



L O W T H E R

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ISSUE NUMBER 49 ABN 35 006 660 984 DECEMBER 2003



ACHIEVING PERSONAL BESTS THROUGH.....
Teaching and Learning, Sport, Travel, School Community Events



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Produced by the Lowther Hall Community Relations Department.
Designed by Double Jay Graphic Design P/L
Printed by Aberdeen Press

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Students from Years 7 to 12 celebrate receiving certificates for outstanding effort in all subjects during Term 3.



COVER STORY Personal Bests For Effort

At Lowther Hall all students are encouraged to achieve their personal best, in the classroom and beyond, and the School believes that it is important to recognise effort as well as performance.

During 2003, certificates of achievement have been presented, in Assembly, to students from Years 7 to 12 who have achieved outstanding results for effort in all subjects on their report. The highly consistent effort of some students has resulted in them proudly receiving a certificate for Terms 1, 2 and 3.

Congratulations to the following students:-

YEAR 7: Louise Boland, Stephanie Dearaugo, Zara Monkcom. **YEAR 10:** Danae Gerassimou, Lauren Gerassimou, Danielle Romagnano, Clare Freeman, Freya McGregor, Laura Slavin, Simone Steele, Alessandra Wulf. **YEAR 11:** Caroline Armour, Prachi Bhav, Alaine Ding, Poppy Edwards, Shifra Joseph. **YEAR 12:** Sophie Adams, Grace Baliviera, Rebecca Dwyer, Katie Lu, Kate Mathews, Siobhan Privitera, Pallavi Sharda, Jean Wu.

PERSONAL BESTS



Sports Captain Elsie Madigan with the Lowther Hall 2003 Sports Person of the Year Award Trophy.

INAUGURAL SPORTS AWARDS

Celebrating Personal Bests in Endeavour and Achievement

During October, for the first time, students from Years 7 to 12, their families, teachers, coaches and umpires joined together in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre for the inaugural Sports Award Evening.

The evening celebrated the wide range of sports that Lowther Hall students participate in, both in the areas of skills development and competition. Prizes were awarded to students on their achievements and excellence as well as fair play and team spirit.

Guest speaker Ms Monica Wright, Miss World Fitness and Lowther Hall's diving coach, inspired all present with the story of her sporting journey and practical advice on nutrition and fitness training.

Two special awards the **Lowther Hall Sportsperson of the Year** and the **Lowther Hall Rising Star of the Year** were presented in recognition of students making an extraordinary effort to make a difference to school sport, as well as achieving excellence in individual efforts and performances.

The Rising Star Award was presented to Stephanie Dearaugo, Year 7, for displaying consistent talent and dedication to school sport. She shows a willingness to learn and commit to training and has excelled in individual performances in athletics, cross country and netball.

Sportsperson of the Year was awarded to Elsie Madigan, Year 12, 2003 Sports Captain. Elsie displays a genuine love of sport and participates with enthusiasm, leadership and sportsmanship. Her commitment and desire to be the very best have been displayed through her performances in rowing, cross country, athletics, hockey and soccer.

DR ANDREW FULLER SEMINARS Achieving Our Bests Together



During August, Lowther Hall welcomed Clinical Psychologist Dr Andrew Fuller. Dr Fuller, an expert in adolescent health and family therapy, was candid and highly entertaining in his presentations to both staff and parents.

His workshops provided a refreshing look at the issue of teaching and parenting adolescents. They offered solutions to common sources of conflict and covered a range of issues that affect adolescents and their relationships with home and school.

It was encouraging to see such large numbers of parents from both Junior and Senior School in attendance, eager to know more about how their children learn and achieve.

PERSONAL BESTS

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS ZONE FINAL

Teamwork to Achieve a Best for the School

Lowther Hall's Junior Volleyball A Team capped off an undefeated season to take out the Girls Sport Victoria Zone 4 final. This is the first zone win Lowther Hall has achieved in the sport.

