

INTRODUCING
THE DAMASCUS
COLLEGE BOARD
/ 04

McAULEY CUP / 06

2016 EAST TIMOR
IMMERSION TRIP
/ 10

SCHOOL
PRODUCTION -
GREASE / 15

ATHLETICS
CARNIVAL 2016
/ 16

ALUMNI STORY:
PAST STUDENTS
PLAYING FOR AFL
GLORY / 19



The Road

DAMASCUS COLLEGE

SPRING 2016

From the Principal	02
Damascus College Strategic Directions 2016-2020	03
Introducing the Damascus College Board	04
Mercy International Reflection Process	05
McAuley Cup	06
Damascus Day	07
French Trip 2016	08
Scout Honours	09
Damascus Students Battled for Debating Glory	09
2016 East Timor Immersion Trip	10
East Timor through the eyes of damascus Students	12
Making a Difference	13
Mother's Day and Father's Day Liturgy and Breakfast	13
Imogen Awarded the Spirit of Anzac	14
School Production - <i>Grease</i>	15
Athletics Carnival 2016	16
Blast from the Past	16
Students Build their own 3D Printer	17
Malaysian Students Visit Damascus	17
Food is Free <i>Alumni Story</i>	18
Past Students Playing for AFL Glory <i>Alumni Story</i>	19
Damascus Strong <i>Alumni Story</i>	19
1:1 Device Program	20
Annual Guest Speaker Event	20
Reunions	21
Where are they now?	22
Births, Marriages, In Memory	22



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MATTHEW BYRNE



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Road. This spring, after the abundance of our winter rain, the seasonal growth is profuse and it is great to see those within our rural industries filled with the hope for a strong end to the growing season.

Abundant growth and the cusp of the new that spring promises, are themes which are resonating with us strongly in our College community. Since mid-2015 the College Board, led initially by Vin Dillon and followed on by Joe Cahir in the role of Chair, commenced the process of developing the strategic directions 2016-20. Experienced educator, Philomena Billington guided the Board in the development of our next road map and the consultation processes were extensive. We are very excited about the new directions for our College as they affirm the work that we have already undertaken and challenge us to new heights in achieving the vision for the young people of this community. A vision that states; *"Damascus College is a Christ centred Learning community that values each member and is committed to inspiring and challenging students to reach their potential and contribute confidently to the global community."*

The strategic directions were promulgated at the end of July at a joint staff and Board event. An exceptional multi-media resource was developed by Leader of School Development, Sarah Boswell and O'Collins House Leader, Daniel Jans, it allows us to revisit our shared purpose at all levels across the College over the life of this plan. I encourage all members of our community to tap into the documentation, it is not wordy and it provides a snapshot of the key elements of our identity and the directions we will take over the years to come.

Our College Board does a wonderful job in providing the strategic focus for our community. They are supported by a series of sub-committees that support learning and teaching, well-being, school community, Catholic school culture and finance, facilities and risk. I would just like to take the opportunity to promote the opportunity to give back through these sub-committees and encourage those who may consider it a possibility to indicate your interest through the College development office.

Progressive and innovative learning and teaching that maximises student outcomes, is a feature of our new strategic directions. As a College community we are moving to an "Early Start Program" at the end of 2016 to maximise the learning and teaching processes. All students will progress to the next year level for the final two weeks of the College year. In 2014 the Learning

Area Leaders proposed an early start program that gave greater validity to the end of year transitional arrangements for senior students and provided a mechanism to address the organisational complexities for all students while putting learning and achievement at the heart of the educational change.

As I write this newsletter we add the graduating class of 2016 to our College alumni. They have been a remarkable group of young men and women who we proudly send forth into the global community. I acknowledge and thank those families for whom 2016 marks the end of their Damascus journey and hope that you remain connected with us through forums such as this, the facebook page and the website. We were fortunate to celebrate the Year 12's final day of classes by welcoming Bulldogs premiership player and 2008 College captain, Jordan Roughead back to address the College. We are very appreciative of Jordan coming off his holidays to spend time with us. Jordan is a generous young man of remarkable character, who has worked incredibly hard to develop his gifts and it is great to see him enjoying the fruits of his labour.

Recently our staff team has been rocked by the sudden and tragic passing of Mary Cooper who has been a science and arts technician since 2008 and a former student of Sacred Heart and St Martin's. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her husband Brendan and their beautiful children, Patrick, Gemma and Hugh.

I wish to acknowledge that Tony Purcell and Greg Macallister will both retire at the end of 2016. Tony has taught at St Martin's in the Pines and Damascus for 28 years, 40 years in Catholic education and 42 years in teaching. Tony has inspired young men and women in their love of language, literature and psychology and his presence will be missed. Greg also concludes a period of outstanding service to St Marin's in the Pines and Damascus, through his teaching he has opened up the world of mathematics and technology for literally thousands of students on this campus for 30 years. We celebrate both of their contributions and wish them well for the future. Bronwyn Strachan is taking leave in 2017 and her presence in the visual arts will be sorely missed after her 25 year contribution. Teachers, Adrian Newman and Kirsten Phyland are both doing teacher exchange in Canada in 2017 and we look forward to them bringing new knowledge and skills from far away shores back to Damascus.

So in this time of spring and new growth we prepare for the 207 students who will join us in Year 7 in 2017.

As the festive season approaches may the blessings of the season be upon you all.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE

Strategic Directions 2016-2020

By 2020, Damascus College will be known for being a Christ-centred learning community committed to a culture of excellence that inspires students, develops staff, and values parents and families - and in so doing, encourages all to reach their potential and place in wider society.

ACCORDINGLY, DAMASCUS COLLEGE ASPIRES TO -



A shared vision and values inspired by biblical and Damascus College traditions, demonstrated by -

- providing leadership-in-faith opportunities for students, staff and the broader community;
- ensuring that the Gospel and Catholic traditions are understood as guidance and support for life; and
- personal and community responses to God's call in today's world expressed as social justice.

Progressive and innovative learning and teaching that maximise educational outcomes for all students, demonstrated by -

- quality, targeted professional learning for staff;
- self-directed students inspired by high expectations; and
- quality educational outcomes that are measured and evaluated.

Respectful relationships that value all members in an inclusive, and welcoming community which celebrates diversity in a safe and supportive school, demonstrated by -

- commitment and pride in contributing to Damascus College life;
- shared expectations that both encourage and challenge all community members; and
- a safe and sustainable environment cared for by all.

A community where the contribution of all to the College and broader society is optimised, demonstrated by -

- confident and clear communication processes giving voice to the wisdom of all;
- engaged parents who contribute to the growth of students, the College and broader community; and
- strong links to the global community.



INTRODUCING THE DAMASCUS COLLEGE BOARD

The Co-Governors of Damascus College are Sr Berenice Kerr (representing the Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea) and Fr Adrian McInerney (representing the Canonical Administrators of Ballarat and District).

Damascus College has a College Board of Directors who are responsible for the strategic direction and management of the College within the terms established by the above sponsors. Damascus College is an incorporated entity in that it is a company limited by guarantee. Directors are required to comply with the Australian Institute of Company Directors Code of Conduct. The Board meets regularly to establish and review general policy, to receive regular reports from the College Principal, to consider the financial situation and to undertake long-term strategic planning for the College.

Damascus College also has Board Sub-committees which are chaired by a Board Director and consist of a member of the College Leadership Team, staff, parents and representatives from the wider community. These Sub-committees operate under terms of reference, providing advice, recommendations and input to the Board in the areas of: policy, strategic direction and community representation.

Pictured left to right: Fr Peter Sherman, Bill Slatter, Sr Berenice Kerr, Jane Collins, Brendan Maher, Paulene Barton, Raymond Wright, Lucy O'Beirne, Joe Cahir, Sr Elizabeth Dowling, Marc Amos and Amanda Western. **Absent from photo:** Fr Adrian McInerney, Stephen Carey, Brett Bryant and Michael Myers.

