contents

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From the Principal
Encouraging creativity, Rose Assembly, Valedictory Dinner ..........3

Departing School Captain’s Report .............................................4
Re-opening of Featherstone Hall

Mellor House Report .................................................................5

Tay Creggan Report .................................................................6

School Community .....................................................................7

Social Service activities

The Arts, Academic and Co-curriculer .........................................8 – 11
Music, Drama, Visual Art & VCD, Margaret Fendley Writing
Competition, UN Debating, SEED Program, Food Technology

Global Links .............................................................................12 – 13

Tours and Exchanges

Sport Report .............................................................................14 – 15
Encouraging Creativity through Sport, Sport Aerobics, Rhythmic
Gymnastics, Snow Sports, Brownlow Medal Breakfast

OSA News ................................................................................16 – 19
Message from the President, Vale, Births, The Feliciter Connection,
2013 Reunion Dates, 2012 Reunion Photos
As we entered the 21st century, many across the educational sector considered the changes which would be needed so that young people could face the challenges of the new century. Innovation and creativity were considered to be vital to the new knowledge economies. Companies sought to keep pace with the speed of change and businesses invested huge resources into making people more creative. Creativity has become the buzz word within education.

World-renowned expert in innovation and creativity, Sir Ken Robinson, sought to understand what happens to creativity when children grow up. In his 2001 publication, Out of Our Minds, he asks: What happens to their imagination? Why do many adults think they are not creative?

Robinson argued that the fundamental problem lay in our education systems, rooted in a narrow definition of academic intelligence that ignored some important creative abilities. He argued that after more than ten years at school, and even after university, too many people leave education with no idea of their real abilities and creative powers. He writes, ‘raising academic standards alone will not solve the problems we face: it may compound them. To move forward we need a fresh understanding of intelligence, of human capacity and of the nature of creativity. Human intelligence is richer and more dynamic than we have been led to believe by formal academic education. Advances in the scientific studies of the brain are confirming that human intelligence is complex and multi-faceted. We can think about the world and our experiences in terms of sight, touch, sound, movement and in many other ways. This is why the world is full of music, dance, architecture, design, practical technology, relationships and values … human culture is as rich and diverse as it is because human intelligence is so complex and dynamic.’ (p.9)

Often creativity is associated with particular sorts of activities, especially the arts, or with particular sorts of people, for example, the unconventional. However, creativity is possible in any activity that engages human intelligence. Robinson writes that real creativity comes from finding your medium, from being in your element. ‘When people find their medium, they discover their real creative strengths and come into their own.’ (p.10)

Robinson builds on the concept of finding one’s element in his book, The Element – How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything. Exploring many personal stories, he traces the factors contributing to being able to connect with one’s true talents and passions, to understand what we are really capable of achieving, to know who we really are. He uses the term, ‘element’, to describe the place where the things we love to do and the things we are good at come together. It has two main features, and there are two conditions for being in it. ‘The features are ‘aptitude’ and ‘passion’. The conditions are “attitude” and “opportunity.” The sequence goes: I get it; I love it; I want it; where is it? (p.22)

Influenced by Robinson and others expounding the mysteries of intelligence, we have sought in our developments of the curriculum and teaching practices to acknowledge that all students have great natural capabilities. Students cannot be divided into the academic and the non-academic. They all have distinctive profiles of intellectual abilities with different strengths in visual intelligences, in sound, in movement, in mathematical thinking and the rest. Our teachers work creatively to cater for a range of preferred approaches to learning and a range of capabilities. We have a shared understanding of best practice to encourage learning and respect for the individuality that our students bring to the classroom and to their activities in the co-curricular program. Our greatest hope is that we open up avenues for each child to find her strengths and ultimately her ‘element’.

Many of the features in this edition of the Strathcourier explore how creativity is being supported in many facets of school life. The creative output of the students never ceases to amaze!

As we conclude another year of achievement for our students and staff, I thank all in the School community who have contributed to the life of Strathcona, supporting our many programs. I wish you a blessed Christmas and relaxation and enjoyment with family and friends.

Helen Hughes

departing school captain’s message

Leading up to our final year at Strathcona, we were told that it would pass by faster than we could ever imagine. It seemed impossible that a year filled with so many milestones could be over quicker than Mr Hamilton tearing up the athletics track, but already, we find ourselves saying our final goodbyes and taking off our summer dresses for the very last time. From Year 7 students who couldn’t figure out the mastery of our school locks, to Year 12 students who can twist in the combination without even looking. The time we have spent at Strath has truly been filled with exceptional moments, shared with exceptional girls. To leave the comfort of the world we have known for the past six years is undoubtedly going to be a challenge. Nowhere else will we find such deliciously affordable muffins, nor will it be acceptable to spontaneously break out into a rendition of Whitney Houston’s classic ‘I Will Always Love You,’ without being severely judged. As we have been told however, change is inevitable, and I have no doubt that the Class of 2012 will embrace the challenges of the years to come and go on to achieve extraordinary things in the future.

It’s hard to find the words to describe just how much we have grown throughout our time at Strathcona. In a literal sense, looking at the Melbourne skyline, you can see the difference in 6 years. From the small little girl who couldn’t coordinate a year level with such a high rate of Milo consumption is unsurpassed.

Of all that we have seen us journey through Strathy and helped us along the way, we cannot give enough thanks for the dedication and belief you have shown. In particular, to Mrs Hughes and Mrs Farmilo, you have demonstrated to us all the power of being passionate and committed within all that you do. Mr Pannam, although not looking quite as similar to Voldemort with his newly shaven locks as I had hoped, we thank you for your energy and enthusiasm, your ability to coordinate a year level with such a high rate of Milo consumption is unsurpassed.

