

In memory of John Grigsby
10 August 1940 - 11 August 2023

MHS Staff 1964 - 1993



NEWSLETTER
December 2023

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From the President



Hello Gentlemen

As 2023 draws to a close, we're pleased to share our latest Newsletter with you.

Happily, this year has seen us return to "business as usual" with a full calendar of **Reunions** and events.

Featuring guest speaker **Jason Edwards** (MHS 1986), our **Annual Dinner** was once again held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. See page 20 for an event overview and gallery of entertaining images. With good attendance and much positive feedback, plans for next year's Dinner in May are already afoot.

We congratulate the **MHS Class of 2023** for outstanding academic achievement. Three students achieved perfect scores of 99.95; 53 students achieved an ATAR or 99 or above; and the median ATAR for MHS students is 94.7 Melbourne High School proudly continues to rate as the top school in Victoria.

Principal Dr Anthony Mordini shares his thoughts on another busy and successful year.

Our **Scholarship Program 2023** continues to grow with increased support from Old Boys and their families. 13 Scholarships totalling \$20,100 are now available to current students and Old Boys completing tertiary studies. We thank all sponsors for their generosity and congratulate Old Boys who have been awarded Scholarships this year. See page 33 for details.

This year we bade farewell to **John Grigsby**, a much-loved and distinguished teacher at MHS from 1964 to 1993 (see page 11). We also note the sad passing of [Simon Crean](#) (MHS 1966).

We bring you updates from the **GM&B Patrons' Club**, **MHS Foundation** and the **MHSOB Football Club**, all of whom have achieved much.

MHSOBA collaborated with MHS again to present this year's **MHS Careers Evening** which was well attended by students and parents. See page 47 for details.



From the President (con't)

Our **Vocational Seminar Series** was successfully delivered in The Unicorn Club in Term 4 featuring accomplished Old Boys who shared their journeys and professional insights to the benefit of current students.

We congratulate Old Boys who received **Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours**. For their invaluable input, we thank School Historian Dr Alan Gregory AM (MHS 1955) and Honorary School Archivist Luke Savage (MHS 1996) for providing historic articles, updates and advice.

The **MHSOBA Committee** welcomed Cameron Hayles to the role of Secretary and met monthly throughout the year. My sincere thanks to all members of the Committee who steadfastly give of their time and expertise in support of our community and programs.

Our events – most held at night and on weekends - could not be delivered without the commitment of our team. Thanks to Jo Malley, Grace Goldstein and Daniel Thompson for their hard work this year. Thanks also to Jodie Gunton for managing our accounts.

We thank **Dr. Anthony Mordini, his MHS leadership team, teachers and staff** for their support. Particular thanks to Matthew Roberts, Robert Sette, Paul Drew, Andrew Sloan, Sam Crocket, Peter Drew, Gareth de Korte, Jacqueline Crothers, Elaine Goulding and Petra Theilhaber for their assistance.

We wish our members, associates and friends all the best for the festive season. We appreciate for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Honour The Work



Colin Axup (MHS 1984)
President, MHSOBA Inc.

Principal's Report – Dr Anthony Mordini



Another successful year.

The year has concluded with some excellent achievements across all domains. Academically, our VCE results were stellar, in NAPLAN we were the highest performing Government secondary school in Victoria, and in several national and international competitions our students have been outstanding.

On the latter point, I wish to acknowledge Oliver Downing (below) who has recently returned from the International Science Olympiad. Olly was one of six Australians chosen and the only one to return with a gold medal. In acknowledging his success, I wish to thank the Melbourne High School Foundation for their financial support. Their generous gift helped cover some of Olly's travel expenses.



Our achievements have also been noteworthy in many other areas including the arts, sport and community service. These are very important adjuncts to our academic program and something we are committed to. It is through these activities that we continue to graduate young people who are more equipped for their future studies, work, community engagement and family life.

Principal's Report (con't)

Recent highlights include:

- Barberis Cup
- Five Highs Cricket Carnival
- Summer Soirée
- Nepal trip



Year 9 Awards Assembly

This week we announced the scholarship winners and the 2023 Academic Awards for the top 5% of the year 9 cohort. The list was long highlighting how many students have excelled in their studies this year.

However, as noted in my address, I am incredibly proud of all our year 9 students. They have settled in well and demonstrated a strong commitment to their studies and extra-curricular activities.

Principal's Report (con't)



Three of our Academic Award winners – Raymond Hu, Taihan Rahman and James Jago

The Simon Bergman Memorial Scholarship

The Simon Bergman Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a Year 9 student each year who has demonstrated academic excellence, co-curricular involvement, and an affinity with the school ethos. The scholarship is in memory of Simon Bergman who attended MHS in 1996 and sadly lost his life to Hodgkin's lymphoma in his first year. From all accounts Simon was an active Year 9 boy who loved Melbourne High and was very engaged in school life. The 2023 recipient is Alexander Fu. Alex is pictured below with Mr and Mrs Bergman.



Principal's Report (con't)

NAPLAN and VCE Results

As noted, our NAPLAN results were excellent and as reported in the media, we were the highest performing Government secondary school. Our VCE results were also impressive and attracted lots of media attention. Our highlights included:

Three perfect scores

Krishav Malhotra 99.95 (Dux)

Mark Liu (99.95)

Oliver Bao (99.95)

- 53 students achieved an ATAR of 99 or above which represents 14.72% of the cohort. (N=360)
- (In 2022, 33 students achieved the same result and this figure represented approximately 11% of the cohort.)
- Median ATAR 94.7 (It was the same in 2022)
- Average 91.59 (In 2022 it was 91)

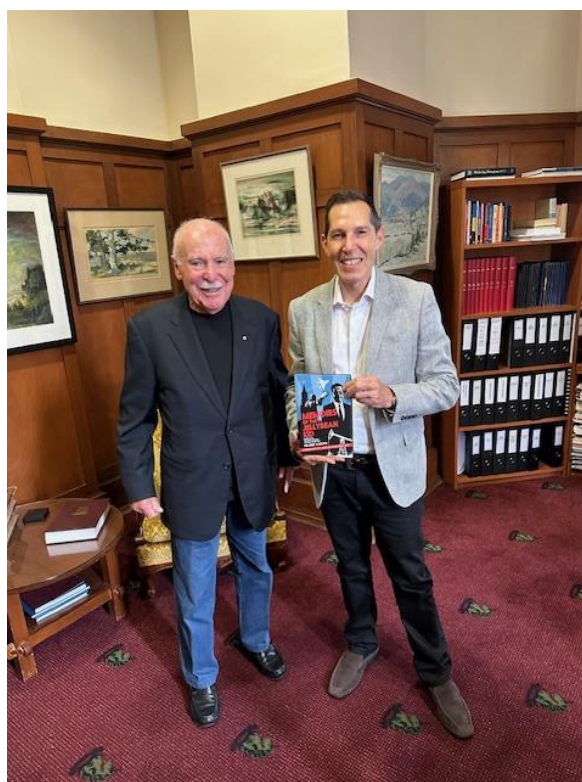
Median study score – 36

Percentage of study scores of 40 and over – 27.9

Principal's Report (con't)

Old Boy Visit – Joseph Aaron

I regularly receive visits from Old Boys. One of my recent visitors was Joseph Aaron (below) Joseph has had a distinguished career in the engineering sector. He had a tour of the school and presented me with a copy of a book written by his cousin Graeme, *Memoirs of the Jellybean Kid*. Graeme is also an alumnus who has spent many years practicing law in London. As with many of our alumni he has a raft of other talents.



All the best for the holiday season

It has been a busy year, and it is now time to rest and recharge. I wish you all the best for the holiday season.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anthony Mordini'.

Dr Tony Mordini
Principal

Annual General Meeting



The MHSOBA Annual General Meeting 2023 was held in The Unicorn Club on Monday 1 May.

The following Committee members were nominated and appointed to serve for the upcoming year:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| • President | Colin Axup, MHS 1984 |
| • Vice President | Warren Fall, MHS 1975 |
| • Treasurer | Ted Goldstein, MHS 1966 |
| • Secretary | Cameron Hayles, MHS 1987 |
| • Scholarships | Peter Douros, MHS 1984 |
| • Community Engagement | Peter Stathopoulos, MHS 1982 |
| • Student Engagement | Bowan Hafey, MHS 2017 |
| • MHSOBA Committee | Robin Sutcliffe, MHS 2013 |

A warm welcome to Cameron Hayles who nominated and was appointed as MHSOBA Secretary. Cameron has previously served on the MHSOBA Committee and brings considerable experience to the role.

