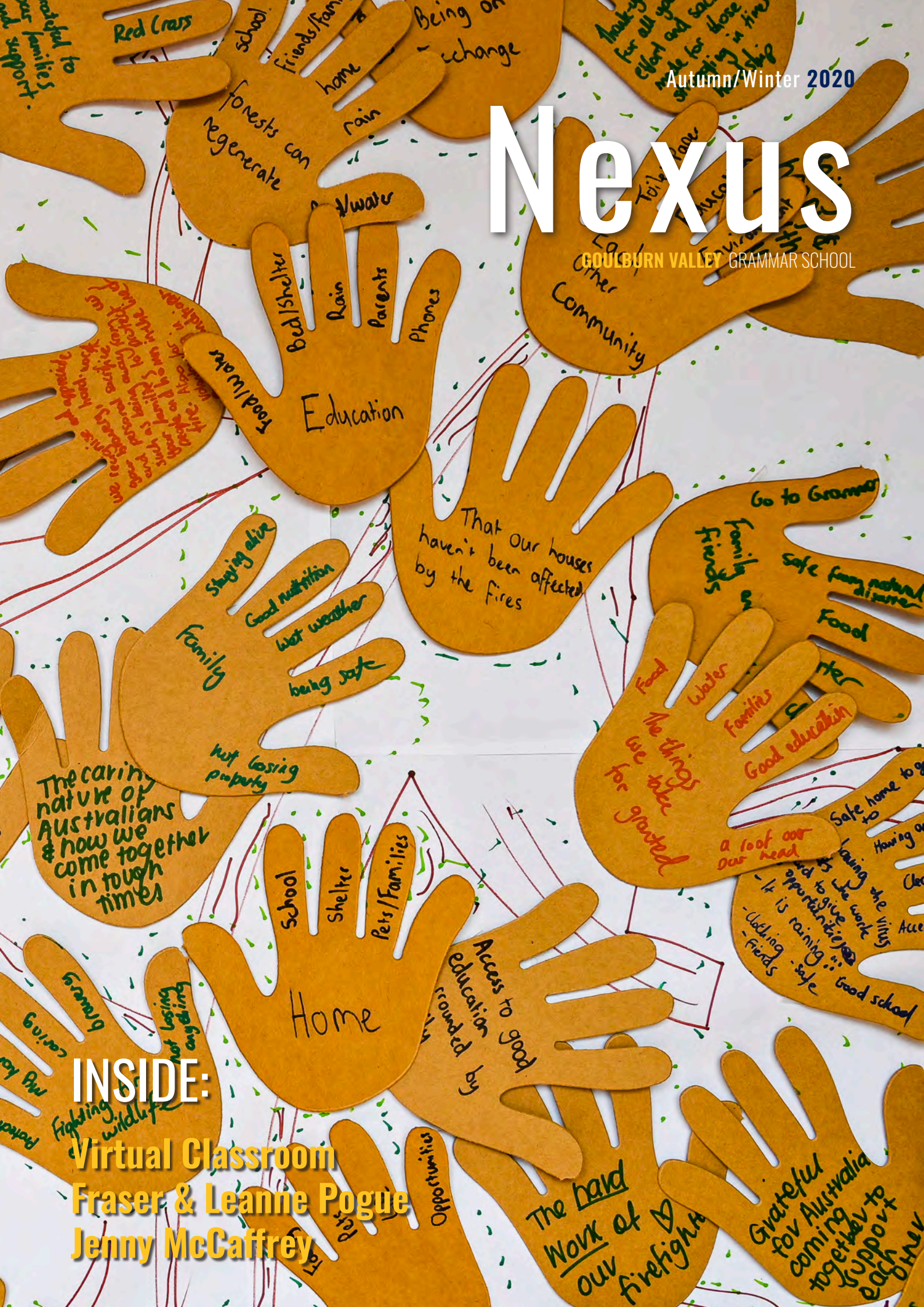


Nexus

GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



INSIDE:

Virtual Classroom
 Fraser & Leanne Pogue
 Jenny McCaffrey



From the Principal

Nexus

Nexus is a GVGS school community publication largely brought together by members from within our community. It is published twice a year. We welcome submissions to *Nexus* from staff, students, alumni and those connected with the school community. **Email:** amy.depaola@gvgs.vic.edu.au.

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Thanks to: Ms Michelle Schofield, Mr Mark Torriero, Mr Glen Edwards, Mrs Pam Pogue, Shepparton News.

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Printing: Prominent Press,
Shepparton
Printed on 100% recycled paper.



COVER PHOTO: In response to the recent bushfires students were asked what they were grateful for. Their responses were then displayed for others to see.

At the start of the year few of us would have imagined that our lives would be so comprehensively changed only some weeks later. Many of us have commented that it seems difficult to believe the reality of change that has occurred in such a short time frame. I have felt frustrated at the impact this situation is having on our school community and wishing we could simply all return to Verney Rd immediately. Recently I have thought about the inspirational commitment and resilience shown by the school community at various times in its history.

Students first attended the school in Term 1, 1982. Despite the best efforts and incredibly hard work of the whole community the Main building was far from complete and there were no classrooms available for teaching on site. The School had to commence off-site at the Shepparton United Football Clubrooms at Deakin reserve.

I am sure none of the foundation students, staff or parents were delighted with the prospect of commencing school in the football clubrooms. It was hardly the optimal learning environment. There was no choice but to work through the period of disruption to maintain continuity of learning until classes were able to commence on site. Perhaps the experience of many students and staff was captured by foundation student Kim Morvell who recalled arriving at school on the first day in 1982, “I just burst into tears and developed a feeling of absolute and overwhelming dread. And then we got on the buses to go to begin our schooling at the football sheds. It was just surreal. I cried for three days non-stop.” Mr Alan Humphries, former Deputy Principal and foundation staff member vividly remembers the smell of liniment and the large sign on the

wall with the fitting words “when the going gets tough the tough get going”. The school operated out of the football clubrooms for all of Term 1 and only commenced on the Verney Road site on the first day of Term 2.

During that first assembly in Term 1 amongst the builder’s rubble that is now the Copulos area, the school community gathered and made a common pledge. “We understand that this school consists of many members, students, staff, parents. Council and friends, and we pledge ourselves to work together in unity and truth for the sake of each other and for the school as a whole.”

Our school’s facilities, programmes and resources are so far advanced from those early years it is normally difficult to imagine the challenges they faced. Our current experience offers a new window into those times and the level of resilience the founders demonstrated. The school overcame that and countless other challenges over the years. At each stage those involved no doubt felt it was frustrating and unfair. I frequently feel inspired by their courage and the sacrifices they made to realise the vision for the school. It is only through their goodwill and commitment that we have the unique school community we all enjoy today.

We have seen this same attitude alive throughout our school community in recent weeks. If we can sustain this spirit, we will emerge a stronger and even more united school community.

The above is an extract from the Newsletter editorial for Week 1 of Term 2. It seemed appropriate for this edition of Nexus.

Semper Ulterius
Mark Torriero,
Principal

From the Board

Hello to you all,

Well, the exciting year that many of us were looking forward to at the School got a “curveball”. Of course, this has not just been for the School but everyone in our communities.

The Board was approaching the start of this year with enthusiasm for several projects to take some shape. There are always a number of improvements to the School which happen over the Summer break. The most notable one was the connection of the School to the town’s sewerage system. Finally. There were also preliminary steps put in place to update the science rooms and to progress with the possibility of a junior school and early learning centre development and entrance from the GV Highway.

But along came COVID-19.

I think everyone in our School community is to be congratulated on how they have responded to the severe restraints put on all of us.

I will start with our staff, ably led by Mr Mark Torriero. Quality leaders are ones who can respond and adapt. From the start of it all, Mark and the leadership team have been diligent, focused and communicative on this significant issue. I am so proud of how the School was well prepared to have all students ready for online learning before the end of Term 1. It meant that the start of Term 2 was much easier with students, staff and parents



being familiar with a virtual classroom. Also, the staff are to be commended for uprooting their usual teaching methods with very little time to adapt themselves and with many having their own children having to be at home with them while they teach. Let alone that some may have partners who have been stood down or have a fear of that happening.

Thank you to all parents. I have received many comments from parents over the last few weeks complementing the School on how it has been so well prepared. Some new parents have even said to me that any doubts they had about whether the investment they have made in their child’s education was worthwhile have gone away. I also want to compliment you on your approach to fees. The Board felt it was most important to assist with some fee relief and your response to this has been very encouraging.

Finally, to the students. They have given up camps, concerts, carnivals and other events. They have had to adapt. They have missed their friends. Although they can see them electronically, nothing beats being with your mates.

I think everyone must be relieved that the recent State Government announcement has given all schools, their staff and students direction. We will see you all back there soon!

Semper Ulterius

Andrew Galbraith, Board Chair.

Mr Andrew Galbraith has been a member of the Goulburn Valley Grammar School Board since 2007 and was appointed to the role of Chair in 2018. As a director of Shepparton law firm Dawes & Vary Riordan and with more than two decades of experience in the commercial, property and corporate sphere Mr Galbraith brings a wealth of business and legal experience to the position of Chair.

THIS PAGE FROMTOP: Ms Nicole Sleeth, Year 12 student Amelia Priestly, Mrs Nicole Bensch's Unit 3/4 Data Analytics class.

