



Lowther News

ABN 35 006 660 984

ISSUE 64

DECEMBER 2008



Christmas is My Favourite Time of Year...



Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, Principal.



Preparing for the Kinder to Year 2 Christmas Concert are: Isabella Srour 2D and Jenna Hatzigeorgiou 2R (back) Mia Caravetta Prep D, Lily Infantino 1R, Lauren Ong 1D and Macie Daniel Prep R.

DIARY DATES 2009

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 25, 8.00pm

**Lowther Hall Old
Grammarians' Association
AGM** – School

MARCH

Tuesday 31

Golf Day
Northern Golf Club

APRIL/MAY

Thursday 30 April –

Saturday 2 May

School Production:
The Servant of Two Masters
Clocktower Centre

JULY

Saturday 18

**Lowther Hall Foundation
Dinner Dance "The Winter Ball"**
Gardenhurst Reception Centre

Saturday 25, 6.30pm

Evening of Song (at school)

SEPTEMBER

Friday 4, 7.30pm

Spring Concert (at school)

OCTOBER

Friday 9 – Monday 12

Art and Design Exhibition
Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

DECEMBER

Thursday 3, 8.00pm

Carols Service

St Paul's Cathedral

Wednesday 9, 8.00pm

Exeunt – Melbourne Town Hall

For further information about any of these events please contact the Community Relations Department at the School.

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Grammar School**

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This has been an exciting year for staff and students at Lowther Hall. As I read The Chronicle (the annual school magazine) I was struck by the rich and varied experiences girls encounter in a school year no matter whether they are Kindergarten girls or Year 12 students and at the end of year events it is very clear that each step on the journey is important and must be carefully planned and managed.

Watching the performances at various end of year events from the Kindergarten to Year 2 Concert to Exeunt it is also clear that the journey from 4 year old child to 18 year old young woman is one that involves many stages. The change that occurs from Kindergarten to Year 2 is enormous but so is the change from Year 9 to Year 12.

During this year our School Council undertook a strategic planning exercise to guide us through the next 3 years. Council reaffirmed that the school will continue to be a small, girls' school committed to nurturing each girl as an individual – committed to educating the whole person for the whole of life.

It is very clear from the parent feedback we received in the two surveys conducted during the year that parents value our vision and the way we carry it out and that the vast majority believe we are meeting and, in many cases exceeding, their expectations in terms of both academic outcomes and in developing all of the qualities they seek in their daughter as a Lowther girl.

Our staff are central in achieving our aims and this requires us both to nurture the staff we currently have with us and to provide for their ongoing development but also to ensure that we are able to attract the very best of the next generation of teachers.

For this reason we have entered into a partnership with Melbourne University which introduced a new model for teacher training from the beginning of this year. Those wishing to train for the profession now undertake Master of Teaching degrees and are placed in a school for an extended period of time. Lowther Hall was selected as a Leading School in this new model and has hosted several teacher candidates (student teachers) in both the Junior and Senior Schools.

This extends the relationship we have with Melbourne University in a new and mutually beneficial way. We are already in partnership to deliver Extension Courses which enable students to undertake first year university studies as part of their VCE course and there is a report from one such student this year later in this edition of Lowther News.

2008 has been a busy and successful year for the staff and students at Lowther Hall. I wish you all the very best for the Festive Season – a blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Carolyn Grantskalns

**Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns
Principal**

Cover Photograph: Getting ready for their "Christmas is My Favourite Time of Year" Concert are: Kindergarten students Nancy Pitruzzello and Martia Contos.

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Prep D student Brianna Donato adds her contribution to the Jesse Tree.

Madeleine Prosenica, Year 9 enjoys tutoring her Sudanese friends at All Saints Church Footscray.



JUNIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS REFLECT ON THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Preparing for Christmas is a wonderful part of the year at Lowther Hall and it comes around so fast. Classrooms are decorated, cards and gifts are made with love for family members and the Kindergarten to Year 2 girls prepare for their Christmas concert. During this time it is important to remember the significance of the first Christmas. At the end of Term 4, Junior School students spend time reflecting on the birth of Christ during Philosophy and Religious Studies classes.

The Kindergarten girls have made their own storybook retelling the story of the Angels, the Shepherds and the Wise Men. Prep students learn about the Jesse tree and Jesus' family tree, while Year 1 classes retrace the journey to Bethlehem and Egypt.

