

# LOWTHER NEWS



ISSUE No 65  
MAY 2009

CELEBRATING  
EXCELLENCE

IT'S TIME TO  
SHINE IN 2009

2008 VCE RESULTS



09

## diary dates

## JULY

**Saturday 25 July 6.30pm**  
Evening of Song  
Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

## SEPTEMBER

**Friday 4 September 7.30pm**  
Spring Concert  
Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

## OCTOBER

**Friday 9 – Monday 12 October**  
Art and Design Exhibition  
Joan M Garde Cultural Centre

## DECEMBER

**Thursday 3 December 8.00pm**  
Carols Service  
St Paul's Cathedral

**Wednesday 9 December 8.00pm**  
Exeunt  
Melbourne Town Hall

Cover image: At the Year 7 transition camp – Flynn Tytherleigh, Kimberly Tran and Hanna Bol learn to work together in a canoeing activity. See story Page 3.

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

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## PRINCIPAL THOUGHTS

At our whole school assembly to start this term the girls and staff saw the plans for the building which is the next stage of our master plan – the Science and Technology Building which replaces the Monkey House.

This new facility is to be constructed over 3 levels with flexible purpose built Science laboratories and associated facilities at ground and first floor levels, a roof garden and a basement which will include music tuition rooms, a multi-purpose space which can be utilised for PE, PMP, Dance and Drama especially for Junior School and associated storage facilities. The building also includes other student amenities such as new locker areas and bathrooms.

Our architects, Mr Terry Mason, Mr Craig Brown and Ms Jin Chong from McIldowie and Brown, have met regularly with Science staff and school management to ensure that the design encapsulates our philosophical commitment to leading edge educational practice supported by leading edge facilities to enable every girl to achieve her best.

The building is centred on the Mansion and is designed to take into account our Sherbourne Street neighbours and our desire for environmental sustainability. Both water and solar power management systems have been included and the building's bulk is broken into several sections to make it sympathetic with the streetscape it addresses.

The surrounding areas will be landscaped to improve the outdoor spaces the girls can access both for learning and recreation and the roof garden and glazed treatment to screen east facing windows will also provide opportunities both for environmental and botanical science studies and for relaxation.

Construction of this wonderful new facility will commence in the middle of this year and our expectation is that the building will be ready for use towards the end of next year – a wonderful addition to our facilities to celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> year on this campus.

*Carolyn Grantskalns*

**Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns**  
Principal



An artist's impression of the Science and Technology building.

# AN ENJOYABLE YEAR 7 TRANSITION

The Year 7 transition is an exciting journey. At orientation day we had the chance to meet our Home Groups for 2009. We have participated in many activities including "The Amazing Race", where we thought about what it means to be a Lowther girl, explored our city and worked in teams to win the challenge.

Camp at Anglesea was action packed. We competed for our House in the Beach Carnival, explored the bush on walks and took part in many activities, which helped us to get to know our teachers and all the Year 7 students.

**Tamara Cole and Hannah Steel 7P**

## MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY KWONG LEE DOW SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to Year 11 students **Caitlin O'Neil** and **Sarah Wilde** who were awarded the prestigious Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship for 2009 from the University of Melbourne. The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program is an academic enrichment program designed to support high-achieving Victorian secondary school students. Scholarship recipients are provided with numerous opportunities to interact with the University and each other, with substantial benefits for students who subsequently enrol at the University of Melbourne.



Kwong Lee Dow Scholars Caitlin O'Neil and Sarah Wilde with Careers Coordinator Mrs Nadija Anin.



## VICTORIAN STATE DEBATING SQUAD

Year 10 student **Beatrice Paul** has been selected as one of 6 students in the Victorian State Debating Team. She is currently attending squad training sessions with Victoria's most senior adjudicators and a group of world class debaters, each weekend. Beatrice was chosen from amongst 154 participants and is the only Year 10 student to make the team. She will represent Victoria at the National Debating Championships in Adelaide, during July.

Beatrice's passion for debating was sparked by her Year 6 experience of working with senior Lowther Hall students to learn about and practice the skills of debating.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FORUM

Congratulations to **Caitlin O'Neil** on being selected as one of two girls from around Australia to attend the National Coalition of Girls' Schools Student Forum in Maryland USA during June.

