



NEWS Lowther

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PERSONAL BEST ACHIEVEMENTS LEARNING THROUGH TRAVEL
REUNIONS VERY SPECIAL AUTHORS



A New Responsibility for Noelene Horton

In October the Principal, Ms Noelene Horton, became the national Chair of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA). This is a two year appointment and involves leadership of this organisation of almost 300 Heads of schools around Australia. More than 225,000 children attend these independent schools; in addition AHISA has several associate members from other countries, particularly New Zealand.

AHISA is a professional body and its chief purpose is to serve the membership, by providing a collegial environment of professional development and support. Thus, through the Heads, AHISA aims to optimise the opportunities for the education of Australia's young people in mind, body and spirit.

Lowther Hall will continue to be Ms Horton's most important work but as national Chair of AHISA she will



Noelene Horton, pictured with Prefect Nicole Le Sueur following the Year 12 Valedictory Service.

need to represent the association and make occasional visits to the other states. We congratulate her on receiving this position.

VICTORIAN STUDENT PARLIAMENT - OUR YOUNG LEADERS

During September, Year 9 students Caroline Armour, Poppy Edwards, Anastasia Kantzelis and Anthea O'Neill represented Lowther Hall at a Student Parliament organised by the State Government and conducted by Ministers and members of the public service. Here is their account:

The Student Parliament was attended by over twenty Independent and State Secondary Colleges from throughout



Lowther Hall's representatives at the Victorian Student Parliament. Left to Right: Lucy Dalton, Anna Kantzelis, Caroline Armour and Poppy Edwards.

Victoria. Each school was represented by one student who presented a speech and three other team members who asked and answered relevant questions. Our speaker Anna's three minute speech was on the topic - "Young people have the right to be involved in demonstrations if they choose to do so". This was followed by three minutes of questions from the opposing team, Golden Square Secondary College, which were designed to challenge the argument. Three minutes of open question time from the floor then took place.

We were the first team to present its argument in the Legislative Council and not knowing what to expect, we were very nervous. Once things were underway however, we relaxed and were able to successfully express our views on a number of topics, including "It is counterproductive to refuse entry to Australia to those artists whose words and performances are likely to offend", for which we were the challenging school.

Members of the Victorian Legislative Council shared the role of President and at the conclusion we received the Hansard Report of the sitting and commemorative certificates. Taking part in the Student Parliament gave us the opportunity to learn how Parliament is run, improve our public speaking skills and confront a situation where we had to move out of our comfort zone.

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FRONT COVER: Memorable images from the journey through Lowther Hall during 2001. Top Photograph: Year 3 students excitedly wave goodbye as they head off on Puffing Billy during their first school camp at Emerald. Bottom Photograph: Year 12 students celebrate their final day at school.

FAREWELL TO STEPHANIE MAGUIRE

Ms Stephanie Maguire is leaving Lowther Hall, after almost twenty five years on the staff. Rock Eisteddfods, Exeunt productions, CADDAM festivals (Creative Arts, Drama, Dance and Music), musicals, plays ... the achievements during that period are now legendary amongst past and present students.

It was in 1978 that Stephanie Maguire joined the staff of Lowther Hall, as a part time Communications and Drama teacher. With a background of experience in radio, study at NIDA, acting and touring in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, she was eminently qualified to develop Lowther Hall's Drama program. By 1983 she had been appointed as the Head of the faculty of Performing Arts and has continued in the role until now. Under her guidance Lowther Hall has become known for its talent in and commitment to the performing arts of Drama and Dance. For many students Rock Eisteddfod was the highlight of their extracurricular life at the school. Who could forget *Playing to Win* (1993), *Tribute* (1995) and *This is it* (1997)? In recent years under her leadership the department has successfully performed a variety of shows



Stephanie Maguire discusses script writing with Year 9 Drama Students.

from *42nd Street* and *The Mikado* to *Twelve Angry Men*.

It is the end of an era! Stephanie leaves teaching to embark on a new venture and we wish her success and happiness in all that is to come.

STUDENT LEADERS - Music Executive

The Music Executive is a student committee, made up of representatives from Lowther Hall's various music ensembles.



