

PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Altior et Sapientior

December 2017



From the Principal

The early weeks of Term Four are marked by several major events for the school and its students. Farewelling our Year Twelve students includes their final school assembly where, in addition to school awards, a dozen or so students are recognised for their extraordinary contribution to the school's academic and co-curricular programmes through the presentation of Principal's Awards.

At the Valedictory Dinner, Allen Xiao, our student valedictorian, spoke forcefully about the school providing its students with a sense of place. Professor Christine Kilpatrick, the Chief Executive Officer of Melbourne Health, was our guest speaker. She encouraged students to make bold decisions during their professional lives.

At a separate event a few days later, school awards, particularly School Colours, were presented to students in Year Eleven and, in a few exceptional cases, Years Ten and Nine. Other awards are presented at the final assemblies for Middle School students. Student interest in all of these awards was exceptional.

At the final assemblies led by the House leaders, it was announced that Elliott House won the Peter Maher Trophy (Gottlieb House), Chaucer House won the Meg Benney Trophy (McNab House) and the brother/sister house combination of Bradman/Park won the McMaster Cup.

Many of these assemblies included announcements relating to student leadership at the school in 2018 including our summer sports captains, our music, drama and dance leaders as well as the Middle School House Captains for 2018. Junior School House Captains are announced on the last day of the school year during final assemblies.

While these leadership opportunities are numerous, the school believes that all students are capable of leadership. Titles are not required. Leadership is ultimately about setting the right tone. Many of our students do this on a daily basis through quiet example. This includes the regular completion of homework, the proper wearing of school uniform and an understanding for the need to do the right thing on every occasion.

PEGS is fortunate to have so many leaders. This was the case in 2017 and I hope that it remains the case in future years.

Tony Larkin



Farewell Mr Chaplin

Mr Peter Chaplin, the school's Director of Music since 1992, is retiring at the end of this year after twenty-six years overseeing music at PEGS.

With a stellar academic reputation including a Masters qualification in composition, Mr Chaplin joined the staff at PEGS in 1985 as a teacher of Brass, becoming conductor of the school orchestra in 1987 and the Coordinator of VCE Music in 1989. He is one of the school's longest serving members of staff.

Mr Chaplin's enthusiasm for the school's music programme is without peer. It is humbling to recall that Mr Chaplin has committed most of his professional life to the school. The school and many of its students are incredibly indebted to him.

He has introduced many of the programmes and ensembles that have been enjoyed by students over the last two decades and more. The school's outstanding reputation in music has been firmly established during the extended period that he has guided this large and complex programme that involves, on a weekly basis, around seven hundred students studying music privately and approximately twenty-five ensembles. His interest in other school programmes has also been extraordinary. It surprises no one when he is seen on Friday afternoon watching a First XVIII game.

His successor, Ms Amanda Rowarth, commences in Term One 2018. I look forward to introducing Ms Rowarth to you in the next newsletter.

Mr Chaplin will be greatly missed by the school. He leaves with the kind thoughts, exceptional respect, good wishes and great thanks of all who have worked with him.

Tony Larkin



Principal's awards

The school's highest honour is awarded annually to a small number of departing Year Twelve students in recognition of their exceptional leadership in the academic and co-curricular life of the school. In 2017 thirteen students were recipients of the Principal's Award for their outstanding example and extended contribution in every aspect of school life. We extend our thanks to these students for their special contribution to our school community.

Principal's Award 2017:

Dewmi Abeyvirigunawardana, Matthew Cheah, Amber Condell, Jordan Cransberg, Zoe Cransberg, Vani Datta, Kenneth Hunyh, Tessa McKenna, Sheldon McCunnie, Trung Nguyen, Kevin Tran, Allen Xiao, Leon Yeung.



Celebration Day

As a relative newcomer to Australia my understanding of what typically happens on the final days of Year Twelve had been gleaned from episodes of *Neighbours* during the 1990s. I wasn't entirely sure I had a firm grasp on what to expect, so I turned to my fellow countryman Mr Simon Hookins to clarify things. As we discussed the Australian "tradition" of "muck-up day", I asked myself why, on this of all days, would Australian students observe a bizarre tradition of disrespect for an institution, and a group of people, who was committed to guiding them through their education? Wasn't this just a way of destroying positive and trusting relationships? It seemed counterintuitive, like thanking a doctor for bandaging an injury by slapping her in the face.

When the final days arrived for the Class of 2017, I was happy to see that an alternate tradition has been embraced at PEGS. I witnessed, and participated in, two fantastic days of celebration, nostalgia, silliness and some *Beyond Thunderdome*-style Bubble Soccer. Students at PEGS leave with dignified style, ensuring the positive and trusting relationships they have built remain intact. We wish the Class of 2017 the very best for their examinations and future endeavours and will remember them for all the right reasons.

Stephanie Lazarides
Year Twelve Coordinator, Infinity Centre

Year Three camps

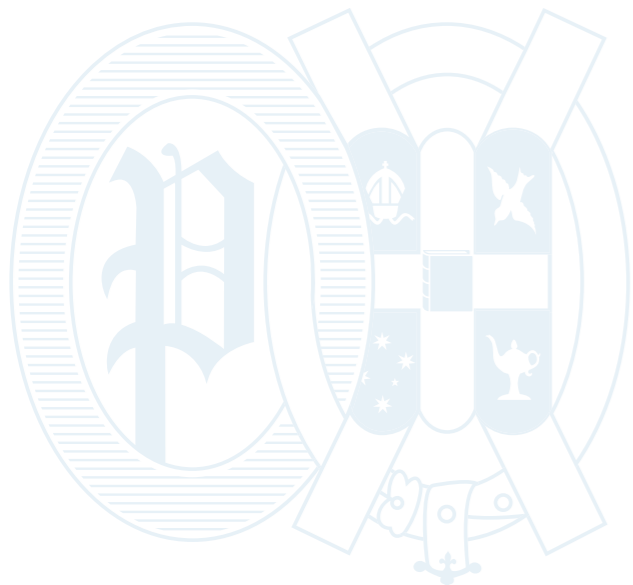
Thanks to the expansion of facilities at the school's Eildon campsite, Year Three camps have been introduced this year.