The selection process for this major event was conducted by the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia. The selection panel was impressed with Caitlin's responses to questions about leadership and the role of women in society and by her broad range of co-curricular interests. She will be an outstanding representative of our nation and our school.

The Conference will be held at the Holton Arms School in Bethesda and Caitlin is looking forward to meeting the school family who will be her hosts for the duration of the Conference, with the theme for 2009 being *Curiosity and Creativity: Girls' Schools at their Best*.

# NEW MORNING PROGRAM

## IN SENIOR SCHOOL

In 2009 changes have been made to the daily program in order to focus more specifically at each year level on academic and pastoral needs. Year 7 students participate in 'Circle Time' for five mornings each fortnight. This formalised restorative process fosters the development of stronger relationships between girls and their pastoral staff, as well as providing a forum for the face to face resolution of issues and difficulties that may arise.

At Years 8 and 9 there has been an increased opportunity for the delivery of a study skills program, led by the Director of the Centre for Differentiation, giving girls targeted exposure to the skills they require in their academic success.

Ms Elisabeth Rhodes – Deputy Principal



Director of the Centre for Differentiation, Mrs Nina De Garis, with Year 8 students Ashleigh O'Shea and Jessica Weber during a Year 8 study skills session.

## COCURRICULAR EXPO 2009

Swimming Captains Roxanne Greaney and Tamara Fuller and Diving Captain Caitlin McConnell ready for visitors at the Cocurricular Expo.



On February 6 the Captains of all the activities at Lowther held an Expo in the Cultural Centre. This gave everyone from Year 6 to VCE an opportunity to find out about all the events that occur in the school.

I am a new student and have just started Year 7. I had fun trying to decide what activities suited me. The team that I found most interesting was TOM (Tournament Of Minds).

Sweta Sriram 7S

## JUNIOR SCHOOL PARENT FORUM

*Last term I attended the Kindergarten Parent Forum hosted by guest speaker Vivienne Gyopar from "Where4kids" Education Consulting. Vivienne is an educator and author with many years of experience working with children aged four to twelve years and their parents. She was able to draw from her professional qualifications and from her own experiences as a mother, in providing us with much needed information and practical skills to help us prepare our children for school.*

Mrs Jody Wilms – Parent of Scarlett (Kindergarten) and Lulu (Prep D)



Mrs Jody Wilms with daughters Lulu and Scarlett.

# new

## SCHOOL YEAR

*It has been a dynamic start to 2009 at Lowther Hall. Students from throughout the school have written about their impressions of the first weeks.*

### The Kindergarten girls are exploring the play based curriculum

I like building things with the boxes and sticking with the sticky tape.

**Hannah Williams**

I like going to PMP and hopping. **Chiara Lucci**

I love doing cooking for my mummy in home corner. **Miranda Holcombe**

I like playing outside and sliding down the pole. **Thalia Russo**

### Prep students have been busy at work and play:

At school I like doing lots of writing and I love playing games on the Interactive White Board. I can't wait to be student of the week. **Jacinta Greco**

I love going to the Art room to do art and craft because it's fun. **Anastasia Raftis**

School is good because I love learning how to read and count things.

**Ruby Caruana**

The best thing about school is playing in the fairy garden with my friends at recess and lunch time. **Abbey Lakkotripis**