Finally, to all of the girls of Strathcona, it has been such an immense honour and privilege to represent you in 2012. I could not be more overwhelmed at the chance I was given to be your School Captain and to see how you have embraced every opportunity given to you this year. From embarrassing myself too many times via song, pelting you with chocolates right before exams, watching as the teachers took the Hunger Games references in the dodgeball match a little too literally and seeing you all ingest a ridiculous amount of sugar on Celebration Day, I have enjoyed every moment this year and have no doubt that your future years at Strathy will be phenomenal!

Finally, to bring it home with the musical stylings of the immortal S-Club 7, ‘don’t stop, never give up, hold your head high and reach the top, let the world see what you have got, bring it all back to you.’

Amelia Hough – School Captain

celebrating the re-opening of featherstone hall

On 30 October, we were honoured by the visit of His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria. Generously, he and Mrs Chernov have visited many schools in Victoria since he was sworn in as the 28th Governor of Victoria on 8 April, 2011. The Governor’s wife, Mrs Elizabeth Chernov, is a past student of Strathcona. She concluded her time here in 1960 before commencing studies in Law at the University of Melbourne. Mrs Chernov is the daughter of the late Rev. John Hopkins, who was President of the School Council from 1956 until 1964. During his speech, the Governor encouraged the girls to develop their talents and not to let opportunities pass them by.

For us the visit was able to be linked to the completion of the renovation of Featherstone Hall. The Hall was built quickly between the end of 1956 and the start of 1957, between the conclusion of the principalship of Miss Dora Featherstone and the commencement of the leadership of Rev. John Morley. In 1986 and 1987, the Hall was enlarged.

The Hall is named in honour of Miss Featherstone. Following the purchase of the School by the Baptist Union of Victoria, Miss Featherstone led Strathcona with dedication and warmth from 1943 until 1956. Since 1957, the Hall has seen many gatherings from assemblies, services, meetings, music and drama performances to debates and more. As a significant place of community and creativity for us, it will continue to serve Strathcona for many more years to come.

The re-opening of Featherstone Hall was attended by many members of the current School Board, past staff and our architects, PMDL Architecture and Design, and paid fitting tribute to our forebears and to our students and staff who will benefit from the improvements to the facility.

Helen Hughes
Our Year 6 students recently completed a unit of work about Space. The wonders of the Universe stimulated great thought, discussion and research interest amongst the girls. The girls selected particular aspects of the topic to research in detail and later present their findings to the class. The corridor outside the Year 6 classrooms is full of creative models and dioramas depicting aspects of their research. Students also created board games based on the theme of space. Through playing the board games created by one another, students engaged in new ideas and concepts to further their understanding about space.

Our current display of student art in the foyer demonstrates the breadth of creativity across all the primary year levels. Based upon Swainston’s book ‘Fishes of Australia’ and ‘Happy’ by Mies Van Hout, the children were asked to create their own stylised fish and attribute an emotion to it. The display features a variety of fish species and emotions. I’ve noticed many girls stopping to look at the different fish, perhaps imaging that they were real and, perhaps, drawing inspiration from the style, colour, type of fish or overall impact of the display.

The creativity of children is always encouraged and ever so obvious in the Early Learning Centre. Our younger children seem less inhibited and naturally more open to creative opportunities. Through play, young children role play various scenarios that teach them about life. Children learn to negotiate, compromise, lead, follow, problem solve and entertain as they create and play in role play situations. If asked, the children would say that they’re just having fun, but they are achieving so much more.

The recent Pre Prep to Year 2 Concert was a wonderful showcase of talent from all children. Our boys and girls each had a moment to shine on stage in front of a proud and appreciative audience. Many children would baulk at a request to perform in front of an audience of over 200 people, but they were so well prepared by their teachers it seemed natural. It always helps when costumes are worn because children can become a character rather than being on stage as themselves.

Ten of our Year 6 girls were presented with prizes, awards and bursaries recently for their involvement in the Science Teachers Association of Victoria’s Science Talent Search competition. The students were required to submit projects for judging that could be presented in a range of creative ways. Strathcona received a School Prize for providing so many high quality and high achieving entries. The girls participated as part of an extension program, recognising their interest in Science.

Christopher Phyland – Head of Mellor House

Former Deputy Principal, Mrs Lyn Wheat, held a deep fascination with the solar system. Year 6 completed research on this topic in Term 3. On 28 November, all this came together with the celebration of the gift of a sundial to the School by Mrs Wheat. Following her time as Head of Tay Creggan 1996 – 2000, Mrs Wheat was Deputy Principal 2001 – 2009. She was also a teacher of Geography and Mathematics.

On the dedicatory plaque, she requested the inspirational words, ‘Time is given freely, but time is precious.’

The sundial will endure for years to come to stimulate the curiosity and learning of the Mellor House students. Thank you, Mrs Wheat!

Helen Hughes
Two thousand and twelve has seen the introduction of the new I-Learning program at Tay Creggan. Using iPads for creativity and collaboration in the classroom has revitalised the learning experience and done much to increase student and teacher interaction. An iPad-enhanced curriculum has provided a more congenial learning environment, with greater scope for social interaction with peers and acceptance of different ways of expressing ideas. Students have welcomed opportunities for hands on experiences where they can express their ideas with iPad apps such as iMovie, Keynote, and Pages along with podcasts, YouTube and more. iPads have been used to record short summaries of what was learnt, what was seen, what was created in an innovative and exciting manner.

The History Channel saw the Year 9 girls produce a virtual walking tour of Melbourne using the iMovie app on their iPads. Small groups of students were able to craft an original and dynamic presentation. After a couple of trips to Melbourne's CBD the girls started the production process integrating all their images, videos and sound bytes into an entertaining but also informative movie. The broad range of visual designs and audio options within iMovie certainly had scope for budding cinematographers to emerge.