Year 2 lessons explore the promise of a baby King, Year 3 the star that lit the way and Year 4 the present of a Saviour. The Year 5 students reflect on the meaning of Christmas through carols and Year 6 studies involve retelling the whole Christmas story. These elements draw us together as we celebrate the joyous birth of Jesus Christ in a variety of different traditions and practices.

Mrs Sarah Hobba
Faith Co-ordinator

CONTINUED LINKS WITH SUDANESE COMMUNITY

Our Sudanese Tutoring program, which operates at All Saints Anglican Church in Footscray, has gone from strength to strength in the past twelve months. Every Wednesday afternoon a bus load of girls and I travel to the church to work with children of all ages. It is wonderful to see the girls relating with younger and older children with a vastly different background from their own.

We must never forget that most of these children have faced hardships which most of us cannot even begin to imagine, both in leaving Sudan and in arriving to begin a new life here in Australia.

I have been lucky enough to meet Regina, a Sudanese mother who has five children living here with her. Her husband is still working in the Sudan. About three months ago, Regina's house in Sunshine and all her worldly possessions were destroyed by fire. How uplifting it was to see Lowther Hall girls and families living out our school motto of 'Non Nobis Solum' and donating so generously to Regina's family.

We received everything from food and clothing to dinner sets and linen. Regina was very grateful for all donations. She is yet to be relocated to suitable housing but hopefully that will happen in the next few weeks. My sincere thanks to the numerous families who have made a difference to the lives of Regina and her children.

Mrs Cathy Moloney
Social Justice Co-ordinator

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

Lowther Hall has a range of opportunities for girls to travel overseas to experience a different country and culture. Rachel from Year 11 travelled to Canada to undertake an independent exchange earlier this year.

"During the month of September, I jumped on a plane and travelled half way around the world for a whole new experience of life, a student exchange to Toronto, Canada.

This experience opened my eyes to the world around me. I learned that I have the ability to be independent and to leap outside my comfort zone and embrace new opportunities with new people in a new environment.

I loved being able to tell people that I am Australian and enjoyed exploring with them the similarities and differences between their culture and ours.

The most important thing I learned from this experience was that people around the world have more similarities than we do differences. There are many more things which bind us together than there are things that separate us. I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to see a different part of the world and to see how different people go about their daily lives. It was a great experience."



Swannie Award winner Caitlin O'Neil (right) with Year 9 Finals debaters Beatrice Paull, Carmelene Greco and Laura Wilson.



Michaela Crosbie displays the medal she won in the AGTV German Poetry Speaking Competition.



Melissa Dang Mathematics award winner.

ACHIEVEMENTS

SWANNIE AWARD AND DEBATING FINALS

Congratulations to Year 10 debating team member **Caitlin O'Neil**, who received a Swannie Award as the Best Speaker in the Essendon Region for C Grade. These awards are presented by the Debaters Association of Victoria and are highly prized since they are awarded to the most consistently impressive speaker in the grade.

Caitlin and team members **Elly Lucacevich** and **Lisa McRobert** won the C Grade Division for the Essendon region and were narrowly defeated in the Play-Off Finals. The Lowther Hall D Grade team of Year 9 students **Eleanor Currie**, **Carmelene Greco**, **Beatrice Paull** and **Laura Wilson** also won in the Essendon Region and made it through to the State Finals.

POETRY COMPETITION MEDAL

Michaela Crosbie was awarded third place in the Year 9 Final of the AGTV (Association of German Teachers Victoria) Poetry Speaking Competition. Michaela had to select and learn by heart a poem in German and then recite it at the competition final held at University High School. Congratulations Michaela.

ASIA-WISE COMPETITION

This national competition tests students' knowledge of a range of aspects of life in Asia and their ability to search for information on the world wide web. Congratulations to the following Year 8 students who received a 'Distinction' in this competition: **Vivien Lay**, **Jenny Leung** and **Rigan Tytherleigh**.



Yvonne Chan's work has been shortlisted for the prestigious Top Arts 2009 exhibition.

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION PRIZE

Congratulations to Year 9 student **Melissa Dang** who achieved a Prudence Award in the Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards 2008. Melissa scored the highest number of consecutive correct answers in the school and was presented with her award at a special ceremony at Brunswick Town Hall on November 12. The Prudence Award acknowledges consistent attention to detail and accuracy while working at speed.