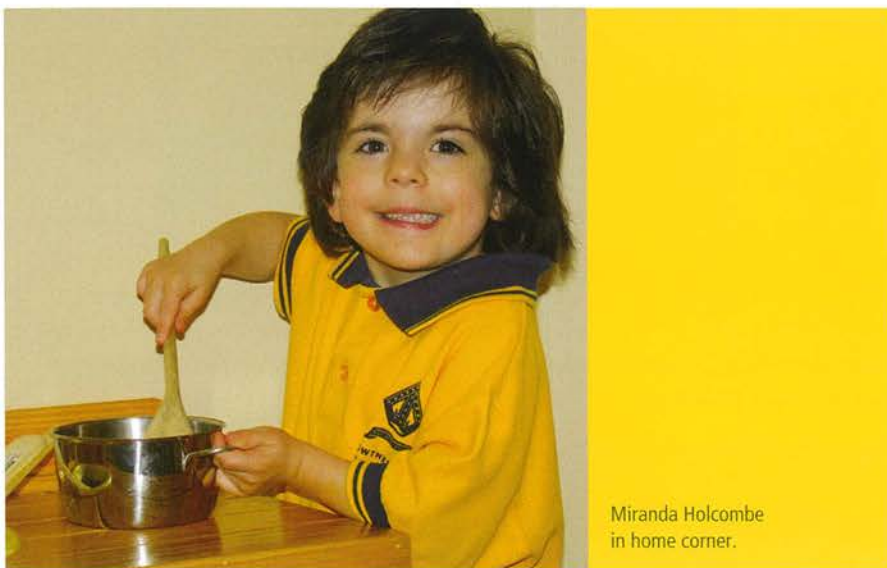


Georgia Ferguson.

### Year 11 student Georgia Ferguson is enjoying her new school and the challenges of VCE

This year I moved into Year 11 at Lowther Hall and I am grateful that everyone has made the transition so easy. One of the first things I noticed is how friendly all the teachers and students are. Instantly I felt welcomed in to the Lowther Hall family.

Academically the school has catered for all my needs. I am currently studying VCE Units 1 and 2 English and History as well as Units 3 and 4 Further Mathematics and I am enjoying them all. I am also studying Units 1 and 2 Art and Visual Communication and Design, which I am most passionate about. I believe that Lowther Hall will support me through my VCE journey and provide me with the resources and learning environment to achieve my best.



Miranda Holcombe  
in home corner.



Anastasia Raftis paints a volcano.

## AUTHOR MELINA MARCHETTA

Popular author for young adults Melina Marchetta visited the Year 9 and 10 students during Term 1, ready to share with us insights into her books and her journey to becoming a professional writer. Addressing the group for over an hour, she read excerpts from two of her most recent books *Finnikin of the Rock* and *On the Jellicoe Road*.

Melina confessed that her favourite books change all the time, much like favourite songs do. She revealed that the Canadian classic *Anne of Green Gables* was an all time special read.

During her address, Melina stressed that she 'writes from what she knows'. Her debut novel *Looking for Alibrandi*, incorporated all the things that she knew best.

Beatrice Paull 10P



Author Melina Marchetta with Year 10 students Beatrice Paull and Bianca Baliviera.



Rachel Tran and Rebecca Jiang create leadership posters after attending the Impact Leadership Conference.

# Living LEGENDS



Year 3 students draw the Living Legends.

## YEAR 3 VISIT LIVING LEGENDS MUSEUM

Recently the Year 3 girls visited the Living Legends Museum at Oaklands Junction. This excursion was arranged to enhance the learning we had been doing in both our Integrated Studies and Art for Term 1.

In Art we had been learning to draw horses and at Living Legends we had the opportunity to draw such famous retired race horses as *Might and Power*. We could even pat them!

We also discovered a connection to Lowther Hall. When the property was first cleared the McCracken family (the people who built *The Mansion*), built a home on it where they would spend weekends.

Year 3R

## YEAR 6 ATTEND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

What does leadership mean to you?

To us, leadership is an experience to learn to lead people to do the right thing and to show others how to be the best they can be.

When we went to the Impact Leadership Conference at Moonee Valley we learnt many things about leadership and what it involves. One of the hosts Crazy Kal took us through some fun (and very noisy) activities and another host Roden helped us to complete a leadership booklet. We also watched some video clips from the movie *Monsters Inc* and tried to work out who was the leader in each situation.

During the sessions where we mixed with other schools we learned about each others' greatest fears and received some really good public speaking tips. Overall, we had a terrific time at the Conference and learned lots about our roles as leaders this year.

Rachel Tran, Rebecca Jiang and Emily Abdilla

# surf LEAGUE



Year 7 student Louise Ryan heading in to swim at GSV Surf League. Photo courtesy of Kidz Klix.