The programme runs for two days and one night. Activities include a site orientation, planting of native flora on the property and participation in team building games that promote cooperation and social interaction. It also includes the creation of each child's personalised camp hat that they can use at camp every year until Year Ten.

For many of the students, this is the first time that they have slept away from their families. The accommodation provides cabins for four students adjacent to staff rooms. The benefit to self-esteem is immeasurable. On their return, the students talked about how well they managed on their own.

Our Year Three boys and girls really enjoyed their camp experience this term. They commented on how good the food was, how big and exciting the campsite was and how they loved the bus journey to and from camp.

Christine Hallman and Craig McFarlane
Heads of Junior School



“Wild Explorers” at the Melbourne Zoo



On Monday 16 October, our kindergarten students, educators and parents ventured to the Melbourne Zoo to participate in the Early Childhood Programme “Wild Explorers”. Through play-based learning, story and song, children were invited to be explorers and to immerse themselves in a unique outdoor learning environment that provided connections to nature and an appreciation for the living world.

The programme focused on three endangered Australian animals – the helmeted honeyeater, eastern barred bandicoot and corroboree frog. The learning intent focused on the dispositions of inquiry, adventure and a curious mindset. The children were invited by the zoo’s educator to investigate the play areas set up for the three animals. We were also introduced to another endangered animal, George the tortoise, and allowed to give him a very gentle pat.

Afterwards, the children walked to their chosen areas of the zoo to see their favourite animals. Lunch under the fig tree preceded the return of many tired children, parents and teachers to the kindergartens.

Pam Hocking
Director of Kindertartens



A centenary of books

One hundred years ago, in 1917, “a school library was established with gifts of books from many of the teachers and girls” at Penleigh Girls’ School, as it was then named. The quote is from *Splendoured Road to Dorset: A Centenary History of Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies College*, written by Lyle Tucker in 1971 for the school’s Council.

Today a flourishing school library network with branches in the Infinity Centre, Middle School, Music House and both Junior Schools continues that tradition, supporting the reading, learning and work of over 2,500 students and their teachers.

The online library catalogue <https://pegs.spydus.com> lists and describes the 77,655 hard copy resources available and allows students and staff to locate, reserve, request and renew books, music and musical instruments, digital resources, research guides and other resources.

During November, week-long Book Fairs in both Junior School libraries provided an opportunity for students as well as families and friends to share their enjoyment of books and reading, examine new releases for children and purchase items of interest for gifts and their own consumption.

The PEGS library staff is very grateful for the way in which the school community embraces and supports the Book Fairs. The commission the school receives from sales is used to purchase new books and resources, enhancing the Library collection and continuing the school community’s tradition of philanthropy for library development.

Kerrin McCrum
Director of Library Services



Maths Games Day

On Monday 4 September, the Year Seven Maths Games Day was held at Overnewton College. PEGS had entered a boys' team (Alexander Sarossy, Ian Dong, Asel Kumarasinghe and Nicholas Landgren) and a girls' team (Chloe Ngo, Shreshtha Siwach, Ruby Cullen and Ruchi Bath-Samarakoon). We arrived with hope and high expectations.

The first round was a relay problem solving activity. We each had three chances to get each problem right. Round Two was problem solving and we were given a booklet containing heaps of problems. Our teamwork was excellent. Whenever one of us got stuck on a problem, another would help. After lunch, origami was the final round. We were given an instruction booklet with shapes worth different points. It helped that Ian Dong is interested in origami. We completed a shape worth 40 points with ten seconds to spare.

When the scores were tallied and announced, the PEGS girls' team was second and the boys' team was first. This was an amazing quinella for the school. The Year Seven Maths Games Day was clearly a huge success.

Nicholas Landgren
Year Seven

House Sport at the Moonee Ponds campus

Each Friday the grounds at the Moonee Ponds Campus resound with the shouts and cheers of girls from Years Three to Six as they engage in House Sport. The House Sport Captains, who are selected each term by staff, are responsible for organising the equipment, supporting class teachers with their teams and motivating their players to provide the friendly competition that makes all the girls look forward to this day.

The sports, with some modifications for the Years Three and Four, include bucketball, netball, hockey, newcomb, kickball, soccer, water polo, T-ball and softball. The skills that the girls develop contribute to their proficiency in carnivals and inter-school competitions.

The main benefit to the girls is the wonderful opportunity to connect with others and feel a sense of belonging. Girls from Prep identify with their House, but it is in House Sport that the girls begin to practically contribute to the House Competition that is overseen by Mr Brett McQueen and includes the presentation of the House Cup at the final assembly. We know that girls who play sports have higher levels of confidence and self-esteem, lower levels of depression and have a more positive body image. Our girls revel in this opportunity and require no encouragement to have a great time each week.

Christine Hallman
Head of Junior School (girls)



Middle School students out and about

Year Ten - Holocaust Studies

Year Ten students visited the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Elsternwick as part of their History studies. It was an insightful, moving and emotional experience that helped us to understand the extent, scale and impact of anti-Semitism in World War II. One section of the museum focused solely on children during the Holocaust. After hearing our guide's story, there wasn't a dry eye in the group. Another confronting experience was meeting a Holocaust survivor whose testimony highlighted the impact of anti-Semitism at an individual level.

