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From the outset, let me thank you all for your kind words of support and concern throughout term 3. The sad loss of Zane Collier punctuated an extremely busy third term, reminding us of the preciousness of life and the importance of community in times of grief. We really appreciated the warm response of our community as we struggled to grieve and make meaning of our loss.

As always, there are many fabulous stories to be shared in this edition of Shandon Calls. We’ve taken great delight in recent weeks having recovered the Shandon Bell, and prepared it for installation at the front of the renovated building. We’re still deliberating about whether to remove the bell’s tongue so that those who walk past won’t be tempted to ring it!

All the best for a blessed and holy Christmas with your families and friends. If you have stories to share or reunions to plan, don’t forget to contact Angela Talty. She’s always ready to help our alumni find their place again in our community.

Peace and blessings,

Kate Fogarty

PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME

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Kate Fogarty

CLASS OF ‘95 REUNION

Saturday 28th November 2015 | 6:00pm onwards
Beer Deluxe Hawthorn, (329 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn)
Cost is $22 per head for food. | Drinks will be at bar prices.
To book, go to http://www.trybooking.com/JLJC
If you have any queries, please contact Louise Brooks (nee Shinners) on 0409 651 406.
During high tea, featuring the kind of fare that the Windsor Hotel would be proud to serve at its famous afternoon tea, current and former boarders celebrated 20 years of girls boarding. They gathered in Mannes House from 2 to 5pm on August 29, and I was among them. I completed my secondary education at Assumption from 1986-87, taught at the college from 1992-2008 and during those years filled in as a boarding supervisor from time to time.

On that Saturday, I made the all too familiar trip up the Hume to Assumption; seven years had passed since I'd engaged in this daily ritual, and I didn’t know what to expect.

Lots had changed, including the drive into the school. I found my way to Mannes House and headed in. I was greeted by friendly faces: Angela Talty, and Principal Kate Fogarty who I have known for years. Kate asked a student to give me a tour, and yes, things had certainly changed in boarding. Everyone now has their own room with a door. Before you had to swing your press (wardrobe) door across the entrance to your cubicle for privacy. Now it’s like living in a house with lots of bedrooms and a few TV/lounge areas. Head of House Helen Campbell showed me her living quarters; so different to the one bedroom we used to share as supervisors.

After my tour, the first two girls I bumped into were Emily Ryan and Madelaine Landini from 2008. They filled me in on what was going on in their lives and where people were from their year level.

I caught up with boarding supervisor Lyn Crowder, and we talked about the changes since she and I worked together in a dorm.

I had a long chat with a group of girls from the class of 2000: Eva Shaw, Sarah McGarvie, Rebecca Peters, Jess O’Shea, Katherine Simonds and Julia Martin plus Floe McGarvie (Class of 1998). Eva and Floe had flown in from Tasmania.

We reminisced about many things, mainly about the changes:

- the spacious rooms with so much storage space;
- dinner and how the girls no longer eat with the boys. The girls miss the camaraderie and interaction at meal times; and
- showers that are private with doors and no longer does water flow from one shower base to another.

Many other things were brought to mind, and there were lots of laughs as we sipped champagne, pink lemonade and fruit punch, and enjoyed petite fours, profiteroles, spinach and feta tarts, mini-smoked salmon and chive bagels and chicken and cucumber sandwiches so lovingly prepared, I was told, by head chef Julie Pell. The afternoon flew and we could have spent many more hours together.

Driving home, I was struck by how these “girls” had grown up; many had children and one was thinking about sending her child to ACK to board.

Assumption College remains a special place for these girls and for me.

Judy Sultana (class of 1987)
Celebrating 20 years of girls boarding | Shandon Calls

Planning for the future of our youth is something Assumption does especially well. Planning for the future of our college is also important and needs to be attended to with an open heart and a keen sense of where the future is calling us. Over recent months, the ACK community has been dreaming and considering strategies to prepare for the kind of learning institution we want to become by 2020.

