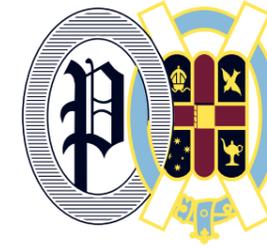




PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Altior et Sapientior

June 2018



## From the Principal

On Monday 7 May I had the pleasure of providing some words of welcome at our annual Colours luncheon that is attended by the ninety or so students who are current recipients of School Colours or senior school leaders.

I noted Melbourne's fascination with the success of the Richmond Football Club in 2017 and, referring to an interview in the *Herald Sun*, noted a side-story about the team's captain, Trent Cotchin, a former student of the school from the Class of 2007. At the end of the 2016 season his leadership skills were being widely questioned, yet, one year later, he was being lauded as one of the competition's great captains. The interview focussed on what was different for him in 2017.

Trent had explained, "Anxiety and pressure are only truly present when the focus is solely on the result". He added, "Failure is ... about not being authentic, not going for it and not dreaming big. The more you focus on results the more you lose sight of the here and now and what you can control. Your outlook shifts and ... you become distracted by things you can't control. You forget your strengths, the things you are passionate about; the things that matter. You lose perspective. You also lose [your sense of] joy."

I reminded our students that their teachers "talk regularly, and in similar terms, about your studies. It's students who focus on their marks and not the joy of learning that find school unsatisfying. They often lose their love of learning. Being a student becomes a chore when it should be a joy. Be careful; don't let the focus be the destination; it should always be the journey. Appreciate where you are."

Rarely have the parallels between sport and study been clearer. We talk often about student engagement because learning is more dynamic, relevant and effective when students are involved in the process rather than preoccupied with outcomes. This is a view and practice that we hope all students will embrace.

**Tony Larkin**

# First meeting

Bright eyed, my Year Six student visitor is all ears as I meet him and his parents to talk about starting Year Seven at Gottliebsen House. The interview topics range from favourite book to mutual respect; the PEGS curriculum; camp; and the Culture of Thinking. Our conversation directs his mind to the future; first to Year Seven then to the years beyond and a pathway that will see the boy now seated across my desk, learn, play, strive and persist as he grows into a young man.

Today, in his primary school uniform, his face squinches with concentration as he scans the Year Seven subjects then breaks into a grin as he talks of his interest in soccer and maths. Parents look on, wistfully marvelling at his composure in this formal and unfamiliar setting.

Perhaps the best part of the meeting happens once we leave my office and visit the library, oval, science labs and gym. While the grounds and facilities attract enthusiastic comment, the real highlight is always the reception we receive from the staff and students whom we meet as we amble across the quad or pop into classrooms.

Once, in the Music Centre, my Year Six guest was invited by senior students in the percussion ensemble to play a quick drum solo. At moments like this, my mere words are beggared by the sheer impact of a friendly smile, nod of recognition, a few brief words or simply a gesture that says, "Hello, we are Gottliebsen House and you are welcome."

**Caroline Horton Andrews**  
Head of Gottliebsen House



# Premier's Awards

At the recent Premier's Awards Ceremony at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, PEGS students were recognised for their outstanding VCE results in 2017. A total of 302 awards were presented to students across Victoria with PEGS students received nine of these awards.

These students were:

- Matthew Cheah (Top All-Round VCE High Achiever)
- Michael Belbruno (English)
- Holly Blackmore (Media)
- Rebecca Gibbons (Economics)
- Andrew Nguyen (Ancient History)
- Kevin Tran (Chemistry, English, Latin)
- Julia Xu (Chinese Second Language)

During the ceremony, the Minister for Education James Merlino spoke about the ability of students to work strenuously toward challenges and to take risks. This was certainly a common theme in conversations with students following the Award Ceremony. They acknowledged the importance of understanding that the VCE will, and should, involve challenges. Michael Belbruno, who received an award for English, said that key to his success was finding an element of fun or fascination in everything he studied. This sentiment was echoed by Matthew Cheah, whose advice was to "learn more than you have to. Just learn what you want to learn and the marks will follow".

It was pleasing to hear students speak about the love of learning that had been fostered during their time at PEGS. While they were being recognised for academic excellence, there was certainly a sense that these outcomes were not the focus; that these achievements eventuate as a result of deep engagement in their subjects and a willingness to take on challenges.

**Kate Dullard**  
Head of Infinity Centre



## Colours luncheon

The annual Colours luncheon provides school leaders and holders of School Colours with the chance to step back and reflect on their leadership. School Colours recipients are expected to exhibit leadership both within and beyond their particular area for excellence. In recent years, the school has expanded the range of activities for which School Colours have been awarded to recognise students' commitment to the academic life of the school as well as areas such as Social Justice and Community Leadership.

At this year's luncheon, Kathryn Van Berkel and Peter Koufidis spoke about the importance of vision and purpose. They also spoke about the tension between unity and diversity and demonstrated an understanding of how to lead in a way that creates unity of purpose while remaining appreciative of the strength that comes from diversity. Peter reminded his peers that great leaders "put their people before themselves and do all they can to make them feel included and to create a sense of belonging".

Kathryn urged her listeners to stray away from what is familiar and comfortable because "leaders prepare themselves not for the comfortable predictability of yesterday, but for the realities of today and all the unknown possibilities of tomorrow". Staff members enjoyed the chance to listen to students describe their own leadership journey and to identify those who had influenced them along the way.

**Kate Dullard**  
Head of Infinity Centre



# Reflecting on progress

At any given year of schooling, students begin at different points in their learning and, while students may also progress at different rates, every student is capable of showing improvement if they are motivated and are provided with well targeted learning opportunities.

Successful learning can be defined by the progress individuals make over time, and one of the most effective ways to support student motivation and learning is to help them recognise the progress they have made and how this has been achieved.

To assist students to become aware of themselves as learners, teachers at the Junior Schools establish classroom environments that encourage the development of metacognitive skills and provide time for students to reflect on what they know, what they don't know and what they may do to further their own learning. Clear and explicit learning goals are set and specific strategies to assist learning are discussed.

This term, Year One girls began setting personal goals and, as a class, identified the learning behaviours and strategies that help them achieve their goals. They worked collaboratively to consolidate their understanding and extend their thinking, and a simple question such as "Where to next?" prompted students to think about their learning.

Teachers also reflect on the strategies they use to deliver the content to support student understanding and seek feedback from students. Regular communication between students, teachers and parents also plays a role in supporting learning and the recognition of the progress students are making.

**Julie Neylon**  
Deputy Head, Junior School (girls)





## Thinking Seminar

Tim Wright, Director of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), was the guest speaker at this year's first Thinking Seminar held on Tuesday 29 May. A Melbourne-based advocacy organisation, ICAN won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to spearhead the first global treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

A member of ICAN since its inception in 2006, Mr Wright was well placed to share with the audience the importance of making a stand for the banning of nuclear weapons and the strategies used by ICAN to accomplish this. Mr Wright closed with a description of receiving the Nobel Prize in Oslo and showed the enthusiastic audience the prize.

In response to ICAN's call for banning nuclear weapons, the school has organised a petition for members of the school community to sign.

The school's Thinking Seminars promote the idea that thinking is a critical element of student learning and they support the notion that successful learners, and ultimately successful people, must also be productive thinkers. ICAN is an extraordinary example of the influence a small group can have. They are an affirmation of the possibilities still available to deep effective thinkers and committed individuals.

**Nina Bilewicz**  
Vice Principal

## Maths camp 2018

The mention of the school holding a Maths Camp often attracts whimsical curiosity. These reactions are greatly removed from the range of experiences given to and the extraordinary engagement of students during the annual weekend camp that occurs in mid-May each year.

Attended by students involved in the school's Mathematics Enrichment Programme in Years Nine and Ten, students spend the weekend studying topics not normally encountered in the classroom curriculum. Very challenging problems in areas as diverse as Diophantine equations, proofs by contradiction, the geometry of circles and mathematical induction are studied over the weekend.

