

PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Altior et Sapientior

The Principal's Newsletter December 2016



Student valedictorian, Laura D'Aprano, with guest speaker Mr Michael Williams



From the Principal

The replacement of school bells with music during last term's PEGSfest was a fading memory when our students returned on Monday 3 October to commence this year's final term. My mind was definitely on the Eildon camp. At 8.30 am, two form groups from Gottlieb House had departed for camp by bus. One was to occupy the refurbished student accommodation wing and the other was to be the first group to use the new student accommodation wing.

There was only one problem: we were sweating on the arrival of the building inspector and the provision of a Certificate of Occupancy. And wait we did! The inspector did not arrive until 2.00 pm – with student bags and cases still sitting in the recreational hall. The “tick of approval” was given. Plan B could remain in the back pocket. The first “double camp” was underway to the great relief of the school and to the great satisfaction of our students.

This sense of action continued throughout Term Four. We have again celebrated the achievements of our foreign languages students at the state, national and international levels, hosted a visit by students from Datong High School in Shanghai, announced most of our 2017 school leaders for our Middle School Houses and senior sports teams and performing arts groups, provided events showcasing our students' talents in areas as diverse as science and the visual arts, commenced the 2017 AGSV summer sports season and have held numerous celebratory events marking the approach of the end of 2016. These include final music rehearsals, Christmas concerts, the Carol Service, final assemblies for various year levels and “party days” at our Junior Schools.

Among these events, the farewell to our Class of 2016 is perhaps the most significant. They celebrated their last full day of school with great enthusiasm and good will with a wide range of activities before returning the next day, Tuesday 18 October, for their formal valedictory activities. The day began with teachers serving a “long breakfast” to students before the Year Twelve revue, the final Year Twelve assembly, where School Colours were presented, along with Principal's Awards, and the valedictory service at St John's Uniting Church in Essendon.

Students, with their parents, came together that evening for their Valedictory Dinner. The student valedictorian, Laura D'Aprano, provided an entertaining address drawing parallels between the evolution of the Class of 2016 and the preparation of food. Referring to canteen prices and providing a feast of food puns, she reminded us that every member of the Class of 2016 was an important ingredient in the year level. Afterwards, our guest speaker, Mr Michael Williams, the Director of Melbourne's Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas, spoke about the value of confidence and the importance of never undervaluing oneself. The annual Year Twelve video provided a fine end to a fine day of celebration for our most senior students.

I am often told that 2016 has been a quieter year at the school. The completion of our major building works is often the prompt for this comment. While this comment surprises, I understand that it is hard for anyone to perceive the entire school. During this year, we opened a new Prep/Year One centre and provided new classrooms to students in Years Two, Five and Six at the Moonee Ponds campus. At Essendon, new Year Three classrooms were provided and a new Year Four centre will be ready for next year. The first major development at the Eildon camp in over thirty years has also been completed. While this might be evidence that it was not entirely a quiet year, the real vigour of the school lies with the almost endless range of student activities. This is what brings me my greatest satisfaction and it is what unquestionably signals the school's commitment to its students.

Tony Larkin





The “new” Eildon camp

I wrote that “our Eildon Camp is on the move” earlier this year in *Altior et Sapientior*. As the building works at camp sped towards completion, our students have seen the dawn of a new era at Eildon.

The start of Term Four saw the introduction of “double camps” - two form groups attending camp together. As soon as our excited students disembarked their bus on the first day they started to explore the new camp surrounds. The boys immediately checked out the main building, now called “The Hub”, and were impressed with the new, expansive space with a two-way fireplace, operable wall and imaginative new furnishings.

One form group quickly inspected the new “Wattle Wing” that will be the new home for many students in the future. With a magnificent setting overlooking the dam and Australian bush, the boys were even more impressed when they stepped inside their new facilities. For the other form group, the refurbished “Wombat Wing” was every bit as impressive.

The camp staff has been thrilled with the way students have taken ownership of the new camp configuration during every week of this term. They have approached the activities and programme with energy and enthusiasm and it has run as smoothly as ever. The discussion at dinner of the day’s different experiences has become a highlight.

The new facilities at Eildon have been undeniably worthwhile. Our students’ elation and the satisfaction provided by their time at camp are palpable.

The PEGS community will have the opportunity to visit the “new” camp at the next Camp Open Day on Sunday 5 March 2017.

Colin Cooper
Camp Coordinator

Principal's awards

The Principal's Award honours an ongoing, outstanding and broad contribution to the school by a student who has set the highest standards of commitment to the academic and co-curricular life of the school. Each year a small group of senior students are recognised in this manner for their leadership in the classroom and across a broad range of co-curricular activities and in 2016 fourteen students are recipients of the Principal's Award. We commend the following students for their exceptional contribution:

Jacob Abdalnour, Kelvin Burke, Rosemary Chen, Sohil Chhabra, Maurice Cutajar, Laura D'Aprano, Carole Haddad, Manasha Kumarasiri, Alec Leos, Adrian Limone, Madhavi-Priya Singh, Claire Taranto, Mark Yin, Siena Zubcic.





House Presentations at the Middle Schools

What do a Junior School (boys) Maths Coordinator, a recently retired Head of Section and a past student, representing her family, have in common and why would they be in the Keilor East gymnasium on Friday 4 November at 8.45 am with the all of the students and teachers from the Middle Schools?

If these three were Peter Maher, Meg Benney and Wendy McMaster, then they were there to present the Middle School House trophies to the winners of this year's House competitions.

The Peter Maher Shield was named in honour of Mr Maher who in 1980 took the initiative to seek permission of Don Bradman, Herb Elliott, Murray Rose and Dick Reynolds to use their names for our Houses. Mr Maher presented the shield to the captains of Bradman House, the winner of the House competition at Gottliebsen House.

A new trophy, the Meg Benney Shield, was named in honour of Mrs Benney who retired at the end of last year after twenty-six years as a Head of Section. Mrs Benney presented the shield to Chaucer, the winner of the House competition at McNab House.

Wendy McMaster's mother and father attended the school, she and her husband were students of the school, and her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews have also been PEGS students. Mrs McMaster is now a Director of the Board of Management. She and her family represent all school families. Mrs McMaster presented the McMaster Cup to the sister-brother Houses of Chaucer and Reynolds.

The House Captains received their trophies and thanked the students and teachers who supported this year's House activities.

Nina Bilewicz
Vice Principal

A Culture of Thinking Learning with Dr Ron Ritchhart

Throughout 2016 the strategic relationship between the school and Dr Ron Ritchhart from Harvard University's Project Zero has continued to provide impetus for developments to the school's Culture of Thinking.

Dr Ritchhart's regular sessions with staff have been integral to our ongoing efforts to make learning and thinking visible, equipping teachers to help students develop the dispositions and skills they need to be effective thinkers and learners.

