ACK'S OLDEST BUILDING HAS BECOME ITS NEWEST LEARNING SPACE

BLESSING AND OPENING OF THE FOURVIÈRE CENTRE
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Dear friends of ACK,

Greetings! I trust the cooler weather is allowing you time to wallow in the joy of sitting comfortably in warm places, enjoying good company, relishing good food, good reading and all those other lovely winter hibernation pastimes. Psychologists tell us that embracing the "vibe" of the seasons is important for our wellbeing (which should mean that in the Kilmore weather, we are especially good at this!). Winter reminds us that cyclical downtime allows us to preserve our vigour, put energy into the things that really matter, and gather together the strength to allow the approach of spring to occur with a timely and vibrant grace. While schools never quite slow down over these cold and dark months, we do try to be attentive to the quieter moments, and to foster a spirit of comfort with times of meditation, pause, prayer and reflection.

Of course, the focus of our energy in the most recent months has been the opening of the Fourvière Centre. It was lovely to see so many past students come along to revel in the new spaces, and to play the enjoyable game of "I think my bed was over here...". There were lots of great stories and friendships renewed as well as an immense sense of pride that such a beautiful, warm and contemporary space could arise within the shell of the old boarding house.

This edition of Shandon Calls includes an invitation to the family day in August. The exciting, packed program features a number of fun opportunities for you to connect with old friends, and share your memories with your children and grandchildren. There's a lot of work going on behind the scenes to bring the day together, and we thank Simon Costa and his team for their awesome energy as they work to ensure that the day is enjoyable and rewarding for all.

With the opening of Fourvière we're going to begin the slow process of returning Shandon House (the front section of the building) to its former glory. This will be a several-stage project, beginning with the restoration of the memorial doors that honour the ACK fallen and refurbishment of the old chapel, which will be used to display important Assumption memorabilia. Further details are on page 5.

Finally, we are calling for expressions of interest from those who would like to serve on the College Advisory Council. Council members are appointed by Marist Schools Australia to assist the principal in ensuring the ongoing viability of the school and planning for the future. It is not involved in operational matters. We would especially like to hear from those with marketing and media experience, as well as OH&S, risk management, legal, financial, building or strategic planning skills. With a workforce of 160 people and an annual budget of over $20 million (most of which is derived from government funds), we have a significant responsibility to steward our resources responsibly, and to ensure that the good name of the school is maintained. There are approximately eight meetings a year, and advisory council members usually sit on at least one sub-committee. If you believe you have the time and energy to serve Assumption College in this way, I look forward to your phone call, email or visit.

With peace and blessings,

Kate Fogarty
From a building that still features bluestone from the 19th century, ACK’s newest learning space, the Fourvière Centre, has been born and was officially opened on Sunday, April 17.

Staff, past and present students, parents, Marist Brothers, Paul Herrick from Marist Schools Australia and Nationals MP for Euroa Steph Ryan and those that contributed to the project gathered for the opening of the centre, home of the new library, Pathways Centre and hub for teaching English.

Until 2014, this building was our boarders’ home away from home, and being heritage-listed its exterior has hardly been touched, except for the grand, new entrance and prominent wide arches that have been glassed-in. The interior has been totally transformed.

In bright sunshine college captains Monica Kelly and Connor Leslie welcomed guests and acknowledged the Taungurong people, the traditional owners of the land the college is built upon. Principal Kate Fogarty gave a brief history of the building, noting that one part dates back to 1872 and that the “amazing renovation” took 14 months.

She said that many, many people had been involved in the refurbishment that will give students and teachers “beautiful, light, warm and welcoming spaces to inspire their learning.”

“The proximity to each other, and to the library opens boundless opportunities for learning that could not have been previously realised,” she said.

Miss Fogarty thanked Business Managers Joe Feery and Jenny Buckingham; the College Advisory Council, under the care of Bernie Shinners; the building and planning sub-committee of Chris Blake, Stephen Dale and Darren Paxton; and maintenance manager Des Langdon.

Mr Shinners mentioned others involved in the renovation, including project manager John Brenan, builders CICG, Prowse Quantity Surveyors and Y2 Architectures’ Garry Thompson. He also paid tribute to the early brothers: “We are fully cognisant that we stand on the shoulders of giants in building on the work of those early Brothers who so daringly planned and built this magnificent structure.”

Alumnus Bishop Peter Connors led us as we said the Our Father and Hail Mary, he asked God to bless “the learning space for the education of our young people”; and prayed that “they grow in wisdom, age, and grace.” Bishop Peter blessed the building while sprinkling holy water in the forecourt as Connor rang the nearby Shandon Bell. The bell was once used to summon students to classes, meals and prayer.

Mr Thompson has written that the brief was to “restore many elements of the original building ... paying reverence to the strength and symbolism intended by the original architects’ and he emphasised the importance of “the creation of internal learning spaces that are filled with light and [are] engaging within a mature, contemporary learning context.”

During tours, it was touching to hear former boarders from different eras try to recall which parts of the building were being used for what purposes when they were there.

