



NEWSLETTER
July - September 2021

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From the President



Hello Gentlemen

We hope you are well. To those in Melbourne or Sydney (and indeed regional Victoria or New South Wales), we send particular good wishes as you endure the ravages of lockdowns.

In this our third edition for 2021, **Principal Dr Anthony Mordini** shares his **Term 3 Report**. We review the impact of “snap lockdowns” and their profound effect on our events calendar.

Reunions in July and August were cancelled with one exception. Our flagship **Annual Dinner** planned for October will now not be held. Amid great uncertainty, we continue to assess the viability of holding Old Boy gatherings before the year’s end.

In happy contrast, **Nicholas Antonas** (MHS 2001) hosted a private Old Boy dinner in extraordinary style at The Reform Club in London last month. See page 12 for details.

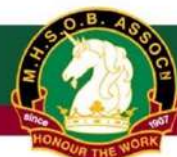
After extending the program due to lockdowns, the [MHSOBA Scholarship Program](#) has closed. We received many high-quality submissions and look forward to awarding successful applicants in Term 4. Sincere thanks again to our generous sponsors for their great support.

Our annual **Vocational Seminar Series** was delivered online in Term 3. Open to all MHS students, Old Boys and our associates hosted industry-specific, insightful sessions across Commerce & Finance; Engineering; Medicine; Creative Arts and Law.

We also delivered our online **VCE Exam Master Class Series** in Psychology, English and Specialist Mathematics. For both programs we thank all hosts for their expertise and time. Our thanks also to **Guy Velik** of MHSOBA Student Advisory Committee for his collaboration with MHS teachers and Master Class facilitators.

MHS School Captain and Vice-Captain have been appointed for 2022. Respectively we congratulate **Arth Tuteja** and **Magnus Mulhall** and wish them every success in their roles next year.

Following his 16-year tenure and recent retirement, we bring you “**A Tribute to Jeremy Ludowyke: MHS Principal 2005 – 2020**” – see page 16 for details.



From the President (con't)

We welcome **Mangala Prasetia** (MHS 2014) who joins Simon Anderson on the MHSOBA Networking and Student Support Sub-committee. Mangala contributes to our social media program and we thank him for his commitment, time and contribution.

We hear updates from MHSOB Football and Hockey Clubs and the Men for All Seasons (MFAS). Following the **Tokyo Olympic Games**, we congratulate Old Boys who represented Australia and hear a remarkable athlete's account from marathon walker, **Rhydian Cowley**.

The GM&B bring us up to date. We hear news from the MHS Foundation and recognise four Old Boys who are Directors to the Foundation Board.

This edition includes a **Literary Review** and celebrates **Notable Old Boys** including **Professor Ego Seeman; Michael Keats; Professor Alan Wolff OAM; Steve Foley; John Scurry; and Tarang Chawla**.

Thanks to **Professor John Fliegner** (MHS 1951) for his insightful contribution "**Melbourne High School and its WWII Stalwarts**", a biographical review of five MHS teachers who were post-war trailblazers and notable for their leadership and commitment.

Honorary School Archivist **Luke Savage** contributes **obituaries** along with yet another fascinating piece **From the Archives**.

To those who have recently **joined MHSOBA** we extend a very warm welcome. Student Membership Packs will be available from the MHSOBA office when MHS reopens to all personnel. If not already a member, we invite you to [join us](#) in support of our community and the greater MHS family.

Stay safe. Honour The Work



Peter Stathopoulos (MHS 1982)
President, MHSOBA Inc.

Principal's Report – Dr Anthony Mordini



Term 3, 2021

Dear Members of the Melbourne High School Old Boys' Community,

Agility, resilience, vision...strong like its pillars

Over the past two years, education, work, social activity and engagement with family and friends have become more hybrid and virtual. At Melbourne High School, despite the challenges, I have been incredibly proud of the way in which staff, students, families, alumni, and our community partners have tackled this situation and worked hard to minimise disruptions to teaching, learning and our service provision.

I believe this is significantly attributed to the commitment our community has to excellence and helping our students achieve their best. We are strong like our pillars and in tough times we will ensure our mates get all the support they need.

This is evidenced by the many hours of academic mentoring provided by staff and old boys; online co-curricular and extra-curricular activities; financial assistance through scholarships and bursaries provided by the MHSOBA Inc. and MHS Foundation Ltd; and the wellbeing programs and support MHS offers students and their families.

Building Improvements and Master Plan

Over the next 12 months I will commence the development of a Master Plan. This will provide the school with a blueprint for the physical resources it will require over the next 20-25 years. The plan will ensure MHS is able to deliver a world-class education and stay at the forefront of teaching and learning.

The plan will include proposed new buildings and major and minor works on existing infrastructure. I will be reaching out to some of you to assist with the development of the plan. This will provide a great opportunity to give back through some 'in kind' support.



Principal's Report – Dr Anthony Mordini (con't)

Alongside this planning will be the ongoing maintenance to ensure buildings are safe and meet OHS and building code standards. One project currently under way is a ventilation audit. The school has been identified as a priority and DET will provide the expertise required for the audit.

Prior to the audit announcement, I approved some minor work on the N Building classrooms. This will improve air circulation and flow. (I like to be proactive!) The work on the N Building will be undertaken in October.

MHS Diploma – update and proposed revisions

The MHS Diploma serves as a tool that records students' participation in extra-curricular activities. The Diploma is currently being revised to widen its scope and sharpen the focus on intrinsic drivers as opposed to extrinsic ones such as points. This will include the provision of credit for service to the school and wider community. This will align with the International Baccalaureate service component requirements.

Keeping our students engaged during lockdown – special interest groups, competitions, and special events

Lockdown has not meant slowdown for our students. Remote and flexible delivery has not stopped our students from organising many online co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to help them stay connected and engaged with their peers. I cannot keep up with the many online activities I am invited to.

They have included competitions such as Year 10 Master Chef; special interest groups such as the recently launched Railway Interest Group which has 80 train enthusiasts 'on board' at last count; virtual forums with MHS sporting legends; and special events such as Book Week. Activities such as these are ensuring MHS continues to deliver a rich, diverse, and engaging student experience at Melbourne High School.



Principal's Report – Dr Anthony Mordini (con't)

A final word on making sure we also have some fun in these difficult times

The activities noted have also provided some fun and light relief for staff and students.

I have also tried to ensure that each day I reach out to some of the staff and students to check in with them, and where possible, share a funny story or add some comic relief. This has included taking assembly pool side or at the Steinway or saying hi with “The Duke” pictured with me below. (He can be on site with me as he is fully suited up!)

Take care and stay safe.

Anthony Mordini

Dr Tony Mordini
Principal



Events Update



Reunions 2021

In July, “Reunions Revisited” for Classes of 2010, 2000, and 1980 along with the 5-Year Reunion for the Class of 2016 were cancelled due to snap lockdowns.

We were hopeful government mandates would lift, allowing us to deliver Classes of 2001, 1981 and 1991 gatherings in August.

Unfortunately, this was not to be. To our great disappointment, we had no option but to cancel those events.

Amid two lockdowns, extraordinarily we were able to deliver the Class of 2011 10 Year Reunion. Impressive presentations were made by host MHSOBA Vice President Warren Fall, and MHS Principal Dr Tony Mordini. See page 10 for Gabe Addley’s review of the event.

Reunions Rescheduled?

Our thanks to Old Boys who purchased Reunion tickets and were patient as events were progressively cancelled. Some asked “*why don’t you just reschedule them?*” Current mandates in Melbourne answer that question in part...

...further, our event calendar is governed by busy MHS and school affiliate calendars and the availability of the MHS leadership team. Planned months in advance, we also consider affiliate club calendars, public holidays, school holidays, The Unicorn Club availability, myriad religious observances and celebrations, and significant calendar and public sporting events.

We continue to monitor the Victorian government’s “roadmap” out of lockdown along with DET and DHHS guidelines. If possible, we will bring Old Boys together in some fashion before the end of the year. This may include a combined 50-Year Reunion dinner for the Classes of 1970 and 1971, and 1-Year Reunions for Classes of 2019 and 2020.

