

Autumn / Winter 2021

Nexus

GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Peter Johnson,
40 years of
service

INSIDE:

Alumni
relations

Pam Wallace
retires after
38 years





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.

E: amy.depaola@gvgs.vic.edu.au.

Nexus Co-ordination: Amy De Paola (nee Hill, Class of 1989)

Contributing Writers:

Amy Campbell (Class of 2012)

Clare Winter-Irving (Class of 2010)

Jodie Fleming (Current parent)

Samantha Schelling (Current parent)

Amy De Paola.

Thanks to: Ms Michelle Schofield,
Mr Mark Torriero.

Goulburn Valley Grammar School
Verney Road, PO Box 757,
Shepparton, Victoria, 3632.
Telephone: 03 5833 3300,
Email: gvgs@gvgs.vic.edu.au,

Web: www.gvgs.vic.edu.au.

Printing: Prominent Press, Shepparton

Printed on 100% recycled paper



COVER PHOTO: Mr Peter Johnson has served GVGS since the initial idea of establishing an independent school in Shepparton. His story is on page 10.

During Term 1 all Australian schools, were confronted by the national crisis of sexual harassment and assault of women. The sort of behaviour that has been reported by media outlets and by victims is deeply disturbing and is totally inconsistent with our School's values.

Since foundation, our values have been underpinned by a commitment to respecting and caring for each individual and ensuring that our School is a safe, welcoming and affirming environment. For over a decade a cornerstone of our School's Student Pastoral Care Programme has been our Respectful Relationships Policy.

Our School has, for many years, run a comprehensive Student Pastoral Care Programme and Health Programme, which aims to explicitly teach students about respectful relationships. All these learning experiences have been in the context of our School's values and the Respectful Behaviour Policy. In addition the Health Programme has explicitly taught sexual education from year 5 to 9.

Our positive school culture is founded on our values and we ensure that each week there is a time for reflection on these values in our whole school assemblies. The first Prefect Speech for 2021 was by School Captain Isabelle Trezise who spoke about the School's value of caring and particularly noted the importance of self-caring being a foundation for caring for others.

Notwithstanding our efforts to date, we acknowledge that all schools in Australia, including ours, should accept that our actions to date have been inadequate. Our School is committed to reviewing and improving our efforts to create a culture that models and educates students about respectful relationships. Our goal is for the School to be a safe learning environment where departing students live lives with relationships founded on care and respect.

In a recent assembly, alongside our Social Justice Prefects Cliona Ingram and

Shiv Dutta, I spoke about the School's commitment to addressing this issue.

The School has made an undertaking to review and improve our proactive and reactive responses to education regarding respectful relationships. We recognise that our efforts must not be tokenistic or piecemeal. We therefore commit to developing a Respectful Relationships Programme that is comprehensive, age-appropriate and experienced by students frequently over the years in a range of settings. A foundation for students understanding respectful relationships is first comprehending the general principles of self-respect, respect for others and permission. Therefore our School culture is also critical in managing this issue.

Critical to the success of our community response will be the involvement of staff and parents. We recognise that having conversations with young people about sexual relationships and consent is challenging for most adults and particularly parents. The School will look to ensure that there are appropriate resources and support for staff and parents in navigating these awkward but essential conversations.

Our School response has already begun and includes the following dimensions;

- seeking student voice
- reviewing the Health curriculum Year 5 to 9
- reviewing the Student Pastoral Care Programme curriculum from Year 5 to 12
- reviewing our reporting and support procedures
- training and supporting staff
- providing resources and support for parents

This is a long-term commitment and our response will continue to evolve over the weeks, months and years ahead.

Semper Ulterius

Mark Torriero, Principal

Welcome back

Everyone felt great to be back. That's the message that came back to me loud and clear.

Luckily, there was some normality coming back just prior to the end of the School year last year. However it was hardly enough to give our students in Year 12 last year an end to their secondary education that they all so thoroughly deserved. The Valedictory Dinner had to be pared back significantly which was tough for them and for their parents. So, too, Presentation Night. So, too, all of the other activities that the year normally has the benefit of leading and enjoying so much. Yet, the year achieved wonderful VCE success. There were tremendous high achievers plus a tremendous overall result and a position for the School "on the ladder" for other higher fee and more well-known schools to take note. A credit to our hard-working and wonderful staff once more.

For me, I really enjoy the first few weeks of involvement in Term 1. Meeting up with the staff for lunch once more, attending the formal induction of the Year 12's and to formally congratulate and honour our high academic achievers for the 2020 year. Attending the Years 5/6 and the Year 7 "Hello" evenings and meeting new and current parents. Hearing that school camps are off and running. Concerts and Saturday sporting events are underway. We are getting back to normal.



It was also great for the Board to meet up, person to person. Zoom has been great in enabling our meetings to function but there is far more engagement when we all meet together.

The School made it through last year in good financial shape, all things considered. Last year was not a year to expand. More a year of cautionary approach. This will remain so until we all feel assured that we are rid of "it". However, this does not stop us looking at what we need to plan for the School moving through this decade and beyond. The possible expansion of our educational base and fixed assets, the

impact of Federal Government grants to our fees and the growing demand for more educational facilities in a growing town and how we fit into it, are important topics this year.

I hope to see you at some stage at the many events that the school has planned.

Semper Ulterius

Andrew Galbraith, Chair of the Board

ABOVE: Mr Galbraith with 2021 School Captain's Isabelle Trezise and Akhil Gadde.