The Music Executive for 2001. Left to Right; Anna Kantzelis, Nicolette Senserrick, Grace Nicastro, Rana Hussain and Melissa Bouchier.

The members of the Executive during 2001 were Music Captain Grace Nicastro, Melissa Bouchier, Year 11 (Concert Band), Rana Hussain, Year 10 (Stage Band), Anna Kantzelis Year 9 (Choirs) and Nicolette Senserrick, Year 9 (Orchestra).

The representatives are elected by members of each ensemble and they act as a link person between the conductor and ensemble members, on issues such as choices of music and making the most of rehearsal times.

This year, the members of the Music Executive have assisted the Director of Music and Music staff in the organisation of functions including the Twilight Supper Club, VCE Recitals, the Spring Concert and Music Camp. At the annual camp, held at Old Castlemaine Gaol, the Music Captain's night, featuring team activities including music trivia and jelly eating races, proved an enjoyable way for staff and ensemble members from Years 4 to 12 to relax and bond.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is a continuing initiative at Lowther Hall. It is the role of the Deputy School Captain to convene the Council and in 2001, Grace Nicastro took on the responsibility. Her task was to chair meetings of the Student Council representatives, then follow up their suggestions and concerns with the staff and Principal.

The Council is made up of one representative from each form in Years 7 to 10 and four representatives from Year 11. Students nominate for positions on the Student Council and are voted for by members of their form. Their role as a form representative is to become a voice for their peers on issues relevant to the student body, which are raised at regular meetings during the school year. This year, changes to the wearing of sports uniforms and the maintenance of grounds, buildings and classrooms are amongst items discussed by the Student Council.

The students involved agreed that representing their form on the Student Council was a positive learning experience. They

enjoyed the opportunity of leadership as well as the chance to discuss issues with students from other age groups.



Student Council members gather prior to a meeting. Left to Right: Gemma McEgan, Elena Jacovides, Elise Malberg, Julia Simpson, Danielle Asciak, Grace Nicastro, Louise Kruksis, Senjuti Bala and Judith Lee.

SPECIAL AUTHORS

Betty Sommerville

It is 50 years since Victorian school students began learning to read with the adventures of John and Betty and just like thousands of baby boomers, many members of the Lowther Hall community can thank Old Grammarian Betty Sommerville for their first experiences with the printed word. Betty, who attended Lowther Hall during her secondary years of schooling from 1932 to 1937, was the author of *John and Betty* (first published in 1961). "I was teaching at Caulfield South Primary and one day received a telephone call from the Chief Inspector of Primary Schools. He asked me to join a committee which would be given the task of preparing a new reading book for Prep children throughout Victoria," Betty recalls.

The result was *John and Betty* written for beginning readers with the aim that each child would own a copy of the book. Building on the vocabulary established in this volume and the interests of Primary School children, which she knew very well as an experienced teacher, Betty followed up by writing *Playmates* for Grade 1 students and *Holidays* for Grade 2, over a three year period.

As part of the Victorian Department of Education's Literacy Week activities, which included the Let's Read Expo in the Exhibition Centre, Betty was presented with an award acknowledging her contribution to children's reading. This was a fitting tribute to Betty's dedication to the vocation of teaching and her genuine love of working with children in the early years.

After leaving Lowther Hall, where French and Latin were her favourite subjects, Betty was awarded a studentship to work as trainee teacher at Flemington before studying at Melbourne Teachers' College. Originally planning to work as a secondary teacher, she became fascinated with the infant classes and dedicated her career to them. Betty became a respected Infant Mistress at Primary Schools including Brunswick and Caulfield South.

She then joined the staff at Coburg Teachers' College, lecturing and tutoring in the field of Infant Method. "My aim was to make students enthusiastic about their teaching," she says modestly. Following her retirement, Betty remained in the Moonee Ponds region and has been an active member of the St Thomas's congregation.



Betty Sommerville recently visited Lowther Hall's Learning Resources Centre and spent time discussing the John and Betty books with some Year 6 students. Left to Right: Victoria Kolankiewicz, Olivia Curtis, Siobhan Ward and Stephanie Isherwood.

