



# LOWTHER news

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LEARNING BY DOING . . . in the classroom, on stage, in the community, in the sporting arena.

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GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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## FRONT COVER

Year 4 students learn by doing in preparing for their  
Mathematics Lunch. Story Page 4.

## FAREWELL TO ROBYN KRONENBERG



Mrs Robyn Kronenberg, Deputy Principal since 1998, was farewelled on 16 May as she departed Lowther Hall to take up the appointment as Principal of St Michael's Collegiate School Hobart. Her period of service has been an impressive one and her educational leadership significant in the development of teaching and learning within the school. The farewell cocktail party included tributes from past and present staff members, from the School Council and the Principal, all of whom have enjoyed and valued her work for Lowther Hall. We wish her well!

## NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF



## Elisabeth Rhodes

Welcome to Ms Elisabeth Rhodes who has joined Lowther Hall as Deputy Principal (Organisation) after a notable record of teaching at Donvale Christian College and more recently as Head of Senior School English at Methodist Ladies College. Elisabeth is enjoying the challenge of her new work.



## Grahame McMahon

Lowther Hall welcomes the Revd Grahame McMahon as Chaplain, part-time. Grahame returns to Melbourne from the opal fields of Lightning Ridge, where he was mining, writing and taking part in youth work. His last Chaplaincy was at Caulfield Grammar's Wheelers Hill campus.

Grahame has a background in education and he has taught in schools in the UK, India and China, as well as many regions of Australia. At Lowther Hall he will teach Philosophy and Religious Education to Years 5 and 6 as part of the Chaplaincy role. Grahame is also part-time parish priest at St Paul's Anglican Church, Kingsville and St Mark's Anglican Church, Spotswood.



## THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council or Board of Directors is the governing body of Lowther Hall and as such has the complete responsibility for the operation of the school. The Council sets policy and oversees the implementation of all policy whether financial, compliance or educational. Strategic planning is a critical part of the Council's work; the annual Council Planning day this year included a visit to the Keilor Campus.

Standing (left to right) Mr Peter Lovell, Dr Norman Fary, Ms Meredith Angwin, The Revd Dr Helen Granowski, Mr Mark Armour, Ms Josephine Ward, The Revd Peter Horman, Mr Norman Draper, Mr Peter Malcolm. Seated (left to right) Mr Michael Halls, Ms Jackie Dalzell, Ms Noelene Horton.



Elsie Madigan (centre) with Lowther Hall coach Kate Hutchison (right) and Essendon Rowing Club coach Scott Riddell (left).

### Elsie Madigan's Rowing Success

Lowther Hall's Sports Captain for 2003, Elsie Madigan, achieved a number of goals in schoolgirl rowing this summer. She won first place in the Open Single Scull at the Head of the Schoolgirls' Regatta at Geelong and also took out the Open Single Scull at Geelong and Ballarat Regattas. The 2003 season was the seventh successive year that Elsie, a Year 12 student, has rowed for Lowther Hall and she was awarded a Morongo Medal in recognition of her commitment and endeavour in rowing.

Elsie's achievements qualified her for the 2003 National Rowing Championships held at Lake Barrington, Tasmania. She finished seventh overall in the Schoolgirls' Single Scull, which was the highest placing by a Victorian rower in this event.

Elsie is also a valued member of the Essendon Rowing Club. She competes in Quad and Double Scull events for the club and was recently awarded the Most Improved Novice trophy.

### Jessica Dorman Dances on International Stage

Year 11 student Jessica Dorman has just returned from an exciting visit to the United Kingdom. With dancing partner Bradley Montagnese, a Year 12 student at Essendon Keilor College, Jessica was invited to compete in the prestigious Blackpool Ballroom Dancing Championships.

Jessica and Bradley have been competition partners for the past four years. In 2002 they won the Latin and Ballroom sections at the Victorian Championships and went on to make the finals of the National Championships.

Jessica relished the opportunity to compete with the over one thousand of the world's best ballroom dancers at Blackpool and is now inspired to make international finals. What began as a social pastime has developed into an exciting challenge.



Jessica Dorman shows her Ballroom Dancing style in the Mansion. (photo courtesy of Fairfax Community Newspapers).

### Catherine McPhee Exhibits in Moreland City Council Art Show

Year 9 student Catherine McPhee had three artworks chosen for the Moreland City Council's "Women's Salon" art exhibition at the Counihan Gallery in Brunswick. This annual exhibition, now in its tenth year, showcases the diverse artistic practice of women living or working in the Moreland area.