As with all volunteer Committee members, we appreciate Cameron's support, time and contribution without which MHSOBA could not serve our community.

[Click here to download the Annual Report](#)



Remembering John Grigsby



**John Raymond James Grigsby B.A.(Hons.), Dip.Ed.
10 August 1940 – 11 August 2023
MHS Staff 1964 – 1993**

Studying a Bachelor of Arts in history, John was awarded Honours for a thesis on the leadership of the Catholic Church under Archbishop Gould (he would go on to write several entries for the Australian Dictionary of Biography on notable Catholics).

As an undergraduate at the University of Melbourne, John lived at Newman College. He would go on to become History Tutor and Senior Tutor at Newman, a role he held for several years including during his early years of teaching at Melbourne High School.

After he completed his Diploma of Education he was appointed to Melbourne High School as teacher of History. He became master in Charge of Debating, and the following year was promoted, and also took charge of the Cadet Unit's Q Store as Captain.

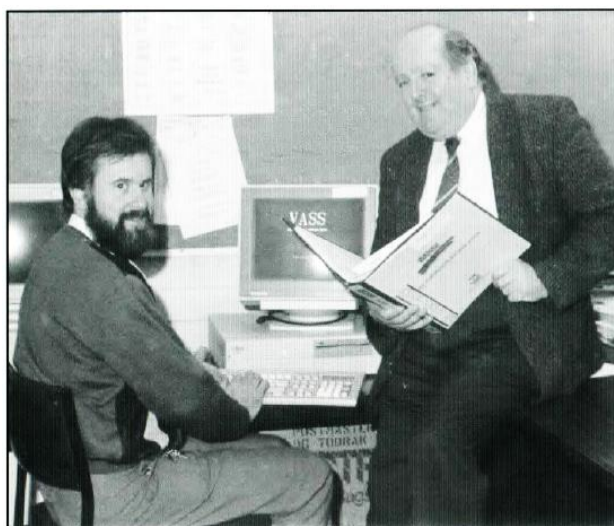
From 1967 he was second in Command of the Cadet Unit to Major Munday and also in charge of the Rifle Shooting team. In 1969 he was promoted to Major and to Officer in Charge of the Cadets, a position he held until 1981, and resumed 1985-1987. The Dress and Drill competition trophy is named after him.



Remembering John Grigsby (con't)

John was a major figure in the school during a turbulent time. The late 1960's saw a push for change away from the traditions of the past, culminating in the Strike of 1971. John, along with several other key staff ensured that academic standards remained high; that the co-curricular side of the school continued; and that the cadets kept going following defunding by the Whitlam government.

He authored several history text books, including *The Turbulent Years* (a history of Australia 1770-1980) and *An Atlas of Australian History*. For the staff revue in the late 1970's he played a very convincing Queen Victoria.



John maintained an active role in curriculum development and assessment of History both at Melbourne High School and at a state level. He was History Co-ordinator at MHS for many years. In this role, he was a positive and valued mentor for many young teachers within the History Department. He was also an examiner for Eighteenth Century History under VUSEB and VISE, working closely with colleagues from both government and independent schools. John was promoted to Fifth Form level Co-ordinator in 1982, and to Year 12 Level Co-Ordinator in 1986.

After time away on long service leave in 1990, he became the Co-ordinator for the new VCE in 1991. This was a challenging role, with the change from an exam based single year HSC, to a two-year course, based around school-based assessment. John was also Staff Rep on School Council for two years.

Remembering John Grigsby (con't)

At the end of 1993 he took a redundancy package and retired early to Geelong. He was a donor of Speech Night prizes from his retirement (Information Management, Heritage and/or Cadets).

At his request there was no funeral, and he was cremated. Part of his ashes were interned at the Geelong Eastern Cemetery and the remainder to be interned at Newman College. Attended by over 80 guests, a farewell was held at the Old Boys' Pavilion following the School's Annual Cadet Parade.

By Luke Savage, Honorary School Archivist MHS 1996 with additions from Barbara Green AM



Events



Reunions 2023

Held in The Unicorn Club, it was business as usual with a busy Reunion Calendar this year. All were preceded by a tour of the Castle on the Hill, hosted by MHS Principal Dr Tony Mordini and Honorary School Archivist, Luke Savage.

Return to the Castle	Class of 2022
10-Year Reunion	Class of 2013
20-Year Reunion	Class of 2003
30-Year Reunion	Class of 1993
40-Year Reunion Dinner	Class of 1983
Golden Years Luncheon	For Old Boys who graduated from MHS over 50 years ago



MHS Class of 2013 20-Year Reunion

On occasion, interest and registrations for Reunions can be lacklustre. We were disappointed the Reunions below did not proceed as planned this year. Old Boys who purchased tickets were refunded in full. We thank them for their understanding and support.

1-Year Reunion	Classes of 2021 and 2022 (combined event post-COVID)
5-Year Reunion	Class of 2017 and 2018 (combined event post-COVID)
50-Year Reunion Dinner	Class of 1973

Events (con't)

Over time, support for 15, 25 and 35-Year Reunions has progressively waned. While the Committee opts not to schedule these events, we are delighted to deliver them where a cohort believes they can “rally the troops”.

Such was the case this year with the **Class of 1988**. We received communiques from Old Boy, **Mark Bozinovic, requesting that their 35-Year Reunion be held**. A passionate mover and shaker, Mark actively engaged with us and fellow classmates to garner support. **Together we promoted the event and over fifty Old Boys registered to attend**.

The result? A spirited gathering with a tangible sense of enduring connection and camaraderie. With rousing renditions of “[Honour The Work](#)”, “[Forty Years On](#)” and “Gaudeamus Igitur”, we congratulate Mark for his steadfast efforts and the Class of 1988 for making this event possible.

If your 2024 Reunion is 15, 25 or 35-Year and you’re confident forty or more Old Boys would attend, [contact us here](#).

The 10-Year Reunion for the Class of 2013 was attended by 45+ lively Old Boys on 21 July.



Events (con't)

We welcomed 60+ Old Boys to the 20-Year Reunion for the Class of 2003 on 19 July.



The Class of 1993 30-Year Reunion was attended by 47+ Old Boys on 28 July. Thanks to MHSOBA Vice President Warren Fall (below left) for hosting the evening.



Events (con't)

Class of 1983 40-Year Reunion Dinner was attended by 52 Old Boys on Friday 4 August.
Below – in the Heritage Room (MHS Tower) then in The Unicorn Club (MHSOBA).



Events (con't)

Open to all Old Boys (and partners) who graduated from MHS over 50 years ago, our Golden Years Luncheon is a firm favourite.

On Friday 11 August we hosted 52 guests who enjoyed an impressive presentation from MHS School Captain, Noah Pappas. Principal Dr Tony Mordini shared his vision for the school. Our sincere thanks to all who attended. We look forward to welcoming you back next year!



Our Event Calendar for 2024 will be released in the New Year. Watch our website, social media channels and your dedicated Facebook page for event details and dates to save.

We will continue to provide opportunities for Old Boys to rekindle friendships, network and stay connected and look forward to seeing you next year.

Honour The Work

WWW.MHSOBA.ASN.AU

YOU. ME. US

FORREST HILL, SOUTH YARRA 3141



Events (con't)

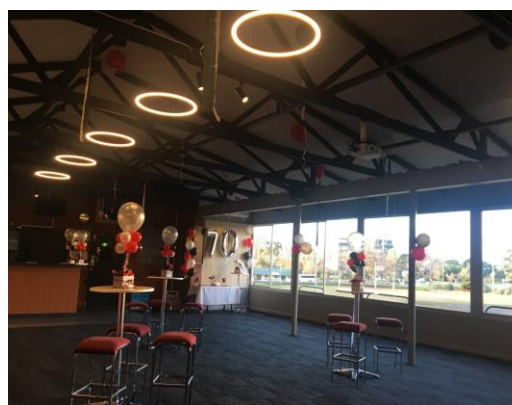
Annual Dinner 2023

Once again this year's Annual Dinner was held at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. See Page 20 for full details.



A perfect for venue for business meetings, seminars, training workshops and private soirées. The Unicorn Club offers stunning views of MHS and can be hired for half / full days, multiple days or evenings.

[Contact us for a brochure.](#)



MHSOBA Membership

A very warm welcome to all our new Members including current students. To those of you who have renewed your Membership, our thanks for your continued support.

If your membership has lapsed, [please renew it here](#).
If you are not yet a member, please [join us here](#).