Throughout two rounds of full-day consultations with students, staff, parents and community members and following the collation of pages of online surveys, a vision for “where to next?” has emerged. The Vision and Mission Statement now incorporates a refreshed Identity Statement, which names our Marist core values and describes the key facets of our community; a set of Graduate Outcomes that describe the aspirational characteristics we hope for our year 12s as they walk out the front gates for the last time; and, finally, our five-year goals, which call us to look beyond the needs and wants of our annual goals to a bigger picture that inspires us to “be more”.

Positive Change for the Future (ACK 2020 – A Vision for the Future)

The document is our blueprint for all decision-making and planning in the coming five years. It will help us discern how to best use our resources, and how to plan so that they are cumulating in a school in which we can all continue to be proud. Indeed, with the migration of so many people to the north of the city, our advisory planners have told us to anticipate further growth of between 400 and 600 in the student population. While this growth will occur gradually, we must ensure that we have our finger on the future needs of the school.

In the short term, the Vision and Mission Statement points to some dramatic shifts in our learning regime, and highlights the need for us to be a community that is always thinking about the coming vocational skills and knowledge required by our students. At the same time, we need to ensure that the fantastic pastoral and community feel of Assumption is never lost. You will see this reflected in our document.

“We need to ensure that the fantastic pastoral and community feel of Assumption is never lost.”

“There is still a good deal to be done to prepare for the needs of our current students and those to come.”
Where to from here?

The document will provide the framework for our coming discussions with a promotional company which will look at all aspects of our branding. It provides them with an understanding of how we see ourselves and what is important to us, so that they can help us better align our promotional materials, signage and documentation. Moreover, the strategic goals help us begin a conversation with our architects about a new Master Plan for our facilities. Over the past ten years, many millions have been spent on capital infrastructure, and there is still a good deal to be done to prepare for the needs of our current students and those to come. The careful stewardship of our financial resources has enabled much, but also left us with considerable financial responsibilities. Happily though, we now have a sound and well-discerned framework to determine future needs.

Most importantly, the document allows us to pursue our annual goals, knowing that we are working towards a common and coherent understanding of the type of college we wish to be. It is an accountability measure, and a way of ensuring that our Marist values remain pre-eminent in all decision making.

A project revisited

Many of you will recall that at the gala evening last February, Mr Bernie Shinners, Chair of the College Advisory Council, announced that we would be building a new community facility incorporating the Harry M Anderson Pavilion beside the Carroll Oval (see concept drawing below). We have begun the early stages of investigating the feasibility of the project, noting that most of the cost will need to be met through philanthropy (given that our regular resources will need to be directed towards expanded teaching and learning spaces). We haven’t had a strong tradition of philanthropic enterprise at Assumption thus far, and want to ensure that the process is undertaken with due diligence and care.

Stay tuned for further information.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the strategic planning process. On behalf of the college community, I really appreciate your ongoing interest and contribution to the life of the college.

Kate Fogarty
Principal

*The strategic goals help us begin a conversation with our architects about a new Master Plan for our facilities.*
MERLE REFLECTS ON HER LONG TEACHING CAREER, LOVE OF NETBALL AND LIFE ON THE LAND

Long-time Assumption teacher Merle Stirling left at the end of last year. Following her mother’s death in March she moved out of the classroom and back full-time to the family farm at Rochester. She took a break from the shearing shed to talk about her early life, teaching and her love of sport.

Tell us something of your early life and education.

I was born at Rochester Hospital in northern Victoria and raised on a local farm, “Riverview”, on the banks of the Campaspe River. I’m the second eldest of four children with two sisters and one brother. My younger sister Glenda is also a teacher and taught with me at ACK for nearly four years. I attended Rochester Primary and High schools before studying to be a physical education and science teacher at Ballarat University. I gained honours after examining the causes of netball injuries. That’s quite ironic, having suffered a few injuries from my netball-playing days.

Why teaching? Have you worked at anything else, including part-time jobs while studying? And did you consider other careers?

I chose teaching because I had some great role models during my six years at Rochester High. I love sport and played netball, tennis and basketball, and did cross-country and long-distance running, swimming and life-saving. I enjoy interacting with people and being part of a team. For several summers I worked on local tomato farms, weeding the long rows of tomatoes and being a sorter on the harvesting machine. For years I have also been a farm hand and worked as a wool classer and rouseabout in the shearing shed.

