



LEARNLIVELEAD

LASALLIAN ROLL CALL

DE LA SALLE COLLEGE



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COVER

In May, the College, together with OLSH Bentleigh, staged *School of Rock* at The Alexander Theatre, Monash University. Jordan Genovese and Adi Smit with Scott Sisson on drums. Photo by James McPherson.

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Join the De La Salle Malvern, Old Collegians LinkedIn page and reconnect with school friends.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the latest issue of *Roll Call* magazine. As I reflect on the contents of this issue I am reminded by the sheer industry of our Old Collegians and the roles you play not only professionally, but in your contributions to the arts, science, business, health and wellbeing, and to civic society in general. In this issue we talk to Dr Darren Russell, who has devoted his career to improved health outcomes, Fred Duyker who has achieved notable achievements as both an engineer and a sculptor, Robert Newton an accomplished author and a firefighter, Dave Larkin an ARIA awardee, accomplished designer and theologian and John Collins who is the new Deacon to the Parish of Parramatta in NSW. I hope you enjoy reading about them and many more.

Kerry Martin, Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I popped into Tiverton recently to pick up a copy of latest *Roll Call*. I took it home and spent the whole afternoon reading all the articles. It was great to catch up with the lives of the Old Collegian's, many of whom were in my sons classes at De La Salle. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about them. It brought back so many memories. Thank you for this wonderful publication.

*Marie Grafen
Armadale*

Dear Editor,

Always a joy to read *Roll Call*. Trust all well in Malvern.

*Tony McManus (1974)
Perth*

Dear Editor,

The article "*From the Archives*" featuring Paul Rankin (1955) in *May Roll Call* brought back very fond memories.

*Brian Crocker (1954)
Frankston Heights*

UPCOMING OLD COLLEGIAN REUNIONS

Class of 1983	40 Year Reunion	6 Oct 2023
65 Years Plus	Principal Morning Tea	14 Nov 2023
Class of 2022	(Year 12 Revisited)	17 Nov 2023
Class of 2014	10 Year Reunion	1 Mar 2024
Class of 1974	50 Year Reunion	21 Mar 2024

Refer to website for bookings and further information.

From the Principal

Dear Old Collegians,

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of *Roll Call*, once again providing terrific articles on Old Collegians and some important updates on what's happening at the College since May's publication.

As we navigate the first year of new ownership after 110 years with the De La Salle Brothers, there is an enormous amount of time and effort going into strategic planning. I am very grateful for the support of various professionals and teams from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) as we collaborate on building a bigger and better future for the College.

As I write this article in mid-July, we are nearing the end of a comprehensive market research process. Most of you will have received a letter last week from myself and Dr Ed Simons (Executive Director MACS) requesting your feedback via a survey on the future structure and educational model of the College. Analysis of the many survey responses will be crucial in deciding the face of De La Salle for the coming decade and beyond.

The survey came on the back of a series of interviews conducted in June with current, prospective, and past families, plus senior staff. These focused on what interviewees saw as strengths of De La Salle College, how we might improve, what facilities and programs they'd like to see more of and how we compare with other schools. This has generated some very positive feedback around what families value so much in our school, but also valuable insights into what the community would like to see us develop more of in the coming years.

I am also working closely with a very experienced and talented team of MACS staff around demographics, enrolments, marketing, project management, strategic planning, master planning, communications,



infrastructure and financial modelling. The outcome will be a new Master Plan for De La Salle College, scheduled for publication early 2024. While this was delayed as we secured the purchase of the College, the new Master Plan will result in enhanced facilities and a long overdue building program. The design and delivery will be an exciting and progressive development in the history of the College, catering for our optimum model of innovative learning and the ambitious students of De La Salle for decades to come.

One feature we would very much like to see in the new building program is a centre for the Performing Arts, certainly a burgeoning domain in recent years. This year's production of "School of Rock" was masterful. The quality of classroom music and concerts continues to develop and the many bands, orchestras, and ensembles I have the pleasure of seeing perform continues to amaze and inspire. Our Performing Arts Assembly in June was a tremendous opportunity for all staff and students to see what talented young men we have at the College.

Sixty students have just returned from their annual Music Tour of regional Victoria, performing concerts at schools in the north-east. According to a senior music staff member, "The camp is both the pinnacle and central event of the Music Department –

the investment of time, energy and resources toward this camp is returned tenfold afterwards from the students - boosting motivation, musical skill level, cooperation and personal organisation."

The ongoing development and improvement of the sport program is another key project this year. Our second year in partnership with One on One Football has been very successful. They supply high level coaching/match analysis and support in training, skill development, fitness, strength, conditioning and nutrition to the various teams. Mick Barlow and Dom Tyson's First XVIII went through the season undefeated for the second year in a row with a convincing win over Salesian in the Grand Final. The Kennedy Club for junior footballers and the Sean MacDonald Basketball Squad have been popular and beneficial and we are working towards getting the Agar Academy for cricket running later this year.

As ever, learning, wellbeing and spirituality are the central tenets of a De La Salle education. The demands and priorities of the 2020s make these very much a shifting landscape but I am very pleased with the teaching, programs, initiatives and Lasallian care provided for our community, which creates a rich and contemporary learning environment for all our students.

Peter Houlihan, Principal

School of Rock, Rocks!

School of Rock the Musical, by De La Salle College and OLSH College Bentleigh, staged at The Alexander Theatre, Monash University in May, was a resounding success with audiences entertained from start to finish with the high energy rock music mixed with heartfelt ballads and the joy of a happily ever after ending for all.

The role of Dewey Finn was nothing short of a role made for Jordan Genovese, as his outstanding performance saw him onstage virtually from start to finish. Aria Pisano had the audience captivated by her incredible voice and versatile acting of the unsuspecting Rosalie Mullins. Skyler Sahely and Halle Schroor as Ned Schneebly and Patti Di Marco, seamlessly played the villains until a change of heart saw rock'n'roll save the day.

The live stage band *No Vacancy's* performance of 'I'm Too Hot for You' was musically strong, engaging and also very funny. The live music from the band was exceptional, keeping the whole production moving, with heightened moments of fun and tension throughout. After all, where is 'School of Rock' without the rock and roll?

This outstanding performance was skilfully directed by Andrew Murrell, who crafted each scene to honour this all time classic and enhance the strengths of every actor. The musical score was masterfully brought to life under the direction of Luke Serrano who worked tirelessly with the musicians both on and off stage.

There are simply too many individuals to name to do credit to the heartfelt vocals and high energy dancing that came together to tell the all-time classic story of 'School of Rock'.

By Jennifer Bonnici
Drama Coordinator



Mothers' Lunch at Kooyong

After running a wildly successful inaugural De La Salle Mothers' Lunch last year with 220 Mums at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, we approached this year's second event with a good deal of optimism. With the maximum 250 spaces advertised the lunch sold out in less than an hour!

The Mothers' Lunch has been a terrific innovation, enormously popular with our wonderful De La Salle mothers and offering a great opportunity for a relaxing day out. De La Salle has always been about community and the lunch was certainly testament to that. The day was simple in nature, and very relaxing and informal, offering the 250 mothers from Years 5 to 12 the opportunity to socialise with friends, make new acquaintances and just enjoy the day.

