



NEWS

Lowther

ABN 35 006 660 984



ISSUE NO. 40

DECEMBER 2000

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Old Grammarians' News



HEROIC INSPIRATION

From the Principal

HEROES

*The will is free;
Strong is the soul, and wise, and beautiful;
The seeds of godlike power are in us still;
Gods are we, bards, saints, heroes if we will!*

Matthew Arnold

Heroes are not the people whose names and faces fill our newspapers and television screens. While we enjoy and admire our favourite sports people, the movie stars, the talented writers and artists and musicians, the best heroes are the unlikely ones.

Through September our minds were full of the deeds of our Olympians, as we were inspired by the physical and mental feats of our sports people. Celebrated also were the volunteers, who in their expertise and friendly helpfulness

made the Games such a success. They are the unnamed heroes. Some members of our school community are heroes too, for the deeds they do, not seeking recognition or reward. Non nobis solum!

One Lowther Hall hero is the remarkable Fred Hyde. This amazing 80 year old Australian man has dedicated decades of his life to working in Bangladesh, firstly in building orphanages and now in creating schools. Our Lowther Hall Mainuddin Non-Government School is nearly six years old. Through the generous giving of the Lowther Hall community more than \$37000 has been sent to build and maintain the school through which have passed hundreds of Bangladeshi children many of whom would otherwise not have received an education. None of this could have occurred without the tireless efforts and unswerving commitment of Fred Hyde, a quietly spoken, self effacing and always cheerful man. Our cover celebrates his visit to Lowther Hall in September this year.

May there always be heroes to inspire us!

Noelene Horton

Sister Nobuko Nawata

Sister Nobuko Nawata, Principal of the Shin Ai Girls' School in Osaka, is an heroic person. A child in Hiroshima at the time of the bomb, she suffered months of radiation sickness without any medicines and her family and friends also were made ill, or died through the after effects. Yet she exemplifies forgiveness and has even shaken the hand of the pilot of the aircraft from which the bomb was dropped.



Left to right: Lowther Hall staff members Ms Marita Sheehan (left) and Mrs Nadija Anin (right) with Sister Nobuko Nawata during a school exchange visit to Japan in April.

LOWTHER HALL ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PO Box 178 (Leslie Road) Essendon Vic 3040
Telephone: (03) 9337 5011
Facsimile: (03) 9331 1247

Email: lowther@lowtherhall.vic.edu.au
Website: www.lowtherhall.vic.edu.au

Produced by the Lowther Hall Community Relations Department

Printed by Aberdeen Press

FRONT COVER: Mr Fred Hyde, founder of Lowther Hall's Mainuddin school in Bangladesh, celebrates his 80th birthday with Year 7 students.

SARAH MEETS THE QUEEN

Year 2 student Sarah Reynolds met one of her family's heroes recently. Here is her account:

When Queen Elizabeth II came to Melbourne with Prince Philip, I saw them at the Immigration Museum. I gave the Queen a bunch of flowers. It was very exciting!



Sarah Reynolds with her posy at the ready.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II enjoys a chat with Sarah (centre) and other children.

ATTENTION OLD GRAMMARIANS

The 2001 Annual General Meeting of the Lowther Hall Old Grammarians Association will be held at the school on Wednesday February 21 2001 at 8pm.

All members of the LHOGA are invited to come along and make a positive start to a new year of activities.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2001

Wed 21 February	LHOGA Annual General Meeting – Essendon Campus, 8pm
Thurs 26, Fri 27 & Sat 28 July	School Play – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
Sat 8 September	Spring Concert – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
Tues 4 December	Service of Carols – St Paul's Cathedral
Wed 12 Dec	Exeunt – Melbourne Town Hall

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



AN INSIGHT TO KOORI HERITAGE

During Term 3, Lowther Hall celebrated English/Book Week, which this year featured the theme *The Edge of Tomorrow*. Award winning Aboriginal author Boori Pryor launched activities at the school.

Mr Pryor addressed the School Assembly, using anecdotes from his life experience to raise consciousness. He conducted story telling sessions with Junior School students from Years 3 to 6, performed dance and music for Years 7 and 8, took part in discussion with senior English students and signed many much-read copies of his books.