These sessions are interspersed with a range of physical activities including volleyball, archery and canoeing to ensure that fresh, invigorated minds are tackling these problems.

The camp is one aspect of the school's participation in the Australian Mathematics Trust's Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians. Other work occurs at the school under the direction of Dr Angelo Di Pasquale, the Director of Training for the Australian Mathematics Olympiad Committee.

The school has a long tradition of success in mathematics competitions. This year's Maths Camp had an important role in ensuring that enthusiasm for advanced mathematical learning continues unabated at the school.

**Tony Larkin**  
Principal

## UN Youth Conference

The United Nations Youth Association organises a conference for students who are politically minded and curious to explore our world from the perspectives of diplomacy, power and influence. I was able to meet students from across Victoria who had similar interests and were passionate about changing the world.

Each student presented their opinions on various topics. This enabled us to think about the world at both IPS (international problem solving) and MUN (model United Nations) sessions. In IPS, each of us was given a country or organisation and a problem to examine. MUN was another exciting experience. Each student represented a country and we worked like the UN to solve overarching issues in our society. This exercise taught us about teamwork and negotiation as we grappled with issues of peaceful protest, arms trade and nuclear warfare.

We also met with the consuls for the UK and USA. We were able to ask questions about the relationship between Australia and these two superpowers as well as hard-hitting topics about BREXIT and the Trump presidency.

The conference was a life changing experience; I was able to meet future politicians, human rights lawyers and activists. It was also a place where young people could voice their opinions and learn lessons that will hopefully help the Australia of tomorrow. I encourage students to participate in future United Nations Youth Association activities.

**Manisha Peramuna-Arachchi**  
Year Twelve

## da Vinci Decathlon

The da Vinci Decathlon is a friendly but fiercely challenging competition that demands creativity, logic and lateral thinking skills. In teams of eight, students work together to solve the unsolvable, do the undoable and imagine the unimaginable.

The competition is designed to challenge students through a range of disciplines, each with a focus on advanced thinking skills, allowing a diverse group of students to share their talents. The ten disciplines are: English, Mathematics, Engineering, Ideation, Creative Producers, Art & Poetry, Science, Cartography, Code Breaking and General Knowledge. Each discipline poses questions that prompt deep thinking and ingenious answers.

The Year Seven teams came first and second in the regional finals, winning seven of the ten categories. Older students mentored us, providing in-depth analytical tips and advice. The state finals are later in the term.

**Chloe Brockfield**  
Year Seven



# Reports from camp

Year Seven and Ten students have attended the school's camp in Term Two. Here are two reports from Gottliebse House students about their experiences at camp.

*All boys in all activities demonstrated the ideals of community and leadership in various ways. We were always challenged to think, plan, process, act and work for each other.*

*This was on display during our hike, carrying 10 kg hiking packs. The final climb up an extremely steep hill was no easy task. Many people felt they could not go on. At this time, classmates fell behind on purpose to assist others who were struggling. They helped one another with encouraging words and the support they needed at a crucial time. Together, we slowly but determinedly finished our journey. This to me was real community and leadership.*

**Joseph Monitto**, Year Seven

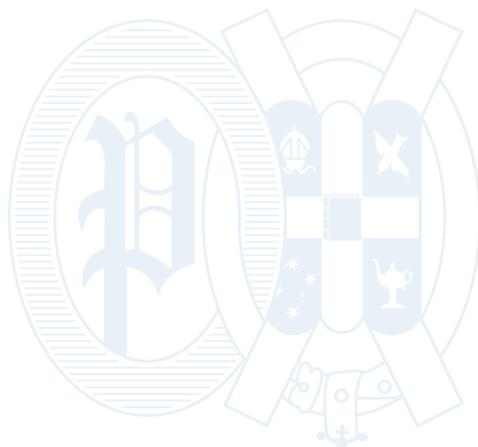
*Social responsibility was a key pillar of our camp experience. We participated in workshops discussing issues such as masculinity and social standards. We were all encouraged to speak honestly, without the threat of being judged, whilst listening to the views of others.*

*At the end, it was a combination of learning through discussion, by doing, mixed with a typical camp experience. Students returned to school having developed a closer relationship with all peers, and with a refined understanding of the need to accept and embrace everyone's views.*

**Nicholas Kostandinov**, Year Ten

The value of the camp programme is immeasurable as it gives students extraordinary opportunities not only to participate in new activities but to engage with other students in influential ways.

**Rodney Clarke**  
Year Ten Coordinator, Gottliebse House



# Middle School and the development of intellectual character

This year Professor Ron Ritchhart from Harvard University is again conducting workshops with our teachers to help them develop both their understandings about thinking and their repertoire of thinking routines.

One of the essential questions we ask in these workshops is “Who are our students becoming as learners as a result of their time with us?” This question asks us to think about the subjects we teach, but more importantly about how we are helping our students to develop intellectual character.

With this in mind, the academic press of our Middle School classrooms becomes not just a means for understanding simultaneous equations, the writings of Shakespeare or the art of Van Gogh; it becomes a mechanism for developing character. The Big Science competition, The University of Melbourne Mathematics competition and the various language oral competitions held during this term provide further opportunities, as do sport, 9ERs activities like Y-Challenge, drama and dance performances like *Children of the Black Skirt* and *In flux*, and enrichment and extension activities like the da Vinci Decathlon and DAV debating.

The journey through Middle School is a time when students undergo a dramatic period of growth and development, as their brains actively reconfigure themselves in preparation for adulthood. As the development of their intellectual character remains in progress, it is critical that we continue to provide challenges that give them opportunities to become more courageous, creative, curious, ethical, persistent, reflective and strategic thinkers and learners.

**Anthony Simmons**  
Head of McNab House





## Fireworks

Earlier this year, six past and present PEGS students had work on display at the opening night of the Fireworks exhibition at the Incinerator Gallery. This is an annual art and design exhibition and competition for VCE students who live, work or attend school in the City of Moonee Valley. The judging panel included various art professionals as well as the Mayor of Moonee Valley, Mr John Sipek.

The exhibition is becoming a prestigious annual event that our students eagerly anticipate. Amanda Gao, Katherine Ure, Giorgia Tigani, Imogen Low, Dean Pilioglou (all from the Class of 2017) and Olga Alexandrou (a current Year Twelve student) - exhibited works. Giorgia Tigani won the Mayor Art Prize and Dean Pilioglou won the Gallery Design Prize. Giorgia also won the People's Choice Award as visitors were asked to vote on their favourite artwork.

This is a fantastic result for our students. Congratulations go to all of the students who exhibited. It is always rewarding when artists have an opportunity to showcase publicly their VCE work from Art and Visual Communication Design.

**Andy Brown**  
Art Teacher, Infinity Centre

## Splashing out for a cure



### Questions:

- What is the name of the brave ex-AFL footballer who is leading the fight against Motor Neurone Disease?
- MND can affect anyone. True or False?
- Is there currently a cure for MND?

First day of Winter – the perfect time for the unique Gottlieb House version of the 'Ice Bucket Challenge'. Ice cubes submerged in chilled water were bucketed over the trembling heads of staff volunteers to raise funds and heighten awareness about Motor Neurone Disease. Elliott House co captains, James La and Nicholas Kostandinov, ran the event with the support of Mr Marcon and the leaders of the other three Houses. The opportunity to drench teachers had no difficulty attracting a large and enthusiastic crowd. James and Nicholas not only lined up the buckets on the day but were also the driving force behind educating our community about this insidious disease. They also led by example by taking a 'dunking' in the spirit of the day.

### Answers:

- Neale Daniher
- True
- No but Elliott House has taken us just a bit closer...

**Caroline Horton Andrews**  
Head of Gottlieb House



# Big Blue Bonanza

For the fourth consecutive year, PEGS has proudly supported its annual student-driven charity concert - Big Blue Bonanza (BBB). The concert supports *beyondblue* in raising awareness of mental health issues. The BBB was a night of exceptional entertainment, under the stars, including live music, a bake sale and food stalls.