Nexus - past students and staff

For some time, we have been distributing Nexus via mail, email and the website. If you would like to receive Nexus by mail, email or both please update your details via the school's website:

www.gvgs.vic.edu.au/Alumni

or contact Mr Glen Edwards, Alumni Relations Co-ordinator:

alumni@gvgs.vic.edu.au

2020 Dux Profile

Ashima Tyagi

When Ashima Tyagi (pictured) was 11 years old she migrated from India to Australia with her family. “It was a whole new language, new culture, new set of social norms,” she says. “It was a lot to take on at first.” After living in Canberra for a short time, the Tyagi family settled in Shepparton in 2017 and Ash commenced Year 9 at GVGS. “There’s definitely been a lot of adjusting and acclimatising in my life,” says Ash. “When I first moved to Grammar it was difficult for the first few months, but I found that after time and putting in my best effort to make the most of this change everything worked out for the best.”

Throughout her life, Ash has had her parents and twin brother, Ayush, by her side as constant support. “My whole family have had to accommodate to a lot of change to get the opportunities that we want,” she says. “They want me to be fulfilled academically and want the best for me, you do tend to take the bond you have with your family for granted, but at the end of the day they’re the people who are always there for you.” Both of Ash’s parents currently work at Goulburn Valley Health in clinical roles – her mum as a Gynecologist and her dad as a Sonographer – and she says they have always had her best interests at heart when making big life decisions. “Our move to Australia was driven by the want to have better education and career opportunities,” she says. “We knew this choice was the best for our future and we have a new life here in Australia.” Although Ash can see the logic in moving away from her homeland, she has maintained a strong connection with her culture and heritage, consciously incorporating this into her identity. “No one really talks about the losses you experience when you move,” she says. “People always talk about the opportunities that you receive – and there really are a lot of advantages to moving and making sacrifices like we have – but leaving your family can be really difficult and it’s hard to leave them behind.”

When Ash commenced at GVGS, a strong school spirit was something she noticed



from day one. “It was really different to what I was expecting. One thing that really struck me when I first started was how welcoming the teachers were, there just wasn’t that barrier between teachers and students,” she says. “They really are there to talk to you, support you and make sure you achieve the best outcomes you can. I found a really close-knit community at Grammar that I hadn’t experienced anywhere before.” A disappointment for Ash this year has been not being able to see out her final year of high school in the way she envisioned. “You have a lot of expectations about what Year 12 is going to be like and I really struggled with lock-down because I felt like this had all been stolen away from me,” she says. “We had all the hard work and we had all the study, but we never got to have those fun experiences that everyone always talks about and has such fond memories of from their time in Year 12.” Her connection with her peers and teachers is something she relied upon heavily in 2020, as during remote learning Ash experienced multiple losses in her extended family due to Covid-19. “It’s so important to appreciate the small things,” she says. “The sad reality is that even though we’ve been doing school from home for all these months, there are many people who are going through much harder times than us.”

Ash says the personal hardship she has faced during the Coronavirus pandemic

has made her reflect on her own life and create goals for the future. “It’s easy to get caught up in the little things, like not being able to see your friends, but then when you experience firsthand the human cost of this pandemic it really puts everything in perspective,” she says. “This has all really cemented my desire to work in the health field because it’s so difficult watching all this unfold and not being able to do anything. One day I hope I can be someone who supports people during really hard times such as this.”

Ash has accepted an offer to go to Monash University to study Medicine. “It’s what I’ve always wanted to do ever since I was a little kid,” she says. “After everything that has happened this year, it’s never been clearer to me that this is what I want to do with my life.” With the ongoing uncertainty and unpredictability, the Coronavirus pandemic has embedded into everyone’s life, Ash is trying her best to stay focused and resilient over the coming months. “The best thing I can do right now is take things one step at a time,” she says.

Ash is passionate about human rights and although Covid-19 has restricted the ways in which a typical GVGS Social Justice Executive would fulfill the role, Ash has cherished the privilege of holding the position for 2020. “Social equity is so important; it should never be something



Congratulations to the VCE Class of 2020

Top 6% of all Victorian schools

29th in Victoria out of 527 schools

2nd in regional and rural Victoria

The School community congratulates the Class of 2020 on their commitment to learning and citizenship. Despite the trials and disappointments experienced this year, their focus on learning and community never wavered. As an open entry non-selective school, we particularly acknowledge the effort, persistence and learning growth of students who faced adversity and challenges.

Over the years, and particularly in response to this year’s restrictions, the Class of 2020 were courageous, compassionate and collegial. They fully embraced all aspects of the co-curricular programme in diverse areas such as music, sport, community service and leadership.

We also acknowledge the outstanding classroom instruction provided by our teachers and the wonderful support of operational staff and parents. The legacy of the Class of 2020 epitomizes the School’s motto *Semper Ulterius – Always Further*.

For more information regarding the Class of 2020s achievements visit our website at www.gvgs@vic.edu.au

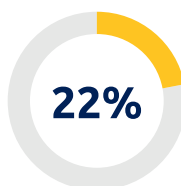
that anyone has to worry about,” she says.

“We all have a responsibility to make sure we are working hard to break down the inequalities and injustice across the world.”

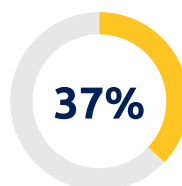
After a turbulent year, Ash has a few words of wisdom to pass along to the class of 2021. “Put in your best effort every day because you really don’t know what’s coming next and how things are going to play out,” she says. “As long as you keep giving 100% and putting your best foot forward, then you’ll be ready for anything. You need to be in the best possible position to handle the hard knocks that you don’t expect.”



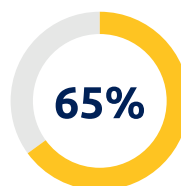
Outstanding Achievements L-R: Meg Eishold (98.9), Charlotte Uniacke (98.7), Elly Miechel (99.05), Frederick Thompson (98.9), Ashima Tyagi (99.6), Ayush Tyagi (99.05), Harry Burgess (98.05), Eloise Schmedje (98.05). **INSET:** Lucy Bouchier (98.6), Chloe Charnstrom (98.65), Eliza York (98.2).