Highlights included several College videos featuring students describing in detail what they love about their mum and what she means to them, amazing raffle prizes from generous sponsors and a lot of talking, sharing stories and taking photos. It was lovely to hear the mothers speak so fondly of the College and how much their sons are enjoying their time here. We're already looking forward to the 2024 Mothers' Lunch function!



A New Senior Executive Role for the College

This year, Séamus Scorgie joined the College as its first Executive Deputy Principal. With a distinguished career in girl's education, he hasn't missed a beat settling into an all-boys school environment.

After 17 years working in girl's schools, 11 at Loreto College Toorak, (nine in Executive roles) and six at Catholic Ladies College, Eltham, Scorgie is well versed in the differences between boys' and girls' education, however he says that he has been impressed by the level of appreciation demonstrated by De La Salle students towards their teachers and learning opportunities.

"In my previous role at Loreto Toorak, I would speak to new staff at the beginning of each year about how appreciative the girls were of their learning environment, which was typified at the end of every lesson by saying thank you as they left the room, something I had most certainly not experienced previously when working in a boys' school," he said.

"Since commencing at De La Salle College I have found that our students are equally appreciative of the opportunities that are provided to them, and they also say thank you at the end of every lesson. While there are indeed differences between teaching girls and boys, I have found that there are greater differences between some boys' schools and others, and that the students of De La Salle College are some of the finest students I have had the pleasure of teaching."

The College's new Executive Deputy Principal position is to support the Principal in the overall leadership and management of the College across all aspects of College life, and to ensure that the vision for the strategic direction of the College is implemented.



For Scorgie, this new position consolidates his substantial educational management and academic credentials. He holds Master's degrees in both Archaeology and Educational Management as well as an Executive MBA, having completed his undergraduate studies at Monash University where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts (Honours).

He has also held a number of roles with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) as a VCE Biology and Environmental Science Assessor and has represented the VCAA at the ACARA Senior Science Forum.

He also volunteered twice on an archaeological dig on the Dakhleh Oasis Project Excavation in Egypt.

Scorgie says that the next 10 years will see education changing at an incredible pace as new technologies and occupations develop.

"In 10 years' time I imagine that we will offer subjects we have never heard of, that utilise technologies we can only dream of, to prepare our graduates for careers that don't exist yet."

It is not surprising given his background that he is a strong advocate for the promotion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and would like to see the promotion of STEM extend right across the College from Year 5 up to VCE.

"I believe STEM helps to open our students' eyes to the possibilities of the future in an everchanging and evolving landscape."

Outside of work, Scorgie enjoys spending time with his family. "I am fortunate to have a loving wife and four incredible children, with whom I relish the opportunity to spend as much time as possible whether that is watching them play sport, talking together about the books we have read or travelling around our beautiful country."

By Kerry Martin

Vocational Education gets a Revamp

The College has been at the forefront of vocational education since it introduced the VCAL program (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) in 2004. This year the VCAL has been superseded by the new VCE VM (Vocational Major) which promises to provide more options for senior students.

Jodie McLaren, Director of Learning and Development says the new VM will provide opportunities for students which were not available in the VCAL program.

"The new VCE VM allows students to achieve the Victorian Certificate of Education and provides them access to high quality, relevant vocational education and applied learning opportunities that were not previously available under the VCAL program," she said.

"In its first year we have 19 students enrolled in Year 11 with the popularity set to increase rapidly as students begin to embrace the opportunity to complete a VCE in a vocational and applied setting relevant to their future career goals."

Homage to VCAL

Paul Fairlie was the College's inaugural VCAL Coordinator. Now enjoying retirement in South Australia, he took some time out to reflect on the College's VCAL program and the opportunities it has provided hundreds of students over the years.

"VCAL was introduced at De La Salle College in 2004 to provide an alternative to the VCE for students who were more interested in pursuing a vocational pathway than seeking an ENTER (now ATAR)."

"VCAL seemed like a it would be a good fit and offered hope for the articulation of individual vocational



Paul Fairlie with his son Keegan (2001)

pathways for students who were better suited to the newly developed hands-on option. Before the introduction of VCAL, many of these students would have left the College to pursue TAFE or work. Some dropped out altogether and missed out on the rich experiences of remaining connected to their cohort in the final years of school."

"The initial cohort in 2004 was around 10 students. Each of these students had their own individual program. The main difference was that these young men would be at school for three days, at their VET course on another day and at an arranged workplace for the remaining day of the week. The response to this new way of attending school was incredible for these students."

"The interest in VCAL grew quickly and by the commencement of the second

year of the program, there were over 20 students in the Intermediate group."

"The introduction of VCAL at De La Salle College was a paradigm shift in thinking about learning pathways for students in their final years. It was a disruptive innovation that would not have succeeded without the support and commitment of staff and College Leadership."

"The VCAL program at De La Salle was rightfully regarded as innovative and fulfilled a need to support and engage students who might have otherwise struggled with the challenges of the VCE. As an early adopter of the program, other schools were keenly interested in the structure and successful implementation at De La Salle."

VCAL Success Stories

Nathan Roberts (2006)

As one of the first VCAL students to graduate from the College, Nathan Roberts (2006) has gone on to establish a successful plumbing business. Now studying for his builder's licence, Roberts said that VCAL was a game changer for him.

As a student Roberts was at the crossroads whether to leave school, commence an apprenticeship or finish school. He said VCAL opened up a whole new world of opportunities enabling him to stay at school and finish Year 12 with his cohort whilst gaining workplace experience a couple of days a week.

"VCAL gave me valuable skills and provided me with a great opportunity to finish school with my mates rather than leaving to start my apprenticeship."

"I couldn't recommend the VCAL and VET programs at the College highly enough."

"I would tell anyone considering a vocational pathway at school to do it - you won't regret it."

He loved extra-curricular life at the College, especially sport and excelled at a whole range of competitive sports.

When he is not working and studying, Roberts loves spending time with family and friends and travelling. He has two children and is currently planning a trip around Australia.

Hamish Curtis (2013)

Another VCAL success story is Hamish Curtis (2016). After completing his plumbing apprenticeship as part of his VCAL program, he now works for Nathan Roberts.

"I absolutely loved doing VCAL which gave me a head start into my trade whilst still having the enjoyment of being involved in the school with my mates."

"Whether you already have a vocational pathway in mind or whether



Hamish Curtis (2013) and Nathan Roberts (2006)

you are still thinking about what to do when you finish school, a vocational pathway will give you a chance to pursue some of your passions while still at school."

As a student Curtis was passionate about sports and represented the College in ACC football and cricket. "I still love my sport and I'm still playing footy at De La Salle Old Collegians with a lot of mates from school.

I love my time with my family and friends as well as all my animals."

"Mateship is definitely a big part of De La Salle's legacy, working as a team, playing in a team. Being part of the College's social justice program through the Papua New Guinea Immersion, also gave me a deeper understanding of what to value."