The centre is named Fourvière because of the significance of this hill (known as the praying hill) in the life of St Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers. In 1816, at the shrine to Our Lady in Fourvière, Lyon, St Marcellin and a group of seminarians and newly-ordained priests promised to begin a religious order dedicated to Mary.

After the opening ceremony we enjoyed lunch prepared by VET hospitality students and hot drinks provided by members of the Parents and Friends. In the background, year 11 student Phoenix Saykao played classical guitar. I was reminded of the Greek legend of the Phoenix, a bird that is cyclically regenerated, in the same way as this beautiful building has been.

Stephen Calvert
1 & 3. Visitors touring the centre before the opening.  
2. Principal Kate Fogarty addresses guests.  
4. College captains Connor Leslie and Monica Kelly welcoming everyone.  
5. Bishop Peter after sprinkling the forecourt with holy water and blessing the building.  
7, 8 & 12 Gathered for the opening.  
9. Ray Carroll and Peter “Crackers” Keenan were among the guests.  
11. Connor ringing the Shandon Bell during the blessing of the centre.  
13. Hot drinks were provided by members of the Parents and Friends.  
14. VET hospitality students ready to serve a delicious lunch they made.
WILL YOU HELP PRESERVE ASSUMPTION’S HISTORY?

The college has, in recent years, become passionate about preserving its past. Librarian Anne Fraser and her team have created digital copies of yearbooks stretching back to the 1920s and are going through old photos and video tapes and carefully processing them to ensure they last for posterity.

An important part of Assumption’s history are the memorial doors leading into what was once the college chapel. These doors, which display the names of former students who died in World War I, are now part of the Fourvière Centre and require restoration. We have launched an appeal to raise funds for the restoration and plan to unveil the revitalised doors on November 11, 2018, the centenary of the end of the Great War.

We also want to transform the former chapel into a heritage room where we can showcase some of the material that has been lovingly preserved. We hope to display other Assumption-related items as well, so if you or a member of your family has any at home (pieces of uniform, newspaper clippings, photos, sports trophies etc.) that you would like to donate we’d love to hear from you.

Alternatively, if you have nothing that could go on show, perhaps you would like to contribute to the cost of this refurbishment which will include installing display cases.

To make a tax-deductable donation towards the memorial door repairs or fit out of our heritage room, please go to the following TryBooking site https://www.trybooking.com/LYBS.

It is fitting that a school with a 123-year history ensures its text, images and artefacts are kept safe for the future. I urge you to help us conserve and showcase this irreplaceable material for those that come after us.

Kate Fogarty
LAUGHTER, MEMORIES AND FABULOUS FOOD FEATURED AT LAST MONTH’S STAFF REUNION

A round 100 current and former staff gathered at the college on Sunday, May 22 for a reunion. Entrees of mini-quiche, satay sticks, prawns, arancini, mushroom croquets, spicy meatballs and spinach and fetta parcels were enjoyed in the Marlhes Restaurant before tours of the Fourvière Centre and boarding houses.


The dessert, bombe Alaska, was was lit up with sparklers and carried in by Nigel and his helpers. Terry, Sue and Georgia Cooney kept the drinks flowing at the bar.

At a gathering like this, even though people have not seen one another for years, time seems to disappear and conversation begins easily and memories are rekindled. We acknowledged the birthdays of Lew Nagle, Mick Whitty and Jo Cross and toasted Madame Annie Ten Brink who died recently.

Long-time staff member Caroline Burge said, “So many of the past staff were amazed at how much the school has changed since they left - they loved it!”

This most enjoyable day was organised over five months by Judy Sultana, Natalie Still, Peter Jongebloed and Vincenzo Rovetto, and we thank them for their time and effort.
AN INTERVIEW WITH LONG-TERM TEACHER MICK EGAN

Mick Malthouse.

Tell us something of your early life and education.
I lived in Sunshine until the age of seven when my mother died and my family went to live with my grandparents in Footscray. I was educated at the Christian Brothers’ school in Yarraville from grade 4 to grade 6 in the school of hard knocks. I received lots of straps for inconsequential things. Then St Paul’s from year 7 to year 12 run by the Society of Marianists, American brothers, in North Altona where I obtained my HSC [Higher School Certificate]. That was a fairly eccentric experience; lots of rigour, vigour, strapping. That was the nature of schooling in the ‘60s and ‘70s.

And your family.
Sue and I have been married for 35 years and our two children, Rebecca and Michael, both attended ACK. They refused to let me come here until they finished, for obvious reasons. They said they were going to boycott it if I turned up here.

How were you affected by Black Saturday?
I was living in Kinglake and lived there for 28 years, and after the fires in 2009 I moved to Whittlesea. My property was burnt out; I lost 20 acres of beautiful pasture and mountain ash. My house never burnt down, but the property’s aesthetics were belted. I’m able to put the tragedy behind me but I lost several friends. My wife was a teacher at Kinglake and she ended up going to, I think, 20 funerals. It was one of those catastrophic things which you probably don’t get over but you move on from. It’s changed a lot of the Kinglake dynamic.