Running concurrently, Lowther Hall also held Koori Heritage week, organised by the staff team working on the



Che Cockatoo Collins shares a story with students from Years 1 and 2.

issue of reconciliation as part of the school's theme for 2000, *Appreciating Difference*.

Mrs Joy Murphy, a Wurundjeri tribe elder performed a traditional smoking ceremony in the school's grounds. Associate Professor Richard Broome, an author and historian in the field of Aboriginal history, spoke at Assembly on reconciliation in the Merri Creek area. The Raymond House students enjoyed a day with football star Che Cockatoo Collins, who discussed everything from his childhood to Aboriginal sporting champions and the art of didgeridoo playing.

During Koori Heritage Week the whole school community was invited to contribute their painted hand print to large banners, which on completion, were displayed on the columns of the Mansion to symbolise the school's commitment to reconciliation.



Banners symbolise Lowther Hall's commitment to reconciliation.

PAMELA IRVING - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



Pamela Irving at work on Bonnie, Lowther Hall's new sculptured dog.

It was with pleasure that Lowther Hall welcomed back Pamela Irving as artist in residence. Pamela spent a week at the school working with students from Kindergarten to Year 12 to create a life-sized mosaic

sculpture of a female dog. The completed masterpiece was unveiled at the opening of this year's Art Show.

Pamela had previously worked with students in 1996 to create *Henry Lowther*, the much admired sculptured dog who stood guard in the forum, but was sadly damaged.

Year 12 student Brigid Maiden won the competition to name the new dog with her suggestion of *Bonnie* after the school Blinkbonnie, which merged with Winstow in 1920 to create Lowther Hall.

It is hoped that in the future *Henry* will return to join *Bonnie* in the forum.

MUSIC MASTERS WORK WITH STUDENTS AND STAFF

Lowther Hall's musicians and music teaching staff were fortunate to receive tuition from two acknowledged leaders in their fields during Term 3.

Denise Ham, an orchestral conductor and cellist who teaches at London's Royal Academy of Music and works with orchestras throughout the United Kingdom, conducted workshops with the Junior Strings and the Combined Strings Orchestra.

Ms Ham worked with string teachers to enhance their conducting technique and in a short time, had both orchestras striving for musical excellence in preparation for the Spring Concert.

Mr Fred Shade, a flautist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, conducted a masterclass for over 15 flute students from the Junior and Senior schools, who were required to perform a selected piece for the workshop. He addressed many aspects of flute playing including practice, musicianship and creating a beautiful sound and then applied them to enhance the girls' performances.

Both students and staff agreed that it was enlightening to receive expert tuition that emphasised the positive aspects of their performance, from such highly recognised musicians.



Ms Denise Ham (left), works with cello teacher Ms Anna Kent and members of the Junior Strings.



Jacqueline Bell, Year 7, plays for Mr Fred Shade during the flute masterclass.

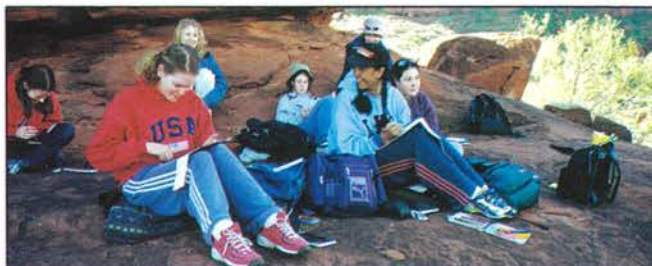


INTERIOR TREK 2000

This year, for the first time, ten students and two members of staff, Mrs Nene Macwhirter and Ms Catriona Russell, travelled to remote and beautiful areas of Central Australia not usually accessible to school tour parties. The Interior Trek was organised through the English and Art faculties at Lowther Hall, in conjunction with the Art Department of Box Hill TAFE.

Mr David Gatiss, a lecturer at Box Hill TAFE with many years of experience in outback tours of this nature, travelled with the party. He provided the girls with expert guidance in a range of creative activities including drawing and writing, as well as astronomy, geology and Aboriginal history and culture.