The 2016 Damascus College Board consists of:









Co Governors	Sr Berenice Kerr and Fr Adrian McInerney
Chair	Joe Cahir
Secretary	Matthew Byrne (Principal)
Directors	Fr Peter Sherman
	Bill Slatter
	Jane Collins
	Brendan Maher
	Paulene Barton
	Raymond Wright
	Lucy O'Beirne
	Sr Elizabeth Dowling
	Marc Amos
	Amanda Western
	Stephen Carey
	Brett Bryant
	Michael Myers



MERCY INTERNATIONAL REFLECTION PROCESS



Damascus College mercy focus CONSUMERISM

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
English			Persuasive language unit, how advertising is used to encourage consumerism.			
Mathematics	"if the world was as village of 100 people" as part of percentages topic		Part of the financial topic is to include some discussion of credit debt due to consumerism.			
Technology	Life cycle assessment.	Recycling and reusing materials.	Food wastage.	Cradle to the grave/Cradle to cradle concepts.	Planned obsolescence in society.	Sustainable design.
Arts	Burger Design – look into ads and how they hook young people in.	Patterns in Nature – look at patterns in nature, fragility of ecosystems	Landscape Design – design for an environment	Drama – epic performance based on a social issue such as consumerism		Art issue: globalisation of meat industry, consumerism regarding animal products
Languages		Food	Holidays: Green & Blue	Shopping	Unit 5 Enviro, pollution, conservation	
Health & PE	Food and the effects of over consumption in regards to health	Body Image – consumerism in regards to perceived ideals of perfectionism in an ever increasing aesthetic world			Olympics and commercialisation – the cost \$\$ of a gold medal and how much \$\$ countries pay athletes for success	
Humanities	Water and Consumption Liveable Cities and consumption	Money and Production – the use of resources in production. Sustainable production.	Food in our World. Can we feed the world? What impact does that have on our land? Types of food.	A sustainable world – What does this mean? What impact does it have on people and the planet?	BusMgt – looks at case studies of companies and how they manage Public Relations.	
Science		A sustainable house – effective use of resources Term 3	Yr 9 sustainability – ecosystems and recycling, looking at amounts of waste produced on Mars (Mission to Mars unit in term 1)		Environmental science Chemistry	Environmental Science



Above: This was the combined results of the research into students, parents and families concerns about the earth's poor.

As a school in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, established by Venerable Catherine McAuley in Dublin in the nineteenth century, Damascus College joined in this year, with the Sisters, in the Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP).

The Year of Mercy commenced for Damascus College staff on 7th December 2015 with a visit to the College by Sr. Veronica Lawson RSM and with the reception of her text, The Blessing of Mercy. Each member of the College staff was gifted a copy of the book. To mark the commencement of the Year of Mercy, Sr Veronica Lawson on behalf of Sr Berenice Kerr, College Governor, gifted the College with a large portrait photograph of a statue of Catherine McAuley.

Sr. Veronica would return twice more to address staff concerning MIRP. The process would see the College engage in a major way with the needs of the earth and the needs of the poor. After collecting stories about issues of concern from parents, staff and students, a discernment process established a College focus: Consumerism: The injustice to the living and non-living of our planet in order to sustain an existence based upon greed and wealth, impacting: Global Warming; Poverty; Deforestation; Pollution.

During Term 3 students considered this in all aspects of the curriculum, including the beginnings of understanding the theology of the Year of Mercy through the Damascus Day Mass Hands of Mercy activity. Our gospel at Damascus Day Mass was the story of the son who took his inheritance and wasted it in a binge of consumerism. The story is often called the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) but may be better named Consumerism - Finding a Way Back. Consumerism had negative effects on the relationships of this son in a story set in ancient times. In modern times consumerism is having a global effect on both the human and other-than-human relationships of our world. How can we be merciful in our relationships with the earth?

In Term 4 we are working further on understanding a theology of consumerism before discerning a community action that is liberating and sustainable and unwavering – the fruit of the Year of Mercy.

TONY HAINTZ
Assistnat Principal, Catholic School Culture



McAULEY CUP

On Monday 12th September 2016, Mercy Regional College Camperdown visited Damascus College to compete in the inaugural McAuley Cup and Shield. The two Mercy schools competed in a Girls football match and a Boys football match.

The Year 7 and 8 Damascus Girls team played some extremely good football in wet conditions and managed to secure a win by around 15 goals. Stephanie Fitzgerald and Kaiah McCahon were deadly in front of goal finishing with a couple each whilst Kaitlyn Balazic competed hard across half back. Tahlia Meier was awarded best on the ground for Damascus which was selected by the opposition coach.

The sunshine appeared for the Year 7 and 8 Boys match and it favoured the much taller Camperdown School. They took control during the first quarter leading by two goals at the break. The Damascus boys bridged the gap to six points early in the second quarter but from then on it was all Mercy Regional College Camperdown. The final score ended up being a seven goal loss for Damascus but credit to the Junior Boys for fighting it out to the end. Best on ground for Damascus was awarded to Aidan Carter with other notable contributions from Nick Pantzidis, Alex Rofe, Jack Bambury and William Deans.

Next year it will be our turn to travel to Camperdown for the second year of this competition and I'm sure the students will be looking forward to this already given the success of this year's event.

DAMASCUS DAY

On Wednesday 14th September 2016, all students and staff celebrated Damascus Day and the Year of Mercy.

Celebrations began with a whole school Mass, where the theme focussed on the 'Year of Mercy' and 'God's Mercy Endures Forever' from Psalm 136. The gospel that was chosen for the Mass was the Story of The Prodigal Son, where in the story the loving father reaches out to his sons with his loving hands in an act of mercy. The Damascus College school choir led us beautifully in celebration through song and prayer.

Mass was followed by a Festival of activities where the campus was buzzing with positive energy and excitement. Students took part in an Amazing Race Challenge where they had to visit all activities around campus, including: a jumping castle, movie mural, rowing challenge, dance off, inflatable twister and much, much more.

Students and staff then enjoyed a Performance Showcase of the many musical talents of Damascus students, where students played instruments, sang songs and danced in celebration of Damascus and the Year of Mercy.

The Showcase concluded with an engaging and hilarious Staff Flashmob where up to 15 staff members danced to 'Uptown Funk' - well done to all staff involved, it was great fun.





FRENCH TRIP 2016

At Damascus, we are very fortunate that the community, the College Board and Principal Mr Matthew Byrne support the opportunity to provide an overseas language trip every year, alternating between Indonesian and French. This year was the French Language Study Tour where students and staff experienced the joys of travelling in both Switzerland and France. As leader of the trip this year I would like to publicly express my gratitude to the families in Switzerland, who for the third time, warmly welcomed Damascus College students into their homes. I also acknowledge the Principal and staff at the Collège de L'Esplanade in Begnins for their hospitality and organisation of the school lessons during our stay.

These overseas trips involve many hours of planning and I thank Sr Marie Davey, Ms Stephanie Hoey and other language staff for

their outstanding support before and during this trip. I congratulate all the students who travelled in Switzerland and France. The 16 students worked hard to prepare for the journey and were exemplary ambassadors for our school. Together we experienced many amazing sights and sounds and I know that the students have made great progress in their spoken French and their understanding of both Swiss and French cultures. I hope that all of them will keep in contact with their host brother or sister in Switzerland and so continue the benefits of this voyage for life.

MAUREEN MYERS
French Teacher





SCOUT HONOURS

In May 2016, Year 10 student Castley Webb was recognised as a role model and leader, as she was presented with the Australian Scout Medallion, at a presentation in Melbourne that was attended by hundreds of people from across Victoria.

This award is the highest award earned by Scouts (aged 11-14 years) and recognises leadership, organisation, drive, determination, resilience and a high level of practical Scouting knowledge including campcraft and hiking.

Castley is a member of the 1st Mount Clear Scout Group. She said that to achieve this award she had to participate and lead a variety of activities, such as basic first aid, campcraft skills, navigation skills, 50 nights of camping, three day hikes and many more.

"I am very proud to receive this award" she said.