Why teaching?
I was good at sport, especially cricket and football; sport was pretty much my recreation. Because of that alignment with sport I saw a career in sport as probably the way to go. I thought I had something to offer in that area. Probably the main thing that was showing up at the time was in education as a physical education teacher which is the way I went.

Where did you study?
While playing football, I studied PE and maths in the mid-1970s at Melbourne State College, now part of Melbourne University. I didn’t really enjoy it that much. The big ticket item was getting out into a school.

Tell us about your teaching career.
I still teach maths but I had to give PE away when I became semi-immobile. The writing’s on the wall when you’re an older man and teaching phys. ed. You’ve still got to be able to do what the young people do, and I wasn’t able to do that. I’ve had a go at just about everything apart from the upper echelon areas. I’ve been a year-level coordinator and faculty leader, but most of the enjoyment comes from the grass roots level in seeing kids progress in their understanding of something you’re teaching them. I see myself as a foot soldier, and I enjoy the challenge of trying to improve kids in maths.

It’s harder to teach now than it was 20 years ago. You’re far more accountable. You’ve got so many more checks and balances in the way that you have to go about it. We often lose a little bit of the sight of the ball; you’re side-tracked by documentation. Students have changed as well during my teaching career. It’s a melting pot of student approaches: some lack motivation but have talent, some of those that don’t have talent just have the drive. You would prefer to work with the motivated, challenged student every day of the week. Students have
changed in that they have a lot more things at their disposal now. Manners have changed in the way they show respect for people and their possessions. Kids are not accountable that much anymore. If they don't want to do something they can work their way around it. So I think, in a sense, students have lost resilience to push through when times get tough, and that might be a reflection of general society.

What are the less appealing aspects of the job?
Being weighed down by administrivia and you seem to lose your drive for the main reason, teaching, because your energy’s zapped doing other things.

What about your co-curricular involvement?
Always a sporting pursuit. It started off with basketball, eventually athletics but it’s been football for the last seven years. [Mick helps coach our First XVIII].

Where else have you taught?
I taught at Sacred Heart College in Seymour, which is now St Mary’s, for three years. I then went to Catholic Regional College North Keilor in its inaugural year and left 24 years later to come to Assumption just over 10 years ago.

Tell us about your football career.
I was involved in school footy, and through the school there was an affiliated club that went under the banner of the school, St Paul’s Football Club. I played junior footy there, under 13s, under 14s and under 15s. I was going well with my footy and getting some accolades. As a result of that, I was invited, along with a lot of other young people from the district, to the Western Oval to go into a scholarship pool. There were about 10 or 12 spots open on the Bulldogs’ scholarship list. Each Sunday morning they stripped that back from probably 120 kids to eventually 10.

I was living in North Altona by this time which was South Melbourne’s recruitment area. Officially if I continued to live there I couldn’t play with Footscray, the team that my family barracked for and that I barracked for. I signed up at 15 and was given a $50 cheque, a bag and pair of socks and a pair of footy boots and I was on their list; I was in my dream football club.

I stayed with St Paul’s until I was 17, and at the end of the under 17s, I became a member of the Bulldogs’ under 19s. Through that pathway I eventually got into the reserves and then the seniors where I played my first game in 1978. I had one game in that season. It was a muddy day at Geelong and I played on “Jumping Jack” Hawkins, Tom Hawkins’s dad. He rubbed my face in the mud and made me eat dirt, so I did taste some of the Kardinia Park soil. I played senior football for 10 years and was given life membership at the Bulldogs.

My playing career ended after three [right] knee reconstructions. The writing was on the wall because I just couldn’t get my knee right, and even though I was still contracted the time had come for a parting, even though I was not happy to go, I was pretty much fed up with knee injury.
Right through my playing career I taught. It was a nine to five job teaching and a five to eight job training. I had to do that because there wasn’t that much money in football in those days. It was becoming more professional, and some fellows at the top end were able to focus on football only, but most of us weren’t able to do that. At the end of my career I’d had some reasonable contracts and the club was paying more than a teacher’s wage.

Are you disappointed about the name change from Footscray to the Western Bulldogs?

The identity with Footscray when I was playing was strong, because we did represent the local area. It was localised to Footscray and surrounding suburbs: Yarraville, Seddon and whatever, and that connection has been completely lost. That area lost its identity as a supporter of the Footscray Football Club when they generalised and made the wider umbrella the western suburbs and called it the doggies of the west.

Do you still have a close connection with the club?

Not really. I was invited back some time ago. I was within a pool of players from which they selected the team of the century. I’ve drifted away from the footy club, mainly because I have other things on now.

Do you go to games?

I don’t go to matches but I watch a lot of them on TV; I watch nearly every game that’s on and I’m always barracking for the Bulldogs.

What about football highlights and lowlights?