The school also hosted the Yad Vashem Travelling Exhibition - "SHOAH: How Was It Humanly Possible?" The exhibition focused on the different phases of the Holocaust, from daily Jewish life in Europe before the rise of Nazism through to the liberation of extermination camps.

Madeline Curkovic
Year Ten, McNab House

Year Nine - Religious Education

Year Nine students visited the Melbourne Buddhist Centre and Islamic Museum Australia as a part of their Religious Education studies. At the Buddhist Centre we were taught how to meditate as well as the correct posture to maximise comfort and concentration. For many of us, meditating tested our willingness to step outside our comfort zones. We were also introduced to two Buddhist nuns and a monk who spoke about their life and spiritual journey, their beliefs and values.

The front of the Islamic Museum was decorated with a rusted metal installation and Islamic calligraphy symbolising the integration of Australian and Islamic cultures. Inside we heard stories about life for members of the local Muslim community before we visited the museum's five galleries: Islamic Faith, Islam's Contribution to Civilisation, Islamic Art, Islamic Architecture and Australian Muslim History.

Olivia Nakhla
Year Nine, McNab House

Year Eight - City Experience

This term all Year Eight students spent a day exploring the streets of Melbourne in groups. It was a fantastic opportunity further to broaden our understanding of Melbourne. We familiarised ourselves with the public transport system, managed our own budget and looked out for each other throughout the busy day.

My group's theme was "Food and Design". We explored Hosier Lane to see some of Melbourne's best street art, the Block Arcade, an iconic heritage shopping area, ate lunch at Emporium, shopped in a variety of stores in Melbourne Central and took a tram to Queen Victoria Market where we browsed through the diverse collection of handcrafts, jewellery and clothing stalls before ending our day at Flagstaff Gardens.

Jovita Quach
Year Eight, McNab House

Chess

We're biased but chess is the best sport at PEGS; we have a lot of fun and make lots of new friends. Chess is an activity open to everyone from Year Seven to Twelve. It is a very social and gregarious activity and many PEGS students have qualified for State and National Competitions. We learn how to plan, strategise and out think our opponents. Our coaches help us to improve and teach us new openings, great moves like Skewers, Pins, Forks and, of course, how to affect stunning checkmates.

Patrick Nguyen and Zheng Hua
Year Seven, Gottliebsen House

Debating Training

Students who enjoy a debate or two have the opportunity to join the Year Seven and Eight Junior Debating Training Programme. The programme is run by students in Years Nine to Eleven from our debating teams and teachers. DAV Adjudicator Alexandra Williams, a former PEGS student, spoke about her experiences from training to becoming an adjudicator. We were instructed about logical arguments, speaking styles, speech structure and clarity. The programme provided students with a foundation to develop their debating strategies and techniques and encouraged whole school friendships based on collaborative work.

Joulé Sassine
Year Eight, McNab House



Why all these tests?

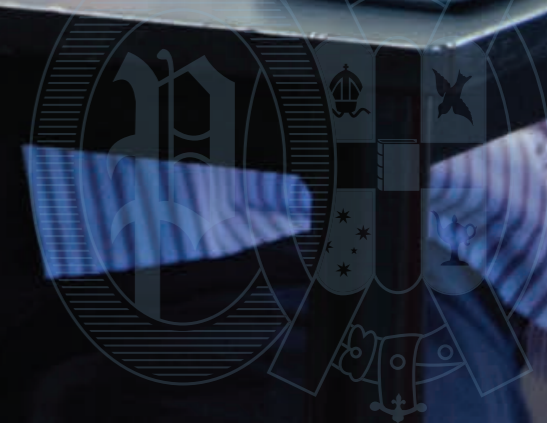
Australian education psychologist John Biggs identified three types of learners - Surface, Achieving and Deep. Surface learners aim primarily to avoid failing. An achieving learner focuses upon getting the best grades possible, whether or not the subject matter is interesting or not. Deep learners are intrinsically motivated by learning for its own sake. The problems of surface motivation are obvious, but there is an irony and profundity to the idea that achieving-focused students achieve less than their deep learning colleagues. How can we balance deep motivation with an intimidating examination period? We might begin by considering a test of any sort, VCE included, as a tool for learning.

At PEGS, our students have “connected, extended and responded” in a variety of ways to foster new thinking skills. Amongst the “seeing, thinking and wondering”, one could ask if humanity’s best and longest-serving thinking routine remains the test.

The stoics felt sympathy for anyone who had not faced adversity, for without this, how can we prove ourselves. If Hercules had not been tested, becoming a slave and being forced to perform his labours, we would never have heard of the big guy. For them, the obstacle was the way.

Odysseus gains his knowledge, not with an effortless kiss from a Muse, but by repeatedly testing himself in different situations. It is easy to mistake an “aha!” moment of understanding with the thorough learning of a topic. The first is a seductive act of recognition; the latter is achieved only by testing knowledge through a variety of different scenarios. At its best, any form of test, whether it be on the sports field or stage or examination room, can offer us the opportunity of a heroic moment of learning.

Simon Hookins
Year Eleven Coordinator and Latin teacher
Infinity Centre



Indonesian sister-school visit

In Term Three, the school welcomed a delegation from its Indonesian sister school, Krida Nusantara, in Bandung. The school's owner, Mrs Tuti Sutrisno, led the delegation. The aim of the visit was further to strengthen the relationship between the two schools and to give delegation members the chance to see our school.

