

LOWTHER NEWS



April 2005

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SYMBOLS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



SYMBOLS

Welcome to the first 2005 Lowther News! For this edition we have chosen the theme of Symbols. Symbols permeate our lives to the extent that we often do not notice them. In selecting symbols for our articles and news we have realised just how many are part of Lowther Hall.

One symbol that must not be missed is the new 'image' for the school, first revealed to you in the new look 2004 Annual Report and December Lowther News and subsequently seen in the Student Planner, the 2004 Chronicle, the Senior School Song Book and the annual giving brochure. Special thanks must go to our outstanding Director of Community Relations, Ms Sandy Nelson, for her leadership in this and to her colleague, Mrs Leanne Backwell.

Another symbol is the splendid new crest which adorns the front gates of the school. The gift of the Class of 2004, the crest is now a striking feature of the entrance to the school and we acknowledge and are grateful for the thought and planning which last year's Year 12 students undertook before they made the presentation to me last October.

Symbols on their own are not enough as it is the concepts they represent which have value. Never to be forgotten, however, is that the most important values cannot be symbolised except in practice, in the living of the values. Non Nobis Solum (not for ourselves alone), always doing one's best, trying one's hardest, caring about others and respecting difference and diversity.

Finally for Lowther Hall this is the Year of the Healthy School! While the next edition of the Lowther News will focus on aspects of a healthy school, let us continue to pursue the concept of health throughout the year, health relating to physical fitness, emotional health, healthy relationships, spiritual health and general wellness.

Noelene Horton
Principal

Ms Noelene Horton has informed the School Council and the School community of her intention to leave Lowther Hall at the end of 2005.

Later in the year the School community will be able to celebrate Ms Horton's achievements in her leadership of Lowther Hall over a seventeen and a half year period.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2005

Thursday 4 to Saturday 6 August 8pm
School Play - The Comedy of Errors
Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Saturday 3 September 7.30pm
Spring Concert - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 October
Art Show - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Sunday 16 October
Staff Reunion - Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

Thursday 20 October
Learning Resource Centre Ten Year Celebration

Tuesday 1 December 8pm
Service of Carols - St Paul's Cathedral

Monday 5 December 8pm
Exeunt - Melbourne Town Hall

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

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STUDENTS AT THE GATES
FEATURING THE NEW
CRESTS PRESENTED BY THE
VCE CLASS OF 2004.
BACK (LEFT TO RIGHT) SIMONE
MILLSON, LAUREN CLINNICK,
RACHEL RAISBECK, SANDRINE
SYDAMAH, KANNING HU.
FRONT (LEFT TO RIGHT)
AMANDA BRAMLEY, RACHEL
LIEU, GEORGIA WOODERSON.



MRS LEANNE BACKWELL (LEFT)
AND MS SANDY NELSON.

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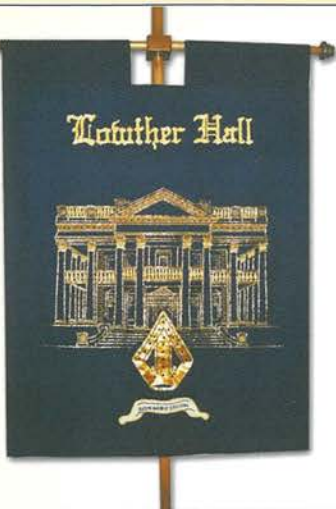
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Lowther Hall Hosts GSV Sports
Captains' Breakfast

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Students and staff fill the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre during Lowther Hall's first Extracurricular Expo.

THE SCHOOL BANNER



A new and distinctive symbol of Lowther Hall is the School Banner. It was commissioned by the School Council to celebrate the restoration of the Mansion, which was completed in 2004.

The creators, Dr Morna Sturrock and Ms Lesley Uren, have designed and embroidered an elegant image of the Mansion building, a unique symbol of the School, using gold thread on a navy blue background.