In the era that I played we didn’t have much finals experience, and the year we did make the preliminary final, 1985, I’d done my knee. Mick Malthouse was coaching. I played for Victoria against South Australia in a State of Origin match in 1982 which is probably the highlight of my playing career. The Big V won by a couple of goals. David Parkin was the coach. It was a wonderful experience. I was a reasonable player at the club and had a couple of runner-up best and fairest but a highlight was life membership of the club.

I then went in to coaching at Kinglake and coached there for nine years. When I started there they hadn’t won a flag for many years. The highlight of my sporting life was in a coaching capacity being the coach of the premiership side in 1994, their first flag in 54 years.

I said to Mick Malthouse once that all those experiences at the Bulldogs didn’t really measure up to the community experience at Kinglake. He was shocked by what I told him, but he’s been shocked before.

How do you relax?

I used to be an avid bushwalker. I’ve been to some wonderful places in south-west Tasmania, central Australia and New Zealand. I walk with like-minded people. My wife tells me she likes to see me go bushwalking but she doesn’t want to come. I ride a bike. I’ve just come back from a cycling trip down the east coast of Tasmania. I like the outdoors. If I could bike ride into the classroom I wouldn’t have an issue.

I’m a really amateur acoustic guitarist. I’m probably never going to go anywhere with it, but it’s one of those challenges that you seem to take on when you get a bit older. I’m not that good but I’m trying to improve. I play rock’n’roll and contemporary rock. I don’t play with others yet, but I’m heading towards coming out at some stage.
A assmption’s production of Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* on May 13 and 14 was brought to the stage of the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre in South Morang in a stunning performance by students.

Led by the breathtaking voice and talent of Alisa Urokohara (Belle), the robust but touching interpretation from Rohan Dickson (Beast) and the brilliantly comical performance of Jack Maher (Gaston), the production was met with resounding applause.

A strong leading cast drew in energy from the audience, the well-known musical numbers were well choreographed and performed, and the set design and adaptation were second to none.

Alisa continues to amaze with an outstanding vocal ability that transports the audience through song. Her depth as an actress spans from the comical to the dramatic and she sets a standard in school productions not easily met.

Her Belle was soft, yet strong, timid but willing to face fears and magically touching as we journey with her as she falls for the Beast.

Rohan Dickson also offered a captivating performance with a mixture of emotions. We felt the Beast’s blinding frustrations and flashes of hot temper, and quietly cheered his softening as he fell in love with his “Beauty.”

Jack Maher almost stole the show in his flamboyant adaptation of Gaston. The hysterical arrogance of the “man about town”, his blinding devotion to himself and his total disregard for others were perfectly portrayed. His subtle change into the devious and spiteful rejected lover as he did all he could to thwart the growing affection between Belle and the Beast was also well characterised.

The brilliant supporting cast of Jai Cameron (Maurice – Belle’s father), Euan Brown (Le Fou), Madeline Atwell (Cogsworth), Florence McKay (Lumière), Adeline Hunter (Babette), Serena Sharp (Mrs Potts), Daniel Parkinson (Chip) and Angela Dodds (Madame De La Grande Bouche) were outstanding.

Florence McKay’s performance as Lumière was illuminating. It was full of character and wit. Her body language as the boastful candlestick was brilliant and her ability to capture his humorous risqué nature alongside his fragility as he faces an uncertain future was touching.

An energetic and talented chorus, with the backing of an upbeat orchestra, rounded out the performance. The chorus also provided great support to the main cast and was the highlight of the major musical numbers.

**Catherine Mogridge**
1. The village people make fun of Belle (Alisa Urokohara) who's an outsider.  
2. Gaston (Jack Maher) is determined to marry Belle much to her disgust.  
3. Tavern scene where locals sing the praises of Gaston.  
4. The silly girls (Megan Taylor, Tara Kennedy and Emily Bugeja) adore Gaston.  
5. Gaston asserts his power over his side-kick Le Fou (Euan Brown).  
6. The cutlery performing Be Our Guest.  
7. Belle and the Beast (Rohan Dickson) dance while the signature song Beauty and the Beast is performed by Mrs Potts (Serena Sharp).  
8. Love is dawning as Belle reads the Beast King Arthur.  
9. The servants aspiring to be human again: Cogsworth (Madeline Atwell), Mrs Potts, Chip (Daniel Parkinson), Lumière (Florence McKay), Babette (Adeline Hunter) and Madame Bouche (Angela Oodds).  
10. Le Fou, Monsieur D’Ariqué (Zack Pizzingrilli) and Gaston plotting to capture Maurice, Belle’s father.  
11. Monsieur D’Ariqué, Le Fou, Gaston and the mob from the village come to capture Maurice but instead go to the castle to capture the Beast.  
12. The mob arrives at the castle but is fought off by the servants.  
13. Gaston and the Beast fight. Gaston is killed while the beast is seriously injured but is then transformed through his love for Belle.  
14. The spell is broken and we see the prince as he really is. He and Belle live happily ever after.  
15. The orchestra. Back row: Ryan Waring yr 11 (drums), Mark Fuhrmann (bass guitar), Macy Byrnes yr 10 (synthesiser), Peter Hagen (piano), Garrick van den Schoot (woodwind), Celia Gail (Musical Director). Front row: Pauline Hong (violin), Jo Porch (flute), Matthew Watts (oboe).
I write with great enthusiasm to invite you to be part of the next exciting chapter of our much-loved school. As a proud past student, I have become increasingly saddened at the lack of engagement between our past and present school communities. Why is our alumni network not as strong as those of other Australian schools? Why haven't students from my era forged stronger, value-adding connections with those that attended the college before and after me? Why aren’t we doing more as a collective group to open channels of communication, offering a conduit for past and present students to access support, or providing a vehicle for reconnecting with old friends and making new ones?

