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As this edition goes on line, our school year will have come to a close. Assessments, reporting and rituals of closure dominated the time of students and staff. As the sun creeps its way into our days (and doesn't it seem to be creeping slowly this year?), our hearts and minds turn with expectant waiting to the Christmas period.

I love the season of Advent: the colours, the joy, the food. During Advent, we get ready for the arrival of guests, we celebrate coming together, and we do our best to remember that the whole thing is really about the amazing reality that God undertook the remarkable business of becoming human. With Mary, Marists are most especially attuned to God at the crib, the table and the cross. At Christmas, the crib reminds us of the infinite possibilities we each encompassed at birth, and encourages us to recognise again the God within who calls us all to take one step closer to being the best version of ourselves.

The final months of the year are also about planning, and don't we have big plans for 2017. Over the holidays there will be significant renovations to the Upper and Lower William wings, and the Kenneth building. The new tennis/netball courts will be completed and some impressive new signage will be installed. More importantly though, our planning is centred around improving our students' learning program, including the development of a broader and more personalised curriculum, with unprecedented choice for students, the introduction of 75 minute lessons to allow for deeper experiences and the redevelopment of learning spaces into various hubs that will enable “stage not age” learning for those who require acceleration or greater support. In the second half of the year, we'll look forward to welcoming you in for a “Learning Walk” to show off all the amazing things our students are learning and developing.

I wish you and your family a blessed and peace-filled Christmas.

Quae Supra Quaere.

Kate Fogarty
A NEW DIRECTION FOR AN ACK TRADITION WITH THREE WOMEN AMONG FOUR ALUMNI DRAFTED TO THE AFL

Assumption College has a long and proud tradition of producing talented young AFL footballers. The inaugural Women’s AFL Draft proved that the girls will continue this tradition with three former ACK students set to play in the first ever women’s league competition in 2017.

Jess Kennedy, Christina Bernardi and Clare Lawton, all former students, will play AFL football in the inaugural year of the women’s competition.

Mitchell Lewis, who completed year 12 in 2016, was drafted by Hawthorn, a month after the women’s draft.

Unlike Mitch, none of the women can track their footy beginnings to the Carroll Oval, as girls football was not played at ACK at the time. The college and district are proud of their achievements.

JESS KENNEDY

Jess, who attended ACK from 2004-2008, describes herself as “absolutely stoked” to have been signed by Carlton as a free agent in the final minutes of the draft on Tuesday, October 11.

“I have been playing with Bendigo Thunder since 2011 when I started living in Bendigo for uni,” Jess said.

“I was watching the draft with Emma Grant who was picked up by Collingwood and with about 30 minutes to go I received a call from Carlton wanting to sign me up as a free agent if I didn’t get picked up.”

Jess, a well-known ACK and Riddell District netballer, continued to play netball until 2015 when she decided to focus on her footy. She has enjoyed great success with the Bendigo Thunder, winning their best and fairest in 2016 and runner-up best and fairest in 2011 and 2012.

“I am really looking forward to being a part of an exciting time in football and the challenge that will come with that. As a lifelong Carlton supporter I couldn’t be happier to be picked up by the Blues and that in itself makes it even more special,” Jess said.

“Carlton has been fantastic and so welcoming. They have a great bunch of girls and support staff, and we all just can’t wait to play.

CHRISTINA BERNARDI

Christina, who attended ACK from 2003-2008, began playing girls football just to join some friends at university, where previously basketball had been her sport of choice. She has been drafted by Collingwood for the AFLW.
“Some friends were heading down to Diamond Creek, I was at university at RMIT in Bundoora and I decided to join them and just haven’t looked back. That was in 2012,” Christina said.

“While I haven’t been that long in the game I just love it. I love the different elements to the game that you don’t get with other sports.

Christina, a secondary school sports teacher at Ivanhoe Grammar, has long been keen to include girls football in the AGSV sports schedule and was successful in 2016 with Ivanhoe and ACK playing a game this year.

“I was so excited about that. It was really important to me to be able to get a game organised against ACK because of the connection.”

Christina is keen for the competition to begin and is excited to be with the Magpies.

“Just the opportunity to train at such a facility and have access to these coaches is amazing. The chance to travel interstate and just play the game on this stage is great,” Christina said.

CLARE LAWTON

Keen to begin her AFLW career, Clare, who attended ACK in 2010-11, is still surprised at how quickly it has come about.

“I honestly didn’t believe this would happen in my sporting lifetime. It has been spoken of for so long and it is really just so exciting.

A boarder from Ganmain in the Riverina of NSW, Clare has followed in her brother James’s footsteps after he played for ACK and Calder Cannons before moving onto Adelaide Central Districts.

“I moved to ACK for my final two years at school and played netball and remember a lot of kick-to-kick sessions with the boarders,” Clare said.

“I have to admit I was convinced I wasn’t going to get picked up and went out to lunch on the day but silently watched the draft and was just in shock when I got picked up. I can’t explain how rapt I was and I can’t wait till pre-season training starts this month.”

Clare, who first tied on the boots in the Under 12s at Ganmain, had to stop playing in her mid-teens until she was old enough to join the Wagga Women’s League before coming to ACK.

MITCHELL LEWIS

Mitchell was at his grandparents’ house during the draft on November 25 with his mum and dad, grandma and grandpa. At Glenferrie Rd he told Hawks TV “Now that I’m finally here I’m over the moon, ready to get started.