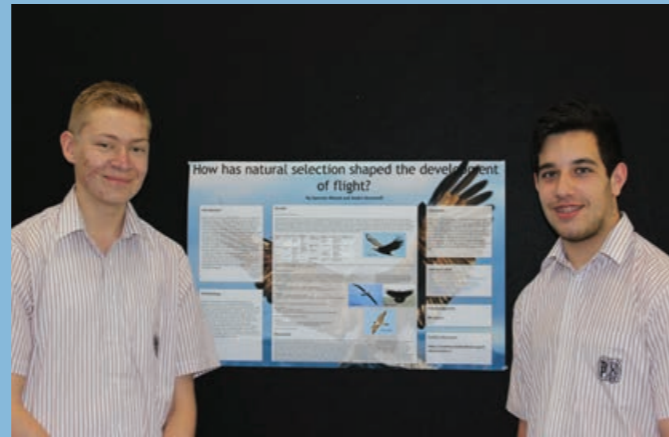
PEGS has participated in a student homestay programme with Krida Nusantara for the last twelve years. Members of the PEGS community have generously opened their homes to students from Krida Nusantara, for three to four weeks each year. It has been a beneficial exchange for both our own students who study Indonesian as well as the exchange students from Krida Nusantara who are given the opportunity to improve their English skills and to immerse themselves in Australian life.

This year, for the first time, one of our students, Keeli Johnson (Year Eleven), visited Krida Nusantara during the September holidays and enjoyed two weeks of immersion in Indonesian culture and education. Her reflection on her time in Indonesia included:

I was given the opportunity to experience new things and meet new people. I was able to improve my Indonesian language skills more than I thought possible within two weeks. I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped and allowed me to have this opportunity.

We hope that other students will take advantage of this type of opportunity in the future. The school's support of languages has so many benefits for our students.

Tom Pratama
Indonesian Teacher, Infinity Centre



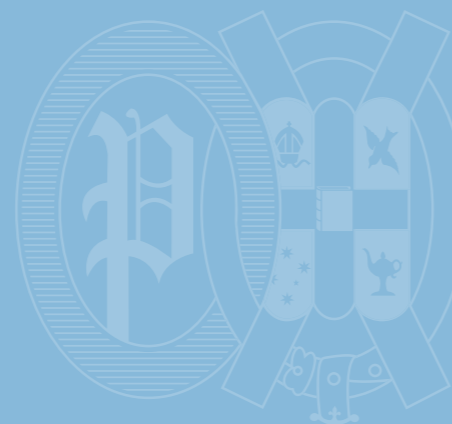
Year Ten Science Expo

There are some experiences that, more than others, arguably constitute a turning point in student learning. This term's celebration of the five distinctive but equally amazing Year Ten Science electives was surely one of these moments. Not only did students study intriguing content about life on Mars, forensic investigations and the use of robotic elements in humans but they also collaborated with classmates to distill their findings into superb posters, posing hypotheses, dissecting evidence and generally undertaking their own investigation.

At the Expo, they had the additional thrill of hearing Dr Ceara McGowan, Research Scientist, The Bionics Institute actually discussing the development of the bionic eye and Dr Dadna Hartman, Chief Molecular Biologist, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine explaining her amazing work using forensic DNA analysis to solve cold crimes.

Congratulations go to Mrs Jacqui Lupton and Ms Alex Abela for initiating this event as well as thanks to the Middle School Science teachers and, of course, our Year Ten students for an inspiring journey into the world of science.

Caroline Horton Andrews
Head of Gottlieb House



Maths Talent Quest

The Maths Talent Quest is an annual contest organised by the Mathematical Association of Victoria to promote interest in mathematics and foster positive attitudes in students, teachers and parents. The quest encourages students to investigate a "real world" situation that lends itself to mathematical enquiry. Over fifty students from our Junior Schools submitted investigations.

Fourteen projects went on to win either distinctions or high distinctions at the state level. The investigations considered topics as diverse as internet shopping, racetrack odds, wind power, beverages, pets, house prices, buoyancy and water displacement, Olympic medal tallies, sugar content in foods, expenses incurred in overseas travel and spelling techniques.

Two of our students won national awards. Isabella McDonough's investigation into the percentage of rubbish that is recycled at the Moonee Ponds campus was judged best individual project in Year Three. Darcy Hawkins' investigation of the mathematical algorithms involved in solving Rubik's cube was judged as best individual project in Year Five.

PEGS was also recognised as one of only eight schools across Australia to win an award as an outstanding Mathematics school. We congratulate all of the students who entered the 2017 Maths Talent Quest on their outstanding work.

Peter Maher and Mary Wade
Mathematics Coordinators (Junior Schools)





