

To Live By The  
Light Of Christ

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# The Road

DAMASCUS COLLEGE

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The sculpture pictured on the front cover of this magazine was created by Leopoldine Mimovich OAM, and was purchased in 1995 for the Chapel located at the Year 7-9 Damascus College Campus at Victoria Street. This Victoria Street campus was closed in 2010, so this sculpture is currently located on Level 1 of the Bishop Connors Wing at Damascus College, Mt Clear.



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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL MATTHEW BYRNE

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Road for 2017.

Every now and then it is important to remember how as schools through the venture that is education we touch the future through the minds, hearts and souls of young people. Education is a remarkable ministry and 2017 offers a year of extraordinary prospects. One of my favourite anecdotes so far this year involved the fierce House competition evident at our swimming and athletics carnivals. I was particularly encouraged at the Swimming carnival. In the time honoured Damascus tradition that is the "synchronised swimming", the four student houses; McAuley, O'Collins, Rice and Xavier, commenced in this same spirit of competition before concluding as a single entity with Damascus chants in preparation for the coming Head of the Lake regatta. It was a great example by our senior students that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts and a wonderful affirmation of a healthy school spirit.

For 2017, we have intentionally chosen the College motto; To Live By The Light of Christ to be our theme. For those who have been around awhile, it was our theme back in 2011, but we want each generation of students to have the opportunity to explore our motto over their time at school. To Live By The Light of Christ is both an invitation and a challenge. We are invited to learn more about the person of Jesus and His ways, but we are also challenged to be a light for others, to help light the way for them to what it means to live as Christian people.

The reference to light is extraordinarily rich, and is a gift as we move through a year where we are invited and challenged To Live By The Light of Christ. Our motto and theme helps project us into the academic year with confidence. As the members of Damascus College we are all invited to travel in the Light of Christ in 2017. May that light shine brightly upon us all. In exploring the theme, a member of the College Alumni is commissioned each year to produce an artistic representation. You can read more about 1992 graduate, Peter Thomas' interpretation on page 5.

2017 is a significant year within the history of Catholic education on this site. It mark's 50 years since the commencement of Mercy education at 1412 Geelong Rd, Mt Clear. Sacred Heart College senior school; St Martin's in the Pines opened 50 years ago and it will be great to have those first graduates return to celebrate a remarkable milestone later in the year. While we celebrate the commencement of Mercy education on this site, 2017 will also mark the conclusion of Sr Marie Davey's remarkable contribution to education and educational leadership at Damascus and its founding schools. Marie has indicated that she will retire at the end of the year, following a remarkable ministry in the image of Catherine McAuley. Sr Marie has been part of the life of every student who has been educated at Damascus College over its history and we will feature the treasure that she has been in the next edition of The Road.

As treasures go I commend to you the reflections of Donnie Davidson as a remarkable servant to this College later in this edition.

Damascus College is co-governed by the Sisters of Mercy and the Priests of the greater Ballarat region. Fr Adrian McNerney concluded his ministry as Parish Priest of St Alipius in January following a ministry that spanned 48 years. Fr Adrian has been Co-Governor of the College since its inception and his story is also highlighted within this edition of The Road. Adrian remains our College Governor in his retirement and as a community we are very grateful for the leadership he and Sr Berenice Kerr continue to offer.

Our strategic directions call us to build a culture of academic excellence and one of the important vehicles has been the Early Start Program initiative. At the conclusion of 2016 all students progressed to their subsequent year level for the final two weeks of the year. This proved a very worthwhile learning opportunity, allowing students to prepare for 2017 while making sure learning and teaching opportunities were optimised at the end of 2016. Concurrently we introduced an academic assembly at the start of 2017 to showcase high academic achievement by the 2016 graduates. Award recipients are recognised in this edition.

We Live By The Light of Christ when we come together in our ministry of education to build a culture of excellence that inspires students, develops staff and values parents and families – and encourages all to reach their potential and place in wider society!

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Road.



# A WONDERFUL MINISTRY OF FAITH



Father Adrian McInerney was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Ballarat in Mildura in August 1969. He commenced priestly ministry in St Alipius Parish in September 1969 and was appointed Chaplain to St Martin's in the Pines, then the Senior School of Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East, celebrating weekly Masses with the Sisters and the boarders who were in residence at that time. Adrian's association with the College was resumed when after many years serving in many different Parishes throughout the Ballarat Diocese, he returned to Ballarat East in 2001 and commenced as Co-Governor of Damascus College, representing the Canonical Administrators along with the representative of the Sisters of Mercy, most recently Sr Berenice Kerr. We have indeed been blessed to have Adrian as a significant person in the history of our College.

For much of his time as Parish Priest of St Alipius, Adrian has also been the Chair of the Diocesan Schools Board – in this position visiting many schools in the Diocese and joining overseas study tours – thus bringing to us a wealth of knowledge of general educational advancements as well as insights into Religious Education in schools.

He has been very generous in the time that he has given to our College community – celebrating the Eucharist with us on our major whole school celebrations and also for more mundane occasions. It has been rare that Adrian has not been with us to celebrate the significant times in the life of our College and his presence has always brought with it the gift of his gentle guidance and support to the community.

Adrian has the ability to bring God's message to life when he speaks to the assembly of over a thousand teenagers – his simple, reflective homilies always strike a chord which gives people a message to put into action. We thank him for all that he has shared with us.

At Adrian's Parish farewell, where many aspects of his ministry were highlighted, Sr. Berenice Kerr RSM, his Co-Governor of Damascus College, offered the following Blessing;

*\*Adrian,*

*This is where your life has arrived after almost forty seven years of priestly ministry:*

*May you look back with graciousness and thanks on all your great and quiet achievements.*

*You stand on the shore of new invitation to open your life to things yet to be done: May your heart enjoy a different rhythm when drawn to the wonder of other horizons.*

*May you have the courage to find a new approach to time: May you allow it to slow until you find freedom to draw alongside the mystery you hold, and befriend your own beauty of soul.*

*May you find time to enjoy your heart's desire to live the dreams you've waited for, to awaken the depths beyond your work and enter into your infinite source.*

*May you realise that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny; That behind the façade of your life there is something beautiful and eternal happening.*

*May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.*

*And as you go to what is new, may the love and support of those gathered here go with you.*

*\*Based loosely on John O'Donohue*



## 2017 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

### ELEONORA BONAZZOLI

My name is Eleonora Bonazzoli and I am one of your College captains for 2017. I was born in Melbourne on November 21, 1999 to a very loving Italian family and as a result, I have spent a lot of time in Italy and speak Italian. I have a younger sister, Luisa who is in Year 11 at Damascus and unfortunately she is often confused as me. My mother, Serena runs the mine at Sovereign Hill. My father, Saverio works as a paramedic in Geelong and I have a part time job at Priceline pharmacy.

In my spare time, I row for Damascus College and have always loved watching and playing soccer. Rowing at Damascus has given me a way to meet students from other year levels I wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to meet and it has given me a chance to see just how far I can push myself physically.

Being elected as School Captain is truly an honour and I cannot thank my peers enough for giving me this opportunity. I want to make them proud and lead the College with pride and compassion.

Damascus College has given me so many wonderful opportunities throughout my six years. From retreats and camps, rowing, the chance to go to France, exchange in Switzerland and various social justice opportunities. But most importantly Damascus has given me a great group of friends and they, within the College environment, have truly helped shape who I have become as a person.

As a Year 12 student I am looking forward to the retreat, leadership opportunities, common room, hoodies, but mainly I am looking forward to the many memories and friendships I'm sure we are all going to create.

After Year 12 I am hoping to go to Melbourne to study medicine to further specialise in radiology. Travelling in and out of the country a lot since I was a very young child, has given me a sense of wanderlust and I cannot wait to explore the world. I would also like to do something associated with social justice. Damascus has opened my eyes to the struggles that happen not only in our world but more specifically our community. As part of the Justice Action Group we had the opportunity to take part in the 'Sleep Out' where we raised money for homelessness by sleeping 'rough' ourselves. We also made toiletry packs for the local shower bus which was recently up and running. It was great to be able to hear people's stories and give back to the community, what I believe Damascus is all about.

My advice to all Year 7 students or to anyone considering coming to Damascus is to get involved and take up every opportunity. Because by participating you immediately feel like part of something, of the community and of something bigger than yourself. You never know where the opportunities will lead you and the next six years will go by in a flash so carpe diem, seize the day and take full advantage of it. If you do this you'll get to the end certain you have no regrets.



### FLYNN JAMIESON

Hi my name is Flynn Jamieson. I live in Buninyong and was born in Ballarat. I have an older brother named Jai who also went to Damascus and is now at Federation Uni and we live with our mum who has her own business as a Kinesiologist in Buninyong. I also have a dog called Lexie who is a border collie and very active.

I enjoy playing a variety of sports. I play tennis for Grenville tennis club on a Saturday afternoon and at the Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre on a Saturday morning. During the week I play touch football for a team called the Kingsmen. I enjoy playing music on the drums and guitar and I am part of a band called Floodlight.