Castley has been in Scouts for four years and has completed the Adventurer component in the last 12 months. She will now enter the next youth section of Scouting, called Venturers (aged 15-17 years).

"As a Venturer, I am now striving for the Queen's Scout Award which is 250 hours of scout and community work over a three year period."

"I would encourage any young person to become a Scout as it really is a lot of fun. I have made a lot of great friends along the way, where we meet weekly and participate in camps, volunteering and working bees."

The Australian Scout Medallion has three components; The Green Cord, The Leadership Course and The Leadership Activity.



DAMASCUS STUDENTS BATTLED FOR DEBATING GLORY

On Monday 22nd August 2016, two teams of Damascus College Year 7 and 8 students competed against each other in the ACU Debating Challenge Year 7 and 8 Grand Final, as part of the Royal South Street Competition, held at the Council Chambers, Ballarat City Town Hall.

Head of the Damascus Library, Loretta Kaval said that all students did extremely well in their individual and group events.

"We were very proud to have two Damascus teams in the final, and were excited at taking the beautiful cup back to Damascus. Many thanks go to Royal South Street and all their volunteers for the opportunities they offered students in this debating competition." she said.

Prior to this year's Royal South Street Competition, these students participated in the Damascus College House debating competition and earlier this year Hannah Farhall represented Damascus College at the Debating Association of Victoria, where students debated against other regional secondary schools.

Year 7 students, Georgia Newman and Payton Overall also recently competed in the Legacy Youth of the Year Public Speaking Competition in Ballarat, and Georgia was selected in the top three to progress to the Regional Final in Bendigo.

Above: Hannah Farhall, Payton Overall, Tara Gannon, Loretta Kaval, Georgia Newman, Casey Gordijn, Symantha Sawka.

2016 EAST TIMOR IMMERSION TRIP



June 16th 2016 was the beginning of a once in a life time experience for 14 Year 11 students from Damascus College. These students were off to Timor-Leste to visit Ballarat's sister-city Ainaro and their sister school, Escola Secundra Santa Maria (Santa Maria Secondary School).

The students applied to be a part of the Timor Immersion team and spent most of the past 12 months fundraising for Santa Maria. The two main fundraising events this year were a Car Raffle and a Trivia night. All up the students raised between \$18,000 and \$20,000 for Santa Maria and a number of organisations in the capital, Dili.

The student's first experience of Timor-Leste was the hot and humid capital city Dili. From here we travelled to Ainaro. The road to Ainaro was under reconstruction and the first 10 to 20 kilometres had been resurfaced. The staff from last year thought it might be a quick drive, however, the last 100 kilometres still took over six hours because of the state of the roads and the winding mountain passages.

Immediately upon our arrival in Ainaro the students connected with the students from the school. The students were very friendly and cheerful. They made us so welcome. Our first day included a Mass in Tetum with beautiful singing all led by the boys and girls of the school. Padre Joao (Fr John) then took us to visit a site called "Jakarta 2". This site highlighted the consequences of the "occupation" of the Indonesians. The stories from this site shocked the students but it also made the students aware of the struggle the Timorese people have gone through to gain their independence. It also highlighted the happiness of the Timorese people. Regardless of their struggles they are always welcoming and positive. That's why they are happy.

Over the course of the week the Damascus students took the Santa Maria students for English conversation classes. At the end of the classes the Santa Maria students interviewed the Damascus students as one of their tasks. When classes finished the students mixed

and sang songs and played games. The teachers couldn't drag the students away from each other because they were having such a fantastic time together.

The highlight of the week was definitely the St Luis Gonzaga night. This is a night that is a celebration of the boys' pre-seminarian school. The boys and the girls put on acts for the audience. There was a shared meal for the guests and all the students finished with singing and dancing. There was also an added significance this year - they celebrated Emma Sherritt and Phoebe Bentley's birthdays with a magnificent cake and a rousing Timor rendition of Happy, Happy Birthday. The girls were very surprised.

Ordinary everyday tasks were suddenly an issue. Cold showers, no flushing toilets, bottled water for drinking and brushing teeth and food that was significantly different to our Australian/Western diet. This is one part of the Immersion that truly opened the eyes of the Damascus Students.

The final goodbyes were very difficult, because the students made great friendships. There were lots of hugs and lots of tears.

Finally, the students spent the last two days in Dili visiting organisations that are in desperate need of support but are doing work to the best of their ability. The Damascus students support The Edmund Rice Foundation, Klibur Domin Hospital, The Alola Foundation, the Alma Sisters and our friend and guide Aje's workplace - Ba Futuru. The students also visited the Tais market, Cristo Rei and Sebastian Gomez' grave in the Santa Cruz Cemetery. What an experience!

GERARD MACKLIN
Learning Area Leader - Humanities





EAST TIMOR: THROUGH THE EYES OF DAMASCUS STUDENTS

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Recently 18 Damascus College students and staff had a life changing experience in Timor-Leste. It was an immersion that opened our eyes to the danger and severity of poverty in developing countries. We went there to not only experience the culture and people, but to do something useful and help these wonderful people rebuild their lives. We had been fundraising for months in advance of the trip, and whilst in Timor, visited many organisations that tackle areas of need. Our donations will help them continue their amazing work within Timor-Leste. In Ainaro, we taught English to the Year 10, 11 and 12 students of Escola Santa Maria.

We now feel called to even do more. The villages and environments these people live in are unlike ours. At times they are unsafe and basic needs of human life not adequately provided for. Many homes are rubble and there is limited access to clean water and safe roads.

A simple donation to an organisation working within Timor-Leste, or even a visit to the country itself and working in the villages amongst the mountains are all forms of assistance that are possible. There is a lot to be done, and a lot to learn from these people. I have learned from their resilient character. I have learned about their lifestyle and how it differs to mine. Their villages and communities are struggling to be sustainable; perhaps together we could work on sustainability as a goal for ourselves and the people of Timor-Leste.



ABBEY CUTLER
Year 11

NO HUNGER

Before leaving for East Timor we were all asked to find one of the 17 sustainable development goals and research it. I chose 'no hunger' as something I had to focus on whilst being there. The way the Timorese people live, the food they eat and the size they are, all impact our knowledge of a developing country. We rarely saw people that were overweight or larger than average. Most of the little children were very skinny and small as well; not many people were tall. The food eaten there consisted of mainly rice, a little bit of meat and some vegies. Later in the trip we discovered that the locals usually only eat meat twice a week. They were giving it to us every single day, for lunch AND dinner. Their diet was very basic and did not allow them to gain the nutrition needed to live a healthy lifestyle.

As I see it, a way to help with the amount of food over there would be to gather a large group of people to travel to the villages and more self-contained areas, and teach them how to grow and maintain crops like vegetables and wheat, and educate them

on the importance of a balanced diet and the types of food that will help with their nutrition. Perhaps make a community garden that anyone can gather food from when needed, as long as they put in the effort of growing the food. If we educate as many people as we can about the importance of healthy eating then they will be able to pass it on to their children and then theirs and so on. Then hopefully we can eventually stop the food limit in East Timor, if everyone works together they will have lots of food to share and use, if everyone maintains it. I hope, for the sake of Timor-Leste that something like this can happen so that hunger is not a problem in their country and I hope that people as lucky as us would be willing to make a change.



FREYA MAUDE
Year 11

SOLIDARITY

Solidarity amongst the community is huge in Timor-Leste. This is about deep concern or empathy for others. The children in the market places were unified. They would travel around in groups in order to protect each other. With no refrigeration the meat recently killed would not keep in the humidity. Families and neighbours shared meat that they had slaughtered in the early morning. Again solidarity. At the Alama Sisters in Dili there was a protective presence. Solidarity of the Sisters in their service of children, including orphans with disabilities, was clear in their welcoming nature and in their thankfulness of our kind donations. At Ba Futuru (For the Future), there was a strong sense of justice in taking care of the beautiful children that are a part of their little community.

