

Autumn / Winter 2017

Nexus

GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**Rebel
with a
cause**

**Pioneering
girls'
footy**



**Award
winning
writer**





Nexus

Editor: Terri Cowley

Design: Amy De Paola

Printing: Edge Print Group
1300 715 640

Thanks to: Amina Barolli, Glen Edwards, Kirstie Fitzgerald, Shane McDonald, Chelsea Pohlner, Nicole Sleeth, Mark Torriero, Damian Trezise, Pam Wallace, GVGS Photo Media Group

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We welcome submissions to *Nexus* from staff, students, alumni and anyone connected with the school community. Email nexus@gvgs.vic.edu.au.

COVER PHOTO:

Year 9 student Kate Adams is co-captain of Shepparton's first under-18 women's Australian Rules football team. Photo by Amy DePaola.

From the Principal

In March the NAPLAN results from 2016 were released and have been updated on the My Schools website. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) – is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is the independent authority responsible for the development and management of NAPLAN. Our school was recently contacted by ACARA to inform us that “ACARA has identified your school as having demonstrated substantially above average gain in NAPLAN results. On behalf of ACARA, I would like to extend my congratulations to you and your school community on this achievement. Gains of this magnitude are significant and worthy of highlighting.” This was communicated by Robert Randall, Chief Executive Officer of ACARA.

NAPLAN aims to measure student progress in core skills essential to future learning and engagement with work and society. Our school continues to find NAPLAN data very valuable in benchmarking student achievement, both locally and nationally, and in identifying areas of effective performance and areas for improvement. We do not coach students in NAPLAN testing. Rather, we see the testing as one opportunity to gauge the effectiveness of our learning program.

These gains reflect hard work and commitment to learning shown by our students. They also acknowledge the commitment of our teaching staff, particularly those in the Mathematics and English Departments who have worked hard, embraced data and enhanced the effectiveness of their teaching. We are particularly pleased that these gains affirm the impact of our school's commitment to student learning.

Over the past five years the school has articulated a clear focus on building student learning growth. This work has been driven by a set of underlying principles:

- we believe in the capacity of all students to learn
- we strive to achieve at least one year's learning growth for each student each year
- we set high expectations for each student regardless of their starting point

A focus on knowing the impact of our efforts has been vitally important in both informing and sustaining improvement decisions. The use of performance data such as NAPLAN was a key element in sharpening our focus and informing our decisions.

While these gains reflect the efforts of the whole staff, they particularly reflect the improvement efforts of our Middle Years teachers. On behalf of the school community, we thank them for their efforts.

Underpinning this work is a strong commitment to ongoing professional learning informed by research. The school particularly acknowledges the efforts of a number of staff in leading professional learning and supporting teams in implementing improvement plans. Key leaders of these initiatives have included Mrs Deborah Moore, our Director of Learning and Teaching, Miss Kathryn D'Elia, Teaching Effectiveness Coordinator, Mrs Geraldine Thompson, Middle Years Mathematics Coordinator and Ms Kate Thomas, Middle Years English Coordinator.

The 2016 NAPLAN and VCE data affirms the school as high performing at both the state and national levels. This is an outstanding achievement, which reflects the commitment and hard work of our students and the focus and dedication of teaching staff in providing high quality instruction. For more information, please go to www.myschool.edu.au.



Semper Ulterius
Mark Torriero,
Principal

Janna strikes the right note

Janna Lawson has barely taken the smile off her face since receiving an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.5, making her the Dux of Goulburn Valley Grammar School for 2016. In fact, Janna's impressive mark made her the top academic achiever in the Shepparton region for 2016.

She went online to get her score at 7am on Monday, December 12. "I put my information in and then I crossed my fingers. It popped up on the screen. I was sitting on my bed and I jumped up and down and cracked one of the slats! Then I ran around the house screaming!"

If that recollection creates a picture of someone who doesn't have their feet planted firmly on the ground, then it's the wrong one. The Kyabram 18-year-old has had a clear goal of becoming a cardio-thoracic surgeon since she was in primary school. Not surprisingly, Janna was offered her first choice of studying medicine at Monash University with a view to specialising in surgery of the heart, lungs and other organs of the chest. "I would watch a lot of videos on YouTube of that type of surgery," Janna said. "Then in Year 7 I started obsessing about it and I would spend hours looking at how you get into it."

Janna is the second daughter of Alister, a research scientist at the Department of Primary Industries at Tatura, and Jenni, who taught at Kyabram P-12 College. Tragically, Jenni died of cancer in 2014 at the age of 49. Janna's feelings of achievement have undoubtedly been tempered by thoughts of her mother. "It has been hard," Janna said. "I did think of her, especially at graduation, and how she would have been there."

Janna's older sister Emily, 20, completed school two years ago and is studying biomedicine at Melbourne University with a view to undertaking medicine later. Given her different route, she may well be graduating as a doctor at the same time as Janna. Emily is a national champion runner and has competed at the world junior athletics titles.

Younger brother Daniel, 16, is in Year 11 in 2017 and is also a talented athlete and footballer and Rebekah, 8, a Year 4 student, will no doubt follow in some of the footsteps of her talented elder siblings.

For Janna's part, she has balanced studying with soccer and piano. In 2016 she played for Cobram in the Albury league where she was the top scoring striker. But in 2017 she has transferred to Melbourne club Alamein to play in the PS4 Women's National Premier League.



Janna Lawson takes time out for a coffee break in Shepparton after celebrating her excellent results.

She recently passed Grade 8 in piano, which is the highest level achievable before a Diploma. She has been learning piano for about 10 years and is the star student of Kyabram's Glenda Butcher. "I think balance is really important," Janna said. "Year 12 would have been overwhelming if I didn't have those outlets. It still was overwhelming at times."

The three elder Lawson children made the move from Kyabram P-12 when Janna was in Year 9 and, despite the 45-minute bus ride each day, she has never looked back. Janna started off Year 12 with high hopes, but had some disappointing SACs (school-assessed coursework) during the year. SACs make up 40 percent of a student's final mark.

"I slumped throughout the year," Janna said. "I didn't finish top of SACs for any subject. At the time, it didn't feel as though I was doing as well as I should have been." She advises any student who finds themselves in a similar position, to persist. "You have to keep going because you don't know how it is going to turn out," she said.

Janna always took Fridays off study. For the rest of the week she would wake up at 6am

and practise piano for about 45 minutes before getting the school bus at 8am. The bus would bring her back home at 4.15pm and then she'd take about an hour to eat, relax and exercise. Then she'd settle in for about three hours of study. She never studied past 8pm. Between 8pm and a 9.30pm bedtime she'd catch up on social media and do some reading.

Janna studied chemistry, physics, English, specialist maths and maths methods, completing biology in Year 11. These are all the same subjects that Emily did, which was handy when it came to sharing some text books – and garnering inspiration. "She showed that you could do everything and still get a high score," Janna said.

Janna particularly wanted to thank maths teacher Ms Cheryl Garratt for her consistent support. "She told me I had a lot of natural ability," Janna said. "She really tries to understand everyone." She also thanked English teacher Ms Nicole Sleeth. "I wasn't really an English person at the beginning of the year but I was at the end," Janna said. "She is warm and friendly and very calming, which is very important in Year 12."

VCE perfect score awardees L-R: Lucy Macpherson, Abbey Zito, Janna Lawson (Dux), Daniel Gouloupoulos, Andrew Brock and Zachary Maskell.

Strongest results

Class of 2016 Highlights

- 37% ATAR 90+ (37 students)
- In *The Age* performance ranking GVGS rated 32nd out of the 235 Victorian schools offering VCE and was one of only two regional coeducational, open entry schools listed.

The achievements of the Class of 2016 were celebrated with a special academic assembly on February 10. "They have achieved some of the strongest results in the history of the school, ranking 32nd in the state," Principal Mr Mark Torriero said. "At the same time, their cohort contributed a great deal to the broader life of the school through the co-curricular program. We congratulated the students who worked consistently throughout the years and achieved wonderful results that delighted them and secured the courses of which they dreamed. We particularly congratulated the students who faced challenging personal circumstances such as grief, ill health or personal difficulties. We also recognised and acknowledged the support all these students received from their families and, of course, from their many teachers throughout their schooling, particularly their Year 12 teachers and tutors."