Underpinning these efforts is a knowledge of brain plasticity that confirms a very positive message about learning: that, with effort, students can improve their own intelligence. This growth mindset defines success as growth and learning, and attributes that success to effort rather than some innate intelligence. It is an empowering message, giving students hope in themselves as learners and reinforcing the purpose in their education.

Translated by our staff into pedagogies to teach explicit strategies, the learning from Dr Ritchhart aligns with the key understandings in our Culture of Thinking and Care and Wellbeing. Posters are displayed in each of our classrooms providing a wonderful prompt for students and teachers to explore what it means to be a good thinker, and to flourish and thrive.

We invite you to continue this conversation at home to help your son or daughter continue to grow to be a courageous, creative, curious, ethical, persistent, reflective and strategic thinker so that we continue to help each other to be purposeful, hopeful, active, resourceful, compassionate, confident, independent and resilient learners.

Anthony Simmons
Head of McNab House





Science and Mathematics on show

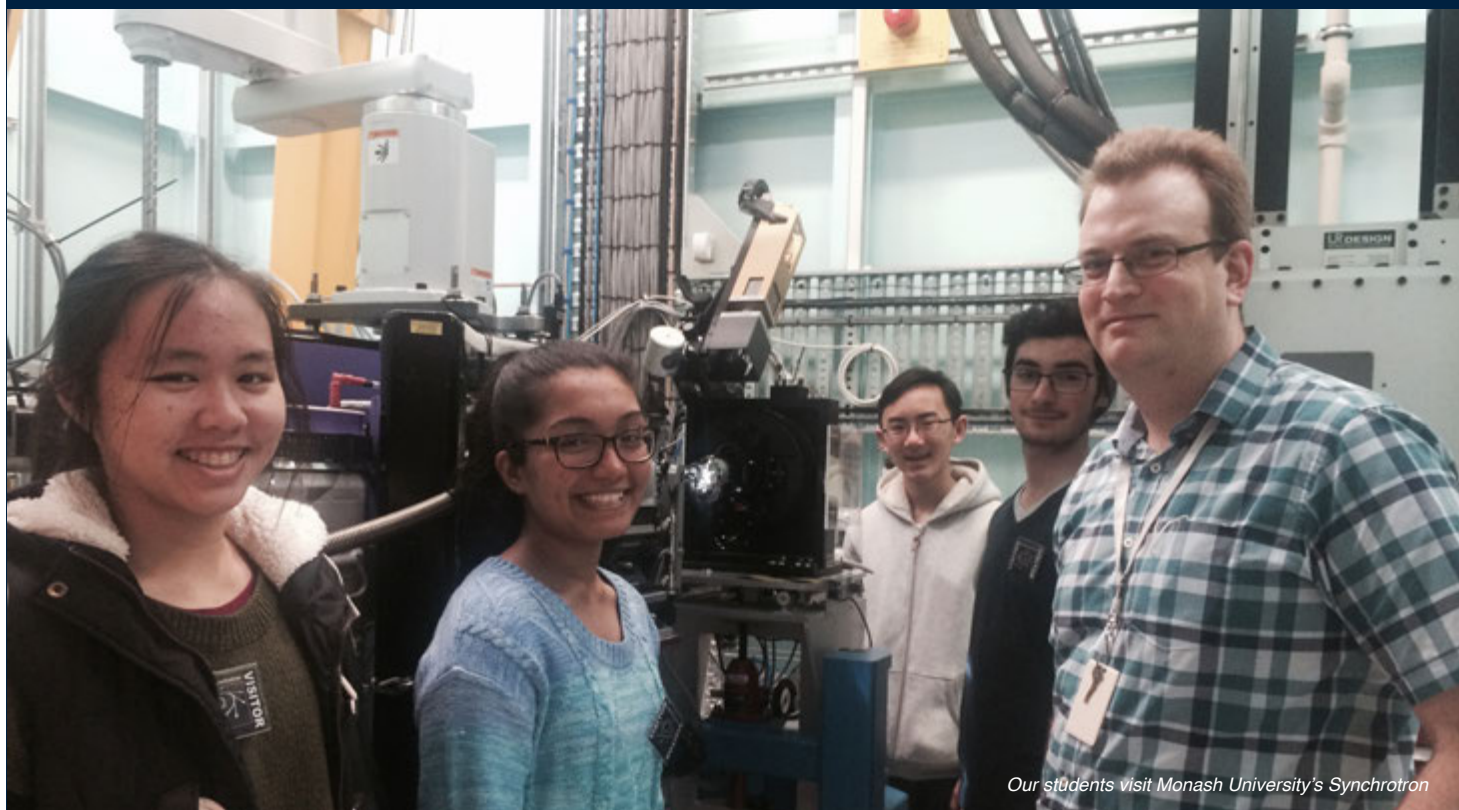
A curtain raiser to the Year Ten Science Expo took place on Monday 24 October with Year Eleven students presenting their work from the Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools (SMiS) programme. Michael Belbruno, Matthew Cheah and Tracey Le had researched climate change using mathematical modelling methods, Anisha Amarasekera had synthesized ethylene diamine salts and investigated their structure using X-ray crystallography techniques and Rachel Chieng, Sheldon McCunnie and Eleanor West captivated the audience with an amusing reenactment on Brownian motion before discussing their work modeling motile bacteria. Each group had been supervised by academics from Monash or Swinburne Universities.

Following the SMiS presentations, the next two nights provided an impressive display of the thinking and the learning that has occurred in the Year Ten Science electives in 2016. The Science Expo was an interactive display and celebration of projects reflecting the understandings gained in all five of the Science units. On display in the Gallery were posters regarding flight, robotics, forensic investigation, space exploration and the importance of medicinal chemistry. There were guest speakers on both evenings: Ceara McGowan from the Bionics Institute spoke on key advances with the bionic eye and Dr Dadna Hartman from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine spoke on the “fact and fiction” surrounding high profile investigations such as the Boxing Day tsunami and Victorian bushfires.

The parents, students and friends present were treated to a stimulating and exciting exposition of the year’s knowledge and the boundless possibilities of the technology that it reflected. One of the highlights was Year Ten students mingling with guests and parents, discussing their projects and sharing their insights. Keegan Chien (Year Ten) had the chance to discuss Ceara McGowan’s work as he escorted her around the Expo. Keegan reports, “She saw my passion in Science and I am now planning to visit the Bionics Institute. This opportunity has now cemented my aspirations for a future with Science.”

The Expo was truly a living, breathing culture of learning and like other living cultures, it will grow and grow between now and next year. Watch out for the Science Expo in 2017.

Caroline Horton Andrews
Head of Gottliebsen House



Our students visit Monash University's Synchrotron

Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad

The Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad (APSMO) is an annual competition conducted by the University of New South Wales and is open to upper primary students from Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. It is designed to foster excellence in mathematical problem solving and test the ability of students to apply their acquired skills and concepts in creative ways.