Shane Andrew

Fred the Bear is a much-loved cuddly toy and teaching aid in the Prep classroom. During Term 2, Fred suffered a badly injured arm,



Shane Andrew reads *How Fred The Bear Got Sore Arms* to Prep students. Left to Right: Belinda Mercuri, Michaela Forgione, Amanda Fan, Madeleine McEncroe and Claudia Marazita.

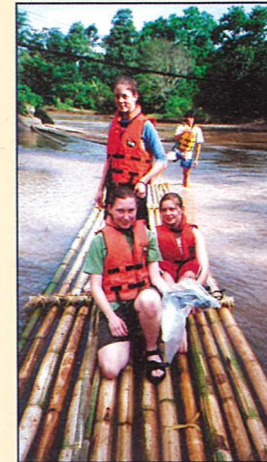
which was lovingly repaired by Shane Andrew, a member of the school's Property Staff.

Shane is best known to staff, students and families as a talented gardener, responsible for the many peaceful and interesting plantings around the Essendon campus. However, until recently, it was not revealed that as a hobby, Shane likes to write and illustrate picture story books.

His encounter with the injured Fred Bear and the joy his recovery brought to the children, inspired Shane to write and illustrate *How Fred The Bear Got Sore Arms*, a rhyming tale of Fred's adventures in search of more honey. The storyline is highlighted by Shane's humorous and detailed pencil and watercolour illustrations.

Shane made regular visits to the Junior Library to launch his book to delighted Raymond House classes. He then donated *How Fred The Bear Got Sore Arms* to the Preparatory classroom, where it takes pride of place in the bookshelves, when not being eagerly read.

THAILAND ADVENTURES



Anna Kantzelis (back) and Lucy Dalton (front left) and Jacinta Rutkowski rafting on the Tang River.

During the Term 3 School holidays, five Year 9 students, Lucy Dalton, Elyse Grimsey, Pernille Hebert, Anna Kantzelis and Jacinta Rutkowski, accompanied by Ms Nadija Anin and Mr Gary Garner travelled to Northern Thailand.

The trip was an optional component of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and during the twelve-day adventure, the girls completed a large component of the requirements to achieve Bronze level.

The first part of the journey involved trekking through mountains to the north of Chiang Mai. Meeting the people of hill tribes and camping overnight in their villages (which sometimes involved vying for bedspace with the local chickens), riding on elephants and travelling 40 kilometres down the Mae Tang River were memorable experiences.

During the final eight days of the trip the group was based at the Prem Tinsulanonda Center for International Education at Chiang Mai. They attended classes in Thai language and culture, cooking and pottery. They had opportunities to talk with students at the school as well as local children and adults and took trips to various places of interest around Chiang Mai.



Lowther Hall students relax with host students at the Prem Tinsulanonda Centre for International Education.

In 2002, the Humanities unit Our Place will be introduced to the Year 9 curriculum. This unit includes a choice of three field trips to Thailand, Samoa or a locally based study of migrant cultures from the Asia-Pacific region.

LONDON, PARIS, NORTHAMPTON

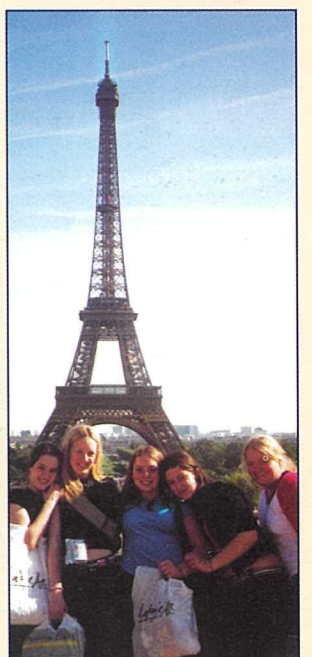
At the end of Term 3, in the aftermath of volatile world events, eight students from Years 11 and 12, accompanied by staff members Dr Susan Leslie and Ms Jan Mason, set off on a trip that would take in England and France.