By Kerry Martin

A Family Tradition

When Gihan Boteju (2013) joined Pfizer Australia four years ago, he was carrying on a family tradition of working in the pharmaceutical industry. Recently he commenced a new role at Pfizer, as a Specialist Representative for Australia and New Zealand, making him the youngest employee to occupy the role.

"Pharmaceuticals and the pharmaceutical industry have always been a big part of my life and that of my family. My dad's first job was with Pfizer in Sri Lanka, and he is currently a Regional Vice President for an Australian pharma company," Boteju said.

"Similarly, my brother Shehan (2012) also works for a pharmaceutical company. In many ways I was continuing the family tradition by entering the industry."

"The Specialist Representative role, involves being the primary point of contact between Pfizer and Healthcare Professionals, providing key scientific information to increase awareness and to assist in the prescribing of Pfizer's portfolio of products to suitable patients."

"On a daily basis I liaise with healthcare professionals, such as Haematologists and Infectious Diseases Physicians regarding a portfolio of products that cover disease areas such as leukemia, blood clotting and of course, COVID-19".

"When I was selected to be a Specialist Representative, I was the youngest employee to take on this role at Pfizer ANZ."

In 2022, Gihan was a finalist for Pfizer's Representative of the Year Award which recognises the highest performing representative at Pfizer.



Gihan Boteju (right) with fellow Pfizer colleagues at their annual awards night

Boteju completed a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Pathology from The University of Melbourne, and a Master of Management from the Melbourne Business School, majoring in Strategic Management and Marketing.

"I joined Pfizer Australia as a Portfolio Specialist after my tertiary studies and in late 2021, I took up my current role as a Specialist Representative."

"COVID-19 has had a significant impact on my work at Pfizer and the pharmaceutical industry."

"As with many industries, we had to quickly pivot to virtual interactions from what was a role that involved a significant number of face-to-face interactions with healthcare professionals. More importantly, Pfizer's response to the pandemic is something that has had a profound impact on my work and the industry."

"Pfizer has become a household name because of our COVID-19 vaccine and treatments. Treatments which were made possible by its lightspeed approach to drug development, which is now being applied to other disease areas.

This lies at the heart of Pfizer's "relentless pursuit of breakthroughs that change patients' lives".

Boteju draws a lot of inspiration from his parents. "I am originally from Sri Lanka and moved to Australia 17 years ago with my family. As with many migrant families, my parents faced a significant number of challenges and hardship having come to a new country. They had to restart their careers and uproot the lives they had built back home. My brother and I saw firsthand the sacrifices they made for us, and we feel it's our duty to make them proud."

"De La Salle taught me the importance of hard work. This was deeply ingrained in me in every part of my school life and the College encouraged all its students to strive to be the best they can be."

"De La instilled a sense of brotherhood and camaraderie between its students, and many of my friendships formed at De La continue to this day."

By Kerry Martin

Front Line Medicine



In July, Australia hosted the world's most influential meeting on HIV research. The *2023 IAS Conference*, held in Brisbane, attracted the world's leading researchers and practitioners in the disease and coincided with the 40th anniversary of the first death from AIDS in Melbourne in 1983.

Amongst the delegates was one of Australia's most experienced HIV/AIDS physicians, Dr Darren Russell (1980), who has been working at the forefront of the treatment and research of the disease since the early nineties.

Dr Russell is Director of Sexual Health at Cairns Base Hospital, Adjunct Associate Professor at James Cook

University School of Medicine and Clinical Associate Professor in Population Health at the University of Melbourne. He is also past president of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.

Russell first became involved in HIV research and sexual health practice when he was a student doctor. "In the early 1990s, HIV/AIDS was a very real and scary reality in the community, and I wanted to learn more about the virus," Dr Russell said.

"As a junior doctor I was sharing a house with a gay doctor and wasn't sure which career path I should take. I wanted to learn more about HIV/AIDS and asked him where I could learn more about HIV," he said.

"He recommended cold calling the doctor who headed the largest private HIV clinic in Victoria, (The Lygon Street Medical Service) and so I did. The doctor offered me a job on the spot, even though I wasn't actually looking for one! I went to meet him, and he was such a delightful person that I accepted the job offer and spent three years working with him, learning about HIV.

It was a devastating, untreatable disease back then and most of my patients died, often suffering terribly along the way. Seeing so many lovely young men die, and being unable to prevent it, was very difficult."

"A lot of my work was and still involves working with communities affected by, or at risk of, HIV/AIDS."

"I am very humanistic in my outlook. I see each person as having intrinsic worth and value and really see medicine as a vocation. It is my job and duty to help people where I can, and to ease suffering always. I was fortunate to have some amazing teachers and mentors to follow and I learned from them."

"For some reason I have a natural affinity working with these communities and find reward in being able to help individuals, but also in being able to advocate on their behalf."

As a former President of the Victorian AIDS Council and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, along with the HIV Foundation Queensland, Russell realises the importance of community as part of the treatment regime. "These were all community organisations, so as a doctor it was a privilege for me to work alongside them."

Russell went straight from school into medicine at The University of Melbourne. "I struggled a bit the first three years and wasn't sure about continuing, so took a year off and backpacked through Asia."

"When I returned from that I had found a new sense of purpose and easily completed the next three years. I then started work as a junior doctor and wasn't sure which direction my career should head in. I found general practice and sexual health medicine, both of which I have found very rewarding personally and professionally."

"I have earned a few degrees in these fields, though stopped collecting degrees a couple of decades ago."

A 'few' degrees indeed! Dr Russell has a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from The University of Melbourne and a Diploma of Venereology from Monash University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and The Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London).

As a student at De La Salle College, Russell enjoyed sport, especially swimming. "I was on the swimming team for all of my time at De La Salle and spent a lot of time following that black line on the bottom of the Harold Holt pool!"

"I also did judo one or two nights a week and found that was a great break from school and study. Interestingly, I still do both swimming and judo 40 years later – I guess I am a creature of habit!"

"I also do some ocean swims when I can and also the swim leg of triathlons. I keep busy with work and ongoing study and really enjoy

unwinding by walking the dogs regularly. I like travel, too, though the COVID years made that tricky."

De La Salle left me with a desire to serve others and marginalised communities – the idea of helping others before ourselves. Selflessness, I suppose. I am no longer all that religious but have kept some of the tenets of religion and try to live according to them in helping others."

By Kerry Martin



Making it in Cambodia

Tom O’Sullivan’s (2003) passion for social justice was ignited while he was a student at the College. This passion took him to Cambodia, where he set up a social enterprise for young unemployed people. Now he employs more than 50 staff in Cambodia’s largest online real estate company.

O’Sullivan first went to Cambodia in 2013 under the auspices of the Cambodian Children’s Trust to set up a social enterprise restaurant to teach hospitality skills to young Cambodians. The restaurant, Jaan Bai, which means

rice bowl in Khmer, was successful and O’Sullivan is proud of the fact that it is still operational ten years later.

O’Sullivan admits he has always had an entrepreneurial mindset, which was what prompted him to stay in Cambodia after the social enterprise restaurant was up and running.

“I knew I wanted to stay in Cambodia, and I saw many opportunities for someone with an entrepreneurial mindset like me.”