Lowther Hall girls have once again seized the opportunities that GSV offers as part of the Sports Skills Programs. Surf League was held at South Melbourne beach and Lowther Hall fielded two strong teams against twenty other participating

GSV schools with team **LH1** achieving equal 3rd place overall. The girls also received coaching in ocean swimming, board paddling, beach sprints and beach flag events.

Mrs Vicki Hoban – Director of Sport

## SPORTS CAPTAINS' BREAKFAST 2009



Director of Sport Mrs Vicki Hoban and Lowther Hall's representatives at the GSV Sports Captains' Breakfast.

Eight sports captains from Lowther Hall were able to attend the annual GSV Sports Captains' Breakfast. It was an opportunity for girls from different GSV schools and sporting backgrounds to talk about a common interest – the promotion and enjoyment of sport at their school. We were lucky to have Olympic Kayaking Bronze medallist Chantal Meek talk to us about her life as a sports woman and to encourage us to keep playing the sport that we love. Our Sports Captain, Alice Backwell, was also invited to address the group.

Rosalynd Ponte, Football Captain and April Tarollo, Netball Captain

## TRIATHLON

The GSV Triathlon Program this year changed to an events-based program with girls competing in an Aquathlon (swim, run) and a Triathlon (swim, cycle, and run).

Well done to **Alice Backwell (Year 12)** who won both the Aquathlon and Triathlon in the 16–19 year old divisions. This is an outstanding achievement!

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## VCE RESULTS 2008

### CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the Class of 2008 on their excellent academic results and on their commitment to developing the qualities of the Lowther Hall girl, those qualities which assist individuals to thrive not only at school but in the adult world.

Outstanding results were achieved with 28% of study scores being A+ and 49% being A+ or A.

We congratulate our high achievers (representing 15% of the cohort) all of whom scored an ENTER (national ranking used for tertiary placement) above 95 placing them in the top 5% of the nation:

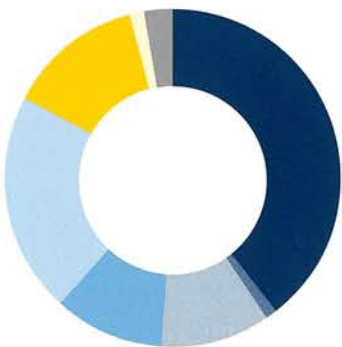
Montana Alessi	Claire Grech
Carla Bellomarino	Lia Librandi
Lucy Bellomarino	Elise Stanborough
Yvonne Chan	Lauren Steel
Hannah Fitzpatrick	Yuan Sun

Each of these girls has a particular and individual story, as do all of our Year 12 girls. Many contributed generously to the co-curricular program and held positions of considerable responsibility within the school. These students clearly embody both the importance of pursuing your interests and passions and our commitment to educating the whole person for the whole of life.

34% of the cohort scored an ENTER over 90 placing them in the top 10% of the State. This result is particularly pleasing given that our enrolment genuinely comprises the whole of the ability range and, with rare exceptions, all girls stay at school until the end of Year 12.

These results confirm that the changes made to the timetable and curriculum at the beginning of 2008 have helped us to achieve our goal of continuous improvement in our VCE and other results.

### 2008 VCE COURSE DESTINATIONS ROUND 1



■ Society & Culture
■ Hospitality
■ Management & Commerce
■ Science
■ Health Sciences
■ Creative Arts
■ Education
■ Engineering

### 2008 VCE STUDENTS TERTIARY DESTINATIONS



■ University of Melbourne	■ TAFE
■ ACU	■ RMIT University
■ La Trobe University	■ Australian Institute of Public Safety
■ Monash University	
■ Victoria University	
■ Deakin University	
■ Southern School Natural Therapy	

## MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION PROGRAM

The Melbourne University Extension Program enables students to begin their university studies while still at school. In 2008 **Lucy Bellomarino** completed first year History. **Carla Bellomarino** studied and completed her first year of International Politics: (Power and People 1 and The Global Picture 2) whilst **Elise Stanborough** completed her first year of university Biology studies through the program.

