

LOWTHER NEWS



ISSUE No 66
AUGUST 2009
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SOCIAL JUSTICE
MARKET

**LEARNING
FOR LIFE**

DA VINCI
DECATHLON



09

diary dates

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: Kindergarten student Thalia Russo on the balancing beam during the K to Year 1 Perceptual Motor Program class. Read more about the School's Physical Education Program on page 4.

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

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PRINCIPAL THOUGHTS

One of the qualities which we seek to develop in our students is a capacity to work with others and to take the lead. We know that such capacities can be fostered and indeed taught and we pay attention to developing them throughout each girl's school life. The number of girls who seek positions of responsibility within the school suggests that we are indeed helping our girls to understand and to value effective leadership.

That journey starts in Kindergarten where girls begin to learn to work cooperatively with others on shared projects. They begin to learn the importance of careful listening to their peers and of compromise. Working with others successfully means that we can't always have everything our way.

Throughout their school life girls continue to have a wide variety of opportunities to be a productive team member both in school in their studies, in co-curricular activities and in the wider community and to take the lead in planning activities, running events, raising consciousness and taking action to address concerns that have arisen.

There are a number of formal positions of leadership throughout both Senior and Junior Schools. Classes send representatives to the Student Councils and these then make recommendations for changes and improvements. This year the Junior School Council is organising a fete to raise funds for a project they want to undertake. The girls are planning the event and working with staff and parents to ensure its success.

The Senior School Student Council has had a role in developing the new sports uniform. They have surveyed students to gather data about student views of the current uniform and have proposed a number of changes for consideration in developing our new uniform.

All Year 5 students take part in formal leadership training to enable them to feel confident in undertaking their leadership roles in Year 6. In Year 11 all students who intend to seek a Prefect role spend several weeks considering the responsibilities such a role brings. Girls experience many opportunities for working with others and taking the lead that through their active engagement in the clubs, committees, camps, teams and group work which are part of their school life.

Carolyn Grantskalns

Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns
Principal

MEET OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL



MR PETER MALCOLM

Peter was elected Chairman of the Council in 2006 after 13 years service on various School committees. With a background in Civil Engineering, he has been actively involved in the building projects at the School and is currently assisting in the planning of the new Science and Technology building.



THE REVEREND BILL BEAGLEY

The Revd Bill is the Vicar of the Anglican Parish of Coburg West and Pascoe Vale South and a Chaplain to Port Phillip Prison. He holds a number of University degrees and is close to completing a Masters Degree in Theology.



MR PETER CANNAN

Peter joined the School Council in 2006 and is currently Treasurer, as well as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. He is a Chartered Accountant with 30 years experience.



MR LORNE COLE

Lorne's work on the Council has included the chairing and establishment of the Foundation. Lorne's career has been in the aviation industry. He now operates a business providing aero-medical services to hospitals engaged in organ transplants and the retrieval of sick and injured Australians from overseas.



MS JACKIE DALZELL

Jackie is a long serving member of the School Council. Following her school days at Lowther, Jackie commenced a nursing career. She spent time working overseas and in Nursing Administration and hospital accreditation in Australia and New Zealand.



THE REVEREND DR HELEN GRANOWSKI

The Revd Dr Helen is an Anglican priest, assisting in the parishes of Holy Trinity Kew and St Dunstan's Camberwell. She is committed to ecumenism and interfaith relations and leads a theological study group for lay people. Helen was previously Principal of Anglican Girls' Schools in Queensland and Canberra.



MS PIERA MURONE

Piera has been a Council member since 2008. She is a partner in the Transaction Services division of chartered accounting firm Pitcher Partners. Her career history includes work with a number of major international accounting firms.



MR DAVID WHITING

David joined the Council in 2008. Currently working at the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank as National Finance Manager for the Debtor Finance business, he has worked in a variety of settings including manufacturing, real estate and stock agency.



