



NEWS

Lowther

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AUGUST 2001



CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER
STAFF, STUDENTS, FAMILIES

INSIDE



From the Principal

Federation is the obvious theme for 2001 as the whole of the country observes its one hundredth birthday as the Commonwealth of Australia. Less well known is that this is the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer. Without the work of volunteers our world would be much diminished. We rely on volunteers in schools, in charity work, in organisations such as life saving, in St John's Ambulance, Meals on Wheels and much more. The Year 9 students practise community service as a compulsory component of the Yannergee program, this year through the Red Cross Young Ambassadors work.

Our students were willing volunteers as participants in the Federation celebrations. The mini Dame Ednas were feted far and wide as they proudly represented the City of Moonee Valley in Our Nation On Parade in May. Dressed in frocks by Kangan Batman TAFE students and wearing the signature glasses made by Debney Park Secondary College, our girls were thrilled to be a fun part of the festivities. The choir was honoured to be chosen as one of few schools present in the Exhibition Building on 9 May when the historic gathering re-enacted the first Opening of the Commonwealth Parliament in 1901.

In this edition we pay tribute to the many members of our community who cheerfully give of their time and talents in



Ms Noelene Horton accompanied by School Captain, Bryony McCormack (left) and Deputy School Captain Grace Nicastro, two of the many students who volunteer their services to a range of school activities.

helping others. It is fitting that our motto is *Non Nobis Solum*, not for ourselves alone. Lowther Hall has a tradition of promoting the importance of service to individuals and the community as a whole. We know that Old Grammarians in all walks of life are committed to the principle of giving back. This Lowther News features the current school community and we highlight some members, at the risk of knowing there are hundreds more who might have been selected had we been aware of their role in voluntary work. Volunteers all, you are much valued!

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL



The School Council. Back Row: (left to right) Peter Malcolm, Meredith Angwin, Mark Armour, Brian Atkins, Peter Lovell. Front Row: (left to right) The Revd Peter Horman, Dr Lorraine Baker, Jackie Dalzell, Michael Halls. Absent: Mr Norman Draper, Dr Norman Fary, The Revd Dr Helen Granowski.

Directors of Boards take on huge responsibilities and not less so when serving on School Councils. The members of the Lowther Hall Council meet monthly, both in committee and as a board, to review policy, to monitor operations and projects and to receive reports from the School. The Junior School Development is the current example of a project coming to fruition after countless hours of discussion and planning. That so many busy and talented people are ready to volunteer their services in this way is fortunate and also critical to Lowther Hall's ability to be an effective and highly regarded independent school.

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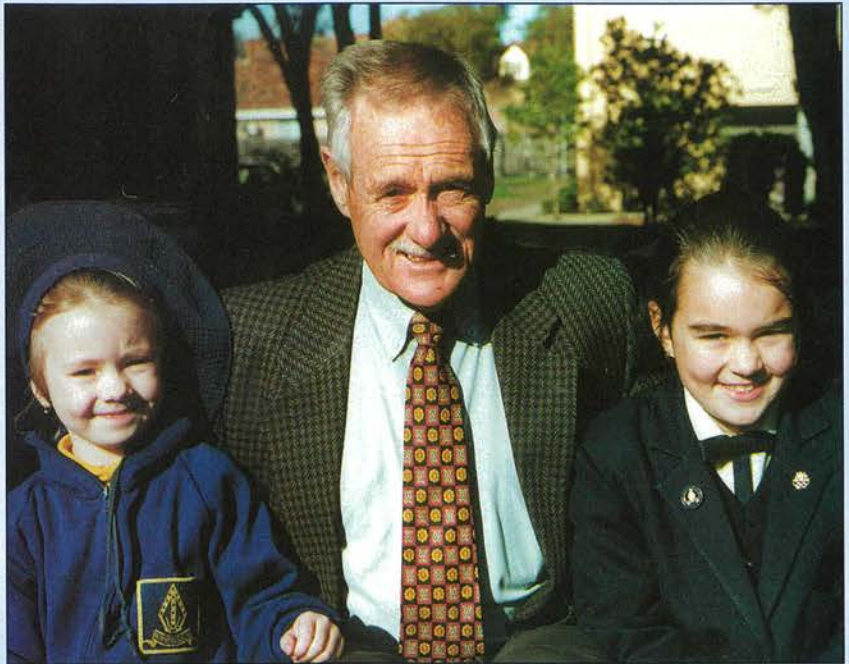
FRONT COVER: Described as 'An Epidemic of Ednarettes', Lowther Hall students from Years 5 to 12 joined in the spirit of Our Nation on Parade and the Centenary of Federation celebrations. Photograph: David Caird, courtesy H.W.T. Photographic Collection.