The team comprised of students from Years 7 and 8. Their coach was Physical Education Coordinator, Miss Olivia Tardio, who trained her charges during the weekly GSV sports lesson.

The girls played against Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, Camberwell Anglican Girls' Grammar School, Lauriston Girls' School, Genazzano FCJ College and Loreto Mandeville Hall, on their way to the premiership, during Terms 2 and 3.



Members of the winning team with coach Miss Olivia Tardio. Back Row: (Left to Right) Shari Blanck (Vice Captain), Susan Yildiz, Emily McNamara, Alicia Sabato, Rebecca Siler (Captain). Front Row: (Left to Right) Sophie Pham, Madeline Outhred, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Emily McNamara.

2003 ART EXHIBITION

Highlighting the Personal Journeys of VCE Students

Spectacular artworks, completed by students from Kindergarten to Year 12 in their art lessons, filled the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre during the 2003 Art Exhibition, from October 16 to 18.

The work created by the fifteen students studying VCE Art and Visual Communication was a major feature. To complement the works from their portfolio, which ranged from three dimensional models to painted portraits, each student prepared a statement for display, reflecting on the personal development she had made through Art in 2003.

The symbolism in their work, their attitudes to art, the progress they have made, the lessons they have learned and their plans for the future were some of the issues discussed



Year 12 students (left to right): Rhiannon Cameron, Claudia Zeine, Anthea Konstantiakis, Gemma Lumicisi, Amy Nicol, Emily Garretto and Marina Dolic.



Mr Graham Parker, who opened the 2003 Art Exhibition, with Head of Visual Arts, Mrs Yvonne O'Connell.

by VCE students in an honest and articulate manner.

The exhibition was officially opened by Graham Parker, Education Officer at the Ian Potter Centre, Federation Square. Mr Parker praised the diversity of works and stressed the validity of art in both the Primary and Secondary curriculum. He congratulated the VCE students on each of their folios and presented certificates of excellence to students from Years 7 to 12.

The awards, which recognised achieving personal bests in art and design, were



Visual Arts Captain and exhibiting VCE artist, Bianca Nicastro.

Year 8 artists (left to right): Stefanie Markidis, Audrey Irish and Amalini De Silva.

judged by teachers from the Visual Arts faculty, whose criteria emphasised the process of making art, not only natural ability.

Year 7: Claire Grech, Ada Vuu

Year 8: Lucy Dang, Audrey Irish

Year 9: Anna Firkin, Laurene Obeid

Year 10: Y Le, Anita Murphy

Year 11: Brigid Hall

Year 12: Elaine Kwok, Gemma Lumicisi, Bridget Macwhirter, Bianca Nicastro, Amy Nicol, Aveline Suen.

STATE and NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS



Junior School students with their awards. Left to right: Lucia Nguyen, Alice Backwell, Rachel Bunshaw.

Students in Junior and Senior School have achieved high results in a variety of competitions offered to students. Some entries have been carried out as a class exercise and others have resulted from students' individual efforts.

A story written by Rachel Bunshaw, Year 5, was selected for the Zone Final of the Nestle Write Around Australia Competition, which attracts thousands of entries.

Year 6 student Lucia Nguyen achieved a Distinction in the New South Wales Mathematics Competition, placing her amongst the top Mathematics students in Australia.

Alice Backwell, Year 6, was awarded second place in the statewide ACHPER (Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation) Award for Story Writing.

Stephanie Dearaugo, Year 7, scored a High Distinction (the highest Year 7 result in Victoria) in the Australasian Schools Science Competition. A number of students from Years 7 to 10 also scored extremely high results in this competition.

Stefanie Markidis, Year 8, and Laurenne Obeid, Year 9, were selected as state finalists in the Poetry section of the Alliance Francaise Berthe-Mouchette French Language Competition and Rebecca Dwyer and Jean Wu achieved High Distinctions for the Year 12 Written Component.

Shifra Joseph, Year 11, has been selected, from a field of thousands throughout Australia, to attend the National Youth Science Forum at the Australian National University in January 2004.



