



NEWS

Lowther

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INSIDE

GIRLS ACHIEVING... THROUGH TRAVEL,
THE ARTS, SPORT AND MORE



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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FRONT COVER:

Year 11 students enjoy the spirit of their last House Swimming Sports at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on 26 November.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

There is definitely an international focus in this edition of the Lowther News, though achievements in general take up most pages. It is important for our girls to have knowledge and understanding of other countries and cultures, never more so than at a time of international tensions. I also have enjoyed more international focus than usual this year when, as Chair of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia, I have met with principals from many other countries.

Our students' achievements both in Essendon and abroad are to be commended. So, too, we commend the achievements and experiences of former Lowther girls, now pursuing their own professional, personal and family lives. We value it all!



Ms Noelene Horton and Dr Ken Ahn, President of the International Confederation of Principals, who was visiting Lowther Hall.



Mrs Elaine Klemke (left) with her sister Mrs Betty Lancaster in the year 2000 at Lowther Hall's 80th Birthday celebrations.

Mrs Elaine Klemke

The Lowther Hall community pays tribute to Mrs Elaine Klemke, who is retiring from teaching after thirty-four years as a member of the Junior School staff, including as Head of the Junior School from 1976 to 1994.

Elaine and her family have a long and close association with Lowther Hall. She began as a student in 1938 in Form 1b (the equivalent of Prep) and completed Leaving in 1949. Her sister, Betty Lancaster, also attended Lowther Hall for the whole of her school life and their father, Harold Cook, served on the School Council during this era.

Elaine returned to teach at the school part-time in 1968, when her daughters Joanne and Bindi were pre school age. She became a full-time member of staff the following year.

Joanne and Bindi both began as Prep students and continued until Year 12 and Joanne was the Lowther Clarke Scholar in 1981.

Throughout her career at Lowther, Elaine has taught classes from Years 3 through to 6 and mentored many new members of staff. She has the gift of remembering every student and colleague and being able to relate a story about them. She has taught in three different Raymond House buildings and witnessed many other changes in the school.

Elaine's plans for the future are to travel, to spend more time with her grandchildren and even more time in her garden!

Lowther Hall acknowledges Elaine's great contribution to the life of the school and wishes her the very best for the future.

Mrs Noella Kershaw

Lowther Hall also farewells Mrs Noella Kershaw, after four years as Head of the Junior School.

Noella is returning to university to complete a PhD in Education.

During her time at the school, she has been part of the Management team and has dealt with the move from Raymond House to the temporary Junior School Village in 2000, before moving into the new Junior School building at the beginning of this year.

Noella has been involved with learning innovations such as chess classes and the Junior School enrichment program and has closely supported the Tangara program for students in Years 6 and 7. She has been an enthusiastic participant at all Junior School occasions from House sports to family get-togethers.

We wish her well for the future.



Mrs Noella Kershaw

OUR PLACE



Thank you to staff members Mr Gary Garner, Mrs Hilary McNab and Mrs Nicola Sabbadini for compiling this report.

This year, for the first time, the Humanities elective unit, Our Place, was studied by all Year 9 students. This program focuses on increasing students' understanding of contemporary Australia, its people and its connections with the cultures in the Asia-Pacific region. A major component of the unit was two weeks of field work in Thailand, Samoa or a Victorian based study of migrant cultures, which took place late in Term 3.

THAILAND

The students who travelled to Thailand, accompanied by Mrs Vicki Hoban and Mr Gary Garner, were based at the Prem Tinsulanonda International School in Chiang Mai. They participated in some activities at the school, but the majority of their time was spent out and about gathering information for their particular topic for research. Some of the activities included visiting temples, an orphanage, various produce markets, a water buffalo farm and a conservation centre and veterinary hospital for elephants.

The highlight of the visit for many students was a three-day trek, visiting two hill tribes in the mountains north of Chiang Mai. The group walked through a rainforest to the first night's destination, a Lahu Village. After dinner, some local women arrived to sing and perform for the Lowther Hall group. After a long trek on the second day, the students arrived at a Karen village located on the Mae Teng River. During the evening the Lowther Hall girls met and spoke with several of the village elders. On the final day of the trek, the students travelled on foot, by rubber raft and elephant to reach the pick up point to return to Chiang Mai.



Experiencing elephant travel in the mountains near Chiang Mai. Foreground: Danae Gerassimou (left) and Theekshna De Silva.

Many of the students were overwhelmed, at first, with the sights and smells of Chiang Mai, but by the end of the visit all were saying that the field trip had been a wonderful experience.