I am very grateful for my time at Damascus College. It has given me so many opportunities such as being able to represent the school in a range of sporting and academic events and most recently being able to represent the school as the 2017 Damascus School captain alongside Eleonora. This is such a brilliant opportunity for me to grow as a person and enhance my leadership skills such as communication, organisation and public speaking.

As school captain, I hope to be able to represent Damascus with passion and zeal at official functions and events as well as being a voice for the students. I hope to be a caring and compassionate leader with whom the students can approach with any problems they may be having. I aspire to encourage all students to reach their full potential and discover their passions.

My educational journey at Damascus has been an exciting one. I have been able to challenge myself through my choice of subjects which include Physics, Chemistry, Maths Methods, Further Maths and mainstream English. I was also given the opportunity to take on a Unit 3 & 4 subject last year achieving a score that will set me up well for my ATAR score.

But most of all I am grateful for all the new friendships I have made and relationships that I have formed that I hope to carry with me into the future. I do not yet know what I wish to study but I am sure that I will continue further study at University, most likely this will be in the maths, science or physical education spectrum.

My advice to incoming students is to take every opportunity with both hands. Step out to challenge yourself and perhaps in some way discover a part of yourself that you did not know existed, because the only way that you will grow is by daring to achieve greatness. For you will find like-minded people that will appreciate you for who you are. Ensure you keep education as a high priority. Make sure you keep up to date with work and try your best in all your subjects, but also ensure to maintain activities that you enjoy outside of school. Most importantly make sure that you enjoy the ride, because it's over much faster than you would expect.



## 2017 ALUMNI ART PROJECT

For the last couple of years Damascus College has commissioned a past student or staff member to create their own artist interpretation of the College motto, To Live By The Light of Christ.

The 2017 artist commissioned is Peter Thomas (Class of 1992). Peter created a 3D sculpture using clay, brass, copper and stone. Each artist is asked to develop an artist statement describing the motivation behind the piece.

This piece is on display throughout 2017 in the parent reception of Damascus College, why not drop in and see it for yourself.

### PETER THOMAS – ARTIST STATEMENT

To Live By The Light Of Christ to me means to be strong in your convictions but fluid and flexible enough to fold other people's ideas, thoughts and experiences into your own heart, which then helps to become a better person.

Since completing high school and university, my art work has involved themes of exploration and discovery. These themes run in obvious parallel with my own personal journey of growth; transitioning from school student to adult, developing personal values that can then be applied into my own work.

As with any artist, the investigation of personal identity crosses over into my own work. The concept of Jesus as a fisher of persons, is one that has resonated with me since the time I was old enough to understand why I was given the name of Peter by my parents. As an apostle, Peter was called to serve Jesus as he performed miracles and spread the word of God.

Peter's journey from fisherman to humble apostle characterises my understanding of how To Live By The Light Of Christ. Peter was willing to walk away from everything in his life to follow Jesus and become a better man. As an artist, and a human being I strive to explore how I can continue to evolve with humility and compassion for others.

In the artwork the rock is a deliberate reference to the disciple Peter. The archetypes of the fish and the boat relate to the journey of Peter as a fisherman, setting forth on his journey in Christ, being prepared to move forward in humility with a desire to help others. This, in essence, is what it means to me To Live By The Light Of Christ – to follow his example.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

### 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF EDUCATION ON THE MT CLEAR SITE

Have you ever wondered where it all began? No, not life as we know it, but rather Damascus College as we know it today – this beautiful, leafy patch of the world we have all come to love and appreciate. This year we celebrate 50 years at the Mount Clear site, but what many of you may not realise is that it all began thanks to an amazing and generous woman by the name of Miss Alice Fanning (pictured).

Alice was born in Mount Clear on March 29, 1875 to Martin and Sarah Ann Fanning – originally of Ireland before settling in Australia. One of five children, Alice never married and eventually passed away at the Convent of Mercy, Ballarat East, on February 29 1960, having been looked after for several years by the Sisters of Mercy. Upon her death Alice bequeathed her entire Mount Clear property to the Sisters of Mercy on the understanding that a school or hospital would be built upon her land.

In 1964 the decision was made to build a senior campus of Sacred Heart College on the site, with the foundation stone being laid in 1966 (pictured) and the doors of St. Martin's in the Pines opening to Year 11 and 12 girls in 1967. The Official Opening and Blessing of the Sacred Heart College Senior School took place on the April 21 1968 and although the last 50 years has seen the College undergo many changes, it remains the same remarkable place of learning of which I believe Miss Alice Fanning would be proud to be a part.

NATASHA ADAM  
Damascus College Archivist



## INAUGURAL ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY

On Thursday 2 February 2017, the Damascus College community celebrated academic excellence at the inaugural Academic Assembly.

Senior students' academic excellence from 2016 was celebrated in front of all students, staff, Damascus College Board Directors, as well as award recipient family members.

It was a wonderful occasion where the audience listened to guest speaker Mr Ashwin Pillai, who imparted his wisdom to the

students on how he strived for excellence throughout his career and life. His story was a powerful, insightful and very personal message to all. We were also entertained by Mrs Maria Russell, Learning Area Leader – Arts, on piano, and students Ellie Carroll on vocals and Jack Lorensini on guitar. Together they performed 'Everyone's Waiting' by Missy Higgins.

Awards presented at the Assembly can be seen below and opposite page.

### 90 Plus ATAR's in 2016 VCE:

Student	Score
David Pitman	91.65
Dana Farrow	91.90
Chiara Angeli	92.60
Chloe Maisey	94.20
Brooke Hutchinson	94.80

### 2016 VCE Baccalaureate:

Chiara Angeli
Kaine Burgess
Brooke Currie
Brooke Wythe

### 2016 VCAL/VET Excellence Awards:

Lauren Conroy
Bayley Foy
Camille Herbu-Louise
Brittany Menzies

### 2016 Year 10/11 Excellence Award sponsored by Federation University:

Sophie Simmonds

### 2016 Damascus College Dux & Damascus Award:

Brooke Hutchinson



**2016 VCE Unit 3 & 4, Study Score of 40 plus:**

Student	Subject	Score	Subject Teacher
Chiara Angeli	Drama	45.00	Andrew Seeary
Jack Gillard	Drama	43.00	Andrew Seeary
Olivia Valpied	Drama	44.00	Andrew Seeary
Zoe Elms	Visual Communication Design	41.00	Anne Griffin
Kiera Gittins	Visual Communication Design	41.00	Anne Griffin
Molly Hutchinson	Visual Communication Design	44.00	Anne Griffin
Brooke Hutchinson	Studio Arts	40.00	Anne Griffin
Grace Nichols	Languages: French	40.15*	Alysoun Smalley
Kiara Dalem	Languages: Indonesian	45.19*	Silvy Wantania
Sinead O'Riley	Community Services (VCE VET)	42.00	External Teacher
Lily Veale	Literature	44.32*	Jane McKendrick
Bonita Brugger	Industry and Enterprise	40.00	Karen Simpkin
Elise Wright	History: Ancient History	41.09*	Patricia Rowe
Chloe Maisey	Specialist Mathematics	44.08*	Caroline Nolan
Chloe Maisey	Mathematical Methods	43.21*	Allan Lepar
David Pitman	Mathematical Methods	40.19*	Allan Lepar
David Pitman	Chemistry	40.17*	Jen Montgomery
Ellanor Goyne	Chemistry	42.86*	Jen Montgomery
Olivia Valpied	Psychology	41.00	Rebecca Anderson
Flynn Jamieson	Physical Education	50.00	Gavin Walsh
Meg Jessup	Physical Education	41.00	Glenn Jessup
Emily Mewett	Physical Education	42.00	Glenn Jessup
Alicia Mewett	Physical Education	40.00	Glenn Jessup
Dana Farrow	Health and Human Development	45.00	Kirsten Phyland
Brooke Hutchinson	Food and Technology	50.00	Jenny Kinghorn

\*Scaled study score.





Left to right: SCR 2017, Thomas Ashley, Aisha Azzopardi, Kirk Baine, Phoebe Bentley, Eleonora Bonazzoli, Sarah Collins, Timothy Collins, Abbey Cutler, Taylah Den Ouden, Camille Herbulouise, Flynn Jamieson, Grace Johns, Lillian Jones, Chloe Keating, Eliza Lamb, Hannah Magee, Breanna Marshall, Kaiyah McCahon, Kirsten McCarthy, Hannah Mroczkowski, Riley Norman, Erin O'Beirne, Tiarna Parry, Thomas Robertson, Benjamin Rofe, Jessica Rowse, Harley Smith, Matthew Snibson, Tiggist Temam, Maya Tolliday, Khloe Tuohy, Ashley Vincent-Wade, Talia Waldron, Castley Webb, Emma Webb, Amy Wells, Mia White.