Dr Sturrock is a founding member of the Victorian Embroiderers Guild. Her main work is in ceremonial embroidery, decorating vestments and banners, as well as restoration work in cathedrals. She was recently awarded an AM for services to embroidery. Ms Uren is one of Australia's leading embroidery artists. She is a former Victorian Embroiderers Guild teacher and has worked on civic murals, church vestments and large three dimensional pieces.

The banner has been carried by the School Captain and Deputy Captain in processions at School services, the Carols Service and Exeunt.

EXEUNT 2004: FORMER SCHOOL CAPTAIN ANASTASIA KANTZELIS AND MS NOELENE HORTON PREPARE FOR THE PROCESSIONAL.



THE MAINUDDIN SCHOOL'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY



Ten years ago in January, the Lowther Hall Mainuddin School opened in Char Fasson on Bhola Island in southern Bangladesh. The school was established in conjunction with aid agency CoOperation in Development Australia Inc. (CO-ID). Mr Fred Hyde, the driving force behind the establishment of schools on Bhola Island, was on site to oversee the project.

Today the school continues to be fully funded by Lowther Hall students and their families. Their fundraising has sponsored construction, staffing, resourcing and maintenance.

When the school opened, four hundred children who would not otherwise have been able to go to school were enrolled.

Since then, hundreds of children have passed through the school and a whole community has grown up nearby, with market stalls and even a part time medical clinic. In recent years Mr Hyde has initiated a buy back scheme on behalf on CO-ID which encourages students to maintain their books in good order and generates extra income for local communities.

Over the last decade members of the Lowther Hall community have visited our Mainuddin school. In 1999 two Year 12 students, Raissa Anin and Imogen Clements, were part of a touring party. Current School Council member Mrs Wendy Lewis has visited on three occasions and is currently Honourary Chairperson of the Melbourne Branch of CO-ID.



MR FRED HYDE

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LOWTHER HALL MAINUDDIN SCHOOL IN JANUARY 1995.



LEADERSHIP 2005

The Assembly of Dedication for 2005 took place on 9 February in the presence of the Most Revd Peter Watson, Archbishop of Melbourne.

During the service School Captain, Danielle Romagnano and Deputy Captain, Louise Creasey, Prefects and Activity Captains pledged to serve the school. All Year 12 students were presented with Year 12 badges and took part in the traditional Procession of Light, lighting candles and forming a circle to symbolise God's presence and their promise and responsibility as leaders.

Prayers were offered to mark ten years since the foundation of the Lowther Hall Mainuddin School in Bangladesh.



LEFT TO RIGHT: LOUISE CREASEY (DEPUTY SCHOOL CAPTAIN), MS NOELENE HORTON, ARCHBISHOP PETER WATSON, THE REV'D TRACY LAUERSEN AND DANIELLE ROMAGNANO (SCHOOL CAPTAIN).



JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADERS

The Junior School Assembly of Dedication took place on February 18. Junior School Captain for 2005 Brittany Cole and Deputy Captain Charlotte Monaghan, along with House Captains and Deputy House Captains, were presented with their badges by the Revd Tracy Lauersen.

The focus of leadership in the Junior School has expanded and all Year 6 students were presented with a Year 6 badge in recognition of the special leadership role they have in their final year of primary education.

To assist all Year 6 students to understand and carry out their leadership role, a Leadership Training Day was conducted at the YMCA Lady Northcote camp Bacchus Marsh on Friday 11 February. The students were accompanied by their teachers Mrs Carly Gray (Tangara Coordinator) and Dr Robert O'Brien. The girls participated in a day of leadership and team building activities. They took part in physical and mental challenges that included orienteering, role play and a ropes course. The various challenges inspired students to display problem solving skills, trust, organisation, communication and teamwork.

All Year 6 students and teachers attended the 2005 National Young Leaders Day at Vodafone Arena on Friday March 4. They joined over four thousand students and their teachers from throughout Victoria to hear from a range of high profile personalities, from all walks of life, who model positive leadership. They were: The Revd Tim Costello, Chief Executive of World Vision Australia; Matt Welsh, swimming champion; Wendy Orr, children's author; Wesley Dening, television presenter.