During the I-Learning Arts Channel, the Year 9 girls had a wonderful opportunity to join students attending The Victorian College of The Arts Secondary School (VCAS) to explore a range of choreography styles from Jazz to Hip Hop to Classical Ballet. They were not only able to observe the classes at work but could join in and express their own creative responses to these diverse dance and music genres. The girls came away with a far greater appreciation of the creative and disciplined dedication involved in this area of The Arts. The girls also went to the city to visit the studios of Blender Arts, a street art collective, where the girls learnt the difference between street art and graffiti. The girls were then given a blank canvas, spray cans and stencils and encouraged to create their own piece of street art. The girls loved the opportunity to create a piece of art containing bold direct statements in minutes. A tour of hidden city laneways allowed them to appreciate the diverse, dynamic and international street art scene.

During the I-Learning program, students were offered opportunities to explore and enhance their creative aptitude utilising the natural environment at Tay Creggan. The focus of Art was to make use of the rich diversity of plants from the gardens at Tay Creggan to produce a series of collagraph prints. Elegantely drawn botanical sketches and experimentation with composition were completed before transferring the preferred designs onto each individual Year 9 student's printing plate. Every print was an experiment in light, shadow, line and balance. After printing three or four black and white prints the girls delighted in using a range of coloured printing and drawing inks to further develop their series of botanical prints.

Year 9 students have experienced a range of creative experiences in Food, Health, Wellbeing this year. Students have completed design exercises on an Afternoon Tea, Healthy Noodles, a Mud Cake and a MasterChef Assignment. The opportunity to create a two-course lunch as part of their MasterChef Challenge was eagerly embraced as the students were given a mystery ingredient to be incorporated into their two-course lunch. Ingredients included mushrooms, leek, strawberries and prosciutto. The meals were required to illustrate a variety of textures, flavours and colours as well as being nutritionally balanced. Time management skills were also developed as part of this activity. Some of the meals that were produced included ginger and garlic king prawns, sushi, peking duck, beef stroganoff, asparagus and tomato baked snapper, san choy bau and stuffed chicken wrapped in prosciutto.

The desserts produced were as equally mouth-watering and included mini croquembouche, passionfruit tartlets, mini strawberry sponge cakes, raspberry swirl cheesecakes, chocolate brulée and raspberry soufflé. Year 9 students are to be congratulated on their creativity and enthusiasm in regards to this challenge.

One of the final events in the Year 9 calendar was the House Dance and Drama Festival, where girls from each House had an opportunity to embrace this year's theme of 'Give It One More Try' by creating their own play and choreographed dance sequences to the song 'You Won't Let Me In' by Karise Eden. Their creative and collaborative approaches and responses were outstanding, all four Houses producing focused and unique items.

Marg Bowden, Geoff Wriedt, Jane Bromby, Eve Close, Matthew Morrison and Kerry Wilson
social service activities

The commencement of Term 4 saw the arrival of numerous and colourful Operation Christmas Child boxes. These generous gifts were filled with delightful presents for the charity Samaritan's Purse. On behalf of Samaritan's Purse, I would like to thank the Strathcona girls and families so very much for their kind donations. I am sure many children in the developing world will be surprised to receive such a lovely gift this Christmas.

At one of our School Assemblies, the School hosted the visit of Dr. Maithri Goonetilleke the Executive Director of Possible Dreams International. The doctor gave a talk on his work in Swaziland, highlighted issues such as current health problems, the plight of orphans and living conditions for the disadvantaged. His speech concluded with the powerful gospel song 'He Lifts Me Up'. Dr. Goonetilleke was assisted by a group of Year 10 singers.

Following this message, The Dreaming Council (Briony Harrison, Kaiva Kaiminis, Madison Fairlie and Elisha Catlow) organised a sausage sizzle to raise funds for the Choir's visit to Australia next year and a concert to be held on Tuesday 12 March.

At Tay Creggan the Year 9 students hosted a very special morning tea for Malala Yousafzai, the 14 year-old girl from Pakistan who recently suffered an attack by terrorists. The girls were deeply moved by this story and were able to raise a significant amount of money to donate to the education of girls in the developing world.

In Term 4, the Year 8 students organised Live Aide. The objective of this concert is to give the girls an opportunity to work together to raise awareness and funds for women suffering with fistula. Donations for this cause will be forwarded onto the Christian Blind Mission who run an extensive program working with women in the developing world with this condition. On Thursday 25 October, Heath McSolvin visited Strathcona to share with the girls the nature of this problem and his work with the Christian Blind Mission.

We also proudly supported our Year 12 Coordinator, Mr Scott Pannam, who shaved his head to raise funds for the Cancer Foundation. Girls also donated on a casual clothes day to raise funds and awareness. In the same week, staff also supported this cause by sharing in a special morning tea organised by Mrs Kerry Wilson.

Rhonda Burns – Chaplain
Once again our Music Camp was held in July and it was wonderful to see 90 students working together across the year levels, grappling with challenging music and helping one another. There was much laughter, much noise, a huge amount of music, little sleep and a real sense of camaraderie which all assisted in our preparations for the Annual Concert. The 88th Annual Music Concert for 2012 was the 5th in our series of concerts throughout the year. This concert followed the Scholarship Holders Recital, the Vocal/Instrumental Soirée, the VCE Solo Performances and our most successful Concerto Evening, which were held during Terms 1 and 2. This concert, which presented all our larger ensembles, was held in a new venue this year, which we succeeded in selling out! It was fantastic to see 160 choristers and instrumentalists performing together in the Finale, where the girls presented ‘Rolling in the Deep’ and ‘Hallelujah’. We were all very proud of the girls’ performances.

The Annual Concert was followed by two more major performances. The Friends of Music Dinner, held at Tay Creggan, highlighted all our Chamber Ensembles from Middle School through to the advanced Senior Piano Trio as well as the Modern Jazz Ensemble. The fabulous food, great music and good company enabled everyone to have a most enjoyable evening. The success of this function was due to the fantastic work of the Friends of Music. We are all grateful for their tireless efforts and support.

