



THE MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL OLD
BOYS' ASSOCIATION INC. PRESENTS

A TRIBUTE TO JEREMY LUDOWYKE

MHS PRINCIPAL 2005 - 2020

MHS Class of 2020



"Melbourne High School offers
you a once-in-a-lifetime
opportunity to become a better
version of yourselves."

JEREMY LUDOWYKE



Peter Stathopoulos

PRESIDENT, MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION INC.
MHS 1982



Dear Old Boys and the Greater Melbourne High School Family

As you will be aware, Jeremy Ludowyke retired from his position as Principal of Melbourne High School in 2020 and departed in late January this year. After 16 solid years of service, we farewell him with great respect and immense gratitude for his efforts across the broad spectrum of school life that emanates from within the walls of The Castle on The Hill.

We felt it was fitting to prepare a tribute to illustrate what it takes to fulfil the role of the Principal of Melbourne High School. It is in no way measured as a "9 to 5" role; more a commitment that is closer to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We have invited a number of much celebrated identities of MHS who have made lifelong contributions to our school - and some more recent office bearers - to best illustrate the many achievements of Jeremy during his period in office.

During his tenure, my association with Jeremy stretched across two areas; firstly as a parent of a student of MHS, and then as a member of the Melbourne High School Old Boys' Association, most prominently as its President.

I have had the opportunity to attend meetings and functions with Jeremy that include Parents' & Friends, MHS Rowing Fraternity, MHS Foundation, School Council, School assemblies, 'Bluey' Truscott Scholarship interviews, MHSOBA Committee meetings, MHSOBA strategic planning events, GM&B Forums, MHSOBA Reunions, MHSOBA Annual Dinners, Men For All Seasons Luncheons, Men's Health Events, Old Boys' Sydney Dinners and Royal College Colombo/MHS exchange functions.

I can well remember Jeremy opening up a presentation one evening joking that the two of us should just sleep over at the school after we had attended three evening events over the previous four days. I can honestly say that his commitment to the cause never dwindled or waned.

Jeremy's office door was always open to me and I will cherish the opportunity that I had to discuss, at length, many matters that encompass the shared areas of interest that we had. Some people will say a good meeting is a short meeting however Jeremy never rushed an important issue that required an in-depth discussion; near enough was never good enough.

Peter Stathopoulos

PRESIDENT, MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION INC.
MHS 1982

Upon reflection, one of the traits that I most admire about Jeremy's style of leadership is that he gave everyone within the school the opportunity to evolve without overt pressure being exerted. From students to office bearers, people were given room to breathe and grow in order to get the most out of those who had been granted the opportunity to be involved and contribute. Yes, that takes a great deal of faith and trust in those who were given the opportunity to perform, however I feel that Jeremy's style got the best out of those he trusted to excel.

Tom Wodak once expressed that he has known every Principal of Melbourne High School dating back some 60 years, a thought that humbles me greatly. I knew my Principal, Lou Barberis, from a distance as many of his students would have at the time. To now say that I have known two of the Principals of our great school is truly an honour.

Jeremy was no task master and he only ever gave me one piece of advice; that regardless of what activity I undertook in my role, that it should always enhance the standing of MHS and the MHSOBA alike. I know that I never gave Jeremy the opportunity to revisit this direction and I will always carry on in this fashion. It's probably very much like a motto that Old Boys carry to their last breath; Honour the Work and the work will honour you.

Like many of us in our community, I will miss Jeremy and will very much look forward to the next time our paths cross.

On behalf of the MHSOBA, I would like to thank Jeremy Ludowyke for his tireless commitment to our great school and I wish him all the best for his future endeavours.



Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955



Farewell Jeremy!

Jeremy Ludowyke BA (hons) Dip Ed, MA (La Trobe) Grad Dip Education (Mon) Master School Leadership (Melb)

The retirement of Jeremy Ludowyke after 16 years as Principal of Melbourne High School is a historic event – not only was he an Old Boy of the school but its second longest serving Principal. (Joe Hocking the first Principal, remains the longest.) He was the 13th principal and the ninth old boy to hold the post.

Jeremy has been a successful principal, in an era of constant change and greatly increased activity and in a role that demands much of the principal.



Image by Jennifer Gilmour

Jeremy not only attended MHS himself (1969-1972) but his three brothers did also.

He not only gained a Speech Night prize (in British History) but was in the school Baseball team (appropriately at Left Field!), the school Athletics team, was an officer in the Cadets, an SRC representative, a form captain and at the end of his schooling he won a Commonwealth Scholarship.

His ability to write and to engage in satire is evident from an article in the 1972 Unicorn, where he had a gentle dig at two staff members who he suggested were over-weight and putting the school building out of balance. His years at MHS though were a mixed experience.

In terms of teachers, it was a Golden Age with people like Ben Munday, David Niven, Neville Drohan, Colin Green, John Grigsby and Brian Corless.