MHSOBA Office – Festive Season Office Closure

The MHSOBA office will close Wednesday 20 December and reopen on Thursday 1 February 2024.

If planning to visit the office, please contact us in advance as our team works part-time on varying days – administrator@mhsoba.asn.au

You can also leave a telephone message on **+61 3 9823 7174**

Annual Dinner 2023



Our flagship Annual Dinner was once again held at stylish Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club on Wednesday 31 May.

Guests were greeted by a quartet of MHS students playing cool jazz as they mingled over pre-dinner drinks in the foyer.



Annual Dinner 2023 (con't)

The evening commenced with a student-led rendition of “Honour The Work” followed by Dr Tony Mordini’s toast to MHS and a heartfelt speech from School Captain Noah Pappas.

It was a privilege to welcome guest speaker **Jason Edwards**, MHS 1986 (below). An award-winning National Geographic photographer par excellence, Jason’s presentation featured extraordinary images, footage and riveting stories from his 30+ year international career.



Guests were enthralled by Jason’s lively accounts of intrepid assignments around the globe: some wonderfully moving; some confronting; some rather alarming. He shared rare insights into the natural world and the battle to protect species, habitats and the environment.

Jason’s latest book “[Icebergs to Iguanas](#)” features a curated collection of favourite images from his folio. Available for sale, he personally signed every copy of his photographic book purchased by Old Boys.



Annual Dinner 2023 (con't)

Accompanied by wife Megan and son William (below right), Jason attracted the support of Old Boys from the Class of 1986 (below left), at least one of whom travelled from interstate. We're reliably informed for some this was your first MHS event in decades...we hope not the last! Thanks for being part of the evening.



In our estimation, Jason is the “Indiana Jones” of the photographic world. We appreciate him taking time out from a hectic schedule to present at our dinner, and again thank him for making the event a truly memorable occasion.

Details of next year's Annual Dinner will be released early in 2024. Watch your Inbox, our website and social media channels for more.

Annual Dinner 2023 - Gallery



Annual Dinner 2023 - Gallery



Annual Dinner 2023 - Gallery



Annual Dinner 2023 - Gallery



Annual Dinner 2023 - Gallery



Annual Dinner 2023 - Gallery

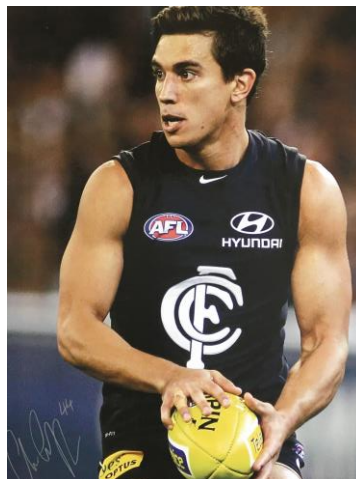
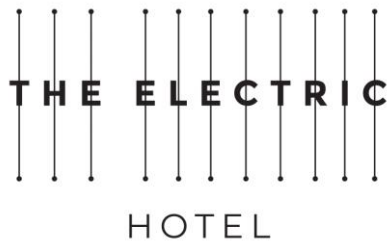


Annual Dinner 2023 - Gallery



Annual Dinner 2023 - Acknowledgements

Generous Old Boys and friends kindly donated items in support of this year's Ballot Bid, Live Auction and Raffle. We thank them sincerely for their support and appreciate those guests who entered the spirit of proceedings and purchased items.



Annual Dinner 2023 - Acknowledgements



For outstanding auctioneering, special thanks to [Toby Parker of Belle Property Balwyn](#). We appreciate Toby's ongoing support of MHSOBA.

Annual Dinner 2023 - Acknowledgements

For their generous contributions, our grateful thanks to:

Max Grundmann, MHS 1964

Peter Filopoulos, MHS 1985

Dr Janet Duke and Family

Kylie da Fonte, MHSOBFC

Jason Edwards, MHS 1986

Jon Metrikas, MHS 1978

Andrew Bertram, MHS 1986

Kevin Silberberg, MHS 1963

Luca Gonano, MHS 2003

Matthew Gudinski

Ted Goldstein, MHS 1966

Toby Parker, MHS 1996

Peter Douros, MHS 1984

Russell Lansbury AO,
MHS 1962

Jo Malley, MHSOBA

MHSOBA Inc.

Maxwell & Williams – CFC President's Lunch/Dinner

Football Australia – Tickets to The Matildas @ Marvel

For donating Dr Graeme Duke's limited edition print of
"Moonrise" by Kenneth Jack AM MBE RWS, MHS 1942

Channel Nine Newsroom Tour

Fine Art Prints

The Electric Hotel, Geelong Short Stays

Yarra Yarra Golf Club

The Kelvin Club

CFC signed print and Digital Marketing Consultancy

"The Gudinski Gift" concert tickets in memory of Michael
Gudinski MHS 1969 – Mushroom Group

Koalabi Footwear

Belle Property, Balwyn

For sponsoring MCG & Sports Museum Private Tour

For donating a numbered lithograph of MHS by Old Boy,
Graham McKenzie, MHS 1970

NED Limited Release Australian Whisky

Innisfail Cathedral signed colour lithograph by Kenneth
Jack AM MBE RWS, MHS 1942



MHSOBA Scholarship Program



The 2023 Scholarship Program opened to current MHS students and Old Boys completing tertiary studies on Monday 17 July and closed on Friday 8 September.

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

It has been a pleasure to welcome Mr Ronald Dodge (MHS 1965); Mr Paris Kritharides (MHS 1982) and wife Paula; and Mr Alan Schwartz and Mr David Teitelbaum (both MHS 1970) to this year's Program.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Old Boys and their families in support of our students' academic pursuits and extracurricular activities.

The Bluey Truscott Scholarship	Mr Steve Pilmore OAM	MHS 1966
The Leslie Innes Scholarship	Mr Leslie Innes	MHS 1970
The Peter Ivany AO Scholarship	Mr Peter Ivany AO	MHS 1971
The John Ly (Nguyen) Trust Scholarship	Mr John Ly	MHS 2002
The Mahoney Family Scholarship	Mr Ben Mahoney	MHS 1991
The Webber Family Scholarship	Mr Greg Webber	MHS 1993
The "Men For All Seasons" Scholarship	Mr Peter Day	MHS 1983
	Mr Anthony Watkins	MHS 1983
The Verma Family Scholarship	Dr Abhishek Verma	MHS 2001
	Dr Amit Verma	MHS 2003
	Dr Ajai Verma	MHS 2006
The Ronald Dodge Scholarship	Mr Ronald Dodge	MHS 1965
The Paris and Paula Kritharides Scholarship	Dr Paris Kritharides	MHS 1982
The Alan Schwartz and David Teitelbaum Scholarship in Memory of Mr Barrie Meagher	Mr Alan Schwartz AO	MHS 1970
	Mr David Teitelbaum	MHS 1970
The Speros Beasley Scholarship	MHSOBA Inc.	
The Lambis Englezos Scholarship	Mr. Lambis Englezos	MHS 1971



Scholarship Recipients 2023

This year's Program attracted considerable interest with the quality of applications unsurprisingly high. Selection of successful candidates was challenging, and we wish to acknowledge the time taken by all applicants to prepare their submissions. We warmly congratulate the following Old Boys who have the honour of being awarded an MHSOBA Scholarship in 2023.



Taiyo Wang, MHS Year 10
Bluey Truscott Scholar

Although, I see myself simply, as one of the many boys completing their journey at The Castle on the Hill, it is my humble honour to be the 2023 Bluey Truscott Scholar. This award of empathy, energy, courage, integrity and ability, is embraced by all MHS students. It is in our motto to Honour The Work and strive to be the best individuals we can be.

To be awarded the Bluey Truscott is to recognise the opportunities provided at Melbourne High and give them our best shot. It is a part of the legacy that is within the brotherhood and culture that continues to thrive in the castle on the hill.

For me, being a Bluey Truscott Scholar is my proudest achievement so far. It's the culmination of the dedication I apply to all areas of my life and to the school community, and I am so incredibly grateful to have this prestigious scholarship awarded to me.

Bluey not only inspires me to keep doing what I'm doing and be an all-round high achiever, but to be the same role model to others that he is to myself and past recipients of this scholarship.

I'd like to thank the Melbourne High School Staff, particularly Dr Anthony Mordini and Mr Robert Sette, as well as my parents for pushing me to do well. I'd also like to thank the MHSOBA for providing and supporting this scholarship. I'm excited to see what I can achieve in the last two years in my time at Melbourne High School.