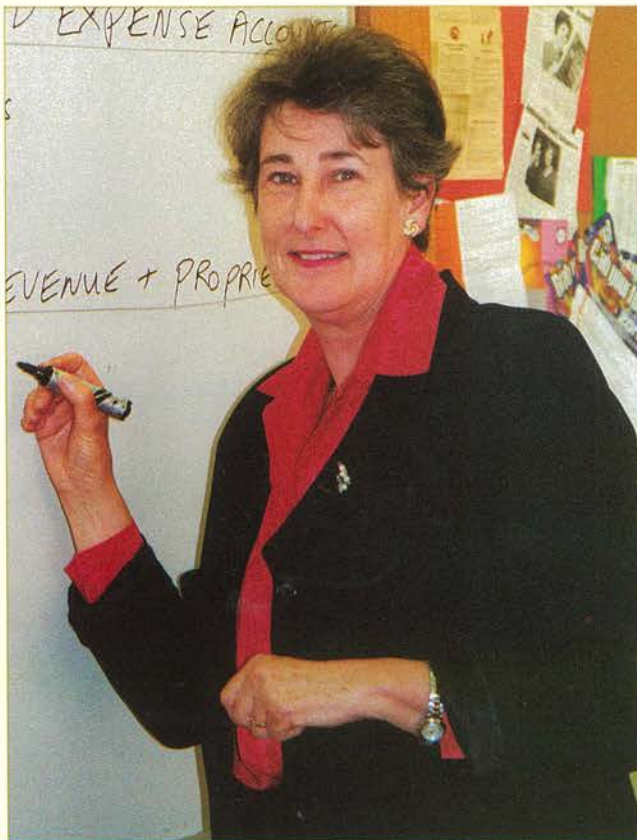
WARREN ALLAN

A new member of staff for 2001 is Warren Allan who brings with him expertise and experience from a career in business and financial management. Formerly with the AISV (the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria) and now semi retired, Warren is Lowther Hall's Director of Business with particular oversight of the financing and development of the new Junior School building. The fact that his granddaughters are at Lowther Hall strengthens his connection with us.

Beyond the working day Warren is involved in his own time in two other significant independent schools' areas. He is a member of the board of the Victorian Block Grant Authority through which Commonwealth capital funding is allocated to those schools which qualify and he is Deputy Chairman of the Victorian Independent Schools Superannuation Fund. Always ready to give of his services, Warren is truly a volunteer!



Warren Allan and his granddaughters, Madeleine (left) and Alexandra McEncroe.



Anne Saunders has a love of teaching accounting and economics that has led to voluntary work in superannuation.

ANNE SAUNDERS

Mrs Anne Saunders is a well-known member of the Lowther Hall family. She is an Old Grammarian (Class of 1958) and has been a part time teacher of Accounting and Economics at the school for the past 17 years. She is also known far and wide as the voluntary Chairman of Directors of the Victorian Independent Schools Superannuation Fund.

Anne was first elected by the staff of Lowther Hall as their representative to the VISSF in 1988. She began attending monthly meetings, and with a sound knowledge of accounting and business practice, was invited to become a member of the management committee.

She later became Deputy Chairman of this committee, and after legislation changes which saw the investment committee become the Board of Directors, Anne was appointed Chairman. The fund has grown dramatically in recent years and now has over 7,000 members from twenty-one independent schools and assets of over \$237 million. Under Anne's leadership, the Board ensures that it adheres to all legislative changes and safely invests funds for the best possible returns.

Anne has continued to enjoy her role with VISSF, which requires her to regularly attend meetings, oversee administrative procedures and stay well informed on all aspects of superannuation and financial investment. She is dedicated to giving good representation for her fellow teachers.



BARBARA WATSON



Barbara Watson at work in the Performing Arts wardrobe.

Mrs Barbara Watson has a long association as a volunteer at Lowther Hall, which began when her daughters Cindy and Felicity attended the school during the 1980s and has continued on for many happy years.

Today Barbara is best known for her tireless work as wardrobe mistress for school musicals, plays, dance and drama concerts. She can be found in the Performing Arts department sewing and altering costumes and gathering accessories and props to create authenticity for many weeks prior to a performance.

For a number of years, Barbara has also been one of the major organisers of the annual Mothers' Christmas Luncheon. Working as a team with Bozenka Millson and Helen Sarantakos, she takes care of many details to create a most enjoyable and amiable occasion which many Lowther Hall mothers and grandmothers would not miss, even those with no family members currently at the school.