MRS JOSEPHINE WARD

Josephine has served on the Council since May 2002. During that time she has been a member of the Finance and House Committees and is currently on the Nominations Committee. She is a Credit Manager with Westpac and has worked in the banking industry for over twenty years.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

LEARNING FOR LIFE

Lowther Hall's Physical Education program plays a critical role in educating the whole student for the whole of life. The unique learning opportunities that our Physical Education program provides, allow all girls from Kindergarten to Year 12 to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to enhance their quality of life through active living.

Our program provides experiences designed to meet the developmental needs of each student. Such experiences help improve mental alertness, academic performance, readiness to learn and enthusiasm for learning.

The School's new physical education and sports uniform will be a recognisable symbol of its ongoing commitment to this subject area. The updated design will allow the wearer to move with greater ease and comfort.

Mrs Sharyn Baddeley
Head of Physical Education



From front cover:
Kindergarten student Thalia Russo participates weekly in Lowther Hall's Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) class, as do all our girls up to and including Year 1 during Terms 1, 2 & 3.

LOWTHER HALL SCOOPS THREE OUT OF FIVE SWANNIE AWARDS FOR DEBATING IN THE ESSENDON REGION

These prestigious awards are given to the best speaker in each debating grade. More than fifteen schools compete in the Essendon region, so this is an outstanding result for our debating squad given that only five Swannies were awarded in this region.

Congratulation to:
Meghan McCormack (A Grade),
Raquel Potenza (B Grade)
and Krithika Venkatraman (D Grade). These girls will attend an Awards Ceremony at BMW Edge, Federation Square in September.

Mrs Olivia Grant
Debating Coordinator

STAFF 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

In the first semester, I attended a most effective professional development program which explored the use of Information Technology in the 21st Century. This program was led by IT consultant Ms Sylvia Guidara and continues to be supported by the School's IT staff.

The program enabled staff to understand on line communities and correspondence and ways to speak with the students in that world. At present, children and teenagers use web tools in social contexts and often are oblivious

to their amazing potential for learning. Teachers can now help them to use these in more sophisticated ways to assist them in their thinking, research and evaluation of complex ideas.

My world has changed and as I learn to Twitter, contribute to blogs and forums, use iPods and make podcasts, I find the way that I construct curriculum is changing. The world is our new forum.

Ms Muriel Wroblewski
Head of Philosophy and Religious Studies



Staff member Mr John Lyall is assisted by Ms Sylvia Guidara during a professional development session on 21st century learning.

da vinci decathlon

Lowther Hall was represented by sixteen Year 7 students at the da Vinci Decathlon Regional Finals (described as an “academic gala in the spirit of an Olympic decathlon”) held at Overnewton Anglican Community College in June. Two teams recorded the following commendable results:

Lowther Hall A –

1st in general knowledge, code breaking, creative producers and mathematics
3rd in games of strategy, art and poetry and English

Lowther Hall B –

2nd in code breaking
3rd in mathematics

Students recorded their impressions of the day:-

The da Vinci Decathlon is a fantastic event that I found hard and challenging. It forced us as a team to work together, delegate tasks and help one another. It made us think long and hard and in the end our brains ached.

Elisabeth Vallese 7S

We all enjoyed working with different people to try and solve questions and problems using our talents, common sense and the support of our friends. I particularly enjoyed Creative Producers, where we were given a topic and asked to make up a commercial in fifteen minutes. We then had to perform it.

Emily Vitiello 7M



Year 7 students Claudia Oke, Joanne Huynh, Emma Lowry, Jenny Dang, Hannah Steel, Georgina Loughnan, Emma Rowe and Greer Sutherland represented Lowther Hall at the da Vinci Decathlon.

SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS AT SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

The annual Science and Engineering Challenge organised by Newcastle University, attracted a number of schools. Lowther girls are known for their determination and initiative, and in one exciting day at the Melbourne Showgrounds our skills were tried and tested through bridge and boat building, ecological housing and hovercraft construction and investigation of radar detectors and electronics.