Marley Tan, MHS Year 10
Bluey Truscott Scholar

Scholarship Recipients 2023



Rakshan RS, MHS Year 12

It is an absolute privilege to have been awarded **The Leslie Innes Scholarship**. It recognises the commitment to sport and its essential role in everyday life but also the positive impact on the wider community. And to have this ideology connected to my own values, is something I hold dearly.

As I enter university next year, this Scholarship will enable me to continue to pursue my passions in sport while also studying, which is something I am deeply grateful for. I would like to thank MHSOBA and Mr Leslie Innes for generously sponsoring this Scholarship.

The Peter Ivany AO Scholarship

To me, scholarships exist as a powerful reminder about our schools unwavering dedication in supporting its evolving community.

As a carer of my elderly Aunt, and more importantly a son of two loving parents, receiving this scholarship hopefully reciprocates back their 18 years of love and care. Through their sacrifice, I was granted the privilege of studying at Melbourne High School, and the Peter Ivany AO Scholarship is only a small gesture of my immeasurable gratitude for them. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Mr Peter Ivany AO for his generous sponsorship in addition to the wider MHS community for supporting me in my past four years at school.



Ken Truong, MHS Year 12

Scholarship Recipients 2023



Damketh Harbaragamua
MHS Year 12

The John Ly (Nguyen) Trust Scholarship

I am honoured to be receiving the John Ly (Nguyen) Scholarship.

I hope to use the funds from this scholarship fruitfully in pursuing my passions in science and arts and aspire to make a difference in the community through small gradual steps.

Particularly, I look forward to immersing myself in the medical and research field and I believe this scholarship will give me a push forwards in the right direction.



Michael Hilton, MHS 2018

The Mahoney Family Scholarship

This scholarship is such a blessing to me as my parents have recently moved overseas and I still have year of university to complete! It will allay financial stress as I study and facilitate my continued development as a young man, pursuing my passions and making the world a better place.

There's so much pressure to excel and be a part of the rat race, being self-absorbed and seeking purely after my own gain, but I hope to take the extra time to support the people around me, support my students and provide joy to people's lives.

Scholarship Recipients 2023



The Men For All Seasons Scholarship

Armann Singh, MHS Year 12

I am extremely privileged for being selected as the recipient of the MHSOBA Men for All Seasons Scholarship. This scholarship and recognition provided means more to me than words can convey, and I am sincerely grateful for the support provided to academically performing students like myself in the greater metropolitan Melbourne area.

Receiving this scholarship is a testament to the commitment of MHSOBA to the educational growth and development of students in our community. It not only alleviates the financial strain associated with pursuing costs in higher education but also serves as a source of inspiration and motivation to continue excelling in my academic pursuits throughout the rest of my life.

The Men for All Seasons Scholarship not only acknowledges the hard work and dedication I have put into my studies but also reinforces the value of community support in fostering educational opportunities. I am committed to utilizing this opportunity to its fullest potential, striving for excellence in my academic endeavours, and eventually giving back to the community that has invested in my education and involvement by continuing to inspire the people around me.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to MHSOBA and all the members of the Men for All Seasons who have made this Scholarship possible. Your belief in the potential of students like me has a profound impact, and I am eager to make the most of this opportunity. I look forward to contributing positively to society and embodying the principles upheld by the MHSOBA community.

Thank you once again to the MHSOBA for this incredible honour and for making a meaningful difference in the lives of Melbourne High School students hailing from a variety of different aspects in life.

Scholarship Recipients 2023

The Verma Family Scholarship



Michael Do, MHS 2017

Being a recipient of the Verma Family Scholarship means having my aspirations as a medico and MHS alumnus recognised. I endorse the ethos of the Verma Family Scholarship with its emphasis on education, which I believe is valuable in my fields of interest in psychiatry and ethics. In such fields the ability to reason abstractly and critically engage with subjectivity is vital.

After studying a Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) completing research in bioethics, alongside my medical degree, I had the opportunity to teach medical ethics to medical students at Monash University. I hope to have further opportunity to be involved in teaching in the future and extend my gratitude to the Verma Family and MHSOBA Committee for this scholarship.

The Ronald Dodge Scholarship



Nathan Wong, MHS Year 11

I am extremely grateful to have received The Ronald Dodge Scholarship this year. It is a Scholarship that aims to support students who are interested in and undertaking STEM subjects and extra-curricular activities. To have received this Scholarship is a great honour; as a student highly interested in STEM-related fields both at school and beyond, I feel that the scholarship will help me further my interests and continue getting the most of my time at Melbourne High School.

I would like to thank the MHSOBA and the generosity of Mr Ronald Dodge for sponsoring this Scholarship.

Scholarship Recipients 2023

The Paris and Paula Kritharides Scholarship



Prabhsimran Singh
MHS Year 10

I am extremely grateful for being awarded the Paris and Paula Kritharides Scholarship in 2023, in regard to academic achievement, and service to family, the school and the broader community.

The award signifies recognition for my efforts in balancing school related tasks with meaningful community contributions. This Scholarship is more than an award; it strengthens my dedication to learning and helping others, and it has instilled in me a deep feeling of duty to always pursue improvement and give back to the community. As a result, I will continue working diligently and giving the wider society the attention and commitment I have shown in previous years.

The Alan Schwartz and David Teitelbaum Scholarship in Memory of Mr Barrie Meagher



Rohan Green, MHS Year 11

I wish to thank Mr Alan Schwartz and Mr David Teitelbaum for their generosity in providing **The Alan Schwartz and David Teitelbaum Scholarship for 2023**, a Scholarship for students with a keen interest in the field of commerce.

I've deeply enjoyed my studies of economics this year, and this scholarship will be an amazing opportunity to receive some support to continue studying economics beyond Year 12. I hope to use this scholarship to participate in university-level economics courses and subscribe to various publications surrounding finance and economics in order to support my future studies of economics and commerce at university.

Scholarship Recipients 2023



Luca di Lallo
MHS 2022

The Speros Beasley Scholarship

Throughout my time at MHS I was involved in every aspect of sport, from fighting for Waterloo on the track to competing for MHS in the pool. At Melbourne University, whilst studying Commerce, I've continued my passion and involvement in sport.

The recognition in receiving this Scholarship is another reminder that education is 'more than just marks', in memory of Speros Beasley whose legacy was tribute to that philosophy. Sport encourages special interpersonal skills that I hope to successfully carry into my career in Commerce, just as Speros Beasley did.

Become a Scholarship Sponsor

Funding an MHSOBA Scholarship is a practical and meaningful way give back to MHS and our community. As a sponsor, you determine the selection criteria and value of your Scholarship which is fully tax-deductible.

Interested? To create a new Scholarship in your, your family or your son's name in 2024, please contact peter.douros@mhsoba.asn.au You can also [make a single or recurring tax-deductible donation](#) to the MHSOBA Scholarship Fund.

Honour The Work

Dr Peter Douros
Chair, Scholarships Sub-Committee
MHS 1984



MHS FOUNDATION

THANK YOU TO ALL THE GENEROUS OLD
BOYS WHO SUPPORTED THE SCHOOL IN
2023

mhsfoundation.org.au



OUR IMPACT IN 2023 INCLUDES:



- \$25,000 in sound and lighting equipment for school productions
- \$10,000 for student participation in interstate and overseas sporting and academic competitions
- The commencement of four classroom renovations
- The purchase of new uniforms and equipment for the Tattam Wallis Band

UNITE *and ignite*



Your connection to MHS is timeless, and now, more than ever, we need our members to keep the flame of our legacy burning brightly.

As members, you are the backbone of MHSOBA. Your involvement ensures that the traditions, connections, and opportunities that define us continue to thrive.

We call on you to:

Join or renew today!

Scan the QR code below or visit <https://mhsoba.asn.au/membership/> today to join or renew your membership. Your swift action is a vote for the enduring strength of the MHSOBA community.

Spread the word

Encourage your fellow Old Boys to join or renew their memberships! Let's unite and grow our vibrant community together.



GM&B Update



David Saul, Patron-in-Chief

As we approach the end of the year there has been significant activity and progress in many of the initiatives of the GM&B. Some brief updates include:

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Executive Appointments. At the AGM on the 17 May 2023 new appointments to the GM&B Executive were confirmed as follows:

- David Saul, Patron-in-Chief
- Gavan Scott, Deputy Patron-in-Chief
- Simon Bowen, Executive Officer
- Nicholas Psychogios, Membership
- Alan Stein & Deniz Atkins – Treasurers

The AGM featured an address by Mr Russell Lansbury AO (MHS 1959-62) who has been pre-eminent in Industrial Relations policy in Australia for over 30 years and who enjoyed a range of overseas education and work opportunities.