Melissa, along with **Ashleigh O'Shea** (Year 7) and **Sheryl Chew** (Year 11) achieved a high distinction award in the competition placing these girls in the top 2% of contestants in the state.

ENDEAVOUR LANGUAGE TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP

Lowther Hall Japanese teacher **Miss Brianna George** has been awarded an Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowship, which will enable her to travel to Japan for three weeks from late December. During her study tour Miss George will be taking part in language classes at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University on the island of Kyushu as well as sharing language and cultural immersion experiences with fellow teachers.



YVONNE CHAN SHORTLISTED FOR TOP ARTS 2009

Year 12 Art student **Yvonne Chan** has been shortlisted to have her VCE works placed in the prestigious Top Arts 2009 exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. Top Arts showcases the best in VCE Art.

Yvonne is a prolific painter who has explored many concepts of landscape in her VCE folio. She has explored change in urban and natural landscapes and how humans have responded to such changes, including natural disasters (as in her Chinese Earthquake triptych).

Lowther Hall is proud of Yvonne's achievement and wishes her well for the next stage of the selection process.

Mrs Yvonne O'Connell
Head of Art





The Senior Soccer and Volleyball teams. GSV Zone Winners and overall finalists.



EQUESTRIAN TEAM RIDES HIGH

Lowther Hall's riders have continued to represent the school with distinction in Interschool Equestrian Competitions. At the Sacred Heart College Interschool Equestrian event held at Kyneton, all riders achieved top 5 placings in Dressage and Showjumping including a 1st to **Edwina Backwell** in Dressage and 3rd to **Emily O'Connell** in Combined Training.

At the Assumption College Interschool Equestrian Championships at the Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre **Edwina Backwell** (Year 8), **Brittany Cole** (Year 9), **Tamara Cole** (Year 6) and **Emily O'Connell** (Year 8) again achieved a number of individual top 5 placings and took out 5th overall in the highly contested Dressage Teams Challenge.

GSV TRACK AND FIELD FINALISTS

Well done to the Lowther Hall students who placed within the top ten of all 24 GSV schools to qualify for the GSV Track and Field Finals Night at Olympic Park.

Year 8: **Emily Lauk** High Jump and **Olivia Muscat** Shot Put

Year 9: **Michaela Crosbie** Triple Jump, **Morgan Foster** Shot Put and **Emily Gregg** 1500m

Year 10: **Elise Baniowski** 100m, Long Jump, 200m, Triple Jump

Year 11: **Stephanie Jinks** 100m, 200m, 400m

Stephanie achieved outstanding results placing 1st in the 100m and 400m and 2nd in the 200m at the Finals Night. She went on to compete in the Under 18 100m and 200m at the Victorian All Schools Championships, coming away with a Bronze medal in the 100m.



Stephanie Jinks

BASKETBALL, SOCCER AND VOLLEYBALL FINALS

Lowther Hall's Intermediate A Basketball team, Senior A Soccer team and Senior A Volleyball team all achieved firsts by becoming GSV Zone winners and placing 2nd, 4th and 3rd respectively in the GSV finals.

NIKE CHALLENGE AND THE 100K CLUB

One hundred Lowther Hall secondary students took part in the Nike+Schools Challenge, running and walking kilometres for fitness and a chance for the school to win great prizes. Our team managed a total of 4,622.77km, placing Lowther Hall 34th out of 150 schools across Australia and New Zealand. Congratulations to Year 10 student **Caitlin McConnell** who was Lowther's highest achiever, running 260 kilometres and receiving an iPod Nano for her efforts.

The 100k club is another great way for senior students and staff to increase and maintain fitness together. Each Thursday lunchtime, a group sets off from the school to Clarinda Park and back. The kilometres each individual runs or walks are recorded on a chart and awards are presented in assembly to those who achieve 50 or 100 kilometre targets.

Equestrian Team members Edwina Backwell, Tamara Cole, Emily O'Connell and Brittany Cole with sashes won in the Team's Dressage Challenge.





Year 8 students Caitlin Kean and Victoria Athanasiou engaged in the "Guess the Teacher as Santa" competition in the LRC.



Community Choir members spend time with residents of Corandirk after their performance.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

In the LRC our goal is to help students become information smart. We want them to know how to find, evaluate and use information in all its forms.