Outstanding academic achievements of a number of individual students were also recognised. They were:

Vice Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship to La Trobe University: Emily Osborne

Monash University Scholars: Gemma Collins, Gabrielle Patterson

Kwong Lee Dow Scholars, University of Melbourne: Gemma Collins, Simon Pell

The following 27 students received either a Distinction, in the top 10%, or a High Distinction, in the top 2% of results across the country in not just one but at least three of the following tests: The University of NSW ICAS



Mathematics, English, Science, or Writing tests, The Australian Mathematics, History, Geography Competitions and the Australian Language and Sayembara Lisan Oral competitions.

Mrs Deborah Moore, Director of Teaching and Learning, said these tests are now in the main, not compulsory, so the high number of awards is really notable. "Also of note is that compared to 2015, there was a 50% increase in the number of triple distinctions last year," Mrs Moore said. "The Triple Distinction recipients demonstrate consistent excellence and as such deserve our commendation."

Triple Distinction awards for 2016

Year 11: Harismita Rupeshraj, Adam Sizer

Year 10: Ryan Bhat, Genevieve Cassidy, Gamma Collins, Paige Gullifer, Akshat Ragade, Alexander Schmedje, James Worsfold

Year 9: Joshua Dillon, Anthony Dohrman, Hugh Farrell, Linton Hoey, Farhan Islam, Rachel Thiel, Michael von Güttner

Year 8: Tom Dooley-Heath, Teagan

Menhenett, Elly Miechel, Nell Ryan, Eliza York

Year 7: Akhil Gadde, Hayden Reynolds, Sarah Roberts, Jack Vaivars

Year 5: William Birchall, Imogen Templeton

VCE Unit 3 and 4 Studies Perfect Scores of 50 – Andrew Brock (Physics), Daniel Gouloupoulos (Mathematical Methods), Lucy Macpherson (Year 11, Psychology), Zachary Maskell (Further Mathematics), Abbey Zito (Industry & Enterprise and Psychology).

At the assembly, the school also presented Janna Lawson as Dux of 2016. Janna achieved an ATAR score of 99.5 placing her in top 0.5% of students in the state. Hers was the highest score in the region. Janna accepted an offer to study medicine at Monash University.

"Janna is a true leader who has inspired so many students and staff alike through the way she embraces life," Mr Torriero said. "An elite soccer player, Grade 8 level pianist and a friendly, determined and open-minded person, she is ever modest and humble about her extraordinary achievements and is popular with all. She is a wonderful ambassador for our school and personifies the values on which our school community is founded."

The school recognised Janna's achievement in several ways, including the Honour Board, a framed certificate and the McCamish family prize to the Dux of the school. The Chair of the School Board, Mrs Prue Dobson, presented the award.

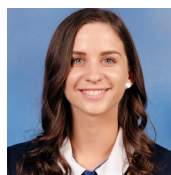
Presentation Night 2016 Honour Roll



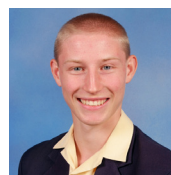
Mandhree Ekanayake
Senior Citizenship Award
The Maxwell Brown
Memorial Prize



Annabelle Cassidy
Principal's Senior Award
for Service to the School



Emily Bolton
Senior All-Rounder Award
The Shepparton Rotary
Club Prize



Joshua Dillon
Junior Citizenship Award
The Parents & Friends
Association Prize



Cody Mohamed
Principal's Junior Award
for Service to the School



Edward Miechel
Year 5 and 6 All-Rounder,
The Glen Edwards Prize



L-R: Gabrielle Patterson,
Simon Pell and Gemma Collins.

Three scholars

Congratulations to three Year 11 students who have been awarded the opportunity to take part in university scholars programs in 2017. Gabrielle Patterson will participate in the Monash Scholars program, Simon Pell will take part in the University of Melbourne's Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars program and Gemma Collins was awarded the opportunity to take part in both the Monash Scholars and the Kwong Lee Dow Scholars programs.

In 2016, Gabrielle represented the school at ICCES athletics and is involved in the Student Representative Council as an executive member. She was a member of the McLennan House Drama Team in the House Eisteddfod and this year has been a Peer Support Leader, assisting with the Year 7 students' transition to the school.

Simon Pell has participated in a wide variety of activities and is an outstanding student and citizen. He has been actively involved in the music and performance activities offered at school, playing the piano and trumpet in the Stage Band and Senior Orchestra and was assistant stage manager for school productions.

Simon is an avid tennis player and is a member of the Rivergums Venturer Unit. Prior to this he was a 1st Kyabram Scout troop member and undertook a leadership role as a Patrol Leader.

Simon was involved in the school buddy program, which pairs Year 9 students with new Year 5 students to help settle them to school. He also volunteers his time to collect rubbish around the local river system and was a Youth Leader at the 2016 Kangaroo. He also volunteers his time with the Kyabram Anglican Church serving community meals each Monday night.

Early this year Simon travelled to Indonesia with the World Challenge program. Once again, his impressive leadership skills were on show. He was responsible for organising the budget for the 30 days of travel as well as transport, accommodation, food and itinerary. While in Sumatra he volunteered with a reforestation project collecting, planting and watering seedlings, clearing weeds and building bird stands.

Simon has achieved a High Distinction in the ICAS Science Competition in 2013 and 2015, Distinctions in ICAS Science (2014) and Maths (2014) and a Distinction in the Australian Mathematics Competition. Simon has also competed in the Australian Language Competition (Indonesian), obtaining a Distinction in 2015. Simon's accomplishments in his Scout endeavours have also been recognised, attaining the Australian Scout Medallion in 2015 (the highest award in scouts) and the Grey Wolf Award 2013 (the highest award in cub scouts).

Gemma Collins is a quiet achiever in the real sense of the word. She is an outstanding student academically and has a high level of commitment to the co-curricular program of the school. During her time at Goulburn Valley Grammar School, Gemma has received numerous academic awards whether they be internal recognition of outstanding achievement or as a competitor in external academic competitions. She has received academic achievement awards every year since beginning in 2011, putting her in the top 10% of students in her year level, as well as several distinction certificates in ICAS mathematics competition, the Australian history competition and the Australian Language Competency Test for Indonesian. She has been presented with the Primary All Rounder award, the Principal's Junior Service to the School award, the Junior Citizenship Award and public speaking awards.

Gemma represents the school in the local Saturday competitions and interschool fixtures in netball, school aerobics competitions and interschool cross country and athletics. She has been the school cross country champion for the past four years also.

Gemma is also busy – playing the flute and taking public speaking lessons. Gemma has been a member of the school junior and intermediate school band performing in four Middle Years productions. Gemma is a successful public speaker competing in local competitions and achieving a high distinction in her Grade 8 Voice and Communication exam.

She was an influential leader during the Year 9 buddy program, a Middle Years leader in Year 8 and Years 5 and 6 House captain in Year 6. She takes part in the 40 Hour Famine and Amnesty school sleep out and has hosted Indonesian exchange students when they visit the school. Gemma is a capable and trustworthy participant in all that she does and, as a result, represented her peers on the Student Representative Council Executive. For the past three years she has been a reading buddy in the Smith Family Reading Program, listening to students with low literacy skills read.

Gemma has volunteered her time to coach the local All Abilities Netball teams. She coaches players with a mental or physical disability aged 12-60 years in the skills required to play the game.

Future fire fighters

Brothers Grady and Kelham Tyson, students in Year 10 and Year 8, respectively, were highly successful at the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria's 2017 Urban Junior State Championships held in Tatura in February. The championships, in their 44th year, are a major event on the Country Fire Authority calendar with about 80 fire brigade teams and 700 competitors from Melbourne, regional Victoria and Western Australia involved.

Grady and Kelham are part of the Tatura team and Grady managed to collect three gold medals and be part of a team that broke a 19-year state record. Kelham collected four gold medals and built on the state record his team set last year. In addition, the Tatura team was crowned State Champions for the fourth successive year in a magnificent achievement for one of the smallest towns competing.

In Federal Parliament in March, the Member for Murray, Mr Damian Drum, highlighted the event, which he attended. "Young boys and girls in their hundreds were competing hard, shaking hands at the completion of all of their events, and setting themselves on a pathway to serve their communities," Mr Drum said. He quoted Tatura Urban Fire Brigade 2nd Lieutenant Alan Tyson, Grady and Kelham's father, who said these competitions were a great breeding ground for future firefighters. "These mature young people are being nurtured by the fire brigade to have the basic skills, the right ethics and the right attitude towards volunteerism and community service," Mr Drum said. "And it certainly was great to see that Tatura was the brigade that actually won on the day."