After each address, speakers were available for a question and answer session, which was extremely popular. Staff and students agree that at the end of the day, they were motivated and inspired and also challenged to take action and make a difference in their schools.



JUNIOR SCHOOL CAPTAIN BRITTANY COLE AND DEPUTY CAPTAIN CHARLOTTE MONAGHAN (FRONT) WITH YEAR 6 TEACHERS DR ROBERT O'BRIEN AND MRS CARLY GRAY.



WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

LOWTHER HALL WARMLY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF FOR 2005.



Sharyn Baddeley joins Lowther Hall as a teacher of Physical Education and Sports Administrator in Senior School. She spent 2004 at Strathmore Secondary College. Sharyn is married to Bruce and they have three children Jessica 13, Brittany 11 and Chandler 7. Family interests include community sport, swimming and triathlon.



Celia Brown is Lowther Hall's new Head of Drama and Dance, as well as teacher of English. She formerly taught at Ivanhoe Grammar School's Mernda campus in the Drama and English faculties. Celia was born and raised in New Zealand. She loves the outdoors, theatre, art and reading and keeping in touch with her two adult children who live overseas.



Jennie Carney joins the Junior School as teacher of Year 5D. She has been a teacher for over twenty years, most recently at Our Lady of Nativity in Aberfeldie. Jennie is married with a daughter Adele 9 and son Henok 6. She loves to cook, especially international dishes, take part in sporting activities, read and when time permits, enjoy crafts.



Rachel Steele

Rachel is a new member of Lowther Hall's English faculty and her role as teacher of Years 7 to 11 is her first since moving to Melbourne from her native Canada. Rachel studied Arts (English and History) in Vancouver Island and has completed a Diploma of Education at the University of Melbourne. Travelling and creative writing are Rachel's passions.



Chihiro Tabata

Chihiro joins Lowther Hall as a teacher of Japanese from Preparatory to Year 8. In 2004 she taught Japanese at Copperfield College, Sydenham. Chihiro completed a Bachelor of Arts at Kyoto University of Foreign Languages in Japan, before travelling to Australia and completing graduate studies at Monash University. Chihiro also puts travel at the top of her list of interests. She also enjoys keeping fit, camping and hiking.

IN REPLACEMENT POSITIONS FOR PART OF 2005 ARE:

Charlotte Burke (Humanities and English)
and **Ria Hanewald** (German)

NEW STAFF APPOINTED DURING 2004 WERE:

David Adams (Physics, Science), **David Graham** (Director of Music), **Helen Hayes** (Laboratory Technician), **Brenda Nowlan** (Mathematics), **Simon Oldham** (Business Manager), **Barbara Ryan** (Education Support).



LOWTHER HALL'S FAITH COORDINATOR THE REVD TRACY LAUERSEN

On Saturday 5 February Tracy Lauersen was ordained a Deacon in the Anglican Church. The ceremony took place at St Paul's Cathedral and was attended by some members of the Lowther Hall staff.

Tracy was appointed Faith Coordinator at Lowther Hall during 2004 and she has quickly established herself in the areas of spiritual leadership, pastoral care and teaching. She is hoping for ordination as a priest in November.



THE REVD TRACY LAUERSEN IN LOWTHER HALL'S CHAPEL OF ST CLAIRE OF ASSISI.

Tracy has lived in Melbourne with her husband Sven and daughters Abbey 10 and Freya 7 in recent years, but has spent most of her life in Sydney. She began her working life in adult education but moved on to study theology at Sydney Missionary and Bible College.

After five years of theological study Tracy joined the Anglican Education Commission. One area of her work was conducting a professional development program for Chaplains in schools. This work consolidated Tracy's dream to train for the ministry and work with young people in the school environment.



EXTRACURRICULAR EXPO

An exciting new event took place at Lowther Hall at the beginning of Term 1.