As ever, we thank you for your patience under ever-changing and challenging circumstances.

Events Update (con't)

Annual Dinner 2021

We planned to hold this year's Annual Dinner in October. Sadly, prevailing lockdowns have led the Committee to take the decision not to proceed. Government mandates permitting, we intend holding the Dinner in mid-2022 so that Old Boys young and old may attend. As with all events, we will keep you updated.



Our beloved Unicorn Club remains closed due to the current lockdown. When we reopen, we will do so with an updated COVID-Safe Plan including revised guest density quotients, mandatory QR code scanning and double vaccination requirements.

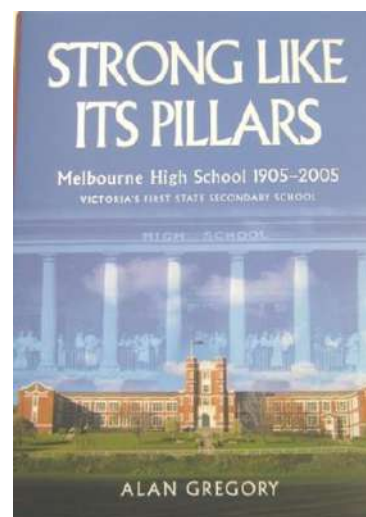


MHSOBA Memberships – Welcome Packs

As the MHSOBA office is currently closed, we are particularly mindful new SM30 Members have not yet received their Welcome Packs.

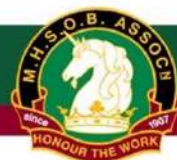
Upon reopening, Welcome Packs can be collected from the MHSOBA office on the far side of the school oval on Wednesdays between 10:30am and 2:00pm.

Please ensure your Membership is fully paid prior to collecting your Pack. We apologise for the delays the lockdown is causing in providing Welcome Packs.



MHSOBA Office

With our office closure given DET and DHHS guidelines, our part-time team continues to work remotely. Upon our return, the office will be open on Wednesdays between 10:30am and 2:00pm. Should you wish to contact us, please email administrator@mhsoba.asn.au



Class of 2011 - 10 Year Reunion

By Gabe Addley, Class of 2011



“AND...THAT IS HOW I ENDED UP IN JAIL IN CHINA...”

On a winter's night in August, a small group of the Class of 2011 gathered for our 10-year reunion. The group was smaller than usual due to ticket sales being capped; however, the small numbers did not dampen the enjoyment for us...can we still call ourselves 'young men'?

After snacks, a drink or two and various conversations with people we had seen recently and those we had not seen since the previous reunion or graduation, it was time to sing the school song.

Up jumped our captain, Mitchell Pincus to begin the school song. Before we began to sing, we were instructed by Mr. Fall to practice singing like the current MHS students were doing: masks on and socially distant.

“Blithesome our hearts are and free is our fancy...”

True to form, the Class of 2011, who achieved the lowest median ATAR score since 2002, did not disappoint. We delivered the greatest 10-year reunion rendition of the school song that the Old Boys' Pavilion has and will likely ever see, which is a testament to the greatest year level of singers to ever grace the Memorial Hall.

We sang with passion and conviction for our fellow class members who could not make it that night, for the ones overseas and interstate and for the ones who decided that it was just a little too cold that night and thought, “I'll just catch them at the 15-year reunion”.

“...standing for duty and standing for right.”

Completing what I thought was the end of the song, suddenly, the room burst into another verse.

“There's a second verse?” I asked surprised. Combing the catacombs of my mind, I tried to find these lost lyrics.

Class of 2011 10 – Year Reunion (con't)

But before the gentleman next to me could confirm that a second verse to the school song did, in fact, exist, I found myself innately singing along. As if even though my mind had had forgotten the words, my voice, my heart, my soul had not – could not!

“Before them a vision, a lamp lit by learning” (singing voice appropriately dropped a few notes).

When the mysterious second verse had been sung, anyone who had anything interesting to report that had happened over the last 10 years was invited to speak. Up to the microphone stepped Daniel ‘DT’ Thompson, regaling how he recently ended up in a Chinese prison. He was released unharmed, physically. The moral of the story is that if you are going to teach English in China, stick to the conditions of your visa.

As the night concluded, a few stragglers finished our last drinks. Reflecting on the days that had passed, what the absentees were up to and how lucky we were to hold the event with further lockdown impending. Just before we parted ways, one of the guys interjected into the conversation:

“Hey, I swear that glass office building behind the school wasn’t there when we were here...”



London Calling!



By Nicholas Antonas, MHS 2001

What different worlds we all live in! On Wednesday 29 September, right at the depth of a Melbourne lockdown, Old Boys living in the UK (ourselves recently emerged from our own challenges and lockdowns) were able to take the opportunity to connect at a London reunion in the Cabinet Room of the famous Reform Club on Pall Mall.

Pre-drinks in the atmospheric private garden as dusk settled on a lovely London evening, followed by a delicious three-course meal with fine wine and port to finish off. Recent arrivals (just off the plane in one instance!) and London old hands, we all shared our stories and experiences as Old Boys living in the UK. At 16 attendees the event was still oversubscribed, and in fact we're sure that there are more Old Boys living in the UK who weren't able to come because they weren't on the mailing list. So, if you do know any Old Boys living in the UK who may not receive this newsletter please let them know that there is now an active network for them to connect with by [contacting the MHSOBA](#).

Hopefully this will be the first of many future London reunions to come.



See page 12
for names of
London Calling
Old Boys.

London Calling! (con't)



Back Left to Right:

Rhys Burns (MHS 2012); Simon Berg (MHS 1984); Richard Dowling (MHS 2003); Vedant Desai (MHS 2001); Ognjen Belic (MHS 2007); and John Tsaousidis (MHS 2004)

Front Left to Right:

Arth Mishra (MHS 2017); Garrick Pepper (MHS 2007); Luke Woodard (MHS 2004); Tom Posa (MHS 2012); Tim Harper (MHS 2000); Nicholas Antonas – event host (MHS 2001); Richard Blackett (MHS 1984); Dulan Dantanarayana (MHS 2010); Edmund Bao (MHS 2010) and Daniel McNamara (MHS 2005)

London Calling! (con't)



Above L-R: Vedant Desai (MHS 2001) and Richard Blackett (MHS 1984) in his MHS tie!

Below: Dinner menu and place cards - Honour The Work!



Below L-R: Luke Woodard (MHS 2004), John Tsaousidis (MHS 2004), Tom Posa (MHS 2012) and Tim Harper (MHS 2000)

Below L-R: Richard Blackett (MHS 1984) and event host, Nicholas Antonas (MHS 2001)



MHSOBA warmly thanks Nicholas Antonas for instigating, managing and hosting this Old Boys' dinner. Our team collaborated with him to promote the event via social media and targeted email. If you're living abroad and are interested in hosting an Old Boy gathering such as this, contact administrator@mhsoba.asn.au

Find and be found in 2021. Join the MHSOBA Business Directory.



A bespoke online platform, the [MHSOBA Business Directory](#) will enable you to find like-minded Old Boys to explore business and networking opportunities. It also connects you to the greater MHS community.

Whatever your business or profession, the Directory is designed to support B2B and B2C opportunities.

Add the Directory to your suite of lead generating, networking and marketing tools. Tax deductible and cost-effective, join our growing league of professional Old Boys and List yourself or your business. [Visit the Directory](#), [Search the Directory](#) or [Join the Directory](#) today.

A Tribute to Jeremy Ludowyke

As you will be aware, Jeremy Ludowyke retired from his position as Principal of Melbourne High School in 2020 and departed in January this year.

We felt it was fitting to prepare a tribute to illustrate what it takes to fulfill the role of Principal of MHS. **To download the tribute from our website [click here](#).**



THE MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL OLD
BOYS' ASSOCIATION INC. PRESENTS

A TRIBUTE TO JEREMY LUDOWYKE

MHS PRINCIPAL 2005 - 2020



WWW.MHSOBA.ASN.AU

YOU. ME. US

FORREST HILL, SOUTH YARRA 3141



MHSOBA Scholarship Program



Dr. Peter Douros - MHS 1984
Chair Scholarship Sub-Committee

This year's Scholarship Program opened on Monday 5 July and was due to close on Friday 13 August. Given the impact of snap lockdowns, the Committee extended the close date to Friday 17 September, the end of Term 3.