The Big Blue Band performed for an incredible audience in the Infinity Centre courtyard on Friday 23 March. The performance showcased classics from Marvin Gaye's *Ain't No Mountain High Enough* to popular hits like Maroon 5's *Sunday Morning*.

Throughout the night of music, the underlying message was very clear. Over one million Australian adults have depression and over two million have anxiety, and these statistics are not ones that society can ignore. The BBB also represents the PEGS Community; it's a statement that our school recognises the importance of student wellbeing and is willing to do whatever it can to support students. As well as this, it encourages all students to have conversations with one another about their mental health to reduce the associated stigma and also to reflect on their own circumstances.

All proceeds raised on the night were donated to *beyondblue* - with a phenomenal total of \$7376. We hope that the BBB is an event the school community can continue to support for years to come so that the message stays alive and bright.

**Mark Ziegelaar**  
Year Twelve



# Kindergarten library sessions

The kindergarten children have embraced with enthusiasm their library sessions which began at the start of this term.

By browsing and borrowing books and listening to and talking about stories they develop a love of literature and the written word. Children expand their world and vocabulary and an appreciation of the value of print has its beginning. Interactive sessions in which children are introduced to new and interesting titles sets the stage for developing an interest and desire to become a reader. Children discover the power and magic of the printed word.

Each week children select and borrow a book to take home and share with their families. Reading together is a very special shared experience and we trust that the pleasure of reading and a love of books can become a life-long interest.

**Anne-Maree Florussen**  
Acting Director of Kindergartens



# Storytime in library

The National Simultaneous Storytime, promoted annually by the Australian Library and Information Association, took place for the eighteenth year on Wednesday 23 May. Our Junior school students were part of the one million plus participants at 8,225 locations who came together for the occasion.

Our students shared the story *Hickory Dickory Dash* by Tony Wilson which tells a story of what could have happened before the "mice ran up the clock". They were involved in a variety of extension activities: Year Six students wrote raps on a range of nursery rhymes, other students acted out the story with a variety of handmade props and everyone loved the showbags provided by the library.

**Kerrin McCrum**  
Director of Library Services

# State swim successes

The Junior Schools' swim team has had a stellar season. For the first time in living memory, all boys' relay teams won their way to the School Sports Victoria State finals. One of our girls' teams also reached the finals. The teams were our 12/13 Years boys' Medley relay, the 10 Years boys' and girls' Medley relays and the 11 Years and 12/13 Years boys' Freestyle relays. In addition, Jacob Nimmo swam in the 12 Years Breaststroke final and Isabella Khalil in the 10 Years Backstroke final.

Isabella and Jacob's events were early in the carnival and got the team off to a great start with Isabella finishing fifth and Jacob winning a bronze medal. There was a tension ranging from excitement to apprehension at MSAC as the remaining boys and girls arrived on the team bus. The support of parents, grandparents and special friends was tremendous and our students were greatly energised by Jacob's earlier medal success.

Each relay team swam brilliantly, rising to the occasion, and enjoyed the atmosphere at the State Championships. The boys' 12/13 Years Medley relay swam first and won a silver medal. This success lifted the entire team. The 10 Years girls and boys were magnificent - both finishing fourth. The 11 Years and 12/13 Years boys' Freestyle teams finished fifth and won the bronze medal respectively.

The camaraderie and sense of pride in the PEGS team was palpable. The strength of the relationships between team members was a credit to our students.

**Craig McFarlane**  
Head of Junior School (boys)





## Double bill

*Children of the Black Skirt* and *In Flux* were performed earlier this term to appreciative audiences by a young cast, who approached their respective Drama and Dance productions with sincerity and maturity.

Presented as a double-bill, *Children of the Black Skirt* used a series of stories to reflect on certain sombre elements of Australia's past and *In Flux* employed various dance styles to represent a shifting organism that swells and recedes, in a constant state of transition.

The play was delivered by the gentle voices of abandoned orphans and many students succeeded in conquering long monologues to be able to share these tales. They grappled with intense themes throughout the rehearsal process and on the performance evenings rose to the occasion, revealing depth and sensitivity in front of the crowds.

Dance Company acquitted itself wonderfully in the movement piece. The dancers extended their abilities from previous works and exhibited a great refinement of the skills that some of them have been practising for years. The Dance Company has welcomed many new members this year. It did not take long for them to work well together in a supportive and coordinated team.

In fact, all of the performers of *Children of the Black Skirt* and *In Flux* were quick to bond as dedicated stage ensembles. The many friendships formed throughout the experience, especially the ones that saw students interact with those from year levels other than their own, will be cherished by many of the cast.

**Jessica Gorlin**  
Director of Performing Arts

# In concert

A most successful first major concert was held in the auditorium of the HR Stevens Music Centre on Monday 28 May. This concert featured the Synthesizer Ensemble; Guitar Ensemble; Percussion Ensemble; Stage Band and Concert Band. Each group presented a variety of musical styles and highlighted particular students with solos and featured sections. There was something for everyone; from the pop sound of ABBA, heavy metal; jazz classics and *Star Wars* theme.

It was a fitting showcase for the hard work of our students and staff. Their efforts to prepare these musical items, over many weeks of rehearsal, to such a high standard, provided an exciting and engaging programme.

It has also been delightful to hear so many students playing as soloists or in small groups at the ten small concerts given by each instrumental department and the VCE Music Performance classes this term.

The Suzuki concert featured many beginning students who were first-time performers playing for a supportive audience of family and friends.

There were eight concerts in one month, each featuring the different instrumental areas taught at the school. Nearly 300 students performed a wide range of repertoire, both in terms of standard and styles. Each concert reflected the unique character of the students and their teachers. There were many duos, trios and quartets, sometimes with staff support to encourage tentative, inexperienced performers.

The other concert was the Units One and Three recitals by our VCE Music Performance students. Each performance is assessed by a panel of teachers. It is required that each piece is presented in a formal way with students making an introductory announcement describing the features of their performance item.

**Amanda Rowarth**  
Director of Music



## Jordan and Zoe Cransberg

Zoe and Jordan Cransberg (Class of 2017) were both selected in the Victorian Under 19 Netball team earlier this year. While Jordan unfortunately suffered a serious knee injury and has been unable to represent Victoria, Zoe competed in the national netball championships, held in Adelaide in April. Zoe played in the majority of lead-up games and ran the centre court during the grand final, which Victoria won.

Zoe who is currently studying full-time at The University of Melbourne has just been selected to play in the Under 19 Australian squad. Zoe and Jordan continue their association with PEGS coaching two of our junior netball teams.

**Laura Sharkey** (coach) and **Sue Lenz** (team manager) Firsts Netball



## AGSV/APS tennis premiers

Our girls' First Tennis team made history by winning the school's first ever AGSV/APS tennis premiership. The team began the season well with a strong win at home. With extra confidence, they approached a tough couple of rounds against traditionally strong opposition. The girls played away against Caulfield Grammar. A tight tussle saw both teams finish with eight sets each, with PEGS winning on games. This good form continued the following week, with our girls defeating Haileybury College 9-7 at home. The final round of the season was a home match against Geelong College. Unfortunately, the match was washed out, leaving us with a nervous wait to learn the other results from the round. Once they were in, it was confirmed; PEGS were this year's Premiers.

**Ben Bailey**  
Coordinator of Sport (girls)

## Girls' cricket

Girls' cricket was officially introduced to the sports programme this year. Eleven girls from Years Seven to Ten represented the school in a four-team competition during Term One. With each match our girls' skills developed, with more wickets taken, runs scored and catches sticking. The season concluded with a girls' cricket gala day that saw two WBBL players in attendance to present gifts and awards to the students. Cricket Victoria has been a great supporter of this initiative.

**Ben Bailey**  
Coordinator of Sport (Girls)



# AFLW at PEGS

The AGSV/APS has officially introduced an AFLW season as part of this winter's sports competition. Thirty-six students in Years Seven to Nine (Junior division), along with forty-six students in Years Ten to Twelve (Senior division) are competing in three teams in the inaugural season. The students' enthusiasm at training and matches has been infectious as they learn and develop playing skills. Appearances and coaching from past and present AFL and AFLW players have been well received by the students as they strive to improve their football skills.

