life skills session.



Essendon footballers Jonathan Robran (left) and Michael Prior with Year 8 students from left: Stephanie Hedger, Ayse Ilhan, Katherine Wharton and Jacinta Rutkowski.

Each session covered issues including communication; action/consequence; dealing with frustration and conflict resolution; peer support; goals and dreams.

At Lowther Hall, students in Years 7 and 8 study Life Skills as units in the Health curriculum.

## English and the 'New' VCE

The VCE has undergone significant change for 2000. Subjects across the curriculum differ markedly in content, delivery and assessment but for English, which every student studies, the changes have not altered the content of the course.

What has changed is the way in which that content is assessed. For English in 2000 it's out with the CATs and in with the SACs.

The year begins with a close analysis of the media's presentation of an issue – this year it was the illegal immigration debate. Students still study four texts and undergo intensive writing folio activities. Oral work continues to be an important component of the English course and this year forms part of the assessment which goes to make up a student's final score for the subject.

All these areas of the course are assessed by SAC-School Assessed Coursework. This means that the bulk of the work is completed during class time under the close supervision of the classroom teacher. Sometimes this will be under test conditions, at other times students will be allowed to prepare work at home.



Year 12 students reading poetry by candlelight as part of their School Assessed Coursework. From left; Sarah Brown, Fiona Black and Adele Weston.

Students are aware of the range and conditions of each assessment task at the beginning of the semester. Skills acquired, practised and refined during the year are put to the test in the final examination, worth 50% of the student's English score, as in 1999.

Due to fortuitous timing and some proactive planning,

English staff were able in 1999 to trial the new assessment methods with our Year 11 English classes. As this was the cohort officially undertaking the 'New' VCE in 2000, students were provided with a taste of the new assessment methods and the faculty was provided with valuable organisational experience.

Students have benefited from the smooth transition from the 'old' to 'new' VCE and several schools have approached Lowther Hall to learn from our experience with the new assessment.

Nene Macwhirter  
Head of English



## JUNIOR SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

### All Staff and Students Aiming High and Flying High

Each week during Term 2, Friday mornings have been allocated to an enrichment program which challenges learning for all students from Preparatory to Year 6 and involves all members of staff.

The program is organised in two parts. The first, a cross-age session involving most students from Prep to Year 6, which provides an opportunity for children from different classes to work together on learning activities including shared reading, problem solving, role play and interviews.

At the same time a small group of students who are working well above their age level in many areas are taking part in special projects in cross-age teams titled "Aim High, Fly High".



Students from Years 3, 4 and 5 brainstorming on Interplanetary Colonization.



Julia Busacca Year 4, is ready share a book with Annie Nguyen Year 1.

These students are divided into two groups. Children chosen from Prep to Year 2 are directed by Year 2 teacher Ms Anna Bailey in a diverse range of thinking activities which explore philosophy, De Bono's six hats and problem solving challenges.

Students chosen from Years 3 to 6 are taking part in a thematic challenge based on Interplanetary Colonization. Guided by Year 4 teacher Ms Kim Harris, the girls are taking on roles such as researchers, investigators, reporters and designers, based on their preferred learning styles.

The program will continue in Term 4.

## EQUESTRIAN TEAM

During April, Lowther Hall's Equestrian Team competed in the Inter-School State Equestrian Championships held at Werribee Park. Over 650 riders attended.

Year 11 students Eve Murfet, Emma Turnbull and Tanya Rich were the school's representatives at this competition. Each girl elected to compete in four individual events from Dressage, Showjumping, Best Rider, Turnout, Games or Jumping Equitation.

The team was very successful, finishing 8th out of 110 teams and individual riders scored extremely well, either winning or placing second or third in three of their four events.

Inspired by this success, Elsie Maddigan Year 9 and Shemarrah Samarasinha Year 10, competed at an Interschool Dressage competition at Ivanhoe Grammar School's Mernda campus, during June. Both girls rode very well to finish 9th and 12th respectively.



Members of the Equestrian team proudly display some of the sashes they won at Werribee Park. From left: Emma Turnbull, Eve Murfet and Tanya Rich.



The team ready for competition. From left: Tanya Rich, Emma Turnbull and Eve Murfet.