The first part of this journey included visiting the Northampton School for Boys and staying with host families. A party of staff and students from this school had visited the Lowther Hall community earlier in the year. Friendships were rekindled and new acquaintances made at the school, which houses an extensive student population, including 50 female students, on a sprawling campus, and where office dress has replaced the traditional uniform for senior students.

While based at Northampton, the group went on a number of day trips, ranging from indoor snowboarding at Milton Keynes to experiencing Shakespeare at Stratford Upon Avon. They next travelled to London and in two days, managed to visit Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square; Picadilly Circus, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, shopping at Harrods, Regent and Oxford Streets and take the London Eye tour.

As they headed to France all students were keen to experience a change in culture and once in Paris, enthusiastically set about speaking French, finding their way around a large city with endless landmarks and trying new foods. They climbed to the top of the Eiffel Tower and the Arch De Triomphe, took the Metro to Mon Martre, marvelled at the architecture of Sacre Coeur Cathedral and lined up to see the Mona Lisa at the Louvre.

All members of the party experienced some nervous moments, travelling soon after September 11 and all found personal highlights. However they agreed wholeheartedly that there are many positive experiences in sharing travel as a group and becoming part of a host family.



The girls discover "Gay Paris".



Lowther Hall students during a visit to Stratford Upon Avon. Front Row (left to right): Bianca Librandi, Emily Royal, Jade Davis, Katie Muc, Megan Bilinski Back Row (left to right): Janelle Chadwick, Kellie Broughton, Katie Godsell.

GOOD SPORTS IN 2001

Throughout the first year of Girls Sport Victoria (GSV) competition, the emphasis at Lowther Hall has been on sports participation and improving personal performance. All students from Years 7 to 12 have joined teams to play sports including tennis, netball, basketball, cricket, softball and soccer and a large number have represented their school in GSV Carnivals for swimming, athletics and cross country.

At the GSV athletics carnival held in Term 3, a number of students from Years 7 to 12 recorded wins and placings in track and field events and an unprecedented number of girls recorded personal best times and results. The school athletics squad attended training sessions each week conducted by specialist coaches from Athletics Victoria. Improved fitness and skill levels were evident in GSV competition. The squad was also fortunate to attend a sports clinic at Aberfeldie Athletics Track with Sydney Olympics 800 metre competitor Sarah Jamieson.

There were a number of outstanding performances from Lowther Hall students at the carnival in Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions and as a result, some girls have been invited to train with the Victorian Schools Track Team. Year 12 student Morgan Jolly recently won the Under 18 Victorian Schools High Jump Championship. At the State Secondary School Athletics Championships Poppy Edwards (Year 9) won Bronze in the Under 16 High Jump and national champion Nicole Glavas (Year 8) won Gold For the Under 15 100 metres and 200 metres and set new records.

During National Health and Physical Education Week (October 15 to 19) staff and students at Lowther Hall took up the challenge to try new physical challenges and join in a team activity. There were lunchtime challenges including Staff versus Students matches in netball, soccer and volleyball and many members of staff attended local gyms and sporting facilities to try new physical activities ranging from Body Combat to Yoga. Their reward was a very healthy morning tea, provided by the Physical Education department.



Victorian Schools High Jump Champion Morgan Jolly and Athletics Captain Justine Wilks proudly display the Lowther Hall banner at the GSV Athletics Carnival.



The athletics squad before their training session with Olympian Sarah Jamieson.

QUALITY TEACHER PROGRAM

During 2001 Lowther Hall received funding from a Commonwealth Government initiative to take part in the Quality Teacher Program. Dr John Munro, from the Education Faculty at Melbourne University worked with the teachers taking part.

The program aims to improve teaching styles and content throughout Australia and this year, the funding has supported teachers of Year 7 students working together in teams to develop new learning experiences. These learning experiences focused on an integrated curriculum and getting to know individual students and how they learn, better.

During Term 3, the Year 7 teaching team designed a unit of work, linking English, Mathematics, Science and Information and Computer Technology (ICT). Students were required to choose an aspect of recycling to investigate. This ran for two weeks, allowing teachers greater time to facilitate the learning of small groups and learn a great deal more about individual students and the way they learn.