“[Before the draft] I had two interviews, one at home with recruiting staff and a couple of weeks ago at the club. It was the only club where I had two interviews, and the club where I had the best chance of ending up at.”

Mitch, who played with Calder Cannons and Assumption’s First XVIII, was full of praise for his time at ACK: “Assumption’s great. I’ve been there since year 8. The game is a passion of mine, like it has been for everyone at Assumption for years. It’s a famous football school so it was a pleasure to go there.”

Following the year 12 exams Mitch said he’d been “hitting the gym, lots of running. I’ve got a couple of mates to run with, to motivate each other so it’s been good”.

Catherine Mogridge and the Hawthorn FC
The newly formed ACK Old Collegians committee enthusiastically welcomed past and present students to the ACK Reunion Day in Kilmore on Sunday, August 28. In his welcome address, ACKOCA President Simon Costa told attendees that they are part of a special community and remain so for life. He reminded returning students of the college’s proud history and many unique traditions which continue to cement the bonds of countless friendships across the nation.

Selecting the right date for the event was a challenge, however, few would have anticipated the rain and chill of the preceding days would give way to such a sunny reunion day. In addition to the favourable weather, the event was also blessed by the generosity of many college staff (led by our hard-working Principal Kate Fogarty) and members of the P & F Association, who happily set up marquees, catering facilities and activity areas and coordinated the general logistics of the day.

Following the welcome Mass in St Patrick’s church, former students and their families enjoyed a variety of activities in several different areas. The netball round-robin drew a good crowd and the six competing teams performed admirably. A highlight for many returning students were the regular tours of the school and boarding houses conducted by current students. There were constant reference to "in my day" and "I remember when" as current students happily mixed with their predecessors. While these activities were underway, some selected a less rigorous pursuit and relaxed with jovial conversation amid the coffee and food stands.

Two well-received events in the Fourvrière Centre were the oratory competition, won by college captain Monica Kelly, who spoke about Australia’s appalling record in East Timor, and debate on the topic that “Sport has Lost its Way”. It was a most entertaining battle. The students, who won convincingly, argued in the affirmative and alumni in the negative. A staff member stood in for a former student who was ill.

With the Carroll Oval bathed in sunshine, the cricket teams took to the field in the early afternoon, while the many children nearby screamed with delight as they repeatedly slid down giant slides. The big bash cricket game was a wonderful display of past and present cricketing expertise, with fast scoring and brilliant fielding providing great entertainment. With bragging rights the only thing at stake, both teams battled out a closely fought match.

Former student Mark Gazley provided a spectacular prelude to the football game. He arrived in a brightly coloured parachute, wearing an ACK footy jumper and narrowly missing the heads of the crowd as he landed with the match ball in front of the Pavilion. The pre-game speech honoured the many former students unable to attend and recognised the particular sacrifice made by two former students, Neale Daniher and Chris Heenan, who, despite poor health, had gone to great efforts to be part of the day. Spectators enjoyed the line-up of past champions playing and coaching the two football teams and there was plenty of conversation among those caught up in nostalgia. In a surprise outcome, the older group of former ACK greats representing the 1980s and ‘90s (ACK Gold) upset the younger champions from the 2000s and 2010s (ACK Blue) by two points.

The aim of the day was to allow ACK alumni to meet and rekindle friendships, and this was certainly achieved. Our special thanks to Kate Fogarty and everyone at Assumption for their support which helped make it such a success. We look forward to holding similar events, in a variety of cities and country locations in coming years, and encourage as many former students as possible to become involved.

ACKOCA Committee
1. ACK Blue & Gold before being addressed by legendary coach Ray Carroll (at front with sunglasses).  
2. Current and former staff and students: At back is Billy Brownless and Dr Doug Walsh. At front Shane Crawford and Principal Kate Fogarty.  
3. Fr Grant and alumnus Fr Owen led the celebration of the Eucharist at the start of the day.  
4. Neale Daniher, Kate Fogarty and Billy Brownless.  
5. All ready for the T-20 match. Current students are Luke Shannon (at back) and Mardie Hamilton and Kobi Howes at front.  
6. Simon Costa and Ray Carroll catch up during the big day.  
7. A future Assumption student having a nap?  
8. Former student Mark Gazley drops in with the Sherrin.  
10. Eventual winners ACK Gold eight points behind in the first quarter.  
11. P & F members prepared food and drink.  
13. The netball comp in full swing.
THE ESSENCE OF MARIST LIFE IS CAPTURED IN A NEW PAINTING AT ACK

In the heart of the Fourvière Centre stands Mary, the mother of Jesus, and St Marcellin. They’re shown beside the Fourvière chapel and cathedral, integral aspects of the Marist story, in a painting that greets you at the top of the first-floor stairs.

Marcellin and his friends gathered in the chapel 200 year ago to dedicate themselves to a new way of being church – “in the way of Mary”. Marcellin later founded the Marist Brothers.

The oil painting was created by Kathy Washington, mother of year 11 boarder Mike Washington, and hung on Wednesday, November 9.

Kathy travelled from Sorrento to measure the space where it would hang and it took her six months to complete following regular discussions with Principal Kate Fogarty about how Mary and Marcellin should be depicted.

Kathy says she changed it a few times, increasing the size of the cathedral: “Every time I looked at it I thought about it going into the Fourvière Centre so I thought I had to make more of the cathedral.