Discovery and appreciation of the magnificent and challenging landscape prompted the students into personal reflections, which they expressed through their art. Throughout the trek the girls



A classroom with a view. Left to Right; Rebecca Adams, Jacinta White, Kate Nicholson, Amy Gianfriddo, Tehani Suafoa, Lucy Anna Hannemann and Sarah Brown.

and their teachers kept a personal diary of sketches and writings. These formed the basis of individual books inspired by the trip and some students then refined concepts to produce works for their VCE Art and Design portfolios.

Swimming in the usually dry Finke River after the heaviest rainfall in seventy-five years, sleeping under the stars and being the only inhabitants of a giant landscape were truly memorable experiences which inspired the girls to higher levels of creativity.



The group heads out for a day's trekking.

GIVING TIME TO HELP OTHERS

Like many thousands of Australians, Year 9 student Lyndall Grant travelled to Sydney during the Term 3 holidays. However, instead of spending each day watching the heroics of competitors in the Olympic Games, Lyndall volunteered time to help others as part of Youth With A Mission, a world wide Christian outreach organisation.

Along with her friends from the Glenberrie Baptist Church, Lyndall helped serve meals at a Kings Cross drop-in centre, assisted with the staging of performing arts exhibitions and worked as a volunteer at an aged care facility for the homeless.

Working so close to people in need was a new experience for Lyndall. "I was surprised to see how many people had nowhere to sleep and how segregated and isolated they were, while the Olympic Games happened all around them," she says.



Lyndall Grant (right), helping out at a free performing arts venue during her trip to Sydney for Youth With A Mission.

MUSIC CAPTAINS' CONVENTION

Lowther Hall's student Music Executive Committee, led by Music Captain Lisa Sheppard, hosted a Music Captains' Convention at the school during Term 3. This event was a first for Independent schools.

Music Captains from city and regional schools were invited to attend the convention, which was designed to provide a forum for discussion, the sharing of ideas and a friendship network between schools.

During the afternoon's proceedings, Karen Kim, Lowther Hall's Music Captain in 1985 addressed the large gathering of students and enthusiastically recounted her musical experiences, which led to a career as a music educator. Karen brought along some of her young students who entertained the Music Captains with their spirited violin playing and singing.



Music Captains from city and regional schools meet at Lowther Hall.



Karen Kim, Music Captain 1985 and her music students entertain the audience.

RAYMOND HOUSE STUDENTS DISCOVER THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT

The Raymond House Olympic Games, held at the Keilor campus on a sunny September afternoon, had all the ingredients of the real event – a torch relay, the reading of the athletes oath, inspirational opening ceremony music and over 200 eager competitors from Prep to Year 6, striving to do the very best as an individual and for their House.

All classes had undertaken units of study on the Olympic Games and revelled in the atmosphere of friendly competition in a lead up to Sydney 2000.



Medallists in the final of the Year 6 sprint. Gold Erin Stockton, silver Chloe Gepp and bronze Leah Rampling.



Competition was fast and furious in the Year 2 sack race.

Year 5 and 6 students learned a great deal from a Taekwondo presentation by Mr Martin Hall, a Lowther Hall parent who was a coach on the Olympic Team. Many students felt especially proud to see Lauren Burns win a gold medal for Australia in Taekwondo. Lauren had visited Lowther Hall this year and in 1999 and worked with Junior School classes as part of the Coach Approach program.

RESTAURANT 10

For one spectacular night during Term 3, Year 10 Food Technology students transformed Lowther Hall's Mansion into an elegant restaurant.

Taking on the role of restaurateurs, from planning stage through to cooking and serving, is an assessment requirement of the Food Technology course. This year, the students chose the theme of Cultural Diversity and planned three menus for diners, Australian, Asian and Mediterranean.

Family members, friends and members of staff were treated to a very high standard of food presentation, customer service and entertainment. The students left nothing to chance in their preparation of dishes and beverages, table decorations, seating, serving and dinner music.



Gemma McEgan at work in the kitchen



Members of staff enjoying the evening. Left to Right: Ms Adrienne Borelli, Ms Jane Allen, Mrs Frances Skennar, Ms Sally Hall, Mr Corey Hall, Mrs Helen McCorry and Ms Catriona Russell.

42nd STREET – A MUSICAL TO REMEMBER

Lowther Hall's staging of the Broadway musical 42nd Street in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre from August 3 to 5 was a big, bold celebration of music, drama, song and dance.