We have received many high-quality submissions from current MHS students and Old Boys undertaking tertiary studies. The Scholarship sub-committee will review, select and award successful candidates in Term 4. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their submission(s) in writing.

We acknowledge Old Boys and their families who support this program and sincerely thank:



Professor Ross Fitzgerald AM



Mr Peter Ivany AO



The Men for All Seasons



Mr John Ly (Nguyen)



The Mahoney Family



The Verma Family



The Webber Family



Mr Lambis Englezos AM

MHSOBA Scholarship Program (con't)

Become a Scholarship Sponsor

This year we were delighted to welcome two new supporters to our Scholarship Program.

A meaningful way to support current MHS students and Old Boys completing tertiary studies, you determine the selection criteria and value of your Scholarship which is tax-deductible.

Interested to know more? To create a new Scholarship in your, your family or your son's name for 2022, please contact peter.douros@mhsoba.asn.au

You can also [make a single or recurring tax-deductible donation](#) to the MHSOBA Scholarship Fund.

Whatever your contribution, it is most welcome.

Honour The Work



Dr Peter Douros
Chair, Scholarships Sub-Committee
MHS 1984



Student Vocational Seminar Series 2021

In league with MHS Careers, MHSOBA delivered our Vocational Seminar Series in Term 3.

In this series of informal online sessions, presenters share study, work and life experiences. Students of all ages can gain meaningful insight into pathways, courses and professions. We extend grateful thanks Mr Bill Theodoropoulos, Careers Coordinator at MHS and the following Old Boys and associates for their time and contribution to this year's program:

Commerce & Finance

Nicholas Benbow

MHS 1996
Audit & Assurance
Director



Engineering

Hoang Vu

Manager, PSS
Projects & Field
Services



Medicine

Shayan Soroush

MHS 2020
Doctor of Medicine
(MD) Student,
Monash University



Medicine

Kiran Rasaratnam

MHS 2020
Doctor of Medicine
(MD) Student,
Monash University



Creative Arts

James Zong

Classical Pianist
MHS 2014



Law

Tom Egan

MHS 2011
Legal Adviser
Public Law Team,
Department of
Premier & Cabinet



Law

Christos Stathopoulos

MHS 2011
Junior Solicitor,
Christopher James
Lawyers



MHS School Captain 2022



Introducing School Captain-elect, Arth Tuteja

To the wider Melbourne High School Community, I am honoured to be writing this passage, having been appointed as School Captain in 2022. As a 16-year-old, Indian-Australian, I never knew I was capable of such a coveted position, as the leader of our cohort. My family has long ingrained the virtues of passion, honesty and diligence as key markers of successful people - with the notion of being close to one's family of utmost importance to me as well.

These skills have pushed me to be as involved in the Melbourne High School community as possible. I have been a rower, an Australian Air Force Cadet, a drummer, a choir member and held a variety of leadership positions throughout the school.

As an ethnic individual, I also have a great passion for culture, speaking 5 languages with relative fluency. This has allowed me to represent the school, having won the statewide Sayembara Indonesian Speaking Competition, for the year 11 cohort. As a confident public speaker, I have also represented our institution twice on the ABC's Q+A, most recently as a panelist.



This translates also to a keen interest in public life, whereby as president of Political Interest Group in 2021, we most recently invited the leader of the Australian Greens, Mr Adam Bandt MP, to address young people virtually. Melbourne High School has taught me the necessity of teamwork, comradery, and trust to developing ourselves as gentlemen - a term which highlights the identity of the current, past and future students of our institution.

On the 15th of September at approximately 4:30pm, I received a call from our principal Dr Anthony Mordini, where I learned I would be Melbourne High School's 2022 School Captain. As I answered that call in fact, I initially asked 'Dr Mordini do I need a box of tissues or...?' - little did I know there was indeed jubilant news awaiting me.

MHS School Captain 2022 (con't)

Since arriving at the school in 2019, I have worked incredibly hard to understand what it means to be a captain and work on the leadership qualities within me. My appointment to this role, is a recognition of that effort. It is, by and large, the greatest honour of my schooling life to be selected as the student leader of our prestigious institute. In 2022, as we return to the 'Castle on the Hill' in person, I look forward to promoting a few key ideals.

Namely the necessity of interconnectedness, the development of our social intelligence and the intrinsic value of same-sex schools, particularly as we continue to approach a more gender equal society. These goals will hopefully be achieved from our exciting initiative in 2022 - TedxMelbourneHighSchool, pending licensing approval from the United States of America.

These series of events, which have been spearheaded by myself and Dr Mordini, will address the matters I raised above. They will incorporate a great deal of co-operation from the wider Melbourne High School community, as they require extensive organisation and will further allow MHS to claim its leading and rightful place on the international educational stage. Of paramount importance, is that these events will facilitate and encourage discussions that will develop our students to produce more equitable gentlemen, as they enter our society as role-models.

Lastly, I will also be furthering the initiative of the inclusion of the International Baccalaureate (IB), in 2022 at MHS, having been worked on diligently by current school captain, Jaffer Al-Haidary. The role of School Captain subverts the notion of just a one-year term and is a life-long role, with accompanying legacy - a badge of honour I will proudly represent in my professional future.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do let me know. I look forward to working closely with the MHSOBA in the near future.

Arth Tuteja



MHS Vice-Captain 2022



Introducing School Vice-Captain-elect, Magnus Mulhall.

If I had to choose one experience, achievement, or interest to encapsulate who I am as a person I think I'd choose the Bluey Truscott Scholarship. The Bluey Truscott Scholarship is an MHSOBA bursary that recognises breadth and excellence in all areas of life (sport, music, academic and leadership). At the end of last year, I was fortunate enough to receive this scholarship. I see this scholarship as an amalgamation of many of the sporting, musical and leadership activities I've pursued throughout my life thus far.

As an athlete I've had the opportunity to play Water Polo on a national and international level. Throughout 2019, on a trip through the UK and Europe, I trained with an assortment of different Water Polo teams, some of which were the Oxford University Men's Team, the Edinburgh University Men's Team and the Barcelona Water Polo Academy. This year I was also fortunate enough to be nominated to travel to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra as a junior athlete and train at the Born 2004 National Water Polo Training Camp with 20 other U17s from across the country.

In addition to my time spent in the aquatic Water Polo environment, I've also pursued music since a very young age. Having started violin at 4 years old, saxophone at 12 and tuba (albeit short lived...) at 14, I've had the chance to explore countless avenues and genres of music. At my Saturday music school, prior to COVID-19 restrictions, I used to thoroughly enjoy balancing the string ensembles and quartets I used to play violin in, with the jazz bands I'd find myself and my saxophone in.

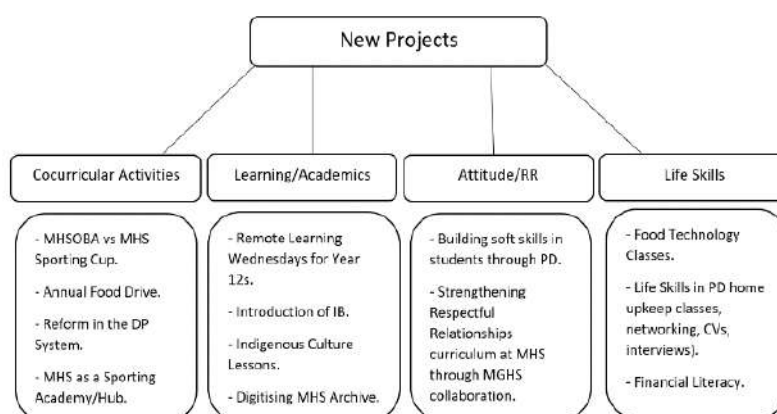
I can distinctly remember always enjoying finishing a baroque strings rehearsal with complex and well-structured music and walking right into a completely contrasting jazz ensemble featuring music with very little structure and ridiculous amounts of improvisation. Music means many things to me, but I suppose the very fundamental reason for why I play music is to express myself. I've found that, for me, music is an extremely effective and constructive emotional outlet.