**Ben Bailey**  
Coordinator of Sport (Girls)



## PEGS golf

On Monday 30 April, Kyle Novacek (Year Twelve), Jack Nibbs (Year Eleven) and Thomas Mackenzie (Year Eight) travelled to the Spring Valley Golf Club in Clayton to compete in the Combined Schools Golf Championship. The event is in its thirtieth year. Our boys performed very well against a red-hot field with the overall winner shooting a three under par 68. Jack scored 72 and Kylie 73 to finish fourth and fifth respectively. Overall, the PEGS team was placed fourth in a field of twenty-one schools.

**Chris Clark**  
Coordinator of Sport (Boys)



## New Zealand Hockey Tour

During the Easter holidays, thirty students and four staff took part in the school's first international hockey trip - a nine-day tour of the north island of New Zealand. The tour consisted of no fewer than fourteen cultural/tourist experiences, six matches of hockey for each of our two teams and two nights of cultural immersion at a local Marae. On the pitch the students were challenged by some of the best hockey schools in New Zealand.

**Chris Clark**  
Coordinator of Sport (Boys)



## Super Saturday

Our boys' First Tennis team was chasing back-to-back premierships and a third title in four years. Ivanhoe Grammar was competing in its fifth consecutive grand final. The pairing of Matthew Woerndle and Marcus Stathos set our team on the path to victory. Two doubles wins meant an undefeated season for the pair. Backed up by two victories to captain Hamish Neo and partner Lachlan Zsembery, the boys ended the doubles matches with a 5-3 lead. Pressure mounted as both teams split the first six singles matches. Class prevailed as Rowan Mendis won a tiebreaker and Marcus Stathos put the exclamation mark on his exceptional undefeated season.

The cricket season played out in extraordinary fashion for our First XI. Despite a small slump leading into Christmas, the boys rallied and moved into the Grand Final against Yarra Valley Grammar. Captain Harry Fisher (57), ably supported by Tom Bowden (20), pushed the score along to 203 at the close of our innings. Angus Dunkley-Price got things going with the ball, Harry Fisher again set the team on course with two quick wickets and a superb direct hit from Kyle Novacek clinched a 55 run victory and our second only cricket premiership in sixty years.

Two grand final victories on one day; it was a Super Saturday for the school.

**Chris Clark**  
Coordinator of Sport (boys)



# From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

## 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association - Memorial Service

Not to be deterred by the rain, the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association moved their annual Memorial Service to the Keilor East RSL.

The 2018 Memorial Service called for dual World War I centenary commemorations, namely the battle to recapture Villers-Bretonneux by the men of the 5th Division and end of the war, known as the Armistice.

An ANZAC day message to PEGS students from Patrick Simon, the Mayor of Villers Bretonneux, was also read:

*On ANZAC Day, we commemorated the liberation of Villers-Bretonneux by the Australian troops one hundred years ago. The ANZACs valiantly fought in the plains of the Somme to prevent the capture of Amiens by the German troops. To this day, we are still in awe of the 422,000 young people coming all the way from the other side of the world, crossing many oceans, fighting in Gallipoli and then on the French soil, to defend our freedom. Our enduring bonds of friendship with Australia will never cease as they were born from shared blood and they will blossom in our hearts.*

The Association was grateful to Year Ten student, Saskia Paxton, who played the *Last Post* and *Rouse/Reveille* on the trumpet.



Year 10 students, Keely Smith, Heruni Bibile, Saskia Paxton, Jackson Coombs and Jaidyn Sessa, with Moonee Valley Councillors Andrea Surace and Richard Lawrence.

## 2018 - Year of Peace

Have you ever noticed a tall stone memorial as you drive through Royal Park near the corner of MacArthur Road and The Avenue? This memorial was erected by the former students of Carlton College, one of our foundation schools, in memory of their classmate, Lieutenant James Charles Roberts, who died of wounds after being injured during the Boer War.

Excerpts from *The Australasian* newspaper from Saturday 3 March 1900 report.

Old Carltonians mustered to the number of about 60 in the college classrooms on Tuesday 27 February, to discuss and set in motion the suggestion that had been made that a memorial to the late Lieutenant Roberts should be erected by the old boys of the college. Mr Gresham Robinson, the Headmaster, was voted to the chair, and the old classroom rang with cheers as he took his seat. The ex-Headmaster, Mr Alex Sutherland, joined the chairman. As the old Carltonians took their seats on the desks at which so many of them had toiled in days gone by, reminiscence followed reminiscence, until the chairman had to suggest getting to business.

Lieutenant Jim Roberts was at Carlton College for about four years, entering in 1886. He was dux of the college, and was also a good footballer. When, therefore, Mr Sutherland suggested that the memorial should take the form of a tablet in the school hall and also, if the Royal Park trustees will consent, an obelisk in that part of the park where the Carlton boys have been wont to play for so many years, there was a hum of approbation.



Betty Simpson in 1986 at her Surprise Farewell Party with the Principal, Rev HR (Bert) Stevens and his wife, Sadie(right)

## Visit by Mrs Betty Simpson

The Archives was delighted to receive special visitor Mrs Betty Simpson, secretary to the Principal, Rev HR Stevens, from 1963 to 1986. During these twenty-three years the school went from an all-boys Essendon Grammar with 200 students to a co-educational Penleigh and Essendon Grammar with over 2000 students. Mrs Simpson was accompanied by her great-niece, Belinda Borg, as well as Mr Warren Allan, the school's Bursar from 1976 to 1990, and his secretary, Ms Lindy McArdle.



Lindy McArdle, Betty Simpson and Warren Allan with the silver tea service Betty used every day

# PEGS Business Network



It was a beautiful Melbourne Friday when the PEGS Business Network (PEGSBN) hosted over 100 guests at *Vue de Monde* for a much anticipated lunch with Shannon Bennett. The event sold out in just over 24 hours and proved the popularity of one of Australia's most highly regarded chefs and successful entrepreneurs, and also a former PEGS student.

After opportunities for networking, overlooking the breathtaking Melbourne city from the top of the Rialto building on Collins Street, guests were seated for a delightful three-course meal.

Brent West (PEGSBN Committee member) interviewed Shannon about his school days and how this shaped his career. Shannon was particularly fond of and grateful for his PEGS experiences and remains in contact with a number of friends. He also spoke of learning from some of the best international chefs, including Marco Pierre White, taking calculated risks such as opening his first restaurant in Carlton, and expanding into new opportunities, such as *Benny Burger*, which Shannon named after his supportive father.

Shannon's is a story of hard work, success and clear vision which have propelled him to international status as a renowned chef and entrepreneur. A big thank you to Shannon and his staff at *Vue de Monde*. We are hopeful of Shannon joining with us at another event in the future.

PEGSBN continues to deliver insightful and entertaining events for the PEGS Community, while connecting former students and parents for mutual benefit.

**Jordan Leask**  
Head of PEGS Business Network



# PEGS BUSINESS NETWORK

# Former Students' Association News

## Alumni Spotlight Emma Kendrick, Class of 2006

Emma Kendrick is a committee member on the PEGS Business Network and holds the position of Sales Manager Victoria for ReachLocal. The company implemented the school's digital strategy across Facebook, Google and Bing.

*What have you been doing since leaving PEGS in 2006?*

I completed a Bachelor of Business Marketing (Applied) and worked in marketing at Holden for two years before commencing as a Digital Consultant for ReachLocal where I have been for six years. My goal is to attract more of the right customers, utilising the digital space.

*During your time as a student at PEGS, what did you like most?*

The consistency of being at the same school and forming friendships I still retain after 25 years.

*Was there anyone who inspired you?*

Staff who were firm but fair and had the respect of all the girls. I was a little scared of some teachers when I was really young, however, as I got older I learned that they were kind and understanding. 'Firm but fair' is definitely part of my management style now.