I considered working in the police force or in outdoor education.

What do you like most about your job? What gets to you? And what were you teaching at Sacred Heart, Kyneton?

I like seeing students aim high and work hard to achieve their goals. It is very satisfying when teenagers reap the rewards from their efforts. At school, every day is different and there is so much to learn from colleagues and young people. I love practical subjects and that is why I gained my qualifications in PE and science.

Not much gets to me, but inequality in a school community is something I have always worked hard to overcome.

This year I moved to Sacred Heart, Kyneton. I was level leader of year 11 and taught VCE Physical Education, VCAL Personal Development Skills and years 7 and 10 science. Due to mum’s sudden death in March I took leave for third and fourth terms to work with dad on the farm. I received tremendous support from the Sacred Heart community.

How did you come to be a teacher at ACK? When did you arrive? And what about your memories of those early days?

After four fantastic years in the Mallee at Murrayville P-12 Community College it was time to move back to central Victoria closer to family. I arrived at ACK in 1998 and felt extremely privileged to further my teaching career in one of the best schools in Victoria for teaching PE and being involved in sport.

My early memories at ACK were of the fun and banter in the old staff room (now the chapel) with some real ACK characters. Also, former principal Brother Fons forgot to welcome me when introducing the new staff at a full school assembly. I got a fair ribbing from fellow PE teachers as a result.
How did the college, students and staff change during your time here?
During my 17 years (1998-2014) at ACK I witnessed many changes. The college’s enrolments more than doubled and facilities constantly improved without detracting from Assumption’s unique heritage. Use of technology in all subjects grew, as did the opportunities for students, especially in relation to co-curricular activities.
Students are more willing to speak up and ask questions now, which sometimes leads to them pushing the boundaries. They are also so much more creative in coming up with excuses for why they haven’t done their homework or other tasks.
Staff are more technological savvy which helps to engage students during lessons.

How and when did you develop your passion for netball? Do you still play or are you coaching a side? Do you miss being Assumption’s netball aficionado?
My love of netball started when I took to the netball court for the first time as a six-year-old. Despite not winning a game in my first year, my friends and I stuck together in the same team through primary and secondary school and experienced a lot more success. I have always enjoyed watching netball on TV or attending matches in Melbourne.
My netball coaching career began in Murrayville where I coached junior teams and also a Mallee representative team for the South Australian country weekend. It was a natural progression to continue my involvement in netball at ACK. I coached the firsts for 10 years and the Inter A’s for seven years. I have been involved in several Marist Netball Carnivals either as coach or team manager. This year I did some coaching at SHC Kyneton with the senior girls netball team.
Unfortunately my playing days ended abruptly in 2007 with a major knee injury. I had to have bone grafts and a full knee reconstruction; I had my other knee reconstructed in 1999. After damaging both knees I decided to concentrate on my PE teaching because I loved it more than the netball.
I don’t miss being Assumption’s netball aficionado as it was something I did for love. I always wanted positive outcomes for the Assumption girls who were keen to be involved in the game. Also, I was a strong advocate for ACK netballers gaining the recognition they deserved.

How do you relax?
By reading books, doing Pilates, watching sport and socialising with friends.
I like cycling around different parts of the Victorian countryside. Recently I completed a bike ride between Heathcote and Bendigo on the O’Keefe Rail Trail. I’ve also done quite a bit of cycling on the South Island of New Zealand during the summer holidays over the last couple of years.

How are you finding life on the farm following your mum’s passing?
It is a “breath of fresh air” after teaching for 22 years. The sheep don’t cause as much trouble as some students!
The days go quickly with a never ending list of farm jobs to do. I go to bed physically tired but satisfied with the daily achievements. From a young age I have enjoyed helping as much as possible on my parents’ farm especially during long weekends and the school holidays.
The students at Assumption aptly called me “Farm girl Merle” after I shared many farming stories with them. I appreciated the connection I made with the young people at ACK from local and interstate farming families.
I know how lucky I was to be employed in such a great school. Seventeen years is a long time to work in one place. My positive experiences and memories of ACK life will be cherished forever.