_Rather than sit back and criticise or complain about the current shortcomings, I have decided to be part of the solution. My challenge to you, and every other Assumption College past student, is to join me in building something special; a fraternity of which we all feel a valued part - a proud family to which we all belong._

‘Join me in building something special’

I recently spent time with current members of the old collegians committee to discuss our objectives and to request their ongoing support with the proposed changes. As expected, this same small group of former students who have selflessly dedicated much of their time over more than five decades keeping the ACKOCA alive, not only supported the discussed changes, they unanimously offered to continue on in an advisory capacity to guide the formation of a new committee. We can no longer rely on the efforts of a few champions such as Kevin Skehan, Ron Forbes, Terry Gray (dec.), Nildo Munari, Norm Nugent, Robert Ryan and Br Arthur Maybon to do all the heavy lifting. We will be relying on a wider network of capable former students to support a core group of new committee members in achieving the objectives of our old collegians constitution. These include providing a supportive network to assist members in their career choices and prospects; the extension of friendly communication between members, support for members in need, and building a closer and healthier working relationship with the school through Principal Kate Fogarty.

As the incoming President, I will be forming a new committee comprised of members with the energy, skills and passion to lead the changes required. Important roles in finance, marketing, communication, operations, governance and fundraising are required. Our Alumni Relations Officer Angela Talty (angela.talty@assumption.vic.edu.au or 03 5783 0814) would love to hear from you if you are interested in a role on the old collegians committee or if you’d like to nominate/suggest a capable former classmate (we’re not afraid to go knocking!). We will also be identifying people from each decade to take responsibility for coordinating communication of future events with small groups from their own eras, as well as larger, gala events involving all former students.

The next big event will be a reunion at the college of all ACK past students. **Please mark August 28 in your diary.** The celebration will be all about friendship and family fun. There will be a big bash cricket match, an old collegians football game, a netball tournament (all involving former greats of the past five decades) and a debating challenge where our academic legends will do battle.

There’ll be tours of the wonderful new facilities every hour, jumping castles, lots of other kids’ activities and prizes to be won, a luncheon for former ACKOCA committee members and an all-day barbecue to feed the masses. Get involved, and encourage as many of your former classmates as possible to come back to Kilmore for the day.

Many of you would remember Br Dacius Reilly (a Marist Brother of 75 years and a former Assumption student), Madame Annie Ten Brink (ACK teacher in the ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s) and Terry Gray (vice-president of the ACKOCA) who died recently. Please remember them in your prayers.

We each have cherished memories of our time at ACK and we all form an important part of the history of Assumption. Our involvement did not end with our secondary schooling; we remain alumni for life and we share the same obligation to help the school and fellow past students wherever our support is required. I urge you to take up this challenge and look for ways to become more involved.

Warmest regards,

Simon J. Costa  
(Class of 1985)
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE KILMORE OLD COLLEGIANS REUNION DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016
SUTHERLAND ST, KILMORE

10.00AM WELCOME MASS
CELEBRATED BY BISHOP PETER CONNORS

11.00AM NETBALL ROUND ROBIN
PAST GREATS & CURRENT STARS (RUMOURS INVOLVING PARTICIPATION BY CURRENT ACK PRINCIPAL)
FINAL TO BE PLAYED DURING HALF-TIME OF THE CRICKET

11:00 - 3:00PM FAMILY BBQ, DRINKS & SWEETS

11:00 - 3:00PM TOURS OF THE NEW SCHOOL FACILITIES
VISIT THE IMPRESSIVE NEW FOURVIÈRE CENTRE, CLASSROOMS, ADMIN & BOARDING HOUSES
TOUR GROUPS WILL DEPART EVERY 30 MINUTES

11:30 - 1.30PM ORATORY & DEBATING CHALLENGE
CURRENT STUDENTS TO COMPETE FOR THE MAX CHARLESWORTH ORATORY AWARD
PAST ACADEMICS TO BATTLE WITS IN A HUMOROUS DEBATING CHALLENGE

12:00 - 2.30PM CRICKET ‘BIG BASH’
EACH SIDE WILL HAVE 15 OVERS TO SMASH A WINNING SCORE
PAST CHAMPIONS FROM ACROSS DECADES RETURNING TO THE CARROLL OVAL

2.45 - 4.15PM FOOTBALL (MASTERS OF THE GAME!)
COACHED AND REPRESENTED BY MANY OF THE GREATS OF OUR PAST FIRST XVIIIs
HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT NOT TO BE MISSED!