“I painted in layers and used a series of glazes, the same way the masters used to work, and had to wait for them to be 100 per cent dry or otherwise down the track the painting cracks,” she said.

The painting has been well received, especially by Kate Fogarty: “It is exactly the right artwork to complete what is such a commanding and important space in our school community.

“Marcellin often spoke of Mary as the ‘good mother’ and she is portrayed as a young, strong woman who clearly knows what she’s about. In this painting, our students and staff have two fantastic role models of courage and action to walk past each day,” Miss Fogarty said.

Kathy was taught to paint by a Korean master and by her mother, Pat Delanty, a renowned gumtree artist. She says she wanted “something with a wow factor, something that was timeless and there forever”.
Kim was unanimously voted into the role for 2017 at a special council meeting at Preston City Hall last month and is one of four Greens councillors in Darebin.

She is the first female mayor in the city since 2010-11, and believes her election has come at the right time.

“I had a strong opinion that the first mayor in this term of council had to be a woman because we went from having two women on council to six.

“Given the political global context (It was a week after Trump was elected US President) and everyone was feeling pretty bad about the world around them, we needed to send a really strong message that that’s not what it’s like here … my fellow councillors were all very supportive and agreed that it was symbolism but also a practical thing that needed to happen.”

Kim, who lives in Thornbury, believes the most important challenge facing the council is preparing the area for future growth with an expected increase in population of 40,000 in the next 14 years.

“We need to look at where these people will live and what infrastructure is needed to keep up with the demand; this is critical.

“The other thing is obviously in everything we do we need to be addressing the impacts on climate change and preparing the community for the impacts we’re already experiencing.”

She hopes a new Darebin Energy Foundation will be established to reduce the area’s emissions and meet the target of zero net emissions by 2020 for council and the community. She also wants to overhaul planning approval processes for pokies and buildings above four stories.

There’s no doubt Kim is committed to the local area: “[The council] is in an area that’s had the biggest growth in the Greens vote over the last few years, and I feel really connected to the community I live in because I know they share the values that I do.”

Her decision to join the Greens four years ago was a long time coming. While working for the Environment Protection Authority as an admin officer she became involved “in the complex issues of climate change and protecting the environment”. While the federal government was discussing an emissions trading scheme she began thinking about politics.

“From there I started exploring the impact that government decisions have on your everyday experience which drew me into politics and my eyes were opened.”

Kim started reading more about what was happening and wanted to become a force for change. A few years later she joined the Greens.

“The reason I identified with the Greens is their strong values on social justice, particularly as regards the asylum seeker debate and environmental sustainability, two things I’m passionate about.”

But she does not aspire to state or federal politics: “I’m not a politician, I’m just somebody that cares about the community and hope I can make a difference in local government.”

This mother of three praised her husband, Paris Nichols, who works part-time and does a lot around the house which allows her to work on council.

As for memories of Assumption, one of her strongest is of teacher Enzo Rovetto when she was in year 12 doing two maths subjects, chemistry and biology.

“He’s the person I think about when I think of ACK. Most of the students feared him, but once you got past that he wasn’t so bad. And I guess I really enjoyed learning from him; he’s a great teacher. I’ve connected with him since he left ACK.”

Stephen Calvert
A NEW DIRECTION FOR OUR CURRICULUM

The Assumption curriculum is undergoing widespread changes which take effect next year. Vaughan Cleary, Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching, spoke about those changes and the reasons for them.

The changes are based on the new Victorian curriculum. From 2017 the years 7 and 8 teaching and learning program will focus on breadth and balance. It was felt that from a time perspective the curriculum was skewed towards some departments and many areas were missing out.

There’ll be performing arts, a hybrid of music, drama and dance, which, rather than doing these for a semester will run across the first two years of secondary school.

It will be the same for visual arts which will be a mixture of media, visual communication and design, and studio art. There’ll also be design technologies which have traditionally been semester based, but will also become a two-year program. The focus will be on different materials including food, textiles and wood.

We’re excited about a new subject, digital technologies, in years 7 and 8 aimed at improving students’ digital literacy skills with the hope that they can code, program and develop apps and other media by the end of year 8. It’s our hope that by 2019 we can introduce electives such as coding, robotics, game making etc. which can support our students’ growth in an important future skill. We’re excited that by 2019 we can introduce electives such as coding, robotics, game making etc. which can support our students’ growth in an important future skill.

We’ve rebalanced the time committed to the other learning areas: English, mathematics, health and physical education, religious education, science, the humanities and languages, and re-aligned the curriculum at years 9 and 10 with students able to experience 50 per cent core subjects and 50 per cent (16 semester-based) electives.

By giving them a bigger say in their own education, which is part of our charter at Assumption College, student motivation will be improved. Such changes will also ensure that students are in a much better position to select their pathways in the senior years.

We’ve reintroduced some subjects: foundation mathematics, economics and geography at year 11. We’re also bolstering numbers in legal studies, accounting, global politics and history. Previously, there was a reluctance to offer a learning area with only a handful of students, but my view is that over time if you develop good programs and students are having good experiences they’ll sell the message that others should be embracing these subjects. We have a big commitment to providing a wealth of opportunities for our students to thrive with personalised learning pathways.

Why the changes and what are they based on?