We are ensuring that Lowther Hall's collection is up to date, evaluating the provision of online resources and focusing on developing library spaces which support collaborative projects and shared instruction.

Reading is a skill for life. The LRC focus is on encouraging a love of reading by providing a range of literary experiences for students and access to a literature rich environment. New spaces will be developed where students can enjoy reading.

The weekly column in the school newsletter, *The Bulletin*, highlights initiatives and programs being developed. This is an exciting phase for the expansion of the services the LRC provides to the school community. Watch this space!

Mrs Glenys Lowden
Head of LRC

COMMUNITY CHOIR VISITS CORANDIRK HOSTEL

Recently the Lowther Hall Junior School Community Choir visited the Corandirk Aged Care Facility in Moonee Ponds. The choir consists of girls from Years 3, 4 and 5 who meet every Thursday after school in Term 3 to learn songs in order to prepare for performances.

When we arrived the residents were really excited to see us and the looks on their faces made us feel happy. One of the residents enjoyed our singing so much that he decided to help Ms Dwyer conduct!

After we had finished singing we had our photos taken with the elderly people: they enjoyed this so much that they asked for more.

We came away from Corandirk with mixed feelings. We were excited and happy to know that we had brought so much pleasure to the people we had entertained but sad because we had to leave. Now we can't wait to pay them a return visit next year.

Paris Mitrevski
Year 4R

Hayley Houston
Year 5R

KINDERGARTEN INCURSION WITH BRANDY THE COW

On Friday 15th August we had Brandy the cow come to Kindergarten.

We learned that milk comes from animals such as cows, goats and sheep and that foods go through a process of change to become a product.

We were all able to have a turn at milking Brandy. Some girls were a little tentative at first, but then we all gained confidence and enjoyed ourselves.

It was then time to make butter 3 different ways:

Butter Churn (we had to wind the handle round and round fast to make the butter)

Shaking (in a container with marbles we shook the cream until it became butter)

Beating (with egg beaters we whisked the cream to make butter)

After this we were exhausted. It takes a lot of hard work to make butter!

We then all got to try the butter we made on a dry biscuit. It was delicious. We still had lots of butter left over so we took some home to share with our families.

Report by Kindergarten Girls



Kindergarten student Amalia Birch learns the "hands on" way during Brandy the cow's visit.



Olympian Raelene Boyle with major award winners at the Sports Awards Night.



SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT

The Lowther Hall Sports Awards Night, held in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre on October 17, was a special evening for all Senior School students who played sport during 2008 and their families who supported them.

Joined by the coaches of Lowther Hall's various sporting activities, the Captains celebrated their respective sports and acknowledged team members with particular skill, motivation and enthusiasm toward sport at Lowther Hall.

This year, guest speaker Raelene Boyle gave the school community an insight into her career as a professional athlete and Olympian and the importance of sport in her youth, as well as the work she now undertakes with Breast Cancer and Ovarian Cancer support networks.

Major award winners were:

Outstanding Leadership Award
Hannah Fitzpatrick, Megan Sekeres

Outstanding Achievement Award
Alice Backwell, Stephanie Jinks

Rising Star of the Year
Emily Lauk

Sportswoman of the Year
Kristin McCann

Alice Backwell
Sport Captain 2009

CURRICULUM CORPORATION CONFERENCE

21ST CENTURY LEARNING

On 10 and 11 November a number of senior staff members attended a two-day Conference run by the Australian Curriculum Corporation. The conference focussed on the latest thinking about student learning and what is appropriate for this century. Every speaker stressed the ways in which the global connectivity of information technology should be changing the way students engage with new learning and with each other. The reconceptualisation and redefinition of education and the learner in the 21st century, and retaining and attracting quality teachers were addressed by a range of Australian and international speakers.

Speakers presented the latest research into and ideas on innovative learning environments that cater to the needs of the whole learner within the learning environment created by the educator. They reinforced that quality teachers are knowledgeable about their disciplinary fields and are creative in their pedagogical practices, understand the learning contexts of their students, harbour high expectations for them and demonstrate initiative in their own professional development.

It was a wonderful opportunity to think about education both at a school and individual student level.

Miss Eleni Goulas
Deputy Head of Junior School

FRENCH GARDEN OFFICIALLY OPENED

The opening of Lowther Hall's French Garden (adjacent to the Japanese Garden) saw the collaborative efforts of current Year 11 French students and former Head of Languages Mr Christian Crevola come to fruition over a twelve month period.