However, it was also an era of protest and student unrest. The protests were mixed, from those opposing the war in Vietnam, others rebelling against the structures of education and some with revolutionary Marxist ideas. Some of the teachers shared these ideas and some left to work in alternative schools. It was a time of turmoil. He survived these challenging times. On the positive side despite the disruptions he experienced some of the best teachers in the school's history.

Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

After his studies at La Trobe University where he did well, he commenced on a teaching career. A successful teacher he soon gained promotion and became Principal of Mullana Secondary College in Mitcham, and then from 1994 to 2004 was Principal of Princes Hill High School in Carlton North.

MHS Centenary

His first year at the school was a baptism of fire as he had to preside over the Centenary celebrations with many functions especially those with MacRob., and the launching of the school history. As an old boy he had the background to appreciate these events.



Image by Lachlan Stewart

MHS Foundation

Early on he also had to cope with establishing the Melbourne High School Foundation which proved difficult.

There were legal problems at every turn especially being a government school. It was daunting and time consuming and while he had people helping, he took the initiative and guided the project through to fruition.

It was set up in 2006 and progressing it has also been demanding of a Principal.

Key developments over the period:

- Commencement – 2007
- MHS Scholarship Trust established – 1 July 2007
- MHS Arts & Cultural Trust established – 1 July 2007
- MHS General Trust established – 30 Nov 2009
- MHS Foundation Health Promotion Trust established – 29 September 2013
- MHS Library Project 2013 – Grand Opening - 1 April 2014
- 669 Chapel Street, South Yarra – purchase - 21 July 2014.
- MHS Foundation Future Fund Trust established – 27 December 2017
- MHS Classroom Campaign December 2018 - \$500,000 raised
- 669 Chapel Street, South Yarra – sale to Victorian Government January 2020 for Centre for Higher Education Studies

Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

Arts Studies Centre

Jeremy ended up being involved in a number of building and renovation projects. The main one was the erection of a new building, the Arts Studies Centre which owes its creation to a substantial contribution from Lindsay Fox. This was not the only project Lindsay helped fund. Jeremy who became a good friend of Lindsay oversaw the project which involved fund raising as well as planning the uses of the building with a design compatible with the "Castle on the Hill". Started in 2007 it was completed in 2008. While Lindsay Fox would not allow any recognition of his role in the building, Jeremy subtly had installed a gargoye of Lindsay on the building.

Links With Other Schools

Jeremy not only coped with the many and varied activities of the school but introduced new initiatives. There were the contests in sport and activities like debating with Adelaide High School and North Sydney Boys' High School. As well as nurture these exchanges, he extended them.

As well as the exchange with a Japanese school was an association with a French school and village at Villers-Bretonneaux which had important World War I links with Victoria. There was also an agreement reached with the Royal College in Sri Lanka.

School Activities

The amazing range of activities in the school continued but also were extended. The debaters for example joined MUNSA a UN Youth Affairs group. There was still the Chorals and Instrumental competition, the Political Interest Group continued, as did plays and musicals, and concerts.

There were competitions like Maths and in Chess. New groups included the Laureate magazine by the English Department and in 2016 was Slum Poetry. There were groups too such as the Gay Alliance, and regular community activities such as the Red Cross appeal. There was also Millgrove.

Sustaining a busy and constant range of co curricula activities was demanding of any Principal yet he was regular in attending all such events., There were not only winter concerts, chorales, musicals, plays, but the Old Boys had their groups too, such as the G M and B patrons, as well as the Old Boys' Association itself. The parents also had a range of activities.

Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

Protest Against a Monstrosity

Jeremy went to some trouble, with only partial success, to prevent the massive planned 25 storied skyscraper black 'Darth Vader' building behind the school. This was adjacent to the school, on the corner of Chapel Street and Alexandra Avenue.

Strongly fought by Jeremy with the help of some Old Boys, it was a costly, complicated and a protracted process to oppose this development and took a lot of Jeremy's time. While ultimately the building went ahead it was much scaled down from the original plan thanks to this opposition.

Talks and Addresses

The school was fortunate to have as Principal a skilled and coherent speaker who gave care to what he said and always gave his audience something to think about. Jeremy was not just an excellent speaker but he communicated well and had visions of education and the school that were innovative and challenging.

Who can forget his memorable Speech Night addresses such as his one on sexism and respect for women ('We need to talk about good men') and his brilliant attack on the shortcomings of the VCE. Each year he developed a different issue.

He also was in demand to speak to Old Boy groups such as the GM and B Patron's group, and parent bodies. He was generous with his time in attending these various meetings and his addresses to such groups were informative and inspiring.

In terms of the school and assemblies, as well as his regular addresses, each year Jeremy found a word that he felt summed up the departing year. He was able to explain his word or words. One year was described as 'honourable' another 'expecting the unexpected', there was 'Resilience and character', 'Quality and responsibility'. For 2014 the words that struck Jeremy were 'quality and responsibility' another year elicited.

Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

Planning and School Review

By 2009 Jeremy had set in action a process to develop a long-term plan for the school - a plan for what the school would be like in 2020. In this he encouraged the participation and interaction of students past and present, the staff, the school council and parents. In 2018 this look into the future was extended to plan for 2030.

Such planning blended in well with a total school review. Having such a review was required by all schools and it necessitated first an internal review of the whole school structure and functioning. This took place in 2014 with the review by an external panel in 2015. It was a compliment to the status of the school that the Deputy Secretary of the Department, Chris Wardlaw (an old boy) headed the review. The future aspirations and priorities of the school were examined and looked at in regard to the Melbourne Declaration.

Jeremy ensured there were regular 'reviews', be it of the curriculum, or methods of assessment and reporting, of professional development for staff or ensuring entrepreneurial thinking among the boys. For example, in 2017 there was a major focus on reshaping the curriculum with new subjects, and with consideration of the effect of technology, electronic devices and online student management.

The Melbourne High School Diploma

Keen to enrich the co-curricular activities of the school in 2007 he announced an important new concept that would apply to the year 9 boys of 2007 - the Melbourne High School Diploma. This was to be an award by the school that was based on the students' academic performance, his co-curricula participation and his work in the area of citizenship.

Jeremy saw the Diploma, which was subsequently awarded from 2010, as 'more highly valued and respected than the ENTER score'. It was a prestigious award and a signal to the outside world of students with not only ability but something more. 2010 saw the first awardees of the MHS Diploma - a testament to a well-rounded liberal education. Jeremy also explored links with universities envisaging a fusion of secondary and tertiary education.

Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

School Governance

In 2011 Jeremy turned his attention to the governance of the school. He acknowledged that traditionally the Principal of MHS had been very much the benign dictator! He opened discussion on what he described as 'more collaborative and distributed leadership structure'. He continued this theme in 2012 when he urged more active engagement of students in political and social issues of the moment. Recalling his own years at the school which were years of dissent and challenging of the existing structure he was concerned that students today were too complacent.

In 2012 a high turnover of staff also involved him in what he described as 'generational change'. He was tested when in 2016 a student did dissent but on an issue to what could be described as unacceptable behaviour and while strongly disagreeing with the viewpoint expressed praised the student's courage and eloquence.

In bringing students more into the governance of the school, the School Captain and SRC President were both added as members of the School Council. He put much effort into developing a genuine programme for encouraging student leadership in the Student Leadership Program.

Avenue of Sports Champions

There was pressure on the school to complete the Avenue of Sports Champions – where already two sets of statues had been erected on the Lower Drive.

There was one of Australian Rules footballer, Neil Roberts, old boy, St Kilda Champion and Brownlow Medallist, together with a duo of two cricketers sharing a seat; William Woodfull, old boy, teacher, Principal, opening bat for Australia and a notable Australian cricket captain, sitting alongside Keith Miller, old boy and distinguished all round cricketer for Australia.

It was felt athletic achievements should also be recognised. It was an expensive project, and it was made possible by the generosity of Lindsay Fox who tried to make these donations anonymous. Three names of old boys were suggested: Ralph Doubell (gold medallist), Ron Clarke (world long distance champion) and Merv Lincoln (long distance champion). Lindsay solved the dilemma by saying 'Let's do them all!'

Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

Relations with MacRob.

Jeremy kept in close contact with MacRob. and ensured relations between the two schools were positive. In 2013 a formal agreement was signed with MacRob. setting out ways of cooperation including combined classes for some subjects and professional development undertaken together. One reason he changed to a motor scooter was the ease of getting to and parking at MacRob!

Selective Schools

In 2007 plans were announced that there were to be two additional 'selective entry schools' and in the next few years he was aware of looking for the effects these new schools would have on the school. The schools opened in 2009 and 2010. This was another issue for Jeremy, it was important for MHS – as it could effect the school in its intake, however, it did not diminish the desire of many talented boys to enter MHS.

Multicultural Issues

In 2015 there was public criticism in the press of the school being too 'Asian'. This brought a prompt response from Jeremy pointing out that the school had no international students, but all students were Australian and pointed out the rich cultural tradition of the school and the changing composition of the background of the students over the years. Jeremy with a multicultural background himself was well equipped to speak out on the issue.

Within the school there were often celebrations linked to the cultural background of students. Sometimes there were food festivals, and those of Indian background held a Festival of Vedic India. Jeremy was meticulous in attending all these events.