National solidarity is in evidence daily in Ainaro. At 6 o'clock, on the dot, the entire town of Ainaro stopped everything they were doing to turn in the direction of the police station. Whether it was playing soccer or chatting with friends, they would pause for the going down of the national flag. It was the most nationalist and unified occurrence of the trip for me.



ASHLEE SMITH
Year 11

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

My name is Matilda McKinnon and I'm in Year 11 at Damascus College.

From the middle of July till early August, I took part in a volunteering program in Thailand. We travelled to the Phang Nga district, a remote fishing village on the west coast of Thailand, on the Andaman Sea. It's a beautiful location, and is close to stunning forests and beaches.

There was a group of 15 girls aged 15 to 17, including two Australians, two Americans and eleven British youth. Throughout the course of two weeks we travelled all around Thailand from poverty stricken villages to major tourist spots.

I decided to volunteer abroad because I wanted to make a difference where the help was needed. I chose to travel to Thailand because I thought it would be an appropriate location to offer help to those still suffering the devastating impacts of the Boxing Day tsunamis in 2004. Half of the villagers died in the tsunami, and the village is still recovering in many different ways.

In September 2015, I attended the Timor-Leste immersion presentation. I was very excited because I really wanted to help others and follow the Damascus College direction of social justice and giving. After going to this information session my mum and I discovered I couldn't go due to various reasons. This motivated me more to get out of my comfort zone and volunteer. I decided to do some research online. Originally it was quite difficult to find a volunteering program for youths under the age of 18. But I kept going and that's when I found GVI or Global Vision International.

In Thailand, I helped to scrub baby sea turtles that needed daily care before being released back into the ocean. I collected rubbish from the streets of villages, dug trenches for pipes and painted public buildings. I spent two weeks in Thailand, and it was very humbling to see the lack of infrastructure, hygiene and poor living conditions compared to Australia. We spent time with local Burmese refugees. These children are not allowed to attend public schools in Thailand, as they have no identification. They rely on learning the English language to find work in the tourism industry. Other people at GVI worked with these children, teaching them to speak, read and write English.

I would definitely recommend other students investigate opportunities to volunteer overseas. I have travelled overseas numerous times, but being immersed in another culture with different standards of living and learning from the locals and how blessed we are in Australia was life changing.

I know that my bed is extremely comfortable, my food is refrigerated and safe to eat, my family and friends can go to a hospital if they are sick, they have a paid job to help them provide for their families, and education is available for everyone to gain benefit.

When I finish studying at Damascus, I hope to undertake a degree in Nursing/Paramedicine at the Aquinas Campus of the Australian Catholic University. I'd like to travel to remote indigenous communities in the Northern Territory to work in the medical field. I'd also like to work for Doctors without Borders or the Red Cross when I have finished studying.

The people of Thailand are warm, welcoming and happy, despite what we perceive to be a low standard of living.

Matilda funded this trip to Thailand with the \$2,000 she received from being awarded the Dorothy Griffin Scholarship in 2015, supported by the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.



MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY LITURGY AND BREAKFAST

To signify Mother's and Father's Day, each year Damascus holds a Liturgy and breakfast to celebrate the significant men and women in our lives.

On Thursday 5th May 2016, we welcomed more than 120 guests to celebrate Mother's Day and on Thursday 1st September 2016 we welcomed more than 100 guests to celebrate Father's Day. Attendees of both events participated in a Liturgy held at the Our Lady of Mercy Chapel on campus, followed by a delicious breakfast in the Undercroft.

It was lovely to see so many parents and guardians support their young people by attending these occasions, and it is always such a great opportunity to network and welcome new members to the Damascus community.





IMOGEN AWARDED THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC PRIZE

My name is Imogen Coles and I am a year 10 student at Damascus College. While I am originally from New Zealand, I grew up in Ballarat and I have been going to Damascus since I enrolled here in Year 7. I currently live in Miners Rest with my Mum, my Dad and older sister Sidonie.

Damascus College has provided me with many opportunities to explore my interests.

While only in year 10, I am currently studying VCE Ancient History and I am really enjoying it, as I have always had a keen interest in history. This year, I had the most amazing opportunity to visit Greece as part of the Premiers Spirit of Anzac Study Tour which had increased my knowledge and understanding of World War history, as well as ancient Greek history. This experience was once in a lifetime and I will never forget the great time I had nor the amazing people I met along the way.

This opportunity came about last year when Mr Bawden presented to my year about his own experience with winning the Spirit of Anzac prize as a chaperone. He inspired me to think about entering myself, and I am very grateful for his support and guidance throughout the process of the competition.

Prior to me entering the competition, my aunt in New Zealand had made a discovery about a man in our family who won a Victorian Cross in World War 1. Excited about this discovery, I chose to delve deeper into my family history and to make a documentary about my findings as my entry for the competition. My research began with my grandfather on my mum's side, right here in Ballarat. But my research soon took me further, all the way back to New Zealand to research the family on my dad's side.

Here, I had the chance to visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum, with whom I had been corresponding prior to arriving, to organise to see the Victorian Cross of my great, great uncle, William Sanders. While there I had the very rare opportunity to handle his Victoria Cross and to see some other artefacts of his. My journey then took me to the Torpedo Bay Navy Museum to research my great grandfather – Leo Coles. I spent time interviewing my grandparents and aunt in relation to all of these people and made many new discoveries along the way.

I was really excited when I was contacted to say that I had been short listed for the competition, and was asked to attend an interview in Melbourne. At the interview, I met the other students and made

some instant friends. I then had to wait until the end of January this year before I found out that I had been selected to participate in the overseas study tour. Needless to say, I was ecstatic!

The initial tour involved travelling to Athens, Lemnos, Turkey, Gallipoli, Brussels and Paris. Unfortunately, two days prior to our departure, the Brussels Terror attacks took place so the whole trip was almost cancelled. Instead, it was arranged that we would spend two weeks travelling Greece. I was disappointed at not having the opportunity to go to all the other places, Gallipoli especially, but I had the most amazing time in Greece instead.

I was fortunate to spend time in Athens, then in Lemnos where we went to a school and met the students there. They welcomed us warmly and we were all surprised at how fluent in English they all were. There was so much history and so many memorials for all the people who died during war, it seemed a little unreal at times.

From Lemnos we flew back to Athens and spent the day touring the grand city. The Parthenon was definitely a highlight for me. We then travelled from Athens all the way up to the top of Greece by bus, Thessaloniki. From here we went to Crete where we spent the remainder of our time and I got to celebrate my 16th birthday in a gorgeous place overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. One of the highlights for me was visiting some of the most ancient sites in the world and taking over 3500 photos!

I made so many new friends during my time overseas and I look forward to our yearly reunion in the July school holidays. The whole experience has changed my view on WW1 and WW2. I don't think that anyone can fully imagine what people went through during those times. I think that there is only so much a history textbook can tell you, and you have to physically be at these places to have any understanding of the sheer numbers of people who sacrificed their lives.

I feel privileged to have been selected for the 2016 Anzac Prize and to have had this most memorable experience. I am very thankful to everyone who assisted me with my project and to help make my application a success.

This was an experience I will never forget.