Forum 2 was held on the 17 October 2023 with the theme of ***“Understanding our Constituency - Generation Z”***.

Dr Damian Powell, who has spent a good portion of his career in the tertiary education sector and was well placed to provide his firsthand observations of this generation, provided a thought-provoking assessment on how technology influences in both positive but potentially a very detrimental way, Generation Z.

Mentoring & Transition (M&T). The new M&T program was initiated in 2023 with a focus on engaging Old Boys undertaking tertiary studies or in the first 2-3 post tertiary appointments. The GM&B has worked with MacRob’s Palladian’s Association to run joint Insight sessions along with combined mentoring engagement.

These Insight sessions included an introduction to mentoring, resilience in the work environment and career and life balance and were co-hosted by the Palladians with both GM&B and Palladian members.



GM&B Update (con't)

The mentoring groups will continue in 2024 as the GM&B and Palladians evaluate the first year of the new Program.

Junior Leadership Program (JLP). The JLP for 2024 has already commenced with a successful Leadership Symposium involving Year 9 boys in December. The 2024 JLP will be conducted in conjunction with the Palladians during Term 1.

Old Boys, exit years 2013-2022, who would like to assist as a JLP Group leader are invited to contact Alan Stein at mhsjlp@gmail.com

As 2023 draws to a close can I take this opportunity to acknowledge a number of GM&B members who have stepped forward to assist with the delivery of our Programs, among them Jeffrey Rosenfeld, Steve Pole, Marcus Elgin, Daryl Brooks, Dechlan Ellis, Russell McIntosh and Ilija Grgic.

Sadly, we have lost three GM&B members in 2023, the GM&B acknowledge their contribution to both the School and our broader community:

- Simon Crean
- John Grigsby
- Jim Mathieson

2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the GM&B Patrons Club we look forward to working with the Old Boys Association providing programs that assist current students and Old Boys.

David Saul
Patron-in-Chief



MHSOB Football Club News



During 2023 the Melbourne High School Old Boys Football Club was represented by four teams in the Victorian Amateur Football Association. Our Senior and Reserve sides played in Division 2 while we also fielded a Third XVIII in Section 5 and an Under 19 team in Section 4.

The football season was launched in fine style back in April with a memorable Coterie Dinner. It was a very enjoyable night attended by more than 50 members of the MHSOBFC community who gathered to celebrate the outstanding senior playing career of former Club Captain Kane Smith.

Bernie Pretty continued as Senior Coach this year and Matt Brancatisano took on the sole responsibility of coaching our Reserves. We welcomed James Yucel as the new Thirds Coach, and he was ably assisted by Albert Kuang and Pat Bulford. Our young players were well looked after with Matt Glover taking on the U19 coaching role and Kevin Pious providing great assistance.

After losing their first game out at Bulleen Templestowe our Seniors made good progress until a string of injuries to key players really tested our depth and sadly, we were unable to qualify for the finals. The Reserves started slowly but stormed home to reach a Preliminary Final and our Thirds enjoyed lots of success which culminated in playing off in a Preliminary Final. The JuniorCorns played some very competitive football with a young list and finished with a huge win in their last game. We look forward to their ongoing development throughout the next year.

In other news from the Club, we have acknowledged and celebrated some significant player milestones in 2023 with 200 games by Kris McDonald, 150 games by Shannon Keough & Sam Smooker and 100 games by Jamie Radcliffe-Smith. Assistance provided by a host of Club volunteers has again been outstanding this year and we would like to formally acknowledge their tireless commitment.

Our Presentation Night was held in the CitiPower Centre Function Room. It was attended by around 120 members of the MHSOBFC community and we congratulate Julian Eimutis on winning the 2023 Senior B&F Award along with the Reg Fairchild Players' Player Award. Fine achievements by our highly talented former MHS 1st XVIII Football Captain.



MHSOB Football Club News



As a Club we have again been well served by some quality personnel this year; in particular I would like to thank Senior Coach Bernie Pretty, Football Operations Manager Lachlan McKinnon, Secretary Kylie da Fonte, Treasurer Will Hart and all of our hard-working committee.

Once again we are extremely grateful to our Major Sponsor – NED Australian Whisky. The company provides a range of premium quality beverages, and we appreciate the ongoing support from Life Member and former Club captain Drew Fairchild. In addition, we also acknowledge the financial assistance provided by our valued sponsors: Union House, Community Bank - Windsor, Beasley & Co, Peter Smith Plumbing and Evolutio Physiotherapy.

Warren Fall
President
MHSOBFC



Rising Star: Petro Pirozek (right) receives the Albon-Betheras Award for best performed player under 21 in a senior side



Julian Eimutus, 2023 Senior Best & Fairest Award



5 GAME MEMBERSHIP

For New & Returning
Players

Want to get fit?

Meet new people?

Have a go at a new sport?

Come and try hockey now!

 president@mhsob.com



MHS Cadet Success



MHS Army Cadets Win National Drill Competition

Over the weekend 13-16 April a team of MHS army cadets representing the Victorian cadet brigade competed against eight other teams in the national Army Cadet drill competition. The competition was held in Canberra on the prestigious RMC-Duntroon parade ground under a clear sky and bright sunshine.

Beside the dress inspection there were two ceremonial serials: an ANZAC Day Catafalque party service and then a parade ground sequence involving many aspects including changing from quick to slow time and back again.

Congratulations to the winning team of: Daksha Kundra, Ethan Liang, Harjas Grewal, Binul Wickramaratne, Dragon Fan, Dasun Mudiyanse, Wijesundara, Rohan Krishnan and Lasith Dissanayake Mudiyanse.

Stephen Huysing - Capt. (AAC)
OC, MHSACU



MHS Careers Evening



The Annual MHS Careers Evening was held on Wednesday 12 July. A collaboration between MHS Careers and MHSOBA, this year's event attracted over 500 students and parents.

A welcome in the Memorial Hall was followed by a Tertiary Expo and series of Professional Career Sessions presented by Old Boys and associates of MHS and MHSOBA Inc.

Featuring course and career advice, tertiary providers included:

- Australian Catholic University
- The University of Melbourne
- University of Queensland (online)
- RMIT University
- La Trobe University
- CDW Studios
- Inner Eastern Local Learning & Employment Network (IELLEN)
- Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES)
- Education USA (International Courses)
- Deakin University
- Monash University
- Swinburne University
- University of Sydney (online)
- Collarts Creative Industry College



MHS Careers Evening (con't)

The Tertiary Expo was followed by **Professional Career Sessions** presented by Old Boys and associates of MHS / MHSOBA Inc.

These informal sessions allow students and parents to gain practical insights into professions, pathways and industries. **We are indebted to all presenters for their time and thank them for their contribution:**

MEDICINE - DR ALI ZARGHAMI, MHS 2016

Dr Ali Zarghami graduated from MHS in 2016 and went on to study undergraduate medicine at Monash University.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine (MD), he is now a doctor working at Eastern Health with an interest in Emergency Medicine and Critical Care.



ENGINEERING - DENIZ ATAKAN, MHS 2013

Deniz is currently working in IBM as a senior consultant in the IBM Consulting APAC Ventures, Ecosystems, and Acquisitions team, working to further IBM'S inorganic growth agenda.

Prior to that he worked in Deloitte's Data & AI team, and before that worked at Atmo Biosciences, a biomedical engineering start-up designing a wireless capsule endoscopy device.

Deniz studied a double degree in law and electrical and computer systems, with an honours thesis into the applications of a novel correction coding scheme for 5G systems.



MHS Careers Evening (con't)

COMMERCE & BUSINESS - **MARIO MATCHADO, MHS 2005**

Mario finished MHS in 2005 as School Captain & has since focused his career in Business and Commerce, working across Accounting, Sales & Marketing.

He commenced his career via an Accounting Cadetship at PricewaterhouseCoopers, before moving into various Marketing roles at L'Oreal Australia & UK; Lion Nathan; Four'N Twenty and Bega Cheese.

He has spent the past six years at Bega Cheese and is currently the Sales National Business Manager for Coles. He holds a Bachelor of Business degree from RMIT and a Masters of Marketing from Monash University.



LAW - **KARAN RAGHAVAN, MHS 2005**

Karan graduated from MHS in 2005, completing a degree in Arts/Law with Honours in 2012 at The University of Melbourne.