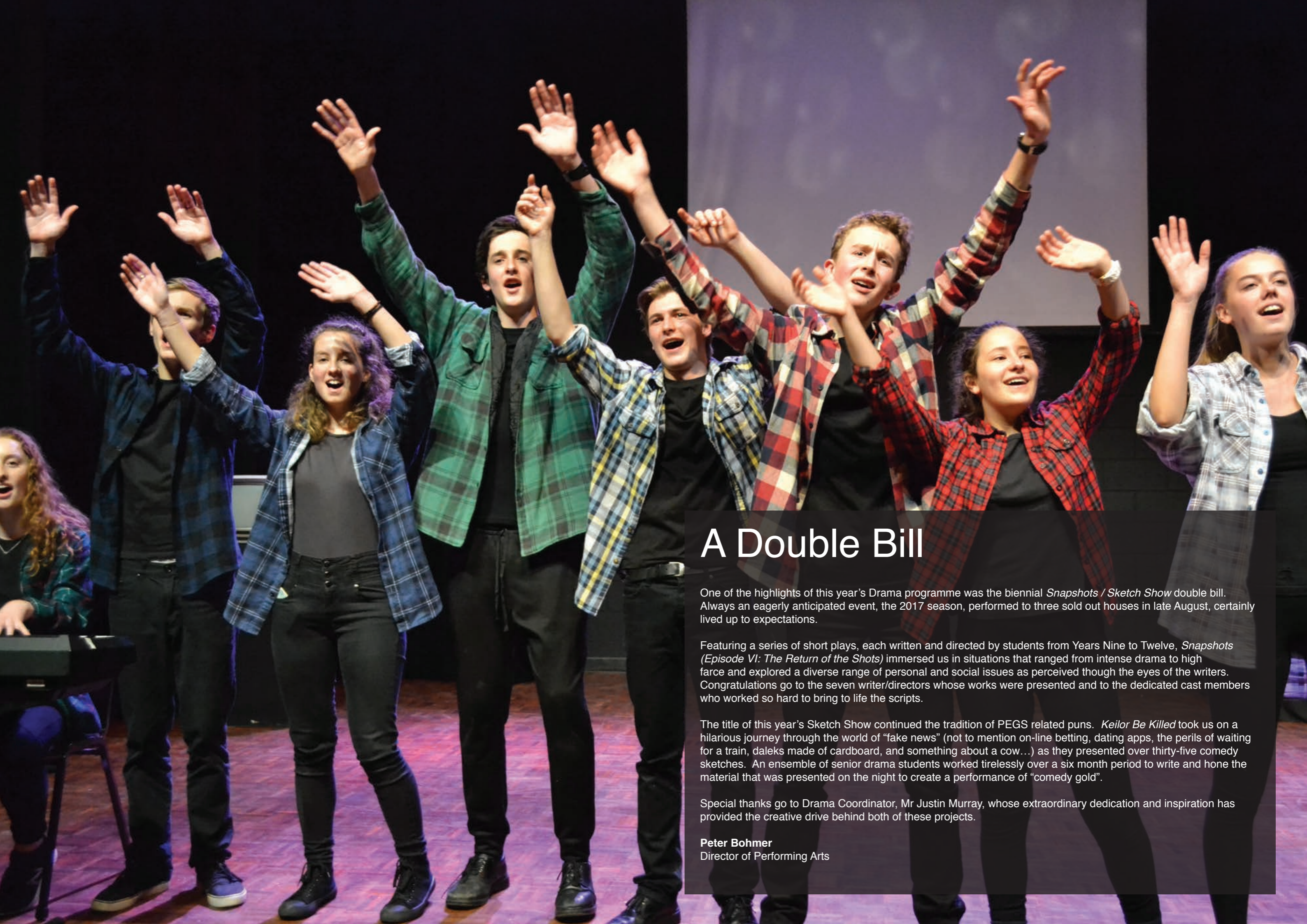
exposure to Dance

This year's Dance show, titled *exposure*, was the final event of PEGSFest 17. It encouraged us to reflect on ways in which we either expose our humanity or, at times, feel exposed. Presented in the round, themes such as vulnerability, protection, risk and discovery were explored through coordinated movement, uniform costuming, evocative lighting and creative use of space.

The performance itself was developed during many months of hard work and relied heavily on the creative contribution of each of the students. Led ably by our Dance Leader, Vani Datta, the students developed a series of pieces each of which explored a different aspect of the central theme. By being seated in the centre of the performance space, audience members were encouraged to immerse themselves in the experience and to experience more intimately the energy of the performance.

Congratulations go to all members of Club Dance for the creative energy that they demonstrated as well as Menagerie for their dedication, not only to the creation of the show, but also to the development of each individual student.

Peter Bohmer
Director of Performing Arts



A Double Bill

One of the highlights of this year's Drama programme was the biennial *Snapshots / Sketch Show* double bill. Always an eagerly anticipated event, the 2017 season, performed to three sold out houses in late August, certainly lived up to expectations.

Featuring a series of short plays, each written and directed by students from Years Nine to Twelve, *Snapshots (Episode VI: The Return of the Shots)* immersed us in situations that ranged from intense drama to high farce and explored a diverse range of personal and social issues as perceived through the eyes of the writers. Congratulations go to the seven writer/directors whose works were presented and to the dedicated cast members who worked so hard to bring to life the scripts.

The title of this year's Sketch Show continued the tradition of PEGS related puns. *Keilor Be Killed* took us on a hilarious journey through the world of "fake news" (not to mention on-line betting, dating apps, the perils of waiting for a train, daleks made of cardboard, and something about a cow...) as they presented over thirty-five comedy sketches. An ensemble of senior drama students worked tirelessly over a six month period to write and hone the material that was presented on the night to create a performance of "comedy gold".

Special thanks go to Drama Coordinator, Mr Justin Murray, whose extraordinary dedication and inspiration has provided the creative drive behind both of these projects.

Peter Bohmer
Director of Performing Arts

Garage Bands

It has often been said that if a stage is not available, musicians would perform in a bus stop. This concept of the irrepressible musician searching for a performance is nothing new. The garage band - the teenage rock band rehearsing next door, not Apple's music software - is a modern testimony to the truth of this concept. While the music performances at the school's Craft Market in some way embrace the concept of a performance in search of an audience, the Music Department, courtesy of the Friends of PEGS, is never left wanting for a stage.

The musical entertainment at the Craft Market has grown to become an iconic part of the day's fun and the Music Department's performance calendar. While our music students fully understand that the principal reason for their attendance is to support this important fundraising event, the Craft Market date in October conveniently coincides with the final rehearsals for our senior ensembles. These performances provide both a logical and satisfying conclusion to the performance year and the perfect scenario to farewell our Year Twelve members. Just like the garage band in your neighbour's backyard, the Craft Market is an invaluable nexus where the students' musical, social and recreational needs meet.