Catherine created two paintings and a ceramic pot for the exhibition and is now inspired to experiment with a number of art forms and take part in more public exhibitions.



Budding artist Catherine McPhee.

### Joanna Rosochodski Wins City West Water World Environment Day Writing Competition

Year 5 student Joanna Rosochodski's winning entry in the competition was a poem titled "You Oughta Conserve Our Water". Part of the prize was an installation of a water wise garden in the grounds of her school.

Joanna and Head of Junior School, Mrs Cheryl Penberthy, attended a presentation ceremony at Altona recently and the Lowther Hall community looks forward to its new water wise garden.



Joanna Rosochodski and Mrs Cheryl Penberthy, Head of Junior School, after the City West Water presentation ceremony at Altona.

# STUDENT Leadership

## Student Music Executive 2003

Lowther Hall's student Music Executive is a working committee of elected representatives from each of the main ensembles, led by the Music Captain, Cara Young. Members of the Executive for 2003 are Rana Hussain and Bianca Nicastro, representing Senior Orchestra, Stephanie Wulf and Cara Young, representing Stage Band, Amber Lomanowicz and Anthea O'Neill, representing Concert Band and Danielle Asciak and Poppy Edwards, representing Senior Vocal Ensemble.

During Term 1, the Music Executive helped to organise the Twilight Supper Club, an evening of musical entertainment, performed by the school's Music staff and friends. Recently, the girls have worked closely with the Music faculty in planning the 2003 Spring Concert and were an integral part of the annual music camp to Rutherford Park Country Retreat Blampied, during July. Members of the executive are composing and performing the musical accompaniment for this year's school play *The Tempest*.



Members of the 2003 Student Music Executive. Seated left to right: Danielle Asciak, Cara Young and Amber Lomanowicz. Standing left to right: Rana Hussain, Poppy Edwards, Anthea O'Neill and Bianca Nicastro.

## Annual Prefects Conference at Westbourne Grammar

School Captain Jessica Meilak, Deputy Captain Rana Hussain and Prefects Grace Baliviera, Lydia Brkic, Kelly Broughton, Minoli De Silva, Elsie Madigan, Meera Taquir and Cara Young, attended the tenth anniversary of the Conference, hosted by Westbourne Grammar. The Lowther Hall girls joined school leaders from many metropolitan and regional Independent schools in an afternoon of workshops designed to promote a sharing of ideas and practical advice. Lowther Hall's model of appointing Probationer Prefects was received with much interest.

## Future Leaders Forum

Year 12 students Simone Gruca, Elise Malberg, Michaela Rigoll and Meera Taquir attended the Future Leaders Forum 2003 at the Sidney Myer Asia Centre, University of Melbourne, during the Term 1 holidays. They listened to addresses by a number of inspirational speakers from the private and public sector, covering topics from youth substance support to urban planning and indigenous education. Another learning session provided the girls with relevant information on the Future Leaders Environment Awards 2003, which recognise Year 12 students who have shown outstanding environmental leadership.



Year 6 student Stephanie Veber goes against the clock with her mother Wendy during the Tangara Family Maths Night.

## Hands-On During Mathematics and Science Week

Mathematics and Science Week (May 5 to May 10) inspired many activities throughout the school. Students from Prep to Year 6 took part in a Mathematics Luncheon, where they were required to bring along food relating to the theme. Dice cakes, geometric sandwiches, calculus cookies and fraction fingers were just part of the extensive menu.

As part of the Tangara Program, students from Years 6 and 7 gathered in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre for a Family Maths night. They played mathematical games, shared learning activities, created interesting structures and had a great deal of fun.

## Junior School Heads Association of Australia (JSHAA) Leadership Day at Parliament House

During May, Junior School Captain Lacy-Rae Garner and Deputy Captain Charlotte Nicdao, accompanied by teacher Ms Kerrie Dwyer, joined representatives from a number of Melbourne schools at Parliament House, Melbourne. The day's learning experiences were designed to highlight the qualities that make a good leader in various aspects of life. Students and teachers were given an introduction to the Victorian Parliament by Liz Beattie, State Member for Tullamarine and an inspiring keynote address by Police Commissioner Christine Nixon.

## United Nations Youth Association Conference

Year 11 students Anna Kantzelis, Anthea O'Neil, Sarah Jane Oska and Natalie Perera were selected to represent Lowther Hall at the Conference held at RMIT at the beginning of Term 2. With secondary students from throughout Victoria, they learned about the role of the United Nations and the activities of the UN Youth Association. The students joined in group sessions as well as a massed forum, where resolutions were passed on topics, some serious, others light hearted, relating to global issues.