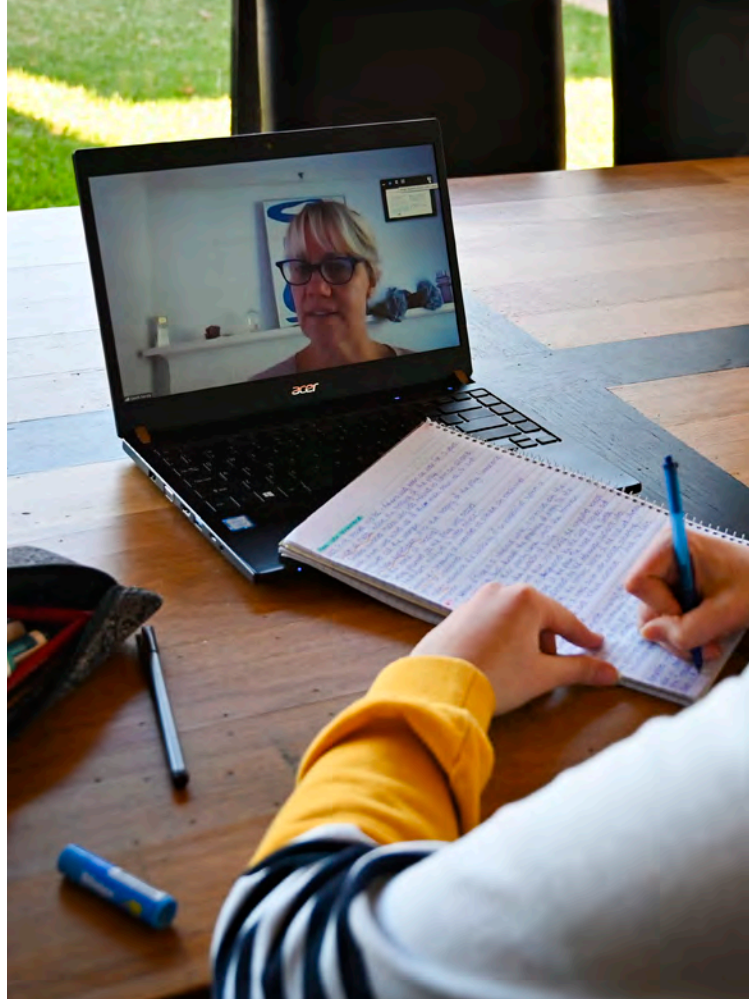
Virtual Classroom

The true test of any community is not when things are going well but when serious disruptions occur. The Coronavirus has proved to be a profound challenge to all schools including ours. It has fundamentally changed the way we are able to operate and tested us to find solutions in very short time frames.

The response from our school community has been inspirational and we are indebted to students, staff, and families for the steadfast way in which they have adapted so positively to these core challenges.

From the outset, the school has focussed on two core aims when developing its responses to the challenges. Firstly, to protect the health of the school and wider community. Secondly, to minimise the impact on the educational outcomes of students.

To care for our health, we progressively restricted the school's programmes back to core learning activities. This resulted in much valued events such as Open Day, assemblies and productions being cancelled or postponed.



We wanted to take the opportunity to extend both our appreciation to staff for how they have conducted themselves during this unprecedented set of circumstances. The school's foresight and proactive approach to swiftly establishing on-line learning has been extremely beneficial to our children. Although it continues to be quite the challenge to study from home and maintain enthusiasm, these are surmountable obstacles in the grander scheme of things, particularly compared to the potential challenges that our children could have been facing had they not been at Grammar. The consistent professional and positive communication between the school, parents and students alike, has helped to ease anxiety and promote a positive attitude towards making it to the other end of this very interesting situation.

The above is an extract from an email to the Principal written by a VGVS Parent.



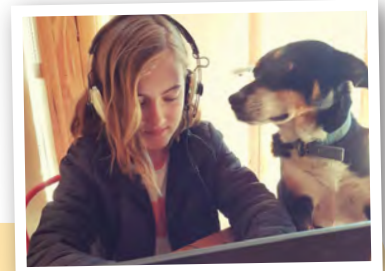
To protect learning continuity of students, the school prepared for a rapid transition to off-site learning. Firstly, we designed a model and developed a comprehensive set of protocols for what would become known as our 'Virtual Classroom Programme'. The programme used our existing learning management system Agora for the provision of resources, timetabling, and communication. Zoom was used as the core delivery system, enabling our teachers to connect with students daily and follow their usual timetable while ensuring a comprehensive learning programme was provided.

The planning involved trialling, consultation, and professional learning. These efforts enabled the school to transition seamlessly to our 'Virtual Classroom Programme' on Tuesday 24 March while many schools in the state



"We are extremely fortunate that as we face limitations on our social gatherings, we have online opportunities to remain in touch and in contact, unlike previous generations who have been socially isolated in such times. Life is going to be quite different, your experiences will be quite different but let's make an effort to support each other, talk to each other and learn."

Extract from a letter to the school community written by 2020 School Captains Nell Ryan and James Nethersole at the end of Term 1.



Year 5/6 perspective

I set up my computer on my desk in my bedroom where it was nice and quiet, and if I needed help my parents were there to help me because they were working at home too. I liked how I could see my friends on the Zoom meetings we had, it was nice to keep in touch. I think that I learnt lots during the virtual lessons and it also helped me with my computer skills. I think it also made me more organised. I'm glad that we can continue

our learning this way, but I look forward to getting back to regular face to face classes.
Emma Verrocchi, Year 5

In the last week of Term 1, all Year 5 and 6 classes went from having normal school one day to virtual classrooms at 9am the very next day. This was because Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews announced that there would be no school for the last 3 days of term because of the COVID-19 pandemic that has become a threat to Australia and its citizens.

Subjects were run much the same as if we were in a classroom. Although we couldn't do band in music, we still had a normal lesson and practiced our technique. We had been sent home with sheet music and our instruments so we could do this.

I would like to thank all the staff at GVGS who helped us all with the transition to online learning.

Sophie Fletcher, Year 6
(pictured above)

commenced early holidays. These four days were valuable in enabling further trialling and improvement of our remote learning programme. It enabled the school to smoothly recommence Term 2 with the virtual learning well established for students, staff, and families.

The school's capacity to respond so quickly and effectively to this environment reflects the professionalism and dedication of our teaching and operational staff. At the same time, our teachers have consistently praised our students for their goodwill and good faith in their response to this unfamiliar environment. It has been particularly impressive to see the student attendance rate consistently remaining and around 99% each day. Equally, our parents have been very supportive and patient given the many impositions on work and family this situation has caused.

We have sought feedback from students and staff and continue to evolve our protocols and guidelines as we learn more about what works best in this new learning environment. We have commenced virtual year level meetings, tutorials and staff briefings. We are currently exploring the launch of virtual assemblies to connect our school community in these socially distanced times. We all look forward to the times when we are able to resume on-site and will have an even greater appreciation for the importance of our relationships and community.

Mark Torriero, Principal



Individual music tuition classes continued during off-site learning, here Lilia Plunkett attends her weekly drum lesson with Mr Bruce Archibald.

Seeds for sustainability thirst sown in childhood

Understanding the relationship between micro-organisms and plants has changed the way Fraser Pogue (class of 1996) farms.

It's also seen him receive the 2019 Australian Government Landcare Farming Award and feature in Damon Gameau's documentary "2040", released last year. In the film, which focuses on climate-change solutions, Fraser explains the importance of soil health and how his farming approach sequesters carbon into the soil.

Fraser and his wife Leanne (née Kohne, class of 1997), along with his parents Cliff and Jan Pogue, farm 320 hectares of mainly loam plains at Ardmona. Leanne also runs Pogue HR Consulting, servicing SMEs across the Goulburn Valley.

Frustrated with the conventional farming model, Fraser began researching soil health several years ago. The results have seen microbes in the naturally enriched soils on "Belturbet" create an environment for efficient crop growth, improve water use and protect the soil from drying out, make it less susceptible to heat and frost extremes, and increase crop resilience.

Today, Fraser is at the forefront of regenerative agriculture and innovative cropping practices. An early adopter of minimum tillage, he uses multi-species



cover crops and sub-surface drip irrigation, with biological liquid fertilisers and minimal insecticides and fungicides.

Fraser says, "I've always been concerned about environmental problems – whether it's littering or overpopulation. My interest in sustainability goes right back to when I was a child; I had veggie gardens and have always been interested in growing things. Then at school, my interest grew into permaculture."

Post school, Fraser did a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agribusiness at Melbourne Uni's Dookie Agricultural College, and in the past six years he's done an enormous amount of research into microbes and their effect on soil health. Along the way, he came across globally renown Central NSW Tablelands farmer Colin Seis. Winner of the 2014 Bob Hawke Landcare Award, Colin pioneered "pasture cropping", where annual crops are sown into permanent pastures. It was his friendship with Colin that saw Fraser be part of the "2040" documentary.

"When the film crew rang me I said 'that'll be fine', just thinking it would be a backdrop. But then the next thing we knew, we were a big part of it!

"We used to call our approach 'sustainable farming'. Another term for it is 'triple bottom line', that is, having good environmental outcomes, good financial outcomes and good social outcomes, all largely stemming from the health of the soil and plants in your farm ecosystem. Really, I just call it good farming."

Strong grounding

Both Leanne and Fraser say GVGS gave them a strong grounding in life, encouraging them to continue seeking information and to learn.

Leanne, who was school captain in 1997, says, "These were key experiences which then naturally shape what decisions you make from the choices you have. GVGS builds on your life values. I felt supported to be myself, but at the same time, I gained confidence to go after things that I may not have otherwise. You may not quite realise it at the time, but in retrospect we can see all the positives, how it allowed us to create our identities and our sense of self. It very much set us up for life."