IMOGEN COLES, YEAR 10



GREASE CAST LIST

Danny - Andrew Marriott (Year 11)

Sandy - Olivia Valpied (Year 12)

Rizzo - Candi Wade (Year 12)

Jan - Ruby Penhall (Year 10)

Marty - Chiara Angeli (Year 12)

Frenchy - Ellie Carroll (Year 10)

Kenickie - Mitch Clark (Year 12)

Doody - Matthew Gay (Year 10)

Roger - Jack Lorensini (Year 11)

Sonny - Blake Johns (Year 9)

Patty Simcox - Lilli Hutchinson (Year 10)

Cha Cha Di Gregorio - Natalya Munro (Year 11)

Eugene - Harry Buck (Year 10)

Vince Fontaine - Aiden Kinder (Year 11)

Johnny Casino - Jack Davidson (Year 8)

Teen Angel - Jack Gillard (Year 12)

Miss Lynch - Jennifer Hunt (Year 10)

GREASE CHORUS/ENSEMBLE LIST

Ruby Gibson (Year 7), Georgia Newman (Year 7),

Mia Lepair (Year 7), Gemma Angeli (Year 7),

Keely Munro (Year 7), Eliza Lamb (Year 7),

Olivia Stevens (Year 7), Declan Glenister (Year 7),

Patrick Western (Year 8), Seth Carter (Year 8),

Jordan Hill (Year 9), Tabitha Byron (Year 9),

Tasya Dalem (Year 9), Stuart McLennan (Year 9),

Jameon Glenister (Year 9), Milly Frost (Year 9),

Lilly Jones (Year 9), Ruby Haeusler (Year 9),

Meghan McGannon (Year 9), Bronnie Hughes (Year 10),

Taya Letcher (Year 10), Lily Theodore (Year 10),

Taylah Den Ouden (Year 10), Emma Butler (Year 10),

Kiara Dalem (Year 11), Ava Micich (Year 11),

Sarah Collins (Year 11), Courtney Stedman (Year 11),

Grace Johns (Year 11), Georgia Skene (Year 12)

THE GREASE BAND

Conductor - Adrian Newman, Drums - Jess DeVries,

Lead guitars - Harrison Dale, Bass guitar - Luisa Bonazzoli,

Piano - Geoff Martin, Saxophone - Mira Stephens

SCHOOL PRODUCTION - GREASE

Grease, the rollicking musical that salutes the rock 'n' roll era was this year's 2016 Damascus College whole school production. This popular show, loved and recognised the world over was a nostalgic pastiche of the 1950s and promised to be fast, furious, energetic... and fun, fun, fun.

The production, with its iconic songs, dance numbers and snappy dialogue brought back the look and sound of the teenage world of the late 1950s with glee. While hip Danny Zuko and wholesome Sandy Dumbrowski resolved the problems of their mutual attraction for each other, the gang sang and danced its way through such nostalgic scenes as the pyjama party, the prom, the burger palace, and the drive-in movie. Classic songs include; *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightning* and *Beauty School Dropout*.

Grease has maintained its everlasting popularity, proving that teenage angst and love's young dream remain timeless. It is such an iconic and popular show that the five advertised sessions sold out in the FIRST WEEK, yes the first week. These packed sessions ran from Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd July 2016, and it was great to see that each session had a large student involvement from all year levels of the College, as performers, musicians and crew.

It was electrifying!



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2016



BLAST FROM THE PAST SPORT AT ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE

With all the excitement of the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio fresh in our minds, it is a great time to reflect on the rich sporting traditions that make up the history of Damascus College, looking all the way back to the 1960s.

St. Paul's Technical College opened in Lydiard Street in 1948, within walking distance to the Ballarat City Baths, and swimming was a popular sport for the boys. In 1961 during their annual swimming sports at the baths, students were kept enthralled by a diving exhibition (pictured) by W. McKenzie.

Graham Bell, the 1961 under 13 cross country champion (pictured in familiar territory - running around Lake Wendouree), showed us that we don't need the latest Mizuno footwear to prevail, just a fierce determination!

All MAMILs please take note, there was not a scrap of lycra in sight when the boys took to the road for the Junior Bike Race circa 1962. Pictured is Kevin Perrin comfortably cruising the course in full school uniform.

And finally, featured in the Ballarat Courier in July 1961, all eyes were definitely on the ball in this great photograph titled simply "Park Football". As you can see from these wonderful images, the clothing and equipment may have progressed over the years, but the desire to represent the College with pride and determination remains unchanged to this day.



STUDENTS BUILD THEIR OWN 3D PRINTER

A group of Damascus College students from Year 8 to 12 have spent more than 30 hours over an eight week period building their very own 3D Printer, and it was completed in early August 2016.

This Rostock V2 Delta Printer, also affectionately known as Martin, is unique in itself as its build has been completely student led, with the assistance of some Damascus staff.

This printer is not merely an off-the-shelf unit, but a complex kit with hundreds of individual components. The students' knowledge and understanding of the printer was greatly enhanced through the process of assembly and if there is a breakdown, we have a team of students willing and able to assist with the maintenance work.

Science and Technology Teacher, Mark McLean said that at Damascus we offer progressive and innovative learning and teaching that maximises educational outcomes for all students.

"The purpose of this printer is for students, staff and the Damascus community to use as needed, as it will become a bookable library resource, where the only cost to the user is to pay for the plastic, which is generally \$1 per item" he said.

"It enables students to be creative and to get experience in the new fields of 3D design and manufacture. The students involved have volunteered their time to build the printer, and their passion and commitment truly is commendable."

"This particular printer is based around a Delta configuration, rather than a Cartesian system, enabling a build diameter of 28cm and a height of 33cm, and it prints with a speed of 60mm/s and a resolution of 20 microns."

The printer will be a cross-curriculum resource that will be used for many different purposes, including drama props, mathematics, IT, systems engineering, science and visual arts resources.

"The opportunities it presents for learning are exciting, and we are also looking forward to building parts for the Energy Breakthrough (EBT) Vehicles, including hinges, fixings and fittings."

The future is bright, as Mark also plans to build scaled EBT vehicle models with the printer, and he plans to test their aerodynamics right here on campus, in a wind tunnel that will be restored to its former glory.

MALAYSIAN STUDENTS VISIT DAMASCUS

On Wednesday 16th March 2016 we saw the arrival of 66 Malaysian students and their teachers to Damascus College. The group was in Australia for a one week study tour where they needed to involve some English language activities. So, together with the Ballarat Scrabble Club, Damascus organised scrabble games between the Damascus Indonesian language students and the visiting Malaysian students.

In a relaxed atmosphere the students interacted together, shared their knowledge of each other's languages and played scrabble.

Following the games, the students were given a guided tour of the school facilities, which the Malaysian students were amazed with, as the schools they come from in Kuala Lumpur are within the city and very small in comparison...most asked to stay!

We shared lunch and had many, many photos taken, then sadly they departed early afternoon back to Melbourne before returning to Kuala Lumpur. New friends and relationships were fostered, and it was a great way to learn and appreciate other cultures.



FOOD IS FREE

Alumni Story



I was born and raised in Ballarat. I moved to Melbourne for 20 years in the early 90s, but then returned to Ballarat in 2012.

When I think back to my time as a student at Sacred Heart College and St Martin's in the Pines, and how it helped me with my life now, I realise that it has in many ways. The most important was that the teachers taught us to respect each other and that's been my best parting gift from my time in high school.

The teacher who had the biggest influence on me and was my favourite was Bernard Bradbury. He commanded that classroom with his amazing stories in European History and eternally fascinated me. The memories of my time at Sacred Heart and St Martin's that are dearest to me are of the friendships I had, and made. I am still in contact with some of those girls, now wonderful ladies.

My favourite subjects in school were Drama and English, I couldn't choose just one. Perhaps the thing I enjoyed the most about school was when we went to the St Martin's campus in Year 11, the setting was lovely, and to be studying surrounded by nature was perfect.

After I graduated from high school I began a very rewarding and extensive career in music, events, radio, TV and working for music festivals for the past 20 years. I run my own business, as a Music Publicist and have done so for the past 15 years, but I meandered into it after working in various media outlets and film/TV/arts organisation and got a lot of on the ground training.

Being a music publicist I enjoy the variety, the fact that two days are never the same, the freedom of freelance work, and the pride and passion for my work. I really enjoy getting my artists airplay/interviews and helping them on the road to success with their craft.

I've enjoyed many personal achievements, the fact I've run my own business has been a great achievement, meeting my idols and working with them has been really exciting.

I was fortunate to work for many different organisations in the entertainment industry, where I gleaned information and made contacts along the way, to help build my own business.

The proudest achievement for me right now is definitely being the founder and running Food Is Free Laneway. Helping to spread the word about food security and sustainability and helping those in need surpasses all of the other things I have done with my career.

I enjoy many hobbies. I garden... a lot. I love reading and watching films especially foreign and indie films.

I am now looking forward to moving more into the charity sector and making Food Is Free Inc. a viable and sustainable social enterprise. I have many projects in the pipeline.