The Victorian curriculum framework has been put together by a multitude of professionals and academics looking at best practice across curriculum worldwide. We fully support this curriculum because it allows schools to contextualise education for their students, and we are in a really good position to develop a framework that meets the learning needs of our community.

We’ve embraced the philosophy that underpins the Victorian curriculum and its aspects mentioned above. It mirrors our thoughts on what a contemporary learning environment should be like and we’ve been lucky to almost reshape it from scratch. We asked: if we had a blank canvas what would an ideal learning environment look like and what classes would run? Next year’s changes are the first step in us moving forward which gives us scope, particularly in our year 9 and 10 program, to introduce more electives down the track. Some may evolve while others may become redundant as the world and the needs of our students change. Many schools have a rigid, traditional learning model and find it difficult to shift away from their historical mindsets. In contrast we have the view, very strongly, that all subjects are equal and it’s really what the students want to learn and we need to offer that. The theory behind this approach is that students only reluctantly embrace an imposed curriculum, whereas they should be much more engaged when given some choice in what they’re learning.

The language of the Victorian curriculum is much less prescriptive than it was which means schools can meet the curriculum in a loose framework yet, at the same time, put their own flavour on their students’ education. It’s a big shift: moving away from a centralised and prescriptive curriculum to one which trusts schools and their leaders to put into practice what’s best for each of them.
Why 75 minute periods from 2017?
To regain some of the learning time often lost by movement between classes. By going to a 75-minute by four period day the school should be a lot calmer and settled. Movement between classes chews up teaching and learning time. 75 minutes also allows staff to be flexible in the type of activities in a class. Under the current model, the anecdotal evidence is that often doubles are too long for many subjects. They might be ideal for some such as food technology and the like, but by reshaping the way the 75-minute period operates, staff can reflect on their practices and do things perhaps differently. The change also gives staff ample time in class to do longer, project-based work. Practical classes can run longer because teachers are not hamstrung by having to get off to the next class quickly as there’s movement time embedded in the timetable. Science also benefits because there’s no need to wait for the one double per cycle to do a prac class; it can be done in any period. The change supports our philosophy that we’re trying to promote active learning which is physical and emotional rather than having students sitting in classrooms and being passive learners.

You’ve spoken about the new Victorian curriculum, but what happened to the much talked about National curriculum?
I suppose that some states still use that curriculum, but the Victorian curriculum has been largely shaped by the Australian curriculum. Having state control over curriculum gives a lot more autonomy to states to work with the schools that they know better than a federal government does. Being part of the Catholic sector, we have support networks from the state at the church and government levels to shape a curriculum that isn’t a one-size-fits-all education. The national curriculum was an attempt to provide an equality of standards across Australia. There are arguments that there should be consistency about what students do across the board. There are multiple reasons for that: a level-playing field for university entrance for example. But I believe that the less centralised the authority is, the more power goes back to the experts in the field, and it’s time for teachers and school leaders to take back ownership over the direction schools take rather than being dictated to by bureaucrats or politicians.

Was a national curriculum ever going to last?
With so much control the states have always had over education, they want to retain their freedom and autonomy. I think that approach has served the country pretty well to date. There’s no doubt the federal government’s had a positive role in developing resources and professional development opportunities for schools and school-related organisations such as the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, but don’t tell us what we have to teach.

What would you say to those who suggest that what you’re doing is window dressing or tinkering at the edges?
In some respects they’re right, but all the research on positive learning outcomes indicates that it’s the quality of relationships and the quality of teaching that matter. We believe we’re removing some of the barriers to enable that to occur and providing a platform for learning to flourish at Assumption. We’re heavily investing resources into the professional development of staff with our involvement in the three-year professional learning program developed by Professor John Hattie that focuses on evidenced-based practices about what works in the classroom. We’re also taking part in an education program that enables teachers to reflect on current practices, receive quality feedback from students and, most importantly, aim to improve. Our overall aim is to create an environment in which students and teachers are engaged. We want motivated and passionate teachers, those with energy who can inspire students and deliver quality educational programs.

### ‘Beyond the Ref’ Cookbook 2016
Support the VCAL project by purchasing a “Beyond the Ref” Cookbook.
Profits that we make will be donated to the rebuilding of the primary school in the remote village of Laumana, East Timor.

The cost of the cookbook is $20.

Purchase from trybooking.com

Books can be collected from reception until 4.30pm on December 16.
Anne Fraser, our larger-than-life, chai-sipping, chocolate-loving librarian, arrived at Assumption in 2007. A Harry Potter fan, passionate bibliophile, artist and tech-head, she believes in peaceful co-existence between people and that everybody has a place.

The early years
I grew up in a rural community on a wheat and sheep farm. We did not have electricity until I was five. The flat landscape and shimmering mirage on the horizon line hinted of a much larger world than I could see or ever imagine. Wheat fields as far as the eye could see swaying in the hot summer breeze were hypnotic on long summer afternoons spent outside under the shade. Cicadas would nearly burst your ear drums. In the summer we swam in dams and creeks all day, floating in tractor tyres spinning and singing to the radio. It was the 60s and it did not matter where you were, the radio united everyone no matter their age. The young with music and the adults with Blue Hills and ABC news.

If a community is small enough it is in many ways equal. Tungamah in north-east Victoria, 27 kilometres as the crow flies from the Murray River, was just small enough to bridge any differences between its churches and its families. There were no people with disabilities, just people who could do different things and no matter how you were born there was always a place for everyone. In the town or the surrounding farms everyone belonged, there were no strangers to call homeless or drunks or thieves. Everyone was someone's husband, son, wife, daughter, uncle etc. No matter what their struggle, always, they were family first.