Peter Chaplin
Director of Music





AGSV Athletics

On Wednesday 13 September, a large squad of PEGS students ventured to Lakeside Stadium for this year's AGSV Athletics Carnival. Despite heavy rain at times, our competitors' efforts were certainly not dampened.

The girls' team finished third overall, being only half a point off second place. While the efforts of every competitor earned the team valuable points, there were some impressive individual performances. At the Under 13 level, Shehana Wijesundara won the triple jump, 100 metres and set a new 80 metre hurdles record. She was also a member of the winning Under 13 4x100m relay team. At the Under 14 level, Hannah Brodie won both the discus and shotput. At Under 15, Natalie Williams won the 200 metres as well as the long and triple jumps. Kate Sarris ran above her age group to win the Under 16 1500 metres. Olivia Prodanovic won the Under 16 triple jump and Karolina Czajkowski won both the 800 and 1500 metre events. At the Open level, our captain Madison Alexander's win in the high jump encouraged everyone.

The boys' campaign included many impressive results. The school finished fourth overall and was mesmerisingly close to a second placing. Fifteen gold medals was a record for the school. Our captain, Harrison Williams, won three gold medals (high, long and triple jumps). Tyler Cooper became the first PEGS boy to win the 100, 200 and 400 metre trifecta. Jack McKernan and Chris Koliou also completed the 100 and 200 metre double in their respective divisions. Other individual gold medalists were Robert Massey (high jump), Manny Hayes (triple jump), Sam Beckinsale (hurdles) and Terrence Mavropoulos (long jump). Our Under 16 4x100m relay team (Will Moustis, Xavier Tigani, Sam Beckinsale and Manny Hayes) won their event for the third consecutive year.

It was a great day for both our boys' and girls' teams. The school is extraordinarily proud of the efforts of its athletes.

Catherine Lane
Director of Sport

AGSV/APS Football is coming to PEGS

Girls' football was introduced at PEGS in 2015 when our students competed in a three-round competition against other AGSV and APS schools. Under the guidance of Mr Clay Illman, our First XVIII Coach, PEGS won this competition and, more recently, in 2017, we were runners-up in this competition.

At the same time, the school has been developing the confidence and skills of its students with lunchtime clinics. Interest in girls' football among AGSV and APS schools has reached the point where these associations will be offering a full nine-week round of competition during the 2018 winter season.

Our students are very excited about this opportunity and the school is looking forward to fielding competitive and skillful teams during next year's winter season.



Keilor Park has a new addition!

We have four new tennis and netball courts at Keilor Park. This facility includes windbreaks. They were christened on Thursday 9 November by one of our Year Nine tennis teams and provide a wonderful complement to the school's extensive tennis and netball facilities.

These courts have been installed at the school in anticipation that it will lose its plexipave courts at Keilor East campus in the near future when work commences on an expanded gymnasium facility. The school is continuing to upgrade its sport facilities to maximise the experiences of its students.



Cameron becomes a Lion



We congratulate our First XVIII Co-captain Cameron Rayner who was selected by the Brisbane Lions as the first AFL Number One draft pick in the school's history. The previous highest pick was Richmond premiership captain, Trent Cotchin, selected at Number Two in 2007.

Cameron had an enormous impact on the First XVIII during his years in the football programme at PEGS. He was Best and Fairest in 2016 and Runner-Up Best and Fairest in 2017. In addition, he was a member of the NAB AFL academy squad. He captained Australia in a match earlier this year and was also leading goal kicker at the Under 18 Australian Championships.

Cameron has expressed his thanks to everyone in the PEGS community who has supported him. He has declared that his time at the school was "unreal" and contained special memories that he "won't ever forget".

The PEGS community wishes Cameron all the best for the future as he begins this exciting new chapter of his life as a professional AFL footballer.



Tennis players visit Thailand

Fifteen students and three staff attended the inaugural PEGS tennis trip to Thanyapura, a premier sporting location situated on the tropical island of Phuket, in September.

Participants enjoyed 20 hours of professional tennis tuition by Spin and Slice Academy Tennis School on the four undercover courts. Other activities included a vigorous 17-station commando course and a challenging cardio tennis session, along with beach volleyball, soccer, pool games and various fitness classes. A variety of cultural and sightseeing expeditions complemented the physical activities for the group.

A tournament was held on the last weekend against Thai and UWC International School students and this was challenging and fun. Marcus Stathos and Matthew Pesavento won Pools A and B respectively. All students' tennis skills were extensively developed over the duration of the trip.

Natalie Still
Tour Organiser and First Tennis Team Manager



From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

PEGS is Forty

The Essendon Grammar School grey and Penleigh's green Black Watch tartan dominate the photographs of PEGS school life in 1977. Current students would be surprised at the difference in the fabric options, with more use of scratchy wool and less use of stretchy knit fabrics. Add to that the shorter skirts and the longer hair and you have a real picture of 1970s Melbourne.



Grade 5M Boys with Mr Peter Maher showing their grey blazers and big shirt collars. (Donor: Mr Robert King [PH06624])



Grade 4 Girls with Miss Hicks showing the distinctive Black Watch tartan tunics and ties. (PEGS Archives [PH00350])



The Sutherland Smith family's "Wahgunyah" in the 1920s before it became the home of Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School (Donor: Sutherland Smith family [PH05402])

Essendon Historical Society visits Park Street

With exquisite timing the Park Street grounds put on a beautiful show of crabapple blossom to welcome the members of the Essendon Historical Society as they visited the "Wahgunyah" house for their October meeting.