SAMOA

One of the major aims of field work in Samoa was to provide students with an experience of the culture, rather than the normal tourist experience. The Lowther Hall students, accompanied by Mrs Nicola Sabbadini, stayed in a large open air hut, known as a fale, and cooked and cleaned for themselves. The group was based in Apia and visited Manono Island and Savai'i. They took excursions to Moa Moa theological college and Apia Cathedral, Papasee'a (Sliding Rocks), the Flea Market and the Food Markets, Robert Louis Stevenson's grave and museum, St Joseph's school in Leauva'a, Palolo Deep and Parliament House.

Research topics were given to students to investigate whilst travelling. On return to regular classes, students who had studied the same topic in different locations joined together to prepare a major presentation. These took place at the school on November 7, to an audience of parents, teachers and fellow students. All who attended were impressed by the students' positive attitude to sometimes challenging travel, and the depth of their cultural understanding and research.

Activities included participation in a Kava Ceremony, preparation of an umu for a feast, watching the Fautasi (longboat races), a lesson in mat weaving, observation of tattooing and dancing (including fire dancing), swimming, snorkelling and some shopping.



Lowther Hall students and Samoan friends outside a fale.

The trip was a great success and students loved chances of interaction with the Samoan people, especially the school children.

LOCAL STUDY

The students and members of staff participating in the Local Study started their field work with a three day bus trip to Bendigo and Echuca. At Bendigo, the girls toured the Central Deborah mines, followed by a trip on the Bendigo Talking Tram. This allowed the group to really get a feeling for the workingman's life in 19th Century Australia.



Taking a paddle steamer ride on the Murray River at Echuca.

The group also visited the Chinese Joss House and Bendigo Chinese Museum. At both these locations, students learned how the Chinese people contributed to life on the goldfields.

The two days spent in and around Echuca allowed the girls to see the importance of the river as a form of transport, the urgency of deforestation and land use issues and the rural/urban divide.

The remaining time was spent in Melbourne. Here the girls made their way to a meeting point each day and engaged in a wide variety of cultural activities. These ranged from visiting the Melbourne Zoo to learn how the future of endangered animals is secured, to viewing the film *Rabbit Proof Fence* in Carlton, followed by a discussion session with an aboriginal educator from Melbourne University.



ART ECLECTIC

Titled *ECLECTIC*, the 2002 Art Exhibition, which ran from October 24 to 26, filled the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre with colour and imagery. It featured the art and design work of students from Kindergarten to Year 12.



Achieving artists with Art Eclectic's signature design, which appeared on all promotional material. Left to right: Amanda Adams (award winner), Claudia Swift (award winner), Michaela Nikakis (award winner and designer of the ink drawing) and Bianca Nicastro (award winner).

Ms Rhonda Noble, Curator of Art Works at LaTrobe University, officially opened the exhibition and praised the display as one of the finest and happiest she had seen. Ms Noble and Visual Arts Captain Bianca Librandi presented awards to the following students: Amy Chu (7M), Claudia Swift (8M), Stephanie Lee (9M), Michaela Nikakis (10S),

Bianca Nicastro (11 Perry) and Amanda Adams (12 Lees). These awards were in recognition of Artistic Merit, judged mostly by their peers.

Prior to the exhibition, students and staff were given a taste of things to come at a very entertaining school assembly with the theme Art as Fashion. A number of exhibiting students modelled their works in classic fashion parade style, complete with commentary from very glamorous hosts Kellie Broughton and Elsie Madigan. The parade closed to great applause with the classic bride (in black veil), modelling a dramatic painting.



Some of the students who paraded their works in the Art as Fashion assembly.

MUSICAL HIGH NOTES

YEAR 10 OUTSTANDING MUSICIANS

Year 10 P students have recently achieved outstanding results in Australian Music Education Board (AMEB) examinations, at the highest level.

Alaine Ding, passed her LmusA in piano with distinction, an outstanding achievement for a student of her age. LmusA is the highest musical qualification, usually completed after AmusA.

Amber Lomanowicz, recently passed 8th Grade trumpet with High Distinction. Her next examination will be AmusA.

Alaine and Amber are both valued members of school ensembles such as Senior Orchestra and Stage Band, and Amber is the Concert Band representative on the student Music Executive.



Amber Lomanowicz and Alaine Ding practise together.

STAGE BAND PERFORMS FOR PRINCE EDWARD

The Lowther Hall Stage Band, led by Ms Catriona Russell, Director of Music, was invited to perform at the Duke of Edinburgh Award 40th anniversary celebrations, attended by HRH Prince Edward, on Monday 25 November.