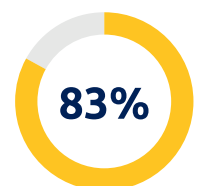
22% in the top 5% of the state (ATAR 95+)



37% in the top 10% of the state (ATAR 90+)



65% in the top 20% of the state (ATAR 80+)



83% in the top 30% of the state (ATAR 70+)

Further further articles about the Class of 2020 visit our website www.gvgs@vic.edu.au

2020 Major Awards Presentation Night

In addition to the Presentation Night academic awards, students are acknowledged for their leadership and service. Congratulations to the following students for their 2020 awards.



Shiv Dutta
The Reverend John Leaver
Award Ecumenical Schools
Australia Prize



Meg Eishold
Senior All-Rounder Award
The Maxwell Brown
Memorial Prize



Nell Ryan
Principal's Senior Award
for Service to the School



James Nethersole
Senior Citizenship Award
The Hunter Family Prize



Layla O'Callaghan
Junior Citizenship Award
The Parents & Friends
Association Prize



Imogen Templeton
Principal's Junior Award
for Service to the School



Vihaan Raykar
Year 5/6 All-Rounder,
The Glen Edwards Prize

Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars

The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars is an academic enrichment programme offered by The University of Melbourne.

Designed to support high achieving Victorian Year 11 and Year 12 students, the programme provides selected participants with the opportunity to experience university life and take part in a range of academic events and activities.

Sarah Roberts and Jarvis Rowlands, both in Year 11 in 2020, were awarded the opportunity to join the 2020 cohort of scholars. While the schedule was altered due to COVID-19, they found their involvement has provided invaluable experiences and opportunities.

Jarvis who is aiming to study for a Bachelor of Commerce at The University of Melbourne viewed the programme as the perfect opportunity to get a head start on his future career, experience university life, and take part in academic events and activities to enrich his education.

"The program offers events such as personal development workshops, VCE revision lectures, overnight adventures on campus, as well as celebration events with your family. However, with COVID-19, activities have been held on social media networks such as Facebook," he said.

"Using social media, I have been able to exchange ideas with others in the programme, and we have been able to share ways to improve our academic performance. The programme has helped me to connect with students from other schools, both in regional and metropolitan areas of Victoria."

Participants can potentially be awarded the



2020 Kwong Lee
Dow Scholars
Jarvis Rowlands
and Sarah
Roberts.

Melbourne Global Scholars award, which allows students to go on exchange programs in over 45 different countries.

This opportunity is of interest to Jarvis, who is currently studying VCE Indonesian.

"If I were to continue my education at The University of Melbourne, traveling to Indonesia on an exchange would appeal to me. It would increase my understanding and knowledge of the language and the country's culture," he said.

The programme also offers the opportunity to extend learning in the subjects that students are currently undertaking. Sarah, who is fast-tracking Biology, has been attending the lectures held on-line for Biology units 3 and 4.

"I found the lectures great for consolidating my knowledge," she said.

Sarah plans to study a Bachelor of Biomedicine at The University of Melbourne and has found there are several benefits the programme has offered.

"It has been a fantastic way to get to know others and throughout my time in the program so far I have met wonderful people who I am now friends with," she said.

"There was also the added benefit of support for moving and potential exchange in university should I choose to go to The University of Melbourne".

Both Sarah and Jarvis would encourage other interested students to apply.

"The program challenges you to build your confidence in many ways, including socially and academically," Sarah said.

"I feel fortunate to be given the opportunity to be a part of this program, as it has improved my personal development and provided support and motivation during my VCE studies, especially in this unprecedented time," Jarvis said.

For further information visit [The University of Melbourne website](#).



Anzac Spirit

Year 11 student Cliona Ingram was one of 24 students from across the state to have earned a 2020 Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize.

In its 17th year, the prize provides an opportunity for students to reflect upon the spirit of the Australians who fought and the impact of war on our society.

Cliona submitted a written entry reflecting on the Australian experience of war, homecoming and the legacy of Anzac.

While the winners would usually go on an overseas study tour, due to Covid-19 restrictions, recipients have instead been awarded scholarships of \$3000.

This prize adds to a growing list of Cliona's achievements, having earned ICAS Writing medals in 2018 and 2019. Cliona was also shortlisted in the 2020 Furphy Literary Youth Poetry Award.



History winners

Congratulations to Year 5 student Aditi Xavier and Year 7 student Aditya Bhattacharya who were the 2020 winners in the Historical Fiction Competition in their age categories.

Aditi drew on a true story from her family's experiences and vividly imagined what it would have been like for people to live through wartime.

Aditya's entry "The events that changed America" impressed the judges by the story's "mature and well-edited writing," told from a child's point of view." In 2019, Aditya won the Year 5/6 category for his story, "Ripped Apart".

Both Aditi and Aditya received a certificate and a prize of \$150.



2020 ICAS Medal achievers

Each year, the University of NSW runs the prestigious ICAS competitions. ICAS Assessments are designed to recognise academic excellence, with students assessed on their ability to apply classroom learning to new contexts.

ICAS Medals are presented to the student with the top score in each subject at each level. With several thousand entrants in ICAS competitions each year across Australia, it is an extraordinary achievement for GVGS to have even one student receive an ICAS medal in any year. In 2020 the school was delighted to be informed that three students were recipients of a medal.

Year 8 student Hriday Shah achieved a distinction in Science, a high distinction in Mathematics and the ICAS Medal for the top overall score in Year 8 Mathematics.

Year 9 student Xavier Schmedje achieved a distinction in Mathematics, a high distinction in Science and the ICAS Medal for the top overall score in Year 9 Science.

Year 10 student Sasith De Abrew, achieved distinctions in both Science and Mathematics and a high distinction in English, as well as the ICAS Medal for the top overall score in Year 10 English.

PICTURED ABOVE L-R: Sasith De Abrew, Hriday Shah and Xavier Schmedje.