Lowther Hall won the competition to build a sailboat that sailed cross wind. Our girls also came closest to the criteria for building an energy efficient house that could withstand the ravages of sun, rain and wind.

Michaela Crosbie 10M

EISTEDDFOD HIGH NOTES

The Lowther Choristers, an auditioned choir for students from Years 4 to 8 gained first place in the Primary/Middle School section at the Eisteddfod by the Bay held at Moorabbin. The choir was conducted by Mrs Jan Goodall and accompanied by Ms Jane Ferdinands. The judge commented most favourably on the tone, rhythmic accuracy and fine presentation of the group.

Congratulations to these choristers on their fine performance.

YEAR 3 DADS AND DAUGHTERS BIKE RIDE

Sunday morning in the autumn sun, a fine day for a bike ride at Brimbank Park for Year 3 dads (plus one mum) and daughters. Bikes and helmets at the ready, the intrepid group hit the trails in search of adventure, nature and whatever else would be thrown our way.

After exploring the park (and exhausting our supply of Wiggles band aids) it was time to enjoy a barbecue. All agreed the day was fantastic and full of fun. However, if you know of a bike shop ready to take a group booking on tyre punctures please let a Year 3 dad know!

Mr Leigh Sheehan
Parent of Lucy, Year 3D



Ada Vuu and Miki Minakami display their Premier's Awards as the State's highest VCE achievers.

PREMIER'S VCE AWARDS

The Premier's VCE Awards recognise those students who achieve the very best results in a VCE subject. We heartily congratulate current Year 12 student **Miki Minakami** and former student **Ada Vuu** on receiving Premier's Awards for their 2008 VCE studies. Miki's results placed her in the State's top four students for Dance (VCE VET) and Ada was ranked in the top ten of the State's highest achieving English students. Such results are a credit to the girls' hard work and ability and to the staff who worked with them to hone their knowledge and skills to such levels.

Mosaic PANELS...



UNVEILED IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL FAIRY GARDEN

It was a magical morning when Junior School staff, parents and students gathered together in the Fairy Garden, dressed in the colours of the four seasons to unveil the lovingly created mosaic panels.

Artist Libby McKinnon adapted students' drawings to create the intricate and colourful designs. Ms McKinnon then guided and worked alongside parent volunteers for the construction of the panels.

Below are just some of the impressions of the morning written by students:

The excitement of girls was circulating around the Fairy Garden while the mystery of the mosaics was being revealed. The fairies had written special messages on each mosaic.

Charlotte and Jessica 6R

We invited the parents who made the beautiful mosaics to unveil them.

Evelyne and Sarah 5D

When they were revealed, everybody cried out "wow". They looked fantastic.

Michelle and Ella 3R



Principal Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns is joined by Deputy Principal Mrs Cheryl Penberthy and parents who helped create the mosaic panels.

social justice MARKET



Social Justice Committee member Annalisa Lucca, Year 12, displays some of the fair trade products on sale at the market.

The Social Justice Market, held in the Forum, was an initiative of the Social Justice Committee. The Committee comprises students from Years 7 to 10 who aim to raise social awareness amongst fellow students.

Displays and stalls represented a number of organisations and activities including Oxfam (fair trade products), The Royal Children's Hospital, Heart Kids, the 40 Hour Famine and Sudanese Tutoring.

Students had the opportunity to learn more about the causes featured and to make donations through the purchase of products made available by some of the organisations. The level of interest showed that Lowther girls believe in the School's motto 'Non Nobis Solum' – not for ourselves alone.

Alana O'Neill
Social Justice Prefect

YEAR 7 BOOK

BLOG

During Term 2 the Year 7P girls worked with LRC Director Mrs Glenys Lowden on a book blog. After we read a book we posted a comment on a website and everyone in our class (and the world) could read it.