The garden, inspired by artist Claude Monet's garden at Giverny, was officially opened in Term 3 at an event attended by Moonee Valley Mayor, Councillor Paul Guiliano.

Students who worked on the project from the very beginning took part in the opening ceremony addressing guests in French and English to outline the project and even singing a French duet.

The construction of the garden, which features water saving plants, was made possible by a grant from the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria (AISV).



French teacher, Ms Barbara Welsby (left), and the Head of LOTE, Mrs LuLu Vitali, with Year 11 students who helped create the French garden, Gabrielle Paino, Casey Atkins and Alice Forbes at the Opening Ceremony.



Foundation Chairman Mr Lorne Cole (left) joins Moonee Valley Mayor Councillor Paul Giuliano and School Council Chairman Mr Peter Malcolm at the opening of the French Garden.



Mrs Chrysanthe Cartsidimas with daughters Nastasia (Year 3) and Mariah (Year 8).

LOWTHER HALL FOUNDATION

It has been an exciting year for the Lowther Hall Foundation, with membership growing at an impressive rate! After the welcome drinks held in February, to which we had a fantastic response, we followed up with a mail out to provide an opportunity for families to join without waiting to be contacted by one of the volunteer committee.

New members were welcomed at a special 'Celebration' function in the Mansion, where everyone received Foundation name badges. A cocktail party was held before the Spring Concert which proved a lovely way for people to get to know each other prior to enjoying yet another amazing display of our girls' musical skills and talents.

Work has been completed on the first stage of the Cultural Centre refurbishment, and we are already targeting opportunities for the next project.

The committee has worked tirelessly, and with the growing support of the members has reinforced my belief that the Foundation will help make Lowther Hall a school that we will all be proud of for the 'whole of life'. My sincere thanks to our members and committee, who have all given from the selfless desire to make our school a better place.

Lorne Cole
Chairman

ALL ABOARD OUR NEW BUS

Students and staff travelling to and from the school for various activities are enjoying the comfort of a new Ford Transit eleven seater vehicle. Funds raised at the 2007 and 2008 Parent Golf Day and other school community activities contributed to the purchase of the brightly painted bus.

So far the new bus has been enjoyed by groups attending sporting training, community activities such as the Brotherhood of St Laurence Breakfast Program and Sudanese tutoring, senior school excursions and Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme expeditions.

Thank you to the parent committees which have organised our Golf Days. Their efforts helped to make this addition to our resources possible.



The new bus purchased partly through parent fundraising.

TELSTRA KIDS FUND GRANT

Thanks to the efforts of Lowther Hall parent Mrs Chrys Cartsidimas, Telstra has granted the school \$1200 towards the establishment of a sustainable garden.

As an employee of Telstra, Chrys learned that there were funds available through the Telstra Foundation and applied for a grant on behalf of the school.

"As a parent of students in Junior and Senior School, I am aware that the school is looking to strike a balance between creating pleasant spaces on campus with water saving ideas and I thought the grant, if successful, could help to achieve this goal," Chrys says.

Lowther Hall is happy to have members of the school community apply for grants for worthwhile projects in conjunction with the school, or on its behalf.

Please call the school on 9325 5000 to consult with the Principal, Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, if your company offers such opportunities.

YEAR 8 WILLARRA PROGRAM AGED CARE VISITS

As part of Willarra 2008, where Year 8 students reach out to the community, we visited aged care facilities in three groups. My group visited the Emily Lenny Aged Care Facility in Coburg where the great grandmother of our classmate Stephanie lives. At the start of the day we worked in groups making presents, which we later shared with the residents.

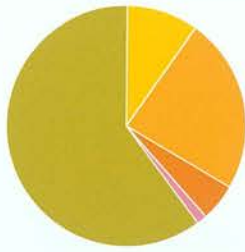
The visit helped us to experience living and working in an aged care facility and should help us next year with community service as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme. Thank you to Mrs Riquelme and the student organising committee for making the day possible.

Alice Clark
Year 8S

The Year 8 students presented residents of the Emily Lenny Aged Care Facility with gifts.