Year 7 student Stephanie Dearaugo with the Medal and certificate she received for gaining High Distinction in the Australasian Schools Science Competition.

SPRING CONCERT 2003

Our Best Ever

Lowther Hall's annual music concert, featuring instrumental ensembles and choirs, as well as soloists, was a thrilling evening of entertainment for the capacity audience in attendance.

The talents of the girls, from the Year 2 and 3 Fledgling Choir to VCE Music Performance soloists, nurtured by the School's highly talented Music staff, were evident in each item and performances surpassed all previous levels.

From the opening item, "Joyful Joyful", featuring the voices of every performer, accompanied by the Stage Band to the Senior Orchestra's finale "Satchmo", a tribute to Louis Armstrong, the audience had experienced, first hand, the magic of music at Lowther Hall.

Director of Music, Ms Catriona Russell and the Music staff, Music Captain, Cara Young and the Music Executive, Friends of Music parents, staff and students who assisted in advance and on the night, all contributed their bests to create an evening to remember.

Stage Band conductor Ms Sonja Horbelt (far left) and musicians prepare for the Spring Concert during Music Camp at Daylesford.



Debating Captain Rebecca Dwyer displays her Swannie Award for Best A Grade Speaker in the Essendon Region.

INTERSCHOOL DEBATING

Inspiring Bests in Thinking and Communication

In 2003, fifteen teams comprising students from Years 8 to 12 at Lowther Hall took part in the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV) Schools Competition, for the Essendon region.

Debating at the school has been coordinated by Deputy Principal Ms Elisabeth Rhodes. Members of the teaching staff and some former students give the girls great assistance in researching, preparing and presenting their material.

A number of Lowther Hall students were awarded Best Speaker prizes during the year and Debating Captain Rebecca Dwyer, Year 12, received the Swannie Award for Best A Grade Speaker in the Essendon Region. Rebecca was presented with her award, along with other regional recipients, at a ceremony at St Kevin's College, in September.

During Term 3, Year 7 students took part in interschool training and competition in the St Albans region of the DAV.

TALKING THE TALK at the Age Writers Festival



Julia Simpson meets author Kim Wilkins at the Age Melbourne Writers Festival.

Attending the Age Melbourne Writers Festival, meeting some of their favourite authors and engaging with them in discussion, was a personal best experience for Year 11 students Anna Kantzelis and Julia Simpson.

As avid readers of the Science Fiction/Fantasy genre, Anna and Julia were keen to attend part of the Festival's Schools' Program at the Malthouse Theatre. Both girls had the opportunity to take part in "Meet the Writers Events", where they conducted a forty-five minute interview with Queensland based writer Kim Wilkins, in front of an audience of fellow students and teachers from secondary schools throughout Victoria.

They also took part in panel discussions with authors including Isobelle Carmody and Gary Crew and talked about the writing process, as well as themes relevant to their books.

Anna Says, "I have been reading all their books since Year 7, so it was great to meet the people behind the stories and characters".

Julia adds "I am interested in writing and I saw it as a great opportunity to seize, hearing about writing styles and where to start when writing a book".

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Students Achieve Bests Taking On New Challenges

"There is much to gain and absolutely nothing to lose by completing a Duke of Edinburgh's Award, whether it is Bronze, Silver or Gold. For me, it is a program that I intend to model the rest of my life on. Developing life-long skills, enjoying sport, serving the community, helping individuals, as well as adventure and survival."

These are the words of 2003 Duke of Edinburgh Captain, Elise Malberg, recently delivered to the school assembly. Elise is

one of the many students from Years 9 to 12, who have taken up the challenges offered by the program and achieved personal bests.

For Elise and a group of Year 12 students, a best was achieved by completing a long walking adventure. Other students have reported on achievements in community service, sports and the skills component, to assembly and in written reports.