Her efforts to create a Christmas luncheon to remember began when Barbara volunteered to help with the Mothers' Social Group, which was active during her years as a parent. She later took on the position of President and helped to raise substantial funds and assist with the success of many school occasions.

One of Barbara's duties as wardrobe mistress is to organise sewing pools of parents and staff to create new costumes and recycle others. She acknowledges the dedicated assistance of many helpers over the years.

JOYCE QUINN

Over the past four years, Mrs Joyce Quinn has become a popular face in the Junior Library. She visits each week to assist Library teacher Marissa Caluzzi with a number of tasks including cataloguing, book covering and displays.

Joyce's connection with Lowther Hall began through her granddaughter Claudia Swift, currently in Year 7. She had not previously worked in a library, but was aware that there was work to be done for volunteers who could spare a few hours each week.

She currently visits one or two days each week for three hours. During this time there are often library classes or lunchtime library sessions and Joyce has made the acquaintance of many Junior School students and their teachers. She enjoys observing the children on their search for information through books, computers and quiet discussion, while she carries out her work.



Joyce Quinn is a friendly and helpful face to staff and students in the Junior Library.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS



Nicole Oliver (left) and Stacey Cole

Katie Godsell Year 11, Nicole Oliver and Stacey Cole Year 9 volunteer their time to coach local netball teams. For the past two years, Katie has coached the Aberfeldie Netball Club's under 11 team *The Meteors*. For the first time this year, Nicole and Stacey have taken on the role of coaches to St John's Essendon's under 11 netballers – *The Budgies*. All three play in senior teams for their respective clubs and took on coaching positions through this involvement. Stacey also works for the Melbourne Phoenix netball team, as a ball girl at their home games at the state Netball Centre, Royal Park.



Katie Godsell



Emma Preece

Emma Preece Year 8, is a member of the congregation at St. Alfred's Anglican Church North Blackburn. She is a regular volunteer in her church's initiative to deliver food to the needy. Emma also assists her mother to care for a friend who suffers from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome by doing tasks such as washing, ironing and housecleaning and caring for her young children.



PARENT WORK AND PARENT TALK

What would schools do without parent involvement?! The Friends of Lowther Hall, the Friends of Music, the Friends of Rowing, the Performing Arts Support group, the parents who help with debating, with equestrian competition, with socials, with excursions, and with sports all ensure that the extracurricular life of the school is enabled and enriched.

The members of the new Parent Talk group exemplify the value added to a school when parents are closely involved. The Friends of Lowther Hall and other groups serve the whole community but the special circumstances of primary years led to the formation of this Junior School body. Established at the end of 2000, Parent Talk has already hosted forums on Sport and PE, on Computing and on the Extension Programs of Chess and Aim High, Fly High. The Rock and Roll Night, its first social function, was an unqualified success and more are planned.



Mrs Cheryl Broughton, one of the many parents who catered for the cast and crew of the school play **Dinkum Assorted** during rehearsals.



Members of the Junior Parent Talk Committee.
Front: Vinnie Catanzariti
Centre: (left to right) Kay Ferguson, Janette Thorburn, Louise Nicdao.
Back: (left to right) Jenny Clements, Frank Forgiione, Mark Paino.



Sue Lovell opens Lowther Hall's Op Shop every Wednesday afternoon.

SUE LOVELL

For the past four years, Mrs Sue Lovell has been in charge of Lowther Hall's Op Shop for second hand uniform. Sue took on the role at a time when she was not working, but she enjoyed it so much that although she rejoined the workforce, she has continued to visit the school every Wednesday afternoon to open for business.

Sue's work entails keeping a register of the items for sale, which includes summer and winter uniform, plus bags and hats. She documents incoming items and following a sale organises payment, a percentage going to the school.

When her daughter Justine completed Year 12 in 2000, Sue decided to continue with the Op Shop. She welcomes all donations of used uniform, in good order, and encourages all families to come along on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm to say hello and discover the extensive range of uniform that the Op Shop has to offer.

LOWTHER'S LIFESAVERS

Emily Anile Year 9, Chloe Hawking and Zoe Hitchen Year 10 are volunteers for the Royal Surf Lifesaving Association. All have achieved their Surf Lifesaving Certificate and take part in beach patrols during weekends and the school holidays in summer. Emily is a member of the Williamstown SLSC, Chloe is a member at South Melbourne and Zoe volunteers and competes for the Anglesea club.

The girls have become involved in surf lifesaving through the Nipper training program and plan to undertake further training in first aid and rescue.