After leaving university, he worked in a large law firm for five years and spent a year working for a judge predominantly sitting in criminal appeals.

Since 2019, he has been a barrister practicing mainly in commercial litigation.



MHS Careers Evening (con't)

COMPUTER SCIENCE / ICT - MARK BOZINOVIC, MHS 1988

An Infosys employee, Mark is currently contracted as an SAP Functional Consultant in Financial Systems. Working on solutions to Incidents within system customisations in SAP (non-SAP suite solutions), Mark provides assistance with Functional Testing, Software Upgrades, System Migrations and Documentation of new and existing business processes. He is also Graduate Co-Ordinator for SAP stream incumbents at Infosys.

Mark holds a Masters in Enterprise Resource Planning Systems (Victoria University); a Graduate Diploma in Software Development (RMIT); and a BA Applied Science, Applied Chemistry (RMIT).



HEALTH SCIENCES / BIOTECHNOLOGY - JACK HARLEY, MHS 2013

Jack Harley is an Oxford-educated biotechnology consultant and academic researcher, currently undertaking his PhD in aging at the University of New South Wales.

His research focus is on the impact of longevity interventions on DNA methylation, contributing to the broader understanding of the biology of aging. Jack has previously worked for Revivo Therapeutics as an operations analyst, where he helped secure funding to aid the commercialisation process for an Alzheimer's treatment.

Additionally, Jack has consulted for health technology and biotechnology companies including Mindset Health, Spannir and OnTimeHealth in strategy and operations.



For more information about MHS Careers, please contact

Mr Bill Theodoropoulos

Careers Coordinator

Melbourne High School

E: bill.theodoropoulos@mhs.vic.edu.au

Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to Old Boys who received Australia Day Honours. [For details, click here.](#)

Thanks to Honorary School Archivist Luke Savage for his advice with regard to Award recipients.



Member of the Order of Australia
Dr Melvyn Gabriel Korman, MB, BS, PhD, F.R.A.C.P., AM
MHS 1956 – 1959

For significant service to gastroenterological and hepatological medicine.



Medal of the Order of Australia
Alan Roy Farmer, BCom, MEd, OAM
MHS 1951

For service to community health.



Medal of the Order of Australia
Dr Allan Warren Garrett, BCom, PhD, OAM
MHS 1950-1952

For service to the community of the Wangaratta region.

Australia Day Honours (con't)



Medal of the Order of Australia
Dr Hugo Gold MB, BS, F.R.A.C.P., OAM
MHS 1951-1954

For service to medicine.



Medal of the Order of Australia
Mark James Stephens, MB, BS, OAM
MHS 1963-1966

For service to the community through a range of organisations.



Medal of the Order of Australia
Samuel Louis Tatarka, LLB, B.Juris, OAM
MHS 1974

For service to the Jewish community.

King's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to members of our community who received [King's Birthday Honours](#).



Officer of the Order of Australia
Mr Alan Schwartz BEd, LLB, AO
MHS 1967 – 1970

For distinguished service to the community through philanthropic endeavours, and to sustainable social benefit initiatives..



Member of the Order of Australia
Associate Professor Louis Roller BPharm, DipEd, MSc, PhC, PhD, FPS, FACP, AM
MHS 1955-1958

For significant service to the pharmacy profession through education and governance.



Medal of the Order of Australia
The Very Reverend Dr Stuart Edward Blackler BA, MEd, PhD, OAM
MHS 1949-1952

For service to the Anglican Church of Australia.

King's Birthday Honours (con't)



Medal of the Order of Australia
Mr Gilbert Harold Freeman BA, BEd, OAM
MHS 1956-1957

For service to conservation and the environment.



Medal of the Order of Australia
Mr Richard Leslie Kirby JP, ASM, OAM
MHS 1952-1954

For service to golf.



Medal of the Order of Australia
Mr Bruce James Morley BCom, ASM, OAM
MHS 1953-1955

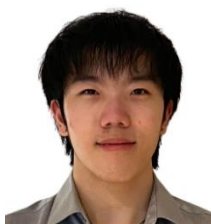
For service to the community through a range of organisations.



Vocational Seminar Series

MHSOBA's annual Vocational Seminar Series was delivered at lunchtime in The Unicorn Club in Term 4. Providing an invaluable opportunity for current students to learn about professions, study and industry trends, we thank these accomplished Old Boys for giving of their time:

Medicine



Co-presented by

Rafael Cheung, MHS 2019

Okan Ozcuban, MHS 2019

Performing Arts



Co-presented by

Gavan Swift, MHS 1990

Troy Sussman, MHS 1987

Engineering



Presented by

Mark Bainbridge, MHS 1988

Law



Presented by

Andrew Chen, MHS 2007

Finance & Commerce



Presented by

Kenny Cheng, MHS 2000



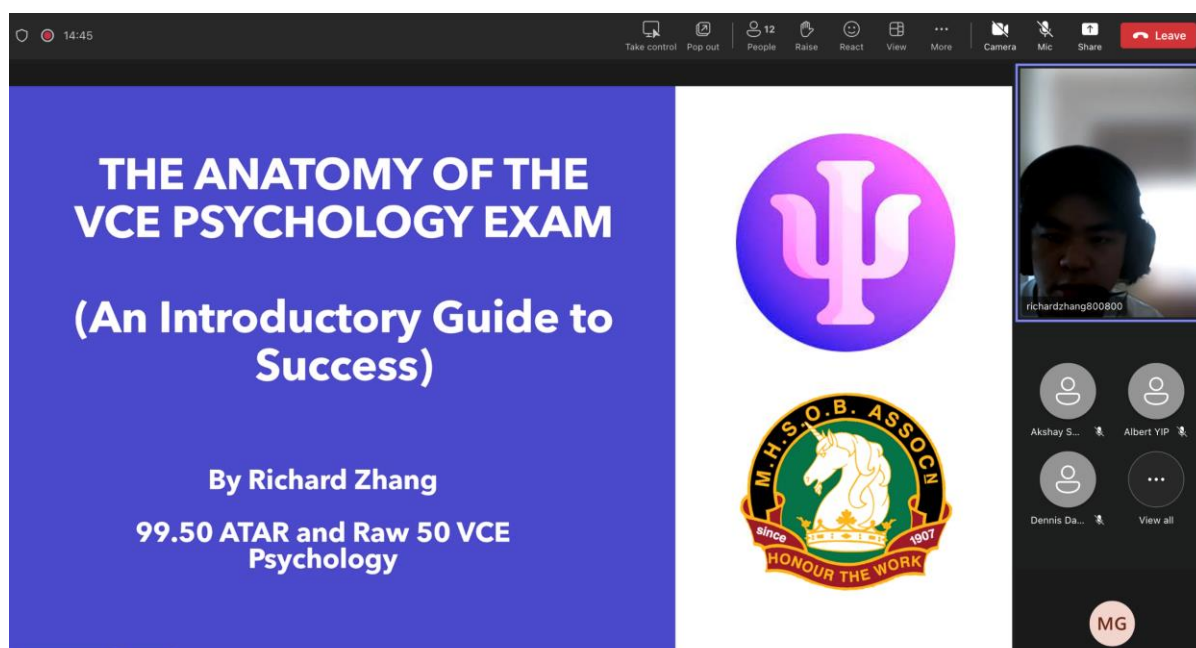
VCE Exam MasterClass



Under the direction of Bowan Hafey (Chair, Student Engagement), MHSOBA introduced the VCE Exam MasterClass series in 2021.

Developed in league with MHS Principal and senior teaching staff, MasterClasses are designed to support VCE students in their exam preparation. Delivered by recently graduated Old Boys, sessions are available online and span a range of subjects.

This year two MasterClasses were scheduled – Chemistry and Psychology. Regrettably, the Chemistry session did not proceed. However, Richard Zhang (MHS 2021, ATAR 99.5) delivered a comprehensive MasterClass entitled “The Anatomy of the VCE Psychology Exam”. The session was well-attended and participant feedback positive.



Our sincere thanks to Bowan, Richard and the MHS curriculum team for their efforts in support of this initiative.