The show featured Lowther Hall students in the cast and chorus and male performers from Camberwell Grammar School, Niddrie Secondary College, St Bernard's College and Xavier College. A band of 25 musicians from Lowther

Hall's various ensembles provided the musical accompaniment.

From curtain rise to the final encore, 42nd Street had audience feet tapping and hands clapping in appreciation of performances of the highest standard. Both on stage and behind the scenes, a large and dedicated production team had worked tirelessly to recreate the energy and magic of the theatre world in 1930's New York.



Front row: Principal performers (l to r) Lauren Taylor, Stuart Outhred and Alice Ramshaw lead the cast in song.



Left to Right: Rebecca Breen, Vanessa Busacca, Sarah Height and Alice Ramshaw in the opening of We're in the Money.

Farewell to Pam Winters

Pam Winters joined the staff of Lowther Hall in 1980. She has taught in the Junior School throughout, as classroom teacher, Art specialist and as the teacher librarian. Her daughter, Charmaine attended Lowther Hall from 1979 until she finished Year 12 in 1991. Both as parent and teacher Pam has been a thoughtful, kind and committed part of the school. In trying times of family illness, when Pam has selflessly cared for her parents, she has always managed to give proper time to her work responsibilities and to the children. She is retiring at the end of this year and we thank her for all she has contributed to Lowther Hall and wish her well. Another unsung hero.



Pam Winters

SUE EVANS – SURF COAST SHIRE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Old Grammarian Sue Evans (nee Farey), who resides at Anglesea, was named Citizen of the Year for the Surf Coast Shire on Australia Day 2000.



She received this honour in recognition of the many hours she volunteers to projects in her local area. These include contributing articles to the local community newsletter *Newsangle* and helping at the local kindergarten over a nine year period, as well as Anglesea Primary School, Meals on Wheels, Anglesea Community House Child Care, Auskick and the Milo Have a Go events.

Sue, who says she enjoys every moment of her voluntary work, became involved in a number of the projects through her three active children Dylan 10, Naomi 8, Heidi 6 and her husband Peter.

After completing Year 12 in 1977, Sue studied at RMIT and graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Computer Science) before working in the Information Technology industry.

WE SALUTE ETHEL BOWEN

Heroism is a concept that applies to Ethel Bowen also. As a teacher Ethel commenced at Lowther Hall in 1991, employed in the Mathematics department. She had taught in schools in New South Wales and Victoria and Lowther Hall was fortunate to have her working with us for various periods throughout the 1990s. She was a conscientious and caring teacher. Her first relationship with the school, however, was as the mother of Barbara Richardson who spent her secondary years at Lowther Hall, finishing in 1990 and with the award of Lowther Clarke Scholar.

It was in 1991 that Ethel underwent a liver transplant, having had several years of less than perfect health. She rose to the challenge of the consequences associated with the operation, making for herself a new life and competing for Australia in the World Transplant Games. Ethel competed in track, in long jump

GWEN VENNELL (nee EASTON)

Past student, member of the School Council and friend

In August we were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs Gwen Vennell, an Old Grammarian who continued a life-long association with the school.

Gwen attended Lowther Hall from 1926 to 1937 and won many awards and positions of responsibility including Dux of School gaining honours in biology and botany, Vice Captain of the School and Captain of Sport. She was



Gwen Vennell.

Captain of Lees House for two successive years and an athletics champion who also represented the school in baseball, basketball and tennis.

Gwen studied Science at Melbourne University, majoring in botany and following graduation, entered the agricultural industry in the profession of seed testing. She had a distinguished career in agriculture, having been the officer in charge of the Victorian Seed Testing Station for more than thirty years.

She was the first woman to serve on the executive committee of the International Seed Testing Association and represented Australia at numerous overseas conferences. In 1978, she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to agriculture.

Gwen maintained strong links with Lowther Hall. She was a life member of the Old Grammarians' Association and a valued member of the School Council for 15 years between 1975 and 1991. She was involved in many community groups in the Strathmore area including St Aidan's Anglican Church, Girl Guides and Probus Club.