The Park Street site has been home to Penleigh girls since Principal Miss Lilian Limerock, and her sisters, Elma and Muriel, acquired the property from the Sutherland Smith family in 1923.

After a brief meeting, held in a room that was once known as "Big Dorm", the Society's members, with assistance from the PEGS Archivist and a beautifully costumed Mrs Eve Park, explored the current building and were delighted to find many original features of the building still extant.



Members of the Essendon Historical Society hold their meeting upstairs in what used to be the "Big Dorm"

Friends of PEGS News

2017 represented a year of change and renewal for the FoPEGS committee. The year started with the election of a new President, Vice President and the establishment of a new office at the Essendon campus.

The inaugural Gala Dinner was held in September at the Melbourne Pavilion and was attended by almost 300 guests. The Craft Market in October was re-invigorated with new stalls, new food options and we were once again blessed with some amazing weather and a big turnout. We finished the year with the annual Ladies Lunch on 1 December.

In 2018 we hope to see many new members joining the committee to help us continue the great work we have already begun. For all inquiries please contact Lyn LoMoro at Lyn.Lomoro@pegs.vic.edu.au.

John Antonopoulos
President FoPEGS

Annual Craft Market

The Essendon campus was filled with excitement in the second week of October as the boys watched the transformation of their playground for the annual Friends of PEGS Craft Market. Always an opportunity to celebrate the PEGS community and showcase its talent, the day draws not only teachers, students and their families and friends but also many from the local community.

The event was rejuvenated this year with the introduction of a wide selection of food stalls and new games. The annual raffle was drawn, Mr Chaplin's last year with the school was acknowledged, the Junior School (boys) art exhibition was enjoyed by many and parents, family and friends crowded front of stage to watch over ninety performers from Junior School (girls). There were screams of excitement as children and young people enjoyed the thrill of the carnival rides and cheers for the winners of a variety of games.

The FoPEGS committee prepare throughout the year to make it a day to remember, however, it is only with the support of the whole school community that the event can be successful. To teachers, students, families and friends who volunteered their time, suppliers who donated goods and the maintenance staff who worked hard before and after the event we say, "Thank you".

Suzanne Startseff
FoPEGS Vice President and Craft Market Coordinator



PEGS Business Network

The PEGS Business Network has had a successful 2017 which has led to many new connections and insights from leaders of industry across a range of key topics and has provided a sense of belonging for members of the PEGS Business Community.

The purpose of the group is to serve the wider PEGS community by achieving the following:

Connecting In Business - Encouraging the PEGS Business Community to connect in business, learn valuable insights from industry leaders and help all members of our community.

Employment And Career Opportunities - Provide employment and career opportunities to former and current school students.

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

2018 Event Calendar

There will be three major events for the PEGS Business Network in 2018. Events will be in the months of April, June and November and dates will be confirmed in early 2018.

I look forward to your involvement in the PEGS Business Community 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



Former Students' Association News

20 Years, 2 AFL Matches and a lesson in Australia-China connections

In 1998, while in Year Eleven at PEGS I was fortunate enough to have been asked to host a student from the school's sister school Shanghai Datong Middle School. I had participated in the school's China trip in 1997 (in those days both Year Ten and Eleven went), so I was excited and curious to see who would be coming. As it turned out, it was a bright, eager and ambitious student whom I had met during that China trip. His name was Lu Wei. During his stay, Lu Wei got to know our family well and experience a number of great aspects of Australian life. One such experience, which the Newbold, Laskowski and Nicholas families, who also hosted a visiting student (Chen Zhewei, Liang Yuanyuan and Zhou Mengjie) will recall, was the opportunity to see an AFL Game at the MCG.

After he returned to Shanghai, I had a number of opportunities over the years to catch up with Lu Wei and his family, including spending Chinese New Year with them in 2001. Subsequently, my own career has seen me spend significant amounts of time in Beijing and occasionally Shanghai. The onset of email and then WeChat has seen communications easier and more frequent. He kept studying English and I kept studying Chinese and both of us use both languages in our professional lives, which has helped too!

History has a funny way of revisiting us. Earlier this year, I was fortunate enough to be in Shanghai for the first ever AFL match for points in China. Two days before the game, I came upon two spare tickets for the sold out match, as one sometimes does in China. When presented the opportunity to go to an AFL match in China, both Lu Wei and his wife seized upon it. So 20 years between matches, Lu Wei and I were at AFL Fixtures, albeit in different countries and at very different life stages. Lu Wei now works for Adidas and I have had a career as a corporate lawyer both in Australia and China. We now have five kids between us. Recently, I was appointed as the incoming Chief Representative for the MinterEllison Shanghai office. Catching up with Lu Wei at an AFL match in China was a remarkable, somewhat surreal experience. It was another of the frequent reminders I get of the value that early stage language and cultural learning as well as consistent people-to-people contact, can have on one's career.

Chris Carr
Class of 1999



20 Year Reunion Class of 1997



Saturday 26 August 2017

Well, none of us invented Post Its but the Class of 97 certainly had a lot of other tall tales to tell at our twenty year reunion. It hurt our brains to realise that we have been out of school for longer than the time we spent in school and that made us feel positively middle-aged. The function space at the back of the Leveson in North Melbourne was buzzing. We had twenty years' worth of talking to do and we did it loudly. There was news on jobs, hobbies, old and new families, absent friends and memories; so many memories to relive. We were ushered inside to halt the noise complaints and then ushered out of the building when we chatted past last drinks.

A common theme from the night was friendship. Many of us are still 'besties' with our crew from high school and the old adage that old friends are the best friends was true, with everyone talking to everyone about everything. It was lovely that a few teachers joined the reminiscing too.