Left to Right: Emily Anile, Chloe Hawking, Zoe Hitchen



PARENT HELPERS IN CLASSROOMS

During Term 1, as a development of the Early Years Literacy Program, which has been running in Junior School since 1999, the initiative to include parent helpers began.

Seven parents of students from Junior and Senior School volunteered to take part in the Early Years Literacy Training Program for Classroom Helpers. They are Deborah Akers, Doris Elias, Tracey Lollis, Helen Morton, Louise Nicdao, Christine Stephens and Wendy Stott.

At the beginning of Term 2, after completing the necessary training, they ventured into the Prep to Year 2 classrooms during each morning's two hour literacy session. Parents assist in classrooms where their own children are not present. They provide support for the teaching staff and assist with group and individual activities for the children.

Their tasks may include the supervision of literacy groups, assisting individual children to complete tasks as they rotate to a variety of learning centres, offering encouragement, advice and outlining strategies for meaningful comprehension and word attack skills.

Sharing as classroom facilitators has been an ongoing positive experience for the parent volunteers, who have

earned much praise from staff and students. With the planned extension of the Junior School in 2002, there will be further opportunities for parents to undertake training and become part of the Early Years Literacy Program.



Doris Elias works with Amanda Fan (left) and Teghan Keeley during a daily Early Years Literacy session in the Prep classroom.

CLASS PARENTS

Each year Lowther Hall calls for volunteers to take on the roles of Class Parents. These positions continue to be taken on by very willing parents who are happy to give some time assisting with certain school events and developing a network amongst families.

On occasions when Lowther Hall is host to many visitors, such as Open Day and Grandparents Day, Class Parents assist with organising rosters for serving refreshments and helping wherever required. They readily lend a hand to events such as the Mothers' Day stall in Junior School and Middle School socials.

Class parents put a good deal of effort into organising social occasions for fellow parents and families. These range from coffee mornings for mothers and toddlers, to informal dinners for the whole family, school holiday activities and Christmas picnics complete with a visit from Santa Claus.



Sylvia Lo Piccolo (left), a Prep Class Parent and Brigida Paino, Class Parent for Year 4, enjoy the Junior School Rock and Roll night.



Suzie Stratford-Hutchings (foreground) and Rosemary Hemsworth (background) assisting students at the Mothers' Day plant stall.



OLD GRAMMARIANS' NEWS

Reunions and social gatherings have been very well supported by Lowther Hall's past students this year.

Members of the Class of 1976 and the Class of 1981 visited the school on 26 May to celebrate twenty-five and twenty year reunions. Those in attendance had a wonderful time catching up on family news, looking at old photographs on display and visiting many corners of the school – some familiar, some new, some previously out of bounds. They enjoyed meeting members of the current LHOGA committee, a group of volunteers who busy meeting and planning events for later this year and into 2002.

During April, an enthusiastic group of Old Grammarians met at the Royal Hotel Mornington for a lunch which was well supported by past students living in the Mornington Peninsula region, as well as friends who travelled from Melbourne and as far away as Gippsland. The organisers spent a good deal of time contacting past students via the *Lowther News*, the local newspaper and the telephone network and their efforts were well rewarded.

On Saturday August 4, the Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise was the venue for an informal gathering of past students living in the Gold Coast Brisbane region, hosted by Noelene Horton. Old Grammarians from the 1940s through to the 1990s found common ground when remembering their days at Lowther Hall and learning of new developments and innovations.



Class of 1981 reunion. Left to right: Julie Haskell, Lynda Luce (nee Norman), Lalina Muir, Margaret Brett, Diana Rice.



Some members of the Class of 1976 reunion.



Enjoying the Mornington Peninsula lunch. Left to right: Jan Parry (nee Gilmore), Dianne Holland (nee Wenzel), Pam Falck (nee Paulden), Dorothy Harland (nee Parker), Susan Brooks (nee Matthews), Jennifer Coghlan (nee Parker).

LOWTHER HALL HOCKEY CLUB

For around twenty years Saturday morning Hockey has been part of Lowther Hall life, for successive groups of girls whose experience in the club has often been one of the most memorable parts of school life. Until recently it was the parents who took responsibility for most aspects of the organising and the School pays tribute to those past and present who have given their time and energy to this task. Now with GSV, the addition of more coaching staff and the expansion in general of the sports program, Saturday Hockey comes under the School's management. Even so it could not operate so effectively without the parents as team managers, as an ever present part of training, as dedicated spectators at all matches and as organisers and supporters of social functions.