I remember in year 8 discussing a student whose parents were divorcing. None of us had ever heard this word before, neither had we heard the word alcoholic and I remember asking my mother what an alcoholic was. The world had cracks in the glass, had they occurred whilst I was looking through the glass or had I stepped back and was beginning to see what had always been there? My father died when I was 12, a patriarch whose loss was significant. All the women around me were bound for tertiary education, and...
only one stayed to marry a farmer. Even so, she was equal to him and worked just as he did, driving tractors at harvest time.

**Education**

I studied art, philosophy, photography and printmaking. I indulged myself in a world of writers and painters while listening to Bob Dylan and Fleetwood Mac. Teaching was a logical extension for me. It was with a spirit of adventure that took me to Marianville High School in Boroko Papua New Guinea. There I learnt that the Sisters of the Sacred Heart ran the top boarding school for girls and that the Carmelites prayed for all of us even if we didn’t know we needed prayer.

Hungry for more adventure I headed to the Northern Territory where compassion for Indigenous Australians became personal through friendships forged, however, I realised increasingly, as my understanding of the world grew, that some people had greater advantages than others. Education for young people in country areas always had the underlying tag ‘disadvantaged by distance’. Teaching is not a job, it is a calling. When the internet first came to Australian schools I was one of the first in Victoria to use it. No-one was going to stop me from using it in the library I managed. I drilled a hole into the library wall through to the office behind where the modem could sit, its wires connected with the computer on the other side of the wall. I wrote grants for eight schools and had the librarians and principals agree to embrace the internet that would in some measure overcome our disadvantage by distance.

The early days of the internet were like landing on the moon. I watched students’ faces as they ‘chatted’ with other students around the world or within Australia. I saw the look on these country kids’ faces and knew this technology was the equalizer giving everyone, no matter where they lived, an equal chance to access accurate, relevant, authoritative information from which to make informed decisions. In contrast, I was 9 when the colour film of the moon landing arrived at our school, four years after this momentous event. Even then I asked: why did it take so long?

**The Assumption years**

Assumption’s dedication to educating rural students connects deeply with me. Our archives are full of stories about parental love and desire for a better future for their children. Education is relevant when delivered with passion and purpose. Assumption’s history is not hidden from us, every footstep on its grounds is accounted for and here we walk with others seen and unseen in the ritual of daily life, this is the Assumption that is life giving. It is regenerative in its landscape, its trees, its people, its history and, most importantly, its Catholic faith.

Moving from the old library this year into the Fourvière was a team effort. The library team, the dream team. Every day these people I work with make me smile, most times they never know why and every time it is because of their dedication to their role and commitment to the staff and students. Team is everything for us. I equally make them laugh which makes working together so much fun. One of the real joys of being a librarian is I get to experience young people for who they are and this leads to some of the most enjoyable working relationships imaginable. It is a privilege to uncover a year 7 author who is writing for themselves and clearly is ready to be published and to help this happen. To give students a voice about what books we buy so they can read all they desire and not be held back by whether or not their parents can afford to buy books is also a privilege.

**The Fourvière Library – its future and role**

Educationalists now operate in institutionalised systems that must address questions such as: why should any student study in class? If anyone wants to learn something they just look up a YouTube clip on that topic. Self-serve learning is not only replacing traditional curriculum and classrooms it is also cultivating ‘kidpreneurs’ and ‘kidinventors’ who are backed with crowd funded career opportunities that have 14 year-olds asking if they can go to school part-time so they can dedicate more time to their successful businesses.

Why do we still need teachers? One reason is the Matthew Effect. Borrowed from a line in the Bible’s Book of Matthew where “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer”. In reading, this describes the difference between good readers and poor readers. While good readers gain new skills rapidly and quickly move from learning to read to reading to learn, poor readers become increasingly frustrated with the act of reading, and where possible try to avoid reading. The gap is relatively narrow when children are young, but rapidly widens as they age.

The Matthew Effect is the title of our new reading program. It represents intelligent decision making to bundle the very best of all reading elements into a digital platform for students and their families to participate in.

We at Assumption are not passive users of the internet, we are co-creators. This is why we need teachers and teacher-librarians, to co-create new digital learning platforms where students can “self-serve” their learning and go on to be co-creators in this digital world. In setting these goals, our students will not be passive consumers of the internet but, rather, they will be able to use its power for participating in the world without being disadvantaged by distance, age or gender.
FORMER STUDENT DOM NIXON OFFERS WISE ADVICE TO OUR VCAL GRADUATES

“The main thing employers are looking for is for you to have a passion for your chosen industry.”

This was one of many gems Dom Nixon (class of 2011) gave our 28 year 12 VCAL students at their end-of-year celebration at Trackside, Kilmore on October 17. They were joined by their families, Principal Kate Fogarty and their VCAL pathways teachers.

The former Marcellin House leader and boarder often thinks back to his Assumption days (“the three best years of my life”) and says to himself “I didn’t realise how good I had it” was guest of honour.

Dom said in his speech that “they can train you in their systems, processes and knowledge specific to a role, but they can’t give you genuine interest and enthusiasm or a willingness to work hard. These need to come from you.”