Expeditions are a major component of the Duke of Edinburgh program and often bring out the best in students, under difficult conditions. This year, all Year 9 students have taken part in two camping and bushwalking trips to the Grampians as part

Silver Awardees 2003

- Chanelle Black Year 12 2002,
- Poppy Edwards Year 11,
- Michaela Nikakis Year 11,
- Natalie Perera Year 11,
- Kirsty Thomas Year 11,
- Kinnelly Valladares Year 11,
- Stephanie Wulf Year 12.

of the Bronze Award and some students from Years 10, 11 and 12 have attended Silver Award sailing expeditions at the Gippsland Lakes. During the Christmas break a group of Year 12 students will undertake a canoeing expedition on the Glenelg River as part of the Gold Award.

Kinnelly Valladares (left) and Kirsty Thomas during the Silver Award Sailing Expedition.



Year 9, ready for bushwalking at the Grampians.



"OUR PLACE" School and Student Exchanges

Personal Bests Exploring New Horizons

For some students it was overcoming the personal anxiety of leaving a close family unit to fly into the unknown, half way around the world. For others it was trading a soft bed for a mat on an earthen floor and

for many it was the challenge of meeting new people in a new environment-travel has inspired a number of personal bests for students and staff.



Year 9 students step back in time in the classroom at Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement. Front Row: (left to right) Christina La Rocca, Lauren Markovic, Danielle Hadj. Back row: (left to right) Meng Meng Rao, Lisa Jurca, Laura Blasetti.



Amanda-Jane Noonan and Erin Stockton take time out at the Twelve Apostles.



Sarah-Jane Oska (back 4th from left), Alexandra Wulf (front 1st left), Katharine Hogan (front 2nd from left) and Emelia Young (front 4th from left) and their Canadian host students prepare to ride the rapids.



UK/France travellers enjoy Warwick Castle. Left to right: Penny Carter, Nikki Davis, Rebecca Howard, Zoe Teeuwssen and Louise Cashen.

VCE Parents Book Club

The VCE Parents Book Club was formed with the aim of giving parents the opportunity to become active partners in their daughters' learning. After reading novels or viewing films from the Year 12 English list of core texts, parents joined with convenor, Mrs Nene Macwhirter, to discuss books and films in a similar manner to the way their daughters do in class.

Discussion was lively and thoughtful and provided some poignant moments, such as during discussion of "Night" by Elie Weisel, when a parent brought along her mother, who related some of her experiences in surviving the holocaust.

It is planned that the Book Club will continue in 2004.

Farewell to Marilyn Richards

Lowther Hall farewells Mrs Marilyn Richards, after 20 years as a part-time teacher of piano and organ. Marilyn was a parent at Lowther Hall before joining the Music faculty. Her daughter Nadine completed Year 12 in 1982 and Marilyn began teaching at the school the following year.

She has taught many private students, worked enthusiastically with keyboard groups as part of the class instrumental program and performed as accompanist for assemblies and chapel services on both the piano and organ.



Mrs Marilyn Richards with Year 4 students (left to right) Lucy Trembeath, Yolanda Majano and Amanda Elias.

Marilyn's future plans include teaching private students and continuing as organist for her local Church. We wish her well.

OLD GRAMMARIANS Breaking new ground

Yvette Johansson

Yvette Johansson (Class of 1993) is a prominent performer on the local and international jazz music circuit. In 2003 Yvette has appeared at the Melbourne International Jazz Festival, Jazz at the Zoo, the inaugural Jazz Music Awards, Wangaratta Jazz Festival and has made regular appearances at a number of live music venues.

Yvette has recently achieved a new milestone in her career with the launch of two CD recordings. The first is a live recording titled "Yvette Johansson and Jazz Avenue Live at Cha Chas" and the second "Quotes From the Green Room" features Yvette and the Joe Ruberto Trio.

After spending both her Primary and Secondary Years at Lowther Hall, Yvette attended the Victoria College of the Arts and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Performance/Improvisation in 1996. She is also a teacher of singing at the Johnny Young Talent School, where she herself attended for many years.



Yvette Johansson in performance.