Our published authors

In December 2020, Mayor Cr Kim O'Keefe presented Year 5 students Lila Plunkett and Miriam Ford with their certificates for winning the 2020 Greater Shepparton Councils, Book Bag Story Writing Competition.

Lila and Miriam co-wrote and illustrated the story 'Little Things', which was the winner by unanimous decision.

Lila and Miriam wrote about one of their passions – nature. In the lead up to writing, they did a nature walk and read other books for inspiration.

Miriam and Lila's book has been professionally published and in 2021 it will be given to babies and pre-school aged children when visiting their Maternal and Child Health nurse as part of the Best Start program.

School leaders 2021

Prefects

Back Row L-R: Principal Mr Mark Torriero, Shiv Dutta, Lily Trezise, Reily Menhenett, Hayden Reynolds, Jarvis Rowlands, Jaxon McCarty-Walker, Matthew Lowe, Moara Smith and Year 12 Coordinator Mrs Chelsea Pohlner.

Front Row L-R: Macey Auld, Cliona Ingram, Lilia Tennant, Akhil Gadde, Isabelle Trezise, Sarah Roberts, Adele Brandrick, Zoe De Paola.



School Captain profile

Isabelle Trezise



Isabelle Trezise didn't go into her prefect interview fixated on the role of School Captain. It was such a nice surprise, being chosen out of everyone who applied," she says.

The appointment might have caught Isabelle off-guard, but it didn't shock many others. The 17-year-old from Kyabram is bright, engaging and enthusiastic about school. She is also passionate about bringing a sense of community to the grounds of GVGS, after a long year of classes over Zoom.

"I'm pretty happy we're back, because that wasn't ideal," says Isabelle, adding, "but in a weird way, it was kind of fun".

Last year, Isabelle fast-tracked Indonesian. "It was good, but a bit challenging". This year, she's studying English, Further Maths, Health and Human Development, Psychology and of course, Economics.



House Captains

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: *Dunlop House Captains - Sally Dowling and Luke Mitchell; McLennan House Captains - Mimi Hamilton and Luca Mamone; Ryall House Captains - Aurora Smith and Ayla Jackson; Fairley House Captains - Chloe Pohlner and Jack Vaivars.*



“I honestly love all my subjects this year,” says Isabelle, when we ask if she has a favourite. “I still don’t know exactly what I want to do. I like a lot of things, so I do have a pretty big mix of subjects. I’m interested in business and economics, maybe even politics, but also psychiatry and psychology, which are completely opposite,” she says with a laugh.

Isabelle credits her teachers and GVGS’ career counsellor, Mrs Block, for perpetuating a positive, ‘everything will work out fine’ mentality. “Mrs Block has been telling us, ‘have some ideas, but you don’t need to know exactly what university course or career you want to do.’” Isabelle says that right now, her cohort seems more focused on doing well at their studies, “and then we’ll see where that takes us.”

While studying is the top priority, Year 12 is also about having fun. It’s

the last time you get to spend every day surrounded by the people you’ve pretty much grown up with, so it goes without saying that memories must be made, and lost time must be made up for—last year. Isabelle and her grade had their Presentation Ball, Eisteddfod and even a school trip to Europe cancelled due to the pandemic. “What can you do,” she says with a mature shrug.

Isabelle plays Goal Attack for the Stanhope Netball Club on the weekends. “It’s a good break from studying and it forces me to get out of the house, because once I start studying it can be hard to pull me out of that bubble.” She did press pause on her 13-year dance career to focus on school.

Peppered with events like Concert Under the Stars, Valentines Day and the House Swimming Carnival, the first

term was a busy one for Isabelle and her Co-Captain, Akhil. They are excited, she says, to “get some more new things up and running next term”.

“I would like to do something that really brings the school community together and involves the younger year levels, because of last year, not as many of us got to know each other.” It’s fitting, then, that the leader Isabelle looks up to most is New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern.

“I think she’s really inclusive and such a good role model. She stands up for the right things, regardless of race, religion or gender, she’s just really equal with everything she does,” says the School Captain. “I really think she’s a great role model for women.

Co-School Captain Akhil Gadde will be featured in the following edition of Nexus.



Peter Johnson, celebrated for 40 years of service

The original concept for Goulburn Valley Grammar School was the brainchild of a casual Sunday lunch between friends in 1979, a mere three years before the school officially opened in 1982. Peter Johnson, a Shepparton lawyer, was present for the lunch that then launched his 40 year involvement with the school. “Basically my involvement with the school started right from that lunch. One of the people there was Dr David Kings, who was a local GP at the time,” Mr Johnson says. “David had been on the Board at Wesley College when they had investigated a country campus in this area, but they had decided to not proceed with it.” It was during this conversation that Dr Kings proposed the idea of starting an independent private school in Shepparton. “David was a real educationalist, education for him was the key, and he was the inspiration for me, he was the catalyst, it was his concept and he was the driver,” he says. “I’d never contemplated anything like this, but I was a great admirer of David’s ability, his intellectual capacity and his commitment to whatever he did, the more I got involved the more I warmed to the whole idea.”

Soon after, a small committee was assembled to plan what the next steps would be. Mr Johnson knew the idea needed backing from the public if it was going to be successful. “We needed

acknowledgment from the community that not only there was a need, but that they would also be involved and send their children to the school,” Mr Johnson says. A public meeting was called to gauge local interest in the idea and people from across the region flocked to the Shepparton Town Hall to hear more. “We did not expect that,” he says of the over 200 attendees. “Unanimously everyone endorsed the notion of a private school because everyone was aware of the drift of kids to Melbourne boarding schools and the lack of educational choices in the area.” Due to the overwhelming success of the public meeting, an Interim Council was established which included local councillors, lawyers, real estate agents, teachers, retailers, business owners and parents. From the council, sub committees were consequently formed to explore educational style, pastoral care and uniforms. “We gradually established the concept and then it became a question of how we were going to do it,” Mr Johnson says. “The intention was to keep students here in the Goulburn Valley and provide an incentive for people to come to the area, we wanted to enlarge the opportunities for both students and the local population.”