# Music

## Big Band Festival for Girls

Music Captain for 2003, Cara Young, represented Lowther Hall at the Inaugural Big Band Festival For Girls, held at MLC, Kew on May 16. Students from a number of girls' schools took part in this celebration of band music.

Cara, who is a trombone player, participated in workshops before playing in the evening concert, which required her to join in a band with students she had never played with before. She says the highlight was the finale, in which every student attending the festival played.

## Choirs Out On Stage

The beautiful tones of voices in unison, under the direction of Mrs Jan Goodall, have been ringing out to a number of audiences recently. During May, the Senior Vocal Ensemble joined some of Melbourne's best school and community choirs at **Schools Out On Stage**, held in the new BMW Edge at Federation Square. The evening of competition was organised as a fundraising event by the Yooralla Society of Victoria. Lowther Hall's performance to take out third prize impressed both the audience and the judges.

The Senior Vocal Ensemble also performed at the bi-annual Kodaly Choral Festival, held



Members of the Senior Vocal Ensemble.

at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University. The Kodaly method is the basis of Lowther Hall's classroom music program, which focuses on aural development, sight-singing, music reading and writing.

Prior to the festival, the choir was privileged to take part in a workshop, at Lowther Hall, with Australian composer Paul Jarman, whose work they performed.

During September, the Senior Vocal Ensemble will join the school's newest and youngest choir, the Fledgling Singers (an auditioned choir of students from Years 2 and 3) in the choral section of the Royal South Street Competitions at Ballarat.

# Performing ARTS

## School Play - The Tempest

"Learning by Doing" has been most evident in the lead up to this year's school play, a lively and accessible performance of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, featuring students from Years 8 to 12. The play's director, Mr Paul Wentford, has adapted the script for a female cast and Dance teacher Mrs Joy Curtis has choreographed movement for a large chorus of dancers performing as 'spirits'.

The musical score has been composed by senior Music students and Director of Music, Ms Catriona Russell, and will feature students playing a very wide range of instruments, while stage management and costuming has been the responsibility of a dedicated crew of students.

*The Tempest* will be staged in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre, but as a change from recent dramatic performances, the seating will be in an unconventional arrangement, to create an intimate theatre experience.

The cast of *The Tempest* take a break from rehearsals.



Backstage at the PMB Charity Dinner. Left to right: Ashlea Varrasso, Elise Grimsey, Chaille Breuer, Zoe Hitchen.

## VCE Dance Students Perform at Charity Events

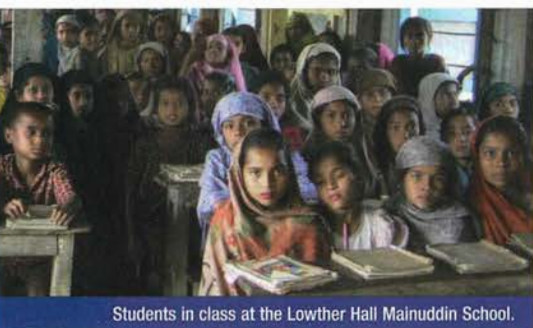
Lowther Hall's VCE Dance students have had the opportunity to turn their course work into memorable public performances. Chaille Breuer, Jessica Dorman, Elise Grimsey, Zoe Hitchen and Ashlea Varrasso were invited to perform dances they had choreographed in class to accompany performer Melissa Jackson at the PMB Dinner, Crown Casino, which raised money for prostate cancer research and at the Essendon Football Club's Annual Fashion Parade at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

The theme of the performances was "all that jazz" from the recent film of the musical *Chicago*. The stunning costumes and sets for their performances were designed by Melissa Jackson and the collaborative performances were greatly received by the large audiences at each function.

# Bangladesh

Old Grammarian Mrs Wendy Lewis, former Deputy Principal (Administration) at Lowther Hall is Honorary Chairperson of the Melbourne Branch of CoOperation in Development Australia Inc. (CO-ID), an aid agency which assists people of southern Bangladesh to establish and run schools and also supplies support services in times of crisis.

In 1995 Lowther Hall sponsored the establishment of the Mainuddin Non-Government Primary School and continues to fund its operations.



Students in class at the Lowther Hall Mainuddin School.