Merle on the farm.
COMMUNITY HUB BUILDING UPDATE

After a seemingly endless clearing of rubble, soil and waste from the former boarding house work site, the exciting new Community Hub is taking shape.

Our builders and consultants have worked through a variety of complications which are inherent in renovations of buildings this age. New brick work and plastering are allowing us to see more clearly the wonderful learning spaces that will be available to our students next year.

Large sections of the building have been reroofed, a lift has been installed, stairwells have been constructed and work has begun on the new entrance where the old kitchen, delivery and waste collection area was.

To round off the development, our Parents and Friends Association have generously donated $50,000 towards the landscaping of the Champagnat Quadrangle at the centre of this wonderful project.

Joseph Feery
Business Manager

1, 5, 7, 9 & 10 Different aspects of work on the new entrance. Photos were taken during a recent inspection by consultants and senior leadership. | 2&4 Preparing the Champagnat Quadrangle for landscaping. | 3. Do you remember this dorm? | 6. A new upstairs classroom. | 8. South-side stairwell.
MATT THOMPSON
CLASS OF 2004

As you’ll discover, medicine was not my first career choice, but I am looking forward to completing my final medical exams and graduating in December. Next January I’ll begin my internship in Canberra and will be moving there later this year to join my partner who has been living in the national capital for the last few years.

I contemplated becoming a doctor, like my dad, while travelling through Canada and Europe in 2008 with my lifelong best mate, Sam Boake. We grew up together in Tocumwal and he started boarding with me at ACK in 2003. On returning home I spent time in dad’s Brisbane practice, and after chatting with friends and family, I decided to apply to study medicine at Bond University.

I went to university straight after Assumption. I studied human movement and health education, at St John’s College, Sydney University, deferred and transferred to arts and journalism in 2006 at Queensland University and completed my studies in mid-2008. I gained a teaching qualification and taught in 2010.

I began my medical studies on the Gold Coast the next year. It has been a long, highly challenging but rewarding experience consisting of demanding hospital placements. It’s also meant I’ve lived between Brisbane with family and on the Gold Coast with a few good uni mates.

I have played footy and cricket at club level and have been part of premiership winning teams: the Western Magpies in the QAFL, and the West Brisbane Cricket Club. By keeping active and having commitments away from study I keep some balance and have a social life.

I boarded with my younger brother Andrew (ACK 2003-05) just like my grandfather and uncles off the farm – so it was natural that we would do the same. I have amazing memories of the college: sporting premierships, early-morning bus rides to away matches in Melbourne, weekends there at the footy, celebrations in the country during holidays (the best one being camping on the river at Toc in year 12), functions, awards nights, the Sacred Heart Exchange and boarders’ night out in year 12.

There was a lot of fun in the boarding house, too: poker competitions after study, boxing bouts (lucky we were never caught), organised tennis, squash and checker tournaments after school and in the dorm, which obviously carried bragging rights, dorm raids, Friday night activities in the Gonzales Centre and one of my best mates, Bernie Price’s Ode to the Boys.

Assumption’s staff and students (mates, peers, teachers, sporting coaches and boarding supervisors) make it a great place. By the end of year 12 I had formed relationships with most people, as I was heavily involved in sport and important College events and functions as college captain. Any former student will tell you that this is one reason people get drawn back to Kilmore for reunions and special events. You feel you’re part of a larger community, even after you’re long gone, and keeping up to date with the happenings at Assumption is easy. Someone will always know what someone else is up to, or has recently spoken to them, meaning you always feel part of the present even as a past student.

JOANNE HANCOCK
(ACK 1985-86)

I’ve been working for Telstra for over 20 years which has allowed me to have many different careers within the one company. Starting in customer service I’m now a business architect and support the delivery of major new product launches. I’ve seen the growth of mobile phones, the internet and the NBN.

In a blink of an eye 30 years have passed since I first jumped off the school bus from Seymour and entered the gates of ACK. I transferred mid-year and became the new co-ed wearing her old school uniform on that first Monday.