Mr Johnson highlighted that there were key elements that had to be achieved in order to make the School a success. “There were

three things that were terribly important when starting the School: getting the land, financing the School and commitment from parents,” he says. Mr Johnson acknowledged the Grace family for facilitating the purchase of the land on which the School operates today, the State Bank for providing the necessary funds to fuel the project and the assurance from local parents that they would enrol their children at the School once it was operational. During these early days, a fundraising appeal took place and raised \$450,000 - equivalent to \$2.3 million today. “The response from the community to the fundraiser was wonderful and a lot of people who became eventual parents and grandparents at the School contributed,” Mr Johnson says.

With 90 students enrolled for the inaugural school year at GVGS, each year that passed saw more and more students enrolled from across the region. “There was a real interest from these outlying areas - Echuca, Tocumwal, Benalla - not just Shepparton, and that was surprising at the time,” he says. Mr Johnson commended the efforts of each Principal that has served the school, with special mentions to foundation Principal Mr Vic Ryall – “He was the right man for the job - he had the right style, commitment and vision” – and Mr David Prest. “He was very important for the school, he gave the school great credibility because of his

reputation, both as an administrator and an educationalist,” Mr Johnson says. “The disciplines he put into the school were exactly what we needed at that time. We have been very fortunate with the Principals the school has had over the years.”

Mr Johnson has been on the GVGS Finance Committee for almost four decades. “That’s how I’ve maintained my involvement with the school over the years,” he says. “The school has operated debt free for a number of years, waiting lists for every year and for me, it has fulfilled everything we were hoping for. It’s provided quality education, retained people within the community and it’s been an incentive for people to move to Shepparton.” Retiring from his role with the GVGS Finance Committee at the end of last year, Mr Johnson is looking forward to leaving behind a legacy of the recently established GVGS Foundation. “Once the school gets solid alumni behind it, you’ve got to be able to take advantage of that and harness what you can get from that,” he says. “It needs to be structured so that there is an ongoing connection and communication with past students.”

Moving into the future, Mr Johnson hopes that the school continues on the path it is on today. “I look at the school and know that this is exactly what we wanted, it’s what we aimed for,” he says. “I’m pleased that they are examining the concept of an early childhood learning centre and full primary schooling, so to build a school right from the early years and give to students a whole-of-schooling opportunity.” Mr Johnson intends to retain his membership with the School, continue attending Annual General Meetings and keep an eye on the ongoing progress of GVGS. He says that his decision to retire from his duties at the School was made



to make way for the next generation to contribute to the ongoing success of GVGS, in particular with the Foundation. “I think the Foundation will be integral in creating security for the School and building nest eggs for capital works so that there is always money there for the future,” he says.

Peter’s wife Carmel Johnson has also been a generous supporter and dear friend of the school for over 40 years. Carmel has attended countless events over the years and provided valuable assistance and advice particularly through her expertise in philanthropy and knowledge of the local community. Peter and Carmel have been generous donors to the School since foundation and have continued to sponsor academic prizes for students.

Reflecting back on his time with the School, Mr Johnson says it has been a team effort in making GVGS the success it is today. “One thing that has always astounded me was the dedication of so many people to

the School,” he says. “Over the years the people that ran the Parents and Friends, Mother’s Club and such - these groups are fundamental to the culture of the School, the parents are overwhelmingly committed, which is extraordinary.” Mr Johnson says that since that fateful lunch in 1979 he has learnt so much and the experience has opened his eyes to the deep complexities involved in creating successful education opportunities.

“Peter’s commitment to the School is profound. It is difficult to fully appreciate the scale of Peter’s contribution. Ever modest and never seeking recognition, Peter could always be relied on to place the interests of the School at the centre of his thoughts. The dream he helped bring to reality has changed the lives of thousands of young people in the Goulburn Valley. Those former students continue to make a very positive contribution at a state and national level. Peter Johnson will always be a dear friend of the School”. Mr Mark Torriero, Principal



ABOVE: Mr Peter Johnson together with wife Mrs Carmel Johnson have been long-term supporters of the School.

LEFT: Steering Committee - BACK ROW L-R: Mr John Day, Mr John Gaylard, Cr Murray Slee, Mr Bruce Williams, Dr John MacKellar. FRONT ROW L-R: Cr Tom Cochran, Mr Clyde Young, Mr Peter Johnson, Dr David Kings, Mr Ivan Gilbert, Cr Bill Hunter, Mrs Erna Werner.





GVGS's warm, caring Registrar retires after 38 years

Mrs Pam Wallace's involvement began in 1983 as a parent, in only GVGS's second year. This year, she has retired from "the best position in the School": that of Registrar.

"Being appointed to the position of Registrar and Assistant to the Principal in 1998 was most surprising to me; it had the greatest impact on my life. Although I had no previous experience in that type of role, Ian Rule – who was then Principal – appointed me and I am grateful for his belief in me."

Pam began as a volunteer parent while the library was being established. When it grew from "a few shelves in the back of Room 8" to today's dedicated space, she stepped into a part-time Library Assistant role.

"When the School was in the early days, all staff pitched in to do what was needed. Of course, only teachers were in the classrooms, but all of us did things to make sure that we could offer the programmes that founding Principal Mr Vic Ryall considered essential."

Pam's "pitching in" across volunteering and as GVGS staff included makeup for school productions over many years, managing locker allocation, helping in the Special Education Area – a job she very much loved

working under Lynda Lenne and Year 7 Tutor.

"Being a Tutor meant going on school camps and trips. It was such a privilege to help students in their transition to a new school, new friends and the start of their secondary education."

Principal Mr Ian Rule appointed Pam to her final role which she held for 23 years.

Those who've come into contact with Pam know that throughout her tenure as Registrar she has called upon her innate compassion; she's also worked from her experience as a hopefully-new parent, awaiting news of acceptance.