The Stage Band and the Modern Jazz Ensemble concluded our performances for Term 3 with an entertaining performance at Dizzy’s Jazz Club in Richmond. It was quite a challenge to bear in mind that all these musicians and soloists are actually students and not professional musicians, especially as they were playing alongside professional jazz musicians. The girls rose to the challenge and provided us with a fantastic evening of entertainment, improvising and showcasing a variety of contemporary music styles.

Georgina Nagy – Head of Music

The Year 10 Drama class showcased their skill at Elizabethan Theatre with an evening of Shakespearean duologues. The girls selected a Duologue from quite an extensive range of Shakespearean plays from both the comedy and tragedy genre. They were given the opportunity to recontextualise their duologue into a more contemporary setting if they believed it would enhance the themes and resonate with their audience. It was compulsory, however, to present the original language. The girls performed with admirable focus and skill. They conveyed a thorough understanding of the text and motivations of character and articulated the language precisely and perceptively.

A wonderful array of characters was brought to life during the evening. We commend the motivation, commitment and talent of our delightful Year 10 Drama class who throughout the year conveyed an admirable thirst for excellence and dedication to extending their skills in Drama.

Marisa Rowlands – Head of Drama

Georgina Nagy – Head of Music

Marisa Rowlands – Head of Drama
visual art & VCD

Strathcona encourages the advancement and creativity of all students who pass through its doors from Pre Prep to Year 12.

The Senior School students work through the design process from Year 7 until Year 12. The design process starts with the students receiving a brief, researching and looking for inspiration, creating a number of designs, choosing a final design and creating their finished artwork.

Discussions with the students and good guidance and encouragement from the teacher are an important part of the design process. Students are encouraged to constantly question their ideas and continually challenge themselves. Each artwork that is created is original and unique, reflecting the student’s own interpretation of the brief and their imagination.

This year, the Year 7 theme was ‘Self’. The students have created artworks reflecting this theme using the techniques of mono printing, ceramics, watercolour painting and drawing. They were also introduced to Photoshop, to further their skills and creativity.

The Year 8 theme this year was ‘Surrealism’. The students researched artists to create a number of surrealistic artworks. They created tea pots from clay, dolls using textile techniques, paintings using acrylic paints and gouache and collage using Photoshop. Year 9 at Strathcona gave the students the opportunity to learn a range of different printmaking techniques and taught them how to make jewellery using metal combined with textiles.

In Year 10 students choose whether to continue studying Art, with options for study in 2D, 3D or Design or they can enrol in all three subjects if desired. Their work becomes more sophisticated as they are introduced to more complex techniques and different media. This enables their artworks to more closely reflect their own imagination and creativity.

In Years 11 and 12, students are given more freedom in the type of art they wish to create. They draw upon the knowledge and creativity they have acquired from their schooling at Strathcona. They continue to have the opportunity to learn new techniques and to expand their knowledge. Students are constantly encouraged to research and experiment with different techniques and media, while working through the design process to enable them to create a folio of individual and creative artworks.

The 2012 Art and VCD exhibition, held during October, showcases students’ years of learning and dedicated work needed to create their folios. The Art Department would like to congratulate all the Year 12 Art and VCD students and we hope they all continue to foster their creativity in whichever area they choose.

Helen McCormack – Head of Visual Arts

margaret fendley writing competition

The English classroom values creative writing. This enables students to express thoughts and emotions in an imaginative, often unique and poetic way. This avenue of expression also allows for another kind of thinking, one that focuses on exploring ideas, generating possibilities and looking for many right answers rather than just one. This is vital for a successful school and work life.

The discipline of creative writing is not only about self-expression and responding to literary texts under study, but how to craft a piece of writing from the initial idea, drafting to editing and publication. The relationship between purpose, audience, form and language is explored and we encourage our students to read widely and pay more attention to choices made by authors in order to construct meaning. As a consequence, students learn to note the precision of language in creating an image for the reader.

The Margaret Fendley Writing Competition is a major platform for creative writing talents. It provides an opportunity for all students in the School to enter their own work and have it judged by an external judge who is an experienced and published writer. For this competition, we emphasise that creativity is also not just about waiting for inspiration to strike. Teachers use a range of stimuli to allow students to explore ideas and a variety of literary devices and strategies. In the past, it has been sculpture and poetry. This year, our theme was ‘The World Beyond’ and we used the photography of Strathcona Year 12 student Megan O’Keefe to enable students to explore their own experiences and imagination.

Simone Boland – Head of English
The SEED program (Seek, Engage, Enrich, Diversify) aims to provide students with opportunities to make connections with our changing world (the overarching concept of the program) through involvement in interdisciplinary units of work. Each unit includes explicit teaching of ICT, information literacy and thinking skills. Students are encouraged to explore problems in depth, develop creative solutions and reflect on their learning.

Students are provided with opportunities to select three units to study over the course of the year. As well as participating in these units, in 2012, students also attended sessions which focused on how the brain works, learning styles and Professor Carol Dweck’s work on fixed and growth mindsets. Students have also been involved in activities associated with ThinkPlus, an initiative of the de Bono Institute.

Units for the SEED program continue to be revised and created. Some of the programs offered in 2012 included:

- **Head, Heart and Hands** – Students explored a local, national or global issue that they wanted to know more about or already were passionate about.
- **Illuminating Identity** – Students explored the concept of identity through investigation, discussion, art and action, culminating in the creation of a lamp to illuminate their own identity.
- **Stuffed and Starved** – Students participated in a program designed to make a difference to the lives of those less fortunate.
- **What Goes Up Must Stay Up!** – Students explored the challenges of construction through hands-on activities.
- **Sportswomen and the Media: What’s Fair?** – Students explored the impact of media coverage on women’s sport.