Grady and Kelham Tyson



Caring for families

In 2016 the Goulburn Valley Grammar School community surpassed all other efforts in supporting Family Care. Students in tutorial groups collected money and bought presents for local children and teenagers. As well as presents and non-perishable items, the school raised more than \$2673, which was presented in a cheque to representatives from Family Care at the Christmas Service on the final day of school. The cash funds were boosted by a generous donation of all money raised on the night of the Middle Years Social. Family Care is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation that offers family services and carer and disability support services to families and young people in Shepparton, Seymour, Cobram, Kinglake, Wallan and surrounding districts. The generosity of the school community was greatly appreciated by Family Care and the families they support at Christmas. The school community also provided non-perishable items for Christmas hampers to the Community Fund.

Lexie Nolen, Celeste Droop, Tennielle Peterson, Samuel Anthony and Daisy Bowmaker with some of the items purchased to donate to Family Care.



Be my Valentine

A wave of pink and red hit the school on February 14 as Year 12 students held their annual Valentine's Day fundraiser. Organised by Leavers' Fund prefects Georgina Hacon and Adam Sizer, the fundraiser was the first social event on the school's calendar for 2017.

"Our job as Leavers' Fund prefects is to fundraise; then we have a pool of money at the end of the year and the entire Year 12 class donates a portion to charity, then we purchase a gift for the school," Adam told the *Shepparton News*.

The Year 12 students arrived at school dressed in various fun costumes, including cupids and angels. "At recess and lunch we ran a series of stalls and activities for the rest of the school to participate in," Adam said. Georgina said there was lots on offer, including a cake stall – which has become a tradition on Valentine's Day – a teddy bear auction, secret admirer letters and roses, a photo booth and rides in the 'love boat' across the school's lake.

LEFT: Year 12 students Molly Ingram, Olivia Mechkaroff and Rebecca Fisher.

Global citizenship

Goulburn Valley Grammar School continues to build global citizenship through developing long-term connections with Indonesia. The school hosted 21 students from Bintang Mulia School in Bandung Java and Krista Mitra School in Semarang Java. The Bintang Mulia students were led by Pak Willy Virga Hidayat, School Director for both Bintang Mulia and Trimulia, while the Krista Mitra students were led by Pak Suryono. This visit followed a very successful exchange with Muhammadiyah Dua School from Surabaya Java.

"On behalf of the school community, I extend sincere thanks to all the families who have opened their homes to welcome our visiting exchange students," Principal Mr Mark Torriero said. "We are delighted that so many people have generously given of their time to support this relationship. I particularly thank Mr Leon McLeod and Mr Grant Findlay for their efforts in organising, planning and caring for our Indonesian visitors."

The students had a range of experiences including a tour of the University of Melbourne, seeing native



Sean Musolino and his family hosted visiting Indonesian students Victor Pratama and Jonathan Adriel Junaedi Tan.

fauna, canoeing and a barbecue lunch as well as attending classes with students.

"The support of our families in hosting our visitors from Indonesia during the past few weeks has been greatly appreciated both by the visitors, of course, and more broadly by our school community," Mr Torriero said. "It is certainly a highlight for our visitors to be able to interact with families in Australia and the warmth that our community has extended has once again been exceptional."

Later in the year there will be an opportunity for students to travel to Indonesia and be hosted by families from our sister schools in Bandung, Semarang and Surabaya. The trip usually involves 10–12 days in Indonesia with at least five of these staying with families. In previous years students from Years 10 and 11 have attended but most likely it will also be possible for students from Year 9 to attend. This opportunity is not limited to students who have hosted, nor only to students continuing with their Indonesian language program.

School leaders

2017 Prefects

BACK ROW L-R: Principal Mr Mark Torriero, Anne Winter-Irving, Adam Sizer, Mitchell Priestly, Nicholas Geisler, Harris Bayly, Emma Jackson, Brandon Lukies, Hannah Thiel and Year 12 Coordinator Mrs Chelsea Pohlner.

FRONT ROW L-R: Molly Ingram, Georgina Hacon, Senara Kulatunga, Angus Hicks, Emily Bolton, Nicholas Marwood, Sabaina Abdullah, Mitchell Collins and Lucy Macpherson.



School Captain Profile

Rebel with a cause

Next time you're buying something at Rebel Sport in Shepparton, don't be surprised if the enthusiastic young man serving you is the School Captain of Goulburn Valley Grammar School (GVGS).

Nick Marwood has been working at Rebel for two years and loves it. A bit of a sports tragic, the hard-working 18 year old uses the job as one of the ways to balance his study load. "I love my job. I love that I get to spend time with sporting equipment," he said. "I get to work with all different types of sport."

Nick began at GVGS in Year 8, after his family relocated from Bathurst, NSW. He is an accomplished swimmer who has been competing in the water since he was six. He has qualified for State finals in both 100 metres butterfly and backstroke. When he isn't swimming, he uses running and gym work to relax. "The most important thing I would advise is getting into a routine with study," he said. "I have always been a controlled person. I don't really get stressed, even if the workload is high. I just do the best I can do. If I get into a routine, everything falls into place." Nick cites swimmer Cameron

McEvoy, an Olympic 100m freestyler and physicist, as a role model. He also enjoys rugby union, Australian Rules – he supports the Richmond Tigers – soccer and athletics.

Nick is hoping to undertake a commerce/engineering degree at Monash University with a view to being a chemical engineer. He has been inspired by his father's work and sees himself possibly working in a similar field. "Everything you see and eat has had some involvement with chemical engineering," he said. "I talk a lot to my Dad, who recommends reading. I've also been on tours of his work."

Nick was born in Echuca and he and his family lived there until he was 10, when they moved to Bathurst. His father, Brendan, manages the Tatura Milk site, and mum Lisa is a teacher at Notre Dame College. His sister, Tori, 21, is studying medicine at James Cook University in Townsville after doing biomedicine at Monash University.

Before GVGS, Nick attended a Catholic all boys' school. Nick definitely prefers a co-educational school and not for the reasons



House Captains

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dunlop House Captains Anna Stacey and Indiana Wittingslow; McLennan House Captains Louisa Taylor and Timothy Miles; Ryall House Captains Elizabeth Serra and Jesse Cucinotta; Fairley House Captains Camilla Macpherson and James Cowling.

you might expect. "There are less disruptions and better behaviour, which leads to better schooling," he said.

Nick has a steely determination to get the best Australian Tertiary Admission Rank he can. "I don't like to do things badly," he said. "I don't like failing. I strive to do well. If you work hard in Year 12 it sets you up for the future."

Nick rewards himself after a week of study by watching a movie or television show. Recently he has enjoyed Vikings, Game of Thrones and Walking Dead. He also admits to being a Lord of the Rings and Star Wars "geek".

Nick has enjoyed the experience of working alongside his fellow School Captain Emily Bolton. "We get along really well," he said. "We were already friends. We are quite similar. We work well together. We don't get stressed." When approached to take on the role of school captain, Nick was reassured by friend, 2014 captain Aaron Bhat, that he could do it and that it would not disrupt his studies.

Nick said GVGS provided a great opportunity for students to achieve their best. "The school tailors things to each student," he said. "I have the opportunity to do subjects I enjoy. There is so much help from the teachers, like lunchtime help and all those little additions. The teachers are very good at what they do."



School captains Emily Bolton and Nicholas Marwood with Regional Development and Agriculture Minister Jaala Pulford.

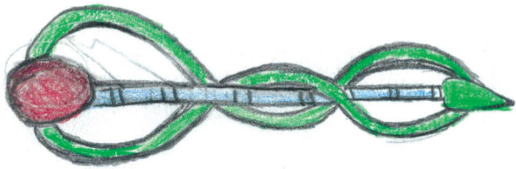
Representing our region

School captains Emily Bolton and Nick Marwood and Principal Mr Mark Torriero were among more than 200 community members who relayed concerns and opportunities for our region to Victorian Government ministers at the inaugural Goulburn Regional Assembly in Shepparton in December.