## Staff Professional Development Achievements

*In addition to their on-campus duties, members of staff have been involved in many learning and teaching activities so far this year. Here are some of their achievements.*

MS JANE ALLEN (Health Coordinator) has become a member of a committee formed by the Curriculum Corporation to formulate ideas for resource and support materials to enhance the Hospitality Training Package.

MRS NADIJA ANIN (Head of Science) prepared VCE Psychology Unit 4 material for the Board of Studies and is an examination marker for Psychology Unit 3. She has prepared video reviews, classroom material and teacher notes for Video Education Australia.

MRS JOY CURTIS (Performing Arts) is in her seventh year as a VCE Dance assessor.

MS TRACY HEALY (Year 9/10 Coordinator) has completed a Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare.

MRS NOELLA KERSHAW (Head of Junior School) attended a conference titled Leadership, The State of the Art, conducted by National Curriculum Services at Melbourne Business School.

DR SUSAN LESLIE (Head of Humanities) conducted a seminar on Year 11 History at the History Teachers Association of Victoria conference. She has had an article on the Italian Renaissance for Year 12 History published in the HTAV publication *Readings: Renaissance Venice*.

MS CARLY LOWERSON (Year 6) attended the Drug Education in Primary Schools seminar conducted by the Australian Drug Foundation. She completed the "Middle Years of Schooling" at Deakin University, a 15 hour module on schooling for students in Years 5 to 8. She attended the First Steps Reading seminar and the University of Melbourne Faculty of Education Key Schools Network Forum titled "Assessment and Reporting in Schools".

DR FELICITY McCUTCHEON (Head of Philosophy and Religious Studies) conducted training days for the Board of Studies on VCE Philosophy in Melbourne's Southern and North/West Regions. She is currently one of only three teachers in the state teaching/trialling VCE Philosophy Units 1 and 2 and co-wrote the assessment criteria for VCE Philosophy Units 3 and 4 for 2001. She is running Religious Studies seminars in the Junior School and has secured a publishing contract for an academic text based on her PhD thesis.

MRS NOELENE MACWHIRTER (Head of English) attended a four day workshop on the Middle Years of Schooling with Dr Julia Atkin. She co-presented a paper/workshop at the IARTV (Incorporated Association of Registered Teachers in Victoria) on the Role of the Coordinator and has

completed writing a unit of work based on a tour to South Korea, which will be published soon.

MRS STEPHANIE MAGUIRE (Performing Arts Coordinator) was a presenter of the new Theatre Studies VCE course for the Board of Studies. She is an assessor for VCE Theatre Studies and is on the Board of Studies' Play Selection panel for Drama and Theatre Studies.

MRS BELINDA PAGE (Health) co-ordinated a drug education evening for Lowther Hall parents as part of her work with the Turning the Tide drug education program. She also attended a workshop on the "Creating Conversations" adolescent health program.

MS KATE PRICE (Music) was featured in an article on her approach to instrumental teaching in *Counterpoint*, the journal of the Association of Music Educators of Victoria.

MS CATRIONA RUSSELL (Director of Music) was guest clinician for "String Out 2000", held in Toowoomba Queensland. She conducted workshops for music educators and students and conducted massed orchestras featuring more than 250 students from 18 primary schools.

MS MARITA SHEEHAN (Year 7/8 Coordinator) attended the Middle School Leaders Network meeting on the topic "What schools need to do to meet the needs of their students." She has attended seminars on VCE CATS 1, 2 and 3 and another on VCE LOTE changes for 2001.

MRS JUDY SINGLETON (Integration Assistant) has completed a College of Advanced Education course in photography.

MR ED STEWART (VCE Coordinator) is a member of the panel of IARTV (Incorporated Association of Registered Teachers in Victoria) Chemistry examination writers. He attended an operators seminar on the VASS administrative software system for VCE.

MS NOELENE WILLIAMS (Head of Grant House) attended a Red Cross conference on the issue of landmines.

MRS PAMELA WINTERS (Junior School Librarian) attended the ZART Art workshop on an Olympics theme, conducted by the School Libraries Association of Victoria.

MS SALLY WOODS (Junior School Music) attended a three day Primary School Choir Conductors conference.