Finally, a career tip that I would offer to students based on my life and experience is to pursue your dreams, work hard and be prepared to compromise slightly, but never give up.

LOUISE (LOU) RIDSDALE (CLASS OF 1990)

PAST STUDENTS PLAYING FOR AFL GLORY

Alumni Story

On Friday 16th September 2016, past students James Frawley (Class of 2006) and Jordan Roughead (Class of 2008) did battle on the footy field, vying for AFL glory in the semi-finals.

Hawthorn was heading for its fourth consecutive flag, while the Western Bulldogs had not won a flag since 1954.

James, was first recruited in 2006 from the North Ballarat Rebels and debuted in Round 9 2007 with the Melbourne Demons, where he played for eight years. In 2015 James joined the Hawthorn Football Club, where he featured in the club's premiership winning team.

Jordan was recruited in the 2008 AFL Draft after also playing for the North Ballarat Rebels. In 2010 Jordan made his AFL debut against Adelaide at Etihad Stadium and has played with the Western Bulldogs for the last six years. Jordan achieved Vice Captain of the Bulldogs in 2015.

It was great to watch the tightly contested game, and to see two past Damascus students play at the top of their game, was truly a delight.

Well done to James and Jordan – whose sporting abilities, skill and achievements are an inspiration to many.

Jordan Roughead and the Western Bulldogs went on to win the 2016 AFL Grand Final against the Sydney Swans. Congratulations Jordan.

Jordan was welcomed back to Damascus this year, where he addressed the student population at the Year 12 assembly on Wednesday 19th October.



DAMASCUS STRONG

Alumni Story

I was born in Horsham, but have also lived in Maryborough and Mildura. In 1987 as a family we moved to Ballarat. I have great parents Vin and Sandra, as well as three sisters who also went to Damascus College - Andrea, Bernadette and Geraldine. I am now an uncle to two nephews and four nieces.

I graduated from Damascus College in 1999. I was a proud member of Xavier House. Thinking back, my time at Damascus helped me in life now because it gave me the support to develop and reach my full potential as a person. My time as a student at Damascus was fantastic.

In 2004 John Shannon, the first principal of Damascus College offered me a traineeship that led to my current job as a PE /Sport Assistant. What I enjoy the most about my current job is that I get to work in an area that I like. As a past Damascus student I have the advantage of knowing the history of the school, its foundation. This helps me better understand where the school is headed.

When asked who my favourite teacher was I have to say, I didn't have just one. There were so many teachers that have helped me along the journey. My best memories of Damascus are the first ever Damascus Day and seeing the excitement of the whole school at winning the BAS Athletics Carnival in our first year as Damascus. I also loved the experiences of Year 10 Outward Bound and the Year 12 retreat. In year 7 at St Pauls my first home room teacher was current staff member Mr Wayne Forster and in my class was ex Melbourne, Sydney and Collingwood premiership player Darren Jolly.

My favourite subjects at secondary school were PE and Photography, two things that I still enjoy to this day. I like all sports, staying up to date with current affairs, especially politics.

In addition to my role at Damascus I have worked as a gym instructor at the Ballarat Aquatic Centre and I work for the North Ballarat

Football Club VFL Team. I was involved with the Club team that won back-to-back to back premierships. It was an amazing effort.

After finishing school at Damascus College I completed a fitness instructor course and also undertook sport and community recreation studies.

I have enjoyed seeing the school grow. The school now tells a wonderful story from where it started and where it's heading. It's great to see Damascus College thriving from the class rooms to the sporting field.

If I was to offer any career tips to students it would be to follow your interests and do your best. I have been lucky to meet some wonderful people who have helped me along the way and have given me great support in my career.

The advice I would give to a student starting Year 7 at Damascus is to have a go and never ever give up.

PATRICK DILLON (CLASS OF 1999)

Past student and Current Staff member



Pat Dillon with Jordan Roughead's 2016 AFL Premiership Medal.

1:1 DEVICE PROGRAM

As a provider of contemporary secondary education, Damascus College is continually seeking ways to enhance classroom engagement and improve educational outcomes for its students. With the increasing importance of technology in workplaces, education and leisure, many primary and secondary schools are now moving towards an individual device program for each student (a 1:1 device program).

After significant consideration and research, Damascus College made the decision to move towards a 1:1 device program which was launched in 2015. Year 7 and 8 students were the first year levels to receive devices in 2015, and we built on the program by rolling out the devices to Year 7 and 10 in 2016. This program is intended not only to increase engagement and improve learning outcomes during the student's time at Damascus, but also to enhance their skills and technological know-how in preparation for life beyond secondary school.

Microsoft Surface Pros are the chosen tablet device and in line with the rollout schedule all students in Year 7 to 10 in 2016 will have a device, and by 2017 devices will be rolled out to all year levels across the College.

One of the great advantages of the 1:1 device program is that students will have access to a wide range of digital textbooks through the Jacaranda Digital Bundle and Cambridge Essential Mathematics, which the College will purchase for students. The Jacaranda bundle provides a suite of textbooks together with interactivity supplements. This will replace a significant number of resources that would have been on the booklist.

Each student will also be issued with a tablet bag to protect the device when transporting it from classroom to classroom or from home to the College.



ANNUAL GUEST SPEAKER EVENT

Every year Damascus College invites a guest speaker to present information to students, staff and parents that may assist in student achievement, staff development and give insight into ways to assist in developing young people. This year we were pleased to welcome Success Coach, Darren Pereira on Wednesday 18th May 2016.

Darren presented sessions to each Damascus student on varying topics, and then continued his busy day presenting to Damascus staff, followed by a session for parents in the community, as per below:

- Year 7 and 8 – *Resiliency Program – the Power to Persist*
- Year 9 and 10 – *Pathways and Careers Program – Shape your Destiny*
- Year 11 and 12 – *Study Skills Program – VCE Success Strategies*
- Staff – *Dynamics of Student Achievement*
- Parents – *Parenting Strategies for Teenage Success.*

Darren and his right hand man DJ Timmy D arrived on campus with a wave of energy, enthusiasm and music to engage the student body. Darren's unique and engaging presentation style certainly kept the students interested and excited throughout the duration of each session. Students walked away with many new tools to assist them in achieving their goals.

Staff learnt how to use Positive Process Praise to develop a Growth Mindset in our students in order to raise their achievement. We welcomed over 250 parents at the evening session, where they were provided with practical tools on how to create a positive home environment conducive to raising a child's academic performance, mental health and wellbeing.



2016 CLASS REUNIONS

The dates for the 2016 Reunions are listed below. Full reunion details can be found at www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-reunions-events

1976 - Saturday 22 October, 2016

1986 - Saturday 8 October, 2016

1991 - Saturday 12 November, 2016

1996 - Friday 14 October, 2016

2006 - Saturday 29 October, 2016

2017 CLASS REUNIONS

Reunions scheduled for 2017 are for the following years; 1977, 1987, 1997 and 2007.

It is our aim to have as many of your exit year group as possible attend and participate, including those who may have left at other times but identify best with this year group. Reunion dates will be finalised in November and posted on the College website as well as the Alumni Facebook Group page.

As a past student or staff member of Damascus College, or any of the foundation schools, we invite you to provide your contact details by visiting www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-keeping-in-touch and submitting the completed form.

Providing us with your contact information ensures that we can

- Keep you up to date with Alumni news
- Inform you about reunions
- Deliver "The Road" publication to you.

Another great way to stay in contact is on Facebook. Join the Damascus Alumni Group.

If you have any queries regarding the 2017 Class Reunions please contact Alumni Officer Korina Hegert at connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au or (03) 5337 2222.

REUNION WELCOME RECEPTION

This year the Alumni and Development Office at Damascus College have introduced the Reunion Welcome Reception.

This event is held at the Damascus College Campus during the reunion season. It is a wonderful opportunity for the past students to gather and enjoy a drink and some nibbles prior to a guided tour of the College. The event concludes with a group photo taken outside the iconic St Martin's "doors".