## DAMASCUS PRIDE, INDIVIDUALITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

I, Emma Sherritt, am the Student Representative Council (SRC) President for 2017. I have been attending Damascus College since 2012, being in the class of the first year level to complete all my Damascus College education at our combined Mount Clear campus. 2017 is my second year being a representative for my house, Xavier, on the SRC.

Personally, being the president of the SRC holds much responsibility which I am honoured to have, as it allows me to contribute to the ways in which decisions are made in our school community. It gives me the opportunity to be a voice for our student population, along with my fellow SRC representatives, to initiate projects within the school that will benefit our College, and to endeavour to become the best school academically, socially and physically in our region.

Within 2017, our SRC motto includes 'Damascus Pride' and 'Individuality and Inclusiveness', for us this means collectively recognising each other's differences and to be accepting of that

fact, helping our community to connect as one and increasing our overall pride in being a Damascus College student.

I am very much looking forward to what 2017 has in store for the SRC, and witnessing when a small group of people come together, the things we can achieve.



**EMMA SHERRITT**  
2017 Student Representative Council President



# 2017 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



Molly Hutchinson



Joseph Short



Brooke Hutchinson



Dannae Stewart

## 2017 NEXT GEN EXHIBITION

The 'VCE Next Generation 2017' art and design awards exhibition opened to a packed audience on Friday 3 February 2017, at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. This exhibition showcased the work of students who completed their 2016 Year 12 VCE studies in Art, Studio Arts, Design and Technology, Visual Communication and Design and Media. The students were from Government, Catholic and Independent schools mainly from the Ballarat and Grampians region.

Congratulations to the numerous Damascus College Visual Arts students whose work was selected for this professionally curated exhibition. Our talented participants from the class of 2016 included Caitlyn Canty, Matthew Corden, Kiera Gittins, Brooke Hutchinson, Molly Hutchinson, Rachel McMahon, Sinead O'Riley, Leah Potter, Joseph Short and Dannae Stewart.

Damascus was recognised twice in the awards announced as part of the opening. Visual Communication Design student Molly Hutchinson was the winner in the best digital media category, and Art student Joseph Short received high commendation for his ink on paper artwork. Both received a cheque for \$150.





## ROWING SEASON 2016/2017 IN REVIEW

Now in its fourth season, the Damascus Rowing program is going from strength-to-strength. We experienced a 50% growth in numbers compared to last season, and with that came certain challenges but satisfying success across the 2016/17 rowing season. The program for this season boasted 18 crews (94 students in total) and we initiated our first foray into sculling with four of our senior girls taking up sculling in the later stages of this season. This tremendous growth in our program, and the improving sculling skill-level, reflects the growing enthusiasm for rowing among Damascus students and it was pleasing to see such genuine support from the school community.

The season kicked off in October 2016 with our rowers attending the Bendigo Sprint Regatta where we experienced several wins across the program. This success was quickly followed at the Nestles & Hamilton Regattas and the Dimboola Regatta where our Open Girls First Crew won the Head of Wimmera, a gruelling 6.2km time trial on the Wimmera River. Our plan to race more often was starting to pay dividends.

Our Senior and Intermediate crews trekked up to Nagambie in the final week of Term 4, 2016 to participate in the Carrum Regatta, where we raced other schools and club rowers to come away with seven bronze, eight silver and two gold medals. The following weekend, we participated in the Sacred Heart Regatta in Geelong, where we had our full program entered to race and for many of our junior crews, it was their first ever race experience. With many of our crews placing top three in their events, our performance at this regatta saw us win the trophy for being the most successful school, a huge coup considering we beat out some major established Melbourne schools for this prestigious award.

Over the summer school holidays, the program undertook two rowing camps held at Lake Wendouree where the students had

the opportunity to keenly develop their boat skills and fitness, and have a bit of fun along the way with their coaches and peers. Our parents group once again provided incredible support for our students; without their help and assistance, our rowing camps and many of our regatta days wouldn't get off the ground. Our parents helped to prepare all breakfasts, lunches and snacks for our students during our camps, as well as provide support and comfort to our students during some rather hot and arduous days. Our parents group also assisted us throughout the season with preparing regatta lunches and umpire lunches, boat holding, driving speed boats and ferrying umpires, helping with regatta day barbeque stalls, assisting with race timing, setting up marquees, loading/unloading boats, driving the boat trailer or helping with general repairs to our equipment.

The Regatta season came at us hard and fast at the end of the summer school holidays, where the program participated in three regattas in the lead up to the inaugural Head of the Schoolboys Regatta, which was held on Lake Wendouree. Our hard work and commitment paid off, as we had four boys crews entered (two each from our Intermediate and Junior boys program) and we came away with four wins - forever etching their names and Damascus College into the history books.

The team continued training with tenacity and determination, learning from their racing experience and always pushing themselves and supporting each other to perform at their best. Our spirits were buoyed as we headed into the Head of the Lake where we had 15 crews entered. It was also the first time our school had a crew in both the girls and boys Open Division 1 events, an incredibly proud and historic moment for our burgeoning rowing program. Our Senior Girls came second in the Open Girls Division 1 final, and our Senior Boys rowed gallantly against some





tough competition in the Open Boys Division 1 final and backed up again for an even better row in the historic re-row event. Other notable achievements include our Year 10 Boys Division 1 crew winning their final against a fast finishing St Patrick's crew, our Open Boys Division 5-6 crew came second as did our Year 10 Girls Division 4 crew. Both of these crews consisted mainly of new rowers who took up the sport just this season, so this was a great achievement for these students. Our Open Boys Division 3 crew and our Year 10 Girls Division 2 crew both came third in their finals. Congratulations to all students who participated in Head of the Lake this year, and represented Damascus College so proudly.

We also had several crews participate in the Rowing Victoria State Championships in Nagambie and also the Rowing Victoria Junior Girls State Championships which were held in Geelong for our Junior and Intermediate girls. Our attendance at these regattas saw quite a few podium finishes for our crews. Our Open Girls Division 1 Crew won the U19 Female Coxed Four title, and came third in the Female School Coxed Four Open Division 1. Our Year 10 Boys Division 1 Crew followed up their Head of Lake win by winning the state title for the Male C Grade Coxed Four. Our Year 10 Girls Division 3 crew also won a bronze medal. We also entered our first ever scullers, who all rowed well in their championship events and came away better for the experience.

As I write this report, our attention is turned to two major regattas; the upcoming Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta and the Australian Rowing Nationals in Sydney. For Head of the Schoolgirls, we will have two Senior Girls crews, four Intermediate Girls crews, three Junior Girls crews and our very first double scull entry and two single scull entries. We hope to send two crews (Senior Girls Division 1 and Intermediate Boys Division 1) to the Nationals which is another proud first for our program.

Our coaching group this year has consisted of Simon O'Brien, Narelle Burnside, Terry Austin, Michael Bennett, Kathryn Mills, John Marshall, Eliza Vincent, Georgia Edwards, Laine Howard, Dean Kittelty, Matt Ashley, Tahnya Robson, Georgia Skene, Riley Taylor and Katelin Cartledge. I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to these incredible coaches for their personal commitment to our students and program, and for sharing their knowledge and experience with our crews. Without them, the program wouldn't have achieved the level of success we have achieved in such a short period of time. I'd also like to extend a huge thank you to our amazing parent group, headed up by the infallible Narelle Edwards and Yasmin Lloyd. To each and every parent and supporter, thank you for your time and commitment in supporting our students in their pursuit of rowing.

And finally, thank you to the students for being a tenacious, fun, determined and supportive group of students. You are the heart of our wonderful rowing program and I hope to see you all back again for another great year together!



**SHARON WATERS**  
Head of Rowing





## 2016/2017 ROWING CREWS

### Boys Open Division 1

Jake Currie, Thomas Robertson, Daniel Anderson, Ryan Vanderlinden, Ellie Hennig

### Boys Open Division 3

Connor Andrews, Noah Arber, Hunter Thomas, Riley Norman, Castley Webb

### Boys Open Division 4

Liam Penn, Matthew Watson, Finn Clonan, Dean Williams, William Martin-Block, Blake Johns

### Girls Open Division 1

Ashlee Smith, Phoenix Neil, Erin Gore, Millicent Hockey, Maddie Lamb

### Girls Open Division 3

Ellie Henderson, Sarah Collins, Jonte Lloyd, Eleonora Bonazzoli, Kiara Dalem

### Senior Scullers

Wren Dreger, Ella Young, Macquenzie Amos, Amelia Johnson

### Girls Year 10 Division 1

Laura Gibson, Gemma Smith, Madelyn Edwards, Sarah Campbell, Ruby Gibson

### Girls Year 10 Division 2

Letisha Guy, Nicola Robson, Courtney Slater, Abbey Collier, Kimberly Keen

### Girls Year 10 Division 3

Amy Mennen, Imogen Brown, Rahni Holloway, Grace Oldaker, Macy Ludeman

### Girls Year 10 Division 4

Charlotte Lawler, Sophie Ryan, Alexandra Mikus, Eleni Spokes, Lily Jackson, Madison Smith

### Boys Year 10 Division 1

Ethan Blackmore, Rhys Davis, Ethan Handley, Mackenzie Yandell, Caspian Linayao

### Girls Year 9 Division 1

Stephanie Fitzgerald, Kaiah McCahon, Charlotte Ashley, Sarah Matheson, Ellie Dickson

### Girls Year 9 Division 2

Azure Norman, Georgia Dalziel, Bella Vallance, Paris Murrell, Matilda Lloyd

### Girls Year 9 Division 3

Rebecca Grandi, Eliza Robertson, Hannah Vanderlinden, Evie Sargisson, Erica Webb

### Girls Year 9 Division 4

Madison Venville, Tasya Dalem, Sharni Dean-Jones, Rebecca Lannen, Kirra Ward

### Boys Year 9 Div Division 1

Alexander Rofe, James Mavity, Austin Wade, Julian Hockey, Jude Clinton-Skewes

### Boys Year 9 Div Division 2

Liam Pattinson, Doug Thibault, Seth Johnson, Bailey Wilson





## MY STORY BY ELLIE CARROLL

My name is Ellie Carroll, and I am 16 years old and in Year 11 at Damascus College and have been since Year 7.