MR ROBERT ZOCCHI (Music) was awarded a Grade A pass in the Cambridge University/Royal Society of Arts Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA). This is a worldwide certificate, undertaken by over 7000 candidates. Only 1% are awarded a Grade A pass.

## LOWTHER HALL'S STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2000

**HAYLEY BULMAN (School Captain)** Hayley joined Lowther Hall at Year 7 in 1995 from Sunbury Primary. During her secondary years, she has taken an active role in aerobics, athletics, debating, skiing and the Schools' Rock Eisteddford and the Duke of Edinburgh's awards. She was Assistant Deputy House Captain of Lees and Captain of Aerobics.



Hayley Bulman

Hayley has travelled with the school on a cultural exchange to Japan, a netball tour to Bali and a school exchange to England.

*She says, "I am enjoying representing Lowther Hall at various occasions in the school and wider community. I like working on ideas with fellow prefects and students and helping to put these ideas into action."*

**MONICA PRYBYSZEWSKI (Deputy School Captain)** Monica also entered Lowther Hall at Year 7 from Our Lady's Primary at Craigieburn. She has represented the school at a number of combined schools conferences and is an assistant at Junior School Aftercare. She has been Deputy House Captain of Lees and a member of the Student Representative Council for four years.



Monica Przybyszewski

Monica has been an enthusiastic member of a number of school sporting teams including netball, swimming, athletics, volleyball and she is currently the Captain of skiing. She was a member of the recent school trip to France and Germany and continues to be an active participant in the Duke of Edinburgh's awards program.

**ANTOINETTE CERANTONIO (Deputy School Captain)** Antoinette began Prep at Lowther Hall in 1987. In Year 6, she was Captain of Clarke House and last year held office as Assistant Deputy Captain. She has travelled to Canberra on a school music tour and Japan with a school cultural exchange.



Antoinette Cerantonio

Her school sporting achievements include tennis, athletics, soccer, volleyball, softball swimming and netball. She has represented Lowther Hall at a number of conferences including the Schools Constitutional Convention over the past two years.

Hayley, Monica and Antoinette attended the Alliance of Girls' Schools Leadership Conference at Ipswich Grammar last December. Together they run the Student Representative Council. *Monica encourages students to approach her with questions and ideas, while Antoinette says they are aiming to develop relations between students and teachers through the SRC and Prefect body.*



# CELEBRATING OLD GRAMMARIANS

## KELLY FOSTER



Dr Kelly Foster attended Lowther Hall in 1988 and 1989 for her final school years. She had previously attended schools in the United States, Germany, Singapore and Sydney.

Passing VCE at Lowther Hall was quite an achievement. Kelly's experiences in international schools gave her a broad view of the world and considerable knowledge of German, but she found that she had a good deal of catching up to do to complete Year 11 and 12, including learning nine French verb tenses in three months.

Kelly was accepted into an Arts degree course at Latrobe University, where she studied, amongst other things, Japanese, Chinese and Japanese History and global politics.

At the end of her first year at University, Kelly decided to move to Tasmania with her family. She visited the University of Tasmania, intending to inquire about transferring to a Bachelor of Business degree. However, Marine Biology caught her eye and she was soon studying subjects including Botany, Biology

and Biochemistry. She even spent time doing work experience at the Antarctic Division in Hobart.

By the end of second year science, Kelly's interests changed course again, after she attended a seminar in Medical Research. She went on to study Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Applied Physiology before graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree and completing an Honours year in the Department of Physiology.

Kelly remained enthralled by Medical Research and began studying for a PhD in the Department of Medicine at the University of Queensland, with a post graduate research scholarship to study the pharmacokinetics of various drugs in the brain. She is now working as a post-doctoral research fellow in the Perinatal Research Centre at the Royal Women's Hospital in Brisbane. The focus of her work is looking to improve the prognosis of babies that have suffered from asphyxia at birth with various novel drug therapies.

Kelly comments that completing her research project to gain a PhD was the most challenging thing she has ever done, but believes that it was Lowther Hall that provided the encouragement and impetus for her to achieve her academic potential. "I would like to encourage all of the Lowther Hall girls not to lose sight of their aspirations and to work hard and diligently in realising their dreams," she says.