Local issues raised included youth engagement and developing the region's tourism and rail. Premier Daniel Andrews opened the assembly at Shepparton Showgrounds alongside assembly chair and former Goulburn Valley Grammar School parent David McKenzie. Other issues discussed included the Shepparton bypass and internet connectivity. Regional

Development and Agriculture Minister Jaala Pulford said problems addressed were well-known, but that new avenues for addressing challenges were being explored.

The minister joined Emily and Nick at their table for a discussion over priorities for the region's youth. She shared a picture with Emily and Nick on social media, saying: "Last week I had the pleasure to meet Emily and Nick from Goulburn Valley Grammar at our ninth and final Regional Assembly of 2016 in Shepparton. They made it clear that youth engagement was a priority for the region. Emily and Nick are the future of this region and through our Regional Assemblies it is our leaders of tomorrow that will have a real impact in shaping the priorities of regional Victoria."



The wolf, the witch and



Year 8 student Hayden Reynolds won the junior section of the 2016 Joseph Furphy Commemorative Literary Prize. The Prize was inaugurated in 1993 to commemorate 150 years since the birth of Joseph Furphy. The Furphy Foundry in Shepparton generously donates the prizemoney for this annual competition and entries are received from across Australia. Entrants wrote either a short story or poetry for the competition on a subject and in a style of their choice. Hayden's winning entry follows. Illustrations are by Hayden's brother, Lee, a Year 6 student at Goulburn Valley Grammar School.

I was running, but I wasn't sure what I was running from. The canopy of leaves concealed me from above but I couldn't shake the feeling I was being watched, from seeking eyes above, human or not. I burst out of the forest and into the beautiful gardens of the castle grounds. I was carrying fresh exotic berries that ranged from the lightest pink to the darkest blue that I had collected from the Forest of Owls. These berries were needed for King Isaac's feast with the travelling witch.

The witch would come this afternoon, stay for three nights and disappear on the fourth day. She would trade with the King on the second day. In the past, she had traded magic tables that could fly and trees that could grow in an instant, as well as the sweetest foods that never ran out and many more amazing things. The problem was she wasn't a very nice witch and although she gave the castle wonderful objects of magic, she also did nasty things like set fire to the farmers' paddocks and kill the sheep, but the worst thing about her was her personality. If anyone disagreed with her on anything she would look at them and they would disappear into thin air. That's why the King wanted to poison her with the poison he will put into the chicken soup (her favourite dish) before she could wreak any more havoc on the castle and its people. The feast was to be tonight.

"Open the gates," came her shrieking voice from the north of the castle. The two guards at the top of the drawbridge began lowering it down. "Go faster," she squawked before swinging her arm in an outward movement suddenly causing the chains to break. The

drawbridge came slamming down, putting a huge splinter right through the middle of it, only the metal belts stopping it from splitting into two pieces. The old witch hobbled her way down the broken drawbridge, not caring about the damage she had caused to it. I quickly closed the window. I had seen the incident, hoping I hadn't been spotted by the witch, and ran towards the kitchen.

I was about halfway there when I heard an old lady's rasping voice: "What are you doing, running around the castle?" I turned around in fear but it wasn't the witch, it was the head cook's mum: "It's not safe alone with the witch here and all." "Yeah, I know," I replied, but didn't worry about an answer. I ran until I got to the kitchen; Mum was putting the final touches on the lamb and the King was overlooking the poisonous wild mushrooms being sliced and put into the soup. The mushroom he had chosen was the death cap, the most poisonous mushroom in the world. It would kill her overnight.

Soon the feast was laid out on the table. The witch would sit at the head of the table because she thought she was more important than the King. The chicken soup was placed at that end of the table. The King sat down at the other end with the Queen to his left, and his son, Prince Horace, to his right. I was best friends with Horace and he had asked the King to invite me to the feast.

The witch was the last one to sit down at the feast and as soon as she did she reached for the food, her hand – covered in warts – grabbing at the roast chicken. Surprisingly, she didn't go for the chicken soup first, but everyone knew that she would. The atmosphere in the grand hall was tense, as if no-one could speak until she ate the chicken soup. She didn't



the staff

realise though; she was too busy stuffing her mouth with all she could eat. Finally, the witch reached for the chicken soup. She poured it into her bowl and examined it quickly. She pulled it up to her mouth and was about to drink it but instead of drinking she sniffed it. Her rage was tremendous. She threw her chair back and shot lasers out of her eyes straight at the King. He disappeared like smoke. "No," screamed Horace, but his mum was already dragging him away. We sprinted out of the castle and to the Forest of Owls and tried to find anyone else who had escaped the catastrophe. There had been at least 25 people at the feast and only 10 found us, so that meant at least 15 of the King's best guards, soldiers and generals had disappeared.

We found four trees the right width apart, not too far into the forest, and set up a little hut. We had sent four people to tell everyone in the town to flee into the forest. As they returned now, we made makeshift beds out of leaves. I didn't sleep. I laid awake all night, thinking about the evening's events. Later I smelt the scent of wood smoke. The witch must have set fire to all the huts in the village outside the castle.

Horace must have smelt it too because he groaned. I hopped up and walked over to him. "What should we do?" I asked. "Do you know that old tale about the staff hidden at a secret well that is guarded by a werewolf?" he asked. "Yeah," I said, searching my memory. "It's supposed to be able to destroy a foe when the kingdom is in disarray, but it would also destroy magic forever, but that's just a fairy tale." "Yes, but fairy tale or not, it's our best hope to destroy that menacing, hag of witch." "Let's go now," I said. "I can't bear to wait any longer." Horace woke his mum and explained what we had decided to do, and with her blessing, we set off.

According to the legend, the staff was in the middle of the forest. Judging from the map of the kingdom that the Queen had entrusted Horace with, it was in the direction we were heading. It felt like we were getting lost; the forest was much bigger than I'd imagined and it seemed like we were being watched continuously, through the leaves, from the trees, from everywhere. There was clicking, buzzing and chirping, but there was another sound, a sound that was unnatural, a sound that I couldn't quite put my finger on; a threatening sound. As we were walking we saw a tree with claw marks at our head height. We stopped to examine them – they looked like a wolf's claw marks. We kept walking, trying not to think about the werewolf in the legend. The further we walked into the forest the louder the unnatural sound became, but still

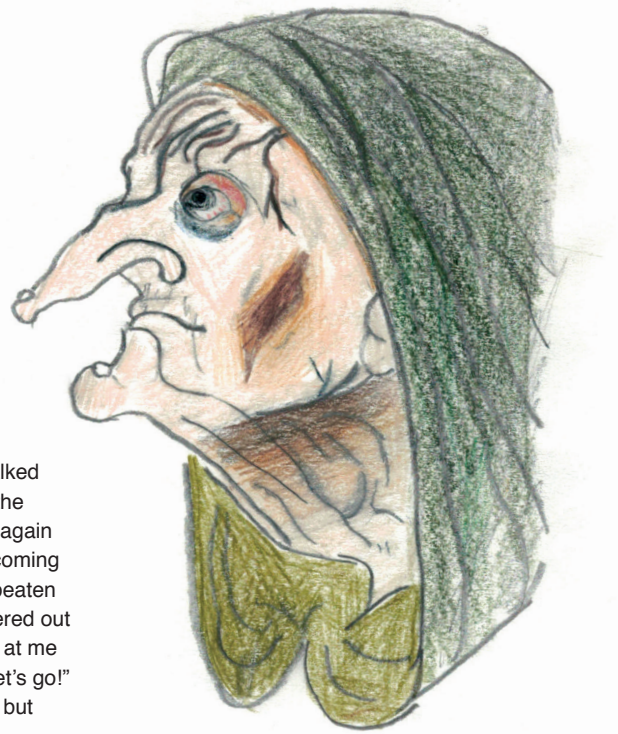
I couldn't pick it. I talked it over with Horace. "It feels like magic," he said. "That's it!" I replied excitedly. "I think it's leading us toward the magical staff."

We kept walking and soon the sun rose. I walked a couple more steps but as I walked a rattling sound started. I stepped back; the rattling noise stopped; I stepped forward again and it started up again. It seemed to be coming from the bush on the side of the animal-beaten path. All of a sudden, a huge snake slithered out from behind the bush. It stopped to rattle at me one more time before slithering away. "Let's go!" I exclaimed, before starting off at a quick but careful stride.