Global education strives to develop informed global citizens who are willing to take action, value diversity and participate as creative individuals in the development of peaceful, just and sustainable solutions. Global Education will have a strong role in the Australian curriculum in years to come and will enrich the learning of every student. An increased interest in global current affairs this year saw Strathcona enter a record number of teams in United Nations style debating competitions. The students, from Years 9 to 12, were able to learn about the world whilst bringing their own passion and personal social justice to a forum with other like-minded students from across Victoria. This experience is invaluable in allowing the students to develop their own views and solutions to contemporary global issues such as the situation in Syria, global peacekeeping and the issue of arms proliferation.

Using procedures based on those of the actual United Nations Security Council, students in teams of two are challenged to think on their feet while making well-researched speeches, posing and answering points of information, negotiating amendments, and repeatedly voting by placard. Mutual respect and intercultural understanding is essential and the students are involved in critical and creative thinking for the duration of the 3 ½ hour event. Every student gained a deeper understanding of the processes and topics discussed, as well as broadening their ability to operate with confidence in this increasingly complex, information-rich, globalised world.

Melissa King – Commerce Teacher
At Strathcona, Food Technology students are encouraged to use their creativity in all aspects of their learning. Allowing students to choose their own ingredients, adapt recipes and create their own food products enables them to gain confidence in a wide variety of skills and gives them the tools they need for independent living in the future.

The Year 8 Food Technology students’ first challenge was to design a healthy muffin. The students were encouraged to use a basic recipe to create a muffin that was healthy, attractive and delicious. This ‘design and create’ theme is repeated regularly in Food Technology classes as the students progress through the year levels, with such assignments as ‘Design and Make your Own Noodle Box’, ‘Create a Healthy Risotto’, ‘Organise and Prepare an Afternoon Tea’ and the ever popular ‘MasterChef Challenge’, where students are given a variety of ingredients from which they create their own food item.

Due to overwhelming demand, we have continued to offer a Cake Decorating option in Year 10 where the students have managed to produce some outstanding decorated cakes, many of which are entered in the Royal Melbourne Show.

The students’ high level of creativity prepares them well for the demands of Units 3 and 4 VCE Food and Technology, which requires the students to prepare original food items for a set theme. The success of this task is reflected in the number students who have their folios chosen for the Top Designs Exhibition at Melbourne Museum.

Through independent thinking, designing and creating, we hope to encourage a confidence that will remain with our students for life.

Claire Chambers - Head of Food and Technology
south africa exchange

During August we were privileged to go on exchange to Somerset West, in South Africa. While in South Africa, we participated fully in school life and activities, and were able to visit the many beautiful sights that South Africa has to offer.

*Chelsea Newton & Shannon McKenna – Year 10*

year 8 exchange

Eliza Sammells, 8D, had a wonderful time on exchange at PLC Armidale. It was the highlight of her time at Strathy so far. Caitlin Shinnie, 8D, at Armidale and Laura Chiaramonte, 8D, at Meriden School, Sydney enjoyed meeting a lot of new people and experiencing different learning styles.

Mabry Simpson-Bull, 8B, at Rockhampton and Brigit Dossetto, 8B, at Armidale enjoyed getting to know their Strathy friends better and meeting new friends. At Rockhampton Girls Grammar School the outings to a rodeo, camp and the beach were fantastic!

city excursion

A combined group from China, America, South Africa with hosts from Strathcona and Trinity.
visit to seoul, south korea

The Chair of the Board, Mrs Laurinda Gardner, visits our sister school, Ewha Girls High School in Seoul, South Korea.

programs co-ordinator’s visit to cambodia

Diane visited Cambodia during October as part of a team of volunteers to conduct a children’s program. Thanks to the Strathcona students who raised funds to buy materials for the program.

kakadu/central australia tour

A total of 29 girls from Years 10 and 11 joined the Kakadu & Central Australia Tour this year. ‘Kakadu & Central Australia depicted Australia as I envisaged it to be, it was the best experience of my life’ – Samara Hughes, Year 10

china tour

2012 Tour to China
In Tiananmen Square, Beijing.
Levels 1 to 6. This is the major fundraiser for Strathcona Junior Cup is the first competition competing in many different competitions. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups. The gymnasts, who range in age from four years to seventeen years, work individually, in pairs, in trios and in small groups.
brownlow medal breakfast 2012

On Monday 24 September 2012, Strathcona hosted its 22nd Annual Brownlow Medal Breakfast in the Medallion Club at Etihad Stadium with an attendance of 350 past and present School parents, business people, and football fanatics from across Melbourne.

Strathcona’s Brownlow Medal Breakfast is widely recognised as the start to Grand Final week celebrations and enjoys support of the AFL who provided us with the Cup for display and guests enjoyed having a photo taken with the AFL Premiership Cup.

Once again one of the original founders of the Breakfast, David Parkin was in attendance and was guest speaker. Our Master of Ceremonies was Terry Wallace and the panel consisted of Kevin Sheedy (Greater Western Sydney Coach), Chelsea Roffey (AFL goal umpire), Debbie Lee (VWFL President & player) and Paul Barnard (past player of Essendon FC). Mike Brady rounded off the morning with ‘Up there Cazaly’.

This high profile event is a major fundraiser for Strathcona raising approximately $27,000 for our School and we were again pleased to donate the lucky ticket proceeds of $6,800 to Life Education Victoria.

We are extremely grateful to the sponsors of this event, Budget Rent A Car, Bendigo Bank, PMDL Architecture & Design, WOW! Travel, McConnell Dowell Constructors, Capital Finance, Cyan Press, Coldflow Heating & Cooling, Coffey, Grant Day James, Marshall White and Adams Print.

Sincere thanks is extended to the 2012 Brownlow Breakfast Committee: Paul Wheelton, Brian Walsh, Michael Catlow, Lisa Fekete, Helen Hughes, Richard Sallows, Chris Phyland, Tim Kitchen, Diana Little and Anita Burman for their networking contacts and commitment to making the event such a success.

Elisabeth Chalmers - Community Relations

snow sports

Friends of Snowsports welcome families and encourage students of all skiing abilities.