## JOANNE KLEMKE



Joanne spent her entire school life at Lowther Hall, from 1969 until 1981 and continued a family association with the school. Her mother Elaine Klemke is a former student and long-time member of the teaching staff and her sister Bindi, aunt Betty Lancaster and cousin Helen Lancaster are also Old Grammarians.

Joanne was the Lowther Clarke Scholar in Year 12 and for tertiary study decided to pursue a long-held interest in Marine Ecology. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Melbourne, specialising in Zoology and selecting a range of wider marine science subjects. She progressed to a research-based Honours year and then a PhD,

which was supported by a Commonwealth Research Award in addition to part-time work assisting with other marine research projects.

Joanne then accepted a position as a marine environmental scientist at the Environment Protection Authority. She later moved on to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, where she worked in the marine environmental policy area.

Having recently returned to the EPA, Joanne's work currently focuses on monitoring programs used to assess the effects of various human activities on marine animals and plants. "I find it rewarding to be able to contribute through my work, using my understanding of marine ecology, to managing risks to our marine environment," she says.

Joanne believes that her years at Lowther Hall provided her with the confidence to pursue her chosen career path – to achieve goals she set at a young age.

## WENDY LAING



Wendy Laing (nee Berriman) attended Lowther Hall for her whole school life from 1951 to 1963. She was the third generation of her family to attend the school. Her mother, Winsome McFarlane also attended Lowther Hall and her grandmother, Muriel Ellis was a student at Blinkbonnie Ladies College at the turn of the century.

During her senior years, Wendy was a member of the school's debating team, was active in drama productions, sang in the Madrigal group and conducted the Hindley House Choir. She represented Lowther Hall in athletics, tennis and softball and competed in house swimming, tennis, basketball and softball.

In her matriculation year, Wendy was Head Prefect and equal Dux of the School. She went on to study teaching at Mercer House the following year and spent four years teaching at Lauriston Girls' School after graduation.

After extended travel overseas, Wendy returned to Melbourne, marriage and several career moves that have earned her the

title "Jill Of All Trades". After working in the Curriculum and Research Branch of the Victorian Department of Education, she moved on to become a travel consultant. This led to the opportunity of working 'hands-on' in the airline industry with cargo airline Flying Tigers and later Cathay Pacific.

Six years later, Wendy decided to pursue her dreams to write. She combined full-time studies with a career as a professional dog trainer (her business was aptly named "Wendy's Walkies"). In 1998, she graduated from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Professional Writing and Communications.

The following year, Wendy began writing full-time and her children's stories caught the attention of United States internet publisher, Bookmice.com. Her first interactive novel, *Captain Angus, The Lighthouse Ghost*, published in 1999, combines children's literature with internet technology. She has since published a book of Australian bush poetry titled *Under the Coolabah Tree* and another interactive children's story *Sir Henry The Knight in Space* will be available shortly. She is also writing murder/thrillers.

Lowther Hall is grateful to Wendy and her family for the generous donation of school memorabilia made to archives early this year. Items include articles of uniform, speech night prizes dating back to Blinkbonnie, Chronicles, programs, reports and photographs.



# CELEBRATING HISTORY

## PAST TO PRESENT

The 80th Birthday celebrations and the dawn of a new millennium have brought many old friends back to Lowther Hall and others have made contact through letters, faxes and emails.

The school's archives continue to expand with photographs, memorabilia and letters. Names are constantly being added to faces in grainy photographs and new anecdotes, highlighting the school's long-standing presence in the local community, are revealed.

Below are some images contrasting the past and the present at Lowther Hall.



Mrs Dorothy Beare and Raymond House students in front of the dolls cabinet in 1971.



Mrs Pam Irwin (left), looking as young as her P E students in the 1960's.



Dorothy Beare (left), and Pam Irwin visited the school for the 80th Birthday picnic.



A boarder on the balcony of the Mansion in 1947.



Members of Year 12 2000 on the same balcony.



An art class in 1958.



A lesson in the visual arts department today.

### 2000 Diary Dates

Thursday 3, Friday 4 and Saturday 5 August	.....School Musical 42nd Street – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
Friday 1 September	.....Spring Concert – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
Tuesday 5 December	.....Service of Carols – St Paul's Cathedral
Monday 11 December	.....Exeunt – Victorian Arts Centre

For further information about any of these events please contact the Community Relations Department at the school on 9337 5011.