"When my oldest child was coming to the School, he didn't get offered a place until early November, and I could remember very distinctly that feeling of despair every time I'd hang up. I tried to bring that to bear when I was talking with parents: be honest and caring.

"So often I would be saying to people 'I'm sorry, there's unfortunately no place'. Some get cross with you, some accept it, and some are really lovely about it; the heart-felt tears

from parents are awful when they have their heart pinned on the School. I just think it's a great place, and so I understand perfectly why people want their children to be here. Of course, it's a different when you're delivering the good news!"

Over the years, Pam has seen GVGS grow from a small school to a well-established institution, with wonderful programmes and facilities for both students and staff.

"Best of all however, is that the School has maintained the caring ethos and culture established and inspired by the founding Principal Vic Ryall, and nurtured by the four Principals who have followed him.

Pam finds it near-impossible to narrow down too much those who have impacted her life at GVGS.

"I have met so many lovely people over the years. They all have an impact in one way or another. You always remember the way people make you feel and my retirement has brought this home very clearly, with lovely messages from many members of the School family – past and present.

"One comment from a dad end of last year really stuck with me: 'part of your heart goes

with every student'. It is so true, and I thank him for his kind words.

"It didn't matter whatever job I have done here, I've enjoyed all of it. My ethos has been to treat the children like you want your own child to be treated: with respect and looked after to the best of your ability and you hope they have a really good experience. You don't know whether the little ones feel that way or not at the time, so it was so nice to get feedback when I retired from a number of past students who had been in my tute groups that they always felt safe."

Pam says the things she will miss the most from her life at GVGS are being a daily part of an extraordinary community.

"Of seeing the students' achievements and how they grow from nervous, sometimes scared interviewees into capable, mature young men and women who graduate and become wonderful community members.

"I never planned on doing any particular role after I had children and was coming back to work; I just fell into volunteering in a couple of capacities here and then volunteering led me to having the best job in the world!

"This has just been a wonderful way to live for nearly 40 years."

Pam Wallace's family at GVGS includes sons Alan (Class 1988) and Marc (Class of 1991), followed by grandsons Zac (Class of 2021), Jordan (Class of 2023) and Archer (Class of 2025).



Mrs Pam Wallace has held a number of positions at GVGS including Librarian Assistant (above).

Farewells

Mrs Mary Bayly was originally appointed in 1990 as a teacher. She taught Keyboarding, Humanities, Accounting and Industry and Enterprise. Over the years her students achieved a total of 17 Premier's VCE Awards! Mary held many leadership roles in the School including Year Level Co-ordinator at Year 9 and 11 for a total of 14 years and Department Co-ordinator of Business and Humanities for 12 years. Mary has coordinated many important school events such as Presentation Ball, World Vision group and ANZAC Assembly.

Mr Steven Bayly commenced in 1990 and has taught Science, Mathematics and Chemistry. He has been a Tutor at Years 8, 11 and 12, Head of Ryall House and Science Co-ordinator. Steve resigned in 2007 returning in 2012 as Science teacher and e-Learning Co-ordinator, his current role. He has been involved in a vast range of activities including leading the introduction of our learning management system AGORA. Steve has been heavily involved in the co-curricular programme including Soccer coordination and leading the first STEM tours. He also composed the music and lyrics for the school song.

Mary and Steve (pictured above) are married and are both retiring and relocating to the coast. Their sons Max (Class of 2015) and Harris (Class of 2017) were students and school leaders. Steven retired at the end of Term 1 in 2021.



Mrs Anne Smith commenced in 1999 and has taught Indonesian language at all year levels and has served as Department Co-ordinator. Her training and knowledge of special education has been of great assistance in teaching students second languages. Anne is passionate about Indonesian language learning and represented the School on numerous trips to Indonesia. She was International Student Co-ordinator from 2001 until 2006 and hosted many Indonesian international students over the years. Her son Boyd is a past student (Class of 2005).



Ms Fiona Mackenzie commenced in 2009 and served in a diverse range of roles including classroom teaching of Year 6 Core, Humanities and Learning Support. Fiona held many leadership roles including coordinating the Voice and Communication programme and Year 5/6 Co-ordinator since 2016. Fiona resigned in January to accept a position at the Yiramalay / Wesley Studio School in the Kimberley region of WA. Fiona is a past school parent with her children Daisy (Class of 2013), Wilson (Class of 2014) and Hugh (Class of 2016) all attending the school.

Long Serving Staff

Long-term staff hold the institutional memory and culture of the School and therefore play a particularly important role in the School's stability and evolution. This year we thank and congratulate the following staff for their outstanding 20 years of service to the School.



Mr Angelo D'Andrea



Mrs Meagan Harrison



Mrs Julia Mathers

Alumni Relations Co-ordinator

With the School approaching its 40th anniversary the GVGS Foundation has identified the strengthening of relationships and connections with past students as a priority goal. The Board fully supports this and has recommended the School employ a staff member to co-ordinate the work.

The School is therefore delighted to have appointed Mr Glen Edwards as our first Alumni Relations Co-ordinator. Glen commenced in the role in January this year. He has been a passionate and deeply engaged member of the School community for over 33 years. His connections as a foundation student, long-serving teacher and passionate supporter have continued throughout this remarkable journey.

Glen was a foundation student commencing in 1982 and completing Year 12 in 1987. Glen remembers commencing school in the Shepparton United Football Clubrooms at Deakin Reserve. He also recalls once on campus that students wore slippers in class and gumboots outside. He vividly recollects the landslide losses when playing football against Shepparton High School.

Glen's brother Nathan and sister Rebecca are also past students. His parents Gary and Heather donated the Edwards Family Shield for the House Athletics Competition. Glen's children Ella and Mia are enrolled and will commence in the coming years.