This year's team of students from Junior School (boys) performed with great distinction. They placed well into the top one percent of teams and were ranked first among all independent schools in Australasia. Six boys, Ross Iliakopoulos, Nicholas Landgren, Liam Nguyen, Nam Nguyen, Kiraan Sanjana and Alexander Sarossy, had perfect scores and were awarded APSMO medals.

We congratulate all the students who entered this competition in 2016 for the quality of their work and dedication to their mathematics learning.

Peter Maher

Mathematics Coordinator, Junior School (boys)



Nurturing Creativity at Kindergarten

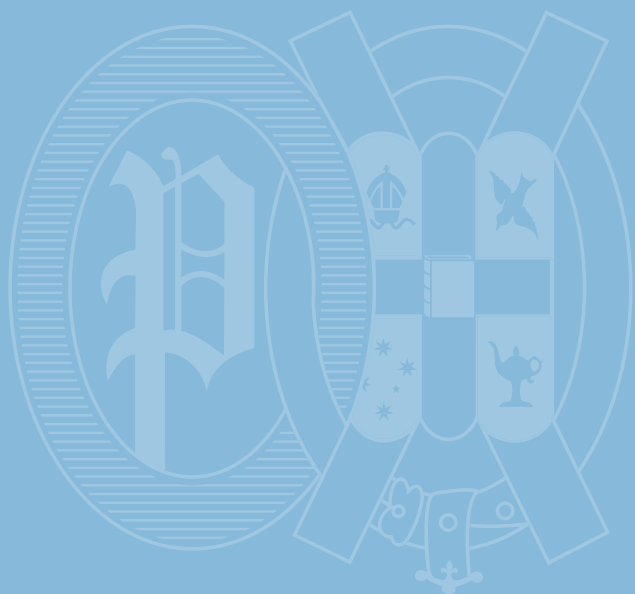
The creative arts, including drawing and painting, provide children with opportunities to represent their ideas, feelings and stories.

Following the recent excursion to the Royal Botanic Gardens, the kindergartens have been exploring the children's interest in the natural environment and seasonal changes. The recent abundance of new growth, after heavy rains, has been a prompt for still-life work with plants and flowers.

Drawing from direct observation invites children to look closely at things; it encourages more detailed drawings and can be a prompt for new and joyful discoveries. Repeated exposure to this type of work develops the skills of seeing, thinking and representation.

Art and visual creativity is everywhere and provides children with pleasure, enjoyment and a deepened awareness of themselves and their place in their environment, community and culture.

Linda Wilson, Catherine Stone and Katie Thomson
Kindergarten teachers



Our Junior School libraries

Walk into a Junior School library on any school day and you never know what you might find. Before school, there is a friendly mix of students, parents and staff, chatting, returning books and selecting new titles to be read and enjoyed. During the day, there are groups of classes exploring resources, researching and seeking answers to questions posed in their studies as well as younger children reading and listening to stories and, at lunchtime, groups of boys or girls, playing games, socialising, relaxing and learning.

At the start of 2015, when the Middle School (girls) moved to Keilor East, the Junior School (girls) took over the entire Moonee Ponds library. They enjoyed the chance to spread out, the improved access to on-line services and the new books that had been selected specifically for them.

During the recent school holidays, the Junior School (boys) library was renovated. The library was opened up, providing better work areas and visibility. The boys and Kindergarten children, who visit once a week, are enjoying the new spaces. New resources are regularly added.

Both Junior School libraries have large, varied book collections that encourage a love of reading. PEGS prides itself on its strong reading culture and each year hundreds of students from Kindergarten to Year Ten complete the Premier's Reading Challenge. Our students are committed to reading. There is no greater accoutrement to learning than regular reading and the Premier's Reading Challenge acknowledges this reality.

The Junior School libraries have a separate website page that provides access to digital and print resources from both school and home. The link is <https://pegs.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/GEN?HOMEPRMS=JSPARAMS>

While children's favourite books change regularly, the most popular books in our Junior School libraries in 2016 were:

Junior school (girls) - picture books

I will not ever never eat a tomato by Lauren Child
Pig the pug by Aaron Blabey
Annie's chair by Deborah Niland
I'm a dirty dinosaur by Janeen Brian
The duckling gets a cookie? by Mo Willems

Junior School (boys) - picture books

The giving tree by Shel Silverstein
The brothers Quibble by Aaron Blabey
Herman and Rosie by Gus Gordon
Lightning Jack by Glenda Millard
Too many elephants in the house by Ursula Dubosarsky

Junior School (girls) - fiction books

Auggie & me: Three Wonder Stories by RJ Palacio

Junior school (boys) - fiction books

Diary of a wimpy kid series by Jeff Kinney

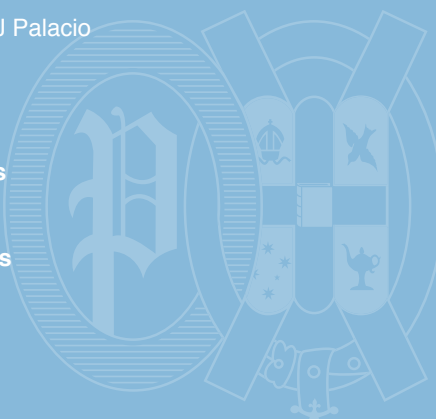
Junior school (girls) - non-fiction books

Cooking and joke books

Junior school (boys) - non-fiction books

Minecraft and AFL football titles

Kerrin McCrum
Director of Library Services





Language presentations

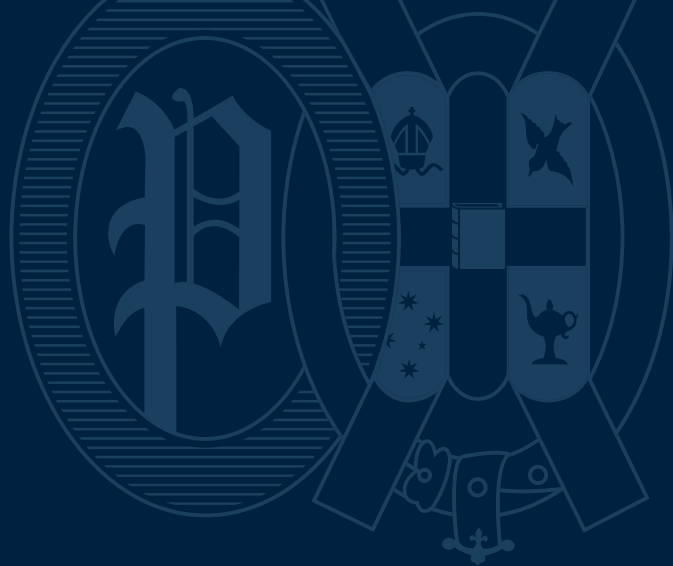
Each year our language students from Years Seven to Twelve demonstrate their commitment to their language study by participating in state, national and international competitions. Participating in these competitions is an opportunity for students to extend their learning and to meet other students who are also passionate language students.