The inaugural Extracurricular Expo provided an opportunity for students in Years 6 and 7, as well as new students in Year 8 and above, to learn more about the many and varied extracurricular opportunities available in senior school.

Activity captains and volunteers provided displays and information for students interested to join or seeking further information. They prepared DVDs, videos, data shows and creative displays, both actual and visual.

The wide range of sports and sporting teams, musical ensembles, debating, creative pursuits, assisting in the LRC, book club and Christians at our School (CAOS) were all represented.

Many students signed up for activities and others went away knowing more about the exciting opportunities that exist beyond the classroom.

YEAR 8 STUDENTS ALICE NGUYEN (LEFT) AND MEGHAN MCCORMACK LEARNED MORE ABOUT TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS FROM STEPHANIE STOJANOVSKI (TOM CAPTAIN).



LOWTHER HALL HOSTS GSV SPORTS CAPTAINS' BREAKFAST

On Thursday 24 March over one hundred students from twenty-three of Girls Sport Victoria's participating schools gathered in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre for the 2005 Sports Captains' Breakfast.

The focus of the morning was leadership and guest speaker Janne Errington-Smith shared her incredible story and left the girls with a challenge to "set your goals and take the journey".

Janne's personal journey was from career woman to elite wheelchair sportswoman. Less than five years after a neurological disorder left her paralysed and wheelchair bound, Janne had represented Australia in wheelchair basketball at the Tri Nation Series between Australia, Mexico and Japan in 2004.

Janne's single minded determination for achievement at the highest level was a feature of her life before her illness as well as after. Her goal was to make the Australian team and compete at the Athens Paralympics. She was chosen in the squad but narrowly missed selection. Evident in her address was pride at having reached elite level in her sport, but disappointment at coming so close to her goal and a silver medal.

For young women already successful in their school communities (and quite a few successful in the wider sporting community) Janne's story of "almost making it" was a valuable one.

GUEST SPEAKER JANNE ERRINGTON-SMITH WITH LOWTHER HALL'S CAPTAINS OF VARIOUS SPORTS DURING THE GSV SPORTS CAPTAINS' BREAKFAST.



VCE 2004 CAREER DESTINATIONS

Congratulations to the Class of 2004! Lowther Hall's VCE students again achieved excellent results.

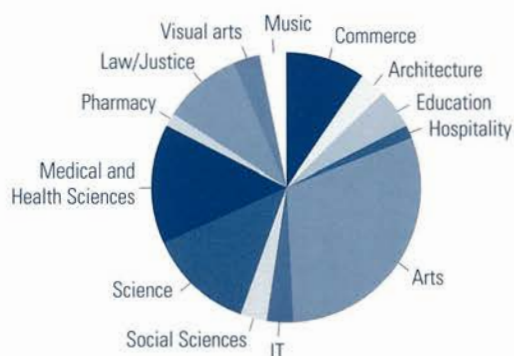
The School's academic ethos and the commitment of its teaching staff have again created results of which we should be proud.

Of particular note:

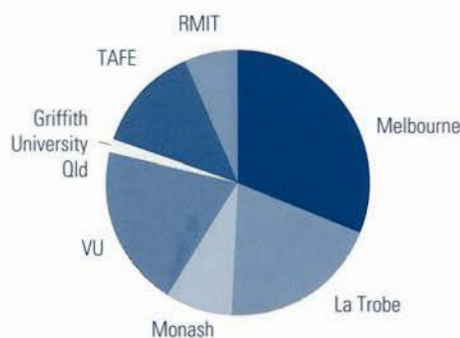
- All girls attempting to complete their VCE this year were successful, representing a 100% pass rate.
- 11 students obtained an ENTER (Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank) of 98 or above, representing 17% of our girls in the top 2% of the state.

- 24 students obtained an ENTER of 90 or above, representing 37.5% of the Class of 2004 in the top 10% of all students in the state and 53% of students obtained an ENTER of 85 or above placing them in the top 15% and 60% of students obtained an ENTER of above 80, placing them in the top 20% of the state.
- Perfect scores of 50/50 were obtained by two students in English.
- 17% of study scores were 40 or above out of a possible 50, placing these students in the top 8% for the particular study.
- 51% of scores were A or A+.