Schools from Melbourne's western region participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award joined together at the Commonwealth Reserve in Williamstown to celebrate the landmark in the program. In addition to fine music there were demonstrations of many aspects of outdoor education and community service.



HRH Prince Edward chats to Lowther Hall's musicians at the Duke of Edinburgh Award celebrations at Williamstown.



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES TO UK, FRANCE AND CANADA

As part of the International Exchange Program at Lowther Hall, girls have the opportunity to participate in individual and school exchanges. Recently, students have visited the United Kingdom, France and Canada.

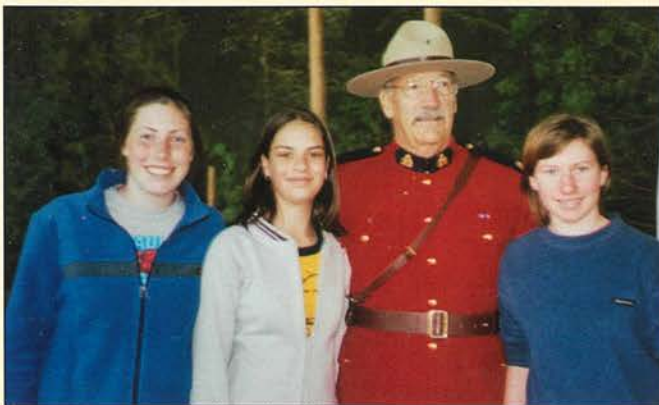
Mrs Nene Macwhirter and Ms Lynne Vero travelled with eight girls to England, where they were reunited with students and staff from Northampton School for Boys, who had visited earlier in the year.

Their stay in Northampton was a very positive experience. The school had organised a schedule of activities, which included visits to Blenheim Palace, Warwick Castle, Oxford, Cambridge, London, Stratford upon Avon and many nearby villages. The Northampton students and their families were wonderful hosts and tour guides.

On arriving in Paris, the group took in a large number of famous landmarks, as well as gaining memorable first hand experiences of Parisian life.

Five weeks in Canada, attending St Clement's school Toronto, was the destination for Year 10 students Caroline Armour, Lucy Dalton and Shauna McEgan. The girls found their school surroundings very different, as St Clement's is situated in a busy downtown area and does not have spacious grounds. However, being a small school with students from Kindergarten to Year 12, it had a similar atmosphere to Lowther Hall.

All three girls found their host families extremely friendly and willing to show them around Toronto and beyond, as well as providing a true taste of Canadian life. Their advice to fellow students being, "A school exchange can open your eyes to a whole new set of possibilities."



Lowther Hall girls get acquainted with a Canadian Mountie during their five-week exchange to Toronto. Left to right: Shauna McEgan, Caroline Armour and Lucy Dalton.

ZOE HITCHEN FEATURED IN FEDERATION SQUARE ARTWORK

Year 11 student Zoe Hitchen was selected, through audition, to play the central role in a piece of artwork displayed at the opening of Melbourne's Federation Square in October. Sculptor Patricia Piccinini was commissioned by the Victorian Arts Centre to create the work, featuring Zoe as a modern day mermaid.

The artwork titled 'Sandman' incorporates sculpture and a video shown on three screens and huge photographs which tell the story of a young girl, born with gills, who is trying to find her place in the world.

Zoe travelled to Queensland's Stradbroke Island for five days to take part in the filming and stills photography. Ironically, the island, which was chosen for its tranquil setting, was ravaged by severe storms. The result was a darker "look" with Zoe enduring long days in extremely choppy water after previously spending several hours in make-up to have her prosthetic gills attached.



Zoe during filming in the waters off Stradbroke island.

In spite of the discomfort, Zoe found the trip a valuable learning experience and the sculpture is now a centrepiece in the Federation Square Gallery.

SWIMMING FOR BANGLADESH

Lowther Hall's senior swimming enthusiasts came up with a novel way to raise funds for our Mainuddin School in Bhola Island, Bangladesh recently.

Swimming Captain Jessica Meilak, (Year 11 Clarke) came up with the idea of a Fun Swim Fundraiser at the Windy Hill pool. She was joined by Felicity Dansie (10S), Monique Millson (10P) and Veronica Poletto (9P). The girls had secured a number of sponsors and swam laps over a six hour period. They were supported during their swims by family and school friends. The money they raised will be used to rebuild the Mainuddin School's sports field.