This year the school had seventy-five students who were either finalists or place getters at the state level or higher. These students devoted time and effort outside of regular learning activities to prepare for their competitions: Chinese students learnt songs; French students recited poems and wrote essays; German students recited poems; Indonesian students responded to questions and learnt speeches; Latin students showed their knowledge of Greek and Roman stories.

On Wednesday 12 October, the school acknowledged these students at its annual Language Presentation Night. Parents, siblings, extended family, friends and teachers attended the night to show their support and to encourage our students.

The evening opened with the French song *Je veux*, sung beautifully by Lucie Reuter. During the presentations Amber Condell (Chinese), Lachlan Gollant (Indonesian) and Isha Tipirneni (German) also displayed their excellence in language study.

Lesley Hutchison
Indonesian Coordinator



Public Speaking

Whilst some students may have spent their evenings at sport training, battling for goals, points, wickets or hoops, others have been engaged in a different kind of competitive zeal. Our public speakers at the Infinity Centre (IC) have made a name for themselves this year in the careful art of rhetoric.

There is a long tradition of public speaking at PEGS. This year's IC Public Speaking squad saw a huge jump in participation, with a total of seven teams entered in the Debating Association of Victoria's (DAV) inter-school competition and thirty-five participants in the Evatt Competition: Model United Nations Security Council (UNSC) competition.

In the DAV competition, Dewmi Abeysirigunawardana (Year Eleven) and Alexandra Williams (Year Twelve) won 'Swannies' - Best Speaker Awards for their region and year level. Alexandra was also nominated for best speaker in Victoria, making her one of the top seven speakers in the state. Seven teams competed in the inter-school UNSC competition with two teams advancing to the state finals. The diplomatic powerhouse pairing of Sheldon McCunnie and Vani Datta (both Year Eleven) finished second in the state finals and will be travelling to the National Finals in Sydney in December.

Amy Haywood,
Public Speaking Coordinator, Infinity Centre



Maths Talent Quest

The Mathematical Association of Victoria encourages both involvement and excellence in Mathematics. One of the many activities it oversees is the annual Maths Talent Quest. The competition asks participants to consider an aspect of mathematics that lends itself to “real world” situations and to conduct an investigation. Students can enter the contest as an individual, as a small group or as an entire class and entries can take the form of posters, booklets, models or games.

2016 has proven to be the most successful in Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School’s long history of involvement in the competition. More than sixty students from the Junior Schools completed entries and the work of twenty-eight students reached the state finals. This year’s entries investigated topics as diverse as the shelf life of bread, pi applied to plates, bottles and cans, the cost of Lego in different countries, the cost of a basket of groceries at different supermarkets and the mathematics of baking a cake.

The following entries won High Distinction awards at the state Maths Talent Quest ceremony held in October at La Trobe University:

"Water - Is It Going Down The Drain?" Philippe Bassan, Year Two
"The Maths Of An Electric Car" Nicholas Bui, Year Two
"Water Use In Our Household" Lithaya De Silva, Year Two
"The Maths Of Renovating My Bedroom" Isabella McDonough, Year Two
"Toys Or Us" Tom Jenkins and Jason Tran, Year Three
"Memory In A Flash" Amelia Tran, Year Five

Philippe Bassan’s entry concerning water usage at home won the prize for best individual entry in Year Two in Australia. Jason Tran and Tom Jenkins’ joint entry concerning toys that become landfill won the prize for best group entry in Year Three in Australia.

The overall quality of the school’s entries led to Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School being named as one of only five schools to win a National Outstanding School Award in this year’s quest.

Peter Maher and Craig Rayner
Junior School Mathematics Coordinators



Jason Tran, Philippe Bassan, Tom Jenkins and Mr Craig McFarlane

Roman Army Challenge at Gottliebsen House

Over the September holidays, Year Seven students were required to construct replicas of Roman army shields. On Wednesday 26 October, Gottliebsen House students assembled on the oval in form groups, with their shields, to see which form was best able to march in battle formation. We had practised our routines thoroughly.

As the sun blazed down, we intently watched as each form group performed a range of intricate military manoeuvres starting with a phalanx, then group marching, transforming into a wedge, more marching, forming two testudos, shuffling back to form a wedge again, marching back to the start and reforming as a phalanx.

My form group won the day. Our next challenge is a “march off” against the best Year Seven form group from McNab House.

Darcy Chin
Year Seven





Discovering Melbourne

Earlier this term our Year Eight students participated in the Discovering Melbourne excursion. Divided into groups of ten, and under the supervision of a teacher, one-day itineraries were created to enable the students to explore a facet of our home city.

Each group followed a unique path designed to encounter an array of diverse but related experiences. Different groups investigated themes of Multicultural Melbourne, the Sports Precinct, Queen Victoria Market, Maths Walk and History of Melbourne. The students planned their own day and needed to make decisions about transport, scheduling, budget and, of course, lunch. Interestingly, travel by tram or train was a novelty for some students.

Through this excursion, many students were exposed to aspects of Melbourne that they did not know existed. For everyone, it was an eye-opening experience upon which they can build through future expeditions into the bustling centre and hidden treasures of Melbourne. It was also a valuable experience in independence and group work and provided a fine introduction to the 9ers programme in 2017.

Special thanks to all of the teachers who supported and led these expeditions. I hope the students will now be inspired to continue to learn about their city.

Clare Langford

Year Eight Coordinator, Gottliebsen House





Hannah Brodie

State Athletics Championships

Our Junior School students have always represented the school at the highest levels of competition but the numbers of students at the finals of this year's State Athletics Championships are unprecedented.

Amy Hawking (Year Four) competed in the 9/10 Years Discus event and Xavier Young (Year Four) competed in the 9/10 Years 200 metre and 800 metre events. Ashleigh Yarak (Year Five) ran in the 9/10 Years 100 metres and joined her teammates Wynne Chen (Year Five), Eliza Vargiu (Year Four) and Charlotte Brodie (Year Four) in the finals of the 9/10 Years 4x100 metre relay where they finished fifth. James Sarris (Year Four) finished fourth in the 9/10 Years 1500 metre event and Dilan Egodawatte (Year Four) finished sixth in the 9/10 Years 100 metres.

Hannah Brodie (Year Six), a seasoned competitor at the State level and a recent winner at the senior AGSV carnival, threw strongly to win the 12/13 Years Discus events.

Our congratulations go to all of these students for their fine efforts at this elite level.