*Tell us about the PEGS Business Network and what drove you to be involved*

At the first event I attended with my friend Steph (also Class of 2006), few of the hundred attendees were female and most were at least a decade older than us. I saw a real opportunity to help the Network utilise social media to boost younger and female attendance.

*Tell us about ReachLocal*

ReachLocal is a USA TODAY NETWORK company and a part of Gannett Co., Inc. We help local businesses grow with award-winning generation and conversion technology and expert service. My team and I work with customers to devise strategies aimed to deliver more of the right customers.

*What's your favourite memory of PEGS?*

Doing a Spice Girls production for assembly in Year 4. It was so much fun!

*What advice would you give to PEGS alumni starting out in a career?*

Put yourself out there, build relationships and a network. Go in with the right attitude and be authentic. You cannot put a price on what opportunities open up through your relationships.

*What do you do in your spare time?*

I love food and wine and enjoy new restaurant experiences. I also like to get out in the bush and help my brother with his motorsport hobbies.



## FSA Committee 2018

**President** Mr Dominic Cerantonio  
**Treasurer** Mr Mina Pittiangas  
**Secretary** Mrs Lisa Leask  
**Principal** Mr Tony Larkin

**General Committee** Mrs Tanya Caruso Mrs Brigid Cooper  
Mr Darryn Hartnett Mr Jordan Leask  
Mrs Leigh Philpot Mr Anthony Simpson  
Mrs Jenny Wakeling Ms Nicole Ward

## FSA Functions 2018

**10 Year Reunion** – Saturday 28 July 2018

**20 Year Reunion** – Saturday 25 August 2018

**30 Year Reunion** – Saturday 8 September 2018

**40 Year Reunion** – Saturday 20 October 2018

**Golf Day** – Monday 17 December 2018

For more information on these events, or to assist with your upcoming reunion, please email [fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au)

## Private Functions

**Golden Girls' Luncheons** - 11 July and 14 November

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

## PEGS Business Network Functions

Event 2: Business Breakfast

Date: Friday 27 July

Time: 7am to 9am

Venue: ZINC at Federation Square

For further information please contact the PEGS Business Network Coordinator, Lisa Leask on 03 9016 2181 / [lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au).

## LinkedIn:

PEGS Business Network's specific purpose is to connect former PEGS 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

### Honours and Awards

**Robert Gottliebsen** (EGS 1949 - 1958; EGS/PEGS Council/Board of Management 1973 - current) received an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2018 for his services to journalism and "education through school governance roles".

Robert has also recently been honoured with the Melbourne Press Club Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to business journalism in Australia.

### Deaths

**Karyn Leeanne Wilkinson (née Mogford)** [Class of 1978], sister of David Mogford [Class of 1981], on 3 April 2018, aged 56.

**Cyril R Wing** (EGS 1944-1945, Sub-Prefect, member Football, Cricket and Athletics Teams, Raleigh House Captain) on 25 April 2017, aged 89 years.

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



# Friends of PEGS News

## Mother's Day

What a great time we had in the week leading up to Mother's Day. After some incredibly efficient packing, we were able to offer many amusing and lovely gifts for our Junior Schools students to purchase for Mum, all at the unchanged price of \$10 each. While I enjoyed choosing stock and planning for this event, my favourite time was that spent watching the love and care invested by each student when choosing a gift. Our Mother's Day stalls rely very heavily on parents putting in time to wrap, sort and sell gifts. I thank each and every one of them for their contribution.

Mother's Day 2018 - it's a wrap. Well done and thank you to all!

**Jane Carbone**  
FoPEGS Committee

## Save the date

On Saturday 13 October, the Essendon Campus will be transformed into the site for the Annual Craft Market. It's a significant event in the FoPEGS calendar, bringing all sections of the school together to celebrate our community. Expect live entertainment, food trucks, fairy floss, old favourite carnival games and popular carnival rides including a new addition this year. Let's also not forget the two most popular stalls; the White Elephant Stall (preloved items) and the Cake Stall. So make sure you save this date in your calendar.

Parents and friends, we need volunteers to support our efforts for the PEGS community. You can help out for as little as one hour. You will receive further information about how to volunteer for set up, serving on the day or pack up from your Class Rep. See you on Saturday 13 October at the Craft Market!

**Suzanne Startseff**  
Vice President, FoPEGS



# PEGS Community Report 2017





# Our Philosophy

Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School, a Uniting Church school, is dedicated to the provision of an academic curriculum and a broad co-curricular programme which encourages in each student the development of intellectual curiosity, respect for the traditions of scholarship, the realisation of his or her artistic and recreational potential and the practice of Christian values.

## Our Objectives

The school is committed to a curriculum that encourages excellence through the nurture of intelligence, creativity, independence and perseverance. It promotes the view that a student's academic achievement is enhanced by her or his enjoyment of school and engagement in school life.

Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School encourages all students to participate in Australian life as proud and responsible citizens. It is committed to create an environment of mutual respect and support amongst the staff and students.

The objectives of the School are:

To create an environment where students are safe and where teachers and students can work in harmony

To foster a love of learning

To develop in all students a critical awareness of their own experiences

To assist students in their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical development

To nurture an appreciation of the intrinsic value of education and knowledge

To encourage in students the traits of self-confidence, independence and perseverance

To encourage each student to achieve his or her potential in all activities

To engender a sense of responsibility and respect for other people

To ensure a high level of literacy and numeracy

To develop an aesthetic and creative sense and to foster an appreciation of cultural and artistic endeavours

To provide a community in which students may choose to embrace Christian values and attitudes

To provide students with a knowledge and understanding of their history and the Australian experience

To develop an appreciation of leisure time and the capacity to use it productively

To provide a range of activities so that all students have the opportunity to discover their talents and their worth

To prepare students for their transition to tertiary study or work through personal development and vocational guidance

To encourage in all students an appreciation of their natural environment.

*"I've waited my whole life to start school and I love it!" Prep student, Mia*

# Board of Management

Mr B Henderson, *Chairman*

Mr D Whiting, *Vice Chairman*

Mr G Aplin  
Mr C Clausen  
Mrs B Deery  
Mr P Phelan  
Dr S Tsang

Rev P Blacker  
Dr E Dapiran  
Mr R Gottliebson  
Dr D Pitkin

Mr D Cerantonio  
Mr P Davey  
Mrs W McMaster  
Mr A Smith

## Chairman's Message

This annual message has tended, for several years, to focus on the physical changes at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. This era, at least temporarily, is behind us. While there are always projects that further enhance the school, other changes are evident around the school. In particular, the school's commitment to its Culture of Thinking, in combination with its focus of Care and Wellbeing, is enhancing the spirit of the school.

I am very mindful of the diversification of the school's co-curricular programme with the inclusion of activities as different as chess, first-aid training, fencing and social justice; the changes to classroom practice that concur with the Culture of Thinking and its efforts to enhance student engagement; the further implementation of well-being programmes with foci as diverse as sleep practices and mindfulness and the introduction of new subjects which hopefully better serve the interests of the full range of students.