O’Sullivan and long time friend and fellow Old Collegian James Rodda (2002) had always dreamt of setting up a business together.

“We never knew it would end up being in Cambodia.”

Together they started realestate.com.kh with the support of some partners from the Digital Classifieds Group (DCG), an Australian based company. DCG also owns businesses in Laos, Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh. O’Sullivan remains the CEO of the company, whilst Rodda is now the DCG Group Chairman.”

“In the seven years since we launched, the business has grown significantly and now employs more than 50 staff with a high-profile physical presence in Phnom Penh.”



Tom O’Sullivan and his wife Chenda, with James Rodda (right) Dean Davis (second from the left)

O’ Sullivan said it was a fast learning curve. “I had to quickly learn about digital marketing, tech platforms and real estate, all at once,” he said.

The hard work has paid off and the company continues to expand. In particular O’Sullivan is proud of being able to support so many young people on their career journey. “I am very motivated to see our staff grow in their professional careers, especially knowing that some of them did not have the same opportunities I had growing up.”

“I have been in Cambodia 10 years now, so I have definitely adjusted to life here. Southeast Asia is a pretty exciting and motivating place to be. The streets are full of life, cities are buzzing, the food is the best in the world. Cambodia also has a young passionate, energetic population.”

O’Sullivan’s first career was in hospitality. “My early career in hospitality was really fostered by De La Salle College. I was fortunate enough to study commercial cookery as part of my VCE, which really helped me enter the workforce post school.”

“I recently read on the College website that learning goes beyond the classroom. That was certainly the case for me.”

“After Year 12, I completed a hospitality course before working in various cafes, restaurants and hotels around town. After a few years in hospitality I was a bit lost in terms of building a career, so I decided to go to university as a mature age student to complete a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Entrepreneurship. This really gave me some focus and direction.”

“As a student I also developed my passion for social justice and I am pleased to see that De La Salle continues to run social justice programs,” he said.

“I also continued this passion after school and have been involved in a number of social enterprises, and still am today.”



“My last job in Australia was to lead the transformation of a social enterprise restaurant in Chapel Street Prahran under the umbrella of Uniting Care. Being able to turn the business around from making a loss to highly profitable was certainly a highlight of my career so far.”

“Outside of work I love being able to travel around Southeast Asia and eating the best food along the way.”

“I’m still very much a Melburnian and miss a good coffee. Getting a decent coffee is much harder here, I still go hunting for the best espresso. Of course, I am still a Carlton tragic, so I look forward to the football season each year and love getting back for a game.”

Recently O’Sullivan got married. “My wife Chenda and I had a traditional Khmer wedding, and it was nice to have my family and friends over from Australia, including Old Collegians James Rodda (2002), James Gow (2002) and Dean Davis (2003).”

O’Sullivan remains the entrepreneur and recently started an events company called Wovee with his wife. We look forward to reading about its success in the future.

Earlier this year he was appointed to the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia.

By Kerry Martin

And The Band Played On

Dave Larkin (1992), the front man of triple ARIA-award nominated Melbourne rock band Dallas Crane, has more than one string to his bow. The front man and guitarist for the band, this Melbourne rocker was also the Creative Director for the Melbourne Football Club, and in 2015 designed the Club's new and current logo.

Dallas Crane was formed in 1996 by Larkin, Chris Brodie, Shan Vanderwert and another Old Collegian Pete Satchell (1992). Since then, the band has released five albums and is working on its sixth, and has toured both here and overseas sharing the bill with rock royalty such as The Who, Midnight Oil, Def Leppard, Cheap Trick, Status Quo and KISS.

The band's debut album, *Lent*, released in 1998 was a bit of a slow burner until it was picked up by radio station, Triple J.

"Triple J opened the door for us and we were invited to major festival tours like The Big Day Out and The Falls at Meredith. Their support also put us in the frame for some really amazing international tours with the likes of The Who, KISS, and many others," Larkin said.

"Everything we achieved in that time I totally attribute to Triple J. We went from an audience of 10 people (including staff) for a gig in Canberra - to a sold out concert at the same venue three months after being added to the Triple J playlist."

"Suddenly we had touring staff, and all of these people running around after us and making us feel a million bucks. It was pretty special. We got to see and do some really great things, and are lucky enough to still be doing it today."



Despite their meteoric rise, Larkin admits that the early days were tough. "Australia was, and still is, a tough market. Everybody adores music here but for some reason we just don't, and never really have, supported our own music to the degree that it deserves."

At the time, guitar rock was a little on the nose and getting lost in the techno beat of the day. Then for some reason, when bands like The White Stripes, The Strokes and The Hives started bobbing up, people got the vibe for rock again and we were this 'new band' ready to strike.

By 2000 they were the headline band at St Kilda's Esplanade Hotel, which, back then was a very sought after local gig. They toured nationally before going on to eventually tour Europe, Japan, and the US. Twenty five years on they are still making music and performing.

Larkin says that after those halcyon days, in 2007 the band went into a bit of hiatus and after 11 years, finished as the headline act at Melbourne's St Kilda Festival. An invitation in 2009 to join The Who on their national tour, which included a spot at Melbourne's Grand Prix, briefly brought them out of temporary retirement.

"After 11 years none of us had the energy or the maturity to deal with the business side of Dallas Crane which needed a lot of attention, so we parked it for a while went of a did things like getting married, and having kids."

In some ways it was the break from the band that led Larkin to a successful parallel career as a Graphic Designer. Having completed a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design at Monash University,

he got a 'day job' as a Graphic Designer and in 2014 joined the Melbourne Football Club (MFC) as its Creative Director.

"Probably the most rewarding design job I had was at the MFC where I developed their new brand and led the design team. The Club was in dire need of many things at that time, money and football talent being the main two, but when I started there was almost no such thing as a club brand or visual identity."

"I designed the new club logo which I'm happy to say is now a 'premiership' logo and still in use today, and I was given full license to lead the creative team to a really dynamic and confident place."

In the meantime after an extended break from the band, Satchell and Larkin decided to get the band back together, albeit as a scaled down version.

"In 2012 we started working on our 5th studio album 'Scoundrels' - scaling back the whole operation from all of the luxuries and personnel to a super-simple operating model, one we still work within today. The last 10 years for us have been perhaps the most enjoyable - even more fun than the first 10!"



"There's no pressure now. It's all just fun, and since re-emerging we've toured with bands like KISS, Def Leppard, Cold Chisel, Cheap Trick, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and are still in the frame for many more down the line. We're working on album number six right now and who knows what's next from here. 'Every gig is a gift' we like to say in Dallas Crane, as we knock on the door of our 50s!"

There is no doubt the band is still relevant and in 2022, Dallas Crane opened for KISS at Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena.

Larkin and his wife of 20 years Melanie, live in the Yarra Ranges with their two children, Jack (10) and Audrey (13), who, like their talented dad, love music and art.

By Kerry Martin



The Firefighting Novelist

Robert Newton (1983) has written eight novels for young people, including *When We Were Two*, which won a Prime Minister's Literary Award for Young Fiction, as well as *Runner* and *The Black Dog Gang*, which were short-listed for the NSW Premiers Literary Awards. He also has a day job as a firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Earlier this year he was a guest of De La Salle College at a literary forum for Year 8 students.