4.30PM RAFFLE DRAW & FAREWELL

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
SIMON 0412 561 046 / SIMONJCOSTA@GMAIL.COM
MATTHEW 0409 565 020 / MATMEIER@BIGPOND.NET.AU

facebook.com/bmfdesigns
Amid much laughter, reminiscing and banter, forty students from the class of 1986 gathered in the Marlhes Restaurant on March 19 for a reunion. 

Beforehand, boarders Taylum and Tasman Pickett, Dylan Menadue and Max Long took these former students on a tour of the college which included the pavilion, probably the only thing that hasn’t changed in 30 years.

The celebration, organised by Joanne Hancock (Peters), began at 6.30pm and officially ended at 11. The food, prepared by Marlhes chef Nigel Engel, was magnificent: hot savouries of assorted satays, quiches, Vietnamese meat balls, mini lamb pies, spinach and ricotta triangles and arancini balls; fresh salsa, king prawns, Tasmanian smoked salmon served with a guacamole salad, antipasto served with home-made lavosh and devilled eggs served on a Russian salad. This was finished off with a dessert buffet.

Afterwards, Joanne thanked those involved for their hard work and effort which helped make the reunion such a success.

“Feedback has been really positive from the tour to the venue and especially the food – simply delicious. “Turned out to be a really lovely group of people that enjoyed the evening and kicked on [elsewhere] well into the early hours of Sunday morning,” she said.

Angela Talty
WE CONGRATULATE TWO ALUMNI NAMED IN THE QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

With pride, Assumption College congratulates past students Neale Daniher and John (Jack) Kennedy who have been named in the 2016 Queen’s Birthday Honours List. They have been appointed as members (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Neale has been honoured “for significant service to community health through support for people with Motor Neurone Disease and their families, and to Australian rules football.”

And Jack “for significant service to medicine, particularly in the field of otolaryngology, to medical education and training, and to the community.”

Both men were honoured at our gala dinner at Crown last year, Neale was named in ACK’s Greatest Ever VFL/AFL team and Jack was inducted into our Hall of Excellence for his services to medicine.

Kate Fogarty

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

COURTNEY CRICHTON CLASS OF 2015

I can’t believe it has been seven months since I graduated from Assumption. The days of themed dinners in the boarding house and early mornings on school days have been replaced by late nights completing assignments, and even earlier mornings than those at school so I can be at university on time after tackling the hectic Melbourne traffic. Luckily, I don’t have to cope with early mornings and traffic every day as I only attend university Monday to Wednesday.

My life after ACK began when I received my ATAR at 6.50am on December 14 and was set in stone when I received an offer to study a Bachelor of Applied Science and Masters of Clinical Prosthetics and Orthotics at La Trobe University, Bundoora. My life changed again when I moved to suburban Mill Park from Cohuna, a month before first semester began. I am learning about what life is like as an adult in the real world. It is not as scary as I expected, however, it can still be challenging at times. You have to grow up fast and take responsibility for yourself at all times.

I have learnt that getting a part-time job is not as easy as I thought. While I thought I was well prepared and have had many great attributes and skills, I have applied for around 40 to 50 jobs in the last three months and have had only one interview. My lack of luck has not extinguished the spirit and drive I gained at ACK. Thinking outside the square I have started up my own cleaning business to make living a little more comfortable.

I am living in a share house and you might think that after boarding for three years I would have seen it all, well you’re wrong. I guarantee boarding staff that the students are well behaved and that kids still out of bed at 10.30pm when lights out was 10pm is nothing compared to my living situation lately, but, like the boarding house, it is not all bad; it is full of fun too.

My point is, no matter how hard you try to prepare yourself for the world outside the blue gates of ACK, life will always throw up unexpected challenges. My advice to current and future year 12 students is to enjoy your time at school and cherish every moment, because before you know it, you too will be an old collegian and as much as I am honored to have that title, I wish I had been a student for more than three years. Nevertheless, look forward to what adult life brings because it is one heck of a ride. Just hold tight and chase your dreams, don’t give up even when life seems too hard. You learn many skills and strengths while at Assumption that can be used in life beyond the classroom.
I am writing from New York where I work for international bank HSBC. It is here, from the other side of the world, that I was recently reminiscing about my pathway here. Boarding at ACK between 1998 and 2003 was a unique experience. It was tough at the start, particularly being away from family, but the bonds I made with fellow boarders and classmates helped me get by. Constant sport was also a handy distraction. My time at Assumption helped shape who I am and put me on a pathway to success.

After ACK I studied part time for a Bachelor of Commerce at Deakin University while working in corporate banking at the ANZ. In 2013 I left to take up a role at HSBC in Melbourne and subsequently, in August last year, accepted a position as a banker with HSBC in Manhattan.