Following ACK I moved to Juneau, Alaska to live with family friends and attend high school. As soon as I flew over the snow-tipped mountains I discovered a city worlds apart from what
Shandon Calls | Our alumni

BOWMAN (BO) NIXON  
CLASS OF 2002

I’ve gone back to university in Melbourne to study psychology having been based in Sydney for a couple of years, where I was working as a solicitor. Before Sydney, I spent some time working in the law in Melbourne and Hong Kong. I’m still playing football (Bo played for Collingwood and Hawthorn) along with my brothers Seb, Dom and Natt for the mighty Barooga Hawks in the Murray League. Our sister Allie was also playing with the Hawks last season in the netball team, but Al’s flown the coop this year for some work in the Netherlands. I still keep in touch with a few of the crew from the class of ‘02, although catch-ups seem to be getting harder every year as friends’ lives take different directions. A lot of my school mates are now married with kids, but that’s still a while away for me – much to Jacqui Nixon’s disgust. I still think back to funny memories from the boarding-house days and have a laugh. The ongoing wars between Tom Lonergan and Grant Muir in year 12 were a real highlight. One night after lights out Grant was causing a ruckus, complaining about an awful smell coming from somewhere in his cubicle that he couldn’t find. Every time he got up to have a look though, the smell disappeared. It turned out Tom had filled the inside of Grant’s doona cover with some of the handy work of Mr Jongebloed’s prize steers, so every time Grant hopped back into bed and pulled his doona up, the smell came back.

My dad, Adrian, had his 40-year reunion with the class of ’74 at Marty Breen’s place in Darraweit Guim last year. He had a great time exchanging life stories and reminiscing about the good old days with his classmates. He said they’ve agreed to start making the catch-ups every five years, rather than 10, because they’re worried some of them are going to start dropping off the perch. Seems pretty morbid but probably a fair call.

COURTNEY BIRD  
CLASS OF 2012

I’m proud to have attended Assumption College from 2011 to 2012 to complete the final two years of my schooling. I will never forget my first day there, when I walked into the school grounds it was a real eye opener and a little intimidating, coming from St Mary’s College. At first, I didn’t know where to put my feet, as the population and size of the school grounds were something to behold.

Where should I begin with the memories that I have of Assumption College? The good old days when the lunch bell would ring, and we would race to the ref to line up for lunch. The lines would get so big that they would be out the door, and half our lunchtime was spent getting through the ref. There were no bad memories that I can recall.

Overall, Assumption was a great environment in which to finish my schooling. The staff were fantastic, and the standards were very high which is what is needed to prepare you for adulthood and the real world.

After leaving ACK, I attended university to begin my career as a myotherapist. In July I opened my own business at the rear of The Blue Dragonfly Café in Kilmore. So please don’t hesitate to call and make an appointment if you suffer from lower back pain, a stiff neck and shoulders, headaches or even if you’re just aching. I would be more than happy to help you so call me on 0400 037 567.
Much loved former ACK student Zane Collier was farewelled from this life with an emotional and inspiring service in the Gonzales Centre on August 29. His grieving family was joined by over 1500 present and past students, football mates and friends from the wider community.

A highly talented footballer, Zane trained with the First XVIII squad in year 9 and became vice-captain in 2014.

He was in pre-season when struck down with what appeared to be a routine leg injury – sadly this proved to be the onset of bone cancer.

During his 18-month battle he received love and support from parents Mark and Kylie and younger brothers Reid and Max. Support also came from his grandparents and extended family which included his dad’s sisters Leanne, Stacey and Courtney.

Tribute must also be paid to his devoted girlfriend Stephanie Gray of Seymour. She and Zane became close at Assumption, and as Zane’s mum said: “Stephanie has just been sensational.”

In welcoming all present, Faith and Ministry Director Terry Cooney set the tone for the memorable service.

Symbols of Zane’s life were brought forward: his ACK football jumper, tennis racquet, Dragonball Z character, San Jose Sharks jersey and his wakeboard.