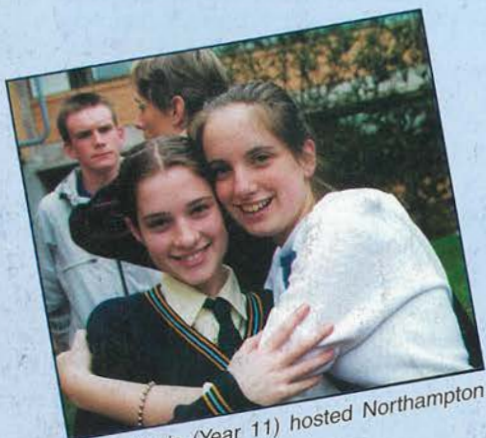
Hockey parents brave the cold to support Lowther Hall teams. Left to Right: Karen Brkic, Anne Doherty, Jenny Malberg, Eileen Blythe.



SCHOOL EXCHANGES

Lowther Hall students, staff and their families continue to give time and service in offering hospitality to visiting students and their teachers from overseas countries. Junior and senior students have recently hosted visitors from the Shin-Ai High School Japan on their annual school exchange. Senior students have also hosted a party from the Northampton Grammar School and will meet up with them when they visit the United Kingdom in September. Chloe Maingourd, an exchange student from France, is currently spending nine months at Lowther Hall and living with the Hannah and Alissa Plowman (Years 8 and 12) and their family. Another French student Anne le Naoures recently returned home after spending time with Poppy Edwards (Year 9) and her family.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2001
 Saturday 8 September
Spring Concert – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
 Wednesday 12-Friday 14 September
Art Show – Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
 Tuesday 4 December
Service of Carols – St Paul's Cathedral
 Monday 10 December
Exeunt – Melbourne Town Hall
 For further information about any of these events please contact the Community Relations Department at the school on 9337 5011.



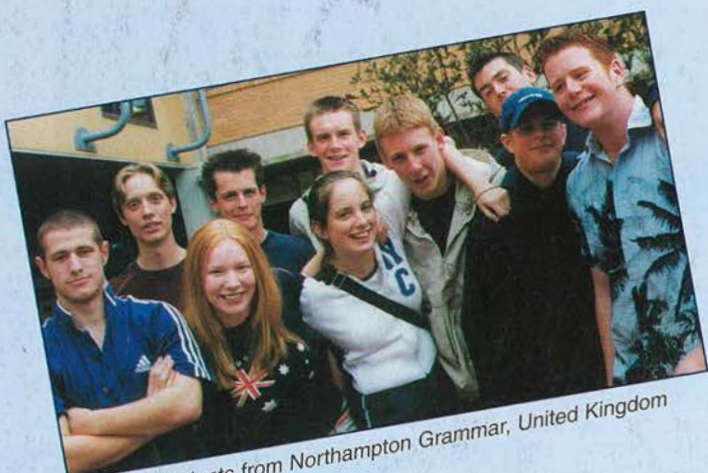
Jade Davis (Year 11) hosted Northampton student Laura Whittle.



Chloe Maingourd (left), who is visiting from France and Alissa Plowman



Year 8 student Simone Steel enjoyed hosting Shoko Hosono during the exchange visit.



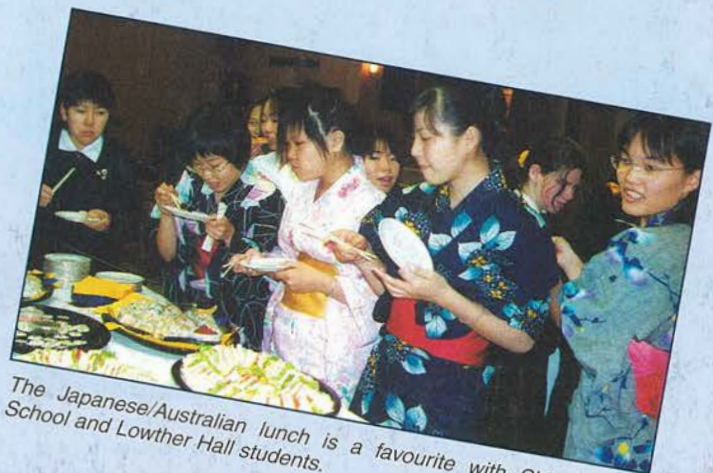
Visiting students from Northampton Grammar, United Kingdom



Making new friends. Left to right: Year 6 students Michelle Kowalczyk and Siobhan Ward with Mika Kinoshita and Kanae Yokoyama



Shin-Ai students sample some Australian snack food.



The Japanese/Australian lunch is a favourite with Shin-Ai High School and Lowther Hall students.