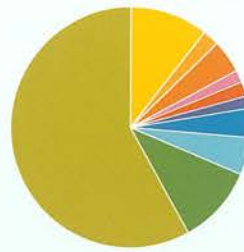


LOWTHER HALL – INCOME



■ Fees – 60.6%	■ State Grants – 5.0%
■ Composite Fees – 9.5%	■ Other Income – 1.3%
■ C'wealth Grants – 23.7%	

LOWTHER HALL – EXPENDITURE



■ Salaries – 58.2%	■ Audit, Insurance and Legal – 1.9%
■ Other Staff Costs – 10.4%	■ Administration Costs – 1.7%
■ Community Relations – 2.2%	■ I.T. and Comms – 3.7%
■ Depreciation and Leases – 4.6%	■ Property Maintenance – 5.1%
■ Banking and Interest – 1.6%	■ Tuition Expenditure – 10.4%

FINANCE AND MAJOR PROJECTS

Lowther Hall has continued to deliver a financial result that has met the budget targets set by the School Council.

The School has continued to invest in information technology to ensure that the laptop program and other hardware is supported by appropriate infrastructure. The most recent work has improved server capacity and ensured that reliable wireless connectivity is available throughout the campus. For 2009 a new, dedicated, fibre optic internet connection which will improve the reliability and speed of our internet connection will be installed.

In the last Annual Report I advised that the School contracted Craig Brown of McIldowie Partners to undertake a review of the School's physical spaces and complete an architectural Master Plan to address property issues for the short and medium term.

The first project identified as requiring urgent attention was the relocation of the Food Technology facility which was over 30 years old from the upper level in the Mansion. You would be aware that this facility has been located in the Senior School building and the project has now been completed. It includes a state of the art Hospitality Training Facility for up to 30 students, general classroom, pantry and office. As part of this project the adjacent Forum area was refurbished to include a multi purpose area and small amphitheatre with the latest audio visual equipment.

Other projects in 2008 included:

- the relocation of the ceramics classrooms and kiln to the Visual Art classrooms on the top floor of Grant House;
- refurbishment of the art classroom facilities, including relocation and upgrading of the design studio;
- relocation and improvements to the First Aid facility to a more central location in the School so that it improves the effectiveness of service to both Senior and Junior School students;
- a minor redesign of Senior School administration;
- the installation of air conditioning to the Drama and Dance rooms in the Cultural Centre.

I would like to welcome **Janet Mastropasqua, Deb Darvell, Elizabeth Cuffley** and **Katrina Dunn** to the Administration team at the school as well as **Mike Dias** as IT Network Administrator and thank all the Administration and Finance staff for their contribution to our school during the year.

Simon Oldham
Business Manager

STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY WHILE STUDYING AT SCHOOL

Lowther Hall has a partnership with Melbourne University which enables students to undertake first year university subjects as part of their VCE studies. Below is a report from one student who took this path in 2008.

"Due to my interest in history I took a University History subject as part of my course this year. As daunting as the notion of taking on this challenge in Year 12 was (as if Year 12 wasn't challenging enough!), I soon adjusted to the relaxed uni atmosphere. Going to lectures and tutes in between my Year 12 classes was quite an experience, these proving very different from the intimate lessons I was used to. Being one of hundreds in a class was quite a change. I conversed with and competed against people one or two years older than me, reinforcing the value of initiative, independent learning and the need for an open-minded approach in such a foreign place.

I met new people, spending time with a few familiar faces along the way as I bumped into girls from the class of 2007 on campus. It was certainly an experience I will never forget and while proving challenging and demanding at times, I feel even more competent now to move into a university setting as I say goodbye to Lowther Hall".

Lucy Bellomario
Year 12 Perry





Catching up at the Golden Mitre Reunion Elaine Klemke (Cook), Jackie Dalzell, Irene Alford (Dagnall), Betty Lancaster (Cook) and Beverly Bottomley (Harris).



Friends from the Class of 1973 catch up at the 30 to 50 Year reunion. Linda Whitehall (Forsyth), Kerrie Dwyer, Lorraine Baker, Rosemary Davies (Ireson), Jenny Malburg (Helmond).

GOLDEN MITRE REUNION

The Golden Mitre is a special reunion, celebrating past students who left the school fifty years ago or longer. This year's reunion took place in the delightful surroundings of the new Forum area. As always, it was well attended and a happy, informal occasion, hosted by the Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association.

LHOGA President Donna Doughty welcomed our new members, the Class of 1958, other past students attending for the first time and those who have made this reunion an annual event.