Fraser has similar comments, also citing the school's values and community-family feel. "Going to Goulbourn Valley Grammar School just shapes you."

Both Leanne and Fraser have enjoyed the reconnection with GVGS, as their eldest





Archie, began Year 5 this year. Maggie, now Year 3, will follow in 2022.

While the couple knew each other at GVGS, it was 10 years later at a chance meeting at The Aussie, that their romance kindled.

Leanne says, “Looking back, Fraser was always really into sustainability, even doing courses outside school to learn. He was a little bit of a hippy, and it’s interesting to see this is the area he’s worked into commercially as a career. It’s something that’s always been really important for him.”

Fraser, who will represent Victoria at the 2020 National Landcare Awards in the Landcare Farming Award category, hosts field days, workshops and open days at their property. He is also involved with the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, the Victorian No-Till Farmers Association and the Goulburn Broken CMA.

He says, “All my research into soil health has led me to being able to work on environmental problems from an agricultural perspective. For me, it’s come around full circle, which is pretty cool.”

TOP: Fraser Pogue (middle), flanked by Damon Gameau (left) and Colin Seis (right), with crew from the “2040” documentary.

LEFT: Fraser and Leanne Pogue .

My gap year

While many students from GVGS head straight off to university, some choose to experience the world beyond the classroom before undertaking further study. In this and future editions, *Nexus* aims to share the stories of our past students and their gap year adventures. Our first article is written by class of 2018 alumnus, Jock Hatty.

I completed Year 12 at GVGS in 2018 and was accepted into Latrobe University for a Bachelor of Agricultural Business. I chose to defer as I had always wanted to take a gap year. Growing up on a cropping farm in Tocumwal I have always been particularly interested in agriculture. With the goal of further developing my skills and gaining experience in a different area of agriculture, I found a position as a ringer on a remote cattle station called Wollogorang on the Northern Territory and Queensland border in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Not knowing exactly what I was getting myself into, I made the 3600km road trip to the station. It is quite an isolated location, being about 800km from Mt Isa, with the closest populated area being an Aboriginal Mission called Doomadgee which is a 150km drive. The team at the station included 12 full time workers of which five were ringers, all of similar ages, a manager, full time cook, pilot, bore runner and a mechanic as well as contractors and helicopter pilots coming and going.

As a ringer I was initially involved with maintaining fences after the wet season throughout the 1.5-million-acre property. This involved travelling up to 60km a day on a motorbike equipped with just a radio, fencing tools, water and a packed lunch. If the distance was too big to get back before dark I would be picked up and drop off the next morning by one of the helicopters which was a definite highlight, flying over the boundless expanse of scrub. Within the first two weeks, we were evacuated to Cloncurry, Queensland for a week due to Cyclone Trevor which luckily only left a few more fences to be repaired.

We worked 6 days a week, using our time off to do laundry and making the hour and a half drive to the northern coast as the property had 80km of frontage onto the Gulf. Here we would spend time fishing for Barramundi but unfortunately definitely no swimming as crocodiles and sharks were in abundance.

Once we started mustering, we would work 13 days on, 1 day off, from 5am until 6pm

most days, where I would often be on a motorbike working alongside the other ringers on the ground and in the scrub while helicopters would do areal mustering from above. The skills the pilots had was quite remarkable and very impressive to watch. After mustering cattle, some of which had not been mustered for four years, we spent time in the yards processing them for the export market, abattoirs and breeders. This was a dusty job that again required patience and at times the agility to quickly scale fences to get out of harm and horns way.

Due to work commitments, limited opportunities and vast distances, social outings were minimal however we did manage attend a couple of rodeos which were a minimum of 6 hours drive and one of which I participated in. I also managed to see close friends from school who were completing a similar year on different stations.

I thoroughly enjoyed my year on the station, spending time with people of similar interests, learning many new skills and the value of working hard. After coming home and spending the summer with my family and on our farm, I have recently made the decision to return to the station for another year. Beyond this, I plan to come back home and go to university to study agriculture.



A passion for knowledge

When Muhammad 'Farhan' Islam started at GVGS in 2012, he could never have predicted the strong relationships he would build with both his teachers and fellow students over the years to come. "I remember coming in for my Year 5 interview with Mr Torriero and being very nervous," he says. "I look back on that day and it feels so weird because now they're like an extension of my family." Reflecting on his time as a new student to the school, he fondly recalls his orientation and the first few weeks. "I was really nervous when I met my buddies, they just seemed like these scary giants," he says. "Then when I got to know them I just thought they were amazing people. . .we really bonded because they showed a genuine interest in me as a person."

From day one, Farhan felt right at home at GVGS. With his dad working as a general practitioner here in Shepparton and his mum as a local accountant, he developed a keen interest in mathematics and science and the support from the school community as a whole empowered him to achieve his best year after year. "The one thing that was really noticeable to me from the



beginning was that everyone at the school is focused on you getting a good academic outcome and making sure you succeed," he says. "When you look at the achievements that happen here at this school it really is remarkable." Farhan is grateful for the teachers he has had for each of his classes, appreciating the high calibre of teaching staff across the whole school. "You can tell that the teachers are aware of all the different abilities," he says. "They know how to cater to your needs and that helps us be the best we can be."

Farhan is equally passionate about his favourite sport, badminton, and was the 2019 Badminton Captain. "I've done Friday night badminton every year since I started here, I really love it," he says. Farhan was also School Community Prefect for 2019. "Being School Community Prefect is all about promoting a healthy and happy environment for all students," he says. "As well as raising awareness of major issues that affect school-aged kids, such as bullying." Over the past 12 months in this role, Farhan assisted with the school formal and combined "Pelic-nics" – a venture coined by the School Captains of 2018 where all students are invited to share a picnic lunch with each other on the lawns to raise awareness of bullying among teenagers.

Beyond school Farhan is aiming for a career in Biomedical Engineering. "Biomedical engineering combines my fascination of the health sciences with problem-solving," he says. "I've always been an academic at heart. . .I have a real love for learning, especially maths and science." He says he is keen to mature and grow when he moves



PICTURED: Outstanding Achievers for 2019 L-R Hugh Farrell (98.25), Muhammad Islam (99.9), Ishan Wijesingha (98.2), Lucy Asquith (99.7), Joshua Dillon (98.45), Larissa Watts (97.4). INSET: Milla Pogue (97.7), Lynton Hoey (97.5).

Outstanding Learning

The School is focused on changing the lives of young people through learning. Our efforts and decisions work towards promoting this core goal. The learning growth of our students in 2019 certainly reflects this purpose.

VCE 2019

The Class of 2019 demonstrated their genuine commitment to learning through effort and persistence. We commend our students on their great commitment, determination, and discipline in their approach to learning.

At the same time, they managed to get the balance right and have kept closely involved and connected with all aspects of school life. They appreciated and valued involvement in sport, productions, public speaking, community service, leadership, and music. The Class of 2019 have been one of the most effective year levels at reaching out to younger year groups across the school, leaving a fine legacy both as learners and citizens.

Highlights - GVGS students exceeded 89% of Victorian schools

- 2nd regional school in Victoria (out of 536)
- only one other regional school in the top 77 schools
- more than ½ students placed in top 20% of the state
- 73% students placed in top 30% of the state
- 91% students received a first-round tertiary offer that was either their 1st, 2nd or 3rd preference

NAPLAN

Our commitment to student learning begins from key entry points of Year 5 and Year 7. For years, the school has articulated a clear focus on building student learning growth. This aim has been guided 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 is a key element in sharpening our focus and informing our decisions. NAPLAN aims to measure student progress in core skills essential to future learning and engagement with work and society.

The recently released data on the on the My Schools website tracks the NAPLAN progress of students who were at the school in 2017 and 2019. The latest information reveals the above average impact of our learning programme.

These gains reflect hard work and commitment to learning shown by our students. They also affirm the commitment of our teaching staff, particularly those in the Mathematics and English Departments who have worked hard, embraced data, and enhanced the impact of their teaching.

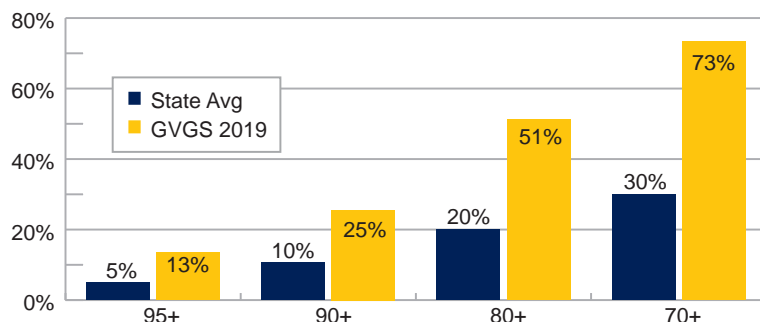
Learning growth for students transitioning from Year 5 (2017) to Year 7 (2019) when compared to students with a similar starting score and background.

- Well above average growth in Writing
- above average growth in Numeracy

Learning growth for students transitioning from Year 7 (2017) to Year 9 (2019) when compared to students with a similar starting score and background.

- above average growth in Reading, Writing and Numeracy
- the majority of students demonstrated learning growth significantly above average in Writing and Numeracy.

GVGS VCE ATAR Scores - Class of 2019



south, taking on the adventures that lay ahead with gusto. "I just love expanding my horizons," he says. "I want to acclimatise to living by myself and being an adult." Undertaking the notorious quintet of Year 12 subjects – Specialist Maths, Maths Methods, Physics, Chemistry and English – has left Farhan with this advice for future students: "I think in reality it's about studying smart, not studying hard... you can be so much more productive when you are strategic about how you study."