My time at ACK had its challenges; I wasn’t the smartest student or the best at sport either. But the times I had as a student and a boarder set me up well. I broke an N64 controller and punched a hole in the wall after losing too many games of Mario Kart, out of which I learnt patience and how to lose gracefully. I used to buy Mi Goreng by the box load from Vic Market and sell it at a 200 per cent mark-up to the boarders, which taught me about supply and demand. We used to have longboard races down the main drive which, after speed humps were installed, led to the odd injury. This taught me to think just a bit before doing something!

Sometimes it was tough to get good grades, or be good enough for the firsts but those challenges pale in comparison to challenges beyond the school gates. I’m fortunate that my experience at ACK held me in good stead for these challenges. I’m also lucky to have some good mates with whom I have kept in touch, and some I am reconnecting with on the other side of the world.

My family have always been closely associated with Assumption College. My great grandfather completed his studies there in 1919, my grandmother’s brothers in the late 1940s, my father in 1975, my brother in 2003 and me in 2005.

After leaving ACK, I returned to my parents’ place in Wodonga for a month or two before moving to Bendigo to live with my brother Matthew. I was accepted into education at La Trobe, Bendigo and deferred my studies for a year.

During 2006, I worked on a farm just outside Bendigo and played football with Hillston after agreeing to play while there for the races with other former Assumption boarders: Nick Hodge, Brad Rae, Sam Callanan and Chloe Kelly (now Kliemt). Not being very good at football, it was a perfect fit for me; only mid-strengths on a Friday night (no limit as to how many though), no cigarettes within one hour of the first bounce and a team debrief every Saturday night at the local.

In 2007, I began my studies at La Trobe where Courtney Kerr (now McLennan) and Monique Horne (now Beecroft), who boarded at ACK and finished in 2005, also studied. The next four years were some of the best: full of music festivals, travelling, friends, working at First Choice Liquor and, occasionally, doing some study. While at university I met my future wife, Alison (pictured with Liam), who was also studying education.

I taught at St Mary's College, Seymour from 2011 to 2014, and last year re-establishing my Marist connection by moving to Marist College Bendigo as a foundation educator, an extremely challenging and rewarding role. It involves helping set up and deliver new curriculum, develop school procedures and everything else that goes along with a brand-new school; it has been full on.

When thinking back to times in the boarding house, I often laugh at the little things that made it such a great place. Things such as weekly TV shows (The OC), card games and the anti-gambling protesters (Tanga and Hodgey), Pinky's Pizza orders on Friday and Sunday nights and, of course, the elimination or “Naish” (as they were more affectionately known) downball tournaments.

In March last year (thanks to a lot of effort by Haydon Murdoch, Andrew Thompson and Hugh Barlow) the boy boarders from 2005 had a 10-year reunion over the Labour Day long weekend in Albury. It was great to reconnect with the few that had lost touch over the years and to catch up again with the friends you keep in close contact with. At the Towong Cup on the Saturday we sponsored a race: The Mob Mentality Maiden Plate. The race was great, we backed the winner, celebrated more than owners of the horse and Tim Sullivan made an impressive speech and presented the trophy and saddlecloth to the winning connections. (If anyone has found my wallet, I’m still looking for it!)

When looking back at ACK I really appreciate the friendships I made. As time goes on, there are friends you don’t see for a while but through others you stay in touch, always hearing what others are up to which is great.
MITCHELL KILLEEN  
CLASS OF 1988

I have worked since 1996 for what is now LyondellBasell, a global plastics, chemicals and refining company. My years at LYB have provided plenty of opportunity for adventure, most recently completing 12 years in Hong Kong and Dubai where I was managing director for Africa, the Middle East and India. With the three kids, Patrick, Carrie and Joe, running out of years to experience school in Australia, we moved to Kilmore in 2015 to give them the same opportunity to build the wonderful life-long friendships we had made at Assumption.

Before joining LYB I took a PhD scholarship at the University of Queensland and lived at the Jesuit’s St Leo’s College.

During my PhD, Caroline and I (pictured) were married at St. Patrick’s Kilmore by Fr Pius Jones (my year 10 dorm master). During year 10 we stayed at what is now the Kilmore International School while the dorms were renovated. Many ACK connections attended our wedding and “Jonesy” went on to baptise our three kids. Joseph’s was extra special as we were locked out of the vestry so Jonesy had to use a light shade as a font.

I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne while boarding at Newman College which was wonderful. After graduating I worked as a chemist in Altona Melbourne while boarding at Newman College which was a font.

I have no doubt that my time at ACK was the key to giving Caroline and me the curiosity and confidence to go on our 12-year adventure with kids in tow. ACK will be a critical and positive influence on them throughout their lives, so am pleased to be back and to see what the school has become since I was there.

I travelled, reluctantly, in 1982 from Leeton as a year 8 boarder. My first impressions were not helped by arriving just ahead of the overdue boarding house renovations and dinner on the first night where a tray of chicken was dropped, picked up and served. The only showers then were the football change rooms with only two sessions a day while a pecking order queued in the cold. I also recall reluctant washes in the year 7 and 8 dorm where we were woken each morning by AC/DC’s Hells Bells.