## BACHELOR OF ARTS (EXTENDED) A UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE DEGREE FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

The Bachelor of Arts (Extended) is a unique 5 year program for indigenous students. Prior to beginning studies in Psychology in the Bachelor of Arts, **Carla Scafi** is undertaking a two year Foundation program in which she is studying Drama, Literature, Academic Literacy, Democracy and Indigenous Studies. As part of the University's Indigenous Program, students who are undertaking studies for the Bachelor of Arts (Extended) degree are required to reside at the University's residential Trinity College. An experience that Carla is loving!

# VCE NEWS

## DANCE SUCCESS

Two students achieved dance success through different pathways in 2008. **Miki Minakami** gained a perfect score of 50 out of 50 in VET Dance. Miki completed this course as a Year 11 student – an outstanding start to her Year 12 studies! **Stephanie Morton** who completed Dance Units 3 and 4 in 2008 was selected for Top Class, a showcase of the highest achieving VCE Dance students. Senior Dance students recently attended a Top Class performance and were proud to see Stephanie on stage.



Miki Minakami gained a perfect score in VET Dance.

## TOP ARTS

**Yvonne Chan** has been selected as one of the outstanding Art students of 2008 to exhibit her VCE Art works in the prestigious Top Arts 2009 exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. This exhibition includes the best work by students of Units 3 and 4 Art and Visual Communication subjects. Congratulations Yvonne.

## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY PORTFOLIO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Six students have accepted offers to study at Victoria University after being successful in the Portfolio Partnership Program which is designed for consistent achievers in senior secondary years. **Adriana Giarrusso** is studying Accounting; **Kelly Brady** Law/Management; **Madeline Outhred** Exercise Science and Human Movement; **Kristin McCann** Clinical Exercise Science and **Alice Varrasso** Hospitality Management.



Members of the Class of 2008 Hannah Fitzpatrick, Isabella Rousis, Lia Librandi and Ada Vuu returned to Lowther Hall during Term 1 to recount their VCE experiences to senior students. They are photographed with Mrs Grantskalns and Ms Rhodes.

# LOWTHER HALL scholar



Above: Dux of 2008 Ada Vuu receives a presentation from the Principal Mrs Grantskalns at Senior School Assembly.

Ada is the Lowther Hall Scholar (Dux of 2008) having achieved an ENTER score of 99.9. She studied Chemistry, English, Specialist Mathematics, and Physics in 2008 and LOTE (Chinese) and Mathematical Methods in 2007.

Ada has elected to study Arts (New Generation) at the University of Melbourne, before taking up post graduate studies in Law. She has been awarded a National Scholarship by Melbourne University as a VCE high achiever and was selected in Year 11 to the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars program.

Ada is planning to pursue a career in Human Rights Law. She attributes her passion to the social justice projects she was active in at Lowther Hall, including the tutoring of Sudanese students. During her years at Lowther, Ada was also actively involved in Debating, the Duke of Edinburgh program, Tournament of Minds and Badminton. She is looking forward to becoming involved in university clubs and societies.

## LHOGA COMMITTEE

### REUNION DATES 2009

**Saturday July 25**

**Thirty to Fifty Year Reunion**

School 4.00pm – 6.00pm

**Friday September 4**

**Class of 2004 Five Year Reunion**

School 5.00pm – 7.00pm

**Saturday September 19**

**Macedon Ranges Reunion**

Telegraph Hotel Gisborne 12 noon

**Saturday October 3**

**Golden Mitre Club Reunion**

School – 1.30pm

**Friday October 9**

**Class of 1999 Ten Year Reunion**

School 5.00pm – 7.00pm

**Saturday October 10**

**Mornington Reunion**

Royal Hotel Mornington 12 noon

President – Donna Doughty

Vice Presidents – Mary Armour,  
Courtney O'Brien

Secretary – Sue Isles

Treasurer – Kay Trounson

Committee – Jocelyn Hanneman  
Bryony McCormack, Jessica Meilak  
Shauna Peebles

# OBITUARIES



## BETTY SOMMERVILLE

Betty Sommerville passed away in December 2008, aged 87 years. She had lived in the Moonee Ponds region for most of her life and worshipped at St Thomas' Church, where she was an active member of the congregation. She attended Lowther Hall during her secondary years from 1932 to 1937.