At the recent school Presentation Evening, Farhan received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding community engagement and thirst for learning.

Farhan was also presented with the most respected award of the school, the Senior Citizenship Award for outstanding contribution to the school community.

Following the release of the VCE results for 2019 Farhan was also recognised as Dux of the School. Farhan achieved his goal and was offered a place studying Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne and one of the University's most prestigious awards the Melbourne Chancellors Scholarship. He was also offered a place at residential college International House where he also received the Weickhardt Academic Potential Scholarship.

Mrs Jenny McCaffrey has been support GVGS for over 40 years. She is picture right with friend Ms Serrin Haigh volunteering at the tuckshop.

Showing support for over 40 years

In 1982 GVGS welcomed not only the first students but also an emerging community of parents and friends. Over the years many have continued to contribute to and support the school. In this and coming editions, *Nexus* will acknowledge some of these long-standing members of our community.



In 1979 a much advertised and anticipated meeting was held at the Alex Rigg Theatre with some 250 people attending. The meeting was to gauge community interest in establishing a local private school. With 2 young daughters approaching their secondary years, Jenny and Don McCaffrey were among the crowd. Impressed by the initial proposal, the McCaffreys were one of many families in the Goulburn Valley to show their support for making the school a reality. It was also the beginning of their long-standing involvement with the school community which Jenny is still very much part of today.

Don, who passed away in 2018 was one of a 30 strong contingent to serve on the interim school council from 1979-1981. Jenny recalls that the council aimed to rally interest for the school. Several people would get into a caravan after work and travel around the Goulburn Valley and beyond to inform people of the new school and provide them with information.

In the early days, there was also a number of community events.

"In October 1980 we held a fundraising picnic under a gum tree in Grace's paddock.

"There were a plethora of prams and pushers. Now some of those children are parents of present-day students.

"I remember someone saying that day, 'This is the site of a great school!'"

"I started volunteering as I still wanted to be involved in the school because it has been part of my life for years."

Grace's paddock has now been transformed to the school grounds now known as Goulburn Valley Grammar School.

To begin with, many parents certainly had reservations about enrolling their children in such a new school. For the McCaffreys and the many other families who came on board in the early days it was about the big picture and long-term goals, 'You just had to have faith', Jenny said.

Jenny and Don's two daughters, Sarah (Class of 89) and Alexandra (Class of 91) commenced in Year 7 in 1984 and 1986 respectively.

Jenny, a nurse at the Shepparton Private hospital, says "I was not good at attending Mother's Club meetings because of my work commitments. But I was always available to support in other ways.

"One of the first Mother's Club Luncheons was held in the Shepparton Football Clubrooms, we were heating up the main course in pie warmers".

"Now the Mother's Club lunch is such a grand affair. There have been many great inspirational speakers over the years".

Not only did Jenny attend the first Mother's Club Luncheon, but she has attended every luncheon since. For Jenny, it has always provided the opportunity to catch up with the many friends she has made over the years.

Jenny has also managed to attend all GVGS Presentation Nights since they began and is in awe at how all the students present themselves.

"I always come from the events thinking the students are so erudite and confident.

"This is a credit to their parents, school and themselves."

Jenny's three grandchildren, Donald, Hugh (Class of 2018) and Elizabeth (currently in Year 12) have all attended GVGS. Although her youngest granddaughter is about to finish her secondary education, Jenny is still keen to be part of the GVGS community.

Last year, Jenny started volunteering at the tuckshop.

"I started volunteering as I still wanted to be involved in the school because it has been part of my life for years".

"So I went last year a few times and have just started back again this year. The food is just wonderful," she said.

"It has been such a privilege to be part of the GVGS community and I value the friendships that have resulted, even though my contributions to the school have been minimal."

Mandhree takes on senior role with Girl Guides Victoria

Class of 2016 School Captain, Mandhree Ekanayake has been busy since her departure from GVGS. The following is an extract from an article by Liz Melino which was printed in the Mar 31, 2020 edition of the *Shepparton News*. It gives some insight as to what she has been up to.

At just 20 years of age, Shepparton's Mandhree Ekanayake (pictured) is the youngest and first culturally diverse Victorian Girl Guide to hold the role of Assistant State Commissioner.

After calling the 3rd Shepparton Girl Guides home for nearly 10 years while attending Goulburn Valley Grammar School, Ms Ekanayake is now working to support the State Commissioner's vision and approach to leadership while living and studying to be a doctor in Melbourne.

With a strong passion for female empowerment and the role of women, Ms Ekanayake said she loved helping other young women achieve their goals through Guiding.

"There is something truly special about belonging to an organisation that advocates for young girls and ladies to identify their potential and empower them to access equal opportunities," she said.

"Girl Guides is all about presenting opportunities and empowering girls to say 'yes!'"

In her new role as assistant state commissioner, Ms Ekanayake hopes to establish a youth forum to provide young girls with a platform to share ideas, along with creating a five- to 10-year advocacy plan to help Guides advocate for issues they are passionate about.

The role also recently gave her the opportunity to be part of an International Women's Day panel where she shared her thoughts on providing an environment where young girls can achieve anything.

The position is initially for a three-year term, and Ms Ekanayake hopes to use that time to inspire young Guides to make a change in the world for the better.

"For girls and young women to see me, a 20-year-old Sri Lankan woman, as part of the state team would mean they could imagine themselves in similar positions," she said.

"It would mean that they could dare to dream of themselves in leadership roles regardless of their age or cultural background and that diversity was valued and appreciated within Girl Guides."

Guiding goes online

While the world is currently working to come to terms with the coronavirus pandemic, Mandhree Ekanayake said Girl Guides Victoria was also working to adjust to the change.

The group made the decision to suspend all activities as of March 14, and since then has been working to ensure youth members and volunteers can stay connected and involved in Guiding while in isolation.

"Girl Guides Victoria has now gone completely virtual," Ms Ekanayake said.

"Virtual Girl Guiding provides a space where our youth members can continue to learn valuable life skills, stay connected and be of service to their communities."

She said Virtual Girl Guiding included Girl Guides TV — a weekly video series released each Sunday, which includes activities focusing on arts, life skills, the outdoors and services.

It also includes a Girl Guides Hub for youth members and volunteers to connect and share ideas, activities and challenges along with virtual unit meetings which allow for regular unit meetings to take place online.

Ms Ekanayake said it was great to see the Guiding community stay connected during challenging times.

For more information, visit www.guidesvic.org.au



School leaders 2020

Prefects

BACK ROW L-R:

Principal Mr Mark Torriero, Lucy Bouchier, Merdi Yamfu Bwanga, Hugo King, Frederick Thompson, Samuel Morgan, Samuel Brown, Thomas Loughnan, Elly Miechel, Tegbir Kaur and Year 12 Coordinator Mrs Chelsea Pohner.

FRONT ROW L-R:

Kate Lon Ho Kee, Sithmi Kulatunga, Laura Hatty, James Nethersole, Nell Ryan, Mia Lawley, Meg Eishold and Chloe Charnstrom.



School Captain profile

Nell Ryan



Nell Ryan started at GVGS in 2013 as a Year 5 student and quickly embraced the extracurricular activities the school had to offer. "I've always been involved in school productions... I've been in all of them since I started here in Year 5, except for one," she says proudly. She was excited to pursue her passion for music, singing and theatrics as a primary school student, and this has continued right throughout her schooling. "I've been singing for so long," she says. "I started singing lessons when I was in primary school and I'm still doing them now."

The eldest of four children – Hugh (Year 8), Eve (Grade 4) and Ewan (Grade 1) – the confident, outgoing, and articulate 17 year old was humbled when she was offered her senior leadership role for 2020. "My preferred [Year 12 prefect] portfolios were Music and School Community," she says. "I wasn't a Year 6 or Middle Years Leader, so getting this position was a pleasant surprise."

Although a significant responsibility to take on during her final year of VCE, Nell felt she was adequately prepared to be School Captain. At

the end of 2019, Nell received the Inaugural Reverend John Lever Award. The Reverend John Lever Award is presented by Ecumenical Schools Australia - a network of co-educational independent schools - and recognises Year 11 students who have demonstrated a spirit of compassion, resilience, the ability to connect with others and broad-mindedness. Nell is also a badged netball umpire and has navigated her way through some tricky situations, subsequently developing a strong sense of resilience during her time as an adjudicator. "It can sometimes be a bit intimidating... people can get very competitive, and they're a fair bit older than me usually too," she says. "It's been good; it's taught me how to stand my ground."

Nell has chosen to take on four mainstream subjects for 2020 - English, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods and Indonesian as a Second Language – as well as 'VCE Plus History'; a La Trobe University subject. "Having Dr. von Güttner as my teacher for History Revolutions last year and now having him as my tutor for my VCE Plus class



House Captains

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

LEFT: *Dunlop House Captains - Jack Cassidy and Molly Cox; McLennan House Captains - Matthew Price and Taryn Cameron; Ryall House Captains - Emily Schreck and Lucy Worsfold; Fairley House Captains - Jackson Barnett and Kate Adams.*

has been fantastic,” she says. Although she has focused much of her senior studies on history, Nell’s aspirations for the future are altogether different. “History is just something that I really enjoy...I really want to do medicine though.”