Mrs Lewis visited this school again on a visit to Bhola Island, Bangladesh, in January this year. She reports:-

**The Lowther Hall Mainuddin Non-Government Primary School has a current enrolment of 380 students. The school is divided into five classes and staffed by four teachers.**

**Classes are held in two sessions, the morning session is for the younger students and the afternoon sessions for the more senior students. Class sizes tend to decline after students have completed Year 2.**

**It costs approximately \$5,500 per year to run the school, which equals \$14.51 per student per annum.**

Mr Fred Hyde, the driving force behind the establishment of privately funded schools on Bhola Island, hosted Mrs Lewis' visit. He has recently initiated a buy



Mrs Wendy Lewis.



Fred Hyde buying books back from the children at the Lowther Hall Mainuddin School.

back scheme on behalf on CO-ID which encourages students to maintain their books in good order and generates extra income for local communities.

Wendy Lewis noted that the students at the Mainuddin School, where she helped out in English classes and sat in on other teaching sessions, were very happy and grateful. "The classrooms are crowded, but none of the students or teachers are concerned about the conditions, they feel privileged to be able to participate in this experience," she says.



## STAFF

**Mrs Bernadette Caulfield, Head of Mathematics and Science**, has attended the Introductory and Advanced workshops for the Tournament of the Minds, held at Sacre Coeur College, Glen Iris.

**Mrs Brigid Cooper, Archivist**, attended the Archives and Records Education Stakeholders (ARES) forum at the Public Record Office, Melbourne. She represented School Archives Special Interest Group, Religious Archives Special Interest Group and Association of Catholic Archivists (Victoria).

**Ms Kerrie Dwyer, Year 1**, has attended the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria (AISV) Numeracy Coordinators workshop and workshops in Leadership and Assessment also run by the AISV.

**Ms Deborah Gurney, Mathematics**, attended a Markbook Administration course at Box Hill.

**Ms Tracy Healy, Student Counsellor**, has completed a Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare and a Certificate in Mediation. She is currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Mental Health.

**Ms Noelene Horton, Principal**, currently the National Chair of AHISA, the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia.

- gave the Opening Address at the AHISA Pastoral Care Conference in Brisbane in July 2002
- gave a presentation at the AHISA Chairs of Governing Bodies Conference in Adelaide in August 2002.
- in April 2003 joined with fellow presidents of the Australian peak principals' associations in speaking at the Sydney launch of *Dare*

*to Lead*; taking it on Commonwealth schools project which aims to improve outcomes for indigenous students.

- presented the opening welcome address at the AHISA Senior Staff Conference in Hobart in April this year.

**Mrs Sarah Lloyd, Kindergarten**, completed a course on Sensory Motor Development at the Lady Gowrie Professional Training and Development Centre, Carlton. She also attended a seminar on the related topics at the centre.

**Mrs Nene Macwhirter, Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning)**, attended the Toshiba Mobilexchange Conference. She joined with Mrs Robyn Kronenberg to present a seminar on Lowther Hall's Year 9 unit "Our Place" at the Association of Heads of Independent Schools (AHISA) Conference in Hobart in April and has been appointed to the steering committee of the University of Melbourne Educational Partnerships initiative.

**Mrs Yvonne O'Connell, Head of Visual Arts**, attended Art Education Victoria's Annual Conference at Mentone Girls' Secondary College.

**Ms Carmen Rakic, Business Administrator**, is currently Deputy Convenor of the Association of School Bursars and Administrators (ASBA) Victorian Regional Group. She is also Treasurer of the Lowther Hall Old Grammarians Association.

**Mrs Kerry Walker-Keefe, Kindergarten Assistant**, attended a seminar on Conflict Resolution at the Lady Gowrie Centre for Early Childhood Development.

**Ms Lurinda White, ICT Technician**, and fellow staff members **Ms Jenny Wilson, Ms Pamela Wood, and Mrs Yvonne O'Connell**, completed a five week course in Photoshop conducted at Lowther Hall.

# OLD GRAMMARIANS



**Class of 1983 Twenty Year Reunion** Members of the Class of 1983 during a tour of the school.

## 1920s to 1970s Reunion

This was the first time that Lowther Hall had hosted such a Reunion and it was wonderful to see over one hundred and twenty past students and teachers, representing all eras. Singing the School Hymn and School Song (all verses) and exploring the Mansion were just some highlights of this memorable day.



Members of the Class of 1979. (left to right) Caroline Gepp (nee Nelson), Darlene Hennessy, Sonia Mailer, Kathy Stokes (nee Cavka), Lisa Lozano (nee Brace), Louise Banks, Wendy Gutterson (nee Hoskin).