The afternoon opened with a dramatisation, in costume, by Old Grammarian Wilma Farrow. Wilma brought the character of intrepid women's voting rights campaigner Vida Goldstein to life for the audience. New members then had the opportunity to share reminiscences of their school days at Lowther. These were video taped and are now available on DVD from the School.

Informal chats continued over afternoon tea. The raffle for the beautiful cake, baked by Val Fautley and decorated by Lowther Hall parent Mrs Janette Demaria, was won by Thea Cooper, a Golden Mitre regular who had travelled from Wangaratta for the occasion.

Mary Armour
LHOGA Committee

Thank you to Mary Armour for her work in organising this event. Ed.

REUNION DATES 2009

- Sat. March 28:** **Macedon Ranges Reunion**
Telegraph Hotel Gisborne 12 noon
- Sat. April 4:** **Mornington Reunion**
Royal Hotel Mornington 12 noon
- Sat. May 9:** **Class of 1994 Fifteen Year Reunion**
School 4.00pm – 6.00pm
- Sat. May 16:** **Class of 1984 Twenty-Five Year Reunion**
School 4.00pm – 6.00pm
- Sat. May 30:** **Class of 1989 Twenty Year Reunion**
School 4.00pm – 6.00pm
- Sat. July 25:** **Thirty to Fifty Year Reunion**
School 4.00pm – 6.00pm
- Fri. September 4:** **Class of 2004 Five Year Reunion**
School 5.00pm – 7.00pm
- Sat. September 19:** **Macedon Ranges Reunion**
Telegraph Hotel Gisborne 12 noon
- Sat. October 3:** **Golden Mitre Club Reunion**
School – 1.30pm
- Fri. October 9:** **Class of 1999 Ten Year Reunion**
School 5.00pm – 7.00pm
- Sat. October 10:** **Mornington Reunion**
Royal Hotel Mornington 12 noon

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of members of the Lowther Hall Community. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

Helen Butcher (nee Violaris): A boarder at Lowther Hall in the 1940s, Helen began singing in the school choir at age nine and in her adult life became a successful jazz singer and recording artist. In the 1960s she established one of Melbourne's most successful modelling agencies, "Helen's Associated Models", which she sold prior to semi retirement in 1979.

Lorna Jean Gatens: Parent of Anna Louise Allen (Class of 1974), Jean was a dynamic member of the school community during the thirteen years that her daughter attended. She served as both Secretary and President of the Mothers' Social Group and was an active member of the Parents' Association. From 1974 to 1987 Jean was a teacher of Commercial Studies at Lowther Hall, establishing the Secretarial Diploma course. She is fondly remembered by many former and current parents, students and teachers.

Jennifer Kirby: Head Prefect 1967, passed away February 2008. Jennifer was a theatre producer, who also established the popular Melbourne shop Teddy and Friends.

Enid Patricia Kidson (nee Reed): Class of 1935, passed away aged 86. Pat resided in Castlemaine and had been married to her devoted husband Bernie Kidson for 52 years.

Dinah Loughlin: Passed away recently at age 89 in England, where she resided. Dinah was Lowther Hall's Head Prefect in 1937, her final year of school, and during her regular visits to Australia, always caught up with old school friends in the Essendon area.

Wendy Williams: Passed away recently, aged 72. Wendy was a student at Lowther Hall from 1940 to 1948. She enjoyed a long career as a Primary School teacher.



Natalie Sentry at Essendon Rowing Club with the boat named in her honour. Photo courtesy of Leader Newspapers.



Anne Saunders (Ferguson) and friends Judy Floyd, Dianne Emslie (Colwell), and Jocelyn Hannemann (Maclaurin) at the Golden Mitre Reunion.

NATALIE SENTRY CLASS OF 1994

Natalie Sentry began her association with the Essendon Rowing Club in 1989 as a Lowther Hall Year 7 rower. Over the past nine years she has rowed and coxed in a long list of Essendon victories including State Championships, Head of the Yarra races and Australian Masters titles.

Natalie has made a great contribution to club rowing off the water as well as on and her efforts in fundraising, committee work and organising social events have also been recognised. In 2006 Natalie was named Best Club Person by both the Essendon Rowing Club and Rowing Victoria.