I chose to attend Damascus after watching my older sister thriving in the school productions and culture at the College.

I have had a life-long love for musical theatre and I strive to pursue it in the future. I look up to Julie Andrews as one of my greatest influences.

I have performed in many local theatre productions with BLOC Music Theatre's junior and senior companies. My first role in a musical was Jojo in the 2010 season of *Seussical the Musical*. For this role, I received the Victorian Theatre Guild's Bruce award for Best Junior Female in a Supporting Role. After this show I went on to perform in *The Sound of Music*, *Namia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Alice in Wonderland Jr*, *Camp Rock the Musical* and *The Drowsy Chaperone* with the company. I am currently rehearsing for the role of Jellylorum in Ballarat Lyric Theatre's Production of *CATS*.

Since 2013, I have been lucky enough to perform in professional productions with The Tivoli Theatre Pantomimes, a company in Melbourne founded by the late Terry Gill and his wife Carole-Ann, prolific performers of the Australian stage and screen. I have now performed in 11 of their school holiday seasons.

In 2015, I used my own funds earned from my work with the Tivoli to pay for a trip to London where I attended West End Stage, a musical theatre summer school at which I boarded and was mentored by current performers from London's West End and was given the opportunity to perform at the original Her Majesty's Theatre, the home of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*.

My favourite subjects at Damascus are 3 and 4 Drama and 1 and 2 Indonesian. I have recently been accepted into a Certificate II in Dance at Dance World Studios, a course which I now attend two times a week.

I have performed at numerous events at the College since Year 7 including my involvement in three of the school's productions. I was a member of the ensemble in *It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman* in 2014, played Woman #1 in the 2015 season of *Final Hours* and was most recently seen as Frenchy in the previous year's production of *Grease*.

I would love to move into the world of professional musical theatre in the future working both in Australia and Internationally. I encourage everyone with a love of the theatre to grasp the opportunities that the College provides in its Performing Arts department with both hands and make the most of what the community has to offer.



## WESTERN BULLDOGS PLAYERS VISIT DAMASCUS TO PROMOTE READING

On Monday 20 February 2017 Damascus welcomed two AFL premiership players from the Western Bulldogs, Fletcher Roberts and Caleb Daniel.

Fletcher and Caleb spoke to the Year 10 students about the joy and value of reading, working hard, believing in yourself and achieving goals.

They shared many stories with students about life as an AFL player, gave students some tips for succeeding in life, and spoke of the need for them to continue to work hard outside of football, where both players study at university.

We are confident students gained some useful insights from their footy heroes.



## TOP CLASS CONCERT HONOURS

Congratulations to past students Jack Gillard, Chiara Angeli and Jade Martin (Class of 2016) who received the honour of auditioning for a place in the Top Class Concert held in March 2017.

The event, organised through the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, showcases the outstanding efforts of top Performing Arts students across the State. While Damascus College proudly boasts a strong history of continued invitations to this prestigious event, to have three students acknowledged in a single year is a new accomplishment.

In final stages of the VCE Drama course, students create an original solo performance based on a range of prescribed structures. This performance became the basis for their external practical exam for the subject in Term 4. Jack, Chiara and Jade presented work of a very high quality within this task for which they all received a well-deserved A+ grade. These dedicated former students have worked hard over the holidays to be ready for the audition process.

Students enjoyed the audition process immensely and the chance to perform their solo again to an engaged audience. We are pleased to advise that Jack Gillard and Chiara Angeli were successful in being invited to perform in the Top Class Concert; Jack performed at 10.30am on Thursday 2 March and Chiara performed at 6pm on the same day.

Congratulations to Jack, Chiara and Jade - what a wonderful accomplishment, and we wish you well on your journey after Damascus.





SWIMMING & ATHLETICS CARNIVAL





Donnie's staff  
picture from 2017



## A DAMASCUS LEGACY OF TEACHING, A CONVERSATION WITH DONNIE DAVIDSON

Donnie with past student Jordan Roughhead 2016

Donnie was born up on the beautiful Murray River with rich red loam soil and where the most luscious grapes and citrus fruit are grown, in Mildura. She attended Mildura High School and lived there until she was 18, leaving to move to Melbourne to study. In those days there were few tertiary education facilities in regional cities. Everyone had to move away to become teachers, nurses and other professionals.

Donnie's favourite subjects were History (American in Form 5 - Year 11) and Australian in Matriculation (Year 12) and Geography. She learned about many countries in Geography as they had to know their population, topography, climate, manufacturing, agriculture and more! Sounds boring, but combined with the histories covered every year, she learned so much about the world. Much of these two subjects has been useful and enriching throughout her life, especially when travelling.

### **What achievements have you had since finishing secondary school?**

Higher Diploma of Teaching – Secondary.

Teaching career of 40 years – one year Ouyen High School, eight years Sale High School, 31 years St Martins in the Pines/ Damascus College (plus three years Family Leave).

Leadership positions at Damascus College.

I was also fortunate enough to teach two students in Health & Human Development in 2003 who achieved study scores of 50. This is the statistical Everest dream of every Year 12 teacher!

Foundation President of Ballarat Quilters and Life Member.

Married to George for nearly 40 years.

Two fantastic children – George (Class of 2001) and Kate (Class of 2003) – both of whom are married to our special children-in-law Katie and Jason respectively. George and Katie have given us two much adored granddaughters, Lily three and a half and Ava two in May to enjoy, spoil and hand back! We also have a delightful step-granddaughter, Stephanie, 23.

To raise our two children is my (along with George) greatest achievement.

### **What is your current job?**

For the past two years I have been teaching part-time after stepping down from a leadership position.

### **What is your employment history with Damascus?**

I began teaching part-time at St Martins in the Pines on April 29, 1986. I was employed for the rest of the year to take over Marina Kahm's Year 10 and 11 Food classes while she was on long service leave. I was based at both Sacred Heart and St Martins. The Year 11 students used to catch a bus into Sacred Heart for the practical classes. They arrived for our first class with one of the girls dressed up in a clown outfit. What an introduction!

At the end of the year Sr Valda asked if I would continue taking the Year 11 Food (the girls still travelling in by bus at recess with me following in my car) and taking over the Year 11 Textiles class from Mark McLean's mother, Dorothy.



Later that year Sr Valda mentioned she wanted to change the art room to a new kitchen for the campus so St Martins in the Pines could also offer Year 12 Food. She asked me to prepare the plans, so out came our first house plan and the four kitchen units were based on that!

From 1988 as my teaching load increased I began teaching the subjects that have been my teaching staples – Human Development & Society/Health & Human Development, Food Technology and Textiles. All that has changed have been the year levels. There has only been one year in which I didn't teach Year 12, due to a term of long service leave. Time off has been various amounts of long service leave and the rare medical problem.

**How did you get in to the job that you are in now?**

Early in 1986 someone at Loreto discovered there was a qualified Food/Textiles teacher on the loose in Ballarat (we had been here a year) and I worked two days as a casual relief teacher at Loreto before I had a call from Sr Valda who needed a replacement for Marina, as mentioned above. My interview with Sr Valda and Adrian Mullaly occurred in our lounge room with George Jr next door and Kate asleep in her cot! Who would have guessed this opportunity would result in nearly half my life being spent in the one school.

**What other jobs have you had since graduating high school?**

I have been a teacher for my whole career. The only other job I have had has been in the Red Tulip chocolate factory in Prahran over the summer holiday break of 1972-73!