He advised the students to be flexible and show initiative, not to think that any job is below them and reminded them that they are not on their own and should ask for help if they need it.

“You have family, friends and, hopefully, an understanding boss that you can speak to when things get tough or if you’re not sure what to do.”

He told them that they shouldn’t be afraid to fail but emphasised that they must learn from their mistakes and not to think that their learning is over just because they’ve finished school.

“I am six years into building, and believe me I learn something new every day.”

Before wishing them good luck and expressing confidence in their success he urged them to be true to themselves to “follow your own values that you have developed while at ACK”.

He left them with a favourite quote: “Get comfortable being uncomfortable. Get confident being uncertain. Don’t give up just because something is hard. Pushing through challenges is what makes you grow.”

While at Assumption Dom completed a school-based apprenticeship in building and when he left took on a full-time apprenticeship with another former Assumption student and close family friend Ryan Crawford (class of 2002). He reluctantly changed companies last year but knew it was time to spread his wings and is now working on the 90-million dollar St Vincent’s Private Hospital project in Werribee.

Dom was chuffed to be invited back to talk to students, and apparently told his twin brother Seb that even though he had been school captain in 2011, he’d never been asked back to give a speech. Sibling rivalry is alive and well in the Nixon clan!
CLOSURE FOR ALUMNUS BOB BAKEWELL AFTER 55 YEARS

Former student (class of 1950) and Phillip Island resident Bob Bakewell has just returned from his first trip to Japan. He travelled there to visit Tokyo Museum, to see and touch the World War II Japanese Zero fighter aircraft that he discovered in the ocean off Papua New Guinea 55 years ago, while working as a government land surveyor. This aircraft is now a prime exhibit in the museum.

In 1961, working in a remote area of Papua New Guinea, Bob spotted an aircraft propeller protruding from the sea. Realising the significance of his find, and that it was a downed World War II plane, Bob swam out to the submerged plane to see whether there were any human remains. He found none. The aircraft had been in the ocean for more than 16 years after being shot down by an American fighter in 1945.

He photographed the protruding propeller and spoke to two locals in a nearby village who remembered the aircraft being shot down and said both pilots had been killed. Bob thought the reference to two pilots was strange, as the traditional Japanese Zero had only one pilot.

On returning to Rabaul, he reported the aircraft’s location and other relevant details to the government. This was the last of several crashed Japanese aircraft he had come across while surveying remote areas of PNG.

Fast forward 13 years, and a photo and story about this same aircraft was published in the Melbourne Sun newspaper, which immediately held his attention. The article told the story of how the aircraft had been recovered from the ocean by a Glen Waverley family and had been restored at Essendon Airport. The story recounted that this was a special Zero, one of only four built to carry two pilots - out of more than three thousand that were produced for the Japanese air force.

Bob then understood the significance of the comment made to him by the New Guinea villagers that he had spoken to, and that there were indeed two pilots when he had felt that there should have been only one.

The Australian War Museum was not interested in the restored aircraft, but the Japanese government was keen to have it returned.

Bob’s visit to the Japanese museum to see the Zero he had discovered, fully restored and on display, was a cathartic and emotional experience.

“I started crying, I couldn’t stop crying. I was approached by a security guard who wanted to know why I was upset and taking so many photos, and he started crying when I told him the story and showed him the photo of the propeller.”

He presented an excited manager of the museum with a copy of the same photo and she said: “Mr Bakewell, do you realise that if you hadn’t reported that aircraft we would not have it in our museum today.”

Other members of Bob’s family have visited the museum and seen the aircraft on display. It has given him a sense of closure to do so as well.

(Reprinted with permission from the Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser)
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

JAMIE HARDING  CLASS OF 2007

After leaving Assumption I took a break before starting uni and worked full-time in retail for a year. While this was a good experience where I developed many important life skills, and it was great having a salary for the first time in my life, I realised that I wanted to do something different in the future, although I had no idea what.

I completed my Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in history and anthropology at La Trobe University. I took some interesting subjects and spent a semester on an exchange program at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Universities encourage their students to study overseas, and because HECS fees apply and scholarships help with travel costs, it is something I highly recommend. I became close friends with Swedish, German, French and Dutch students with whom I lived on campus and have visited and kept in touch with. We also had some incredible holidays in Canada.

I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do after my BA so I worked and travelled for another year. While holidaying in Europe, I was riding solo on a mountain bike from Germany to the Austrian Alps and during this time of reflection I decided I wanted to pursue education. I enrolled in the Masters of Teaching at the University of Melbourne. This two-year, full-time course was super demanding but it was one of the greatest experiences of my life that allowed me to make lifelong friends and develop valuable career opportunities.

I graduated from the master’s course last December and have spent this year as a graduate teacher at Moonee Ponds West Primary, where I did my final teaching placement. I work with 21 prep and year one students and although this can be challenging at times, I would do anything in my power to help them.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunities that Assumption, La Trobe University and the University of Melbourne have provided. While all but two of the last 21 years of my life have been involved in formal education, learning opportunities extend far beyond schools.

In reflecting on my experience at Assumption College, I did not yield great academic results or prestigious sporting achievements. However, this did not dictate what I wanted to pursue in life. I developed great relationships with people I see regularly, and overall my time at the school was a very valuable learning experience.