MHS Vice-Captain 2022 (con't)

Leadership has also played an enormous role in who I am as a person. Leadership has and will always be an extremely strong passion of mine, not only within the MHS community but also extending out into my local community through sport and music. It's through my interest in leadership and the immense support of my mentors, teachers, and family (hats off to you Mum and Dad!) that I've been able to hold many of my leadership roles within MHS.

Throughout my journey as a leader, I've been elected as School Council Student Representative and SRC Year Level Executive, I've received the award of 'Best Delegate' in the Harvard University Innovation Challenge and I've been selected as one of 300 Class of 2022 Monash University Young Scholars. More recently, I've also had the tremendous privilege of being selected as Melbourne High School's 2022 Vice School Captain, which is a role I don't take on lightly.

To me this role holds one overarching purpose. It's about impact. Positive impact, to be clear. This role is an amazing opportunity to not only engage with the younger students of MHS but to play a part in their development as respectful, intelligent and empathetic young adults.



Next year I hope to continue the work Jaffer and I have carried out this year on the introduction of IB to MHS. I also intend to explore the potential of an MHSOBA vs MHS Sporting Cup through which the many MHS Old Boy sporting clubs can return to the 'Castle on the Hill' and challenge the current MHS teams. In addition to these goals, to the right I have also listed many of the additional ideas and goals I hope to pursue.

I am tremendously grateful for the support and guidance my family, mentors and teachers have provided me throughout my journey as a leader. I look forward to a 2022 that offers nothing but great opportunity. Here's to a memorable 2022.

Magnus Mulhall

MHS Foundation News



MHS Foundation

The MHS Foundation is the fundraising arm of MHS. Through partnerships with current students, Old Boys and parents we encourage our community to give back to both the school and wider community.

An update on the impact of the Annual Appeal

The MHS school community has again demonstrated its commitment to the school through generous contributions to this year's Annual Appeal. An incredible \$123,394 was raised, with a significant proportion of donations received from the Old Boy community.

The impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on student health and well-being was again a focus of this year's fundraising. Last year, donations were used to increase the school psychologist's hours to meet increased demand for her services. This year, donations will help MHS improve its mental health literacy. The MHS Foundation is supporting the Health and Wellbeing Team to undertake training to be able to train others in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA), an evidence-based program designed for adults working, caring for or living with adolescents; and Teen Mental Health First Aid (TMHFA), a course to help adolescents support their peers. Once trained, the team will be qualified to run programs across our school community, building the capacity of staff, parents, and students to understand and respond to mental distress and crises.

The Foundation also replied to a request from Friends of Music to address the school's shortage of Double Bass instruments. With only one functioning double bass for performances, rehearsals and music lessons, student learning outcomes have been significantly impacted. Accessing funds from the Arts & Cultural Trust, three double basses were purchased for the Music Department this year to bridge this gap in amenity. Members of the GM&B also banded together to raise funds for the purchase of an electric organ for the school. A big thanks to all those who have contributed to the Arts and Cultural Trust over the years. It is through the generous support of our community that we can continue our strong tradition of music excellence.

MHS Foundation News (con't)

MHS Foundation Board

The MHS Foundation AGM took place in September, where it was announced that two old boys were joining the Board. Ben Mahoney (EX 1991) and Rodney Cocks CSM (EX 1994) will lend their significant expertise towards the governance and strategic direction of the MHS Foundation. They will join fellow old boys John Wertheimer AM RFD (EX1954) and Sam Theodore (EX 1982) as Board Directors.

You can find out more about the MHS Foundation Board [here](#).

Regular Giving now an option

The MHS Foundation recently upgraded our donation platform, and we now have the capability to support regular monthly or yearly donations. You can choose any amount you can comfortably afford. It's quick and easy to get started and you will be helping to provide a regular funding stream for the school's most pressing needs.

Click here to make a [donation](#)

MHSOBA congratulates and extends best wishes to Old Boys serving as Directors on the MHS Foundation Board:



Colonel John Wertheimer AM



Sam Theodore



Ben Mahoney



Rodney Cocks CSM

GM&B Update



Daryl Brooks, Patron-in-Chief

GM&B Members have been advised by email of our next Members' Forum that is scheduled for Tuesday 19th October at 7.00pm which is to be conducted online.

All members are urged to attend as we have two most important presenters who will give first-hand insight into the immense number of challenges that the school confronts from its remote learning operations in 2021, as well as those that can be anticipated as it transitions its students, staff and the wider school community back to the on-site experience and recovery in 2022 and beyond.

The spirit of the school, its staff, students, parents and the wider school family has been tested severely again this year, and we trust in how strong the school pillars stand. This Forum will provide valuable direction to the GM&B Patrons' Club as it endeavours to continue to strengthen those pillars by nourishing and enriching the MHS spirit for all through its people and programs.

The School Principal Dr Tony Mordini, who was introduced to members in Forum 1 2021, and the newly elected School Council President Mr Henry McLaughlin will be our two keynote speakers heading the bill for Forum 2.

They have been invited to share their perspectives on the 2021 MHS experience, and to offer propositions to the GM&B relating to the future priority engagement and contribution of Old Boys.

It is hoped that the presentations will ignite the development of aligned, collaborative, coordinated strategies that will reach out to our Old Boys' community in a range of ways in order to achieve new levels of engagement with, and contribution to the school's imperatives in the short and longer term.



GM&B Update (con't)

Members will have opportunity to provide important post-Forum feedback online to the GM&B Executive and the MHSOBA that will help us to formulate initiatives and harness the deep reserves of potential support that our school will need and value quite urgently.

Updates will also be provided on the GM&B Membership initiatives, and the current status of Mentoring, Heritage and Junior Leadership Programs, all of which have experienced severe interruption and adaptations in recent times. Looking forward to busy times and positive developments ahead,

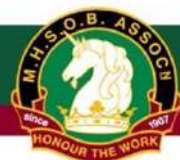
Stay safe.

Healthy regards

Daryl Brooks (MHS 1970)
Patron-in-Chief



GM&B
PATRONS CLUB



Sadly, after a brief pause during an earlier lockdown our MHSOBFC football season was officially cancelled by the VAFA after community sport was completely shut down. Clearly many other members of society faced far greater heartache and challenges than us but whilst accepting that, it did very little to dampen the immense disappointment we felt when the announcement was made.

As a Club we have again been well served by some outstanding personnel during 2021; in particular I would like to thank Senior Coach Bernie Pretty, Football Operations Manager Lachlan McKinnon and Secretary Kylie da Fonte. There is an amazing vibe within our playing ranks which has been momentarily stifled but there is no doubt it will quickly regenerate once preseason training is allowed to commence.

A few weeks ago, Bernie Pretty (right) posted the following message to our Unicorn community.

It provides a brief summary of events and clearly displays the passion he has for future success.



Season 2021 has come to an end.

Today the VAFA confirmed our suspicions that the season has now been cancelled. What a season it was. Coming off the back of 2020 – the first ‘non-season’ since World War II, I look back grateful that we had the opportunity to play 11 games of AFL football. Three of our four sides qualified to play finals.

Our development squad was re-born. With new coaches and new faces they charged home strong into the finals. Our reserves maintained the rage they have shown for the last 7 years again putting themselves in a position to taste success. Our thirds gave opportunities for players to develop and grow that the club will no doubt benefit from down the track. Our senior side was very well placed for promotion and maybe more! We lost round one by 16 points and had a few excuses. We then went on to win the next 10 games in a row and were clearly the highest scoring side in our Division.

MHSOB Football Club News



We have been blessed with an engaged and committed playing group that continues to astound me with their love and empathy for each other. Our success has not been measured in silverware, but rather through an ongoing commitment as we chased joy together. I simply cannot wait to chase some more joy in 2022.

Thank you all for everything in season 2021. To our players, coaches, sponsors, committee members, volunteers and supporters – we couldn't have achieved what we did this year without your individual contributions – and we now look forward to bigger and better things in the near future.