**What do you enjoy about your current job?**

My current job has been my only job. I love teaching. It is hard to explain, as every teacher who has a passion for teaching loves it for different reasons. I thrive on interaction with others both students and staff. I enjoy the challenge of the classroom, developing mutual respect, seeing the 'lightbulb' go off, changing teaching styles for different learners and different age groups, (going from Year 7 Food to Year 12 Health & Human Development requires a mindset change-over in the five minutes between classes), changing how and what I teach from year to year (you should see my collection of obsolete folders in the garage), running into past students in my day to day life; and watching 12 year olds mature into young adults ready to take on their world, the product of all their teachers over the six years. And finally, the experience I had yesterday, in the twilight of my career – a guest speaker for my Year 11 Health & Human Development class being a former student, Jo Labbett (Lund) and discovering a Year 9 Textiles student is the daughter of one of my son's Damascus school friends, Zoe Armstrong.

**What are you now looking forward to in your life/career?**

Retiring at the end of this year! Being able to take a greater role in our grandchildren's lives. Continuing to travel – there are still a few places to visit. Improving my level of physical activity. Finding something part-time to fill the gap of teaching – volunteering or my second career! Reading more books.

DONALDA "DONNIE" DAVIDSON  
Current Staff Member

**LIFE IS SWEET!**

*Alumni Story*



Born and bred in Ballarat, I attended Sacred Heart College from 1978 to 1981. I am the youngest of four children; my sister Susan also attended Sacred Heart College/St Martins in the Pines and my brothers Stephen and Michael attended St Patricks College.

After leaving school I was lucky enough to land a job in the insurance industry and worked for the same company for approximately 29 years when I was then handed a redundancy package. Most of my working career has been spent in P.A./ Marketing type rolls and I am glad I took notice and persevered in those long sometimes boring typing classes.

My love of cooking was further enhanced by many hours spent in our school home economics room and from school to the present day I've continued with my love of Cake Decorating.

My hobbies throughout my working life and still to this day include gardening and cake decorating which takes up a lot of my time. I have been lucky enough to have had several trips overseas especially to Italy where my father still has many relations. I was also the first female to be elected as a Director of the North Ballarat Football Club back in 1987. This continued for a period of 13 years.

Approximately 4 years ago I sold a Bed and Breakfast business that I owned and it was around that time I started my current job. Life sometimes comes full circle as I now work one day a week in the Office in Victoria Street for the Sisters of Mercy. Each week I get to chat to the likes of Sr Luke Kenna, Sr Geradine Cooney and Sr Marg Houlihan just to name a few, who in some ways, helped shape me into the person I am today. My job in the office allows me to help and assist the sisters in different ways but I feel I am giving something back to the people who gave so much to me back in my days at Sacred Heart, not that I was aware of it at the time.

I look back on my school days as very enjoyable and I'm sure I learnt a lot of life skills. I wish I had worked a bit harder or listened a little more closely but I certainly have no regrets.

ANGELA BIGARELLI (CLASS OF 1981)  
Past Student



## A SOLDIER'S LIFE

### *Alumni Story*



Marching at the War Memorial with RSLWA

I was born in Creswick in 1963 but our family soon moved to Ballarat East where I attended St. Alipius Primary School and then Sacred Heart College. Picking my favourite teacher in school is very hard, it was Mr Steve Bracks. Oh and Sr. Therese Power, and Mrs Morgan (picking one was just too hard). The subjects that I enjoyed the best were German and Geography and the memories that I cherish are of the friends made, school trips and just hanging out at lunch time.

I completed Form 4 at Sacred Heart, but wasn't really sure what I wanted to do next. I was lucky enough to travel in Europe for a year (I took my gap year a bit early) and then returned to Ballarat. I had decided on my travels that I wanted to join the Australian Army.

While I was going through the application and selection process I studied at the Ballarat School of Mines, I undertook some clerical courses.

I have four sisters who all attended Sacred Heart College and St. Martin's in the Pines and my brother went to St Patrick's College. Coming from a large family, I always knew that I wanted one of my own. I met my husband Michael in the Army, and even though he is from Perth, WA it was important to me to come home to be married. We were married in the St. Alipius Church and were blessed with two amazing children, Michelle and Daniel.

I spent 25 years in the Australian Regular Army and attained the rank of Warrant Officer Class two. It was a wonderfully fulfilling career that allowed me to travel throughout Australia and be deployed overseas. It was never a 9-5 job, but a career that I felt passionate about. I loved that I was serving my country while being able to provide a good source of income with benefits for my family.

When it was time to retire from the regular army, I knew that I wanted to continue serving in some way. I am now a Senior



Gabrielle Ryan

client contact officer with the Department of Veterans affairs. This allows me to help those Veteran's in our community and those still serving in the Defence of our Nation, get access to the resources they need. I was extremely honoured to receive the medal and Certificate of Achievement for my work during the 2017 Australia Day Awards.

In addition to my work with Veterans Affairs I am also very active with the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSLWA) and I was thrilled to be appointed the Vice President of the RSLWA branch late in 2016.

The advice that I would offer any student is to stay at school and finish Year 12. The world and career opportunities have changed, even if you don't think that Uni is for you, challenge yourself with the subjects that you enjoy and are your passion. A good education from a first rate school like Damascus will always stand you in good stead.

**GABRIELLE RYAN NEE HEGERT (CLASS OF 1980)**  
Past Student



# DAMASCUS, A FAMILY TRADITION

## Alumni Story

I have lived in Ballarat all my life. I graduated in 1993 from St Martins in the Pines. I was in Xavier (back when it was Purple, and cool).

I am currently employed as the QuickSmart Numeracy Co-ordinator at Damascus College and work with Year 7 students. An advantage of me being a past student in this job is that I have Pride in the school and love being part of the school community.

Prior to working at Damascus I worked as an assistant at St Alipius Kindergarten and in the Brown Hill Post Office before we started our family.

Some of the best things about my job are that I love working with the students and seeing their growth in their abilities as the year progresses. I am helping them learn in a fun way.

The highlight of my life has been marrying Rob and having our three beautiful children.

I am married with three children and have a sister Regina (Class of 1991), who is two years older than me. The two eldest children are here at Damascus and the third will be here next year. As a mother of three my hobbies are kid focused, I enjoying watching my children play Netball, Basketball and Footy!

My favourite teacher (although I had so many, picking just one has been hard) was Andrew Seear, who is still at the College and hasn't changed a bit!! He was extraordinary! My best memories of school included the drama productions, sporting events and my friends. Not surprisingly my favourite subject was drama, but I also loved maths.

When I was a student here (at St. Martin's in the Pines) I loved the surrounds (bush setting), the students, teachers and all the activities that were on offer, and that I was involved in. I played as much sport as possible and was in the school choir for all six years at Sacred Heart and St Martins.

If I had to offer any career tips to students it would be to find something that you really love. Being happy and enjoying what you do each day is really important. Whether you go to uni or start in the work place from school.

The things I am most looking forward to in my career is continuing to help the students in my care and having a great time with them while they do it.

A piece of advice I would give to any student starting Damascus in Year 7 is to take every opportunity to get involved with school life that you can. There is so much on offer and there really is something for everyone to suit different interests and skills.

I haven't moved far! I seem to be back where I started. And I couldn't think of anywhere I would rather be.

**DOMINIQUE JANS NEE DE YONG**  
(CLASS OF 1993)  
Past Student and  
Current Staff member



Dominique Jans



## RETIRED STAFF LUNCH

On Wednesday 26 October 2016 the Retired Staff Group met at the Royal Mail in Sebastopol at 12.30pm for a get together and lunch.

The group meet six times a year, approximately every two months. They get together to catch up, share stories and memories and to retain some of the comradery they enjoyed as staff in a school. Holiday plans were discussed, travel pictures and stories shared and family photos oohed and aahed over. A great time catching up was had by all.

In attendance were: Yvette Nesir McNeil, Margaret Lavery, Cassandra Carland, Clive Carland, Sonia West, Kate McKone,

Marie Murmane, Carmen Duxon, Jane Ducardus, Gordon Shaw, Mick Fenlon, Mollie Cleary, John Cairnes and Gail Quirke.

Dates scheduled for 2017 are: 4 May, 29 June, 17 August, 12 October and 30 November.

If you are a retired staff member of Damascus College or one of its foundation schools (Sacred Heart College, St. Paul's Technical College and St. Martin's in the Pines) and would like to be included and kept up to dates on activities please email us at [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au) or call 03 5337 2222.





# STAFF RETIREMENTS

**Tony Purcell** began his teaching career at Damascus in January 1988 at St. Martin's in the Pines. For 28 years he has been an inspirational teacher to our young men and woman, instilling in them a love of languages, literature and psychology.

*"Tony was one of the most inspiring teachers I have ever had. The stories he shared during lessons were truly treasured. He is one of a kind - I still think about him often and hope that one day I can be just as adored as a teacher as he is! Love you TP."*  
- Carla Walker nee Hughes (Class of 2009)

Tony's career spanned 42 years, with 40 years in Catholic Education.

Retiring with much acclaim at the end of 2016, Tony's presence is missed but we wish him the very best.