As a student, Newton loved English, History and Politics but admits he never imagined he would end up being a writer.

"I was very unsure of what I wanted to do when I left the College. It was a very frustrating time for me, to be honest. I enrolled in an Arts degree at Monash University, but halfway through I became interested in the Fire Brigade. I joined in 1989 and have been a full time firefighter for 34 years now."

In fact it was only when his younger brother Chris (1985) moved to Switzerland that he 'stumbled' into writing.

"I was a sport-crazy kid, so I never thought about being a writer when I was younger. I suppose you could say I stumbled into writing. It all started when my younger brother, Chris, moved to Switzerland to live," he said.

"A few months after he left Melbourne, we started writing letters to each other and I found out quickly that I was a terrible letter writer. For some reason, I found it difficult to write a full page of words and what I did write down seemed repetitive and boring. So, as a way around that, I started to make things up and bend the truth. As a result, those letters began to morph into funny adventure stories and I'd send a little chapter every month, a little instalment over to Chris in Switzerland."



"When I look back, I suppose my writing career started because of this need to communicate with my brother."

Newton's first novel, *My Name is Will Thompson*, was published in 2001. Newton told the Year 8 students that his first novel was largely based on his brother Chris who had dyslexia as a child.

"Chris had really bad dyslexia and would see his letters back to front. Ironically, Chris is now an English

teacher who is also fluent in German and has completed a Master's degree in German translation.

Since then, Newton has written seven novels, including the popular *Runner*, which Newton says he is enormously proud as it is a staple on reading lists in many secondary schools.

"For me, *Runner* is a special thrill. To date, it has sold over 100,000 copies which is incredible for a young adult novel."

"Winning The Prime Minister's Literary Award in 2012 for *When We Were Two* was also a career highlight for me."

"The firefighting / writing combination is a wonderful double act because they are very different jobs. Basically, I work four days on and four days off as a firefighter, which gives me plenty of time to write. Sometimes, I will go away for chunks of time when I am really involved in a story and things are roiling."

"I get my inspiration from everyday life. I love watching people, ordinary people going about their business and doing everyday things."

"To be a good writer you need to be an observer and a listener. The more I write, the more I realise that writing is about the little things."

As well as writing and fighting fires, Newton spends a lot of time around the ocean.

"I have always loved the water and am now a really keen swimmer. I swim in the ocean, right through the year and am a member of an Icebergs Swim Club."

"As a student I was a member of the College swim squad and a really keen surfer as were a lot of my friends at De La Salle at the time."

"At school, my favourite subjects were English, History and Politics. In fact my politics teacher, Mr Hastings, was probably the best teacher I've ever had."

As a young boy he moved around a lot and the College provided him with a place to form real friendships.

"Having a father who was in the army, I spent my childhood moving from place to place. When we arrived in Melbourne my father retired so we got to call Melbourne home. By far, the best thing about De La Salle was the friends I made."

"Not many people know that I was also a very keen trumpet player. In fact, I wanted to study music when I left school and auditioned for the College of the Arts."

Robert's older brother Michael (1980) is also an Old Collegian.

Newton lives on the Mornington Peninsula with his wife and three daughters.

He is currently working on his next book, *Sponge*, which tells the story of a young boy with a photographic memory. We look forward to its arrival.

By Kerry Martin



Robert Newton with (left to right) Orlando Schiavo, Josh Raudys and Bas Barclay

Engineering Art

Frank Duyker (1973) was an Electronics Engineer, but in parallel became a sculptor and somewhere in between these two vastly different worlds, he found an artistic voice that allowed him to explore the human condition and its relationship to technology.

Duyker's sculptures have featured in numerous exhibitions and festivals and are held in some public and many private collections. Sometimes whimsical but mostly thought provoking, some of his pieces would look right at home in an episode of Doctor Who or on Easter Island.

During a successful career as an electronics teacher and later a lecturer in Industrial Design at Monash University, Duyker unceasingly practiced wood carving and later worked with mixed media; in particular he likes working with spare parts from old computers or bits of machinery.

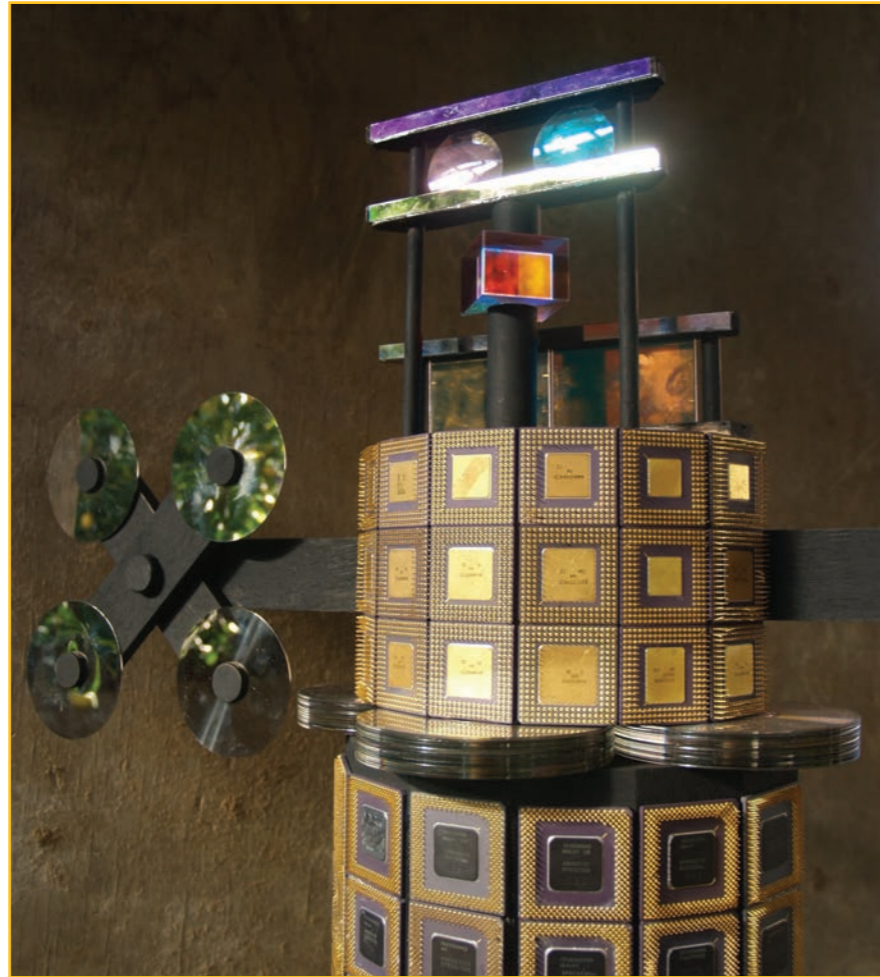
A self-confessed hoarder, he rescues bits of tech history and furniture timbers from hard rubbish collections and finds beauty in unlikely places, such as the contents of machines.