In 1993 he was employed as a part-time Sport Co-ordinator and in 1994 he was appointed as a full-time Year 6 Teacher. He has taught from Years 5 to 9 in subjects such as Mathematics, English, Humanities, P.E. and Sport.

Through his genuine interest in young people, he established very positive relationships with a vast number of students over the years. He assisted with a diverse range of school activities including camps and international tours. He coached badminton, soccer, football, cricket and netball and remains Badminton Co-ordinator. His involvement in a wide range of school activities from house competitions and interschool sport has enabled him to get to know students in a range of contexts. He has also been the behind-the-scenes organiser of awards for Presentation Night.

For many years he has shown a deep interest in the School's heritage and has been a loyal and dedicated volunteer, working on archives and particularly the School's history book. He attended countless reunions and remains very interested in the progress and experiences of past students. This combined with his near photographic memory of students is a remarkable combination of talents and traits.

GVGS continues to be a major part of Glen's life. He has an abiding interest in our students and their journeys beyond school. He is greatly appreciated by current and past students with many naming Mr Edwards as one of their favourite teachers.

Glen is currently a Tutor at Year 9 and teaches Humanities and Personal Development. He is also excited to be undertaking the new role of Alumni Relations Co-ordinator on a part-time basis. The Board and the School is delighted to welcome Glen to this new role and looks forward to the development of closer relationships with our past students.

Alumni Relations plans for 2021

The School has an ambitious plan regarding alumni relations for 2021. Glen has already begun working on some of the priorities including:

- auditing and updating our contact details for past students
- establishing a past student working group to inform the projects and priorities
- making connections with representatives from each year group
- learning more about the lives of our past students
- establishing a social media platform for communicating with past students
- reviewing our events
- updating the archive collections.

Contact Glen Edwards

Alumni Relations Co-ordinator

Glen would love to hear from past students who would like to catch up. Glen can help with reunion information and our plans for the future. He would welcome photos or archival materials from school days. Glen is also keen to talk with past students who are interested in helping coordinate year level communications.

e: alumni@gvgs.vic.edu.au

p: +61 3 5833 3300





Alumni statistics

92 foundation students - 1982

First Year 12 cohort - 1986

3800 past GVGS students

52 alumni are current parents

25 alumni are both past students and now past parents

Currently 7 staff were past students

272 GVGS staff alumni

Let's connect!

Save the date, 2021 Reunions

Saturday, October 16

- Class of 1986 – 35-year reunion
- Class of 1990 – 31-year reunion
- Class of 1991 – 30-year reunion
- Class of 1995 – 26-year reunion
- Class of 1996 – 25-year reunion
- Class of 2000 – 21-year reunion
- Class of 2001 – 20-year reunion
- Class of 2005 – 16-year reunion
- Class of 2006 – 15-year reunion
- Class of 2010 – 11-year reunion
- Class of 2011 – 10-year reunion

Saturday, November 20

- Class of 2016 – 5-year reunion

Saturday, December 4

- Class of 2015 - 6-year reunion

Further information will be provided on the school website closer to the events. www.gvgs.vic.edu.au

Update your information

Head to our website at www.gvgs.vic.edu.au and click on the Alumni tab to provide and/or update your information.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:
 Mr Edwards with past student and current staff member Fiona Davis (nee Harwood); Mr Edwards attended GVGS with siblings Nathan and Rebecca; Mr Edwards commenced in 1993 as Sport Co-ordinator and is pictured with the House Athletics, Edwards Family Shield; Coach Mr Edwards with the 1998 U15 Netball Team; Mr Edwards has held several roles including the school's Badminton Co-ordinator.

Champion for human rights **Amanda Alford**

Social justice has always been a passion for past GVGS student and 2002 School Captain, Amanda Alford.

As a human rights Lawyer, Amanda has spent much of her career working toward building a more fair and equal society.

Her latest role is as a Director at the Australian Human Rights Commission, working on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces. The Review follows the recent allegations of sexual misconduct in the Commonwealth Parliament and will build on the findings of Respect@Work – the 2020 inquiry into sexual harassment in Australian workplaces.

For Amanda, this role builds on her experience working in human rights and law reform.

Amanda's enthusiasm for social justice has always been a prevalent part of her life, including her time at GVGS.

'I think my classmates and teachers are likely to remember me as being interested in social justice at school!'

'Throughout my schooling and career to date I've been committed to making a difference to social justice and human rights. Working in roles that are consistent with those values has been really important for me'

Amanda started school at GVGS in Year 7 after her family made the move from Melbourne to country Victoria.

'It was a big change at the time but it turned out to be a wonderful one,' she said. 'I loved the sense of community and all the things that come from living in the country.'

Looking back on her time at GVGS, Amanda has fond memories of participating in activities like debating, sport and school productions.

'I was always the kind of person who was involved in everything,' she said, 'I still am.'

'I thought it was such an incredible school with amazing teachers and students as well as a wonderful school community. I realised it at the time but it is even more clear to me now that I have two little girls and I am able to look back on my time at GVGS.'

Amanda said she was always 'very intent' on studying either law, politics or a combination of the two.

After finishing Year 12 at GVGS in 2002, she did just that – accepting a scholarship to complete a double degree in Arts/Law at the Australian National University in Canberra. She then went on to complete her Honours in both Law and Arts, and later completed a Masters of Law at Sydney University.

Amanda has worked in a range of roles across governments and the not-for-profit sector, both domestically and internationally.

Amanda's legal career began at the Australian Government Solicitor. She then went on to roles at the Australian Law Reform Commission, Community Legal Centres Australia and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

'I've had a range of roles, but mainly those kinds of legal, systemic reform, social justice and human rights roles.'

'For example, I worked at the peak body for community legal centres for many years doing all the national and international human rights policy and advocacy work. So, I spent quite a lot of time working on human rights issues, including through engagement with UN mechanisms'. 'I've also spent a lot of time in parliament doing political advocacy and national campaigns.'