Celebrate don't commiserate.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold our Presentation Night which was planned to be a gala event early in October. Full details of all award winners will be provided in the next MHSOBFC update but at this stage we can congratulate **Ashan Wijayakumara** (below) who won the 2021 VAFA Division 2 goal kicking award with 42 goals.

Warren Fall
President
MHSOBFC



MHSOB Hockey Club Update



It's no news to anyone who plays sport in Victoria that it's been another unfulfilled year for Melbourne High School Old Boys Hockey Club.

Like all other sports, the club had another season devastated by Covid and was cut short at 10 rounds. Many of our members and supporters work in the medical sector and in support roles for the vulnerable in our community, and we continue to support and commend their vital work.

The club is planning for summer hockey and is entering teams in mixed, men's, women's, masters and juniors summer competitions. This is a great opportunity for anyone to come and try some hockey. Contact the club through Facebook, mhsobhc.com, Instagram or email secretary@mhsobhc.com

The club will hold its AGM in October/November and looks forward to preparing for a season less effected by Covid. Hopefully we can also squeeze in a few social events before the next winter season starts as well.

The club would also like to thank its major sponsors Brady Tiling and Australian Venue Co. for their support throughout the year.



Men for All Seasons – Review



The MFAS 21st Spring "End Of Lockdown" Lunch scheduled for Friday 3rd September was regrettably [##CANCELLED##](#). Our special guest speaker was Dr Tony Mordini, the MHS Principal whom the MFAS were looking forward to meeting. These events are the cornerstone of MFAS fundraising for MHS charity, so we look forward to bouncing back at the 21st Summer/Christmas Lunch scheduled for Friday 3rd December 2021.

The 1982 exit year, "40 years on" reunion will be held in 2022, so let's get together! Please get in touch with your old boy contacts and make it a reunion to remember – to register your interest please email mfas@wood.net.au

To keep our spirits up we revisited images from the MFAS Spring Lunch from 2015 below.

Vale Peter Ross, Director of Music, Melbourne High School who passed away recently. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by many MFAS members who were his students. RIP.

Vale Nola Joan Collins, our condolences to long time MFAS member Mark Ryder and his family on the passing of his mum.

If in need, please ask for help or visit www.ruok.org.au or www.beyondblue.org.au



Above left
Peter Day (left) and Paul Chester



Above right (left to right)
Tim Morgan, Alasdair Billingham, Greg Berry, David Ford

Right – Peter Stathopoulos (left) and Peter Wood



Marathon Man – Tokyo Olympics



An athlete's personal view by Rhydian Cowley, MHS 2008

Tokyo 2020 was an Olympics like no other:

- no crowds
- all teams had masks in their uniform
- the only Olympics held in an odd numbered year

To add to that, the Racewalks and the Marathons were for the first time not held in the host city!

They were instead held 800km north in Sapporo, to reduce the risks of extreme heat and humidity to athletes and spectators; the Tokyo summer is notoriously brutal. Even then, it was over 30 degrees and 70%+ humidity in Sapporo through the Olympics.



Regarding preparing during lockdowns, I personally consider myself very lucky. Walking is the most accessible form of exercise, so all I needed to do was put some shoes on and go outside to continue my training, although I did require a treadmill to comply with the exercise time limits of Lockdown Two. I could also do strength and conditioning training at home. I was fortunate in other ways too - I could work from home, and with no children my partner and I did not have to home-school. We recognise that many others do not have these privileges.



Over the past five years, I have had much practice developing all the tools required to perform well in a hot weather championship, centring around strategies of heat acclimation, pre-cooling, in event cooling and heat perception, nutrition, and hydration.

To be acclimated to the summer heat coming from a Melbourne winter was challenging - I spent two days a week training in the Victorian Institute of Sport's heat chamber from April onwards, and an Australian team camp was held in July in the final lead up to the Games.

Marathon Man – Tokyo Olympics (con't)

Ultimately, my preparations were successful. I finished 8th in a photo finish - yes, a photo finish after nearly 4 hours of racing (I was just pipped at the line for 7th), less than 2 minutes behind the leader, and the only participant to record a personal best in the field. This was easily my best performance at a championship race, and a reward for the effort and resources I have put into preparing. I outperformed many full-time athletes, which I am proud of having worked full time for the past 4 years.



As the Australian walks and marathon team flew directly to Sapporo, we did not get to see the Olympic Village until after we had finished competing. Apart from our hotel, training venue, and race venue, we did not get to see much of the city.

We were very lucky that we were able to attend the closing ceremony because our events were at the end of the program. While it would have been very nice to see more of Sapporo and of Tokyo, ultimately safety for competitors and our hosts was important. The social camaraderie aspect of the games was very reduced compared to my previous experiences in Rio 2016.

Marathon Man – Tokyo Olympics (con't)

All athletes and team staff wanted to avoid the risk of a Covid-19 diagnosis or even being a close contact, which could rule them out of competition, so we mostly kept to our own teams, and were particularly mindful of taking precautions in indoor settings.

The Australian team was proud to note that none of our athletes contracted Covid-19. Getting all athletes and staff to the Games and back home again safely was a huge undertaking for the AOC, and I really appreciate all the effort their staff put in to support us.

Many athletes struggle with the emotional comedown after an Olympic Games. In that sense, the 2-week quarantine was a good opportunity to plan and manage that comedown back to normal life. Although I was very happy to get out of my room at the end of the 14 days, the time to mentally reflect, read a lot of books, physically recover and guest speak at maybe a dozen virtual meetings was valuable for me.

The virtual guest speaker events were a great way for Olympians to feel recognised for their achievements, and for people, particularly school students, who have had a challenging time during this pandemic, to connect with the heroes they had just watched compete. I must also say, compared to quarantine, being in lockdown is an upgrade!

I'd like to thank my parents, fiancée, coach, AOC, Athletics Australia and VIS support staff, my friends and my community for their support. Every single one of them made a difference to my experience. In sport as in life, it takes a team to Honour the Work to the fullest extent possible.



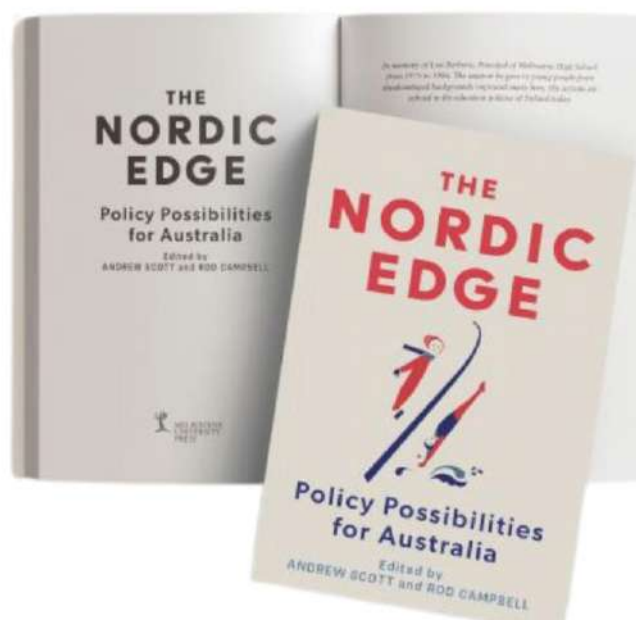
Literary Review

THE NORDIC EDGE: Policy Possibilities for Australia

Edited by Andrew Scott and Rod Campbell

Professor Andrew Scott of Deakin University (MHS 1977-1980) is co-editor of The Nordic Edge: Policy Possibilities for Australia and dedicates this new book to former MHS Principal, Lou Barberis.

Andrew's decision to dedicate the book may interest you as a tribute to the leadership qualities and humanitarianism of our former school Principal who died in 2005.



Andrew writes: "This dedication publicly expresses my appreciation of the positive importance which Melbourne High School – under the leadership of Mr Barberis – played in my life. I know school was very important for many others too, but also that it was not a perfect place. There will be many different memories of, and reflections on, the school Forty Years On. One of the hardest things now is that we have been losing many wonderful former members of the Melbourne High School community from those days far too young".

The book is now available in bookshops. More information can be [found here](#).