COURSE destinations 2004 VCE students



TERTIARY destinations 2004 VCE students



reflections

PRACHI BHAVE DUX OF 2004 AND LOWTHER CLARKE SCHOLAR

Prachi was Lowther Hall's top VCE student for 2004. She has chosen to study for a Bachelor of Engineering (Biomedical) at the University of Melbourne with the ambition to design new medical equipment.

In Year 12 Prachi studied English, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics Methods and Specialist Maths. She completed Biology Units 3 and 4 in Year 11, achieving one of the State's highest marks.

Prachi believes that regular practice of exam questions and papers helped her to perform so well in her exams. She advises current students to discuss work with their teachers and fellow students and to use their study time at school to the best advantage.

The symbol for this report is the cover of *Reflections 150 Years of The Age*. This book was presented to all members of the VCE Class of 2004 during Valedictory Presentations at Exeunt.



PRACHI BHAVE IS CONGRATULATED ON HER VCE ACHIEVEMENTS BY MS NOELENE HORTON AT EXEUNT 2004.

A TEACHER WHO INSPIRED ME



Mary Colwell (now Armour)

Since a small child I had shown an interest in music and therefore I was enrolled for piano lessons with Miss Colwell when I commenced at Lowther Hall. However, this caused a problem as I had no interest in playing the piano myself, especially when lessons involved practising scales and learning uninteresting pieces for examination purposes. Thus my lessons became totally non-productive. Did I tell my teacher this or maybe she had the perception to understand that there was still a way to foster my love of music? She persuaded my parents to remove me from the exam routine and in lieu, allow her to teach me simplistic piano versions of music written by the classical composers. I loved my lessons after this decision had been made and best of all were the times when I played very little and I persuaded my teacher to show me how the piece should be played. The understanding of my teacher inspired me to really appreciate piano music, together with the desire to pursue the study of musical appreciation even further.

Barbara Kippax
Class of 1955



Olive Hooppell

Mrs O L Hooppell taught me at Lowther Hall in the 1950s. I loved her. She was an imposing figure with steel grey hair, cut abruptly; she always wore her academic gown and drove a small, pasty shaped Citroen. She was stern, yet fair, allowing we Sixth formers to make a cup of tea for us all, first period after lunch. She had an amazing store of knowledge and inspired us to go that step further in English, Literature, French and German. The Classical Atlas came out when we were studying Shakespeare and we laughed when, with five of us to read all the characters, we often ended up "talking to ourselves". She knew our strengths and weaknesses and encouraged us to forge a place in the world. Although she seemed quite old to us even then, she was a "Women's Libber". When we left Lowther, we spent time at her home, reading Shakespeare, still laughing. I have the letter she wrote to me when my daughter was born. We attended her funeral and her photograph is the only one, other than family photos, in my home. Mrs O L Hooppell was a remarkable lady and teacher.

Dianne Williamson, (nee Ficken)

If you wish to contribute to *A Teacher Who Inspired Me*, please send submissions to Mrs Leanne Backwell, Community Relations, Lowther Hall AGS, PO Box 178 Essendon 3040. Email backwelll@lowtherhall.vic.edu.au



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

At the beginning of the year construction began on the new extension to Grant House. Designed by Perrott Lyon Mathieson and contracted to Walton Construction, the new wing will provide staffrooms, offices and workrooms for senior school staff. An existing science laboratory and preparation area are also being refurbished.

Before construction began, personalised pavers purchased and created by members of the school community in 1995, as a fundraising project towards construction of the Learning Resource Centre, were relocated. The hand written and decorated bricks now form part of the pathway between the Mansion and Grant House.

The building project is expected to be completed by August. The School's Annual Giving for 2005 invites parents, past students and friends to "please buy a brick and cement your place in Lowther Hall's history"!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES CONTACT

The Community Relations Department,
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