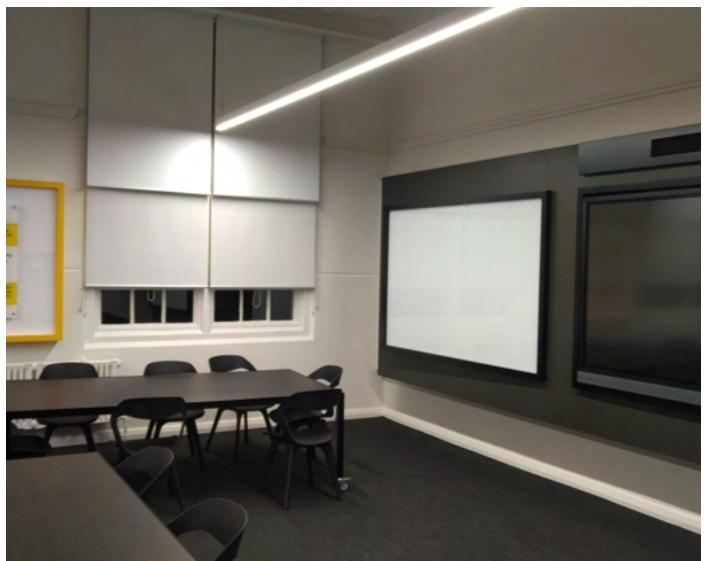
Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

Classroom Renovation Programme

Over the years there were a number of renovation projects that Jeremy supervised. The Library received a badly needed upgrade, and the opening featured loyal parent, Mary Crean with her two sons Simon and David. Most of the classrooms had been as they were in 1927 when the school was built.

There was not only the need for renovation but in this age of technology and change, new equipment was needed as were new ways of arranging classrooms. Therefore in 2017 commenced a major programme to renovate every classroom – at a cost of \$70,000 a room. This was a project to be completed in stages with stage one to cost \$210,000. The aim being to have all rooms as new generation classrooms by the Forrest Hill centenary in 2027.



The Education Academy

Very much the work and thinking of Jeremy was a project known by name as the Education Academy. This was set off when the school acquired a property at the rear of the school in Chapel Street. Jeremy had a vision of a place where bright students could be stimulated and helped to engage with the tertiary sector. He even considered a boarding element to the project to bring in students from country areas. Again, the challenge of being a government school brought obstacles and barriers.

It took years of negotiation but in 2019 the State Government provided \$27.5 million to build a Centre for Higher Education Studies, housed in a 5-storey complex. This would enable talented year 10 and 12 students to do extra enrichment courses and gain credit towards university degrees. There was also to be a hub for research and outreach by the universities. The government did not accept the boarding element.

Dr. Alan Gregory

HONORARY SCHOOL HISTORIAN
MHS 1955

Outside the School

Jeremy also of necessity had to undertake duties with the Education Department, and with groups such as the Principals. He is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Principals Centre, and Associate of the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne. Nationally he is on various national committees; The Gender Equity Task Force, the Gender Equity Needs Analysis, the National Inquiry into School History, the Boys' Education Lighthouse project. On the state level he serves on 14 committees and advisory groups as well as on several advisory groups at the university level.

Jeremy always had the bearing of a principal. In his dealings with people, Jeremy was always informal in conversation and made those he was speaking to very relaxed. However, about his private life he was reserved, and people respected this.



Conclusion

Taken for granted is that every year of Jeremy's sixteen there was exceptional academic achievement, whether through the VCE results or prizes and awards such as the Mathematics Competition. The life of a principal is more complex and difficult than it has ever been. There is a host of compliance requirements, parents have higher expectations, social media creates new issues, there are demands for accountability and there is increased awareness of rights.

His achievements are even more impressive given the circumstances in which he has had to work. Jeremy has an insightful mind. He is able to analyse a situation or problem and layout the issues logically. He does this with a caring and thoughtful manner and relates well to staff and students. He is always considerate. Jeremy was always aware that Melbourne High School was the flagship of Victorian state education.

Valete to a great Principal of Melbourne High School!

Tom Wodak

HONORARY LIFE PATRON
MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL
MHS 1959



Jeremy Ludowyke succeeded the late Ray Willis to become the school's thirteenth Principal. I have had the privilege of seeing close up the working of Neville Drohan, Ray Willis, and Jeremy Ludowyke while a member of School Council, then as its President, and later as Honorary Life Patron of the School.

What follows are some impressions of parts of a much larger role played by Jeremy. I commend reading Alan Gregory's masterful and comprehensive review of Jeremy as Principal. It appears in this publication.

Having been a student at Melbourne High School, Jeremy assumed office in an institution with which he was familiar. He soon grappled with problems many of his predecessors had encountered. The castle on the hill was aging, and in need of maintenance, and replacement, sometimes urgently. As well, classrooms were becoming increasingly outdated as the school embraced more and more, and in different ways, the rapidly expanding uses of technology, both for learning purposes, and in the school's administration.

Obtaining funding from the Department of Education and Training for maintenance and repairs, never easy, was a major challenge. Jeremy had an advantage. He understood the functioning of, and the personnel in the Department better than most. He put his case for assistance convincingly. Sadly, his well-constructed pleas did not often result in funding for works to the extent necessary, or at all.

Projects, such as modernising classrooms, were tackled differently. Here, there was no likelihood of Departmental support. Jeremy put his faith in Assistant Principal Pelissa Tsilimidos, and in financial support from the school community. Pelissa has proceeded as donated funds have been available. This process still has a way to go, but those classrooms which have been renewed are proving their worth.