The Essendon Rowing Club recently bestowed a rare honour by naming its new state of the art Quad Scull the *Natalie Sentry*. At the boat naming ceremony held at the Essendon Rowing Club's Open Day in October, Club President Paul Parker and Captain Mark Dwyer acknowledged invaluable work Natalie had performed behind the scenes whilst achieving great success as a competitor.

ANNE SAUNDERS

(NEE FERGUSON: CLASS OF 1958)

2008 marks fifty years since Anne completed Matriculation at Lowther Hall and twenty five years as a teacher of Economics, Accounting and Humanities at the school. Anne studied Commerce at the University of Melbourne and became one of Victoria's first female chartered accountants before studying Education and returning to Lowther Hall to teach. Anne has been on the board of VISSF (Victorian Independent Schools Superannuation Fund) for over 20 years, assuming the role of Chair in 1990.

LUCY DANG (CLASS OF 2007)

Lucy Dang (Class of 2007) was recently awarded a Vice Chancellor's Scholarship from Monash University, where she has been studying Medicine for the past year. The scholarships are highly sought after since they involve leadership training not available to the general student cohort. As a scholarship recipient, Lucy will take part in a residential camp and attend a number of workshops and information sessions. The scholarships target students identified as likely future leaders in their fields. Lucy has continued her love of debating at University and was part of the winning team in the Monash Debating Competition. She also is a part time presenter for Melbourne Chinese Radio.



ROSSLYN PICKHAVER – CLASS OF 1969

Rossllyn's dedicated work for the cause of disabled motorists has seen her selected as a finalist in the Mateship category of the Pride of Australia awards.

As President of the Disabled Motorists Association, Rossllyn helps people with physical disabilities maintain their independence. "Our vision is to assist people with disability gain independence through motoring. Getting on the road is usually a key factor in getting on with one's life," she says with conviction.

Rossllyn, who suffered polio as a child and walked with the assistance of callipers and sticks during her years at Lowther Hall, has been a long time supporter of polio victims, their families and carers. She is the President of the Northern Region Post Polio Support Group.

Rossllyn recently returned to Lowther Hall for the 30 to 50 year Reunion. She was delighted to catch up with old friends and explore new developments to the campus.





MAGICAL DANCE NIGHT

On Saturday 5 October many school families enjoyed a wonderful night of dance and friendship in the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre. The girls loved the decorations and music, while parents enjoyed the chance to chat and get to know each other better. Special thanks to Mrs Julie Tatti, Mrs Amelia Elphinstone, Mrs Belinda Sweeney and Mrs Effi Liden and the School's property staff, for an evening to remember.

Year 2 students wrote their impressions:

There were lots of children dancing. There was a disco ball that was pretty, sparkly and shiny.

Laura

People were laughing and having a good time with their friends. I heard people singing along with the music.

Kathryn

They played really good music by singers like Miley Cyrus and ABBA.

Eloise

People at the dance felt happy and were having a lot of fun.

Corrina

At the end of the night children were very tired from dancing a lot.

Eleanor

It was indeed a magical dance night!



Prep R students Madison Borg, Zoe Harding, Brigitte Basile and Ella Caldwell have fun on the dance floor.

LAUNCH OF THE WALKING SCHOOL BUS

The Walking School Bus has arrived at Lowther Hall and is stopping all stations: Clarinda Park, Mantell St, and Windy Hill for you to arrive 'fit and safe' to school by 8:30 am.

The concept was introduced by Year 5 parent Mrs Elsa Paulin, who wanted to share the benefits of what she was doing – parking further away from school and walking. A group of parents agreed that with commitment, they could make the idea work.

The launch of Lowther Hall's Walking School Bus was an exciting event. After the arrival of the bus, applauded by the whole Junior School, Moonee Valley Mayor, Councillor Paul Giuliano gave a short talk and presented the school with the Walking School Bus sign now proudly displayed at the Junior School gate. All registered passengers were then presented with show bags by Essendon Footballer, Tom Bellchambers. Our local member of parliament, Mrs Judy Maddigan, who was also in attendance congratulated the school on this initiative and wished it every success.

We already have three active routes, thirty-four registered passengers and sixteen parent volunteers. Each volunteer undergoes training provided by the Moonee Valley City Council and we are always looking for new interest because more volunteers means more buses.

Mrs Louise Cindric Lowther Hall Walking School Bus Co-ordinator

Thank you to Mrs Cindric for all her work as Walking School Bus Co-ordinator. The Bus would not be possible without her efforts. Ed.