"Having been brought up in a migrant (Dutch father and French Mauritian mother) working class family of eight children, I learned not to waste anything," he said.

"Hopefully my sculptures remind viewers that technology is an integral part of our lives and perhaps my background in electronics means I see beauty and interest in technological waste perhaps more than the average person."

Inspired by Oceanic and Melanesian art, as well as technology and the human condition, many of his works' comment on our colonial past.

"For example, a recent piece, 'Temple to the Once Acceptable,'



made out of discarded Merbau decking, explores practices and materials that were once considered perfectly acceptable, namely: slavery, tobacco, unequal pay for women, child labour, public executions and so on. My aim is to tell these stories through my art."

His work has also featured in exhibitions for the National Gallery of Victoria's Design Week in 2021, and the 2015 Fringe Festival Furniture Exhibition. His work is currently part of an exhibition at the @Gallery in Sorrento.

Duyker's work is held in some public and many private collections including the Smorgon family collection and the Rolando Neiger Collection in Singapore.

He recalls doing sculpture as part of Years 7 and 8 Art but admits it was a

visit to the National Gallery of Victoria with his parents that ignited his passion for sculpture.

"On a visit to the NGV with my parents, I saw a particular carved wooden sculpture and I instantly committed to becoming a wood carver and sculptor," he said.

After graduating as an Electronics Engineer from the Caulfield Institute of Technology (now Monash University), he worked in the electronics industry for a few years, before going back to university to complete a Graduate Diploma in Education at the Hawthorn Institute of Education (now part of Melbourne University). He then went on to teach electronics at Box Hill TAFE. He later returned to study and completed an Industrial Design Degree at RMIT.

"This qualification was the ideal bridge between sculpture and technology, and it was something that I loved. It quickly led to a teaching position at the Industrial Design Department at Monash University, a position I held for about ten years."

For a man with so many strings to his bow it is not surprising that Duyker has a lengthy list of career highlights, including training teachers in Thailand, receiving fellowships to study in Germany and Ireland, and developing the electronics and software for a large kinetic sculpture at Federation Square for a fellow artist.

Like all engineers, Duyker likes to make stuff and is continually learning, creating and making things. He is just as happy sculpting as he is making furniture, designing a circuit board or writing software.

Besides wood carving and sculpture, he loves live performances, travelling, watching documentaries,

reading non-fiction and cooking international cuisines.

"My love of writing and performing comedy was something that I developed at De La Salle College and together with Andrew Scotts (1973), we wrote two comedy routines and performed them to hundreds of fellow students and teachers at the College. They were very risky endeavours which thankfully worked out."

Later as an engineering student, he teamed up with John Conway (1973) and wrote and performed dozens of comedy sketches for university revues. Some were also performed at Melbourne and Adelaide Universities and a few short scripts were sold to ABC radio.

By Kerry Martin



Ministering in the West

Recently John Collins (1973) was ordained as a permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Parramatta, Western Sydney. As a Doctor of Philosophy and an influential career in theology and Catholic formation, Collins is more than qualified for the role.

Based at Christ the King Parish in North Rocks, Collins is involved in all aspects of parish life including faith education, liturgies and officiating at baptisms, funerals and weddings.

Previously Collins worked at the Catholic Institute of Sydney teaching Practical and Pastoral Theology and prior to that, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in their National Office for Evangelisation from 2007 to 2015. Collins also worked for 14 years for Centacare (now known as CatholicCare) in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

After graduating from De La Salle College, Collins began his tertiary education at Christ College in Oakleigh, where he began training to be a primary school teacher. He didn't complete the diploma but went on to spend a year as a postulant with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in Croydon.

"I had begun to study theology at Yarra Theological Union (YTU) in Box Hill before trying out the MSCs. At this time I lived in the Sacred Heart Monastery and while I enjoyed my time there, religious life wasn't the life for me."

"After leaving MSCs I continued studying theology at YTU, and between some travel and surgeries to repair a significant back injury, I graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Theology."

"I then returned to Christ College to complete a Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary). I subsequently moved to Sydney where I completed a Master of Theology at the University of Sydney and a Master of Education (Pastoral Guidance) at the Catholic



College of Education, Sydney; and finally a Doctor of Philosophy at Australian Catholic University."

Collins met his wife, Sandra, now Dr Carroll, while they were completing their Master's in Theology at the University of Sydney. Sandra recently retired after 32 years as a lecturer in Religious Education at the Australian Catholic University. They have two boys Paul and Bede.

"Sandra is also involved in parish work and works closely with the wives of men called to be a Deacon."

Over the years, Collins has taught at primary, secondary and tertiary levels and worked in adult faith education, relationship education, research, policy development and administration. He is currently involved in the provision of pastoral supervision for clergy. He also presents at national and international conferences and writes extensively on theology.

"I never really understood the notion of 'career' while I was a student at De La Salle. Fifty years later it is still no clearer,

however, I believe I have achieved a number of 'vocational highlights.'"

"My biggest highlight was marrying Sandra, then on an equal par, the birth of my two sons. Other highlights include my ordination as a Deacon and being awarded a Doctor of Philosophy.

As a theologian and a teacher, Collins is inspired by the writings of many scholars. "I find inspiration from the 20th Century American Social activist Dorothy Day, who is famous for her work in the Catholic Worker movement."

On a social level Collins is a member of the Sydney Swans and as a passionate supporter he attends games at the SCG when he can.

"I also have interests in art, politics and music, and visual art but very much as a hobby."

"My De La Salle experience gave me a passion for learning and teaching and for social justice. These values have remained a significant influence in my life and vocation thus far."

By Kerry Martin

De La Salle Football Club

The 2023 season saw the Club field six teams; the Senior and Reserve men's teams, two U19s teams, the Guns and Dinos, have all taken the field in the Blue and Gold.

This season has seen considerable change, growth, and development across all teams with fresh players, coaches, staff, and committee members, all contributing to the Club's concerted effort to continue "Building for Greatness".

Our Senior Men's team made a strong start to the season and at the time of writing this column, sits in the top four on the ladder. Our Reserves men are just outside the top four but with two wins in a row are consolidating their move into the second half of the season. The U19s program has been going well with both teams sitting in the middle of their respective ladders with win-loss records of 6-5 (Blues) and 4-6-1 (Golds).

However, what's most exciting is the young talent to emerge across the Club this season. This year alone we've had 10 eligible U19s players play senior football, three of whom are current Year 12 students at the College (Luke Healy, Luke Lloyd and Pat Russell), which bodes for an exciting future for our Club.

Our Guns' program continues to grow from strength to strength. The Club is now aligned with Korowa Anglican Girls School, which has resulted in a significant injection of new players providing a wonderful opportunity to further develop our Guns' program.

The on-field improvement of the Guns has been evident, highlighted by a three-game winning streak midway through the season. The Guns are still in touch of the top four and will be looking to keep their winning momentum going to keep their finals hopes alive.



The Dinos have continued their winning streak and are sitting handsomely in second position on the ladder.

Off the field, we have continued to develop the four pillars of our 'Building for Greatness' program, with sessions for our mental health and well-being program, 'Out of the Blue,' including training on concussion from Monash University, and a visit from ex-AFL player Tom Boyd.