[Editor’s note: Jamie is pictured beside his mother, Margot Eden, at his Masters of Teaching graduation. Margot was Esquire Bedell at the ceremony in which Kate Fogarty and Jade Barr were also awarded masters degrees. Esquire Bedell is a European ceremonial role dating back to 1245.]

KIM BATES  CLASS OF 1986

I became the franchisee of Quest Doncaster last February. It was a big leap to go from corporate life to running my own business, but I think that going to Assumption taught me to take risks. I have two wonderful children and my husband of 23 years is a tax manager in a chartered accounting firm.

Also in February, a hot seat episode of Who Wants to be a Millionaire? in which I competed was aired. Taped in August 2015, my teenage daughter entered me into the competition and the first I knew about it was when I was invited to audition. I was fortunate enough to win $20,000, not enough to buy a business but nothing to be sneezed at, and a fun experience none the less.

We certainly thrived on competition at ACK. Ray Carroll was senior coach and an inspiration for many of us – even the co-eds! Often we would all pile onto the bus to go and watch the First XVIII play; even in year 12 when we probably should have been studying. I guess we understood work-life balance well before it became a “thing”.

Yes, we were co-eds and when I started, girls were enrolled at year 11. I think there were about 20 of us and 100 boys in the year level. Needless to say we stood out. It was funny though, especially the first few weeks where the girls certainly learnt to be resilient. I mean our lockers were found in many weird and wonderful positions, such as facing the walls and in the pool (thankfully it was empty at the time!).

It’s very interesting whenever I run into an old classmate. It seems very easy to pick up where we left off and our 30 year reunion was so much fun. I think that we scared some of the current students with our stories of past years when they were taking us on tour. Apparently no one ends up head first in a bin anymore.

I cherish my time at Assumption and thank Facebook for helping us to keep in touch. I may have also crossed to the dark side as my son now goes to our arch-enemy school – Xavier.
DALE BROOKS CLASS OF 1982

I come from a family with close and enduring connections to Assumption. I was one of 10 children – eight boys and two girls. My grandmother’s brothers (four of them) attended Assumption in the 1920s including my namesake Dale Hicks. My father (and several of his brothers) followed in the 1940s and 1950s and six of my brothers and I followed in the 1970s and 1980s: Stephen, Chris, David, me, Sean, Philip and Bobby.

The strong bonds with our old school have continued with six nephews attending Assumption; therefore, it remains a place of great affection for our family.

The college in the 1980s was completely different to the school it is today. In my era it had 400 boarders with a small contingent of day students (fondly known as scrags). It was overwhelmingly a boys school with only 30 girls in years 11 and 12 and a small courageous band of female teachers led by Madame ten Brink.

The dormitories were sparsely furnished and stripped of any home comforts: row upon row of beds with a small locker called a press between each into which everything was squeezed. The walls were dotted with crucifixes and Marian statues, and dorm masters were mostly brothers.

In the years I boarded we were surrounded by inspirational and faith-filled teachers. Ray Carroll was our sports master and dorm master in year 12, and his humility and compassion meant that many lads who struggled at school always had support. There was Br Paul Gilchrist (future provincial) whose good nature and sunny spirit made gloomy days at school bearable and there were people like boarding master Brother Basil (Laurence) Toohey, a forensic detective who monitored the movements of hundreds of boys without ever being on leave.

There are untold stories of many of the Marists Brothers who, through faith and hard work, made many of their students better people, and it’s hoped that some of these stories will be told one day. Ray Carroll also contributed much to the esprit de corps of the place which led to so many schools in Melbourne being humbled on the footy field in heroic battles. My years at Assumption were dominated by Herald Shield and AGSV wins.

Our time was filled with moments of endless fun like toast fights in the senior refs or swimming in the open air pool after lights out. Or like the morning that we woke to Assumption Day to find the statue of Marcellin Champagnat in the quad with a loaf of bread in one hand and distinct white foot prints (in flour) going to and from the brothers refectory.

And who could forget when over 30 of our year level (including me) were suspended for drinking following our school social with Vaucluse College, Richmond. We were suspended by an enraged Br Seamus O’Grady on flimsy evidence of looking “giddy” when we returned to school (one of the great miscarriages of justice in living memory) and which might have contributed to my journey into law.

Following HSC in 1982 I attended Melbourne University for a combined Law and Arts degree. I spent much of my university life at Newman College with other ACK old boys including Mark Branagan, John Dillon, James O’Kane and many others.

I completed six years at university including an honours year and began work as an articled clerk at Williams Winter and Higgs. My supervising partner was also an Assumption old boy from the 1960s, Bernie “Crash” McMahon, who had been coached by the legendary Br Domnus. Bernie was an excellent lawyer and I credit him (and blame him) for me still working in the law.

I travelled to Sydney in 1994 and was employed by some large law firms specialising in insurance litigation (notably medical malpractice). I worked for GIO and at FAI/HH both (before and after) the liquidation. No, I wasn’t responsible for the insurer’s collapse.

I moved back to my home town of Barooga in 2005 initially for a “short break” and have worked in the country ever since. It’s been a great joy to be back with my family. I worked for 10 years with law firm Taylor and Whitty, and more recently I opened my own legal practice, Brooks Hall, with offices in Deniliquin and Yarrawonga.

I am the chairman of the Cobram District Hospital and a board member of MHA Care (a disability service) and I serve as a volunteer at an aged dementia facility. I am a member of the St Thomas More Society (Catholic lawyers) and live in Yarrawonga with my partner.