It is fair to say that Jeremy, as Principal, had an entrepreneurial streak. This is well demonstrated by the energy and resourcefulness he injected into the project known as the Centre for Higher Education Studies, construction of which has just begun. Without his contribution that project would probably not have become a reality.

Tom Wodak

HONORARY LIFE PATRON
MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL
MHS 1959

He prided himself on his ability to articulate his views in the many speeches he made to a variety of audiences throughout his time as Principal. Often, his message was courageous, and always informative.

When discharging his pedagogical duties, Jeremy supported the development of well-rounded students to acquire attributes covering all aspects of their lives, not just while at School, but beyond. The co-curricular program was vigorously developed by the Principal, as has been the student leadership program. The now highly prized MHS Diploma is one contribution which over time will always be associated with Jeremy.

The Principal has also keenly fostered compassion and sensitivity within the School community. Support has been available, quietly, and effectively wherever appropriate.

The advent of a new, highly infectious pathogen, known as COVID-19 in late 2019 impacted starkly on MHS during early 2020, as it did on everyone. The school had to adapt, quickly, to continuing delivery of learning capability for all students while schools were closed in Victoria. This the School achieved and maintained for the long months of Victoria's first lockdown.

For Jeremy, his final year as Principal was dominated by the provision of remote learning, and by running the school remotely. The restrictions in place meant that such things as School Council and Committee meetings became virtual meetings. Jeremy adapted to these too.



Image by Lachlan Stewart

The final challenge he confronted, during his last weeks at the school was the delayed Year 9 entrance exam, and the placement of those students who would begin in year 9 in 2021. This he dealt with, as he had in so many other matters – calmly and thoroughly.

And so, we say farewell to Jeremy Ludowyke, no longer Principal, but not forgotten.

David Smyth

MHS STAFF 1975 - 2014

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MHS 2003 - 2014



Image by Emily Azcona

When Jeremy Ludowyke became Melbourne High School Principal at the start of 2005, he did so with impeccable credentials.

He came with more than 10 years' experience in the Principal Class within the Victorian Department of Education, an acknowledged respect amongst his colleagues, and a deep understanding of Melbourne High that began during the years that he and his three brothers attended the school. He was known as an outspoken and informed supporter of state education.

Jeremy quickly established a close working relationship with his three Assistant Principals that were together for most of his first decade as Principal. David Smyth, Warren Fall and Janet Prideaux all felt strongly supported by Jeremy. He continued this strong leadership style with following APs: Andrew Sloan, Pelissa Tsilimidos and Marcus Sharp. Each was able to run their areas of responsibility without the need to constantly cross-check decisions with their Principal. Yet when needed, they were always confident that he would give them full support. The breadth and depth of his systemic educational knowledge never failed to be their reliable backup.

Jeremy also had an increasingly close connection with the student body. He held regular meetings with the student leaders where the boys felt they were listened to and were able to influence school decisions. During each year he attended at least on morning form assembly for each Form group throughout the school.

The boys felt that "Ludo" was an approachable Principal and were even comfortable enough to bestow on him some occasional irreverence. Jeremy allowed the exiting Year 12s to have a structured farewell week before their annual study vacation for their final exams. Events were planned between the senior boys and the APs. Occasionally Jeremy was in the boys' sights. Many final day photos were taken with students astride his famous Vespa scooter, and some years it was moved to interesting locations within the grounds. One year, his office was rebranded with streamers and knee-deep balloons.

David Smyth

MHS STAFF 1975 - 2014

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MHS 2003 - 2014

Jeremy saw all the various and numerous school meetings as important. His weekly and nightly schedule was onerous, yet he rarely missed any. He had an enviable skill with public speaking. His regular addresses to staff, parents and student assemblies were almost invariably done without notes.

Early feedback to him by his leadership team was critical of the length of some meetings and limited input chances that others had during meetings. He accepted this feedback with his usual mix of good humour and self-deprecation, and made some adjustments.

The Arts Studies Centre was successfully completed and opened in 2008 under his leadership. This had been a ten-year project originally conceived under previous Principal, Ray Willis. In 2005, Melbourne Water refused permission to build on the initial site (on the Chapel Street side of the Forrest Hill driveway) despite earlier in-principle approval. Jeremy oversaw the successful planning and financing of the more substantial building on the current site.

Jeremy worked with Lindsay Fox to enact his generous plans for celebrated Old Boy sporting statues to be placed at the front of the school. Being an avid historian, he also took a hands-on interest in increasing student involvement in the Heritage area of the school and had Distinguished Old Boy, John Elden, agree to the Heritage Room being named The John Elden Heritage Room.

He agreed with then-Registrar Fred Kok, to create an annual extra intake of at least 28 Year 10 students under a revised Principal's Discretionary Category. Jeremy secured Ministerial approval for this initiative. This cohort continues to provide enrichment to the school's traditionally diverse and talented annual intake.