Honour The Work

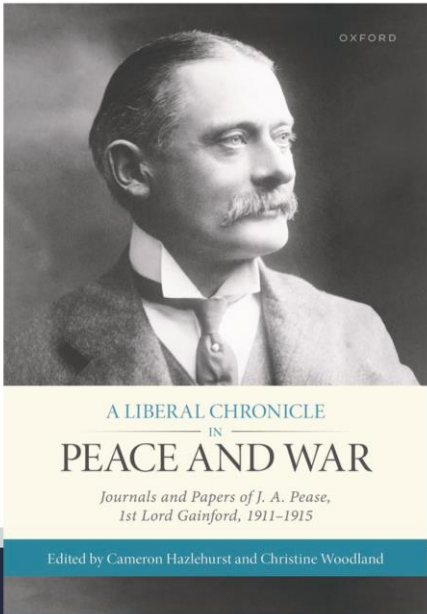
Book – Cameron Hazlehurst



Cameron Hazlehurst (MHS 1959) is Honorary Professor, Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University. Click the image below for more details about his book.

A Liberal Chronicle in Peace and War


Journals and Papers of J. A. Pease, 1st Lord Gainford, 1911-1915



Edited by Cameron Hazlehurst and Christine Woodland

June 2023
Hardcover
9780192887054
624 pages
£190.00 **£133.00 (GBP)** | \$245.00 **\$171.50 (USD)**

Order online at <https://global.oup.com/academic/> with promotion code **AAFLYG6**




Jack Pease was at the heart of the British Liberal government from 1908 to 1915, as Chief Whip through two general elections, and a member of the Cabinet confronting domestic tumult, international tensions, and war. Pease was an unassuming participant in the deliberations of a formidable gathering of political talent. His journals as President of the Board of Education from 1911 to the formation of the coalition ministry in 1915 are a closely observed, unvarnished record of what he saw and heard in Downing St and Westminster: constitutional and Home Rule crises, industrial conflict, electoral reform, women's suffrage controversies, budget struggles, naval estimates, and foreign policy. Despite his Quaker beliefs, Pease committed to supporting war against Germany; his troubled conscience is laid bare in letters to his wife and friends. Replete with intimate portraits of his revered chief H. H. Asquith and the Prime Minister's social circle, the journals also provide evocative observations of the contest of ideas, arguments, and moods of prominent contemporaries, especially David Lloyd George as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Winston Churchill as Home Secretary then First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord Kitchener as Secretary of State for War. Pease's accounts are augmented by the diaries and letters of others privy to Cabinet policy secrets and personal rivalries. With a biographical introduction, extensive explanatory commentaries, and bibliographical guidance, Pease's text provides a uniquely comprehensive understanding of Asquith's Liberal government.

Reviews:

"This book is a treasure trove, an essential source for anyone studying the Liberal government in the crucial years 1911-1915. It casts new light on almost all of the controversial and fundamental issues with which it deals." – Sir Vernon Bogdanor, Professor of Government, King's College London

"A work of scholarly art. The Introductory essay and main text exude authority. *A Liberal Chronicle in Peace and War* represents the gold standard; it is mandatory reading (and ownership) for all specialists on post-Edwardian England." – Nicholas A. Lambert, author of *The War Lords and the Gallipoli Disaster*

Edited by **Cameron Hazlehurst**, Hon. Professor, Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, and **Christine Woodland**, Independent scholar and retired archivist





Remembrance Day



At the start of war in September 1939, fighting was limited and far away from Melbourne. It would be 8 months before the 'phoney' war turned hot, and Australians saw action. In Melbourne it would take the invasion of Malaya in December 1941 for war to directly threaten Australia.

At Melbourne High School, trenches were dug in case of air-raids (which then had to be dug a second time when the school was moved to Camberwell and Malvern). Across Melbourne, Air Raid Wardens were appointed, watch kept at night for fires caused by air-raids, drills to extinguish incendiary bombs and evacuating wounded were carried out.

Looking back these preparations might have seemed un-necessary, the Japanese after all were a long way away. But the repeated bombing of Darwin, the shelling of Sydney and Newcastle, the invasion of New Guinea and then Papua, and the flight by a Japanese plane over Melbourne, made attack seem imminent.

To assist, a Civil Defence Day was held on Saturday 4 September 1943, a parade was held through the city and before the focus shifted to Flemington Racecourse. Around 60,000 spectators watched 10,000 civil defence volunteers march past dignitaries and to watch a display, including a 'bombing' by plane.

The R.A.A.F. used two American dive-bombers, the Vultee Vengeance, escorted by Spitfires. Two runs were made, dummy bombs were dropped, explosions on the ground simulated an actual attack, which the Civil Defence Volunteers responded too. After the second run, one of the planes appeared to start a victory roll but remained flying low before disappearing behind Kensington hill. A column of black smoke rose shortly after.



*View of the smoke rising from Flemington Racecourse
SLV Accession No : H99.201/3997 - original photo by The Argus*

Remembrance Day (con't)

The plane had passed low over Macauley Railway station (where a number of passengers were waiting) and crashed into the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Corporation warehouse and mill beside the railway line.

The Wireless Air-Gunner was James Noel Harris, who had attended Melbourne High School in 1932-1933. He and the pilot were killed.



Firefighters extinguish the blaze, SLV H99.201/4066, original photo by The Argus

Remembrance Day (con't)



*James Noel Harris, The Age, 23
September 1943, page 4*

James was born in Richmond in 1917, he attended Canterbury State School and then Gardiner Central School. Like many boys of his era, he played cricket and football, collected stamps and was a member of the Scouts.

James left after completing fourth form, finding work as a buyer and sales engineer before enlisting with the R.A.A.F. on 2 September 1940.

He qualified as a Wireless Air-Gunner. He married Zena Henrietta Langley in 1941, they had one daughter. After training, he served in 7 Squadron (October-December 1942), which flew Bristol Beaufort's out of Townsville escorting shipping across Northern Australia. He was promoted to Pilot Officer in April 1943 and was based at Laverton when he died.

He is buried at Springvale War Cemetery, alongside nine other Old Boys (including two contemporaries). Deaths in flying accidents were common during WWII. Of 219 old boys serving in the R.A.A.F. when they died, 81 were accidental deaths (120 were killed in action).

A detailed article was published in the LaTrobe Society Journal and is available on the State Library of Victoria [website](#).



With thanks to
Honorary School Archivist, Luke Savage MHS 1996

Old Boys in The News

“People tell me they would never hit their partner. That’s not enough”.

By Tarang Chawla (MHS 2004), advocate for victims of domestic violence

Published 17 July 2023, The Sydney Morning Herald

WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT

In July, five women have allegedly been murdered in Australia by men they knew. The loss their families and loved ones will be currently experiencing, and the pain of seeking justice, is a burden I know all too well.

My sister Niki was murdered by her vengeful and controlling partner, who decided that because she was planning to end their relationship, she didn’t have the right to be with anybody else.

That was eight years ago and when I think of Niki now, I always remember how she approached each day with optimism and an infectious positive energy. I’m sure that on her last night alive, she went to sleep looking forward to tomorrow, hopeful for a future free from her partner’s abuse.

But that future never came.



Tarang and sister Niki

Old Boys in The News (con't)

While she slept, Niki's killer stabbed her to death using a meat cleaver from their kitchen drawer. He butchered her so severely that when I was tasked with confirming that the lifeless corpse in front of me was in fact hers, there wasn't much for me to go on.

Since Niki's murder, I have been campaigning to tell Australia that what happened to her, and countless other murdered women, can be prevented.

But how? What can we do to stop this scourge?

From my sister Niki's experience and the lived experiences and expertise of victim-survivors and sector experts, one thing has become clear: violence that ends in murder rarely begins that way.

For the overwhelming majority of women who are murdered by an intimate partner, that final act of violence was not the first – even if earlier instances hadn't been reported to authorities, support services or family and friends.

As a country, we must educate ourselves about the warning signs of non-physical abuse. We need to be aware of the red flags that – when left unchecked – can and often do escalate. And we need to take those signs more seriously.

As an anti-violence campaigner, people often tell me that they would never hit their partner. While that's a positive statement, it seems that “not hitting your partner” sets the bar awfully low for what we consider to be acceptable relationship behaviour.

Not hitting your partner should be a given, but so should addressing behaviours grounded in power and control. And learning about these behaviours from those who have lived experiences of them is a necessary step Australia needs to take if we are to curb the startling rates of domestic violence in this country.

Niki's killer was one of those men who used non-physical abuse to intimidate her long before things turned physical. The abuse started with him controlling every aspect of her life. Niki was the primary breadwinner, yet he maintained strict control over household spending and kept her to a budget, threatening her if she spent money on things she wanted.

Old Boys in The News (con't)

He decided who she was “allowed” to talk to and spend time with. Niki was forbidden from seeing family and friends and slowly isolated from her support networks, trapping her with a man who wore her down until he ultimately murdered her.