Taking part in relative professional development and regular follow-up meetings, were also aspects of the Quality Teacher Program. Feedback from both staff and students was most positive and in 2002 the program will take place for Years 7 and 8.



Year 7 students worked in small groups to investigate recycling as part of the Quality Teacher Program. Left to Right: Yashica De Silva, Alexia Konstantilakis, Janai Sheldon, Louise Stary.

AFFIRMATIVE CASE FOR DEBATING

This year, Lowther Hall was represented in the schools competition of the Debating Association of Victoria by nine teams of students from Years 8 to 12. They were assisted in their preparation by Debating Captain Jessie Ellis, Debating Coordinator Dr Susan Leslie and other staff.



Each team took part in the St Bernard's region round robin competition, graded according to Year levels, against catholic, government and independent schools. The debates were held at St Bernard's College Niddrie during the evening. At the end of five rounds of competition, three teams had gained the highest points in the region and qualified to enter the State Finals series. The teams were **D Grade** – Year 9 students Caroline Armour, Prachi Bhave, Lucy Dalton and Shifra Joseph, **B Grade** – Year 11 students Melissa Bouchier, Shemarrah Samarasinha, Jade Sun and Breanna Wotherspoon and **A Grade** – Jessie Ellis, Bryony McCormack and Megan Taylor from Year 12.

School Captain Bryony McCormack won the Swannie Award for the best A Grade speaker in the St Bernards Region and was later named Swannie Award winner for best A Grade speaker in Victoria.

All students taking part in the debating competition agree that regular practice in researching, structuring and presenting a case on a variety of topics has a positive effect on their studies.

School Captain Bryony McCormack receiving the Swannie Award for the Best A Grade Speaker in the state from President of the Debating Association of Victoria, Mr Ray D'Crux.

AEROBICS TEAMS TAKE NEW CHALLENGES IN THEIR STRIDE

2001 has been a groundbreaking year for two of Lowther Hall's Aerobics teams. During May, two teams won their division at the State Finals held at Dallas Brooks Hall.

The J'Lo's featuring Year 5 and 6 students Lauren Busacca, Ashlee Craven, Rosalia Delly, Victoria Grimsey, Madeline Outhred and Georgina Thompson won the Primary Open A division. The school's popular senior team Heat, featuring Year 12 students Dianne Sarantakos, Stephanie Sarantakos and Katrina White won the Secondary Advanced division.

In August both teams represented Victoria in the National Finals held at Geelong and finished a close second in their respective divisions. In September, Year 10 student Erin Pugh joined the Heat lineup and the team went on to win the National Sport Aerobics Championship held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

As a result of the popular win, the four members of Heat have been invited to train with Australia's National Aerobics Squad at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, during January. This may lead to selection for the team which will

represent Australia in international championships to be held in the United States next year.



Members of Lowther Hall's Aerobics squad who competed at state and national level. Front: Ashlee Craven. Centre: (left to right) Madeleine Outhred, Niccola Heitmaum, Georgina Thompson, Victoria Grimsey, Rosalia Delly, Lauren Busacca, Juliana De Marco, Siobhan Ward. Back (left to right) Stephanie Sarantakos, Katrina White, Dianne Sarantakos.

KIRSTEN ARMOUR AND STUART BISHOP – "A Marriage made in Kindergarten"

Over the years marriages have blossomed out of the Lowther Hall community, but we believe that Kirsten Armour and Stuart Bishop have made history as the first couple to have been Kindergarten classmates.

Kirsten and Stuart both began their education in 1975 as members of the Lowther Hall Early Learners class (which included a number of boys) and CDC the following year. Stuart left Lowther Hall at the end of 1976 and continued his education at Essendon Grammar School and later University High. Kirsten remained at Lowther Hall with the completion of Year 12 in 1989, becoming the Lowther Clarke Scholar.

They met up again as young adults during their university studies. After Lowther Hall, Kirsten's career path wound through Graphic Design study, work in the retail industry and playing the guitar in garage bands. She completed three years of a Bachelor of Education in Visual Design, before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in English at Melbourne University. Web site design was a developing hobby.



Kirsten today, (right) demonstrating Naginata at Lowther Hall with fellow enthusiast Dianne Lovrin.