He worked hard to create more productive and influential connections with the Old Boys. He oversaw a significant next round of Distinguished Old Boys that ultimately had a more logically distributed array of portraits strategically placed in faculty areas around all three of the school's main buildings. Old Boys were placed on all major school committees along with current student representatives. Old Boys increased their sponsoring and creation of Speech Night prizes and student scholarships.

David Smyth

MHS STAFF 1975 - 2014

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MHS 2003 - 2014

One of the most significant future visions that Jeremy enacted was the creation of the Melbourne High School Foundation in 2007. The MHS Foundation enabled the school to introduce a scholarship scheme and take a more business-like approach to raising funds to improve the quality of the school's facilities and programs. The completion of the Art Studies Centre was the first product of this new approach. His creation of the MHS Foundation will benefit the school for generations.

Jeremy took an active interest in maintaining and strengthening our LOTE exchanges. He personally visited a number of French schools to settle on our current sister school there. He also firmly backed our traditional and long-standing annual exchanges with Adelaide High School and North Sydney Boys High School.

Jeremy recognised the deteriorating condition and inadequate audio-visual setups within many of the Twenties Building classrooms. He initiated an ambitious phased rejuvenation of 50 classrooms by 2027. This was designed to celebrate the centenary of the 'Castle on the Hill'. In 2018, in an extraordinary display of community determination and support the school raised funds to renovate 7 classrooms.

In 2010 by cheek and perseverance, he convinced the Federal government to allow us to use the Rudd computer money for iPads rather than desktops or laptops. Melbourne High was the first school in the nation to do so, making us a leader in the now ubiquitous "Bring Your Own Device" schools' program.

Jeremy was proactive in strengthening ties with the two universities that received the majority of our graduating students: Melbourne and Monash universities. He allowed some students to undertake University subjects that provided a head start to their ultimate tertiary courses.

In 2007, we became a base school for the Melbourne University Master of Teaching program. We annually welcomed around 20-25 of their Teacher Candidates for two days a week placement as well as one teaching block each semester. Over the ensuing years, approximately 20 of these became members of our teaching staff.

Staff agreed to Jeremy's suggestion of a new form of student feedback. Students completed online surveys that were private and confidential between them and their teacher. This was ground-breaking and controversial, but is now seen as an essential avenue towards teaching development.

David Smyth

MHS STAFF 1975 - 2014

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MHS 2003 - 2014

With the Brumby State government's bipartisan support of adding two new metropolitan Years 9-12 selective schools, Jeremy quickly became a spokesperson for the plan. The State government thankfully recognised Jeremy as a source of clear-headed advice on the design and character of the two new schools. During the years leading to the opening of the Nossal High School and Suzanne Cory High School, both Melbourne High and Mac.Rob were significant contributors in the departmental planning committees.

Jeremy's public backing of this selective schools increase resulted in him being criticized by many secondary Principals who had long opposed their existence. The usual line was that the selective schools took "the cream" from their schools. Jeremy took this challenge head on and gave presentations to various groups of school Principals. His main argument came with impressive research backing:

"It is likely that many submissions received will argue that it is essential that high ability students should be retained in their previous schools as they are required to serve as role models to directly or indirectly improve the educational outcomes of others. It is a highly ethically compromised position to argue that such students should be held responsible for improving the outcomes of others by remaining in a comprehensive school when all the evidence is that to do so will be to their own detriment..."

Jeremy quoted studies that:

- **"demonstrated that students of average ability do not model on high ability students but rather on students of roughly similar abilities**
- **found that the social and academic outcomes of average ability students improved when high ability students were removed, and**
- **found no evidence to support the contention that other students suffered socially or academically from the removal of high ability students."**

Jeremy received congratulations and thanks from many Principals who admired his gumption to front them, and to convince them, in such a way.

David Smyth

MHS STAFF 1975 - 2014

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MHS 2003 - 2014

As well as Jeremy leading the government through this process of creating two new selective intake schools within the metropolitan area, his detailed verbal and written input was crucial throughout these planning years to establishing an adjusted process for student selection across all four selective schools. The resultant Selective Schools Selection Process saw selections based on a 5% rule rather than 3%, as well as allowances for disadvantaged and Indigenous selections.

Jeremy ensured the Melbourne's Selective Schools Network (SSN) was established and became a valuable source of collaboration between the four schools. As well as championing this SSN, Jeremy also created the Inner-City Schools Network. This included MHS, MacRob, Richmond Girls High School, University High School, Albert Park HS and The Victorian College of the Arts and formed a collaborative and supportive group. Both Networks achieved much towards ameliorating local schools' historically negative attitudes towards Melbourne High.

The MHS Diploma has become a highly valued aspiration for all students and is one of the lasting legacies of Jeremy's record tenure as Principal. It is an award that reflects the ongoing ethos of the school that equally embraces academic excellence and co-curricular involvement. Jeremy Ludowyke championed this emphasis on the fully-rounded student. This co-curricula emphasis has been achieved while maintaining the continued regular annual VCE median ATAR of around the 95 mark.