This blog was a really fun and interactive way to learn about each other's personalities through the books that interested us. It also enabled us to

share our opinions on the books that we had chosen as a group to read. It really widened everyone's imaginations when we were asked to think about questions such as: 'Why do you think that was the chosen title?' and 'If you had one question to ask the author what would it be?' The blog inspired some of us to read books we had not considered before.

Erica Gillis and Manahil Saeed 7P

SELF DEFENCE

IN YEAR 10 PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Year 10 student Sophie Goodman defends herself in Physical Education class.

During Term 2 the Year 10 Physical Education class took part in a Self Defence unit. We participated in weekly classes to learn how to prevent attack and defend ourselves. We were taught specific techniques such as front and round house kicks, as well as how to use our elbows and punches.

Once we learned the techniques we were able to put them into practice. Our instructor, dressed in a "sumo suit" was the attacking guinea pig, putting his safety on the line. In groups of five we stood up in front of the class and demonstrated our knowledge as the "sumo" attempted to attack each of us.

This experience has given me a greater awareness of various ways to keep myself physically safe.

Sophie Goodman 10P

NEW SPORTS AND PE UNIFORM FOR 2010

The School has received many suggestions for improvement to our current sports and physical education uniform from both girls and parents including a detailed submission from this year's Senior School Student Council.

The current uniform is quite restrictive for girls in a number of sports and is now outdated both in style and fabrics. This has become more of an issue now that we have such a wide variety of sports on offer through Girls Sport Victoria. Given that students are also (under some circumstances) permitted to wear their sports uniform to and from school, we have decided that a smarter and more practical uniform is needed.

Ms Natalie Lippiatt and her team at Three's a Crowd Design are designing a new Sport and Physical Education uniform for students from Prep to Year 12 and also a new Early Learning Centre (ELC) uniform for our Kindergarten girls. In our brief to Ms Lippiatt, we have asked her to retain our gold and blue colours and to design a contemporary mix'n'match range of clothing that will require minimal care. We are well on track to have a new Sports and ELC Uniform available for our girls to wear from 2010 (our 90th anniversary year).

So that families do not have to spend money unnecessarily the new uniform will be phased in over 3 years. In 2013 only the new sports uniform will be worn by our girls. Because the new uniform is designed so that it presents a coherent "look" students will not be able to wear items of the "new" and "old" uniform together. Our second hand shop will sell the old style uniform during the phase in stage.

Our uniform supplier, Noone Imagewear, will continue to sell our "old" Sports Uniform (until stocks run out) at their Niddrie retail outlet at 543 Keilor Road. Noones will also stock the new uniform range once it is available.

We are looking forward to an exciting new active sportswear range in 2010!

Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns
Principal

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARD

Congratulations to **Stephanie Jinks** (Year 12), Lowther Hall's nominee for the 2009 Pierre De Coubertin Award. This award is in recognition of Stephanie's sporting achievements (especially in athletics) and demonstration of endeavours which are consistent with the aims of the Olympic movement.

Stephanie has represented Lowther Hall at a State level in athletics and has been a consistent member of interschool hockey, football, cross country and swimming teams.



Stephanie Jinks, Year 12.

GSV PARENT/DAUGHTER GOLF DAY

Well done to **Jessica Schiavello** (Year 10) and her father Tony on placing 3rd with a handicap at the annual GSV Parent/Daughter Golf Day at Ivanhoe Public Golf Course. Congratulations also to **Kelsey Collins** (Year 11) and her father Neil who finished 4th without a handicap at this event.



Mr Tony Schiavello watches daughter Jessica chip towards the green.

CROSS COUNTRY SEASON



The cross country season saw a record number of girls enthusiastically attend training on cold winter mornings, as well as Fitness Thursday sessions. The Senior Team competed in GSV Preliminary Carnivals at the Tan, South Yarra and Fairfield Park, before attending the Championship Carnival at Bundoora Park. Many personal best times were achieved during these meets. Congratulations to **Sarah Wilde** and **Emily Gregg** who achieved top 10 placings.