A career as a teacher had always been Betty's goal. Originally planning to work as a secondary teacher, she became fascinated with infant classes and dedicated her working life to them. Whilst teaching at Caulfield South Primary School in 1960, Betty received a call from the Chief Inspector of Primary Schools, which led to thousands of baby boomers learning to read with the adventures of John and Betty.

Following the success of *John and Betty*, Betty continued to write *Playmates* for Grade 1 students and *Holidays* for Grade 2 over a three year period.

In 2001, on the 50th anniversary of the publishing of *John and Betty*, the Victorian Education Department honoured Betty's contribution to children's reading. She was also the recipient of an Australian Centenary medal and St Thomas's has named a room in her honour.

# OBITUARIES CONTINUED

## JENNY WILSON



Jenny Wilson taught Art and Design at Lowther Hall from 2000 to 2008.

Like so many, I count myself so fortunate to have known Jenny as a colleague, educator, artist and friend.

Curiosity, intellectual rigour and a sense of the absurd are

some of the attributes that made her such a stimulating and entertaining companion and host.

Jenny relished adventure and found inspiration in the unexpected and unconventional. Her skills as a storyteller were fuelled by her love and compassion for the foibles of others, in particular the transgressions and intrigues of prominent artists and members of high society from the twenties and thirties of last century.

In life and in art, Jenny was indeed courageous and inspirational. She enriched all our lives and in this way will always be remembered.

Ms Celia Brown

## BRONWYN ANDREWS



In 1983, Bronwyn Andrews commenced a long and distinguished career as a Mathematics teacher at Lowther Hall. She integrated computing into the Mathematics curriculum and became Grant House Coordinator in 1986. Many students will look back in gratitude to her thoughtful and caring advice. Bronwyn later accepted positions as Careers

Coordinator and Industrial Liaison Officer, before finishing her active teaching career in 2003.

For those who knew Bron we remember a resilient, committed friend. In her final years she was to suffer from severe and debilitating diseases, but in spite of this she followed one of her favourite sayings from Henry Thoreau: *God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference.*

After leaving Lowther Hall Bronwyn enthusiastically started another career as an artist and held two exhibitions at the Incinerator Gallery.

Mr Ed Stewart

## VALERIE FAUTLEY (NEE WILSON)



Val attended Lowther Hall for her secondary education from 1940 to 1945.

She was a Prefect in her final year, Captain of Lees House in 1944 and 1945 and dedicated to representing the School at Tennis and Basketball.

She joined the Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association after leaving school and in 1999 became a member of the committee. She hosted the monthly meetings at her home and worked hard to raise funds for the School.

Val supported the establishment of the Golden Mitre Club, for Old Grammarians' who had left the school for 50 years or more.

Val's sense of humour and fun and her willingness to do anything she could to help her school were always evident. She will be greatly missed.

## JULIE MYERS (NEE COLLINGS)



Members of the Class of 1969 were saddened to hear of the death of Julie Collings from breast cancer. Fortunately, many members of our class had met up for a reunion in recent years and remained in contact with Julie until her death.

We extend our sympathy to her sons Stuart and James.

Julie attended Lowther Hall for her entire school life. She began her working life as a dental nurse and later a doctor's receptionist. She lived in England during her first marriage and returned to Melbourne where she married – Dr Nat Myers.

Heather Alexander  
(nee Dallwitz)

# PARENTS' WELCOME DRINKS



Above (from top):

Year 11 parents Jill Brewer and Janice Memery.

Sue Hookey and Richard Kermonde, Year 9 Parents.

Relationships Prefect Kelsey Holbrook with Prep parent Con Caccamo and his mother Giavanna.

Carolyn Grantskalns chats to Year 1 parents Harry and Effi Liden.

Deputy Principal, Elisabeth Rhodes and Principal, Carolyn Grantskalns with Christine and David Forbes.

Top: Larelle Hall and Leah McInerney with Deputy Principal, Cheryl Penberthy.

Above: Foundation Secretary, Mrs Lyn Carroll and parents Erminia Schiavone, Kerry Monaghan, Anne Cole and Rita Nuciforo.

For further information please visit our website.

[www.lowtherhall.vic.edu.au](http://www.lowtherhall.vic.edu.au)