We continued on for a couple more hours with the sound becoming excruciating as it pierced our eardrums. Eventually, we came to a huge clearing. In the centre of the clearing was a stone well and standing on the well was the biggest wolf in the entire world. It was at least five metres long and two metres high. It had a gigantic furry mane from years of growth, its eyes were red and it was staring straight at us. We didn't have any weapons apart from a large stone we had picked up off the side of the track, but it didn't attack, it just looked at us, examining us with its ferocious eyes. We slowly crept forward, keeping our eyes fixed on the wolf, but still, it didn't attack, as if it was daring us to try and take the staff. "Alright, this is what we'll do; I will try and sneak around to the other side while you distract it. If it doesn't attack, don't do anything to anger it," I whispered to Horace.

"Got it," he said, sounding a lot more confident in the plan than I did. I slowly crept back into the trees and retreated around the outside of the clearing. Then, careful not to make a sound, I walked out of the trees and bolted towards the well. Horace had done a good job distracting it and now it was about 10 metres away from the well. I saw its ears twitch and it turned and watched as I dived into the well.

Despite the forest being warm and trapping the heat in, the water was freezing, as if it were maintained that way by magic. As soon as I hit the water I was stunned, but as looked down I saw the silver staff. I dived under. The well was a lot deeper than I had expected. It seemed to keep going on and on and I kept kicking furiously. I knew I couldn't make it back to the surface now – I was going to die – but still I kept swimming like I was mesmerised by the staff and I couldn't turn around. My lungs were bursting but I was only about five metres away

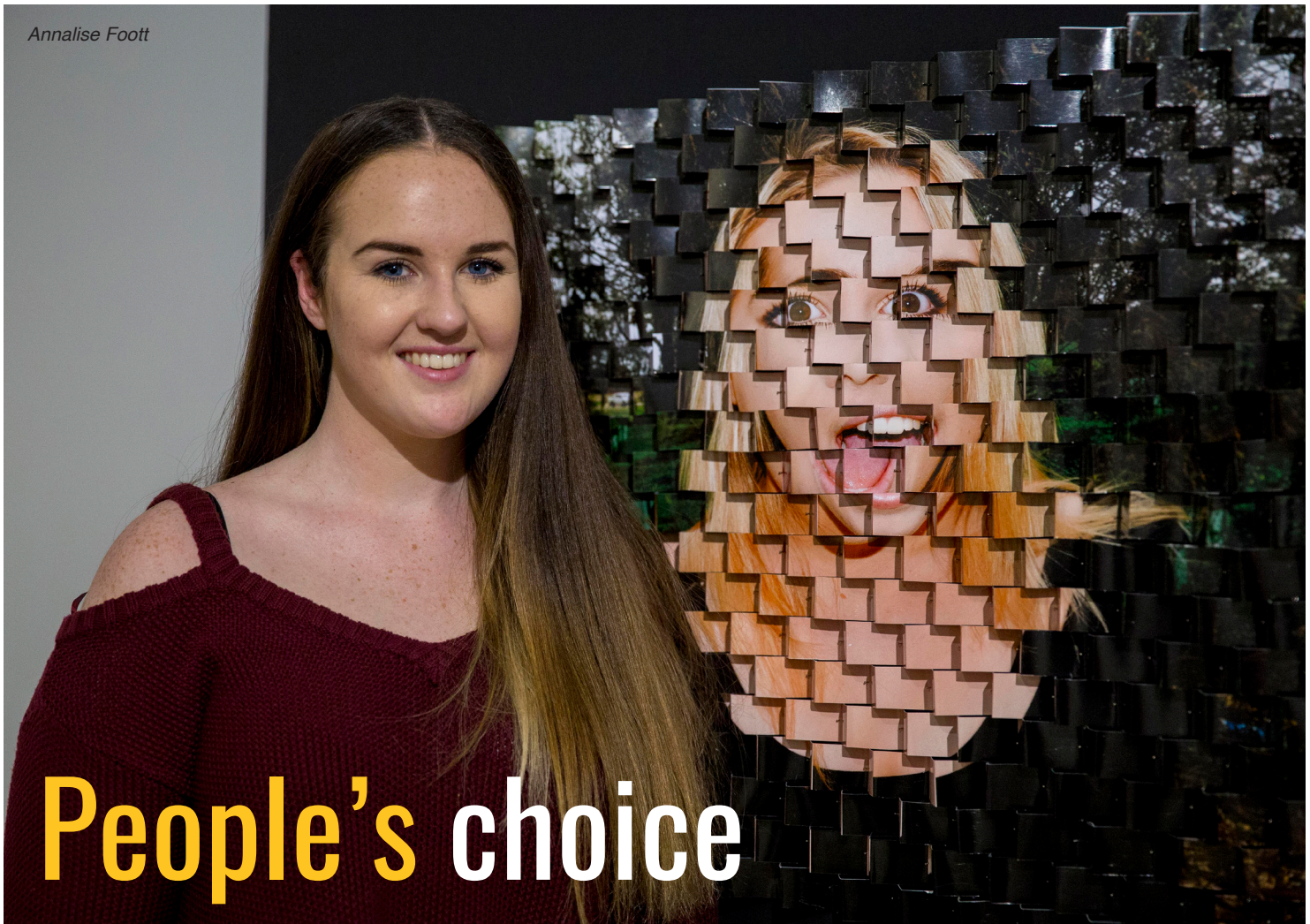


from the staff. I gave one last push of strength and I touched it. It instantly teleported me back to the surface without me doing anything! Back on the surface, the wolf was looking at me and so was Horace. But now the wolf's stare turned from hostility to obedience. I clambered on to its back and Horace followed me. We bounded back to the camp in a matter of minutes and soon we had everyone's attention. They were frightened by the wolf, but after we explained everything, they decided to set off for the castle immediately.

Back at the castle, everything was ruined as if a hurricane and a bushfire had come through the very same night. I knew this was all the witch's doing and I knew where she would be. We quickly bounded toward the King's quarters and that was where we found the witch. She saw us and snarled and immediately shot lightning at us, knocking us off the back of the wolf. The wolf howled and threw itself at the witch but she was ready for it, and cast a spell, and the wolf vanished into thin air. "No!" I screamed and threw the staff at the witch with all my strength. It hit her. Then a miracle happened. The staff and the witch vanished, and with that, all the people she had vanished reappeared, including King Isaac. The Queen and Horace ran over and hugged him.

That night the castle rejoiced for two reasons – everyone who the witch had vanished was back and the witch would never cause them any trouble ever again. Horace and I sat slumped in our chairs, exhausted. "I hope nothing like that ever happens again. If it wasn't for you, who knows where we would be," said Horace. "We make a great team," I replied whilst yawning. "But I think I could sleep for a week now."

And I did.



People's choice

Year 12 student from 2016, Annalise Foott, was awarded the People's Choice Award as part of Shepparton Art Museum's (SAM) annual VCE Art and Studio Arts Exhibition. Annalise's work was featured as part of exhibition that features selected artworks that demonstrate a variety of approaches, with a high level skills in relation to the exploration of subject matter, use of medium and experimentation.

Annalise studied Year 12 VCE Studio Arts and her work was a digital 150 x 100cm photograph titled *Distortion*. She took part in a question and answer session with SAM.

How did you come up with the ideas around your work?

Originally, I wanted to weave two photos together to represent, how as humans, we can experience more than one emotion at a time. However by weaving, part of the image was lost. So I did some research and came up with the idea of having the two sides/angles of the artwork. I felt this style more closely represents how I wanted to express the changing emotions and changing how we view other people uncovers different sides of them.

What message do you hope people will get from your work?

The message I hope the audience uncovers

is that you never fully understand someone until you change your perspective of them. Try and see the different sides of them and try to understand them for who they are, rather than what they portray to the public because there is always two sides to someone.

What do you plan to do next year?

Next year I am taking a gap year, continuing to dance, photograph the world around me and just enjoy being young. Then hopefully studying Musical Theatre or Fine arts, still yet to decide!

What advice would you give students about to start VCE Art / Studio Arts?

To next year's VCE folio students, I advise you to work hard from the very start. Don't waste time, because when it comes to the crunch, it can be very, very overwhelming. Work hard but enjoy it and don't be afraid to experiment because you never know what your creative minds will uncover. Best of luck to you all!