When quizzed as to why she’s planning on studying Medicine at Monash University next year, Nell’s answer is quite extensive. “In Year 7 I became quite unwell, and through that I had the opportunity to meet some incredible medical people,” she says. Nell then details her relationship with Professor Sonia Grover from the Royal Children’s Hospital and Dr. Simon Cohen from Monash Children’s Hospital that developed during her time as a patient. “For me, what those doctors did for me at that time changed my life,” she says. “If I could even have half the impact they had on me on another person that would mean the world to me...that’s what drives me to want to study medicine.” Also confirming Nell’s desire to study medicine was her work experience opportunity at the St John of God Hospital in Ballarat

in 2019 where she was fortunate enough to shadow an Anaesthetist and observe a variety of surgeries. “I got to see so much,” she says. “I was really lucky, I got to sit in on an emergency Caesarean...it was amazing.”

Although Nell plans to head straight to university in 2021, she has travel plans in sight. Having already travelled to Sumatra, Indonesia for the GVGS World Challenge in 2017/2018 and visited the USA for the GVGS STEM Tour in 2017, Nell is looking forward to continuing her globetrotting after high school. “I’m really looking forward to doing some overseas travel during the semester breaks,” she says. “I love travelling.”

With much of the year still to unfold, Nell is moving through 2020 with School Captain partner James Nethersole and is guided by the words of wisdom from friend and 2019 School Captain, Olivia Bolton. “When I spoke with Olivia, she said to get involved with everything and to enjoy the year because it flies,” Nell says. “She also told me to make sure I’m organized; it makes everything much easier.” But it

isn’t only Olivia Bolton who has left a lasting impression on Nell. She recalls the impact 2019 School Community prefect, Farhan Islam had on the GVGS students during his leadership role and the respect for him that echoed across all year levels. “I remember Farhan learned the name of pretty much every single person in the school...he made a connection with everyone,” she says. “He genuinely cared for the school community and I’d love to be able to emulate that.”

Recently, Nell hit a highly anticipated milestone as School Captain: her prefect speech. “I did my prefect speech on Friday just gone; I can’t believe it’s over,” she says of the bittersweet moment in time. “I’ve always wanted to do a prefect speech, ever since year 5, and now it’s over.” When asked about her goals for 2020, Nell knows for certain what she wants to get out of her time as GVGS School Captain. “I really want to leave a legacy once I’ve gone,” she says. “I want to have an impact on people.”

Creating History

Congratulations to Aditya Bhattacharya who wrote the winning entry in the 2019 Historical Fiction Competition in the Year 5/6 category. Offered by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) students were asked to create stories based on historical events and people. Students could write about any period of history as long as the entry had a convincing setting that was historically correct in time and place.

Aditya, who was in Year 6 in 2019, chose to write about his great-grandparents who came from Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan. "My grandparents have told me many stories about their parents childhood experiences. When I heard about this competition I immediately wanted to choose this topic and began researching it. I researched it for several weeks before I finally submitted the final entry" Aditya said.

Last year's success has inspired Aditya to once again submitted an entry for this year's competition. "Fingers and toes crossed", he said.

For more information regarding the competition visit:www.htav.asn.au/students/competitions



GVGS ICAS record achievement

For many years now GVGS students have had the opportunity to participate in the ICAS competitions. ICAS is an independent skill-based assessment programme which tests primary and secondary school students in a variety of subjects. The test assesses skills and learning abilities and this year 980,000 entries were received from across Australia. Medals are awarded to the individual student from a year level who achieves the top score in the state for a subject.

Through their commitment to learning 5 GVGS students were awarded an ICAS medal at the official presentation ceremony in Melbourne on Saturday, November 23, 2019. This is a record number of GVGS students to earn the annually presented medals and it should be noted of the 8 ICAS Writing medals awarded to Year 10-12 Victorian participants 4 of them were presented to GVGS students. It is also the second time Cliona Ingram has been awarded with the ICAS Writing medal having earned one in 2018.

ICAS Writing medals were presented to Farhan Islam (Year 12, 2019), Akhil Gadde (Year 10, 2019), Cliona Ingram (Year 10, 2019) and Alexandra Ashburner-Hill (Year 11, 2019). Lucy Bouchier (Year 11, 2019) was awarded an ICAS English medal.

Canberra 'Power-Trip'

In November 2019 Lucy Bourchier, a then Year 11 student, earned herself a trip to Canberra through the Country to Canberra competition. Country to Canberra is a programme which aims to empower young rural women to reach their leadership potential.

The 2019 competition required entrants to write 400 words or create a 2-minute video addressing: 'Overcoming the Odds - how can we push through the barriers to achieve gender equality?'

Lucy chose to submit a written piece and was one of 15 girls selected from across Australia who travelled to Canberra for the 5-day 'power trip'. There they had a busy schedule of tours and workshops, they also met with several female MP's including Jacqui Lambie, Tanya Plibersek and Zali Steggall as well as the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.

When asked what was the highlight of the trip Lucy said "probably getting to meet all of the inspiring female politicians".

For more information regarding the programme visit: countrytocanberra.com.au

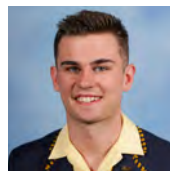


Honour Roll - 2019

In addition to the Presentation Night academic awards, students are acknowledged for their leadership and service. Also to be acknowledged is the addition of the inaugural Reverend John Leaver Award Ecumenical Schools Australia Prize. GVGS is a proud member of the Ecumenical Schools Australia (ESA) which is a valuable resource in terms of funding, leadership, teaching 'best practice' and compliance. Reverend John Leaver was a key figure in establishing ESA. Founding three of the current member schools, he also served as Chaplain at The Peninsula School (a ESA member) for over 30 years. John provided outstanding encouragement, support and guidance throughout GVGS' application process to join ESA. He passed away in 2018. All VESS member schools have been offered the opportunity to present this award to one student each year.



Nell Ryan
The Reverend John Leaver Award Ecumenical Schools Australia Prize



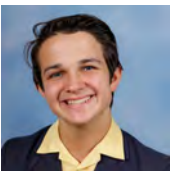
Patrick Bolton
Senior All-Rounder Award
The Maxwell Brown Memorial Prize



Olivia Bolton
Principal's Senior Award for Service to the School



Farhan Islam
Senior Citizenship Award
The Hunter Family Prize



Tom Nethersole
Junior Citizenship Award
The Parents & Friends Association Prize



Anna Howell
Principal's Junior Award for Service to the School



Ruby O'Callaghan
Year 5/6 All-Rounder,
The Glen Edwards Prize



Australia Day recognition

The winners of the 2020 Australia Day awards were announced at ceremonies across Greater Shepparton on Sunday, January 26. Congratulations go to GVGS student Sam Brown (Year 12) who was the recipient of the Sports Award in the Shepparton region. Sam is one of the highest-ranked juniors in Australasia in Dancesport. He prides himself on being a great role model to younger children, whether it be at school, tennis, soccer or dance. He is a good sport and fair to all, always encouraging, mentoring and inspiring people to take up the sport of dance. Sam promotes the benefits of health and fitness, both in the social aspects and also the competitive arena. Sam has proudly represented Shepparton on the national stage, winning multiple Australian titles. Sam is also involved in Kialla Scouts, Shepparton Lawn Tennis, Shepparton Junior Soccer and is a member of Richmond Football Club.

The at end of each year GVGS recognises the contribution of long serving staff. 2019 saw a number of significant GVGS staff milestones.

Mrs Mary Bayly 20 Years of service

Mrs Mary Bayly has been teaching at GVGS for 30 years.



After 30 years at Goulburn Valley Grammar School there are countless things Mary Bayly says have made her time in the job so memorable. But one thing that stands out the most she says is the students.

Over the past three decades Mrs Bayly has taught hundreds of students who have come through the school gates each year.

While teaching Business and Humanities studies she has gotten to know many students who she fondly remembers – some she even keeps in contact with today.

“It doesn’t feel like 30 years, I suppose it’s hard for me to think of any times I wasn’t here, but the time has gone really quickly,” she said.

“A variety of students for a variety of reasons have made contact in the last few years and it’s been really special, it’s just lovely - it’s really heartening to think you have impacted on people in a positive way.”

Previously working at Aldrige State High School in Queensland, Mrs Bayly said a move to beat the heat was on the cards.

After hearing of vacancies available at GVGS she and her husband Steve came

for an interview and instantly fell in love with the school and its facilities.

Appointed to the school on February 1, 1990 Mrs Bayly began her role as Head of Accounting and Keyboard Skills teacher.

She went on to teach Industry and Enterprise and junior Humanities studies, along with being a Year Level Tutor and Year Level Coordinator.

Over the years she has also been involved with the school’s Senior Leadership Team along with being appointed the Business Studies and Humanities Heads of Department.

Her co-curricular involvement is wide and varied including school productions, Tournament of the Minds, SRC, Presentation Balls, World Vision Group and for many years leading the ANZAC Day service.

Over the past 30 years Mrs Bayly has also worked as a VCE Exam Assessor and a State Reviewer, two titles she says she holds in high regard.

Along with this more than 15 of her students have received Premier’s Awards for their work in Industry and Enterprise - something which clearly demonstrates her skill and passion for the study.

With her two sons Harris and Max also attending the school throughout the years Mrs Bayly admits she will always fondly look back on her time at GVGS.

“Probably the only reason I have been here 30 years is because it’s a hard school to leave - I can’t think of another school where I would really enjoy teaching or really want to be,” she said.

“It’s the culture of the school really, the culture is such a positive one - when students come here they actually learn.”

While the industry has seen many changes over the years, including the introduction of e-learning and the opportunities this presents in the classroom, Mrs Bayly said she believes the culture of the school will always outweigh the facilities.