Once I made friends, discovered jerks (a similar game to Downball that was played on courts behind the theatre which have been replaced by the drama rooms) and was given proper “stir names” such as Wingnut or Proddy, take your pick, I loved my five years at ACK. Today, some 34 years later, my school friends are still close and I even married a “co-ed”.

CAROLINE KILLEEN (HEMPENSTALL)  
CLASS OF 1986

Thanks to dad’s career with Ansett, we enjoyed a childhood full of heavily discounted flying adventures. I was set on becoming a flight attendant as a result, and happily left nursing at Ballarat University to join Australia’s first deregulation airline, Compass – months later it fell into liquidation. Many of us lobbied with gusto and within a year we had our airline running again. I worked as cabin crew and in-flight trainer until its final demise in 1994. Fellow ACK boarder Mitchell Killeen and I married in 1995 in St. Patrick’s Church, Kilmore. Several years flying with Ansett followed during which time our children, Patrick and Carrie, were born. Following the tragic collapse of Ansett, I studied a Diploma of Specialised Make-Up (Film & TV) full time at Victoria University.

As soon as I had qualified, Mitch was offered a position overseas. My first impressions were not helped by arriving just ahead of the overdue boarding house renovations and dinner on the first night where a tray of chicken was dropped, picked up and served. The only showers then were the football change rooms with only two sessions a day while a pecking order queued in the cold. I also recall reluctant washes in the year 7 and 8 dorm where we were woken each morning by AC/DC’s Hells Bells.

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We arrived in Hong Kong hot on the tail of SARS. It was the wet season and I was six months pregnant with Joseph. During those five years we made life friendships and had fun times working for a production company in make-up, wigs, costumes and event management. Hong Kong was rich in fashion and finance so working with such clients meant invaluable experience.

Ramadan 2008 marked our arrival in Dubai where seven years of family travel and interaction changed our lives. There is a book on this chapter, however, the highlights were our connection to a special needs day care/orphanage called Senses and time living with our foster son Milon Mia. I also worked freelance as a make-up artist for fashion shows, wrote beauty sections for magazines and styled fashion shoots. The most enjoyable work was corporate training in image and styling for service staff of shopping malls. More life friendships were made in the Arab Emirate which we will always treasure.

Roughly 30 years after leaving Assumption there is a lot to reflect on and be thankful for. I thoroughly enjoyed my years at ACK and remember fondly those who influenced my thinking and the way I live today: Brother Doug Walsh and the late Mr Pat Phillips are at the top. Because of the boarders I understood Victoria’s geography with all the 18ths and 21sts I attended. Friendships from those years at ACK have been the grandest of legacies. I am happy and proud to have our three children now at Assumption College.
A FORMER ASSUMPTION STUDENT SHINES IN AN OTHERWISE LACKLUSTRE SEASON FOR PRAHRAN ASSUMPTION

In a season light on for highlights so far John (Jamie) Robbins has been the standout performer for Prahran Assumption in VAFA Division 1.

After nine games Robbins has 27 goals to be equal third in the competition.

The ACK graduate has been at his brilliant best in a team that has struggled with its conversion all season.

At the half-way mark of the season the Two Blues are eighth on the ladder with just one and a half wins and have some serious work to do in the back half of the season to avoid relegation to Division 2.

There were seven ACK graduates in the team on June 5 with Harry Taylor and Joe Slattery performing up to their high level of consistency. Taylor would be high up in best and fairest voting in an on-ball role while Slattery has been excellent in a wing and half-back role.

Alex Simpson turned in his best game for the season at half-back on the same Saturday v St Mary’s Salesian. Tom Keaney has battled manfully in the ruck all season, Tim Webb in a key defence post under a great deal of pressure each week has stood tall while Jayden Williams returned from an ankle injury that forced him to miss three matches. Williams was one of the better players on a wing before switching to a defence role on St Mary’s Salesian gun Manny Doran where he managed to quell the opposition star significantly.

A club highlight on June 18 was the 200th senior game for club stalwart Adam Sleight v Old Paradians in a battle for the relegation. Old Paradians drew with Prahran Assumption in Round 1 but has lost every match since.

The club is going through the process of a job description for a part-time recruiting manager which will be advertised soon. The recruiting manager will oversee the efforts to attract more quality players through the Assumption network, former Prahran juniors players and other recruiting sources.

Also the club is keen to pursue a women’s team in the inaugural VAFA Development League in 2017.

Prahran juniors has an under-18 team which sits third on the ladder in the South Metro Junior Football League.

Meanwhile, the netball division of the club continues to flourish with 14 teams, including two senior teams, playing in the Prahran Netball Association.

July 15 will see the launch of the club’s basketball division with four teams to compete on Saturday afternoons at MSAC.

Tim Habel
ACK’S OLDEST BUILDING HAS BECOME ITS NEWEST LEARNING SPACE

BLESSING AND OPENING OF THE FOURVIÈRE CENTRE