Notable Old Boys

The Old Boy community is vibrant and ever-changing. In this new addition to our newsletter, we bring you news of personal and professional endeavour, past and present.

**Professor Ego Seeman, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.P., A.M.
MHS 1961-1964**

Austin Health Endocrinologist receives prestigious award

Austin Health Endocrinologist, Professor Ego Seeman AM, has been awarded the International Osteoporosis Foundation's prestigious President's Award for his contribution to combating the disease.



Prof Seeman said the award was recognition for a commitment to the field of osteoporosis over many years. "I've spent my life working in one area and have enjoyed every minute of my career," Prof Seeman said.

"There are lots of people walking around who deserve recognition so when I received a letter from the International Osteoporosis Foundation I was a little bit surprised. Many people have helped me along the way. You always meet others who are so much better than you are and I was lucky these people gave me the courage and confidence to try things and question the status quo.

"I am particularly indebted to Professor George Jerums whose grace and knowledge is an inspiration to the many Endocrinologists in Australia who worked under his supervision. I don't think I'm a special person but I have the love of something comes from working hard at it."

"In the words of English playwright, Noel Coward, "work is much more fun than fun," he said.

Prof Seeman encouraged the next generation of scientists and healthcare experts to continuing pushing the boundaries. "It's so important that we foster a culture of scientific rigor, that people challenge and question, and are not afraid to disagree," he said.

"Science keeps evolving and nobody has the truth cornered. Knowledgeable people giving each other hell creates an electric atmosphere and helps to move us forward."

Notable Old Boys (con't)

“Leadership and courage are among the most important talents people can have and Austin Health has a great tradition of mentoring. I am privileged to have worked at the Austin where people like the great Professors Austin Doyle, TJ Martin, and Richard Larkins taught us all the skills of scepticism, enquiry, careful use of the spoken and written word, and taught us how to think – a tradition that continues with the leadership of the Endocrine unit and Department of Medicine by Jeff Zajac today.

“The best mentors I’ve had have been good enough to share their knowledge with me and then step back which I’m very grateful for,” he said.

Professor Seeman was previously appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2016 for his ground-breaking contributions to research into osteoporosis and endocrinology.

Source – Austin Health iNews, 7 September 2020

Tarang Chawla **MHS 2001 - 2004**



We congratulate Tarang for his recent appointment as a Commissioner to The Victorian Multicultural Commission.

The Victorian Multicultural Commission welcomes Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Ros Spence’s announcement of eight new appointees to the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Each commissioner is recognised for their skills and lived experience championing cultural and religious diversity across Victoria.

The new appointees are:

- Lunorphare (Luna) Folly (Youth Commissioner)
- Abiola Akinbiyi (Community Representative Commissioner)
- Tarang Chawla
- Jennifer Huppert
- Nyangak (Lizzy) Kuoth
- Mohamed Mohideen
- Bill Papastergiadis
- Silvia Renda

Reviewed 25 August 2021

Source - <https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/welcoming-our-new-multicultural-commissioners>

Notable Old Boys (con't)

Michael Keats

MHS 1948 - 1951

Michael Keats is a journalist with more than 50 years' experience as a foreign correspondent and in editorial management. In his career, he reported from 88 of the 193 member countries of the United Nations. He began his career in 1952 as a copyboy with the now defunct *Argus* newspaper and then as a cadet reporter with Australian United Press (AUP) news agency. He later went to Brisbane to work on the *Brisbane Telegraph* (also defunct) and in the Queensland Network newsroom of the 4BC group of radio stations.



He left Australia for Europe in 1956 and joined the US agency United Press in London – which became United Press International (UPI), and travelled through Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia as a foreign correspondent for the next 35 years – covering the major events of that era, including conflicts in the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Lebanon, Afghanistan.

In 1991, he left UPI to work as a UN spokesman/press officer in Africa then in the Balkans during fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina before becoming managing editor of Inter Press Service (IPS) – a news agency providing contextualised news and analyses on global issues as they affect the developing world.

In early 2000, Mike went to Kosovo, after the 1999 invasion of Serbia by NATO forces, as the public information officer for UNMIK - the UN administration in that territory. He then went to Geneva in 2002, to head the press unit of the International Labour Organization and later served in their Washington office as spokesman for North America.

Source

The Wheeler Centre www.wheelercentre.com

Notable Old Boys (con't)

**Professor Alan Wolff OAM – MHS 1970
1952 to 2021**

“HOSPITAL RECOGNITION FOR PROFESSOR ALAN WOLFF”

The Weekly Advertiser, 21 July 2021 (Horsham)



Paul Carracha Photography

Officials have renamed Wimmera Medical Centre in Horsham in honour of former Wimmera Health Care Group medical services director Alan Wolff.

Professor Wolff, OAM, and family members including his wife Dr Yvonne Cymbalist attended a renaming ceremony.

The centre has become Alan Wolff Medical Centre, reflecting on Professor Wolff's legacy to Wimmera health care, which spans 37 years.

Professor Wolff has wide recognition for his role in introducing clinical risk-management programs into health services across Australia, based on his 20 years of extensive research. He developed and refined an integrated and sustainable quality-improvement and risk-management program for Wimmera Health Care Group.

Health services across Victoria, interstate and internationally implemented the model, which had support from a relevant evidence and theory-based book, journal articles, lecturing and many presentations.

In 2009, Professor Wolff, WHCG and Sally Taylor wrote 'Enhancing Patient Care: a practical guide to improving quality and safety in hospitals'. The book provides a comprehensive review of the quality and safety literature, distilling the practical aspects of designing, implementing and maintaining a quality and safety program in a hospital and describes in detail Wimmera quality and safety programs.

In 2020, Alan was interviewed by ABC Wimmera in a series entitled “**The Wolff Pact**”.

[The Wolff Pact – Part 1](#)

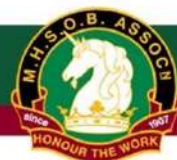
[The Wolff Pact – Part 2](#)

[The Wolff Pact – Part 3](#)

[The Wolff Pact – Part 4](#)

Queen's Birthday Honours 2021

Professor Wolff was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to medicine.



Notable Old Boys (con't)

John Scurry MHS 1962 – 1965



John Scurry was born in 1947 in Melbourne, Victoria. He studied at the Prahran College of Advanced Education, graduating with a Diploma of Art and Design in 1969. In 1971 he gained a Trained Tertiary Certificate from Hawthorn Institute of Education.

From 1973 to 1976 Scurry worked as a full time Senior Tutor in the Printmaking Department of the Preston Institute of Technology, going on to become the Acting Head of the Department in 1976. Working as a Lecturer in the Drawing Department of Prahran College of Advanced Education he then became a Lecturer in Printmaking from 1977 to 1978.

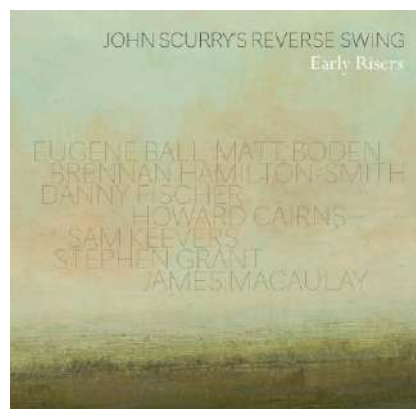
In 1979 he began teaching as Full time Lecturer in Printmaking at the Victoria College of the Arts, where in the following years he was Senior Lecturer in Charge of Printmaking in the Faculty of Art and Design (1982-1991, Head of Printmaking School of Art (1991-2003) and Senior Lecturer (2003-2007) before retiring to focus his time on his own work.

John has held numerous Solo Exhibitions and contributed to countless Group Exhibitions. His works are held in significant corporate, gallery and tertiary institution collections. In past years he has also taken private portrait and print commissions. [His work can be viewed here.](#)

A multi-disciplinary artist of many talents, John is also an accomplished guitarist.

An icon of the Melbourne jazz fraternity, in March this year he released his second original album "Early Risers" featuring his band "Reverse Swing".