Nine Junior School representatives attended the Primary Zone Cross Country Championships in the rain and mud at Brimbank Park. **Maddison Caulfield** and **Caroline Higham** placed 1st and 3rd respectively in the Under 10 section and **Olivia Gallagher** placed 3rd in the 12/13 age group. These three girls went on to represent Lowther Hall at the State finals at Bundoora Park.

Candice Prosenica
Cross Country Captain

Year 11 student Sarah Wilde achieved a top 10 placing in the GSV Cross Country Championship carnival.

JAPANESE PEACE POSTER COMPETITION

On the 6th and 9th of August every year the citizens of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and around the world celebrate PEACE DAY to commemorate the atomic bombings of 1945 and those who died as a result. In anticipation of Peace Day 2009, in Victoria a poster competition was held in order to encourage students of Japanese to reflect on the events of WWII in Japan; the meaning of 'peace' and what world peace means to them. We are pleased to announce that **Julia Quach** (10S) received first place in the Year 9/10 Division. Congratulations Julia on such a wonderful poster.

Mrs LuLu Vitali
Head of Languages



STATE TITLES FOR HIP HOP AND AEROBICS TEAMS



State Champions, the Senior Hip Hop Team.
Annalisa Lucca, Bonnie Su, Lacey-Rae Garner, Lauren Russo, Laura Gorrie, Tesia Tran, Miki Minakami.

Lowther Hall continues to excel at interschool aerobics. At the School Aerobics State Competition, the Senior Hip Hop team took out the State Title in the Senior Funk category and went on to represent the School and State at the National Finals in Adelaide, where they gained fourth place.

A number of Junior and Senior combinations represented Lowther at the FISAF State Competition. The Junior Hip Hop and Junior Dance Theme teams both came away with gold medals while the Senior Hip Hop and Senior Fitness Aerobics teams gained bronze. A fantastic effort by all our teams and a fitting reward for the many hours of early morning rehearsals.

Miss Renee McLeod
Aerobics Coordinator

BUSINESS PLAN AWARDS



Pictured at the IPAB Award Ceremony: Year 11 students Kathy Maroudas, Stephanie Obeid and Nicole Haddad.

Congratulations to **Nicole Haddad** and **Stephanie Obeid** for winning the IPAB (I Plan a Business) Award for Best Multi media entry. They share a \$500 prize.

Congratulations also to **Clare Levine** and **Kathy Maroudas** for their entry which won the School prize.

This competition was organised by the Faculty of Business and Law at Victoria University and was open to all schools in the Western Region of Melbourne. The girls received their awards from Professor John Breen at Victoria University.

Mrs Hilary McNab
Business Management Teacher

REUNION DATES 2009

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

GOLDEN MITRE REUNION

Saturday 3 October 1.30pm

The Golden Mitre Reunion, hosted by the Lowther Hall Old Grammarians Association, celebrates past students who left the school fifty years ago or more. This year we invite all those who left in 1959 and earlier to come and join us at the School for a special afternoon reconnecting with friends from our schooldays.

Enquiries: Mrs Leanne Backwell (Community Relations)

Tel: 9325 5242

Email: backwelll@lowtherhall.vic.edu.au

FOUNDATION NEWS

The Lowther Hall Foundation continues to assist in providing the very best opportunities for our girls to learn, raising funds through donations, pledged gifts and bequests. So far in 2009 the Foundation has sponsored Welcome to Parents Drinks and the New Members Welcome Drinks and Badge Presentation. An Honour Board has been established in the foyer of the Joan M Garde Cultural Centre to recognise members of the Lowther Hall community who have contributed to the Foundation.