Annalise's classmate, Winton Findlay, was selected to present his first solo exhibition as part of the Shepparton Festival. Called 'Paddocks', his work reflected the festival theme 'Mapping Shepparton' and was shown at

Goulburn Ovens TAFE in March. Paddocks featured a number of painted artworks mapping the landscapes and landforms around the area of Lancaster, where Winton hails from. "Winton created some of these stunning paintings for his 2016 Studio Arts folio, and some have been previously shown at the Shepparton Art Museum," the school's head of art Ms Deidre Belleville said. "Winton combines watercolour, pencil and organza fabric printed with 'memories' of tactile surfaces from the historic home his family lives in to map his connection to place and time."

Paddocks by Winton Findlay.



It's boots and all for Joe

Former students



Joe Kosky

Former Goulburn Valley Grammar student Joe Kosky is playing the pivotal role of Don in *Kinky Boots*, the hit stage musical, playing to rave reviews in Melbourne and Sydney.

Joe (Class of 2007) was understudy for the role and then made his official debut as the character in December in Melbourne, continuing on to Sydney in 2017.

The role was made famous by British comedian Nick Frost in the original 2005 film and Joe told the *Shepparton News* he had to make sure his body was ready when he hit the stage. "It is a peculiar role in that it requires you to be a bigger guy to have that level of physical intimidation," Joe said. Joe's weight usually hovers around 100kg, but he said he was strongly encouraged to add a few extra kilos to look the part and is now closer to 130kg.

Joe originally fell in love with theatre while he was a student at GVGS and

credits teacher Helen Janke with helping him develop his singing voice. "I was not really confident in my ability of singing," he said. "She pushed me into that world and I fell in love with doing it."

After a few productions with Shepparton Theatre Arts Group, he was prepared to give up his love of the arts after high school and study engineering. "But my parents encouraged me to do something that I love," he said. After graduating from the University of Ballarat Arts Academy, he made his professional debut in the 2012 production of *Jersey Boys* as Hank Majewski.

Away from the stage, Joe is also part of popular electronic music duo GodWulf and he was a founding member of comedic troupe Aunty Donna.

"I feel a lot more at home in the theatre industry than anywhere else," he said. "You always find a way to make it fresh and exciting for yourself. If you're not loving it, it's probably not worth it."

Driving success

Former student Garry Jacobson (Class of 2010) has had a breakout season in motor racing after winning the 2016 Supercars Dunlop Series. The *Shepparton News* was prompted to hail Garry's win with the headline 'Hail Garry the Great,' beginning its story: "Garry Jacobson, you star. The Shepparton racer became the first Goulburn Valley driver to win a Dunlop Series Championship ... after a scintillating season."

The 24-year-old drives for Prodrive Racing Australia in a Ford FG X Falcon. It's the team's second title in two years. Last year Garry took home four race wins, multiple round wins and six pole positions, with the aim of improving further in 2017.

A national and state karting champion, Garry first showed potential back in 2009 when he competed in the Aussie Racing Cars National Championship. He then shifted his focus to open wheelers, entering the Victorian Formula Ford Championship in 2010 before graduating to the national championship the following year, which he contested until 2013.

Garry first entered the Dunlop Super2 Series in 2013, finishing 17th in his debut season. The following year the Shepparton local recorded strong results throughout the year to finish the season 11th in the standings. Another positive year in 2015 saw the rising star enter the top 10 in the series, finishing

sixth before making the move to Prodrive Racing Australia.

"I believe that consistency last year won the championship, so I will be aiming for that same consistency all year," Garry said. "I feel like I've got a little bit more speed in me so being up the front of the field in qualifying and in my races is an expectation I have from myself and Prodrive expect from me. The competition this year will be as strong as any year if not stronger, so I am looking forward to the challenge of being the reigning champion."

Garry hopes he can use his second year in the team to push for a seat in the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship. "I felt it was important to get one more year under my belt with this team and in this equipment before progressing into the main game," he said. "There's still a lot to learn and the series is becoming even more competitive, so spending another year with these guys will be really important before I take that next step in my career."

Year 12 coordinator Mrs Chelsea Pohlner said she remembers Garry as very determined to pursue his racing career from a young age. "This meant he made many sacrifices and compromises along the way to ensure that racing was going to be a realistic option,"



Garry Jacobson

Mrs Pohlner said. "That being said, he still completed the required study and contributed to the diverse co-curricular program. Completing Year 12 over two years was necessary to allow him to meet his racing commitments, yet can be a difficult proposition for students. Garry managed the transition due to his friendly and engaging nature."

She said the only time she remembers him being stressed was toward the end of Year 12 when, following a crash in a Brisbane race, there were complications following an operation and treatment. "The prognosis, without immediate follow-up surgery, was the possibility of losing his hand," she said. "The loss of a hand didn't worry him too much, but the prospect of not being able to race was incomprehensible."



Hugo's having a ball

Year 8 student Hugo Kearney has continued on from an impressive 2016 of tennis with another superb tournament at the Foundation Cup in Adelaide in January. Hugo was one of four boys to represent Victoria in the under-14 competition in the event, winning all his singles and doubles matches against each state, with the exception of Queensland, the *Shepparton News* reported.

Hugo's father Michael said the Victorians produced an outstanding tournament. "They played some beautiful tennis and were strong against all the other states," Michael said.

Hugo is one of the brightest stars to come out of the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club in recent years, winning his spot on the state team after a series of trials. His push for selection was boosted by a flawless performance at the regional tournament, the John Fitzgerald Cup, in October where Hugo was unbeaten.

"After the John Fitzgerald Cup he said his goal was to make the Victorian team, so we're obviously very proud," Michael told the *Shepparton News*. "It's great to see country kids representing the state and there is a healthy competition between them and the city kids because they're playing against each other regularly these days."

Hugo's grandfather Bert played Grand Slam tennis and Michael said while making the professional ranks was a long and tough journey, he could see similarities developing off the court. "Dad played at the national and international level and formed lifelong friendships along the way and I'm pleased to see Hugo following a similar pattern," Michael said.

Rowing medals

Goulburn Valley Grammar School students are continuing a tradition of excellence in rowing as part of Shepparton Rowing Club with Tom Schier, Tom Dooley-Heath, Maoinin Dooley-Heath, Caitlin Pogue, Nicholas Waller and Stella Cranefield all competing.

In his first full season of racing, Year 11 student Tom Schier claimed gold at the State Championships at Nagambie in March in the open-age D-grade single scull with an entry of 26 scullers. After an intense battle during the eight-rower final, Tom dug deep during the final 100m of the 1000m race to snare victory by just 0.32 seconds in a heart-stopping photo finish. Tom is coached by his father David, Shepparton Rowing Club President. Tom's state win capped off a sterling season for him in which he also won events at Bendigo, Rutherglen, Nagambie, Footscray and Essendon regattas.

Cara Dooley-Heath (Class of 2016) also won gold in the women's D-grade coxed four at Nagambie, teaming up with club mates Lydia Todd, Anna Chalkley and Sophie Reinehr, to become the first women's state champions for Shepparton. Cara's sister, Year 12 student Maoinin, collected a silver medal at the state titles, pairing with crew member Lydia Todd, getting pipped on the line in the D-grade double scull. Maoinin also had wins in both the women's D-grade coxed four and D-grade coxed quad scull at Bendigo, Footscray and Rutherglen and a win in the D-grade coxed four at Carrum. Another sibling, Tom in Year 9, had wins in the mixed coxed quad scull event at Rutherglen, Footscray and Essendon.

Bailey stays a Gator

Former student Bailey Michel (Class of 2016) has signed on for another season with the Shepparton Gators in the Big V basketball competition, despite studying in Melbourne. Bailey had a breakout campaign in the state competition last year, when he led the league's three-point shooting and was a Rising Star finalist, the *Shepparton News* reported.

The 18-year-old contemplated playing for a club in Melbourne, but wanted to travel back to play with his home club. He will attempt to organise his university schedule so he can make it back to Shepparton for training on Thursday nights in preparation for weekend games. He is expected to also train with a Melbourne club to stay fit. Coach Leigh



Tom Schier

In her debut season at Rutherglen, Year 7 student Stella Cranefield won the female D-grade coxed four and D-grade coxed quad scull as coxswain at Footscray. Caitlin Pogue of Year 9 was second in the under-17 single scull final, and at Essendon also came second in the under-17 double scull final.