Lowther Hall would like to thank Mrs Betty Grant, Gwen's sister who is also an Old Grammarian, for her generous donation of Gwen's school memorabilia to archives. Items include sporting trophies, articles of uniform, badges and letters.



Ethel Bowen

and in shot put, earning silver in 200m. Her determination and her achievements were inspirational. Even more, Ethel was prepared to put her students first in arranging for hospital treatments. She kept going to ensure that the timing of operations was at the least inconvenient time for her senior students and their examination. She exemplified 'non nobis solum'. When a cancer developed Ethel bore stoically all that followed, again endeavouring to serve the needs of her students.

Ethel was a friend to many in the Lowther Hall community and we will miss her. Our thoughts are with her husband and family.



REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1958

(INCORPORATING 1956 AND 1957)



Left to Right: Noel Ridgeway, Eleanor Patterson (nee Jones), Deidre Ackerly, Pam Morley (nee Reid), Anne Saunders (nee Ferguson) and Margaret Dalzell (nee Hulme).

CLASS OF 1975



Left to Right: Cheryl Rizzetti (nee Campbell), Andrea Bryant (nee Newson), Robyn Lagodzki (nee Sullivan), Judy Westmore (nee Manser) and Joan Gifford (nee Latham).



Left to Right: Isobel Summit (nee Shaw) and Anne Bediaga (nee Vincent).



Left to Right: Vivian McNish (nee Jones), Robyn Sartori (nee Jago), Robyn Lagodzki (nee Sullivan), Natasha Altson (nee Kerry) and Linda Di Bella (nee McPike).

CLASS OF 1980



Mary Georgelos (nee Kyvetos) left; and Stella Kyvetos (nee Liapis).

WELCOME TO THE CASBAH - Banquet Ball and Auction

The Lowther Hall community gathered at the spectacular Regent Theatre Ballroom on Saturday October 28 to celebrate the Year 2000, eighty years of excellence in girls' education and the raising of significant funds for the ongoing work of the school.

Guests took the opportunity to dress in their most elegant formal wear to match the rich decor of the ballroom. They were treated to fine food and musical entertainment and there was much spirited bidding for auction items, which ranged from holidays in exotic locations to a private dinner in the Lowther Hall Mansion.

Congratulations to the organisers, parents and friends, for their enthusiasm and teamwork, resulting in a most memorable occasion.



Dr John and Mrs Carolyn Slavin.



Members of the organising committee. Left to right: Mrs Christine Wamala, Mrs Nadia Teeuwsen, Mr John Slawitschka and Mrs Nene Macwhirter.

REUNIONS FOR 2001

Lowther Hall will be hosting reunions for the following class groups during 2001. Information will be posted to relevant past students. Make a date in your diary now.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| March 10, 1.30pm-4.00pm | 30 and 40 years
(ie. class of 1971 and 1961) |
| May 26, 1.30pm-4.00pm | 20 and 25 years
(ic. class of 1981 and 1976) |
| Sept. 1, 1.30pm-4.30pm | 10 and 15 years
(ie. class of 1991 and 1986) |



THE REVD JEAN PENMAN



Hero is not the word to describe the Revd Jean Penman, nor is the word saint, but both help to illustrate the effect of her ministry on the Lowther Hall community. Jean came amongst us at the start of 1990, as a part time teacher of Religious Education. Ironically, it was through the tragedy of the untimely death of Archbishop David Penman that Jean was free to give time to employment at Lowther Hall. Gradually her role changed, to full time teacher, lay Chaplain, Deacon and finally Priest.

To put it simply, we have all been blessed by the presence of Jean Penman. A deeply spiritual person and one who exemplifies the concept of serving others, Jean has been crucial in the development of Lowther Hall as a faith community. As teacher, counsellor,



liturgist, preacher, minister, mentor and friend, she has touched the lives of past and present students, staff, parents and School Council.

A medical condition has forced Jean to leave her position earlier than might reasonably have been expected. Her ministry will continue until the end of her life but the Lowther Hall part ends with the completion of this school year. Her influence on our lives will be lasting.

With love and gratitude we acknowledge Jean Penman and thank her for all that she has given to Lowther Hall and to each of us. We wish her good health and much joy in all that is to follow.

Noelene Horton