Kate Dullard

1999 School Captain, Kate Dullard, has created history by being elected the first female Captain of the Essendon Rowing Club, which was established in 1880.

Kate, who has just completed a Bachelor of Arts degree, plans to continue her studies with honours in History, concentrating mostly on sporting history, in 2004. She has also been appointed Lowther Hall's Rowing Coordinator for the 2003/2004 season.



Kate Dullard.

Kate's association with the Essendon Rowing Club began shortly after she started rowing training at Lowther Hall in 1994.

She competed for Essendon, as well as Lowther Hall during secondary school, continued as an active member of ERC after Year 12 and for the past two seasons, has been female Vice Captain.

Kate's role as Club Captain is an extension of the work she carries out with Lowther Hall's rowing program. Duties

include overseeing training sessions, coordinating the coaching program and equipment and planning and supervising all aspects of competition.

When she is not on the banks of the Maribyrnong, Kate finds time to work on another rowing related project, researching and writing the history of the Australian Henley Regatta.



LHOGA 1990'S GET TOGETHER

Left to Right: Tiffany Chan (nee Wright), Andrew Chan, Belinda McLeod, Courtney O'Brien (Bowler), Felicity Baker (nee Weatherhead) and Simone Saunders.



CLASS OF 1993 TEN YEAR REUNION

Left to right: Demmin Smith, Sharon McDonald, Meredith Chandler, Sonia Lancaster and Lisa Goodfellow.



CLASS OF 1998 FIVE YEAR REUNION

Mr Ed Stewart catches up with (left to right) Libby Tarr, Jenna Wise and Karen Chan.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR OLD GRAMMARIANS Reunions 2004

- **Saturday 27 March** Class of 1974 Thirty Year Reunion
Class of 1979 Twenty-Five Year Reunion
- **Saturday 15 May** Long Standing Leavers Reunion
- **Saturday 5 June** Class of 1984 Twenty Year Reunion
Class of 1989 Fifteen Year Reunion
- **Saturday 28 August** Class of 1994 Ten Year Reunion
Class of 1999 Five Year Reunion

PERSONAL BEST for parents!

School Gala

A wonderful day was had by all who attended the Gala Fete on Sunday October 26. The occasion was tirelessly organised by a committee of parents from both Junior and Senior school. This committee was assisted by fellow parents, teachers, students and Old Grammarians.

The well stocked stalls, games and activities, musical entertainment, food and beverages were all enjoyed by the very large crowd in attendance and the Gala Day Raffle was very well supported by school families and friends.

The Mansion Stage, featuring a talented array of Lowther Hall performers including Concert Band, Stage Band, Senior Orchestra, Senior Vocal Ensemble and the cast of *The Tempest*, as well as a local dancing schools and guest band "The Cones", attracted large audiences.

The funds raised have been donated to the School and will be used to purchase outdoor furniture and fittings.



Year 5 students (left to right) Teneille Rayner, Taylor Hemsworth and Sabina Gerardi admire the wares on the Christmas stall.



Convenors of the dynamic parents committee Mrs Rosemarie Hemsworth (left) and Mrs Cathy Smith.



Mrs Pat DeMarco (front) and Mrs Julie Garretto assist with raffle sales.



Phillip Grimsey (left) and Mark Reiter, busy at the sausage sizzle.



The cast of *The Tempest* entertain the crowd.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2004

Wednesday 25 February 8pm	Lowther Hall Old Grammarians Association AGM - School
Thursday 26 February 2pm-6pm	Open Day
Friday 30 April 7.30pm	Autumn Concert - Melba Hall University of Melbourne
Sunday 14 March 2.30pm	Celebration for the Restoration of the Mansion
Thursday 5 - Saturday 7 August	School Musical "The Wizard of Oz" - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
Friday 10 September 8pm	Spring Concert - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 October	Art Show - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre
Tuesday 30 November 8pm	Service of Carols - St Paul's Cathedral
Monday 13 December 8pm	Exeunt - Melbourne Town Hall