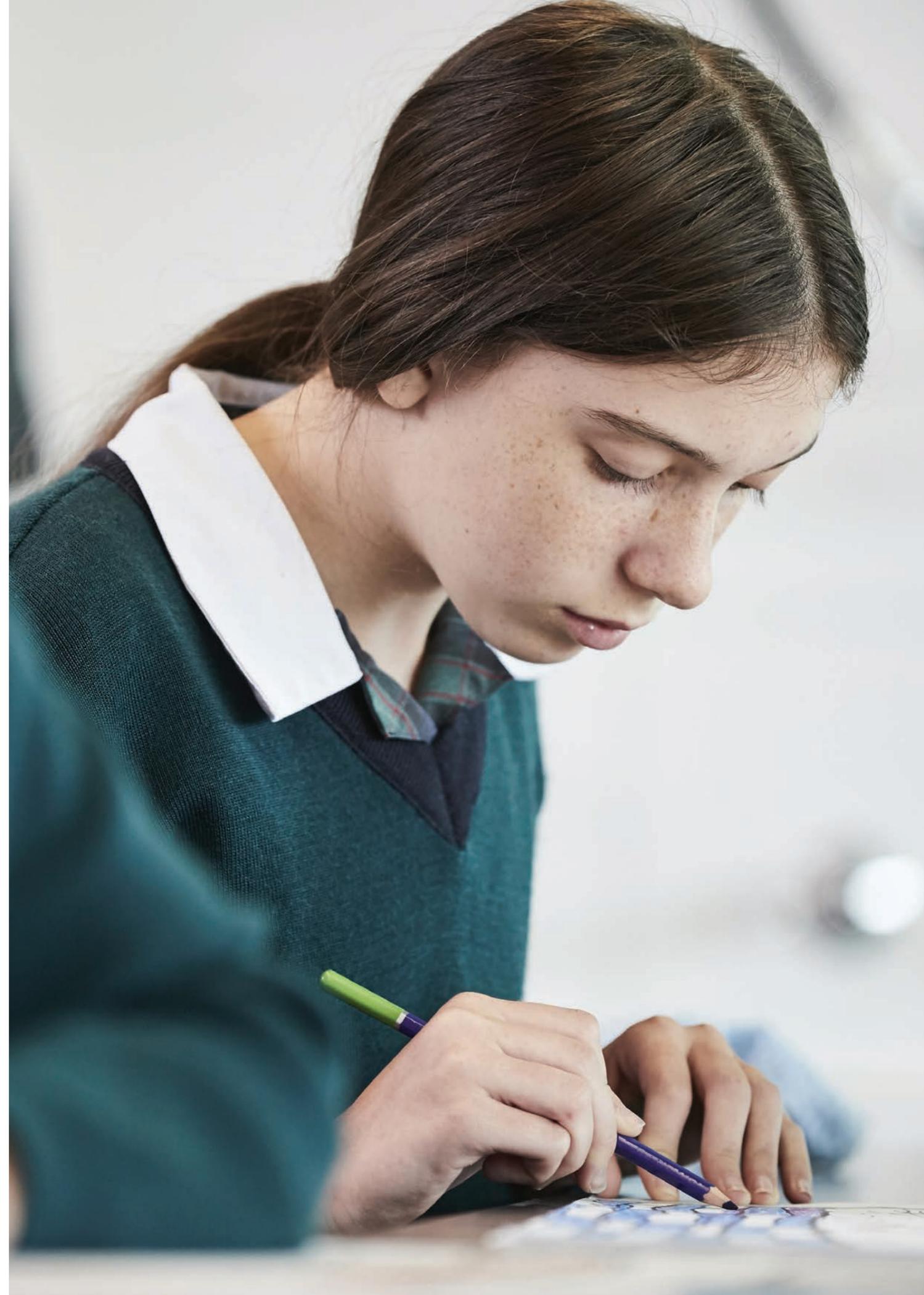
It is comforting to see that these programmes have been initiated while the school's culture of strong academic achievement has been maintained. This would seem to be an incredible challenge but one that the school has most ably met. While some other schools are debating their focus, PEGS is what it should be – a school that serves the interests of the vast majority of its students.

In so many ways, PEGS is both a traditional and modern school. Its priorities are both academic and student wellbeing. This is a logical extension of the phrase that our Principal, Mr Tony Larkin, once used when he described PEGS as being "radically conservative". It was an apt description at the time and retains noteworthy currency. To be both things simultaneously is an extraordinary challenge that our staff most ably accommodates.

This Report summarises many indicators of the school from 2017, including the achievements of our students, their engagement with various school programmes as well as many of the intellectual, cultural and social activities that are central to PEGS. I hope you enjoy reading our 2017 Community Report. While it tells you so much about the school, its purpose is not specifically to elaborate on the verve of the school. In the ultimate, the experiences of PEGS students are the best measure of the school that we want to be.

**Bruce Henderson**  
Chairman

*A large contingent of students relished the learning experiences at Space School, USA. "I have learned that the industry brings together all types of strengths (not only sciences) which makes me want to explore more of my skills in other fields," Lachlan (Year 11) reflected.*





# The PEGS experience: 2017

With an enrolment of more than 2600 students at campuses situated in Essendon, Keilor East and Moonee Ponds, PEGS offers a rigorous academic programme, encouraging a love and respect for the challenges of learning whilst remaining sensitive to individual abilities and circumstances. A framework of cultural, spiritual and sporting activities promotes student engagement and supports our aspirations for the development of mature, socialised and discerning young adults.

PEGS has been affiliated with the Uniting Church in Australia since 1977 and offers the fundamentals of a Christian education to all students. Religious Education classes are an intrinsic component of the curriculum for all students from Prep to Year Nine. Students at every level are required to attend services of worship at Commencement, Easter and Mid-year, with Year Twelve students also attending a Valedictory Service. The school celebrates the end of each school year and the approach of Christmas with a Carol Service to which all families are most cordially invited.

In 2017 we celebrated forty years of progress since the amalgamation of Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College and Essendon Grammar School and acknowledged the remarkable growth as Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. In recent years the school has consolidated all three secondary sections at the Keilor East campus, developed additional facilities for outdoor education and sport at Eildon Camp and Keilor Park, expanded the co-curricular offerings to cater for student interests. The school has demonstrated a strong commitment to its twin foundations of a Culture of Thinking and Care and Wellbeing. Our focus was aptly summed up by the school's theme in 2017: PLUS.

Student engagement continued to be invigorated by the adoption of new thinking and learning strategies and our commitment to a growth mindset, fostering an approach to learning which views challenges as learning opportunities and focuses on the importance of resilience in achieving success. Additions to the curriculum included the introduction of Coding for all Year 7 students, led by the school's IT educators, and expansion of our Religious Education programme to include Prep to Year 2 students in a new Ethics and Religion course for our Junior Schools.

A new school website has been launched and now supports activities such as online scholarship applications. Together with the intranet service, PEGSpace, the site addresses the ever-expanding role of digital media by the school in communication with the wider community as well as with its families.

While the major building works of the past decade are now completed, additional work at Essendon and Moonee Ponds has facilitated expansion of enrolment in both primary sections. Additional accommodation and updated facilities have also been completed at the Eildon Camp so that concurrent programmes can be offered to two class groups. This expansion has seen additional opportunities for students in Years 3 and 10 to benefit from the camp experience. For Year 3 students the benefits to self-esteem from the overnight camp were immeasurable. The three-day Year 10 programme focused on social responsibility during an important phase of personal and social development for our students.

Significant professional learning for our teaching staff has continued through participation in the University of Melbourne Network of Schools and collaborative investigations under the guidance of Dr Ron Ritchhart from Harvard University. In particular, the focus on improving writing has seen the development of strategies encouraging students at all levels to reason with evidence in nonfiction writing.

In addition to the traditional language immersion visits to France and Germany, travel experiences for our students in 2017 have also focussed on sport, space science, international understanding and personal growth. Opportunities included the annual Papua New Guinea visit, a World Challenge encounter with Vietnam, tennis and basketball development tours to Thailand and America's west coast, respectively, and a landmark first visit to NASA Space School.

# The PEGS experience: students in focus

## Curriculum and academic achievement

The school encourages excellence through the nurture of intelligence, creativity, independence and perseverance. It offers its students a range of learning activities suitable to their developmental levels and a breadth of subjects appropriate to their needs and abilities.

## VCE results

All 232 candidates successfully completed the VCE.

Three students achieved the highest possible ATAR score of 99.95 with two students scoring 99.90. A total of 21 (or 9 per cent of our students) were placed in the top one per cent of students in the state, with ATAR scores of 99 or above. The median ATAR score at PEGS was 88.75, placing over 50 per cent of our students in the top 11 per cent of the state.