With students and teachers arriving with a smile on their faces each day, she said she hopes to continue teaching at the school for many years to come.

“For me that’s more important than anything else - resources, technology or academic results - that feeling that you and the students are on the same side as each other,” Mrs Bayly said.

Mr Widdicombe with wife Chris and sons Sam (left) and Oliver.

Farewell Mr Widdicombe

After 26 years at Goulburn Valley Grammar School, Mr Mal Widdicombe taught his final mathematics class at the end of last year.

Following a decision to relocate to Geelong with his wife Chris, the school farewelled Mal - a much admired and well-respected member of the teaching cohort. He admits the move was not an easy decision to make, saying he greatly misses the staff and students at GVGS and the memories he made at the school since his commencement in 1994.

"I miss all the people I worked with at GVGS, especially in places like the maths office and around the admin building where I spent so much time," he said.

"Shepparton was really great for our family and we loved it there."

Mal accepted a job at the school as an Information Technology teacher in 1994 after previously living and working in Darwin.

Also teaching Physics early on, Mal said his love for "magnificent mathematics" reigned supreme and saw him teach the subject for the majority of his time at the school teaching both VCE Unit 3 and 4 Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics classes.

In his second year at GVGS Mal took up the role of Head of Senior School which paved the way for a number of other leadership roles he held during his time including Year Level Coordinator, Staff Mentor, VASS Coordinator and VCAA Coordinator.



Most recently he held the position of Coordinator of Senior Mathematics and Data Analytics which saw him pioneer the PATAR system, learn growth calculations and excel in the new AYRA learning analytics platform.

Mal also proudly witnessed his three children - Emma class of 2013, Sam class of 2015 and Oliver class of 2018 - move their way through the school who, much like their father, made significant contributions to the GVGS community.

"It was an amazing school to teach at and the friendliness of the school community and beautiful grounds made it an awesome place to teach," he said.

"The culture, of it being a good thing to excel in your studies, is something that is so hard to achieve and most schools would give anything to have that culture as entrenched as it is at Grammar."

Mal's professional achievements saw him serve as a VCE assessor in both Information Technology and Mathematical Methods, run countless parent information evenings, communicate the intricacies of VCE and ATAR calculations and processes, all the while finding time to complete a Bachelor of Laws while working at the school.

He also involved himself in many co-

curricular activities including coaching football, cricket and basketball, playing in many staff verse students sport competitions, international exchange programmes, Italy tours and was a regular attendee of the yearly school reunions.

With a proud list of achievements from his 26 years at GVGS, Mal admits he could not pick just one highlight from his time at the school.

He said staff, students, the wider community and everyone else he met along the way made his time at GVGS hugely memorable and a real highlight of his teaching career.

"The best thing about the school is it's people and I really enjoyed working with the staff, teaching the students and getting to know the community over that time," Mal said.

"I also always loved going back to reunions in November as I am always in awe of what our students have gone on to do - it is humbling to think you had a small part in helping them along and way and incredibly satisfying."

Mal is relocating to Geelong after 26 years of outstanding teaching and leadership and has accepted a VCE coordination and Senior Mathematics teaching role at Geelong Grammar School.

20 Years of service

We know that this wonderful school culture and physical environment is due to the outstanding teamwork of our staff. The stability provided by long-term staff who hold the institutional memory and culture of the school and play a particularly important role. In 2019 we thanked and congratulates the following staff for their 20 years of service to the school:



Mrs Clare Nolen



Mrs Chelsea Pohlner



Mrs Anne Smith



Mrs Jo Yarwood

Past student news - the Class of 2014



Every year, class reunions are held at GVGS. Attendees from the Class of 2014, held on November 23, 2019 were provided with the opportunity to share their personal achievements since leaving GVGS.

DALE BEETON: Graduated Bachelor of Commerce 2017. Working full time as Senior Accountant at KPMG.

EMMA BLACK: Studied a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Marketing at Deakin University in Burwood. I was fortunate to receive a graduate job at Ford Motor Company of Australia in their Marketing and Sales division. My current role is an Accessories Marketing Analyst. I took a gap year after Year 12. I went to Canada for 4 months and volunteered at a summer camp in the Rocky Mountains, teaching children to ride horses. At Deakin University, I lived on campus for 2 years and in my second year volunteered as a Residential Leader. I was excited to receive Deakin University's Bowater Trust Medal for my contribution and academic achievement throughout my degree.

ALISHA BUCHANAN: I worked in hospitality for a few years. I found my passion working for the Victorian Government in an outward-facing community role. I have travelled to many countries over the past 5 years with plans for future travel. I have a miniature dachshund, Rufus.

THOMAS CAUGHEY: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion

JASON COHEN: I moved to Melbourne in 2015 to study a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce at Deakin University in Burwood. I graduated with majors in Film and Television and Accounting. Spent my final year as a News Camera Operator/Editor and have been full time for the past year. I have also continued as a TV freelancer on weekends.

EMMA COSSAR: After completing my 4th year at Deakin University in Geelong I am now completing my Masters in Organisational Psychology at Deakin in Burwood. Through my studies, I have primarily worked in mental health and disability outreach. Volunteered with AIME, where I worked with Aboriginal teenagers in the Geelong area. I have recently started teaching undergraduate Psychology at Deakin. While living and studying in Geelong, I played netball and this year started playing football. I have also spent time fostering and rehoming cats and kittens.

JESSIE COX: Completed a Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne in 2017, majoring in Human Structure and Function and I am now studying a Doctor of Medicine also at the University of Melbourne. This year I moved to Bendigo for my first year of Clinical Placement at Bendigo Hospital. During my studies I have worked as a secondary school maths and science tutor.

TRENT DIMITROPOULOS: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

GEORGINA EISHOLD: Graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Parkside with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Psychology. Moved back to Australia, working as a Personal Trainer in Echuca and have been accepted to start my Masters of Social Work with Deakin,

Geelong. Played Division 2 NCAA Basketball for college at University of Wisconsin, Parkside.

RILEIGH EYLES: Studying a Bachelor of Education (Primary). Currently working as a Nanny.

RYAN EVANS: Have been employed at Tatura Milk manufacturing plant since finishing Year 12. Started an electrical apprenticeship at Thales, Benalla in 2019.

SOPHIE EVANS: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

MIA FALLON: After taking a gap year and working as the Sports Trainee at GVGS, I began studying a Bachelor of Pharmacy at Monash University, Parkville. I have just accepted a full-time Pharmacy Intern position at Barwon Health, Geelong for 2020 following my graduation at the end of 2019. I have been playing netball for Mooropna Cats while studying. I have just had my second ACL reconstruction, the first was while I was in Year 12 at GVGS.

FREYA FINDLAY: Completed undergraduate studies in Politics and Sociology and a concurrent Diploma of Languages in Indonesian. Enjoyed a break between studies and spent 2019 gaining experience and working in legal administration and also for a not for profit organisation in Melbourne. Returning to studies in 2020, undertaking a masters of Public Policy with the hope of working in the area of social policy. I have relocated to Melbourne and enjoyed settling into a lively city. Have met a wonderful range of people through college, university and work and during my break from study have also enjoyed travelling.

JESSICA FISHER: Completed a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology & Forensic Science) at Swinburne University in Melbourne. During that time gained an AUSTSWIM qualification, and worked as a swim teacher at Melbourne City Baths. Currently still swim teaching and have also become an afterschool educator in Melbourne. I was a founding member of the Swinburne Badminton Club & remained a committee member during most of my time at University. I continuously work on my photography and have become a freelance photographer, photographing dance schools & concerts, families, weddings and balls.

ELLEN FORSTER: Studied undergraduate Medicine, graduating in 2021. Rural placement in Sale 2019. Completing a BMEDSC Research at Alfred NRTI in 2020. Have had 3 volunteering overseas medical trips to Ghana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Nepal with Volta Aid Foundation, Team Med and Pangea Global Health Education.

CHARLOTTE GEMMILL: Studied at Australian Institute of Music. Signed a record deal with Universal Music. Signed a publishing deal. Toured with Matt Corby, and through Europe with Dean Lewis.

RACHEL GRAHAM: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

AARON HOEY: Graduated Bachelor of Science in 2017. Commenced work at JPS Health and Fitness 2018.

LILY INNES-IRONS: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

EMANUEL JACOBS: Studied Bachelor of Science at Monash University. Currently employed as a Forensic Scientist.

NICHOLAS JOHNSON: Studied Civil Engineering and Business at Swinburne University until 2016. In 2017 I began a carpentry apprenticeship and will be qualified in 2020. Best decision I have ever made and love going to work every day. Spend most of my spare time surfing. I began a small business manufacturing surfboards.

DYLAN KARUNARATNA: Completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science and a Bachelor of Science at Monash University 2018. Now going to study a Master of Engineering (Biomedical and Business) at the University of Melbourne in 2020. Currently working with NAB for the Superannuation Company, MLC in the Wealth Operations team. After completing my undergraduate degree in 2018, I travelled around Scandinavia and Sri Lanka. In my spare time, I play cricket for a team in Melbourne.

LAURA KEPPEL: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

MADELEINE KUCZYNSKI: Started at Latrobe University and stayed at Glenn College in 2015. Studied a Bachelor of Science until I

decided what I wanted to do. The following year I decided to start at RMIT. I commenced a double degree Bachelor of Applied Science and Chiropractic, which I am currently still in. Have just finished my 4th year and have one year remaining. I am living in Richmond and love it and planning to become a Yoga instructor in my free-time in 2020.