Jeremy's Speech Night addresses to the school community were not the standard summing up of the year's achievements. They were often an erudite, targeted appeal to his audience on an important and contemporary issue. One memorable speech covered the value of appropriate state and federal funding of education. Another was the 2017 address entitled "I think we need to talk about men."

Jeremy Ludowyke retires as the longest serving Principal of Melbourne High School – 16 years at Forrest Hill. He passes on to Dr Tony Mordini a school that values its traditions and standing within the educational community. It is also a school that has shown it is ready to embrace the future and lead from the front.

David and Kerry Smyth

Dianne Brown

2020 TREASURER OF SCHOOL COUNCIL
AND ROWING FRATERNITY



I've been thinking about the fact that Jeremy left MHS without the expected fanfare and pageantry because of a pandemic and the purportedly "unprecedented" times. While for most of us this is true – we have never lived through such unusual events – it is certainly not true of our school.

MHS has not only seen epidemics of influenza and polio, but also had to bear the unimaginable of sending its sons to war. History teaches us that we are not alone; we are not the only ones to face the challenges in front of us; there are others who have gone before. Thus the 13th principal is farewellled without a Speech Night or mass singing or any of the traditions he championed for the 16 years of his leadership. Irony writ large.

So how can I pay tribute to try to replace what was lost? How do I acknowledge what Jeremy contributed to the MHS story? Mine was a short sojourn at the school – the four years my son attended I was School Council Treasurer and involved in the Rowing Fraternity. A mere blip in the annals of MHS' 116-year story.

Yet four years is most parents' tenure creating perhaps the greatest challenge for the school's leader. With such a short time horizon, how is there ever an opportunity to realise any long-term investment let alone a community of shared values? The revolving door of School Council members and parental involvement can be barren soil from which to try to reap these goals.

I arrived at the back end of two big projects of the school – the Centre for Higher Education (CHES) on Chapel Street (below left) and the Rowing Centre (below right). After nearly 10 years of negotiations, CHES will be operational in 2023. Regrettably, the Rowing Centre has not progressed at this stage.



Dianne Brown

2020 TREASURER OF SCHOOL COUNCIL AND ROWING FRATERNITY

State schools are not set up to have a rowing programme nor to secure real estate in one of the most expensive streetscapes in Melbourne. And yet every year our boys turn up at regatta after regatta, win medals and national titles while flummoxing announcers with our crew's United Nations of surnames. The school has been able to continue its tradition of competing and delivering excellence without the resources of its competition.

With an eye on the goal of giving our students every opportunity, Jeremy piloted a way through a system not designed to easily accommodate these pursuits. Jeremy persisted, ably abetted by old boys, staff and the parents that came and went over the years. Ultimately, the Rowing Centre could not be achieved as envisioned a decade previous, but the Centre for Higher Education will come to fruition in the next year. Hours of lobbying, negotiating, strategizing, discussing, convincing, persisting, explaining and pursuing. All the while running a school of 1,370 boys and 110 plus staff with more than a century's weight of tradition and expectation. Jeremy was able to hold all this together under his leadership.

The importance of institutions that abide, no matter what challenges come and go, cannot be under-estimated. Having a sense of belonging to such institutions – a place which you can identify as your own – is equally important. Jeremy laboured for 16 years so that every year, another 350 boys could call MHS their own. To be part of the tradition. To belong. To be part of the community of shared values of striving to be your best and be good global citizens.

At the end Jeremy was not able to hear that final resounding chorus of "Forty Years On" sung by 1,370 adolescent voices but we can be assured that thanks to his dedication, thousands of men will "follow up", continuing the storied legacy of MHS.



Image by Lachlan Stewart

MHS Foundation



The Melbourne High School Foundation was established shortly before Jeremy Ludowyke was appointed principal of Melbourne High School in 2005. At the time of his appointment the Foundation was still grappling with the many legal requirements that accompanied its formation and the way it could assist the school and its students. During his 16-year tenure as principal, the Foundation became the main vehicle through which old boys, current and past parents, and supporters of the school community could contribute to the school.

Jeremy attended the monthly meetings of the Foundation's Board and helped drive its direction. A scholarship trust enabled those who had benefitted from their past involvement with the school to assist future generations. Those donations ensured that students in need could apply for a diverse range of scholarships. During the unsettling period of the COVID lockdown, the Foundation helped students who found it difficult to access remote learning and provided additional counselling services for students whose mental health and wellbeing was impacted.

Jeremy was acutely aware of the antiquity of Melbourne High School classrooms and infrastructure, which, in many cases had little changed since 1927. Casual visitors to the school were shocked by the Education Department's indifference to its needs and adversely compared the state of the school's facilities with those of almost every other school in Victoria. Jeremy made the renovation of classrooms a priority and through a giving appeal the Foundation raised several hundred thousand dollars to start the process of classroom renovation.

Melbourne High School has been constrained by its confined footprint and has struggled to provide academic and rich co-curricular programs within its limited grounds. Through the Foundation and with the critical support of Lindsay Fox, the Patron of the Foundation, Jeremy promoted the purchase of a parcel of land in Chapel Street which abuts the school.