Past and current staff are invited to the Reunion Welcome Reception to further enhance the reunion experience as you take a trip down memory lane. The College archivist displays pictures and other items that the College has available as part of the event.

As the College is hosting the Welcome Reception there is no cost to alumni to attend.

After the reception your reunion group may decide to go on to a dinner or after party, this would be decided and organised by your Class Reunion organising group.

If you have your class reunion coming up we would invite you to volunteer to be a member of the organising group, to select your date early and enjoy the Damascus College Welcome Reception as part of your Class Reunion Event.

Please contact Alumni Officer Korina Hegert at connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au or (03) 5337 2222.

1995 REUNION



The Class of 1995 reunion was held on Saturday 10th October 2015 at the George Hotel in a lovely function room upstairs.

The event began with a school tour at 4pm, with drinks and nibbles starting at 7.30pm until around midnight. Many people continued their evening downstairs, after the official event had finished, approximately 50-60 past students and partners were in attendance.

The Class Reunion was organised by past students Emma Mumford (Richards) and Brian Taylor.

At the reunion there were a couple of big posters with old photos from our school days on the walls. Later in the evening there was a slideshow of a lot of old school photos of everyone.

The highlight of the evening was catching up with everyone and seeing people that you hadn't seen for years. The turnout was fantastic and everyone enjoyed reconnecting. The slideshow was great to look back on and also remember a few class mates we have lost since finishing school.

The one thing that we all seemed to remember from our time in high school was that we really did have a great year level and that most people got along well.

STORY BY NATALIE HUNT (CLASS OF 1995)

1. Michelle McMahon (Penhall), Kristen Cornish (Stuart), Aleasha Bartlett (Eppingstall), Eliza Molloy
2. Natalie Hunt and Kellie Tait (Britt)
3. Belinda Powers (Callahan) and Eloise Stone (Norman)
4. Petrina Bodey, Anna Every (Caine), Narelle Lewis.



1.

2.

3.

4.

1. Kate Ferguson 2. Kinghorn/Somerville Wedding 3. Cooper/Senior Wedding 4. Wiseman/Garlick Wedding

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Correction from previous Issue **Milan Saunders (Class of 2011)** was thrilled to receive his very first ever PAID voice acting gig. He will be voicing Sallos in "Rite of Passing", a visual novel video game by Novella Gaming.

Damien Jones (St Paul's Technical College Alumni) along with Danielle Jones were awarded a "Chef Hat" in this year's *The Age* food guide. This is the second "Hat" the Catfish Thai restaurant has won and solidifies the gourmet reputation they have.

Gavin Nash (Class of 1992) and **Richard Nash (Class of 1990)** have a successful design and publication business in the Central Business District of Ballarat. www.nashish.com

Kate Ferguson (Class of 1996) earned a coveted spot on the Channel 7 cooking show, *Zumbo's Just Desserts*. Kate has worked as a government claims processor but hopes to open a food truck that serves sweet treats. She shares her life with her partner Matt and their two children.

Kate was victorious in winning the grand finale of *Zumbo's Just Desserts* that aired on 27th September 2016. She won \$100,000 in prizemoney and the opportunity to have one of her desserts in judge Adriano Zumbo's stores.

Rebecca Garlick nee Wiseman (**Class of 1999**) will this year celebrate 12 years of teaching at the Ballarat Specialist School.

Ann Jones (Class of 2000) is the presenter for *Off Track* on ABC Radio National. The show is about the great outdoors and covers a range of topics related to the environment from saving Victoria's endangered orchids to the disappearing Dibbler (one of Australia's rarest marsupials).

Paul McMahon (Class of 2002) won the 2016 Central Highlands Football League (CHFL) Senior premiership player for Springbank and won the Best on Ground medal for the club in the 2016 CHFL Grand Final.

Lydia Somerville nee Kinghorn (**Class of 2005**) attended University of Ballarat to study primary teaching but at the end of her second year she wondered if Primary teaching was for her. Teaching was still her goal, but perhaps not primary level. Lydia decided to focus on earning money for a while as she decided what career path

might eventuate. After travelling to Europe with family, she moved to Munich, Germany where she spent a year working as an au pair and travelling. After coming home to Ballarat, Lydia began a Food Science Degree at Federation University after which she completed Honours by dissertation.

Lydia is now working for the State Government in a permanent part time role.

Melanie Hill (Class of 2007) was recently named one of the 2016 '100 Women of Influence' by Westpac and the Financial Review, under the 'Young Leader' section, for the work she has been doing as a midwife/nurse at St Vincent's Private Hospital and in South Sudan, Uganda.

Bridget Davies (Class of 2007) recently won the prestigious Student Journalist of the Year award at the Melbourne Press Club's Quills Awards. She is currently studying journalism at RMIT and working as a student journalist at the Herald Sun.

Stephanie Burzacott (Class of 2010) was awarded the University Medal, by Federation University. It is the highest Academic award at the Uni.

Jai Jamieson (Class of 2015) earned two scholarships, one of which valued at \$12,000 (engineering). Jai is undertaking an engineering degree at Federation University.

BIRTHS

Monique Rose nee Klep (**Class of 1996**) and Stuart Rose welcomed a baby boy in January 2016. His name is Blake Rose, a little brother for Aidan and Caitlin.

Karla Jaeger nee Grunwaldt (**Class of 1998**) and husband, Mario, welcomed a second daughter, Emilie, born on 30th November 2015. Emilie is a little sister to Rosie.

Kaitlyn Senior nee Cooper (**Class of 2009**) and Nicholas Senior welcomed their first child, a baby boy, Emmett Michael into their lives in October 2015.

MARRIAGES

Jacinta Costigan (Class of 1990) married David Flannery at a beautiful beach side wedding in Ballina on Saturday 24th September, 2016.

Rebecca Wiseman (Class of 1999) was married to Dean Garlick in May 2015 at the Ballarat Lodge. Rebecca's bridesmaids were **Hayley Crick** nee Smith (**Class of 1999**), **Kim Ross (Class of 1989)** and **Leah Lancey** nee Slater (**Class of 1998**) Guests at the wedding included past Damascus College students **Genevieve Edwards** nee Hymers (**Class of 1999**), **Joshua Gatens (Class of 1997)** and **Melissa Zakynthinos (Class of 1999)**.

Lydia Kinghorn (Class of 2005) married Brad Somerville at home in Dunnstown in late summer this year. Lydia and Brad were delighted to share this special day with their gorgeous one year old toddler Madelaine, and Brad's son Nate who is three. In attendance were past students **Casey Bragg (Class of 2011)**, **Morgan Olney (Class of 2012)** and Rachel Harbour.

Yasmin Auchettl (Class of 2007), married Dahmon King on October 17th 2015 in Currumbin Valley on the Gold Coast. Alongside her was sister/bridesmaid **Talia Auchettl (Class of 2009)**.

Former Damascus College school captain **Kaitlyn Cooper (Class of 2009)** married Nicholas Senior in January 2016. The wedding was held in Creswick. In attendance were Kaitlyn's three brothers, all former Damascus students; **Joseph Cooper (Class of 2006)**, **Jacob Cooper (Class of 2011)** and **Lucas Cooper (Class of 2013)**.

IN MEMORY



JOHN BRICK

Former staff member John Brick passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday June 28th 2016, aged 68 years.

John was a dedicated servant of St Martin's in the Pines and then Damascus College from 1986 until his retirement due to ill health in 2012. He filled many roles across the College including most recently; House Leadership and key leadership within the Religious Education learning team. John was a wonderful educator, a loved and loving father and husband. His daughter, **Jennifer Henderson** is a valued member of the Damascus teaching staff.

John leaves behind his cherished wife Joan and his beloved children and their partners; Jennifer

CONGRATULATIONS DAMASCUS STUDENTS ON YOUR RECENT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS:

Lauren Atkinson (Class of 2000) won the prestigious netballing Sally McLean trophy in September. Awarded for Best and Fairest player in the Ballarat Football Netball League's (BFNL) A Grade competition during the Henderson Medal Night presentations. This is back-to-back wins for Lauren, she won the League's highest individual award last year as well. Lauren was also named as the captain in the BFNL Team of the Year.