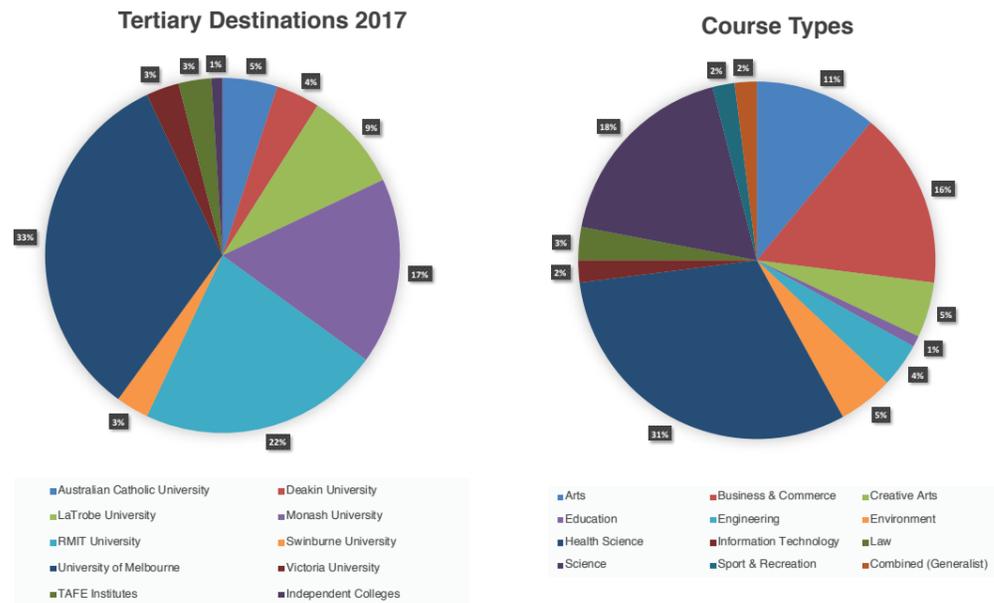
All VCE subjects are scored out of 50 and, in each subject, less than 8 per cent of candidates statewide obtain a score of 40 or above. At PEGS 24 per cent of all study scores were at or above 40. This result matched that of 2016. The median study score was 35 out of the possible score of 50. Perfect scores of 50 were recorded on 14 occasions and in the following subjects: Chemistry, English, Economics, Further Mathematics, Health and Human Development, Legal Studies, Media, Physical Education and Physics.

Seven students received Premier's Awards acknowledging outstanding performance: one Top All-Round VCE High Achiever, two for English and one each for Chemistry, Chinese Second Language, Economics, Ancient History, Latin and Media.

Three students were awarded a Melbourne Chancellor's Scholarship by The University of Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne remains the most popular tertiary destination for our students and Health Science, Commerce/Business and Natural/Physical Science were the most popular tertiary courses in that order. 74 per cent of our students were offered their first tertiary preference and 98 per cent received an offer for one of their first three tertiary course preferences.

Destinations of students completing VCE in 2017 are summarised below:





## Literacy and numeracy benchmarks

Students in Years Three, Five, Seven and Nine participated in the annual National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. The percentages of students who met the national minimum standards in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy remain close to 100 per cent at all levels. Comparison of results from 2015 to 2017 is recorded in Table 1.

Table 1: Percentage of PEGS students achieving national minimum standards

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
<b>Year 3</b>					
<b>2017</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	100	100	100	100	100
2015	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Year 5</b>					
<b>2017</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	99	100	100	99	100
2015	99	100	100	100	100
<b>Year 7</b>					
<b>2017</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	100	100	100	100	100
2015	99	99	99	100	100
<b>Year 9</b>					
<b>2017</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>
2016	100	98	99	99	100
2015	100	98	99	99	100

PEGS median scores are compared with State medians in Table 2. Our scores are well above the State average in all components of the test programme.

Table 2: Comparison of State and PEGS median scores

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
<b>Year 3</b>					
State 2017	438	428	428	450	421
<b>PEGS 2017</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>479</b>
<b>Year 5</b>					
State 2017	512	489	511	506	500
<b>PEGS 2017</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>541</b>
<b>Year 7</b>					
State 2017	547	523	553	548	560
<b>PEGS 2017</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>Year 9</b>					
State 2017	590	570	579	572	590
<b>PEGS 2017</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>650</b>

*For VCE student Alicia, 'Art is another way to communicate, a visual language. You can express your ideas in any way you feel is necessary.'*

## Standardised tests and competitions

PEGS students participated in a number of standardised tests, national competitions and notable forums with many distinguished achievements. These included:

### In Mathematics

International Mathematics Olympiad (Rio De Janeiro) – highest ranked performer in national team

Australian Mathematics Competition – 7 Year Level Prizes, 44 High Distinctions, 155 Distinctions

The University of Melbourne/ACEMS Secondary School Mathematics Competition –

Senior Division: First Prize and Sir Thomas Cherry Prize, 1 Certificate of Merit

Intermediate Division: 1 Certificate of Merit

Junior Division: 4 Certificates of Merit

Maths Games Day – Year 7: First and Second placed teams

Maths Talent Quest (Primary) – National Outstanding School Award;

Individual awards – National level: 2 awards (Year 3 individual entry and Year 5 individual entry), State level: 14 High Distinctions or Distinctions

National Computer Science School – 2 participants

### In Science

CSIRO STEM Professionals in Schools – 10 participants

National Youth Science Forum – 9 participants

Australian National Chemistry Quiz (Years 7 - 12) – 4 High Distinction Excellence Awards, 46 High Distinctions, 82 Distinctions

Big Science Competition (Years 7 - 10) – 37 High Distinctions, 85 Distinctions

### In Languages

CLTAV Chinese Speaking and Performance Competition – Third prize, Encouragement Award

CLTAV Chinese Reading Award – 4 Prizes, 2 Medallions

French: Year 12 Epreuve Oral – 3 Prizes, Year 9 Recitation de Poesie – 1 Prize

German: AGTV Competition State finals – 4 Prizes

Indonesian Language Teachers Association Oral Competition – 6 Awards

## Co-curricular participation

The busy co-curricular calendar enhances student enjoyment of school and engagement in school life. Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities including music, drama, dance and sport. In the secondary school they participate in two seasons of sport – a summer sport and a winter sport.

Highlights of 2017 included:

### In the Performing Arts

**Music:** major events in the PEGS music calendar were a series of three concerts inspired by the PLUS theme: +Music 1 and +Music 2 each presented performances by three Senior ensembles while +Music 3 was an exclusively Junior School production. Additional performance opportunities included One School Day, instrumental department concerts, school assemblies and recitals focussing on VCE students' repertoires. The annual Carol Service held in St Paul's Cathedral in the final week of the school year again showcased the talent and commitment of Senior and Junior Choirs and brass and string players.

**Drama:** In an encore of an earlier success, the student-developed serial drama *Great Heights* returned to the Drama Theatre as *Great Heights Season One: The Boxed Set* and was performed to a wider audience in Term One.

One of Shakespeare's earliest plays, *The Comedy of Errors* was performed in the round by a cast of more than 30 students from Year Nine to Year Twelve in Term Two. Combining drama and dance and with many students taking up the challenges of direction, choreography and script writing, the production proved to be innovative and entertaining.





The biennial *Snapshots/Sketch Show* double bill returned in Term Three to the delight of audiences. *Snapshots* featured the work of student writers and directors in a series of short plays ranging from drama to farce and was followed by a journey through the world of fake news consisting of over 35 comedy sketches in a pun-filled review entitled *Keilor Be Killed*.

**Dance:** The Dance show entitled *exposure* was the final event of PEGSFest 2017. The performance was developed over many months and encouraged the audience to reflect on the ways in which we either expose our humanity or, at times, feel exposed. The students themselves devised the show, developing a series of pieces each of which explored a different aspect of the theme.

**Musical:** The second Junior Musical, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr*, thrilled audiences over three nights in July. A cast of 45 students from Year 6 to Year 8, many with no previous experience of musical theatre, rose to the challenges set to create a memorable experience for cast, crew and audience.

**PEGSfest** and One School Day again showcased the performing arts. Open rehearsals were conducted by music ensembles, and One School Day included instrumental and vocal performances, dancers and an encore of highlights from *Beauty and the Beast JR*.