Special thanks to fellow members of the organising committee Drew Scott, Mia Caridi and Leon Hadj as well as Lisa Leask from the PEGS Former Students' Association for a very successful evening. Looking forward to 2027 for the next one!

Clodagh Cunningham (nee MacMillan)



30 Year Reunion Class of 1987



Saturday 21 October 2017

Thirty years have passed since some of us were in one room together. Thirty long years that feel almost like a heartbeat. With over seventy in attendance, there was a great vibe in the room. Friends picked up where they had left off. Every face was beaming as connections new and old were made.

Sadly, I was able to walk around the room and name the musical instruments that individuals played. Was my high school journey reduced to hours in band rooms and other antics that won't be mentioned here?

The mark of the evening was people from different groups when at school chatting comfortably with each other, as they had thirty years ago. We had a great year where we all knew which group we belonged to but there were many blurred lines. It was great to catch up with some of the teachers in attendance too.

A big thank you to Lisa Leask from the Former Students' Association and fellow organisers, Sophia Ainalis, Tony Ambrogio and Kumar Naidu.

Airlie Anderson-Weir



40 Year Reunion Class of 1977

Saturday 21 October 2017

Many stories were told at the Leveson Hotel, North Melbourne as the PEGS class of 1977 gathered for their forty-year reunion and celebrated in the knowledge that we completed Form Six in the year in which Penleigh PLC and Essendon Grammar School formally amalgamated as PEGS.

Former students travelled from near and far to celebrate this important milestone. Old friendships were renewed and some new ones formed. The photographs were grainy and hard to see with our 57 or 58 year old eyes, but they brought back memories of good times both in and out of school which will be part of our lives forever.

As the champagne flowed we learnt of our colleagues' life stories, both ups and downs, lives that have taken many different pathways and to different parts of the world. After forty years there was a little less hair for some or new grey hairs for others, but it seemed everyone was just the same, such was the bond that was formed during that important time in our lives.

Many thanks to fellow organizing committee members Vanessa Sampson, Jeff Price, Christeen Ball, John Hall and Belinda Light for their help in making the night a great success.

Colin Lukies



PEGS wins the Premiership!

PEGS Football Club completed the most remarkable VAFA Grand Final comeback on record to win the VAFA D1 Premiership on Saturday in front of a huge crowd at Box Hill City Oval.

Playing St Mary's Salesian, PEGS was down by 50 points at quarter time and being completely outplayed. The lead extended to 56 points in the second quarter until the PEGS boys kicked into gear. Showing amazing character and physical commitment, despite a depleted bench due to a serious injury to promising youngster Tyler Vujanic (Class of 2015), PEGS kicked 15 goals to 6 for the rest of the game, including the match winning goal from captain Brad Jones, to win the club's first senior Premiership since 1996.

Outstanding performances from Brett Hannah, Andrew Khallouf, Jackson Young, Tom Black, Daniel Ryan and Scott Whillas, along with support from a big and vocal PEGS crowd ensured the victory. The majority of the team's members are former students, many former PEGS First XVIII players. Congratulations to President Mark Skurrie, Senior Coach Dane Pound (Class of 2002), Captain Brad Jones (Class of 2005) and Best on Ground Robert Baddeley (Class of 2003). The team proudly represented the PEGS community and delivered an amazing result. PEGS is back in Premier C for 2018.

GO PEGS!



Juniors recruiting now

Budding junior footballers are invited to join the PEGS Junior Football Club for the 2018 season. Teams include Under 9, 11, and 13 Boys/Girls teams and an under 18 Girls team. Established six years ago, PEGS Juniors offers a friendly and supportive culture, fantastic amenities and a dedicated coaching staff who are also active in PEGS Senior football. Training commences in December 2017.

For more information contact PEGSJnrFC@gmail.com or phone Aaron Smith 0413 435 390, John Haddad 0400 040 822, Michael Nathanielsz 0412 304 408 or Megan Lay 0409 933 366.



FSA Functions 2018

AGM – Monday 19 March 2018

10 Year Reunion – Saturday 28 July 2018

20 Year Reunion – Saturday 25 August 2018

30 Year Reunion – Saturday 8 September 2018

Football Lunch - TBC

Hockey Breakfast - TBC

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

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.

2018 Dates – 14 March, 11 July and 14 November

PEGS Business Network Functions

There will be three major events for the PEGS Business Network in 2018. Events will be in the months of April, June and November and dates will be confirmed in early 2018.

For further information please contact the PEGS Business Network Coordinator, Lisa Leask on 03 9016 2181 / 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

Deaths

Moiria Felicity Hagan (née Fairbairn) (Penleigh 1930 - 1938), sister of Roy and Thyra (Penleigh 1931 - 1939), cousin of Jim (EGS c1938-1943) and Gordon (EGS 1935 - 1941), on 27 June 2017, aged 93.

Marjory May Kelly (née Heathershaw) (Penleigh 1935 - 1944), daughter of Agnes May and Harry Frank Heathershaw (Honorary Treasurer, Penleigh Council, c1940-1968), mother of Linda [Class of 1976], Ian and Janine [Class of 1981], on 30 October 2017, aged 88.

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



2018 Dates for the Diary

Term One

Wednesday 31 January - Wednesday 28 March

Term Two

Monday 16 April - Friday 29 June

Term Three

Tuesday 17 July - Friday 14 September

Term Four

Monday 8 October - Wednesday 12 December

Former Students' Association

19 March - Annual General Meeting

28 July - 10 Year Reunion

25 August - 20 Year Reunion

8 September - 30 Year Reunion

17 December - Golf Day

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