Christine Hallman
Head of Junior School (girls)

Georgia Kerr puts runs on the board

Georgia Kerr, a Chaucer House captain in 2016, is one of the newest members of the school's First XI cricket team. She has played cricket in boys' teams since Year Seven. Her talent, dedication and passion for cricket are incredible. Her skills with both bat and ball make her a great asset to the team. Georgia also plays for Gisborne, with her father, and last year captained the Under 16 Central Highlands ladies' team at the State Championship. This year, she will be a member of Victorian Under 18 state team at the national championships.

Catherine Lane
Director of Sport



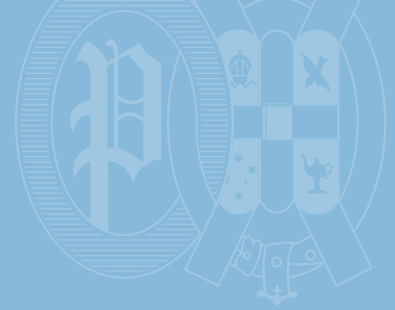
Georgia Kerr

Stop Press!

A new PEGS sports uniform for inter-school competition and PE uniform will be launched in January 2017 and will be available from Noone Imagewear at the same time. There will be a two-year changeover period when students will be able to wear either the existing or the new sports uniform. All students will be expected to be wearing the new sports uniform in 2019.



Australian Mathematics Olympiad team



The International Mathematics Olympiad is the world's major mathematics competition. Matthew Cheah (Year Eleven) was the reserve for the team selected this year by the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee (AMOC). He could be seen as the seventh best Mathematics student in Australia and, as all team members were in Year Twelve, the best Year Eleven Mathematics student in Australia.

Matthew was presented with his team blazer at the school's final Year Eleven assembly on Monday 24 October. The team competed at the 2016 International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) in Hong Kong earlier this year. Dr Philip Swedosh, the state director of the AMOC, attended the assembly to make the presentation.

Brett Parker (Mumbai, 1996) and Sally Zhou (Washington DC, 2001 and Glasgow, 2002) have previously represented PEGS at the IMO. In 2017 the IMO will take place in Rio de Janeiro. Matthew has been invited again to take part in training to determine next year's Australian team. We wish Matthew all the best in his endeavour to represent Australia at the IMO.

Theo Vlantis

Mathematics Enrichment Coordinator, Infinity Centre



Programming Challenge for Girls

PEGS entered five teams into the Programming Challenge for Girls run by the Engineering/IT Department of The University of Melbourne. The competition was designed to be approachable, fun, challenging and educational. Students were required to apply the educational software Alice - a package that teaches programming in a 3D environment.

Our students were introduced to the program, had some practice-time using the software and were then given three problems to solve. The solutions required students to create 3D movies using Alice. A total of eight schools and approximately twenty teams participated in the competition. All five PEGS teams were placed. We achieved two first places, a second place and two third places. Congratulations go to the Year Nine students who participated. A great day was had by all!

Gabby Houridis
ICT teacher



Chess Championships

The Wednesday Chess Club at the Moonee Ponds campus is a buzzing meeting place for groups of girls from Years Two to Six. From this group, Téa Moustis, Laura Hartland van Driel, Cathleen Nguyen, Shreshtha Siwach (Year Six) and Juliette McCarthy (Year Four) represented the school at the 2016 Chess Victoria Interschool Primary Girls Final. The girls played with great focus to achieve a creditable ninth.

Similarly, the boys have a thriving Chess Club. A team consisting of Chancey Bandara, Gevindu Wickramanayake (Year Six), Josh Davidson (Year Five), Domenico Gallicchio (Year Four) and William Cheah (Year Two) competed at the Chess Victoria State Open Primary semi-finals following the team's victory at a zonal tournament. The team finished eighth overall with William Cheah being listed as a Top Ten individual player. This is a great feat for a Year Two student.

Peter Farrant
Upper Primary Coordinator, Junior School (boys)



VCE Visual Arts Viewing

The 2016 VCE Visual Arts Viewing took place in early October. It showcased works created by Year Twelve students of Art, Media, and Visual Communication Design. This viewing celebrates creative expression, seeks to acknowledge the hard work and persistence of the students and the dedication and discipline they have towards their work.

Attendees of the show were delighted and fascinated by the variety of works on display. Of particular interest to many were the works that showed increasing use of new and hybrid digital technologies, be it films shot and edited exclusively on iPhones or photojournalistic pieces that combined photography and digital painting to create stunning and thought-provoking pieces.

The array of different design ideas, ranging from boutique homes to jewellery to more functional pieces, such as personal alarms, had visitors marvelling at students' creativity and flexibility. The range of films created, from horror to drama to comedy, had parents and fellow students transfixed and enjoying the cinematic experience of the Lecture Theatre. Students relished the chance to show off the works they had devoted so much of their Year Twelve life to, whether it was architectural designs, product promotions, installations, paintings or films.

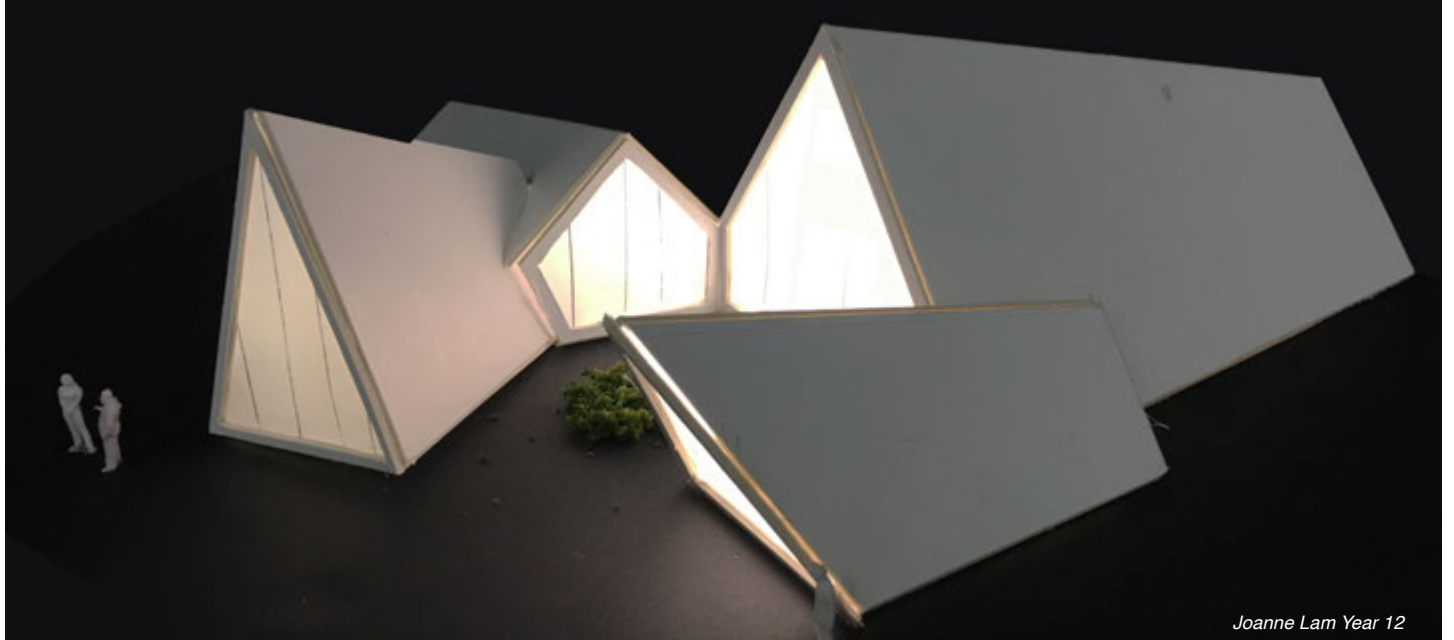
People who attended were invited to vote for their favourite pieces, with awards being given for each of the three subjects. The People's Choice awards went, for Art, to Brendan Miller for his sculpture *Icarus*, for VCD, to Jessica Conti for her design of a house extension and courtyard and, for Media, to Aaron Nguyen for his film *Chairlift to the South Face*.