**Greg Macallister** commenced teaching at St Martin's in The Pines in 1987 and transitioned to Damascus College in 1995. A proud member of Rice House Greg opened up the world of mathematics and technology for literally thousands of students on this campus for 30 years.

*"Mr. Mac was the first maths teacher I ever had who actually took the time to explain things to me in a way that I would actually understand. It was because of Greg that I got an academic award for maths that year. He was one of the most supportive teachers I had."*  
- Ebony Reid (Class of 2014)

Greg has left Ballarat and its gloomy weather for a warmer climate. We celebrate his contribution and wish him well for the future.



**Carmen Duxson** retired throughout the year after commencing service to Catholic Education as a librarian in 1976 before joining the St Martin's team in 1985 and progressing to Damascus in 1995. Carmen is a person who is very committed and passionate about Damascus. This longevity is a true testament to her belief and love for the College its staff and of course its students.

Carmen was a renowned cataloguer from well before the time of automatic systems, and her other speciality was in the audio-video department. Carmen ran this section for many years, not only editing video but also creating material for the school and teaching senior students how to make their own video. At the time this was using really advanced techniques and she was the local expert.

Carmen has finished her career as the College archivist and looks forward to a retirement that will be filled with family, farming, and singing.





## STAFF FAREWELLS



**Carmel Russell** joined the Damascus staff team in 2007 and has been a wonderful contributor over the past ten years. Carmel has supported many students in learning about Food Technology, Textiles and Business Management and she has supported hundreds of VCAL and VETiS students in pursuing vocational programs, as the Applied Learning Coordinator. Carmel has been seconded to the Catholic Education Office and will continue to influence learning outcomes positively for young people in vocational education. We thank Carmel for her contribution and wish her well in her new endeavour.

**Stephanie Tan Kristanto** was with Damascus as a College Counsellor for 12 months, but within this short time she was able to implement several initiatives for students. She introduced the Potters Corner, which is a timeout room for students with special needs. Students are able to use this room for timeout to reduce the anxiety associated with everyday school life. She also introduced the student wellbeing team which was a team of interested students who promoted mental health and wellbeing to students, staff and the Damascus community. This group provided regular information on the Damascus College Facebook page and promoted causes such as R U OK day and Mental Health Awareness week.

Stephanie provided staff professional development on ASD students in the class room and provided strategies for dealing with students with special needs. She also developed procedures for dealing with the issue of school refusal. During 2016 Stephanie completed her training in Clinical Psychology and has moved into a Clinical Psychologist position with the Ballarat Mental Health Team. We wish Stephanie the best of luck with her new position.

**Rebecca Petrie** has worked at Damascus for the past nine years, starting out as a graduate teacher of English and VCE Psychology. In this time she had a leadership position looking after Aboriginal and Sudanese students and their families. She also took an active role leading our Student Representative Council and implemented the Peer Mentor program for incoming Year 7 students.

Rebecca then decided to return to study and complete her Psychology degree after which she moved into our Wellbeing team as a school counsellor. She has always had our students as her primary focus both as a teacher and counsellor. In early

2017 she took her career further by taking up an Educational Psychologist position at St Patrick's College in Ballarat. We wish Rebecca the best of luck.

**Nick Smerdon** was with Damascus College as an ICT Support Officer for 12 months, where he helped the students and staff with various IT issues, based in the St Martin's Resource Centre. He has a friendly and approachable disposition which we valued greatly. Nick leaves Damascus to follow his dream of becoming a Police Officer – good luck Nick.

**Silvy Wantania** started at Damascus College in 2009 enriching our VCE students experience of Indonesian with additional language work, and in the following year she commenced work teaching Indonesian and Humanities at Damascus. Silvy proved to be a great asset to the Languages department, Humanities and Rice House. She got involved in College life, despite travelling everyday from the outskirts of Melbourne, and also participated in 3 overseas trip with Indonesian students. In learning of Silvy's departure from Damascus, some students were very upset and said "How could anyone replace Bu Wantania' and this is one of the greatest compliments that any teacher could receive. We wish Silvy the best of luck at her new school and all the best for the future.



# 2016 REUNIONS



## CLASS OF 1986 – 30 YEAR REUNION

The 1986 reunion was attended by approximately 40 past students. The festivities, for some, began on Friday night before the group met at 4pm on Saturday 8 October, 2016 at the Damascus College Campus for coffee, tea and biscuits made by classmate Peta Donnelly.

The group then enjoyed a school tour, the boarders were especially excited to see their old rooms, now the Sacred Heart Wing. The tour was enriched by the tales that staff member Donnie Davidson shared about staff members that many of the students asked about. These past students were thrilled to learn that some of the staff members that they remembered fondly were still at Damascus (Sr. Marie Davey, Jo Kennedy, Karen Simpkin, Deb Larsen and Trish Rowe, to name just a few). Adding to the joy of the day was the attendance of retired staff member Gordon Shaw to share a story and take some pictures.

The past students left the College campus in high spirits and headed to Mitchell Harris Wines for a formal dinner and to enjoy more time catching up.

The highlight of the event was reconnecting with long lost friends, some who hadn't seen each other for 30 years.

The organising group for the Class of 1986 reunion was led by Natalie West.

**In attendance were:** Helen Ashton, Jacinta Baker, Lisa Baker, Jane Barnard, Sonja Bartels, Leanne Bland, Joanne Briody, Sharon Britt, Mary Cushing, Peta Donnelly, Nikola Drendel, Nicky Dulfer, Susanne Graafmans, Elizabeth Haintz, Fran Haintz, Anna Huska, Jacqueline Leonard, Sally Ljaskevic, Tania Lund, Karen Madden, Maureen O'Brien, Clare Powell-Gray, Isabelle Robberechts, Marina Smith, Bern Squires, Christina Stevens, Juanita Topham, Tania Troon, Marianne Troup, Leanne Van Leeuwen, Natalie West and Genevieve Willmott.

## CLASS OF 1996 – 20 YEAR REUNION

The Class of 1996 attendees enjoyed the initial Welcome Reception held at Damascus College on Friday 14 October, 2016.

The evening began at the College with drinks and light refreshments and an opportunity for the past students to catch up. The 40+ attendees were welcomed to the school by Matthew Byrne, Principal and current staff members. A highlight for the students, especially the St Paul's boys was to see and catch up with staff member Debra Glasson. Deb had taught many of these men and still remembered them by name.

The students were then led on a school tour that showed off the many changes to the campus in the last 20 years. The past students were transported back to their old school days when they saw the Hans Korr Sculpture on the doors of the St Martin's Resource Centre. They marvelled at how much some things had changed, and how familiar others were.

At the conclusion of the school tour the Class of 1996 departed for the after party at the Freight Bar and Restaurant, to a private function room. The attendees partied until the wee hours and enjoyed this opportunity to reminisce together.

The Class of 1996, 20 Year reunion was organised by Louise Stevens and David Berendsen (1996 School Captains), Kayleen McKeegan, Belinda Eden, and Brooke Adam.

**In attendance were:** Brooke Adam, David Barendsen, Emily Britt, Briohny Burns, Peta Byrne, Julie Carey, Nathan Dejong, Rebecca Ebbels, Belinda Eden, Nicole Ford, Rebecca Hale, Damian Hanrahan, Renae Haorth, Rebekah Hawkins, Jason Irvin, Sandi Irvine, Selena Jones, Nareeda Lewers, Melissa Mahar, Kaylene McKeegan, Emma McNiece, Jackie O'Loughlin, Jessica Rodda, Monique Rose, Liv Rowe, Olivia Skelton, Louise Stevens, Kate Taylor, Donna Trethowan, Cara Waters, Chris Watt, Yasmin Wills and Lindsey Wilson.





### CLASS OF 2006 – 10 YEAR REUNION

The Class of 2006 met at the Damascus College campus to enjoy a school tour conducted by staff member Andy Robertson on Saturday 29 October at 4pm. Approximately 30 past students attended.

After enjoying a trip down memory lane the group went to the Freight Bar and Restaurant where they were joined by past staff member Gordon Shaw and current staff member Gavin Walsh.

The consensus of the evening was *“no one had aged or changed, they were no wiser or richer, and yes...they were the best days of our life (so far)”*.

The Class of 2006 10 Year Reunion was organised by past student Jordan McPhan.

**In attendance were:** Hayley Chapman, Jacinta Cooper, Amy Crawley, Naomi Crawley, Anthony Creati, Patrick Dickson, Nadene Dudley, Rebecca Dyer, Simone Fodor, Vaughn Goynes, Catharine Hayes, Jon Hucker, Kelly James, Taryn Jones, Tom Kent, Madeleine Kenyon, Chris Lewis, Teresa Malthouse, Jayden Mann, Kale Marnica, Anna Martin, Daniel Mauric, Ashlea Mcglynn, Simon Mcneight, Jordan McPhan, Sam McVitty, Elaine Mills, Dom Murphy, Erin Myers, Rachael Newitt, Megan Nykoluk, Amy Osullivan, Angela Rivett, Lachlan Rodgers, Joel Roughhead, Tess Ryan, Emma Sanders, Emma Sandford, Natalie Tingate, Edwin Veal, Brittany Walker, Matt Ward, Lisa Warren, Jillie Witford and Brenton Yates.