I loved my time at Assumption and the friendships that I made. It’s with great pride that I meet so many people in all walks of life who have such positive reflections about the old college on the hill.

“For the hush of my heart in the spell of the dreaming
Comes the song of a bush boy glad-hearted and free.
Oh the gullies are green where the sunlight is streaming,
And the voice of that youngster is calling to me”.

From “Calling to Me” by John O’Brien

Shandon Calls
18

Anna Reid (nee Hudson) was farewelled from this life by a huge assemblage in Lancefield on October 8. St Mary’s Catholic Church was packed, and a further 250 were on the lawns outside.

A moving service conducted by Father Marc Barry was a celebration of the life of Anna, daughter of Kilmore’s Tom and Carol Hudson. A beautiful person, widely admired and much loved, Anna fought a tough and courageous cancer battle for five and a half years.

Married to Brett and mother of their three young children, Anna was a student at ACK during the 1980s where I was privileged to be one of her teachers. She was a truly lovely girl.

Following a welcome and the opening prayers by Father Barry there were several readings, then a heartfelt reflection from Anna’s mother, Carol, who spoke of a loving daughter, mother and wife.

Her tribute was met with heartfelt applause as was the eulogy by Elle Payne, a close friend.

The reflection and eulogy painted a picture of a warm-hearted, talented person whose abbreviated life left a deep impression on many. This was endorsed by the overflow crowd, large numbers of whom had travelled long distances to pay tribute to Anna, and also husband Brett, the children, parents Carol and Tom (at left) and brother James.

A further reading by Hamish Cormack, then a reading from the Song of Songs – accompanied video clips from Anna’s life and times ended the service.

Tom Hudson thanked everyone for their attendance and invited them to join Anna’s family at “Kilbaha” in Kilmore for refreshments.

“Like gentle waves returning to the sunlit shore... Sweet memories returning to the heart once more.”

Ray Carroll

500 FAREWELL A FORMER ASSUMPTION STUDENT

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Ray Carroll

VALE BROTHER BASIL (LAURIE) TOOHEY

Laurie passed away on August 5, 2016 at Molloy House Campbelltown, NSW. And it was gentle and peaceful; in keeping with the way he had lived his life.

He received marvellous care from the nurses and carers at Molloy House, and the brothers have been most attentive, understanding and caring. I am grateful to them all.

Laurie was born in Eugowra NSW on November 9, 1940. He attended school at Forbes and then moved to the Wangaratta Juniorate. He entered the Mt Macedon novitiate in 1958, was given the name Basil Mary and professed his first vows on July 2, 1959. His perpetual profession was celebrated in 1965.

He spent 1960 at the Dundas scholasticate before being appointed to New Norcia, WA. Being a country boy he was content to spend most of his ministry years in regional and rural settings: Northam, Griffith, Leeton, Broken Hill, Kilmore (from 1978 to 1986, with a six-month break for his second novitiate in Switzerland in 1982), Forbes (from 1992 to 1998) and most recently in isolated locales: Santa Teresa and Thursday Island.

Laurie was from a large family, well known in the Forbes area. He was close to them and they supported him lovingly, especially over the years of his failing health.

His funeral Mass was held in the Chapel of the Annunciation at St Gregory’s College, Campbelltown on August 12 and he was buried in the Marist Brothers cemetery at Mittagong.

Laurie is now at peace. We grieve his loss but rejoice in his good and simple life of fidelity and generosity.

Br Peter Carroll – Provincial
PRAHRAN ASSUMPTION ACCOLADES FOR ACK ALUMNI

Former Assumption student Harrison Taylor (class of 2013) has won Prahran Assumption's 2016 best and fairest award. Taylor, a hard running mid-fielder, defeated defender John Simonetta to win the Basil Cleary Medal and Sir Rupert Steele perpetual trophy awarded on Friday, September 16 at the presentation night at the Crafty Squire in Russell St.

Pictured with Reserves best and fairest Luke Kerr, Taylor joins Daniel Anglin as the second Assumption College graduate to win the club's best and fairest.

Taylor is the son of leading media commentator Brian Taylor who coached the Two Blues in 1991-92-93 after a decorated playing career at Richmond and Collingwood.

Captain James Musster, who broke his hand in round one, was awarded the Neale Daniher Most Courageous medal.

Full-back John Stocker, a rugby convert, capped a memorable first season of football to win the Alf Blamey Players Player and best first year player awards while former ACK student Tim Webb won the coach's award.

Leading goal kicker John (Jamie) Robbins is farewelling the club after 199 career goals to live in Culcairn.

A former ACK old boy, Robbins was named in the VAFA Division 1 team of the year after kicking 41 goals as a permanent forward pocket.

Meanwhile, coach Ash Mills has been re-appointed for 2017 when the Two Blues will be out to win promotion back to Division 1.

The club has been recruiting actively since mid-season with recruiting manager Anthony Jackson providing several good prospective players for 2017.

Pre-season training started in late November.

Prahran Assumption is also excited to announce it will field a women's team for the first time next season and has appointed Lachlan Worthy as coach. Worthy has had extensive experience coaching Sydney University's women's team for 10 years.

New players are most welcome and can email Lachlan lachlaneworthy@team.telstra.com

The Prahran under-18 girls won the South Metro Junior Football League premiership this year.

Tim Habel

Harrison Taylor and Luke Kerr