AMI-SHEREE LAFFY: Completed Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology) in 2017 and Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) in 2018 at RMIT University. Currently working as an Outreach Mental Health Support Worker and Team Supervisor for NDIS support service Conscious Care. Now a Youth Advisor for Headspace Elsternwick, advocating for youth mental health in the surrounding community.

OLIVIA LARSON: Completed Bachelor of Science 2015-2017 and lived at St Hilda's 2015-2016. Research support Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre 2017-2019. Doctor of Physiotherapy 2019. I also took a gap year and travelled overseas for 4 months in 2018.

EMILY LAWSON: Graduated Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne in 2017. In 2018 commenced Doctor of Medicine at the University of Melbourne. Over this time, I was an academic tutor at St Hilda's College.

ANDREA MARTIN: I took a gap year in 2015 and travelled to Canada and Hong Kong. Studied a Double Diploma of Travel and Tourism and Business. Started at Flight Centre in 2017 and have worked at the Shepparton Office and Melbourne Airport Office.

Participated in a dance group to Hong Kong in 2015 and performed at Disneyland. Played 'extra' roles in TV films such as *Picnic at Hanging Rock*.

CLAIRE MARRIOTT: In 2015 took a gap year and travelled to Europe. From 2016 to 2019, I studied a Bachelor of Rural Science at the University of New England, Armidale NSW. I completed my Honours as part of my final year. Recently accepted a graduate position with the Australian Agricultural Company. I attended Robb College, where I was an active member in many aspects of College life. Played and coached the Robb A-Grade netball team over 4 years. Deputy Senior Resident Tutor, 2018. Have been selected as a member of the 2020 Australian National Meat Judging Team to travel to the USA in January.

TORI MARWOOD: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

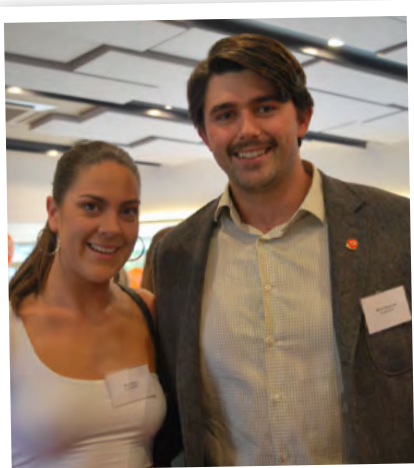
NICHOLAS McCALLUM: Completed a Bachelor of Environments in 2017 at the University of Melbourne. Currently completing a Master of Urban Planning.

MOLLIE MERRIGAN: From 2015-2016 I studied a Bachelor of Health/Science at Latrobe University, Bundoora and lived at Menzies College. At the end of 2016, I decided to go abroad on a working holiday visa. I lived in Edinburgh, Scotland for 2 years and returned home to Australia in August 2019. During my time in Edinburgh, I worked for a catering company called Heritage Portfolio, mainly based at the Signet Library. I was lucky to work at the Royal Garden Party in July and the 2019 BBC Showcase that featured appearances from Sir David Attenborough and Dr Brian Cox. I have also travelled through Europe.



FROM TOP LEFT: L-R - Dale Beeton, John Nicoll, Eloise Vaughan, Emanuel Jacobs, and Kyrra Rea; Brady Webster, Trent Dimitropoulos, Madeleine Kuczynski, Charlotte Gemmill and Rileigh Eyles; Bronte O'Connor, James Caldwell, Sophie Evans, Ella Murdoch and Alisha Buchanan.

The Class of 2014 reunion



BRIDGET MILLAR: Commenced a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) at Monash University and lived at Mannix College. One year later started a Bachelor of Business (Marketing). Completed both degrees at the end of 2018. Currently working as a Teacher's Aide at a special needs school in Glen Waverly, while applying for marketing graduate jobs. Have been playing football for Murrumbena for the past 3 years. In 2019 I captained the reserves side, which was very rewarding.

ALEXANDRA MULCAHY: In 2015 worked at Bundarra Pastoral, merino and cross-breed enterprises. In 2017 worked at Wallaloo Park, merino stud and broadacre cropping and also at Bingham Agriculture, grain harvest. In 2019 worked at Inionba Pastoral, intensive dairy and cropping. Associate degree of Farm Management, Bachelor of Business Agricultural. Received the Royal Bank and the Royal Agricultural Show Society Victoria scholarships.

ELLA MURDOCH: Completed a double degree in Nursing and Midwifery at Latrobe University. Now finishing my graduate year at Monash Health. I plan to do my masters in 2020. Travelled to Indonesia and America and regularly catch up with the Class of 2014 friends. Have a puppy called Maggie.

JONATHON NICOLL: Completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the University of Melbourne. Worked in Sales at Murray Goulburn between 2014 and 2019. Since the start of the year, I have been working for Elders as an Agronomist in Mildura. Playing football at Dookie United.

BRONTE O'CONNOR: Studied a Bachelor of Business in International Event Management. Have completed two Melbourne Cup carnivals with the Victoria Racing Club and now working full time for Tennis Australia. Travelled to Africa with Alisha Buchanan and on my own



through Europe, UK and Ireland. Currently living in Melbourne with Alisha Buchanan and Megan Stevens.

WILSON O'MEARA: Studied Commerce at Deakin University.

HANNAH PATTERSON: Past 5 years at Monash University studying Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Commerce. Starting a graduate position at KPMG in 2020. Studied abroad in Italy and lucky to have travelled overseas a couple of times.

TOM PENDLEBURY: Studied Environmental Engineering at RMIT for 4 years. Currently employed at Enviropacific as a site engineer.

KYRRA REA: Took a gap year and worked at Aquamoves, Shepparton. In 2016 commenced Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of Melbourne and resided at St Mary's College. I now work part-time at a local YMCA leisure facility in customer service. I graduated in 2018 and currently doing Master of Agricultural Sciences, specialising in Agribusiness. I have enjoyed travel during university breaks, visiting Bali and Europe. I was a Customer Service Award Nominee 2017 for the Aquatics and Recreation Victoria Awards through my employment at Aquamoves. I received the Dairy Gardiner Foundation Scholarship in 2016.

MILES ROWLANDS: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

LAURA SIZER: Studied Bachelor of Arts from 2015 to 2017 and then Bachelor of Arts Honours in 2018 at Monash University. Majored in Sociology, minored in Criminology and Politics. Had a gap year 2019, before returning to study in 2020 to undertake a Masters of Information Studies to become accredited with the Australian Library and Information association at Charles Sturt University. Finished university with First Class Honours in 2018. Received the prize for Best Third Year Sociology Student at Monash University in 2017, and the prize for

Best Sociology Honours Student in 2018. Permanently moved to Melbourne in January with my partner of 4 years, who is doing his PhD in Astrophysics.

ALEXANDER SLOT: Studied a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Accounting and International Business. Expecting to graduate from RMIT at the end of 2019. Currently employed by Zagames Caulfield Hotel as a Bartender. Backpacked through Europe in 2017. Developed a prototype app to be used by doctors in hospitals. I would like to pursue a career in Technology.

MEGAN STEVENS: After college in Canberra and I commenced a Degree in Paramedicine at Monash University. During this time, I have been developing my passion for Disability Sports, working as a swim teacher and manager, which allowed me to start in a role as a Project Coordinator for Disability Sport and Recreation. I now work on Local, State and National levels helping people with disability access sport and recreation. I have travelled to New Zealand and Indonesia as a month-long volunteer and been on trips around Australia. Living with Bronte and Alisha in Malvern East. Training to be an amateur weightlifter. Have a miniature schnauzer, Basil and still enjoy going home to ride my horses.

MARGIE TAYLOR: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

FRANCES UKICH: Graduated from Charles Sturt University with a Bachelor of Nursing. In 2018 completed the Graduate Nurse Program at Albury Wodonga Health. In 2019 completed Postgraduate Diploma of Midwifery through Latrobe University, Bendigo. In 2020 will work as a Registered Nurse and Registered Midwife at Albury Wodonga Health. I continue to play and umpire netball in my hometown for Cobram Football Netball Club. Longterm I would like to complete further study in Maternal and Child Health and work as a Maternal and Child Health Nurse. I love that there are so many opportunities in the nursing profession and I am looking forward to a long, rewarding career in regional healthcare.

ELOISE VAUGHAN: In 2019 I studied in the Clare Valley, participating in the Rural Clinic School Program and loved it. Beautiful region with excellent bike riding. 2020 provides the opportunity to travel with placements overseas. I was coordinator of the 2019 Yalara Kidney Health Festival which I attended in 2018. Also took an outreach trip to Wilcannia and Menindee. I am still avidly riding and racing my bike. Raced in America 2017 - Tour

of America's Dairylands. Raced the 2019 South Australian Super Series for ProChem Women's Cycling Team. I enjoy heading back to the farm at Nathalia when holidays allow for it, to see my dogs, my GVGS mates and mum and dad.

KELSIE VICK: Studied a Bachelor of Nursing at Deakin University. Gained a Graduate Nurse position at Epworth, Richmond.

Lived in Geelong for 3 years. Moved to Melbourne and have been there for 2 years. Travelled to Europe in 2019. Became an Aunty in 2019. Have kept incredible friendships with my GVGS friends and have made many new friendships through work and study.

BRADY WEBSTER: Attended the Class of 2014, 5 Year Reunion.