### CLASS OF 1991 – 25 YEAR REUNION

On Saturday 12 November, 2016 the Class of 1991 decided to have a special get together to celebrate their 25 year reunion. Typically class reunions are held for 10, 20, 30 and 40 Year groups. The College was happy to support the Class of 1991 in wanting to have this additional get together.

The Class of 1991 met at Damascus College for a tour of the school. The tour was attended by about 20 past students, some of their partners and even a few of their children. They really enjoyed being able to show off the school and enjoyed the walk down memory lane. The reunion festivities were held at Mitchell Harris Wines with over 75 attendees. The group enjoyed drinks and nibbles and the opportunity to mingle and catch up. They were entertained by an acoustic duo and enjoyed a photo slide show of their glory days.

Retired staff member Gordon Shaw was on hand to catch up with guests and to take some pictures.

*“The lights may have gone out, but the party couldn’t be stopped.”*

The organising group included; Daniel Hughes, Paula Pryor, Michelle Cahill, John Murphy, Kate Gordon, Mark Azzopardi, Adi Ryan and was led by Romarna Dichiera.

**In attendance were:** Simone Anderson nee West, Rachael Ash, Julie Boyd, Michelle Cahill, Georgina Carroll, Melinda Cassidy, Amanda Clarke, Andrew Connellan, Sharon Cronin, Vincent Curran, Jo Davis, Liz Delbridge, Romarna Dichiera, Regina Duggan, Joanne Dyer, Anita Edwards, Angela Ericsson, Danielle Foley, Kate Gordon, Melissa Graham, Mellanie Graham, Alex Gray, Tessa Gurry, Kathryn Harwood, Frances Heap, Monica Hinson, Bec Hose, Daniel Hughes, Bernie Innes, Chris Jones, Kylie Keep, Carlie Kelly, Jason Kelly, Katrina Kennedy, Bridgette Kruger, Rachael Kuchel nee Lewis, Joanna Labbett, Sallie Lamberti, Claire Leach, Amanda Loftus, Elaine Cummins nee Looby, Scott Lyons, Anita Maguire, Rachel Martino, Seona Maybery, Jennie Mifsud, Jeremy Muller, John Murphy, Natalie O'Brien, Cate O'Driscoll, Leanne O'Neil, Anne Power, Neisha Prendergast, Paula Pryor, Marita Punshon, Traci Robins, Kerryn Rosenhart, Shaun Rosenhart, Adrienne Ryan, Katrina Scopel, Virginia Shillito, James Slade, Michelle Steenhuis, Kane Stewart, Marion Taffe, Trish Tayler, Felicity Thomlinson, Leisa van Hamond and Tanya Wells.



# 2017 CLASS REUNIONS

This year each Class Reunion Event will begin with a Welcome Reception that is held at the Damascus College Campus in Mt Clear. Further details can be found on our website or the specific Facebook groups.

## CLASS OF 1967 - 50 YEAR REUNION

**Facebook Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/276839229397236/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/276839229397236/)

Students of Sacred Heart College, St. Paul's Technical College and St Martin's in the Pines (Foundation schools of Damascus College Ballarat) who graduated in 1967 or may have left at other times but identify best with this year group it's time to celebrate your 50 Year class reunion.

**Reunion Date:** Saturday 28 October, 2017

## CLASS OF 1977 - 40 YEAR REUNION

**Facebook Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/188687988273312/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/188687988273312/)

Students of Sacred Heart College, St. Paul's Technical College and St Martin's in the Pines (Foundation schools of Damascus College Ballarat) who graduated in 1977 or may have left at other times but identify best with this year group it's time to celebrate your 40 Year class reunion.

**Reunion Date:** Saturday 29 April, 2017

## CLASS OF 1987 - 30 YEAR REUNION

**Facebook Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/1144969062267616/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1144969062267616/)

Students of Sacred Heart College, St. Paul's Technical College and St Martin's in the Pines (Foundation schools of Damascus College Ballarat) who graduated in 1987 or may have left at other times but identify best with this year group it's time to celebrate your 30 Year class reunion.

**Reunion Date:** Friday 19 May, 2017

## CLASS OF 1997 - 20 YEAR REUNION

**Facebook Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/1107489729397376/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1107489729397376/)

Students of Damascus College Ballarat who graduated in 1997 or may have left at other times but identify best with this year group it's time to celebrate your 20 Year class reunion.

**Reunion Date:** Friday 28 April, 2017

## CLASS OF 2007 - 10 YEAR REUNION

**Facebook Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/399359983747734/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/399359983747734/)

Students of Damascus College Ballarat who graduated in 2007 or may have left at other times but identify best with this year group it's time to celebrate your 10 Year class reunion.

**Reunion Date:** Friday 5 May, 2017







## 2016 AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

The annual Awards and Achievement evening was held on Wednesday 16 November at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts. This event recognises students throughout 2016 who have achieved academic excellence, general endeavour, sporting endeavour and age group champions.

In keeping with tradition the College invited a past student, Bridget Davies (Class of 2007) to speak about her life and experiences since leaving Damascus College. Bridget spoke of her love of performing and the confidence that it gave her during school life, as well as the hard work and determination she needed to succeed academically. Bridget spoke of her illustrious singing career and how she won a trip to study in Italy, where she sung in numerous operas. She spoke of her change in career where she studied journalism at RMIT and is now a cadet journalist at the Herald Sun.

Bridget spoke about winning the Melbourne Press Club's quill for Student Journalist of the Year and her nomination for the national award, the Walkley Young Journalist of the year. She encouraged award recipients to not worry if they did not yet know what they may want to do in life, and encouraged them to look outside of Ballarat and see some of the world. She ended her speech with a quote from a mentor saying that if you want something but you can't go through the front door, jump the fence and try the back door, if that doesn't work try a side door or parachute onto the roof and get in that way.

Bridget went on to say for all to "be the person that your peers look up to. It doesn't matter if you aren't the most talented or the smartest or best looking or aren't good at sport – make the choice to work hard and achieve. Determination to find a way, and if you have to go down a chimney to get it, it will get you on the path to your goals. I promise you, you'll look back ten years from now and you won't regret it."

The audience was treated to various performances throughout the night including, a piano and violin solo by Sean O'Beirne and Elise Wright. Jack Gillard performed his VCE Drama solo – *The Adventures of Louis de Rougemont*, Imogen Coles presented her video that won her the Premiers Spirit of Anzac Prize 2016 and the Damascus College Choir performed beautifully to the audience.

The evening was an affirmation of Damascus College students who have been given significant skills and talents and who have made the most of their blessings. Congratulations to all award recipients on their contribution to the College and on their hard work and commitment to their education throughout 2016.

'Special Awards' were also given and the recipients are listed below:

**Pierre de Coubertin Award**  
Grace Nichols

**Sports Person of the Year Award**  
Joel Duffy

**Junior Debating Award**  
sponsored by Geoff Howard  
James Bolton

**Senior Debating Award**  
sponsored by Geoff Howard  
Peggy Yandell

**Junior Social Justice Award**  
Amber Kennett

**Senior Social Justice Award**  
Giarn Carroll

**Junior Performing Arts Award**  
Tabitha Byron

**Senior Performing Arts Award**  
Jack Gillard

**Junior Leadership Award**  
Matthew Snibson

**Senior Leadership Award**  
Bonita Bruggar

**Jo Reilly Award**  
Jordan Hill

**Damascus College Scholarship for the Arts**  
Jennifer Hunt

**Damascus College Scholarship for Sport**  
Jordan Walker

**Damascus College Scholarship for Academic Study**  
Mia Lepair

**Dorothy Irene-Ellis Thomas Scholarship**  
Caitlin Jans & Raphael Mroczkowski

**Sisters of Mercy Dorothy Griffin Scholarship**  
Castley Webb & Sean O'Beirne

**Damascus College Academic Honours**  
Brooke Hutchinson

**Catherine King Community Shield**  
The Senior Green Group: Liam Claridge, Zoe Elms, Teagan Farnsworth, Jade Martin, Claire Roberts, Jessica Vorstenbosch, Elise Wright

**Senior Art Acquisition**  
Molly Hutchinson

**Junior Art Acquisition**  
Arley Milne



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**John Maher** (1965) continues to be recognized for his Carmen Road Safety Message Project. John received the 2015 City of Ballarat Community Safety Award and Australian of the Day on December 4, 2015. Over 150,000 secondary and university students have heard Carmen's road safety message: that fatigue can strike at any time. John's presentation is personal and powerful, urging his listeners to make better life decisions. We are proud to have John as one of our Alumni members.

**Paul Elders** (Class of 1974) has retired from his career in the Australian Navy and is now enjoying retirement in Indonesia. Paul has been happily married to Lucy for the last 22 years.