Whilst working at the Performing Arts Museum in the field of Digital Imaging, Kirsten indulged her passion for writing. She had short stories published and completed a novel, which is due for publication in 2002. She also created a website devoted to obscure and forgotten writers, which remains popular. In the mid 1990's she began sessional teaching at RMIT in the subject of Computer Graphics and her career now combines tertiary teaching of with web design for the Liquid Fusion company.

Stuart studied Computer Science at RMIT and currently works in the field of computer programming for Common Ground Publishing. He and Kirsten have had a number of travel adventures together and are currently planning their next sojourn to Egypt and Zanzibar. They are also keen students of some traditional martial arts.

Kirsten recently visited Lowther Hall's senior assembly to demonstrate and talk about her interest in Naginata, an ancient art practised by Japanese women (and now females and males worldwide) which features disciplined martial arts movements, combined with long wooden poles.



Early Learners Class 1976. Kirsten is seated in the front row, third from the right. Stuart is second from the left in the centre row.

REUNIONS



Class of 1991 students Emii Bergman and Simone Saunders.



Members of the Class of 1986 enjoy exploring the Mansion after 15 years.



Class of 1986 students (left to right) Julie Robinson, Gabrielle Coburn (Hine) and Kylie Devine (West).



Remembering 1991. Front row (l to r): Melinda Norman and daughter Brianna, Nikki Marr, Sarah Nicholson. Back row (l to r): Melanie Penhalluriack, Nicole Doughty, staff-member Tracy Healy, Nicole Hinton.



Science reminiscings from 1986. Left to right: Ann-Maree Starr, Tasneem Allie, Ed Stewart, Jennifer Melki (Hess).



Bree Clarke (left) and Monique Garwood from the class of 1991.

OLD GRAMMARIANS' – DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday February 13, 8pm.
LHOGA Annual General Meeting in the foyer of the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre. This meeting will be preceded by a casual dinner from 6.30pm at the Royal Hotel Essendon – no need to RSVP.

Saturday April 27, 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Class of 1962 Forty Year Reunion
Class of 1972 Thirty Year Reunion
Saturday May 18, 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Class of 1977 Twenty-Five Year Reunion
Class of 1982 Twenty Year Reunion

Saturday August 31, 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Class of 1987 Fifteen Year Reunion
Class of 1992 Ten Year Reunion
Thursday October 31, 6pm to 8pm
'Back To' Nibbles and Drinks, incorporating Class of 1997 Five Year Reunion



SPARK - ART SHOW 2001

Titled **SPARK**, this Year's Art Show, held at the end of Term 3, lit the fires of creativity in students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The girls exhibited paintings, sculptures, ceramic sculptures, photographs, drawings, collage and mosaics on a diverse range of topics and themes including the human figure, pet portraits, cakes and local environment.

The three day exhibition, held in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre, was officially opened by Marion Strong, Chief Executive Officer of Art Education Victoria. Ms Strong presented award certificates to a number of students and in her opening speech, stressed the importance of Art in the school curriculum and encouraged students to express their thoughts and feelings through art and design.



Georgina Thompson, Year 6, attends the Art Show with her mother Kerrie Dwyer.



Former student Brigid Macwhirter (left) enjoys the Art Show with Year 10 award winners Lauren Sewell and Erin Pugh.



Laura King, one of the Year 7 award winners, with her parents Jennifer and Greg.



Miss Jenny Thomas, Head of Visual Arts at Lowther Hall (left) and Ms Marion Strong, Chief Executive Officer of Art Education Victoria, who officially opened the exhibition.



Stephanie Veber, Year 4, with her class's exhibit on the gold rush.



Year 10 Award Winners Jean Wu (left) and Aveline Suen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2002

Tuesday 26 February at 10.30am
Dedication and Opening of Junior School Building

Saturday 22 June at 7.30pm
Winter Concert – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 August
School Musical – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Thursday 24 – Saturday 26 October
Art Show – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Tuesday 3 December at 8.00pm
Service of Carols – St Paul's Cathedral

Monday 9 December at 8.00pm
Exeunt – Melbourne Town Hall

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