Vanessa Viirret

Media teacher, Infinity Centre



Celine Farah Year 12



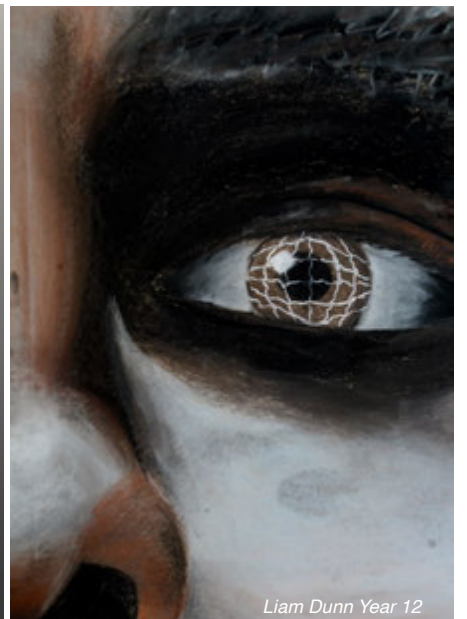
Joanne Lam Year 12



Tristan Keech Year 12



Natalie Popovic Year 12



Liam Dunn Year 12



Brendan Miller Year 12

AGSV Athletics

On Wednesday 7 September, the Athletics teams headed to the annual AGSV carnival. This event was the culmination of six weeks of training and preliminary competitions. The day began very well with Isaac Cummings winning the Under 13 High Jump. His early victory set the tone for a successful day that saw our competitors win thirteen boys' and eight girls' events.

For girls, Hannah Brodie won the Under 13 Discus, Jamie Tonelli the Under 14 800 metres, Karolina Czajkowski both the Under 15 800 and 1500 metres, Lia Mavrias the Under 16 Discus, Georgina Clarke the Under 17 1500 metres, Kara Olsen the Open High Jump and our Under 17 4x100 metre relay team (Victoria Shi, Sophia Gretton-Watson, Madison Alexander and Georgina Clarke) won their event.

For boys, Jack McKernan had an exceptional day winning the Under 17 100 and 200 metres and was a member of the successful Under 17 4x100 metre relay team. Our strength at the Under 17 level was extraordinary. Harrison Williams won the Under 17 High Jump, Long Jump and Triple Jump and was a member of the 4x100m relay team. James Woerndle and Harrison Fry were the other runners in this team. At the Under 16 level, Teos Papafotiou won the 100 and 200 metres and returned late in the day, after injury, to assist Hamish Neo, Adam Dawton and Oscar Bales to win the Under 16 4x100m relay. At the Under 15 level, Sam Beckinsale won the Hurdles, Manny Hayes won the Triple Jump and they teamed with William Moustis and Xavier Tigani to win the Under 15 4x100 metre relay.

Impressively, our boys won three of the six relay events. This is a great testament to the depth of our boys' athletics squad at these levels. Every team member contributed to the school's final result with points are allocated to all competitors. Our captains, John Kolliou and Kara Olsen, led by example; each of them competing in multiple events.

The final results for the day confirmed the closeness of the competition. The boys finished fourth and the girls fifth. For girls, only five points separated fifth and second places. Bring on 2017!

Catherine Lane
Director of Sport





A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a headband with pink and yellow flowers and a white sleeveless top with red polka dots, is smiling. She is standing next to a large, colorful sculpture of a person's head and shoulders. The sculpture is made of various colored sections (purple, green, red, orange, yellow, blue) and has a large, bright pink heart-shaped object on its face. The background is bright and out of focus.

Friends of PEGS

Scenes from the Craft Market



From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

Memorial Plaque Unveiling at Queens' Park, Moonee Ponds

With banners flying and Pipes and Drums sounding throughout Queen's Park, Moonee Ponds, the Service to unveil a Memorial Plaque to honour the World War I service of the local 58th Infantry Battalion commenced.

Organised by the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association, in association with Federal Government funding and the Moonee Valley Council, the event was a proud moment for those associated with the 58th Battalion, earlier known as the Essendon Rifles.

Special guests included: Major General Kevin Cooke AO RFD ED, Patron of the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association; the Member for Maribyrnong and Opposition Leader, the Hon. Bill Shorten, and his daughter; Bryan Lancaster, CEO Moonee Valley City Council; Moonee Valley Councillors; and local Members of State Parliament.

Year Ten trumpeters, Cameron Sedgwick and Madelaine Taranto, their Brass Teacher, Ms Renee Limenidis, and Archivist, Mrs Brigid Cooper, represented the School, which has an ongoing partnership with the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association through the Shrine of Remembrance.



Year 10 students, Cameron Sedgwick and Madelaine Taranto with Major General Kevin Cooke AO RFD ED, Patron of the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association

Additions to Archives

We thank former student, Tracey Williams [Class of 1990], for donating her grandmother's Sports Championship Cup 1933 and The Penleigh Magazine 1932.

Gwen Reark (née Jackson) attended Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School until 1933. Her older sister Ngara attended until 1929. Gwen won the Sports Day Senior Championship Cup after scooping the pool in the Senior races for 75 yards, 50 yards, Potato Race and Egg and Spoon Race. She also came second in the Siamese race with Lilian Whitehead, and the Open Obstacle race.

Tracey and her mother, Carol, visited the PEGS Archives and talked about Gwen's family and her life after Penleigh. Gwen passed away in 1992.



Sports Day Senior Championship Cup 1933 won by Gwen Jackson



PREFECTS AND PROBATIONERS.

Sitting: **PREFECTS**—Anne McNab, Lilian Whitehead (Head Prefect), Gwen Jackson.
Standing: **PROBATIONERS**—Viola Garrett, Jean Stewart.