2012 was another great year for Strathcona Friends of Snowsports. Although not being a large team this year, we had an extremely committed group of five girls, with the youngest in Year 5.

Our Information Night in February started the year off with the Snowsports Leaders being announced and the Snowsports Calendar of Events outlined to all interested students and their families.

The year consisted of social events, a family weekend at Mt Hotham, a Team Breakfast and our main event, the Victorian Interschool Snowsports Championships at Mt Buller.

The Friends of Snowsports family weekend at Mt Hotham in July was a most enjoyable weekend with excellent snow conditions. Many thanks to the Patterson Family who have continued with Friends of Snowsports since their daughter Alex (1st Captain of Snowsports) finished in 2007.

This year’s Snowsports Team to represent Strathcona consisted of Monique St Clair (Year 12) and Elisha Catlow (Year 11) as Co-Snowsports Captains, Evelyn Gomm (Year 12) as Vice Captain, Shannon Griffiths (Year 10) and Tara Skelton (Year 5). These girls were part of the 5,533 competitors from over 140 schools at the 2012 Subaru Victorian Interschool Snowsports Championships. There was mixed weather, some skiing in clear skies and sunshine, but others struggling with poor visibility and strong winds.

Monique, Evelyn and Elisha were in Division 1. We competed in Alpine Giant Slalom in perfect conditions. Evelyn in Moguls, and Evelyn and myself competed in Skiercross. In Division 2, Shannon competed in Alpine Giant Slalom and our youngest member, Tara, representing Mellor House, competed in Skiercross. Strathcona was also proudly represented at both the Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony by the Snowsports Team and parents in attendance. It was a wonderful week to be together and watch each member of the Strathcona Snowsports Team compete, as well as having the opportunity to socialise with many of our neighbouring schools.

The Presentation Night at the end of the year is a fun celebration and an opportunity to thank all involved. Snowsports especially appreciate the valuable support from Chris Phyland, Head of Mellor House and Snowsports Coordinator, the Committee: Debbie Griffiths, Nadine Goldsmith and Cathy Catlow, all parents and the Patterson family.

If anyone is interested in being part of the Snowsports Team next year, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Phyland or myself. We welcome all abilities. If you enjoy skiing, you will enjoy Snowsports, so please join us in 2013.

Elisha Catlow 2012 Co-Captain Year 11
Two thousand and twelve has been another rewarding year for the OSA and it’s partnership with the School with a range of successful events and activities having taken place. This year many of the OSA Reunion groups have enjoyed meeting in the Creative and Performing Arts Centre. Those of us who were encouraged to cook and stitch and paint and create in an earlier time reminisce about the old houses that once stood on this site, and we admire the current facilities the girls use to great effect: the Mac lab, and TV studio, the Food Tech kitchens, the graphic design and painting studios. Evidence of their creativity is all about us: from fabulously decorated cakes visible through the glass, to the artwork on display throughout the year, much of it quite extraordinary quality in concept and execution. It is always inspiring. The wonderful music spaces including studios for individual tuition or practice, as well as the group rehearsal areas and the Atrium space with its excellent acoustics. We read with interest the notices on display calling various ensembles to rehearsal or announcing a forthcoming performance.

At the top of CPAC is the Drama studio: the beating heart of Performing Arts at Strathly and the scene of many theatrical triumphs not least of which, this year, was the OSA Cabaret. For the second year in a row the creative team led by Tori Wood designed a brilliant show: ‘21st Century Musicals: Songs from Stage and Screen’ performed with panache by a very talented cast of past Strathcona students and supported by an excellent band of musicians and backstage crew most of whom also attended the School. Twelve weeks of rehearsals, followed by a sellout season of six performances attests to its popularity and we look forward to more next year! It is wonderful to see the creativity nurtured at Strathcona being demonstrated in this way. In Tori’s words ‘Why should that fun end after year 12?’

This sentiment has been repeated over and over as the OSA welcome back alumni for numerous events at Strathcona, whether for the Gingerbread House workshops in December, when we get to use those great Food Tech facilities, or for a special reunion lunch at Tay Creggan to hear news of our peers who have pursued their own creative journey in their chosen field as journalists, lawyers, educators, farmers, health professionals, undertaking scientific research, working in the sporting arena, the media or a myriad of other professions. Such is the breadth of the education that has been offered at Strathcona over successive generations.

So, don’t let the fun end after Year 12. Keep in touch, make contact via the Strathcona website, note forthcoming events on the OSA pages, join us on Facebook. We are open to suggestions for future events and look forward to welcoming your creative input to the further improvement of what the OSA can offer you.

Libbie Smith (Bow 76), OSA President

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Kate attended Strathcona from 1971 – 76, and earlier this year visited the school one last time. Kate’s older sisters Jan and Sue also attended Strathcona and their younger brother Paul was educated at Carey Grammar.

After completing her teaching qualifications at Monash University, Kate enjoyed a career in the Department of Education in both Victoria and the Northern Territory. She began as a Physical Education teacher in Victoria and moved about the state leaving a great impression on many secondary school students. Kate was also involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Program in the Northern Territory and up until the start of her illness, held the position as Head of Middle School at Kornilda College in Darwin.

Kate travelled to many countries and displayed a tremendous regard for all cultures. She showed great respect for indigenous people and for a time, held a position in the Victorian Police Force as a Project Officer in the field of Aboriginal Welfare.

Kate was a great sportsperson. A keen runner, she competed in the World Masters Games at the age of 50, winning a bronze medal for the 100 metre sprint. Kate was a keen horse rider and her love of horses was expressed in some of her amazing artwork. Kate also loved snow skiing and spent much time at the slopes in the North-East of Victoria. At Mount Buffalo Chalet she worked as an entertainment officer organising daytime walks and night time activities.

As a loving and committed mother to Tom (16 years old), Kate showed unfailing dedication to bringing up her son, who is a wonderful young man with many talents.