SIERRA WESTON: Studied at the University of New England, Armidale NSW, graduating in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Zoology & Palaeobiology. After graduation worked at Winton in outback QLD at The Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, involved in Dinosaur digs, lab preparation of fossils, tour guiding and education about Australia's prehistoric animals. Currently educating the public in wildlife conservation as a Safari Guide at Werribee Open Range Zoo. Have consolidated employability skills with qualifications in snake/reptile handling, coxswains certificate 4WD, firearms licence, natural history illustration, fauna camera trapping and volunteer campground host with Parks Victoria. Have exhibited and sold reclaimed/found art animal sculptures.

FROM TOP LEFT: Mia Fellon and Miles Rowlands; Brady Webster, John Nicoll and Alexander Slot; Dylan Karunaratna and Trent Dimitropoulos.



House histories



In 2019 Ryall won the House Swimming Carnival for the first time in 20 years. For all our Nexus readers who have a passion for sports statistics Sports Coordinator, Mr Greg Reynoldson and Director of Co-curricular Programmes, Mr Shane McDonald have tallied up the House Carnival victories since the schools commencement along with a little background information. When reading these statistics it should be noted that McLennan and Fairly were established in 1982 and Ryall and Dunlop were established nine years later in 1991 when the school's student population had grown to accommodate 4 Houses.

The pinnacle of the House victories is winning the Close Aggregate Shield (pictured above). The names of the GVGS trophies were established 1982 when the school sent out a letter inviting families to sponsor the various trophies. Mr Harry and Mrs Lauren Close chose the Aggregate Shield. The Close Family had 2 children attend the school, Tracey (Class of 1988) and Dean (Class of 1991).

Fairley House history

Established: 1982

Fairley House was named in honour of the Fairley family with the permission of the late Lady Fairley. The Fairley family has contributed to the Goulburn Valley community over many decades.

House victories:

Athletics	13
Swimming	16
Cross Country	14
Eisteddfod	9

Close Aggregate Shield victories: 12

McLennan House history

Established: 1982

McLennan House was named in honour of the McLennan family with the permission of Sir Ian McLennan K.C.M.G., K.B.E. The family lived in Mooroopna for many years operating the flour mill and contributed much to the Mooroopna Community.

House victories:

Athletics	11
Swimming	13
Cross Country	10
Eisteddfod	10

Close Aggregate Shield victories: 10

Dunlop House history

Established: 1991

Dunlop House was named in honour of Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop – a famous son of Benalla. Sir Edward is recognised for his ministrations to prisoners of war during WWII. Some of those prisoners were grandfathers of students at GVGS.

House victories:

Athletics	9
Swimming	6
Cross Country	7
Eisteddfod	8

Close Aggregate Shield victories: 11

Ryall House history

Established: 1991

Ryall House was named in honour of Mr Vic Ryall, the founding Principal of the school. Mr Ryall commenced in 1981, and welcomed the first 82 students in 1982. Mr Ryall retired in 1989 with an established school of 360 students.

House victories:

Athletics	5
Swimming	5
Cross Country	9
Eisteddfod	9

Close Aggregate Shield victories: 5

GVGS Community News



Sarah Galea (Class 200?) and Søren Birk welcomed their first child on March 8, 2020. They have chosen to name her Mila Olivia Birk. Sarah and Søren are also picture here at their wedding held in March 2019.



Sophia Estelle van Dorsser was born on 02.20.2020 at 2am! She is the 2nd child for David (Class 2008) and Lindsay van Dorsser and sister to Grace who just happens to be 2!



Furat Sabti (Class 2009) and partner Sam, welcomed a boy named Eliyah, who born on February 14, 2020. Furat and Sam are pictured here at their April, 2018 wedding.



Hudson James Black is the first child for Jacob (Class of 2006) and Britteny Black. Born at GV Health on October 16, 2019. Hudson weighted 3.45kg (7lb 6oz).

Kate Burgener (Class of 2008) married Tom Zwiedler in Switzerland in 2015 and recently they have had their first child Sophie Joy born on April 22, 2020. Kate and Tom live in Disentis, Switzerland where they manage a holiday park & restaurant.



Rachael Howard (née Head) and James Howard have welcomed their third child Atticus Gilbert Howard born March 26, 2020. Atticus is a brother for Theodore 7, and Ellis 4. Rachel attended GVGS from Year 5- 9 and left at the end of 2004. She is currently studing music, Steiner education and completing her degree in early childhood and primary education.

Fiona (nee Barnes, Class of 2005) and Grant Taylor have welcomed their third child Hannah Elizabeth who was born on April 5, 2020 at Albury Wodonga Health. Hannah has two sisters Chelsea 4 and Nicole 2. Fiona and Grant are based in Wodonga where they operate their business, Taylored Doors & Shutters.



Community announcements



GVGS Director of Learning - Senior Years, Kath D'Elia married Matt Fenech in Nagambie on January 11, 2020. They are pictured here with their daughter Ellie.



Former staff member Levy Howard and his partner Amy welcomed a son Layken (Laykie) Shelby on February 22, 2020. Layken was 8 pounds.

Thanks to GVGS teacher and Class of 1987 alumnus Mr Glen Edwards for sourcing many of our community news items printed here. Glen does at an excellent job at maintaining connections with past students and his former classmates and he would love to hear from you. Please don't be shy about sharing your news with the school via glen.edwards@gvgs.vic.edu.au



Lyndon Galea (Class 2009) married Belinda Luke on New Years Eve 2019.



Heather Maddison (Class 2009) married Shane Perrott at Balyang Sanctuary in Geelong on February 22, 2020.



Laura Pankhurst (Class of 2011 and current GVGS staff member) and Jacob Johnson were originally planning their wedding for April 3, 2020. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions they chose to postpone their big day to later this year in December. We very much look forward to publishing their wedding news in an upcoming edition of *Nexus*.

Vale - Cameron John Hook

The school community is deeply saddened by the death of former student Cameron Hook in March this year.

Cameron commenced as a student in Year 5, 1998 and completed Year 12 in 2005. Cameron was an extremely talented student who established positive relationships with students and staff alike, and was always willing to share his knowledge and help others. In his final year at school, Cameron was a high achiever academically. With an enquiring mind and the capacity for hard work and focus, he applied himself diligently to achieve his entry into Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne.

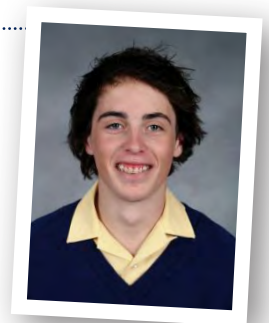
Cameron was a talented musician, playing piano, tenor sax and clarinet in various ensembles and bands. Whilst at school, his rendition of 'Hymn for Freedom' on the piano was especially moving, and his part as Robert Plant in the Year 12 group of four students who impersonated Led Zeppelin performing 'Stairway to Heaven', was particularly memorable and allowed Cameron to express his fun-loving personality.

Cameron was a delightful young man, well-mannered, and one who cared for those in need. He had a gentle approach and an endearing sense of humour. He was mature for his age and was able to connect and form friendships with a wide range of students. Cameron was proud to be

chosen as a Prefect in Year 12.

Cameron completed his Degree and practiced Law. More recently, Cameron had plans to go mountain climbing with his father in Nepal. He had returned to study, as he wished to become involved in politics and give back to the local community.

We extend our deepest condolences to the Hook family, particularly his parents, Stephen and Belinda, and sister Madeleine (Class 2007). We also extend our sympathies to the Class of 2005.





During 2019 GVGS investigated the study techniques of our students when preparing for assessment tasks. The results matched the published research findings; the strategies that students traditionally use aren't the most effective. Universally students tend to use strategies such as re-reading a text or notes, copying notes directly from a textbook, or highlighting whilst reading a text. These techniques tend to promote short-term learning.

We aim to develop in our students the ability to use proven study strategies to help them to effectively develop long-term memory. To this end, GVGS has chosen the Cognitive Science of Learning as the focus for our staff Professional Development this year. This is a broad field of study that focuses on the ways that people interpret and process information and develop mastery in a particular area. During Professional Learning sessions, staff have been introduced to six principles of effective learning and have been working to embed these principles within lessons at all year levels. These strategies are:

- Retrieval
- Spacing
- Interleaving
- Dual-coding
- Concrete examples
- Elaboration

Our focus this year is the establishment of the Year 7 Learning to Learn Programme. Throughout Term 1, Year 7 students have been involved in sessions introducing them to the principles of memory and several activities that they can complete to ensure efficient and enduring learning, all based on the principle of retrieval.

The key principle in these sessions has been 'spaced retrieval'; reinforcing the need to review material on several occasions, and the need to actively retrieve information from memory. Students have learnt that short, regular revision sessions are more effective than a single, longer session.

The school has entered a partnership with the University of Queensland Science of Learning Research Centre to enable us to plan and evaluate our Learning to Learn Programme. Our next step is to share the principles of effective learning with the wider GVGS community.

Once the school returns to normal operations, we will investigate ways in which we can share the principles of effective learning with our parent community. We shall also explore how we can best introduce, and reinforce, these principles of effective learning in other years of schooling.

Mr James Sach, Learning Leader

GOULBURN VALLEY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dates for your **Diary**, visit www.gvgs.vic.edu.au for confirmation

Mothers Club Luncheon Friday, 11 September, 2020

10-30 Year Reunions Saturday, October 17, 2020

Class of 1990 – 30 Year Reunion, Class of 1995 – 25 Year Reunion, Class of 2000 – 20 Year Reunion, Class of 2005 – 15 Year Reunion, Class of 2010 – 10 Year Reunion

Year 5 Reunion Saturday, November 21, 2020

Class of 2015 – 5 Year Reunion

Grandparents Day Thursday November 26, 2020