After lengthy negotiations the State Government purchased the land from the Foundation and has begun the construction of a Centre for Higher Education Studies which will provide extended opportunities for enrichment programs available to Melbourne High School students and to students attending other schools. In doggedly pursuing this project Jeremy displayed the innovative qualities and intellectual deftness and flexibility that has characterised his time as Principal.

John Wertheimer AM ARF - President MHS Foundation, MHS 1954

Mark Taft - Vice President MHS Foundation

Shayan Soroush

MHS SCHOOL CAPTAIN 2020
BLUEY TRUSCOTT SCHOLAR



Mr Ludowyke Old Boys' Goodbye

I still remember Mr Ludowyke's first words to our cohort as we were incoming Year 9 students. He emphasised that Melbourne High School offered us a once in a lifetime opportunity to "become a better version of ourselves".



He explained further, clarifying that this could involve experimenting with new extra-curricular opportunities, changing any traits or aspects of our personality that we thought would hinder us from achieving a particular goal or becoming more socially engaged and active. These words guided me for the duration of my MHS journey and inspired me to take on new opportunities that I would never have seen myself doing before.

As an incoming Year 9 student, my personal and non-academic goal was to learn and consolidate leadership skills in an environment where I knew many like-minded boys would share a similar passion. As a junior student, I primarily achieved this through interacting with many older students who I looked up to as the leaders of the school and by part-taking in many different co-curriculars.

However; Mr Ludowyke also played a pivotal role in this progression. One message that has always resonated with me was that "[we] are not just responsible for [our] actions, but also for the actions of others around [us]". In the context of respect and integrity, this message was fundamental to my current understanding of leadership as it highlights the importance of working together in establishing a positive culture for our community. This is something that I hope will stay with the generations of MHS students that have graduated under Mr Ludowyke's leadership in all walks of their lives.

Shayan Soroush

MHS SCHOOL CAPTAIN 2020
BLUEY TRUSCOTT SCHOLAR

Mr Ludowyke also taught me about the significance of community service as a leader. As the School Captain in 2020, I led a student review into the school Forms' structure and pastoral care in which we consulted a significant proportion of the MHS student body. In the end, our final proposal did not garner sufficient support from the community to become implemented.

In a Term 3 conversation with Mr Ludowyke, I remember him stressing the importance of listening to the people you represent as a leader and tailoring your leadership goals and objectives to the needs of these people. True leadership would ultimately be honest and fair representation of the community's views, despite the personal views and vision of our student leadership team. I have no doubts that this will apply to many future situations for me and my peers, where our decision making will not revolve purely around our own interests.

I am forever grateful for the avenues of opportunity Mr Ludowyke offered me in leadership. I am certain that he has had similar positive and long-lasting influences on many other students that have had the honour of working with him. Mr Ludowyke, more affectionately 'Ludo', will be remembered by our community as a Principal that genuinely cared about all MHS students gaining a well-rounded education through not only their academic endeavours, but in co-curricular activities and leadership, as well as community service and citizenship.

Samuel Sugumaran

MHS 2020

YEAR 12 SRC EXECUTIVE



Throughout Principal Jeremy Ludowyke's 16 year tenure at Melbourne High School, he has strongly empowered, encouraged and most importantly supported the student body, going above and beyond the requirements of a principal.

As part of the SRC Executive Council for 2020, I have had the pleasure of working with Principal Ludowyke to discuss key issues and organise initiatives to benefit the student population amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this, I have witnessed first-hand Principal Ludowyke's deep concern and care for the students and his obvious respect for the gentlemen of the High. Furthermore, Principal Ludowyke played an important role in supporting the SRC's organisation of our school Year 12 garments as well as his tremendous backing of the students' proposed changes in the 2020 school uniform review.

It is widely known that it has been Mr Ludowyke's articulate skill and resounding effort that elevates his assembly speeches to being more than just administrative announcements to opportunities for learning valuable life lessons and skills that we can carry through to our future endeavours.

Mr Ludowyke is a proactive leader who frequently touches bases with the cohort, communicating with the student population in more ways than just through the Memorial Hall platform. He has made it a priority to get know every passing cohort even on an individual level.

Ever since coming into MHS, Mr Ludowyke has been a constant presence in ensuring a very satisfying Melbourne High experience for us students. From visiting each individual form group when we were all in Year 9 to simple greetings through the T building corridors, he has always taken the opportunity to ensure we feel like we belong to the High. To the wider MHS community, Mr Ludowyke has set the example of leading by service, like being personally involved in the packing up at International Night celebrations and being the last person to leave the school premises at the close of the event.

Although 2020 was a tumultuous time for many of us, Mr Ludowyke has always been there to guide us, and I believe to provide assurance and confidence to the staff and parents. Let it suffice to say without his constant support and input, I believe the class of 2020 would not be what it is today.

All the best for the future Mr Ludowyke!



MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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