Following Niki’s murder, I have met thousands of victim-survivors across the country through my advocacy work. And one thing has become abundantly clear – non-physical abuse often manifests in subtle ways that are designed to mask its true nature.

Perpetrators disguise their sinister motives behind seemingly innocuous actions and statements, which makes it harder for victim-survivors to articulate the abuse they are experiencing. For people outside the relationship, it can be hard to recognise why something might feel *off*.

We’ve become so used to hearing about common relationship tropes early on in someone’s new relationship and thinking, ‘Aww, isn’t that just so romantic?!’ when some of those behaviours aren’t romantic at all – they’re jealous, pseudo-caring comments and questions intended to control another person.

Technological abuse can start similarly. What begins with a seemingly innocent offer to set up a social media account or a new device can be used as a way to get their partner’s login and track their online activity.

New technologies that allow perpetrators to monitor their partner’s movements in real-time are of great concern. In some cases, electric cars are being tampered with by perpetrators to prevent their victims from driving a certain distance from their home.

Financial abuse is yet another area of control that we are only beginning to grasp the extent of. In fact, research estimates that it is present in 90 per cent of cases of intimate partner violence. The flow-on effects of money being taken, hidden or gambled without a partner’s consent can mean that a victim-survivor is left without money for rent, basic necessities and even food for their children.

Old Boys in The News (con't)

Many of these non-physical signs of abuse are underpinned by what's known as "coercive control" – a pattern of behaviour that an abuser uses to instil fear into their victim. And in the most tragic of cases, it can and does escalate into murder, even where there is no reported history of physical violence, as was the case of Hannah Clarke and her three children, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey.

And the same thing happened to my sister Niki. Most cases don't make national headlines. When they do, it's only because the victim has been killed. There is a better way. For me, when it comes to the issue of domestic violence, I try to remain hopeful about the future.

During sentencing in the Supreme Court, Niki's killer's actions were seen as an act of such callous and unprovoked brutality that the judge who sentenced him said, "Nothing Nikita Chawla did in any way whatsoever contributed to what you chose to do to her."

The judge was right and I'm glad he made a point of saying it, but it's small comfort. I would rather a country where this is not happening with such painful regularity.

It would have been Nikita's birthday in June. For my family, and many other Australian families, it's too late for our loved one. Niki's life was stolen from her and we've lost her forever, but there's still a chance for us to help others.

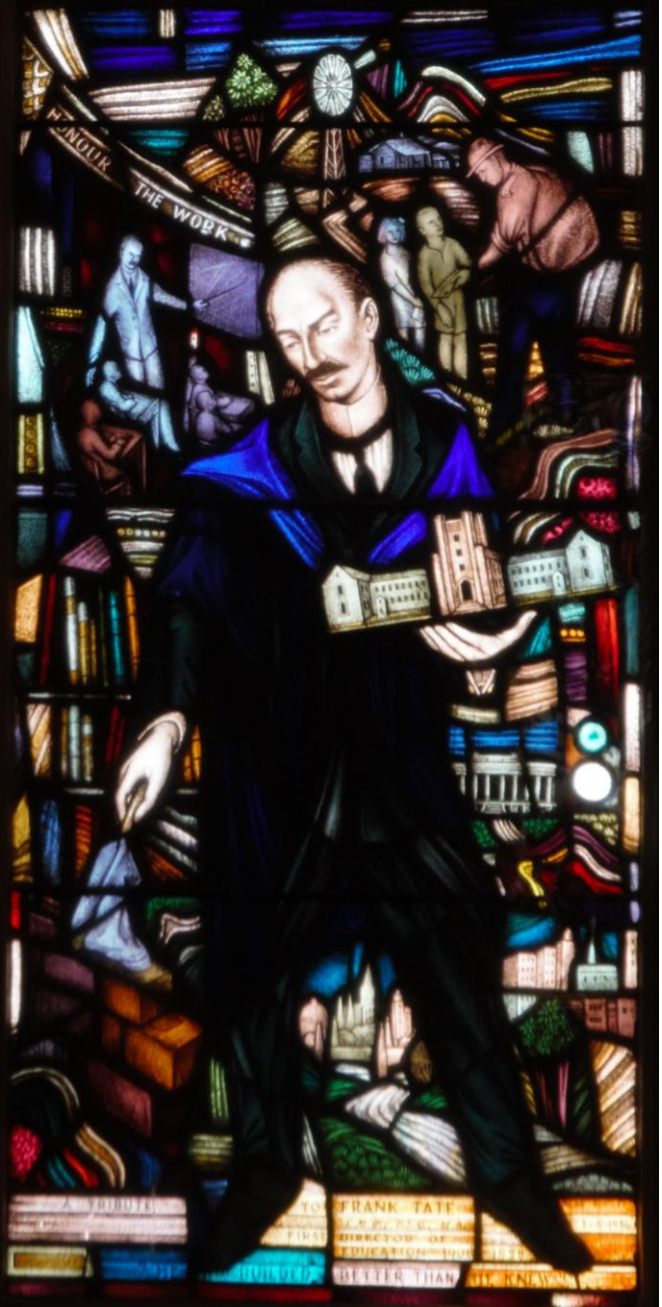
Judging by the statistics, that help is needed by many Australians. We owe it to every one of them to listen. And act.

Tarang Chawla is Nikita's brother, Commissioner at the Victorian Multicultural Commission, sessional academic and host of Australian podcast *There's No Place Like Home*, whose second season begins on July 11.

[Click here to view the SMH article](#)



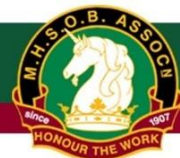
Tributes



WWW.MHSOBA.ASN.AU

YOU. ME. US

FORREST HILL, SOUTH YARRA 3141



Tributes



William "Bill" J. Meaklim OAM
19.10.1933 – 22.10.2023
MHS 1947 - 1949



Adam P. Marks
08.07.1967 – 01.05.2023
MHS 1982 - 1985



Simon Finlay Crean
26.02.1949 – 25.06.2023
MHS 1963 - 1966



James "Jim" Stewart Mathieson
04.03.1938 – 10.08.2023
MHS 1952 - 1955



John Grigsby
10.08.1940 – 11.08.2023
MHS Staff 1964 - 1993



Dr Michael Patkin AM
22.05.1933 – 04.05.2023
MHS 1949 - 1950



Russell Ritchie
21.04.1924 – 21.10.2023
MHS 1938 - 1941



Garry Stewart
27.04.1937 – 01.01.2023
MHS 1951 - 1952



"Count" Shiva Singam
03.04.1973 – 7.10.2023
MHS 1988 - 1991



THE UNICORN CLUB



With sweeping views to the Castle on the Hill, the refurbished Unicorn Club is your perfect venue for business meetings, seminars, workshops and celebrations.

To discuss your event contact Jo Malley, Event & Operations Manager
administrator@mhsoba.asn.au or call 9823 7174 today.



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Are you a member of MHSOBA? Purchase or renew your MHSOBA Membership which includes:

Business Directory	Member-only fees for business or individual Listings
The Unicorn Club	Member-only venue hire fees for business and private events
The Kelvin Club	Complimentary access to the exclusive Kelvin Club in the CBD (annual membership valued at \$800)
Reunions & Events	Member-only ticket prices to select events
Networking	Access to networking events and opportunities
For Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Pack – MHSOBA lapel badge & membership card • Work experience support • Access to MHSOBA Scholarships • Access to Vocational and Exam Preparation Seminars

MHSOBA MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS		
Type	Term	Investment
Student (SM30)	Valid to a student's 30 th birthday	\$400.00
Adult	1 Year	\$ 70.00
	5 Years	\$300.00
	10 Years	\$500.00
Concession (Senior / Tertiary)	1 Year	\$ 50.00
	5 Years	\$180.00
Associate (Non OB / Non Voting)	1 Year	\$ 50.00
	5 Years	\$180.00

Explore our Membership options online [here](#).

If you have any queries, email us administrator@mhsoba.asn.au



Contact – YOU | ME | US



Keep up to date with MHSOBA news and events via our website and social media.

Website www.mhsoba.asn.au
Business Directory www.mhsoba.asn.au/directory
LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/groups/133438/
Facebook www.facebook.com/MHSOBAInc/
Twitter www.twitter.com/MHSOBAInc
Instagram www.instagram.com/mhsobainc/

Contribute

We invite you to contribute an update or story to our next newsletter. Please email your article along with high resolution images via email to administrator@mhsoba.asn.au

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