If you would like to become a member, or make any inquiries, please contact the Principal, Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, or the Foundation Assistant Mrs Lyn Carroll. Tel: 9325 5000 foundation@lowtherhall.vic.edu.au

ANNUAL GIVING APPEAL

All members of our community recently received an Annual Giving Appeal brochure. We are very grateful to those who have already donated. All donors will be acknowledged in the next edition of the Lowther News.

CLASS OF

1989

REUNION

Saturday afternoons have been brightened by the excited chatter of past students as they have revisited the School and wound back the clock between fifteen and fifty years. Below is one student's account of this experience. See page 12 for Reunion snapshots.

Has it really been twenty years? It doesn't feel like it. All the years melt away as we walk through those familiar black gates. Once again we are teenage girls with our baggy uniforms, brown lace ups and big hair. (It was the eighties!)

Soon we are all having a wonderful time; happily reminiscing, catching up, pouring over the old school photographs and busily snapping new ones. Mr. Stewart is heard to mutter under his breath "This year of girls were always chatterboxes!", as he takes us on a tour of the school.

It is all over too soon. How do you fit twenty years into two hours? It is impossible for a bunch of chatterboxes like us, so most of us go out for dinner afterwards. A marvellous time is had by all and it is soon decided to make it an annual event. So, if you were unable to make it this year, then we hope you can make it in 2010.

Samantha Williams



Members of the Class of 1989 at the Twenty Year Reunion.

CELEBRATIONS AND SYMPATHY

Celebrations

Candice Williamson (Class of 1998) and Mark Sceek celebrated their marriage by having photographs taken in the Mansion. **Merqtoosha Medina** (Camilliri, Class of 1998) was a member of the bridal party. Candice is an intensive care/critical care nurse.

Monique Michel-Moylan (Michel, Class of 1996) and her husband Hugh announce the birth of their second child Kayla. A sister for Isabella, 3.

Mardi Corcoran (Class of 2005) recently graduated from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Nursing. She is currently working in the Adolescent Mental Health Unit at the Royal Children's Hospital.



Classmates from 2005 Brydie Mulkearns and Louise Cashen joined Mardi Corcoran at her graduation ceremony.

Renata De Marco (Class of 2005) graduated from the University of Melbourne with a degree in Biomedical Science. She has recently commenced studying medicine in the University's Graduate program.

Natasha Rooney (Class of 2008) has been awarded a four year scholarship to play soccer and study Science (Pre Med) in the United States at the University of Idaho.

Sympathy

Betty Grant (Easton, Class of 1940) passed away, aged 86 years in April 2009. Betty attended Lowther Hall from the age of 5 and made lifelong friends from her schooldays. She was active in all aspects of school life, especially sport. She married John Grant (dec.) and was mother to Bruce and Don. Betty continued her association with the School through the LHOGA and enjoyed attending school functions such as Exeunt.

Lynne Gray (Johnson, Class of 1960) passed away after an illness. Lynne had her own hairdressing business and was an active member of the Scouting movement for 50 years.

ATTENTION PAST STUDENTS

If you have news of engagements, births, marriages and graduations, the Community Relations Coordinator, Mrs Leanne Backwell would love to hear from you. Please fill out the 'New About Yourself' section on the coversheet of this magazine and return it to the School or email the information to backwelll@lowtherhall.vic.edu.au

REUNIONS



Above (from top):

Members of the Class of 1984 during their 25 year reunion.

Re-visiting the Mansion during the 30 to 49 year reunion.

Principal Carolyn Grantskalns welcomes members of the Class of 1994 back to Lowther Hall.

Above (from top):

Class of 1994: Anita Narayan and Tanya Likar.

Class of 1984: Staff member and Old Grammarian Anne Saunders with Kay Trounson and Carolyn Dickens.

Class of 1989: Joanna Murone-Barr, Christine Ryan (Grech) and Joanna Geysen (Cockinis).

Class of 1969: Amanda Lawson, Gail Ash (Gordon), Christina Guala (Warren), Barbara Griffiths (Russell).