Improving clubroom facilities has also been a high priority for us, with a high-profile petition to Stonnington Council, starting to gain some traction.

We have also erected new signage around the Club and installed new screens in the Clubroom. We are incredibly grateful to our returning and new sponsors, an aspect of the Club that continues to grow, as we continue to develop strong ties throughout the community.

This season we employed Nick Walsh as the Head of Future Football, whose role is to identify and develop young talent and create connections within the community.

We farewell General Manager, Dale Christie, who has taken up a role as Football Operations Manager with VAFA and are pleased to welcome former AFL player and current AFLW Carlton Assistant Coach, Tom Couch back into the role.

Overall, it's been a positive season so far for all teams, and our off-field staff, supporters, and volunteers. The vibe around the Club is great, and we can't wait for the back end of the season. We look forward to welcoming you at Waverley Oval each Saturday as we push towards finals.

By Phil Proy
President

50+ Reunion

On Thursday 17 August, 80 Old Collegians attended a lively reunion at Merrimu Reception in Murrumbidgee. Conversations ranged over the old days and contemporary public issues and the food and drink was good.

I was honoured to be asked to say a few words of thanks on behalf of those present. I went to De La Salle College in 1951 on a diocesan scholarship and, like most in my class, who were taught by Br Julian Watson, gained a junior government scholarship enabling us to complete our secondary education at De La Salle. Many of those present had been teenagers before there was television or rock-and-roll, let alone mobile phones. The oldest present,

Michael Kennedy, left the College in 1944. After touching on the topic of historic clerical abuse and the need to continue redressing that, I said: "We are duty bound to say today that the majority of the Brothers have been extraordinarily generous men, who dedicated their very lives for the education of children and young adults." This remark was greeted with applause. Thank you to the Brothers, and the lay men and women who worked with them – yes, there were women on the staff in 1951 – our thanks for their efforts in educating thousands and thousands of us, and inspiring us in the ideals of goodness and compassion and social conscience.

Val Noone (1956)



Class of 1993

Thirty years? Really? Alas, a scan of the VCE photos the College thoughtfully displayed confirmed it was true.

Around 50 Old Boys from 1993 gathered at the Racecourse Hotel, some resplendent with hair and others blessed with heads luckily no longer requiring hair products. It really was a great night with lots of laughs, much obliged to the Alumni Office for organising. Many of us loved hearing what people had gotten up to, such an eclectic range of careers and life experiences speaks well of the opportunities the school provides. A special mention was made of all the Old Boys no longer with us, we hope their families have found peace.

Simon Heffernan (1993)



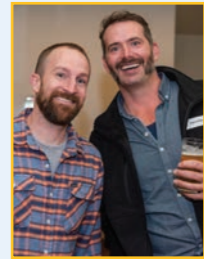
Class of 2003

On Friday 7 May, the Class of 2003 gathered for their long-awaited 20 Year Reunion at The Malvern Hotel. This special event was marked by joyous reunions, heartfelt speeches, and a strong sense of camaraderie that has withstood the test of time. The highlight of the evening was a moving speech delivered by Sean Gordon, a beloved member of the class.

Sean's speech resonated deeply with all attendees, capturing the essence of their shared experiences at the College and the personal growth they had undergone since graduation. With a perfect blend of emotion and humour, he reminisced about the unforgettable moments we had shared during our time at the College and the invaluable life lessons we had learned. His words evoked a profound sense of nostalgia and gratitude for the enduring friendships formed. I think I saw TJ cry.

Amidst the celebration and reminiscing, the reunion provided a precious opportunity for classmates to reconnect and relive cherished memories. Many toasts were made, creating an atmosphere of celebration and merriment. Classmates shared stories, anecdotes, and fond memories, reliving the laughter, the pranks, and the bond they had shared during their college days. A great night had by all.

Tom Robson (2003)



Where Are They Now?

Alex Di Medio (2013) completed his medical studies in Western Australia before working with remote communities in The Kimberley. He has recently returned to Melbourne where he is completing his physicians training. Alex is currently the President of The University of Western Australia Athletics Club.

Patrick Arceri (2013) is working as a Physiotherapist with Southern Suburbs Physiotherapy Centre. He graduated with a Doctorate of Physiotherapy (Health Services/ Allied Health) at The University of Melbourne after completing a Bachelor of Science (Honours) at Monash University. Outside of work, Patrick keeps active and practices Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and strength-based resistance training.

Tom Seddon (2022) was awarded the 2022 Dennis Woodward Prize for Best 1st Year Student in Politics. Tom is also working as a Paralegal for the National Australia Bank while studying a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts at Monash University.

Matthew Sidji (2016) presented a paper in April at the ACM CHI Conference in Hamburg, Germany on Human Factors in Computing Systems. Matthew received first class honours at Monash University in the Bachelor of Science Advanced - Global Challenges with a Major in Mathematics and minors in Physics and Philosophy. He is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Melbourne, researching Human-AI interaction in cooperative games.



Giuseppe Gigliotti (1972) completed a Bachelor of Social Work and Commerce at the University of Melbourne and since then has worked around Australia in a range of social work and adult education and training roles. His last role was for Airservices Australia developing and delivering an Integrated Leadership Development Framework. He also volunteers as a driver and guard at the Don River Railway. Giuseppe also has a Master's in Arts (Theology). He and his wife Sandra have a daughter, a stepson, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



Jake Krizmanic (2013) is a Site Manager with P.C Whitehall and Sons.

Shaun Nolan (2013) is a Solicitor (Real Estate) at King & Wood Mallesons. Shaun completed a Bachelor of Law/Commerce at ACU.

Adam Pentifallo (2013) is a Team Captain of Operations at StockX. He has been with the company since 2021.

Jack Reeve (2013) is a Product Manager/Consultant with Accenture Song. Jack participated in the Hacker Exchange Student Innovation Program in San Francisco in February 2017. (An immersive exchange program in Silicon Valley to explore innovation and entrepreneurship concepts.)

James Eracleous (2013) recently finished his Master of Organisational Psychology and is now an Organisational Psychology Registrar. For the past 10 years he has been a member of St John Ambulance as



a volunteer. He joined hoping to learn some skills while continuing to give back to the community. "My time on the De La Salle Coolies program to India really opened my eyes to how much of a difference each of us can make in improving our community."

Daniel Aiello (2016) is working as a Senior Planner at the Department of Transport and Planning. Daniel completed a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours) at RMIT University and hopes to work as a planner in the Netherlands.

Karl Bianco (2014) is a full-time panel operator on 3AW Afternoons with Dee Dee and Drive with Tom Elliott. Karl also produces The Weekend Break with Peter 'Grubby' Stubbs, 3AW Football and is a segment contributor for 3AW Nights with Denis Walter. Karl completed a Diploma of Screen and Media (Broadcast Journalism) at Swinburne University of Technology.



William Hart (2003) is a Landscape Designer with Parallel Paving and Landscaping.

Nick Smith (2003) runs his own plumbing business, I Fix it Plumbing, based in Mordialloc.