Husband and wife students from the 1930's, Bert Gilbert, (left) his wife Gwen Gilbert (nee Steele, right) and Marjorie Hamilton (nee Bell 1960's, centre).



Friends from the 1960's Left to right: Pam Stringer (nee Smith), Judy Long (nee Roberts) and Margaret Arien (nee Smith).

## A Gift From The Class of 1958

During 1998, a group of past students, who had been so close during their schooldays that they were known as "The Gang", reunited for the first time in many years. They were Eugenie Bruning (nee Stevens), Dianne Holland (nee Wenzel), Pam Morley (nee Reid), Helen Turner, Jackie Favelle (nee Dalton), Wendy Noble (nee Woodington) and Julie McCall (nee Lodge). They travelled to Melbourne from interstate, country and metropolitan areas for a weekend of reminiscing that included a visit to Lowther Hall. This visit inspired the group to present a commemorative gift to the school.

In April 2003, "The Gang" returned to Lowther Hall with a unique gift, a ceramic sculpture of the seven women and, created

by artist Judy Singleton (daughter of Helen Turner). The piece was inspired by a photograph of the friends taken at Lowther Hall during 1956, their Intermediate Year.

Their school reunions have become regular events and now attract the entire Class

of 1958 (including students who completed Intermediate in 1956 and Leaving in 1957) and some of their teachers.

The sculpture is currently on display in the foyer of the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre.



Judy Singleton's ceramic sculpture, presented to the school by the Class of 1958.



"The Gang" in 1956. Back row: (left to right) Eugenie Stevens, Dianne Wenzel, Pam Reid, Helen Turner. Front row: (left to right) Jackie Dalton, Julie Lodge, Wendy Woodington.



**Class of 1988 Fifteen Year Reunion**

Left to right: Jo-Ann Roolker (nee Clark), Kadu Kapadia, Iola Mauderer (nee Petersen) and former teacher Bronwyn Collier (nee Jones).



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR OLD GRAMMARIANS

- **Saturday 16 August 2003 at the School** Class of 1998 Five Year Reunion  
Class of 1993 Ten Year Reunion
- **Saturday 25 October 2003 Royal Hotel Mornington** Lunch for all interested Old Grammarians. Time: 12 noon, Cost: A la carte  
RSVP 20 October. Irene Alford 59862681, Dianne Symmons 59748115, Pam Godfrey pam-ross01@hotmail.com
- **Term 1 2004 Date to be fixed at the School** Old Grammarians' Music Concert. All past students are invited to join a choir, music ensemble or perform as a soloist. Enquiries Leanne Backwell 9337 5011

# LEARNING BY DOING . . . THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Past Student Bronwyn Clark, now a member of the Victoria Police Force and Year 9 students at the Yannergee Girl Power Day. Back: (left to right) Mary Ngo, Amanda-Jane Noonan, Anna Tesch, Melinda Gaudencio, Chu Lam. Front: (left to right) Erin Stockton, Andrea De Pasquale, Sandra Kien.

## School Gala

Sunday 26 October 2003  
12.00 noon

A family day for the whole school community, featuring food, entertainment and a variety of stalls.

All classes from Kindergarten to Year 12 will be involved in this event, as well as talented musicians, dancers and artists amongst the students and staff.



The staff team, ready for the Staff versus Students Netball game. Back: (left to right) Christine Pollard, Jenny Williams, Kevin Noonan, Christian Crevola, Justin Conkling. Front: (left to right) Vicki Hoban, Paul Wentford, Elisabeth Rhodes.



Year 1 students (left to right) Francesca De Mase, Lucy Weir and Pauline Lai enjoy learning activities with visitors to Grandparents Day.



Junior School students learn responsible pet ownership with Baz the Wonderdog and his handler Leanne. Left to right: Kallie Ryan, Hannah Fallon, Emma Borello, Sheriden Haas-Maganas, Tess Beagley.



Year 6 students do some hands on learning at Questacon during their camp in Canberra. Left to right Isabella Claassen, Anna Hampton, Johanna Wyatt and Lucia Nguyen.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2003

Thursday 7 August to Saturday 9 August

**School Play** - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Saturday 30 August at 7.30pm

**Spring Concert** - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Thursday 16 October to Saturday 18 October

**Art Show** - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Sunday 26 October

**Gala Event** - Essendon Campus

Tuesday 2 December at 8.00 pm

**Service of Carols** - St Paul's Cathedral

Monday 8 December at 8.00 pm

**Exeunt** - Melbourne Town Hall

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