Lowther Hall's fundraising swimmers. Front left to right: Felicity Dansie, Monique Millson, Jessica Meilak and Veronica Poletto, supported by (in uniform) Chanelle Black (left) and Kellie Broughton.



WHOLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION WEEK

14 to 18 October

Lowther Hall's Health and Physical Education Week activities were launched by the Hon Justin Madden, Minister for Sport and Recreation and continued with a session with teenage motivator Mark Dobson. Visits to a sports expo, lunchtime displays in a variety of sports and physical activities by school teams and individual students, as well as staff versus students matches in netball and soccer, were highlights of the week. Junior School students also paid attention to healthy diet and held a whole school breakfast and picnic lunch.



Students from Years 10 and 11 with motivator and author Mark Dobson.



At the launch of Health and Physical Education Week, the Hon Justin Madden, Minister for Sport and Recreation with (left to right) School Captain Chanelle Black, Sports Coordinator Miss Julie Anthony and Deputy School Captain Nicolette Quinn.



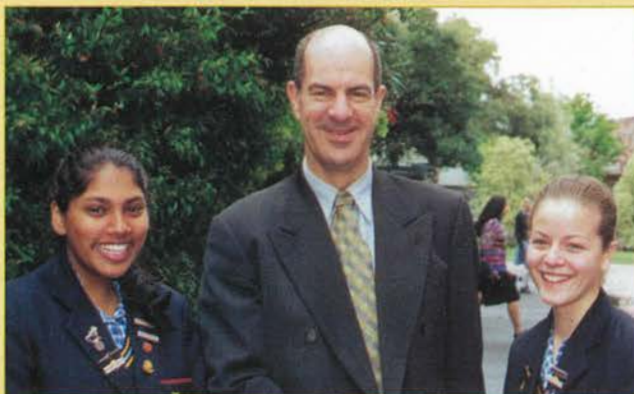
Spirited competition in the Staff versus Students netball game.

CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK

28 October to 1 November

Mr Kelvin Thompson, the Member for Wills, one of the nation's most ethnically diverse electorates, was guest speaker in assembly to launch Cultural Awareness Week. Activities to follow included an International Film Festival for students from Years 6 to 12, featuring films from Iran, Vietnam and China. The Colours of Life Competition,

which required groups of students to create a display representing the culture of a chosen country, revealed spectacular and original work, as did a lunchtime poetry reading session in many languages. The Junior School's multicultural dress day inspired both staff and students to wear clothing representing their cultural heritage.



Mr Kelvin Thompson, Member for Wills, is greeted by Year 11 students Rana Hussain (left) and Jessica Mellak at the launch of Cultural Awareness Week.



Faces of multicultural in the Junior School.

LIFE AFTER LOWTHER



FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2002

On Friday 18 October, Year 12 students made an early start to their last day of school with traditional "muck up day" celebrations at the front of the Mansion. Dressed in some original costumes and variations of the school uniform, the Year 12 girls were watched by the staff and fellow students as they celebrated the end of an era with music and dancing.

They returned to school later that day to join, with their families and teachers, in the Valedictory Eucharist, an inspirational service celebrating the spiritual journey from schooling into the community and wider world.

At the closing of the service, the Year 12 girls received candles which symbolised carrying the light they have received out into the world. They were then given forget-me nots with which to greet and thank those who have been significant in their lives at Lowther Hall.

We extend best wishes to all Year 12 students for their VCE results and future journeys.



At the end of the Valedictory Service, Deputy Principal, Mrs Robyn Kronenberg is joined by students (left to right) Nicolette Quinn, Melissa Bourchier and Carolyn Hine.



Early morning celebrations on the last day for Year 12.



Class of 1992 girls and their former teachers. Left to right: Melissa Russo, Martha Di Natale (nee Forfolias), Mr Lloyd Mill, Maree Goulas (nee Panos), Aurora Kostezky, Mr Ed Stewart and Mrs Janine Higham.



Raegan's attendants were all past students. Left to Right: Kerrie Deller (Class of 1996), Katie Elder (Class of 1996), Liz Spratt (Class of 1996) and Arienne Bergamo (nee Cossens, Class of 1992).



Class of 1987 students revisit the Principal's office. Left to right: Lisa Bryant (nee Colwell), Ms Noelene Horton, Effie Forfolias, Anita Bacarella (nee Baba), Anne Papley, Jonelle Papley (nee Muir) and baby Lachlan.



Past students from 1997 get together for their five year reunion. Front row (left to right): Lauren Cordwell, Amy Amato and Biljana Oroz, Vanessa Purvis. Middle row (left to right): Kim Tranter, Leah Dickenson, Lee Milner and Danielle Zernich. Back row (left to right): Kate Osborn, Kylie Bulman, Anna Dodgshun and Lisa Anchen.