Probationers and Prefects from The Penleigh Magazine 1933. Prefects, Anne McNab, Lilian Whitehead and Gwen Jackson, are seated, with the Probationers, Viola Garrett and Jean Stewart, standing.

Former Students' Association News

Alumni Spotlight Stella Avramopoulos, Class of 1989

Stella Avramopoulos is the CEO of Kildonan UnitingCare, an agency of the Uniting Church. Stella was voted one of the 25 most influential people in Australia's social services sector in 2015. Stella is married and has two sons.

What have you been doing since leaving PEGS in 1989?

I was in the midst of my Arts Degree at Melbourne Uni with a focus on Criminology when I started volunteering in welfare and corrections organisations. My first job was in Community Corrections. I spent six years in Corrections and recall how so many of the offenders told me their lives may have turned out differently if someone had stepped in and helped them, and their families, when they were younger. Because of this, youth and early intervention became a focus for me. I moved on to Kildonan as a Team Leader in Youth and Family Services, as I knew this would give me an opportunity to work with young people, and their families, and the community. I held a number of managerial roles at Kildonan during my MBA studies, and then in 2008 the position of CEO was offered to me.

During your time as a student at PEGS, what did you like most? Was there anyone who inspired you?

I really loved school. There were some pivotal moments and people. In Year Eleven, my Classics teacher, Chris Papachristos, wrote a play called *The Sirens* based on Homer's *Odyssey* and I played one of the lead roles. Getting up there was a real turning point for me. Chris also instilled in me a love of the Classics and my rich heritage as a Greek person.

Mrs Rae Pierce was an inspirational principal. She gave me other opportunities to speak publicly. In Year Eleven I received Half Colours for Drama and in Year Twelve, Full Colours for Contribution to School Life. It was probably the first time in my life I felt affirmed and it was the start of me developing a more confident self. Teachers really can change the course of your life.

Tell us about Kildonan UnitingCare.

Kildonan has been in existence for 135 years and delivers financial counselling, energy advice, settlement services and family support services to more than 20,000 Victorians each year. Kildonan's programmes target the issues that lead to personal or financial hardship and family breakdown. Our core vision is to facilitate thriving communities based on respect, justice and compassion for all people.

What's the most rewarding part of your work?

Most people are vulnerable at some stage in their lives and at Kildonan we're making sure there's a 'whole of community' wraparound response, which includes community, corporates and government, and helps families in crisis in a way that respects them. To see the relief when someone is on top of their finances for the first time in years is truly rewarding.

What advice would you give to young PEGS alumni?

Appreciate the 'foundation building' element that PEGS is, and that you have access to such breadth and depth of experiences and disciplines. Homer was right in that life is an odyssey. There'll be trials and tribulations, and whilst you may know the destination point, it's not always smooth sailing getting there. Maintain your integrity and remember you're 'paying it forward' for those who come after you.

What do you do in your spare time?

Did I mention I have two sons aged 12 and 4? I serve on four Boards, I am in Rotary, have a close Greek family (village) and I mentor three young women.... What spare time??



Cameron Stevenson – Class of 2010

Cameron Stevenson (Class of 2010) made an immediate impact in his first game for the Tasmanian Tigers in the Matador Cup Competition. He snared five wickets and was named Man of the Match.

Cameron was offered a contract by Cricket Tasmania after his 2015/16 season with the Carlton Cricket Club where he was both a fast bowler and a middle-order batsman. He was also contracted to the Melbourne Renegades in the Big Bash League and made his debut at Etihad Stadium in 2015 in front of 43,000 spectators.

Cameron's journey was preceded by a rich history of sporting participation at the school. His father, Professor Trevor Stevenson, together with his uncles, Donald and Graeme, all completed their education at PEGS, playing cricket and football with distinction.

Cameron became a member of the school's First XI while in Year Nine and was a member of the only PEGS team to win an AGSV cricket premiership. His dominance as a fast bowler ensured his selection in the AGSV representative team. He was also a member of the school's premiership First XVIII in 2010.

After school, Cameron played a season of cricket with Geelong before joining the Carlton Cricket Club where he quickly progressed from the Thirds to the Firsts. It was during this period that Cameron's bowling attracted the attention of selectors.

Cameron's first-class debut for the Tasmanian Tigers is the most significant achievement by a PEGS cricketer since Les Stillman (Class of 1967) played for Victoria and South Australia in the 1970s.

Len Hannah

Former First XI Coach





30 Year Reunion Class of 1986

Saturday 22 October 2016

That's not a reunion – THIS is a reunion!

1986 was all about Madonna, Ray-bans, *The Breakfast Club* and Hawthorn demolishing Carlton in the VFL Grand Final. *Crocodile Dundee* was released and so was the class of 1986!



Fast forward thirty years, the big hair has been toned down (or disappeared altogether) and seventy-six alumni of the Class of 1986 converged for a fun, fantastic reunion at The Leveson in North Melbourne, complete with the debutante video – a visual cacophony of baby's breath, mullets and Lady Di necklines.

Arriving via plane, train and Ubermobile, friendships picked up where they left off, stories were remembered and shared, goodwill and good humour flowed like West Coast Cooler. We agreed that none of us had changed in the slightest, and tellingly, a resolution was made to meet up annually.



Discussion revolved around family and jobs, travel and who's experiment had set fire to the science lab with all suspects very grateful that social media hadn't been invented. Many alumni have chosen to send their own children to PEGS, some are teaching there and the school produced a display of class photos to jog us down Memory Lane. Some lovely speeches were made thanking all attendees and the organising committee of Melinda Aylett (nee Wagstaff), Penny Beitzel, Paul Doran, Mindy McLeod and Craig Williamson who did a great job contacting fellow classmates with the able assistance of Lisa Leask and Brigid Cooper from the school.

The morning after the night before photos emerged on Facebook, telling tales tall and true of the partying efforts of the group who danced into the wee hours. Our 30 year reunion was a resounding success. We'll reconvene and do it all again next year – which is how long it will take us to recover!

Cheers to the PEGS Class of 1986.

Penny Beitzel
Class of 1986



20 Year Reunion Class of 1996

Saturday 27 August 2016

The Class of 1996 celebrated their 20 year reunion on Saturday 27 August. Held at the Leveson Hotel in North Melbourne, 80 former students attended, both local and from interstate.

It was a fantastic night of celebration and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with people with whom we had lost contact following school days. Everybody happily shared stories of career successes, personal achievements, marriages and children and reminisced about our time together as teenagers.

It was delightful for many of us to speak with Monsieur Jarnet who so kindly attended the event and even brought along our Year Twelve results to remind us of our French studies.

1996 was an historical year. John Howard had been Prime Minister for only six weeks when he led the charge on gun control after Australia's worst ever massacre in Port Arthur. This day is etched into our minds as a tragic event in our history but it also marks the year we completed our final year of high school.