Artist **Maryanne Coutts** (Class of 1977) exhibited *Jostle* at the Australian Galleries in Sydney. The art focuses on faces, with a variety of expressions depicted. The series is a combination of ink drawings and water colour paintings on paper.

**James Schelpers** (Class of 1982) is enjoying early retirement on the Sunshine Coast. He travelled extensively in the United States and Canada with his job and is looking forward to being in one place long enough to start a veggie garden. James plans on being in Ballarat at the end of the year for a much anticipated family wedding.

**Lou Ridsdale** (Class of 1990) was thrilled when "Food Is Free Inc" received some nationwide exposure. Channel 7's *Better Homes & Garden's Australia* shot a segment during a seed planting working bee.

**Renee Hocking** nee Richards (Class of 1993) has completed her Master's Degree in Business Management from Deakin University. This is something that Renee has been working on for several years and the satisfaction of finally completing it is wonderful. Renee will continue her career with National Australia Bank (NAB).

**Jaye Cahir** (Class of 1997) won the 2017 Bernie Davey Medal as the Ballarat Cricket Associations best second grade player. Jaye plays for Dunnstown and polled 17 votes. He first won this medal in 1999-00, a decade later he again won it in 2009-10 and now has his third crown.

**Joan Fitzgerald-Brouwer** (Class of 1997) is now living in Oss, a city in North Brabant, the Netherlands.

Artist **Kim Anderson** (Class of 1997) has won both the judge's and people's choice awards at the Ballarat Arts Foundation's Eureka Art Award. Kim won for her self-portrait *Fighting Inertia* a copic pen, charcoal and red wine on paper piece. The portrait depicts Kim with her dress pulled part way over her head, covering her eyes and riding up the back of her thighs. Kim was also a featured artist, with an installation at the inaugural White Night Ballarat arts festival. White Night Ballarat transformed the city through installation, lighting, exhibitions, street performances, film, music, dance and interactive events.

Musician **Natasha Macey** (Class of 1999) has been traveling since she left Ballarat straight out of school. She has been fortunate to support herself playing the violin and piano in London, Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam. Natasha composed and played both her violin and piano on the soundtrack for *Tears Of Ghost*. The film won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2016 Van Gogh Awards presented during the Amsterdam Film Festival.

**Trent Pye** (Class of 2006) has completed his first ICN (iCompete Natural) Australia Body Building Competition with great success. Trent won for Rising Star and Rookie for the under 75 kilo division as well as taking the win for the Rookie open class. Congratulations Trent.

Former class captain **Marianne Cashin** (Class of 2007) is currently living in London, England.

**Jack Grayland** (Class of 2007) has been named the 2017 Apprentice of the Year – Ballarat Section – by the Master Builders Association of Victoria.

**Matthew Ringin** (Class of 2007) won the 2017 Ballarat Cricket Association EJ Cleary Medal, six votes clear on nine votes. Matthew is the Napoleons-Sebastopol captain and was also inducted into the Ballarat Cricket Association Hall of Fame.



**Ashlea Pearson** (Class of 2008) and **Joel Mahar** (Class of 2008) became engaged on New Year's Day 2017. They are busy planning their wedding.

**Tessa Marshall** (Class of 2009) is doing volunteer work at RSPCA Pet's Place, Voice FM and as an advocate with Australian Unemployed Workers Union. She also continues to perform. Singing, acting and dancing with the Creswick Theatre Company having played such roles as *Snow White*, Alice in *Alice In Wonderland* and Queen Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* musical version as well as solo concerts show casing female singers.

**Shannon Lewis** (Class of 2011) is studying fashion design in Brisbane at the prestigious Queensland University of Technology. Shannon has won a competition that took her to San Francisco for her sustainable and unique designs. Shannon was one of 50 students from all around the world. Shannon also completed an exchange to Berlin, Germany. Closer to home she has interned with designer Grace Lillian, helping her put together a fashion performance for the close of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

**Jessica De Vries** (Class of 2011) came in third place for Australia's Best Female Drummer. Jess is passionate about music and (particularly) playing the drums mixed with a bit of vocals and keys. Her dream is to become a skilful musician, traveling the world doing what she loves to do, performing and playing music. You can check out what Jess has been up to on her website [www.jessdevries-drums.com](http://www.jessdevries-drums.com)

**Eleanor Snibson** (Class of 2014) was awarded the New Colombo Plan Scholarship by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She is currently studying at the National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei and is undertaking internships there.

**Nicola Mann** (Class of 2015) won the City of Ballarat Trainee of the Year Award on 17 March 2017, for her Diploma of Nursing. Nicola was nominated by her teachers and employees at Ballarat Health Services and had to submit her application with written references. Nicola received a certificate and \$1,000 toward further studies and now has the opportunity to go on to the State Award. Congratulations Nicola.

Congratulations to **Leah Potter** (Class of 2016) who was a finalist in the Australian Catholic University Pixel Prize Photography Competition. There were 2012 entries whittled down to 100 finalists work displayed on the night. The four categories including dark room, composition, best representation and most original. Each category was awarded two prizes. Leah won Highly Commended for best representation for the theme *My Generation*.

The Ballarat Property Group not only have a number of clients, both landlords and tenants with ties to Damascus College but also vendors and purchasers. The agency currently has five past students who work there as well. They are:

**Sean Toohey** (Class of 2004) was made a Director a year ago, with over five years at the agency.

**Jessica Simpson** (Class of 2005) is a Property Manager who started at the Ballart Property Group in September 2016. She transferred from another agency and this is her sixth year in the Real estate Industry.

**Jacqui Toohey** nee Fenlon (Class of 2005) has been assistant to Sean Toohey for two years.

**Chelsea Hogben** nee Kelly (Class of 2010) has been a Property Manager for three plus years.

**Josh Kervarec** (Class of 2014) is an Assistant Property Manager and started in October 2016.

## BIRTHS

**Joanne Leishman** (Class of 1975) welcomed a new grandson into the family. The proud parents are Mary and Joel; Tyler is a little brother for Cassidy and Rianna.

**Kimberley Roberts** nee Smith (Class of 2000) and husband Paul are the proprietors of the café in Midvale Shopping Centre called 'Espresso District'. They welcomed daughter Harper Willow in late 2016 a sister for big brother Brooklyn.

**Celeste and Dylan Giles** (Class of 2004) welcomed their second child Edie Maree, a little sister for Bonnie in October 2016.

**Carla Walker** nee Hughes (Class of 2009) and husband Josh welcomed a new edition to the family in January 2017. Amersyn Willow is a little sister for Amaeley Anne.

## MARRIAGES

**Teagan Crosbie** (Class of 2004) married Jason Hegert in front of family and friends at the beautiful Baie Winery. The bride's brother **Jason Crosbie** (Class of 2007) was a groomsman.

**Andrew Jonathan Robertson** (Class of 2009) married Megan Klaus in early March 2017 at the Cammeray Waters Conference Centre and Resort near Woodend Victoria.

**Ebony O'Brien** (Class of 2014) married Nathan McClain in January 2016 at York Street Church of Christ and have recently celebrated their first anniversary. **Bethany Claridge** (Class of 2014) was Maid of Honour, **Liam O'Brien** (Class of 2012) was Bride's Attendant and **Caitlyn Rhodes** (Class of 2014) did the reading.

## IN MEMORY



**David Torpy** (Class of 1996) died in January 2017. David was the dearly loved son of Peter and Patricia (both dec.). The beloved husband of Janelle. Adored father to Kelsey and Lila. Dearly loved brother to Teresa, James, Michael (dec.), Jacinta and Christina. Wonderful uncle to Patricia and Alexander.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT AT DAMASCUS COLLEGE

# How to create a culture of **motivation** and **engagement** for **teens**

with **Nathan Hulls**

Youth Motivational Speaker and Teen Behaviour Specialist

Discover the six core needs of young people, three primal fears, three subconscious questions all young people are asking you and the seven keys to creating a culture of engagement, motivation and resilience for teens.



**Wednesday 24 May 2017 at 7pm**  
Venue: John Shannon Centre, Damascus College

Tickets available from [www.damascus.vic.edu.au](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au)



## ALUMNI

Damascus College Ballarat  
Sacred Heart College  
St Martin's in the Pines  
St Paul's Technical College

Are you planning to attend your **2017 Class Reunion?**

Full details can be found on your years Facebook Group Page, join via

**Facebook Group - Damascus College Alumni** or at [www.damascus.vic.edu.au](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au) and select **Past Students Reunions & Events** and **Update Your Contact Details** to make sure you receive your invitation.

50 Year	<b>Class of 1967</b>	Saturday 28 October 2pm
40 Year	<b>Class of 1977</b>	Saturday 29 April 4pm
30 Year	<b>Class of 1987</b>	Friday 19 May 6pm
20 Year	<b>Class of 1997</b>	Friday 28 April 6pm
10 Year	<b>Class of 2007</b>	Friday 5 May 6pm

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