Mithma Ekanayake, School Captain in 2015, and her sister, Mandhree, School Captain in 2016, have rowed for the Shepparton club for four seasons. Mithma was coxswain for the State title winning men's quad sculls at Ballarat three years ago. Mandhree was part of the winning crew that won the women's D-grade coxed four at both Carrum and Essendon this season. Year 9's Nicholas Waller made his debut in the men's D-grade quad sculls at Footscray and Essendon.



Bailey Michel

Bathman said he was thrilled with Bailey's development on and off the court as a leader. "It has been a pleasure to watch him grow as a basketballer and, more importantly, as a person," Mr Bathman told the *Shepparton News*. "He will again be part of our leadership group ... because he's a very loyal and respected individual."

Three from four

Goulburn Valley Grammar won three out of four badminton competitions at the annual ICCES carnival at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in March. The school was named ICCES champions for the second year running.

The junior (Years 7-9) girls' team of Amy Long, Emily Schreck and Trinity Gullifer finished third overall. In their first match the girls defeated Girton Grammar 4-2. They lost their second match to Gippsland Grammar 6-0 and in the match for third and fourth position, defeated Highview on points.

The junior boys' team of Hugo Kearney, Matthew Bitcon and Hayden Reynolds finished first overall. In their first match the boys defeated Gippsland Grammar 4-2, won their second match against Hamilton 6-0 and won their final pool match against Highview 6-0. They then went on to win the grand final 5-1 against arch rivals Girton. This was back to back titles for the Junior Boys.

The senior girls' team (Years 10-12) of Harismita Rupeshraj, Louisa Taylor and Hannah Thiel, finished first. In their opening match the girls defeated Gippsland Grammar 6-0, won their second match against Bacchus Marsh 6-0 and won their final pool match against Braemar 6-0. They then went on to win the grand final 5-1 against Highview. They replicated their title win from 2016.

The senior boys' team of Akshat Ragade, Farhan Islam and Joshua Dillon also finished first overall. In their opening match the boys defeated Gippsland Grammar 6-0, won their second match against Highview 6-0 and won their final pool match against Hamilton 6-0. They then went on to win the grand final 5-1 against Braemar.

Badminton coach Mr Glen Edwards congratulated all students on their performances on the court and also for being great ambassadors for the school.

At the same event, the school finished a satisfying third overall in the table-tennis competition. The junior (Years 7-9) girls' team consisting of Ella Lissington, Clara Lukies and Ella Rohde reached the finals of their division only to lose on a count back. The junior boys' team of Thomas Ferguson, Harry Murdoch and Blake Serra finished in third position. The senior girls (10-12) – Jessica Dalton, Georgie Devine and Lucy Eishold – also finished in third position while the senior boys – Gabriel Evans, Fraser Hicks and Kyle Orchard – started strongly, and finished in third position as well. Table tennis coach Mr Gerry Murphy said he was looking forward to the opportunity of taking the sport one step further in 2018.



FROM TOP: Junior girls Amy Long, Emily Schreck and Trinity Gullifer; Junior boys Matthew Bitcon, Hugo Kearney and Hayden Reynolds; Senior girls Harismita Rupeshraj, Louisa Taylor and Hannah Thiel; Senior boys Akshat Ragade, Farhan Islam and Joshua Dillon.

Will's flying start

Year 9 student Will Dwyer is heading overseas on an American tour after being selected to play for the Flying Boomerangs, the junior indigenous national representative side. Will made the grade after impressing at the National Diversity Championships in Sydney in April where he took part in the under-15 Kickstart competition.

Before going to the US on a 10-day tour, he'll take part in the under-16 AFL NAB championships on the Gold Coast in July. "It is an awesome achievement and I am proud to be involved in it," Will told the *Shepparton News*. "I have had to train hard and I have been guided by the help of my parents and coaches along the way."

Will's trip to the US will be the first time he's been overseas. "I honestly cannot wait," he said. "It is going to be an amazing opportunity to see how the Americans go about it."

Will moved to the Shepparton Swans under-16 side this season from Shepparton East. He has been involved in the AFL Goulburn Murray Academy, the Richmond Next Generation Academy and the under-16 Shepparton Gators basketball squad.

The Flying Boomerangs is not only about football – it is a personal and leadership program. It aims to give the next generation of young Indigenous leaders the skills, qualities and experiences they need to become positive role models in their own families and communities.

Will has a role model in Collingwood player Scott Pendlebury. "He comes from a basketball background, he is a left footer and I am too, so I try to replicate my game around him," he told the *Shepparton News*. Will is putting football before basketball, however, in his bid to play at the highest level. "I want to play AFL and I know I have to work hard to achieve that," he said.



Will Dwyer



Grammar Bushrangers

Three Goulburn Valley Grammar students have been chosen in the Murray Bushrangers team for the 2017 TAC Cup. They are Year 12 student Angus Hicks plus Jordan Butts and Mark Marriott, both in Year 11. Also, another Year 11 student, Ed Adams, was chosen to train in the pre-season squad.

More than 100 talented footballers from across the region started training last November. Talent Manager Lee Fraser said the rigorous process in selecting the squad involved a series of trial games and athletic tests throughout the course of the year to ensure players had the football and athletic ability to perform at this elite level.

"Each of these young men has a fantastic opportunity to develop their football, fitness and personal attributes as they confront a variety of challenges," Mr Fraser said. "We understand

that it takes extraordinary commitment from young footballers and their families to participate. We look forward providing an environment where each player improves through hard work and an appetite for continual improvement."

Shepparton United's Angus Hicks took his place midfield in the first match. Coach Leon Higgins rewarded Angus for a consistent lead into the first game, as his skill level sees him use the ball efficiently. "Angus has been really impressive in preseason; his ball-winning ability and kicking is a standout so we'll play Angus as an on-baller," Mr Higgins told the *Shepparton News*.

At the time of writing the Bushrangers were second on the ladder behind the Calder Cannons after beating both Bendigo Pioneers and Gippsland Power in opening matches.

Pioneering girls' footy

Year 9 student Kate Adams is co-captain of the first Youth Girls' team being fielded in the Shepparton District Junior Football League this year. Kate is an experienced footballer, who started kicking the ball at Auskick aged just 5.

"I've always loved kicking the footy in the backyard with my dad and brothers Ed and Sam," Kate said. After four years of Auskick, Kate became the only girl playing for the Bouchier Street Eagles in Year 4 when she was 11, and then she was sole female member of the Shepparton United under-14 team last year. "This all started because the team was short one or two players and I filled in, but after that they wanted me to keep playing, so I played the rest of the season," Kate said. Her younger brother Sam was also in the team.

While playing for Shepp United, Kate was selected for the girl's interleague team and was one of five girls selected for a development squad as part of the girls' Bushrangers team. With Charli Boschetti, she will now captain the Demons in the 2017 under-18 Youth Girls' Football competition.

Dean Walton has been appointed as head coach for the inaugural campaign. "There is a real buzz around the new women's team, with many interested players approaching me about the opportunity to play football," Dean told the *Shepparton Adviser*.

After watching the growth of competition and researching recruitment opportunities, Shepparton United Football/Netball Club (SUFNC) decided midway through the 2016 season to field their first under-18s girls' team.

The club's focus has been to introduce new players to girl's football and to promote a culture of football, fitness, fun and inclusion as well as the ultimate goal of producing future players into the Australian Football League Women's (AFLW) competition.

Kate's leadership role means she will play an integral part in assisting the coaching staff to develop the skills of those new to the game. The SUFNC, who wear the same colours as the Melbourne Football Club, has already formed a partnership with the Melbourne AFLW side.



PHOTOS FROM LEFT: Jordan Butts; Mark Marriott; Angus Hicks; former GVGS student Josh Schache.

Former student and former Murray Bushrangers ace Josh Schache (Class of 2015) has begun a promising season with the Brisbane Lions while Victorian clubs make large offers to try and lure him home, with Richmond leading the way.

The Tigers see Schache as the perfect player to build their forward line around for the next decade, *The Age* reported. Carlton has also made an inquiry, and will ramp up its pursuit if he remains unsigned midway through the year. It is believed Josh, 19, could fetch \$700,000 per season from rival clubs trying to pry him out of Queensland.

Brisbane remains adamant he will stay and have made it clear to Schache's management that money will not be an issue, according to *The Age*.