Dean Davis (2003) runs a design business called MCO Property.

Daniel Colman (2003) works in finance.

Phillip Karamouski (2003) is a management responder for Telstra Radio Emergency.

David Silcock (2003) has worked in real estate across both residential and commercial markets. He is currently the head of Business Development for a leading real estate franchise network. He recently obtained an MBA from the University of Melbourne. He lives in Melbourne's Inner North with his wife and two children.

Perrin Brown (2003) is married and has twins and a 6-month-old. He has travelled extensively over the last decade and recently visited Gallipoli and Turkey. He is currently working as a Senior Digital Media Advisor with WorkSafe after several years in journalism.

James McNamara (1994) is the Head of Global Operations for the Melbourne-based sustainable retailer, 'frank green'.

Michael Edgley (2002) is a Chiropractor and runs a practice at Docklands Health. Michael has a Bachelor of Science (Honours), Biochemistry at the University of Southampton, a Bachelor of Health Science (Chiropractic) from RMIT and a Master of Clinical Chiropractic from RMIT. He is a Diplomat of the American Chiropractic Neurology Board, Functional Neurology.

Rohan Edgley (2005) is an associate for Slomoi Immerman Partners, Chartered Accountants.

Luke Rogan (2017) is an Assistant Brand Controller within the Luxe division at L'Oréal Australia. Luke completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Melbourne where he majored in Economics and Finance.

Tony McManus (1974) is the host of Perth's leading News/Talk Radio program on 6PR. Tony has spent 44 years behind a microphone in a variety of broadcast positions. Previously he worked at 3HA Hamilton, 5SE Mount Gambier, 3BA Ballarat, 3AW Melbourne and 5AA Adelaide.



Jason Moore (1993) moved to Los Angeles to teach and be with his American partner. Since then, the couple have married and moved back to Melbourne with their son. Jason is a Year 5 and 6 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teacher at St Leonard's College.

Paolo Pennacchia (1993) Completed a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours) and a Bachelor of Planning and Design at The University of Melbourne and is an Architect with Travis Walton. He is married with two children.

Stephen Almanzi (1993) works in Language Interpreter Management, assisting multicultural communities nationwide in over 180 languages with over 3,000 professional interpreters. He is also an occasional freelance Graphic Designer and coaches his son, Blake's U16 basketball team in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

Simon Heffernan (1993) is a champion weightlifter and a Commonwealth medallist. He won three Bronze at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998, and a silver medal at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. He has also represented Australia at numerous Weightlifting World Titles including Indonesia 1994, Poland 1995, Thailand 1997, Finland 1998, and Canada 2003. Simon completed a

Bachelor of Arts (Italian Language and Literature) at Swinburne University and a Bachelor of Education from Deakin University. He opened his gym Renew PT in 2012. He has been an Australia Day Ambassador and worked for Melbourne and St Kilda Football Clubs and the Melbourne Rebels. He is currently the Director of Strength and Conditioning for the Box Hill Hawks VFLW. Simon is an esteemed member of De La Salle College's sporting history, having represented the College at ACC and State Championships level.



Rest In Peace

Sid Ingham	1941
Vincent Gilfedder	1943
Jim Ingram	1944
Don Homewood	1946
Frank Hallissy	1947
Jack Burgess	1949
David Buckley	1950
Ian Green	1951
Peter Hartin	1953
John Muir	1953
Robert Butler	1955
Paul Fitzgerald	1957
Tom Tesoriero	1961
Russell Welsh	1969
Bernie Jones	1970
John Mack	1971
Anthony Donohoe	1974
Simon Compton	1980
Brendan Atkin	2002
Mitchell Moore	2007
Cameron Torcasio	2013

From the Archives

Memories of Kinnoull 1960 - 1963

My first recollection of the Kinnoull campus is walking along a lovely tree lined Sorrett Avenue. I was amazed at the size of the huge heritage homes and wondered where my new school was. I couldn't see anything that looked like a school.

But, at the end of the very end of the street there is a large green and white building that looks like a 'posh' house (the former Kinnoull homestead).

The house had little paths leading to green doors. It looked nothing like a school. On the right was another building which appeared to be a stable. I later found out that this was the tuck shop run by Mr and Mrs Bounds. I loved those hamburgers Boss!

There were boys playing on a large asphalt expanse, toilets and a shelter shed on the right and a huge Peppercorn tree on the left side of the playground. I would often climb it with my mates and sit under it during those long hot summers. We used to get the 'cuts' for climbing it, but it was a great tree to climb.

At the far end of the playground there was another old mansion but, unlike the posh one, this one looked very run down, but in its heyday, it would have been an imposing home. I found out it was called 'Fairlight.'

More kids arrived until the playground was awash with them all running around. We were then lined up by grade and being new, I had to ask where to stand. Br Rupert, the Principal, appeared and climbed onto a makeshift dais and addressed the assembly, but my mind was wandering. To me, Br Rupert was big and scary!

We made our way to our classrooms. Grades 3 and 4 turned out to be in the 'posh building.' Our room had three long rows of double desks and two other small rows on the left in a

corner that made up the 'bad row.' I found myself in one of these desks regularly during the year! Our teacher was Mrs Mitchell, who we fondly called 'Minnie.' Grade 5 was housed in Fairlight and Grades 6 and 7 were on the other side of the 'posh building' overlooking a very large and elaborate garden. We weren't allowed in this garden. 'Six of the best' if you were caught. Later the garden was turned into a football oval. I loved playing footy on this oval.

Over the years, especially in Grade 5 under Miss Scamell, my friends and I explored this building relentlessly looking for a cellar. Surely this grand house would have had one. But we never found one!

I enjoyed the Kinnoull campus so much. British Bulldog! You had to be on Alec Alaimo's side. Later Damien Panlock would provide fair competition. It was chaotic and dangerous. But we loved it!

One particular experience I must mention is the daily playtime milk run in the middle of the playground. This was often on stinking hot days and the milk, supposed to be cold, was regularly warm. In winter though, we had no such problem. At the time, flavoured straws were available and for those families that could afford them, made the plain milk at least tolerable especially on those hot days.

Footies were forbidden so we played tennis and cricket. However, cicada hunting in the Peppercorn tree and the long grass during early summer was a popular pastime. We poured water down their holes to force the cicadas out then hide them in class until home time. You drew the wrath of the teacher if any of them croaked in class! Few survived long enough to morph into their flying form.

Sadly, the Kinnoull and Fairlight mansions were demolished to make way for a modern campus befitting De La Salle's reputation.

The place I knew and spent four years is long gone, but I still savour the memories, and perhaps more importantly, the great many friendships that exist to this day.

Those who experienced Kinnoull will no doubt also have special memories, perhaps of a very different time and environment of learning and yes, we actually learnt some stuff!

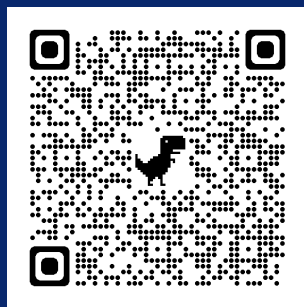
Dermot Breen (1969)





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