[Click here for more.](#)



Notable Old Boys (con't)

Dr Harry Unglik, MHS 1963-1967

North Melbourne has welcomed life member, former club doctor and former AFL chief medical officer, Dr Harry Unglik, to the Board.

With one of the most successful sports medicine clinics in Melbourne, the Midtown Medical Clinic, Unglik specialises in sports medicine but brings extensive knowledge of general practice, with a passion for holistic health and well-being.



Unglik was the Head Doctor of the Kangaroos from 1983-2001, which included two Premierships in 1996 and 1999. He served as Chief Medical Officer at the AFL for 16 years and has been instrumental in the formation of many of the medical policies and regulations the league adheres to.

In 2014 Unglik was awarded Life Membership at the AFL. Unglik's experience and expertise saw him selected as an Olympic Doctor in Sydney in 2000 and All-Australian AFL team doctor in 2000 and 2001.

"It's very exciting," Unglik said of the appointment. "I spent a long time there as the doctor and met some wonderful people and made some great bonds that are still very strong.

"I look forward to helping out in any way I can, with medical, strength and conditioning, rehabilitation, the sports science part of the club, which is a very important part as well as mental health. The physical and mental health of all players and staff is fundamental to the success of an AFL club. I look forward to adding value in these areas and any other areas where I can bring my industry experience to the fore.

"I just want to see our club being successful and having been there through a successful era in the 90s, I want to see us there again, so if I can help in any way it would be a pleasure to do that."

Nov 6, 2020, 5:15pm

Source - <https://www.nmfc.com.au/news/834289/north-board-appointment>

Notable Old Boys (con't)

Stephen Neil Foley

MHS 1975

Steve was in the School Swimming Team, School Soccer Team and the 3rd XVIII. He represented Australia at three Olympics (Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984), three Commonwealth Games (1978 Edmonton, 1982 Brisbane where he won Silver and 1986 Edinburgh), and then was involved in Coaching, first for Australia, then Great Britain, then the U.S.A. and has returned to Australia since 2017.



[Click here to view](#) Steve diving from the 10m platform at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

To view an insightful interview where Steve shares his journey and sporting career, make a cup of tea, get comfortable and [click here](#).

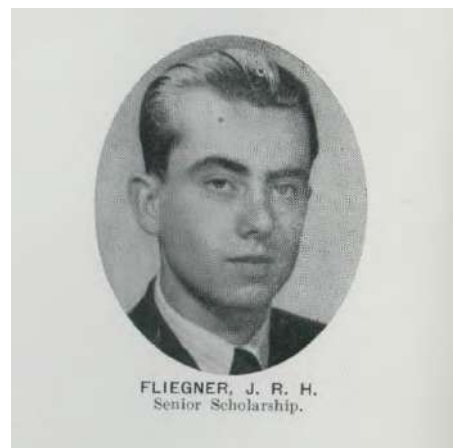
History Notes: MHS and its Post WWII Stalwarts

By Professor John Fliegner, MHS 1947 - 1951

The scene at MHS after World War II was totally different to today. There was no pool or gymnasium, and there were no female staff members.

About half of the teachers were regular smokers.

The staff common room was in the middle of the top floor above the main entrance, and underneath the tower. It was cramped and stuffy, with a strong smell of cigarette smoke filling the air.



The staff comprised a mixture of ex-servicemen and a younger group without war service. The curriculum was academic, English, science, mathematics, history and foreign languages being emphasised. There was a shortage of resources and capable teachers in many subjects, and many of the students were refugees who spoke little English.

In 1946 over three hundred ex-servicemen attended evening classes at the school, and in 1947 forty sat for the matriculation examination.

This was the situation in 1949 when Brigadier George Langley was appointed Principal, following the retirement of Major General Alan Ramsay (1945-1948).

Serving as Principal from 1949 to 1956 George Langley was unquestionably one of MHS's greatest leaders and visionaries. He led from the front and expected others to follow. Although benevolent in appearance with a faint smile he was a strong leader who was decisive but fair in his decisions.

He was very popular and actively supported the teaching staff in the many clubs that flourished after World War II. Naturally, the school cadets and band were his prime interest.

George Langley was an excellent after dinner speaker, and his assembly addresses to the students were memorable. He had a great working relationship with his tireless Vice Principal, Bill Woodfull.

Langley was instrumental in the development of the Tecoma Forestry Camp in the early 1950's. He saw this venture as a future "Timbertop" for MHS that taught forestry, geology, botany, and zoology.

History Notes: MHS and its Post WWII Stalwarts

This has been replaced by the Millgrove Outdoor Education Centre, and Langley's aspirations have been fulfilled.

Brigadier George Langley died on August 24, 1971 aged eighty. He was a remarkable soldier, visionary and principal, who left an enduring legacy of honouring the work.

During my time as a student at MHS between 1947 and 1951 there were a group of extremely committed teachers who influenced my future medical career. This culminated in my appointment as Associate Professor to Sir Lance Townsend in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Melbourne University.

The following is a biographical review of five MHS teachers who were post-war trailblazers, and notable for their leadership and commitment.

Eric Meehan (1910—1960)

Eric Meehan was very tall, thin, and with a very prominent larynx. After initial training in the Jesuit Order he was appointed to the teaching staff at the Tooronga Branch of MHS during World War II.

In the years between 1947 and 1952 Eric made an enormous contribution to the unified school. He was an excellent teacher in mathematics, English and Latin.



However, he is best remembered as being the pioneer of Drama at MHS. Being an accomplished actor and producer, he founded the school Drama Club. His enthusiasm resulted in the formation of a Junior Drama Movement in Victorian schools, and Eric was elected the Foundation President in 1948.

The Drama Club regularly attended performances of the Old Vic Company and presented Drama festivals on parent's nights. Everywhere Eric went his presence was acutely felt, and he energised the school. He was a very kind man with a gentle disposition.

In 1953 Eric Meehan was promoted to Brighton High School. Fortunately he was replaced by Neville Drohan who continued the successful development of the school Drama Club.

Unfortunately, Eric Meehan was a heavy smoker. He succumbed to lung cancer in 1960 at the young age of 50.

History Notes: MHS and its Post WWII Stalwarts

Laurence Collins (1910—1987)



Laurence Collins was born on August 30, 1910. He had a traditional Catholic education and was not an old boy of MHS.

After leaving the Melbourne Teacher's College and teaching at Coburg and Moreland High Schools he was posted to MHS in 1941. He remained there until the end of 1952.

Laurie Collins had an especially friendly disposition. He was called "Smiley" by the boys and was popular.

I remember him when I was in 6A2 as an outstanding maths teacher. His expertise was in statistical analysis and probabilities. He was able to come up with the chances of winning Tatts Lotto, or the number of car registrations possible with three letters of the alphabet and three numbers.

In 1958 Collins was appointed headmaster of Moreland High School, and in 1970 his appointment as Principal of MHS was warmly received.

However these were the most difficult years for any headmaster. Forty-one of the forty-eight VSTA teachers at MHS went on strike on February 15, 1970 over the issue of reform at the Teachers' Tribunal. The strike ended on March 12, 1971 when negotiations with the State Government were successful.

The strike left bitter memories among students, parents, and teachers alike. Throughout it all Collins conducted himself admirably and survived. He retired as Principal in 1975. He enjoyed playing golf and reminiscing with his old school colleagues. His legacy was a firm belief in traditional school values and a steadfast adherence to principle.

Laurie Collins' son, Brother Laurence Collins, is the spitting image of his father. He is also a maths teacher at Emmanuel College in Warrnambool. He continues his father's philosophy of compassion and outreach to those less fortunate in life.

History Notes: MHS and its Post WWII Stalwarts

Alfred H Richards

Alf Richards was one of the longest serving teachers at MHS (1937-1955).

He was a solidly built bespectacled man with a stern face. He rarely seemed to smile. However this rather dour appearance belied his true nature.

Alf Richards was generous, an excellent chemistry teacher, and highly respected by George Langley and the staff at MHS.

He started at MHS in 1937, and in 1940 took over as the senior sixth form master.

He led and expanded the chemistry department at the school, and in the early 1950's had the capable Jack Stove as his deputy.