**In Sport**

AGSV Premiers: Hockey, Soccer, Tennis  
 Boys' Soccer: Bill Hunter Cup: National Under 15 soccer champions  
 Triathlon: State Schools' Champions on the ninth occasion in the past ten years  
 36 students selected as representatives in AGSV combined schools' teams.

**In Public Speaking**

DAV schools competition: Years 9 -12 teams  
 UNSC Evatt Trophy: two teams State finalists, one team National finalist  
 Plain English Speaking Award: 2 representatives.

**Student surveys**

The biennial survey of students across Junior, Middle and Senior Sections is planned for 2018 and will investigate Student Satisfaction and Quality of Teaching.

The LEAD exit survey of Year Twelve students in 2017 examined perceptions of the effectiveness of school practice. Results at PEGS compared favourably with scores for the reference group from 38 independent schools with a global satisfaction score for PEGS of 8.20 (up from 8.02 in 2016) compared with the reference score of 7.69. Best practice areas were identified as Academic Programme, Learning Outcomes and Quality of Teaching. In addition, improvement in the level of satisfaction was noted for Pastoral Care and Transition Advice.

**Attendance and retention**

Enrolment from Prep to Year Twelve at the end of 2017 was 2,454 and the average attendance rate was 95.6 per cent. The attendance rate was relatively consistent across all Sections of the school as summarised in Table 3. From a total of 222 students enrolled in Year Nine in 2014, 212 remained at PEGS in 2017, a retention rate of 95.5 per cent.

Table 3: **Average attendance rate per year level**

Primary	Percentage attendance	Secondary	Percentage attendance
Prep	95	Year 7	96
Year 1	94	Year 8	94
Year 2	95	Year 9	94
Year 3	95	Year 10	95
Year 4	96	Year 11	96
Year 5	95	Year 12	97
Year 6	95		

# The PEGS experience: staff in focus

In 2017 the school employed 262 teachers in 247.5 full time equivalent positions and 146 non-teaching staff in 118.8 full time equivalent positions. All teachers were suitably qualified and registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. All classroom teachers held a teaching degree or higher qualification and 20 per cent of teachers held a Masters degree or higher qualification. The staff retention rate was 94.4 per cent and staff attendance rate was 96.8 per cent.

## Professional Learning

Professional learning activities were available to all staff including teaching and non-teaching staff and all staff are required to complete a professional learning plan annually. In total, 11,455 hours of professional learning was completed in 2017. On average, each full time equivalent teacher completed 5.3 days and each full time equivalent non-teaching staff member completed 1.7 days of professional learning. Approximately 1 per cent of recurrent expenditure was invested in professional learning.

The professional learning programme continued its strong focus on developing a Culture of Thinking. Thirty-five teachers completed the Harvard University course, 'Making Thinking Visible'. Over the past five years, 171 teachers have completed this course. Thirty-three teachers completed 917 hours of Inquiry Action training led by Ron Ritchhart and worked in focus groups to develop strategies and routines for deeper thinking and learning experiences for students. In-house sessions were also held regularly and teachers were encouraged to attend targeted external professional learning activities to address specific learning priorities and all teachers completed training to support students with individual needs.

Teachers completed 1769 hours of training with The University of Melbourne Network of Schools (UMNOS), to collectively impact on improved student learning outcomes in literacy through a structured program that informs, builds and uses the evidence base of The University of Melbourne.

Section based professional learning addressed learning and development needs and faculty based professional learning improved curriculum knowledge and teaching practices. Staff members were actively encouraged to attend targeted, external faculty association and educational sector conferences and seminars.

In 2017 staff members completed 1,920 hours of First Aid training, including CPR, Asthma and Anaphylaxis training.

ICT training continued, with eLearning coordinators providing in-house training to improve teacher digital literacy. "Techie Breakies" were introduced to provide short targeted training sessions in ICT.

Six staff members undertook additional post graduate studies supported financially with a study assistance payment.

## Staff Feedback

The biennial staff satisfaction survey was not due in 2017 however staff members provided feedback through individual discussions, staff meetings and various consultative processes including, but not limited to the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Staff feedback was also sought through new staff induction surveys, annual Professional Learning planning and reviews and staff exit surveys. Over 98 per cent of new staff members reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied working at PEGS overall, including satisfaction with recruitment and induction, support from colleagues, leadership and IT and the provision of tools and resources to meet their needs. The majority of staff members leaving PEGS reported in exit surveys that their experience had been positive or very positive on all measures, including work conditions, OHS, staff wellbeing, professional development, leadership, teamwork, feedback and support.



# The PEGS experience: finance

PEGS ensures that its finances are managed effectively and efficiently so that educational goals are achieved. The annual income for 2017 was \$56.2 million and included \$38.8 million from student fees, \$16.8 million from government recurrent funding. Expenditure of \$52.6 million included salary and teaching expenses of \$45.2 million and administrative expenses, general, maintenance, provisions and depreciation of \$7.4 million. The surplus of the School was used to finance its capital and IT infrastructure projects.

# The PEGS experience: families in focus

History and tradition are important at PEGS, with a number of students representing the third and fourth generation of family associations with the school.

Activities arranged by the Friends of PEGS offered opportunities for school families and their fund-raising contributed substantially to student amenities. Events included a Gala Dinner, the annual Craft Market and Ladies' Christmas Luncheon.

PEGS Former Students' Association encouraged regular distribution of information and a formal round of Class Reunions continued to be eagerly anticipated and well-attended by past-students.

PEGS Business Network provided business, networking, industry insights and opportunities for former students, current students and their families.

Associated sporting clubs offered students the opportunity to continue their association playing together in cricket, football, hockey, soccer, squash and tennis teams.

The annual series of Thinking Seminars again introduced students and the wider community to the ideas of outstanding thinkers who represented diverse areas of expertise.

An Open Day at Eildon Camp offered families the opportunity to inspect newly completed student accommodation and recreational facilities and to experience some of the activities which students enjoy during their class stays.

## Parent survey

The biennial survey of parent opinion will occur in 2018.

*The Bill Turner Soccer Cup is a knockout competition for Under 15 school teams that is now in its 39th year, and we began the journey as one of 416 teams from as far north as Cairns. As first time entrants we began with an 'underdog' tag but went on to reach the Grand Final against Westfield Sports High School, Sydney, eight time winners in previous years. The score was tied at one all on the siren and when Player of the Finals, Zaydan, slotted his 16th series goal in extra time elation spilled over. "It was unbelievable for us to have come so far together as mates and the goal was something I will remember for years to come," Zaydan recalled.*

*The Bystander Code of Conduct emerged from the actions of a group of senior students. Christian, Kristie and Ruby (Year 12) launched the code at first assemblies in 2017, explaining their aim "to build a community ..where nobody feels they are alone and without support." Cards bearing the code were distributed to students in every Section and they were encouraged to sign the Code of Conduct to pledge their support.*

## PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1977 - 2017



*"Six months of rehearsals sounds like a lot of hard work, but it was more than worth it. The friendships made along the way and performing on the big stage were the highlights but I enjoyed every moment. From the first week of rehearsals, just seeing the play blossom was amazing. When it was all over there was a sense of relief, but also a hint of sadness. Beauty and the Beast was a truly great experience".  
Harrison, (then Year 6)*

# 2018 Dates for the Diary

## July

17 July – Term Three begins

30 July – Suzuki Concert Three

## August

1-4 August – The Musical: *The Addams Family*

21 August – One School Day

27 August – PEGSFest commences

29 August – Thinking Seminar Two

## September

3 September – Suzuki Concert Four

5 September – VCE Music Recitals

7,8 September – Dance Show

14 September – Term Three ends

## October

8 October – Term Four begins

17 October – VCE Music Concert (Yr 11)

18 October – Piano Concert Two

22 October – String Concert Two

23 October – Valedictory Dinner

29 October – Suzuki Concert Five

## November

26 November – Junior Christmas Concert

28 November – Suzuki Concert Six and Break-up

## December

10 December – Carol Service

12 December – Term Four ends

Contact details: [newsletter@pegs.vic.edu.a](mailto:newsletter@pegs.vic.edu.a)