Paul McMahon (Class of 2002) Winning 2016 Central Highlands Football League (CHFL) Senior premierships player for Springbank and won the Best on Ground for the club in the 2016 CHFL Grand Final.

Cameron Richardson (Class of 2005) Winning 2016 Ballarat Football League (BFL) premierships player for Bacchus Marsh Cobras.

Ben Taylor (Class of 2005), an onballer for Ballarat Football League (BFL) team Lake Wendouree, was the winner of the Henderson Medal 2016 awarded for Best and Fairest. The award was "totally unexpected" said Ben when he was asked about his win at the ceremonies held on Monday 11th September in Ballarat.

James Frawley (Class of 2006) was a 2016 AFL Preliminary Finals player for the Hawthorn Football Club and Winning 2015 AFL premierships player for Hawthorn Football Club.

Jordan Roughead (Class of 2008) was a winning 2016 AFL premierships player for the Western Bulldogs Football Club.

Molly Mathews (Class of 2012) was selected to play her second season (2016-17) for the Bendigo Spirit in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL).

Ashlee Smith (Year 11 Student) winning the 2016 Ballarat Football Netball League (BFNL) 19 & Under Netball - Most Valuable Player (MVP), member of the 2016, Netball Premierships team in the 2016 BFNL 19 & Under Grand Final, winning the Best on Court at the 2016 BFNL, 19 & Under Netball Grand Final and winning the Redan Football Netball Club, 19 & Under Netball Best and Fairest.

and Grant; David and Phoebe; Paul and Tara; Gerard and Birgit; James and Jade and his ten precious Grandchildren.

Past student Airleigh Clark (Class of 2007) remembered John fondly "I was sent to John as my Xavier house leader for having too many colours in my hair. After I told Mr Brick why I was there to see him he paused for a moment, looked at my hair and said "It looks great, go enjoy your recess". R.I.P Mr Brick. You were a great teacher and leader."



PAMELA NAM

Dedicated past staff member Pamela (Pam) Christine Nam

nee Ewenson died peacefully at St John of God Hospital, in Ballarat

on June 26th, 2016. Pam was just 69 years old. When Pam passed she was in the presence of her family. Pam leaves behind her loving husband Roland and children Kylie, Michael and Ben. Pam was an adored grandmother.

Pam's career at Damascus College included being at Sacred Heart College from 1990 - 1994. She also taught at St. Martin's in the Pines between 1993 - 1994. She continued as a teacher for another nine years when Damascus College was formed in 1995, leaving in 2003.

Past student Liana Shaw nee Murphy (**Class of 2002**), said about Pam "I feel very lucky and grateful to have many fond memories of learning Indonesian from her as well as an incredible Bali trip. Rest peacefully Pam."



MAXWELL GILBERT

Maxwell (Max) Donald Gilbert passed away peacefully on March 8th, 2016, aged 85. Max was a past staff member of St Paul's

Technical College and Damascus College.

Max didn't begin his career as a teacher until 1984 when he retired from the Railway Workshops in Ballarat North. Max started work at St. Paul's Technical School doing maintenance but he was soon encouraged to get his teaching qualification and he began teaching welding. His son Paul said "there's not a boy who went through that school who couldn't remember dad's voice in their ear telling them to "shorten your arc".

Max continued to the new Damascus College site in Victoria Street before he re-retired 10 years later.

Max was in the presence of his family. His wife of 62 years Maureen and much loved Dad of Helen and Wayne, Paul and Nicole, Kathryn and David, Mark and Sue, Damien and Jenny, Chris and Michelle; loving Pop of 16 grandchildren and proud Great Pop of 7.



JOAN RYAN

Joan Ryan's strong links with present-day Damascus began in 1948 when she joined Sacred Heart College as a Grade Three student.

She completed her secondary education at SHC in 1957, having achieved academic distinction and success as an all-round student leader.

After completing her BA Dip Ed at Melbourne University, Joan taught at Boort and Ballarat High Schools before embarking on the traditional Aussie working holiday. She taught in various English schools and took in plenty of drama and opera, but her main goal was the intrepid exploration of Europe, driving all around Yugoslavia and through East and West Berlin and smuggling money into Russia. She came back to Australia overland, dodging wars in Israel, Iran, Afghanistan and India.

Invited to teach at St Martin's in the Pines in 1969, she participated enthusiastically in the academic and cultural life of the new school. She was a key member of the Modern Thought and Culture Team which combined history, arts and science in a new subject, fondly remembered by students of the 1970s. She was the practical force in a flowering of live drama, organising the building of a portable stage and sets and providing music, sound effects and even duelling lessons.

In 1976, Joan returned to Ballarat High School and taught there until she retired in 1998. Her love of drama and travel, combined with a wide range of practical skills made her a very valuable staff member, both in the classroom and administration.

A very happy retirement, with much travelling around Australia was cut short by brain cancer and she died on 1st March, 2016. At her life celebration, Damascus and Ballarat High ex-students were well represented. She had contributed positively to many lives.

- *Cecilia Bowman (former staff member of Sacred Heart College and St Martin's in the Pines)*



LESLIE BEACHAM

Leslie Raymond Francis

(Beachy) Beacham sadly died on 8th July 2016 aged 65. Les was the dearly loved husband of

Margaret and father to Annabel, **Ramsay (Class of 2001)**, **Jesse (Class of 2005)** and Steve.

Les was a much loved teacher and friend to hundreds of students during his time at St Paul's Technical College and as a Casual Relief Teacher at Damascus College in recent years. A wonderful friend to everyone! A man of many careers and interests who had a huge influence on so many who had a passion for education, particularly in the technology field.



MARY COOPER

Mary Cooper sadly passed away on 10th October 2016, aged 48. Mary has been a Science technician at the College since

2008, in more recent years her organisational skills and educational support has been extended to the Visual Arts learning area where she has also worked as a technician.

Mary was a former student of our founding schools; beginning at Sacred Heart College in 1980 and progressing to St Martin's in the Pines where she finished her schooling in 1985.

Mary was a woman with an amazing work ethic. She was organised and skilled and had a quiet, unflappable presence that made sure that the equipment was organised for the learning activities for thousands of student practical activities over her time at the College. She brought order and cleanliness to her work and an amazing generosity of spirit. Her quiet gentle presence amongst our staff team will be sorely missed.

We remember Mary's husband, Brendan and her loved children; Patrick, Gemma and Hugh; her parents Jim and Eileen, Mary's siblings and her beautiful extended family who surrounded her in love in the short time that preceded her death.



Damascus College **ALUMNI** Students & Staff

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

As a past student or staff member of Damascus College, or any of the founding schools, we invite you to provide your contact details by visiting our website at www.damascus.vic.edu.au and selecting Past Students or by returning the Connecting @ Damascus form enclosed.

Providing us with this information ensures that we can

- Keep you up to date with Alumni News
- Inform you about reunions
- Deliver "The Road" to you

If you have already registered your information with us, THANK YOU

It is our aim to have as many of your exit year group as possible attend and participate, including those who may have left at other times but identify best with this year group.
The reunions are held between October and early December, each year.

2017 reunions

Want to help?
Organising groups for the 2017 Class Reunions need your participation.
Email for more information
connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au

In 2017 we have the following reunions scheduled:

- School Class 2007... 10 Year
- School Class 1997 ... 20 Year
- School Class 1987 ... 30 Year
- School Class 1977 ... 40 Year

Volunteering@Damascus **Become Involved**

Damascus College is a welcoming community that aims to promote the active engagement of current families and Alumni in the social and educational life of the College.
This engagement builds connections within the College and helps facilitate partnerships between the school and wider community. Please consider enriching our College community by sharing your skills, expertise, time and services, by becoming a Damascus volunteer.

Contact us: info@damascus.vic.edu.au



www.damascus.vic.edu.au

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