Richards' stern demeanour frightened many students, but his teaching skills proved to be a great inspiration.

In 1942 an RAAF air training corps was formed at the school, and in 1944 Flight Lieutenant Alf Richards became the Flight Commander.

He was also very active in the Victorian Teachers Association, and the staff at MHS met regularly. Strong collegiality emerged among the staff because of Richards leadership. Unfortunately this often ended in after school drinks at a nearby South Yarra hotel. Bill Woodfull frequently disapproved of this behaviour.

On October 31, 2000 Alf Richards long service record was recorded when he was formally registered as one of the "Distinguished Teachers at MHS". I was fortunate to be present at the evening celebration, and Mrs Richards was also there.

At the end of 1955 Alf Richards, long serving teacher and doyen of the chemistry department departed. In every way he was totally committed to the success of MHS during the difficult war years and beyond. He subsequently became the Principal of Murrumbeena High School.



History Notes: MHS and its Post WWII Stalwarts

Frederic Norman Wells (1905—1963)



Fred Wells was one of the most charismatic teachers at MHS during the post war period. Unfortunately his time at the school was all too short.

A country boy, he was born on March 1905 at Numurkah. He spent two years as a student at MHS in 1920 and 1921, and played in the first eighteen football team. For a short time he played league football with Hawthorn.

After various teaching appointments in country Victoria and outer Melbourne he returned to MHS during 1951 and 1952. Fred Wells was a tall, strongly built man with a dignified presence. He was an excellent teacher of physics and mathematics. Like Professor Julius Sumner Miller he enthralled the students with his hands on approach and questioning attitude.

As well as being a teacher Wells was an accomplished pianist. He frequently entertained with honky tonk music at assemblies and other gatherings. Fred Wells was popular with everyone and encouraged the students to participate in a wide range of school activities. He took a special interest in the photography club.

He left MHS at the end of 1952 and was the headmaster of Swan Hill High School from 1953 to 1962. To everyone's delight he returned as the Principal of MHS in 1963. Another successful year followed. However just before the annual speech night came the tragic news on November 18th of his sudden and unexpected death at home from a heart attack.

The 1963 speech night went ahead, but the atmosphere was subdued and melancholy although the address was given by Sir Rohan Delacombe, the Victorian Governor.

Fred Wells was only 58 when he died. His philosophy was "The job of the school is to offer opportunities for all round growth with strong emphasis on attitudes, for if attitudes are good most other good things will follow".

History Notes: MHS and its Post WWII Stalwarts

John Frederic Miller (1908—1969)



John Miller was born on July 1st, 1908 in Torrington outside Hamilton in western Victoria. The large family were devout Lutherans, and this greatly influenced his subsequent career.

He married in Hanover, Germany in 1931 at the age of 23. After returning to Australia, Miller had a number of teaching appointments in country Victoria, and then Northcote. In the mid 1940's following the death of John Greig, he was offered the position of German language teacher at MHS.

John Miller was a quiet and unassuming man with unlimited patience. He made the learning of either German or Dutch a pleasant experience.

Using audio visual aids his classroom had colourful scenes of the Rhine, the Lorelei and German history.

To cap things off, he was one of the first teachers at MHS to make full use of the tape recorder as a teaching aid. To be able to hear just how you sounded in German was often quite humbling. He also encouraged correspondence between the MHS German students and their counterparts in Germany.

Miller had other attributes. He was an accomplished organist, and regularly performed at Lutheran churches in Melbourne.

He was also an excellent cabinet maker and French polisher. A keen supporter of the Music Club at MHS, he had many dealings with Barry Jones.

John Miller left MHS in 1955 and became the principal of Banyule High School in Heidelberg. He died from a coronary occlusion on September 17th, 1969. This popular and experienced teacher fully encapsulated the MHS motto "Er lehrte die arbeit."

His son, Eberhardt John Miller, was an MHS Old Boy (1947—1951). He graduated in Medicine in 1957 and had a very successful anaesthetic practice based in Dandenong.

From the Archives

From the National Archives of Australia are some photos of a band, of which all the members are Old Boys: Eu Ming Yeow 1957-1958, and the Ko brothers, Boon Chen MHS 1957, Boon Hock MHS 1960-1961 and Boon Kheng MHS 1958-1959.

The first photo(left) is from 1959 and the second (right) from 1963. Boon Chen and Boon Kheng both became Architects, whilst Boon Hock settled in Australia and became a Credit Officer. Eu Ming completed his Bachelor of Commerce (with Honours) and returned to Malaysia for a business career in Malaysia, including time as Executive Director of Minolta marketing in Malaysia.

Luke Savage, Honorary School Archivist



Four Malayan students in Melbourne who formed a dance band for fun now entertain their Australian friends at many social functions. The band, which plays and sings to dance music varying from Tango to Cha-Cha and Rock n Roll practice in their house. Left to right are Mr Yeow, Mr Kong, Mr Ko Boon Kheng and the bandleader Mr Ko Boon Chen

Photographer / Cliff Bottomley.NAA: A1501, A1883/1

The Overseas Malayan Students' Association of Victoria organised a function on 30 August, to celebrate the anniversary of 'Merdeka Day' [Independence]. A capacity crowd of 1500 overseas students and their Australian friends packed the Malvern Town Hall, in the inner suburb of Melbourne - the Malayan students' band "Malayan Knights" which played the latest hits and Latin American tunes are (from left) Ko Boon Chen, his brother Ko Boon Kheng, Ko Boon Hock and Yeow Eu Ming.

Photographer, Cliff Bottomley NAA: A1501, A4635/2

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/AutoSearch.asp?O=I&Number=8905619>

Tributes



Tributes



Alan James Fagan

MHS 1949

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Alan Kinder

MHS 1944 -1946

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Rev Bishop Brian Kyme

MHS 1949 - 1950

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Brian Harvey McDonnell

MHS 1937 - 1938

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Brian Maurice Sabine

MHS 1944 - 1946

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Charles Bernard Slowo

MHS 1965

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Colin Frederick Tippet

MHS 1964 - 1967

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Commander David Clinch OBE

MHS 1949 - 1951

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Donald James Walker

MHS 1946

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Tributes (con't)



Donn Fox
MHS 1949 - 1951
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Edmund Visbord OBE, AO
MHS 1942 - 1946
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Francis William Paine
MHS 1935 - 1937
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Gan Kim Hoe
MHS 1961
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Prof George Bennett OAM
MHS 1949
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Gordon Charles Keatch
MHS 1938
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Graham Walter Rowe
MHS 1948 - 1949
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Professor Harry Redner
MHS 1951 - 1954
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Ian Hugh McGlaughlin
MHS 1947 - 1951
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Tributes (con't)



Jack Stiglitz
MHS 1962 - 1965
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Reverend Jock Ryan
MHS 1940
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John Howard Barclay AM
MHS 1948
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John Kendall Francis
MHS 1943
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John Tice Gellibrand OAM
MHS 1948 - 1951
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John Denton Scholes
MHS 1960 - 1963
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Jules Anseline
MHS 1948 - 1949
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Keith Selwyn Darling
MHS 1941 - 1944
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Keith Sydney Kings
MHS 1942 - 1945
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Tributes (con't)



Major Leslie Malseed
MHS 1942
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Maxwell William Hall
MHS 1944 -1948
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Dr Maxwell Keith Jory
MHS 1965 - 1969
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Michel Graeme Le Maistre
MHS 1948 - 1952
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Paul Alexander Scholes
MHS 1963 - 1966
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Peter William Blyth MBE
MHS 1949 - 1951
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Peter Geoffrey Kerr
MHS 1948 - 1949
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Dr Roger "Peter" Kirkham
MHS 1963 - 1966
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Peter James Ross
MHS Staff 1975-1977 & 1979
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Tributes (con't)



Phillip Ross Tonkin

MHS 1962 - 1963

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Professor Alan Wolff OAM

MHS 1970

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Raymond Charles Simpson

MHS 1935 - 1936

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Richard Edward "Dick" Cotter

MHS Staff 1954 - 1957

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Ronald Osmond Patterson

MHS 1936 - 1937

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Saul Dominitz

MHS 1942 - 1945

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