Kate was unwell for 18 months and sadly passed away at Cabrini Hospice on June 10 this year at the age of 53.

Sue Bilou (Buckeridge 73)

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Betty Flatman (Williams) 15.3.21 – 18.10.12

Betty was a proud Strathconian and fondly remembered her school days and the teaching of ‘Civics’ as being a valuable subject for learning about the workings of society. She always held the School in high regard. She had fond memories of the principals, Miss Hughes and Mrs Livingston and enjoyed regular attendance at ‘old girl’ reunions as one of Shirley Louthian’s (Balle) contemporaries. Her impressions of the students and the development of the School was always favourable.

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Cheryl Hutchinson (nee Banks) 1936 – 2012

Cheryl lived a full life right to the end. She completed her nurse’s training at the Royal Children’s Hospital before marrying Les and becoming a mother to two daughters and three sons and Grandy to 14 grandchildren.

One of her granddaughters wrote that ‘she was as grand as a chandelier in a small dark dungeon.’

In 1974 she became a teaching leader in Bible Study Fellowship and the area advisor. A new position was created for a coordinator for the South Pacific. This appointment led her to establish classes for men and women all over Australia and New Zealand and in Singapore, Fiji, Samoa and Mayanmar. She retired in 2004. Her desire to reach out to battered and homeless women resulted in working in Bible studies and mentoring, and as Chair of the Benwerren Home for women and children. Her greatest joy was to lead others to know Jesus.

She is greatly missed as the family driving instructor and as a prayer warrior for so many and we know she is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Deidre Banks ’51
Beatrice Glascodine
26 December 1913 - 14 October 2012

Bea, her twin sister Alice and younger sister Helen were born at Currie on King Island. The family moved to Melbourne for the girls’ education.

Bea and Alice were amongst the first students of Strathcona, which opened as a Girls’ Grammar School on 12 February 1924. Our Principals and school founders were Miss Hughes and Mrs. Livingstone.

Bea loved Strathcona and was an eager participant in all activities, both academic and on the sporting field, her particular love being tennis, which was a very strong sport at the school in those days.

The last couple of years of Bea’s schooling were spent at Tintern. Then she studied at Emily McPherson College for two years.

She was only 18 years old when the Church of England Archbishop of Melbourne, Archbishop Head, arranged for her to study Theology and Pastoral Care at St Christopher’s College in Surrey, England. She was there for three years, and then stayed on in England to gain practical experience in Coventry, before returning to Melbourne in 1939, where she was appointed Diocesan Organizer for Sunday Schools, providing spiritual guidance for women educators and leaders from all dioceses.

Peter Hollingsworth, the former Archbishop of Brisbane and Governor-General of Australia, recalled the time, over 60 years ago, when Sunday Schools were strong, parish youths groups thrived, and Christian education was entering an innovative phase. The names of three fine women were widely known, much respected and highly valued throughout the diocese and the national church: Mary Blackwood, Dorothy James and Beatrice Glascodine.

In 1942 Bea was appointed to a committee of distinguished people charged with establishing Melbourne’s own St Christopher’s College to train women students as lay parish workers. The College opened in Finch Street, East Malvern in 1945.

At the age of 33, Bea took up a national position as Field Officer for the General Board of Religious Education for the Church of England in Australia, travelling to all parts of the country, conducting conferences, workshops and discussion groups, and encouraging potential students to study at St Christopher’s.

In 1949 Bea returned to England, where she took part in Summer Schools and did some lecturing. On her return to Australia later that year she set up and became manager of the GBRE bookshop that specialized in materials for Christian education. When the bookshop closed in 1973 Bea became a welfare worker in the parish of St James, Glen Iris.

She retired in 1983 when she was 70, but continued to care for the sick and elderly, and disadvantaged children and adults. She valued the gifts of silence and solitude, and was an oblate of the Community of the Holy Name, a group that encouraged discipline in spiritual life.

Even in her early 90s Bea was still delivering Meals on Wheels, and kept in touch with a wide circle of friends. She took delight in the beauty of nature, appreciated music, and her sense of humour made her a delightful and loyal friend to many.

Bea passed away peacefully on the 14th of October. She was a much-loved Old Girl of Strathcona, and she graced the Former Strathconians 1924 – 1942 luncheons each November with her presence. Her joyful face was a reflection of the wonderful person that she was. Bea considered the annual Strathcona luncheon one of the highlights of her year, as had her twin sister Alice and younger sister Helen, who both pre-deceased her.

Shirley Lowthian

Florence Margaret Barrett
(nee Atkinson)
22 November 1924 – 15 October 2012

Margaret, who passed away in Tasmania in October was a much loved and well known Strathcona student. Margaret was very dear and special to me personally, and I shall miss her very much, as will so many of our Old Girls of that era. We loved seeing her smiling face at our luncheons.

Margaret and her sister Evelyn, together with their mother Jean, lived at Strathcona. Margaret’s grandmother was Mrs. Livingstone, one of the founders of the school.

Margaret took part in all the school activities and was an excellent student. She made many friends, and many of us kept in regular contact with her. Every couple of years in November she would travel from Tasmania to join her friends at the Former Strathconians luncheon. She loved coming back as Strathcona was so special to her.

Margaret left school in 1940, and became a nurse, training at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

She was an excellent and very caring nurse. She met and married Bill Barrett in 1948, and they lived on Flinders Island, where their daughter Pam was born. In 1950 they moved to Tasmania, where, a year later, Maxine was born, followed at two-year intervals by sons Michael and Ian.

They were busy years for Margaret, but she was a dedicated and extremely capable mum. As the immediate family lived either on Flinders Island or in Melbourne, there was no family support, but good friends lived nearby to help when Bill was at sea, working hard to support his young brood. Margaret was a good money manager, and a great homemaker.