The number of people who attended and the social atmosphere throughout the night reiterates the significance of our school life two decades ago. We are grateful to the school for organizing such a wonderful event.

Special thanks to Lisa Leask and the organising committee of Anthony Simpson, Elisa Dijkema (nee McDonald), Travis Knipe and Vanessa Tripodi (nee Schiavello).

Elisa Dijkema (nee McDonald)
Class of 1996



PEGS Business Network

The PEGS Business Network has had a successful year with over 550 people attending our events. This has led to the establishment of many new connections, provided insights from leaders of industry across a range of key topics and provided a sense of belonging for members of the school business community.

The purpose of the group is to serve the wider school community by:

Connecting in business - Uniting the school business community through opportunities to connect in business, learn valuable insights from industry leaders and help all members of our community.

Employment and career opportunities - Providing employment and career opportunities to former and current students.

If you are a former student or parent of a former or current student, we invite you to be part of the PEGS Business Network and to benefit from the business, personal and career opportunities available.

We are excited to announce our 2017 Event Calendar:

Event 1 - **2017 Welcome and Entrepreneurship** - Friday 31 March 2017

Event 2 - **Finance and Economic Outlook** - Friday 23 June 2017

Event 3 - **Leadership, Innovation and Technology** - Friday 22 September 2017

Event 4 - **Networking Drinks** - Friday 24 November 2017

I look forward to your involvement in the PEGS Business Network next year.

If you would like further information on the PEGS Business Network and how it can help you please contact Lisa Leask on 9016 2181 / lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au

Jordan Leask

Head of PEGS Business Network



FSA Functions 2017

Annual General Meeting - Monday 1 May
10 Year Reunion – Saturday 29 July
20 Year Reunion – Saturday 26 August
30 Year Reunion – Saturday 21 October
Football Lunch - TBC
Hockey Breakfast - TBC
Golf Day – Monday 11 December

For more information on these events, or to assist with your upcoming reunion, please email fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au

Private Functions

Golden Girls' Luncheons

Botanical Hotel, 169 Domain Road, South Yarra at 11:30 am. Contact Judith Ross on 0417 538 335 for more information.

2017 Dates – 8 March, 12 July and 8 November

PEGS Business Network Functions

Welcome and Entrepreneurship - Friday 31 March
Finance and Economic Outlook - Friday 23 June
Leadership, Innovation and Technology - Friday 22 September
Networking Drinks - Friday 24 November

LinkedIn:

PEGS Business Network's specific purpose is to connect former students and alumni in business, creating business opportunities for all members while also keeping in touch with and contributing to the greater PEGS Community.

To request membership, please login to **LinkedIn** and search for **PEGS Business Network**

Facebook

If you have a **Facebook** account, please search for **PEGS Former Students' Association** and **PEGS Business Network** and 'like' our pages.

Announcements

Deaths

Dorothy Etta Watt (nee Beaty) (Penleigh 1943 - 1945), sister of Marjorie Newnham (nee Beaty) (Penleigh 1941 - 1944), mother of John Watt (Class of 1978) and Susan Watt (Class of 1981), on 9 August 2016, aged 86.

Elizabeth Johns (Penleigh 1945 - 1952), on 28 September 2016, aged 79.

Ross Dennerstein (Class of 1986), father of Emma (Class of 2016) and Lachlan (Class of 2020) on 16 October 2016, aged 47.

If you have any information you'd like to share, please send an email to Lisa Leask at lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au

2017 Dates for the Diary

Term Dates

Term One

Wednesday 1 February - Friday 31 March

Term Two

Wednesday 19 April - Friday 30 June

Term Three

Tuesday 18 July - Friday 15 September

Term Four

Monday 9 October - Wednesday 13 December

Former Students' Association

1 May - Annual General Meeting

29 July– 10 Year Reunion (2007)

26 August – 20 Year Reunion (1997)

21 October – 30 Year Reunion (1987)

11 December – Golf Day

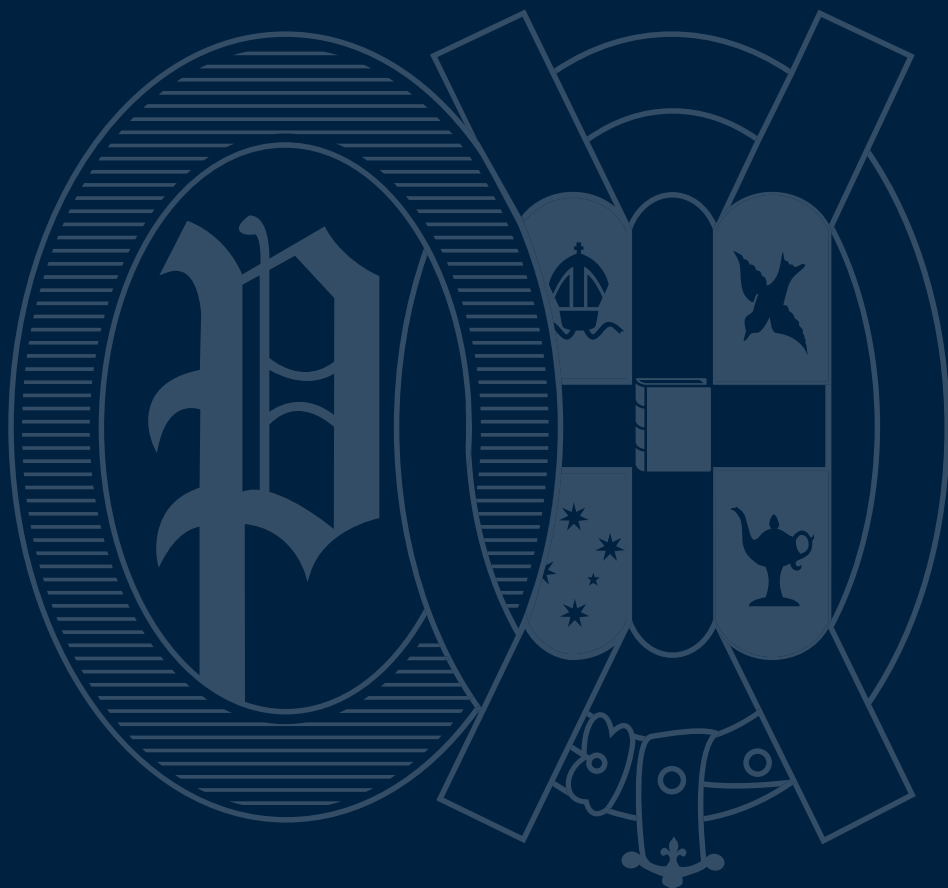
PEGS Business Network

31 March – 2017 Welcome and Entrepreneurship

23 June – Finance and Economic Outlook

22 September – Leadership, Innovation and Technology

24 November – Networking Drinks



Contact details: newsletter@pegs.vic.edu.au