Raegan Cossens (Class of 1996) and her husband Michael DiPaolo at their wedding in November.



GIRLS AND BOYS ACHIEVING

OKLAHOMA!

Lowther Hall's production of Oklahoma! The classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein, was a team effort from the entire school community.

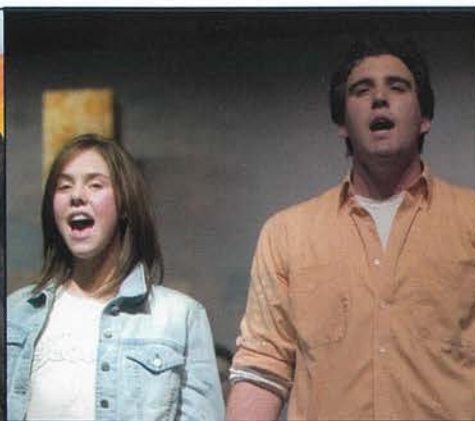
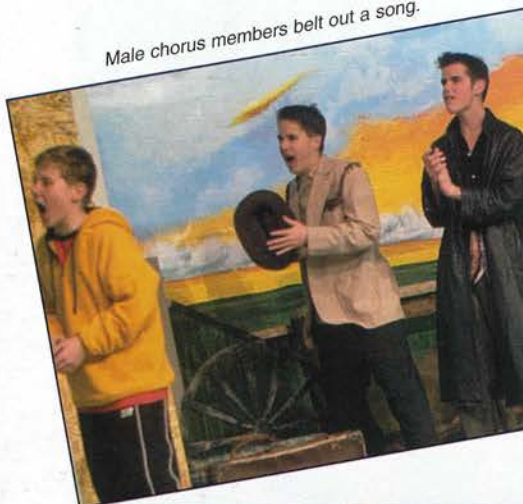
The actors, singers and dancers were students from Years 7 to 12. They were joined by male performers from the Young Australia Broadway chorus, as well as some brothers and friends. The timeless music was played by members of the Senior Orchestra, under the Directorship of Ms Catriona Russell and staff members from many faculties volunteered their time and expertise to set design, costuming, catering, program design, front of house and many other aspects of staging a musical.

An energetic back stage crew of students supported the school's Property staff with scenery, sound and lighting and parents willingly gave their time to any task they could. The full houses at all performances were an indication of the way all students and their families lent their support to make Oklahoma! a musical to remember.

Mr Paul Wentford, Head of Drama and Dance, exchanged his director's chair for cowboy boots at the final show, when he stepped in to play the demanding role of Jud Fry when cast member Dean Flanigan was injured.

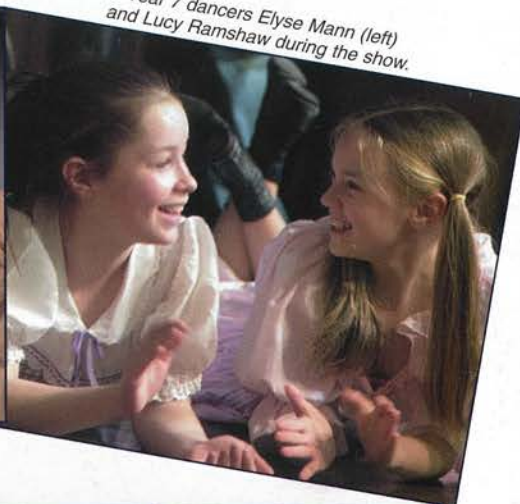
A free matinee performance was staged for local primary schools and visitors from Moonee Valley aged care services. It was wonderful to see two different generations relishing the entertainment of musical theatre together.

Male chorus members belt out a song.



Erin Pugh (Laurey) and Stuart Outhred (Curly) prepare for their roles.

Year 7 dancers Elyse Mann (left) and Lucy Ramshaw during the show.



The cast in rehearsal.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2003

Wednesday 26 February 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm
Open Day - Essendon Campus

Friday 30 August 7.30 pm
Spring Concert - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Tuesday 2 December at 8.00 pm
Service of Carols - St Paul's Cathedral

Thursday 27 February at 8.00 pm
LHOGA Annual General Meeting - at the School

Thursday 16 September to Saturday 18 October
Art Show - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Monday 8 December at 8.00 pm
Exeunt - Melbourne Town Hall

Thursday 7 August to Friday 9 August
School Play - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

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