In time, Margaret returned to nursing, working part-time for the Launceston Council, immunizing babies and small children. As her own children grew older she began working for the Launceston District Nursing Service, with one other nurse. She remained in community nursing until she retired at the age of 60. She cared for her sister Evelyn, who lived in Residential Care, visiting regularly. Evelyn spent 6 weeks with Margaret and Bill each Christmas. They took her camping, or to Flinders Island. When Margaret’s mother became frail and aged, she moved from Melbourne to Launceston to be cared for by Margaret and Bill.

As the children left the nest, Margaret and Bill managed regular holidays on Flinders Island, where they had 60 acres and rustic accommodation. They regularly took Evelyn to Flinders, along with their beloved ‘spoil rotten’ cocker spaniel, ‘Sailor’.

Bill’s mum became ill and came to Launceston, and Margaret’s aunt Muriel was aged and in separate need of TLC, so she was moved to Launceston too. At one stage Margaret and Bill had Nana Nellie, Aunt Muriel and Evelyn all staying there – and all needing care!

Nana Nellie, Evelyn and Aunt Muriel passed away within three months of each other, leaving a void. The loss of Evelyn was huge. But it was time for Margaret and Bill to enjoy their retirement together. They moved to Bridport and had 15 years of happy times.

Margaret bought a computer and took lessons in how to use it. She spent considerable time learning all she could, and became involved in assisting to organize a global family reunion. She enjoyed craft work, and was a member of the Probus Club and the CWA.

With the passage of time Margaret and Bill decided to move back to Launceston where Margaret had the pleasure of being involved with day-to-day activities of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Margaret had nine grandchildren. She loved those babies, enjoying each and every one of them. She loved live theatre and was again able to attend shows, musicals, ballet and drama productions.

She loved her music, especially, Andre Rieu. She made sure daughter knew that when she could no longer make decisions for herself, her favourite music should be played constantly. It was, and in her last week this brought her much comfort.

Over the past few years Bill cared for Margaret with unbelievable love and attention, without complaint. They loved each other forever, and worked closely as a team.

Margaret was never backward in coming forward. You always knew what she was thinking, and she didn’t ever mince her words, but she was the most loyal, devoted and caring mum of all time. She was loving, giving and generous – and taught her children ‘how to fly’, and be responsible for their choices and actions throughout life. She valued the social graces and etiquette. She regularly said, ‘Remember, you must always have a sense of occasion.’

Shirley Lowthian
births

Merrin Blashki (Cole ’96) and Simon, a daughter Kate Annie on 10.1.12. Sister for Eliza Ruth.

Melissa Caleo (Nation ’89) and Andrew, a son Dante Romee Raphael on 14.6.12. A brother for Celina and Luca.

Bronwyn Casley (Walters ’97) and Richard, a daughter Erica Samantha on 15.6.12. A sister for Harley.

Caroline Chudasko (Waters ’97) and Adrian, a son, Jack Oliver on 19.5.12. A brother for Emily.

Melissa Clubb (’98) and Sean Hancy, a daughter Ella Jane on 4.11.2011.

To Belinda Di Giulio (Bennett ’88) and Craig, a son, Carlo. Born in July in Hong Kong. Brother for Massimo and Alessandro.

Kirsty Lykourinos (Perry ’93) and Evan, a son Harrison Evan on 10.11.11. A brother for Daisy (Year 8) and twins Nikoalns & Benjamin.

Carli Smith (Growcott ’93) and Andrew, a daughter, Zoe Ada on 15.3.12.

Kelly Spurr (Talbot ’94) and Brett, a daughter, Maya Valerie Lyn on 19.7.12.

marriages

Jacinta Cullum (’95) to Michael Marlborough, on 2.6.12. Several Old Strathconians in attendance, including heavily pregnant Matron of Honour Alexia (Lexy) Milne (Cullum ’97), and aunt Shane Turnley (formerly Hancock, past teacher). A Mellor House excursion group accidentally gate-crashed a bridal dress fitting too!

The Feliciter Connection (past Strathcona staff)

Functions for 2013

Dinner at Tay Creggan
Saturday 20 April 2013
Guest Speaker Judy Battle (nee Ziebel)

Judy was a Strathcona student from 1959 to 1967 and the Head Teacher of Mellor House 2002 to 2008. She will speak about her ongoing work as a volunteer in Cambodia and South Africa.

Feliciter Connection Lunch at Main School to be held on Saturday 9 November 2013

To Belinda Di Giulio (Bennett ’88) and Craig, a son, Carlo. Born in July in Hong Kong. Brother for Massimo and Alessandro. A Mellor House excursion group accidentally gate-crashed a bridal dress fitting too!

2013 Reunion dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Thurs 21st</td>
<td>15 Year Reunion* (1998)</td>
<td>CPAC Cant Campus</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Thurs 7th</td>
<td>20 Year Reunion* (1993)</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Thurs 14th</td>
<td>10 Year Reunion* (2003)</td>
<td>CPAC Cant Campus</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Sat 2nd</td>
<td>1943-54 Luncheon</td>
<td>Snr Centre Gallery Cant Campus</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Thurs 18th</td>
<td>35 Year Reunion* (1978)</td>
<td>CPAC Cant Campus</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Thurs 9th</td>
<td>25 Year Reunion* (1988)</td>
<td>CPAC Cant Campus</td>
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<td>Thurs 30th</td>
<td>30 Year Reunion* (1983)</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Thurs 20th</td>
<td>5 Year Reunion* (2013)</td>
<td>CPAC Cant Campus</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Thurs 18th</td>
<td>40 Year Reunion* (1973) &amp; 45 Year Reunion (1968)</td>
<td>CPAC Cant Campus</td>
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<td>Thurs 17th</td>
<td>50 Year Reunion (1963)</td>
<td>Cant Campus</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Thursday 14th</td>
<td>Pre 42 Lunch</td>
<td>CPAC Cant Campus</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Thursday 28th</td>
<td>1 Year* (2012)</td>
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* 6.30pm – 8.30pm functions

Old Strathconians