Kate Adams

Fairley good swimming

In perfect conditions, Fairley House reasserted its strength in the House Swimming by winning a second consecutive swimming carnival in February. House Captains and Junior House Leaders were instrumental in ensuring the carnival ran smoothly at Aquamoves in Shepparton. Record breakers were Hume Hurley (Year 12) in the 50m Backstroke (31.52 secs) and the Year 12 Boys' Medley Relay Team (Nicholas Marwood, Sam Varley, James Hart and Indiana Wittingslow) in 2min 20.01 secs.

Swimming year level champions

Year 5: Trinity Cameron, Hugh Ryan

Year 6: Layla O'Callaghan, Harrison Nevill

Year 7: Lucy Phillips, Armand Kruger

Year 8: Ayla Jackson, Harvey White

Year 9: Alice O'Brien, Jack Nevill

Year 10: Emma Hurley, Finlay Brewer

Year 11: Lexie Nolen, Tom Schier

Year 12: Victoria Stock, Hume Hurley

McLennan wins by a nose

McLennan won the 2017 athletics carnival for the first time since 2004 and by the narrowest margin in 14 years – just nine points more than Ryall. Fairley was third, followed by Dunlop, with less than 120 points from first to fourth in the hot contest.

Five records were smashed at the event, held on May 1 on the school oval, due to refurbishments at McEwen Reserve. McLennan cracked the Year 5 Girls' Relay record (1.11.49); Hamish Kerr made a new record in the Year 6 Boys' Shot Put (11.86m); Angus Burston saw off the Year 7 Boys' 800m mark (2.28.45); Daniel Lawson beat the Year 11 Boys' 400m record time (54.97) and Ryall set a new record in the Year 11 Boys' Relay (48.80).

Athletics year level champions

Year 5: Trinity Cameron, Jye Fitzsimmons

Year 6: Isabel Furphy, Eric Dillon

Year 7: Gretel Holmes, Angus Burston

Year 8: Sophie Kamenjarin, Teng Kuol

Year 9: Taryn Cameron, Ciaran Mawley

Year 10: Isabel Long, William Baker

Year 11: Chloe Hill, Daniel Lawson

Year 12: Georgia Caruana, Samuel Varley



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Year 12 swimming record breaker Hume Hurley; Year 7 athletics champion Gretel Holmes; Record breaker Daniel Lawson; Year 5 girls record breaking relay team Georgina Belcher, Philippa Verge, Trinity Cameron and Lily Nieuwenhuizen.

Vale

Emily Collie

Past student Emily Collie was killed in a tragic accident while holidaying in Thailand in February. Her funeral was held in Kyabram on February 17, where the school was represented by students and staff members.

Emily was a student of the school from Year 8, 2010, to the completion of Year 12 in 2014.

Principal Mr Mark Torriero said compassion and caring for others were hallmarks of Emily's character. "A happy, smiling and popular member of the school community, she went out of her way to help, encourage and support others," Mr Torriero said. "She could be relied upon to assist in school activities and events."

Emily served on the Student Representative Council Executive in Year 12. "An organised and responsible person, Emily would see any commitment through until completion," Mr Torriero said. "Emily was also a very dedicated and diligent student with a deep commitment to learning. She approached all her studies with enthusiasm and could be relied upon as a thoughtful and positive contributor to lessons. She worked closely with her teachers, seeking out feedback and implementing it. She demonstrated excellent study skills and was a

high performing student in Year 12 attaining a position studying pharmacy at Charles Sturt University." At the end of her second year, Emily received the Dean's Award for Excellence in this course. In March the family accepted the award on Emily's behalf.

Emily was a keen participant in the wider co-curricular program of the school. She was a keen sportsperson, enthusiastically representing Ryall House in athletics and swimming and representing the school in aerobics, soccer and swimming competitions. During Year 10 Emily participated in an exchange program attending a school in Scotland. "This was a wonderful experience, which broadened her horizons and independence," Mr Torriero said.

The Goulburn Valley Grammar School community extended its sincere sympathies to the Collie family, particularly parents Ian and Sally, brothers Benjamin and Matthew and sister Jessica. The school also extended its sympathies to the Kyabram and Shepparton communities and the students of the Class of 2014.



Diary Dates

Reunions

Saturday, October 21, 2017
Class of 1987 – 30 Year Reunion
Class of 1992 – 25 Year Reunion
Class of 1997 – 20 Year Reunion
Class of 2002 – 15 Year Reunion
Class of 2007 – 10 Year Reunion

Saturday, November 25, 2017
Class of 2012 – 5 Year Reunion

Mothers' Club Luncheon

Friday, September 15, 2017

Grandparents' Day

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Presentation Night

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

A career in careers

Careers Coordinator, Mrs Debra Block, has seen a lot of changes in her 20 years at Goulburn Valley Grammar School. "There have been lots of changes in terms of number of staff and students, buildings and co-curricular activities on offer," Mrs Block said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with many staff and students."

She produced and edited the school magazine *Fullflight* from 1997–2001 and was Student Representative Council (SRC) coordinator from 2002–2014. "I was very impressed with the amount of time, energy and dedication that leaders of the SRC were prepared to put into raising money for so many charities, locally and nationally," she said. "The SRC also worked at providing inclusive, fun tute- and year-level activities for all students."

Mrs Block is a strong supporter of Ryall House and has enjoyed being able to help students prepare for Eisteddfod events. "It was always a highlight of the year seeing my own children and those I teach enjoying all the day has to offer," she said. "Before we had the hall we used the lake for events and the marquee nearly blew away!"

Mrs Block's three children have been educated at the school. Stephanie, who now has three children of her own, finished in 2002, Andrew

in 2004 and Sam in 2008. Her husband Rowan is a farmer near Toolamba and the family owns the town's Junction Hotel.

As a tutor, she worked in Years 8 to 12, with each year level providing highlights from camps to presentation balls and the valedictory dinner. She has always enjoyed teaching maths and over the years has had all year levels from Year 5 to Year 12.

"Currently my passion is helping students work through a series of questions about their possible future endeavours," she said. "I started working in the careers area in 2005 with Mr Field and also loved teaching Industry and Enterprise for a number of years. Now much of my time as the Careers Coordinator is working with parents, students and universities, trying to keep up to date with post school options, accommodation applications and work-experience opportunities for students in Years 10 to 12. I am always thrilled to hear from past students about their experiences and where their careers have taken them so far."

Principal Mr Mark Torriero said Mrs Block, alongside Mrs Judy Grace, was instrumental in creating a program that offered VCE Industry and Enterprise to Year 10 students. "She has overseen considerable developments in the school in relation to the senior school programs, including course and career

pathway planning," Mr Torriero said. "She is a strong networker with established relationships with a wide range of groups well beyond the school, including universities, TAFE and as a leader in the local career teacher network, including as chair."

He said the role of career counsellor was complex. "It can be stressful and emotional for students, especially those who don't know what to do," he said. "You have to support children and families when a student achieves a score significantly lower than their hopes and dreams. I know many students and parents who are deeply appreciative of her support, advice and listening skills."

Mr Torriero said Mrs Block was hard-working and organised. "She assists students in decision-making by never telling them what to do, but rather assists them through questioning to help them clarify options that might suit their interests and skills." He conveyed his and the school community's congratulations to Mrs Block on a very successful two decades at Goulburn Valley Grammar School.



Flying high

Students got a taste of flying when they experienced an Air Force flight simulator in February. About 30 Years 9–12 students ‘flew’ in the dual F/A-18F Super Hornet simulator, which was touring regional Victoria in the lead up to the Avalon Air Show in March.

The *Shepparton News* reported that students also learnt about and tried on life-support equipment as well as playing air-traffic-controller games and experiencing the latest virtual-reality technology.

Airborne electronics analyst Flight Sergeant Peter Shomos said he was able to answer questions from students who had not previously considered the Air Force as a career option. “Everyone knows what a pilot or air-traffic controller is,” he told the *Shepparton News*. “We’re just trying to give them an idea of other air roles in defence such as air combat officer.”

Year 10 student Grady Tyson said he was now interested in finding out more about becoming an Air Force pilot. “The simulator gave a realistic experience I did not think we’d get,” Grady told the *Shepparton News*.

Year 10 student Akitha Perera overcame a fear of flying to head into the simulator. “It felt good though, like I accomplished something,” he said.



Angus Hatty

Shepparton News



RAAF's Daniel Fisher



Taryn Cameron

Shepparton News

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