Moving eulogies were delivered by his younger brother Reid, girlfriend Stephanie, Courtney Kemp, Leo Viitala, Billy McKeown and Kurt Chapman. Each invoking tears and laughter with their tales of Zane.

Readings were by Lisa Atkinson, Haley Gray, Kelsey Atkinson and Joshua Gray.

St Patrick’s Parish Priest Father Grant O’Neill’s reading from St John’s gospel led into a reflection from Principal Kate Fogarty.

Prayers followed from Zach Gration, Jaidyn Caruana, Gemma Smith, Xavier Dimasi and Jack Murphy.

Snapshots from Zane’s life provided a photo story on the large screen.

Father Grant gave the final blessing before the coffin was borne through the crowd. Pall bearers were dad Mark Collier, brother Reid, Rob Collier, Ray Bux, Callum Atkinson and Phillip Davis. The recessional was Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

A long guard of honour that stretched from the Gonzales Centre to the college’s front gates provided the final and fitting tribute.
ASSUMPTION NETBALLERS MAKE HISTORY AT THE MARIST NETBALL CARNIVAL

Assumption’s first-grade netballers won their first ever Marist Carnival Championship title with a 10-goal victory over host school Trinity College in the grand final.

The historic win was a fitting end to a strong three-day campaign at the popular event in Lismore, NSW.

Held in late June, Assumption began the carnival on a low note, going down to arch rival Sacred Heart, Adelaide by one goal, but quickly bounced back, finishing undefeated for the rest of the day.

On day two, the girls suffered another one-goal loss to Sale but after strong performances in all other games, most notably a 10-goal redemption over Sacred Heart, they finished on top of the draw for the championship round and went straight into the grand final.

It was the first time ACK had been represented in the netball grand finals and despite the huge home crowd supporting Trinity College, ACK came home strongly to win.

Director of Girls Sport Jade Rose was extremely proud: “If we were ever going to win this title it was with this team as they are a very talented group. Casey Adamson, an under-19 Australian representative player, has been a stand out. She is extremely talented and brings leadership and great encouragement to the team.

“There is a lot of talent coming through the younger grades with the Inter A’s being undefeated in the AGSV competition so we hope we can remain successful,” Jade said.

The Firsts netball side came second in this year’s AGSV/APS competition, after a two-goal loss late in the season to Ivanhoe, handing them the premiership.

Catherine Mogridge
The Two Blues finished sixth on the VAFA Division 1 ladder. Although that position was not flattering, the fact the seniors ended with a percentage of 106.1 from seven wins was an indication of how competitive they were in every game.

After a mid-season change of coach when Luke Egan was replaced by assistant Anthony McMahon the Two Blues began to string together some wins but tellingly could not win against any of the finalists. The club has welcomed back Ash Mills as senior coach for next season. Mills coached the Two Blues to two finals series in his three seasons from 2012-14 and spent this season as an assistant coach at TAC Cup club Western Jets.

Again outstanding for the club was former Assumption player and reigning best and fairest Daniel Anglin (class of 2003). Onballer Anglin was named the inaugural winner of the Neale Daniher Most Courageous Clubman award named in honour of the Assumption Team of the Century captain and presented at the club’s presentation night on September 18.

Notable additions to the club this season included former Assumption player Harry Taylor (class of 2013) who polled fourth in the competition best and fairest.

The Reserves made the grand final for the second successive year but were outclassed by Ormond suffering a 65-point defeat.

An encouraging sign for the future was that three best grand final players were youngsters: former Assumption students, from the class of 2013, Tom Keaney, who turned in an outstanding display of high marking (pictured) and Joe Slattery, and 17 year-old Michael Pisker who came through the Prahran juniors.

The club extended its netball division this year from two senior teams to add 10 junior teams ranging in age from under 9s to under 17s competing in the Prahran Netball Association. The teams all feature the Two Blues name and wear the same colours as the footballers.

The senior girls teams, featuring several former Assumption girls, made the finals with the Prahran Netball Association team reaching the semi-finals while the Two Blues team, playing out of the Glen Eira Sports And Aquatic Centre, were gallant in defeat 21-27 in the grand final played in June.

*Tim Habel*