Amanda credits her time working on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a career 'standout'.

'The UPR is essentially Australia's human rights scorecard. Every few years Australia

gets reviewed at the UN by other member states and our human rights record gets examined. It's a key way that we can hold government to account for its human rights record.'

'I led the Australian NGO coalition that worked on the last UPR. That involved working with over 200 non-government organisations across Australia to develop suggested recommendations for other member states, developing a priorities list, working with government, going to Geneva and meeting with individual member states.'

In the end, a huge number of the questions and recommendations that other countries asked of Australia were the ones that we had suggested to them.'

In 2019, Amanda accepted a position as a Director with the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, where she was responsible for leading strategic and work planning across the Royal Commission. In April 2021, Amanda accepted an offer to join the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Like most, work looked a little different for Amanda last year, who spent the year largely working from home alongside her wife Natalie, who is also a lawyer and their two young daughters, Isabelle (aged five) and Grace (aged two).

'We often had little visitors in the background of video conferences', Amanda joked.

'We're so lucky that Brisbane managed to avoid the worst of Covid-19 in many ways.'

'It was nice to have that time at home because we are all usually so busy. I think our craft output exponentially increased.'

On top of work and parenthood, Amanda also spends her time volunteering in the community.

She is currently a Management Committee Member at the Caxton



Legal Centre, the Griffith University Law School Visiting Committee and is the coach of her daughter's Auskick team. She has previously volunteered her time with organisations such as the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Australian Pro Bono Centre, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety and the Women Lawyers' Association of NSW.

So, what does Amanda do with her spare time?

'Two mums, both lawyers, two little girls, full time work and quite a bit of volunteering... there is no spare time!'

Looking to the future, Amanda is committed to continuing her work in human rights and making meaningful change.

'Working toward a more equal and just global community - I think that's just the thing I love.'

ABOVE: Amanda (right) with wife Natalie and their two daughters Isabelle (5) and Grace (2).

Amy Whitten promoting inclusion

In 2016 Amy Whitten was in her final year of a Masters in Occupational Therapy (OT) when she co-founded BEAM, a not-for-profit all-abilities movement-to-music programme.

BEAM not only reflected Amy's OT studies but provided the opportunity to incorporate her love of dance. Amy, who had begun dance classes at the age of three, considered a career in the art form and after completing Year 12 at GVGS in 2011, she took a gap year to dance at two Melbourne based dance academies.

However, according to the Riverine Herald, after her 12 month gap year was up, Amy was keen to head off to university and pursue a career in the health sector. Echuca-born Amy was also motivated to return to rural Victoria. In 2013 she commenced her course at La Trobe University in Bendigo.

"The Bendigo course is a bit different because it is included in the Rural Health School so there is a real focus of rural health, which is what I am really passionate about."

While in her final year, Amy was approached by two mothers who encouraged her to start the BEAM programme. The trio saw a gap in what was offered for people with disabilities.



Amy told the Riverine Herald, "I had worked in dance schools and the like where it was very structured and you had to have a certain disability to be involved and it just didn't sit right with me.

"I just thought 'Why does it have to be so segregated, why can't everyone be involved?'

"We wanted to start something that was completely inclusive for everyone".

BEAM, which stands for, believe, empower, acceptance and meaning, has been well received and Amy's pursuit for social change has not gone unnoticed. In both 2017 and 2018, she a finalist in the Victorian Young Achiever Awards. Amy was also named a 2018 Young Social Pioneer by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) and went on to receive \$10,000 through the FYA's Seed Funding Award for her winning pitch to further develop BEAM.

Since completing her degree, Amy has developed her clinical skills working as an OT in Bendigo and Echuca. An enthusiastic learner, she has also undertaken further courses to develop a greater understanding of brain development and mental health impacts on children and youth. Her area of practice has subsequently evolved to support mental health and wellbeing, productivity, self-care and leisure.

In 2019 Amy established her own Allied Health business, The Therapy Factory in Echuca, which she manages in conjunction with the BEAM programme.

The pandemic has meant some plans have been put on hold, however Amy remains positive about her developing career, "I am incredibly grateful for the support from my family, friends, educators and colleagues who have pushed me to think creatively and say yes to all opportunities. I look forward to my future journey, growing and supporting communities by providing care and opportunities to those that need it".



GVGS Alumni

Catching up with Carolyn Aldous

Past Goulburn Valley Grammar School student and 1999 School Captain, Carolyn Aldous (pictured) has some outstanding advice for the measurement of success that we can all benefit from.

While focussing on good academic results and achieving the best possible ATAR score is a major priority and at the forefront of many student's minds, Carolyn explains that our definition of success changes throughout our lives.

"Sometimes it is about your career and other times it is about creating a great relationship and building a family," she explains.

She also adds that it is imperative that when the opportunities arise then it is your responsibility to jump at them.

"I moved to Hong Kong 10 years ago with one suitcase, having never been there.

"It was daunting, but I couldn't have imagined the career opportunities, friendship or travel adventures I've been

afforded because of being brave then."

Carolyn Aldous is the Managing Director of Peerpoint, Allen & Overy which is a leading global consultancy resourcing business that matches lawyers to businesses. She is passionate about helping her clients access the skills and expertise of talented lawyers to meet their short-term resourcing needs, but in equal measure, helping lawyers take control of their careers.

However, getting to where she is now in her career was not where she started, and she has some advice for those not sure where they may be headed.

"My advice would be that you use your interests as a way to find the right career path for yourself.

"It is often difficult deciding on the exact job or career you might want to pursue in the future so one of the ways to get an insight into what you might enjoy (or not) is to seek out internship opportunities and work experience that matches your interests."

Having a real curiosity about the business world, Carolyn chose to undertake a Bachelor of Commerce at Monash University after completing Year 12 at GVGS and then went on to obtaining a Graduate Certificate in Employee and Industrial Relations, Master of Marketing and Master of Business Administration.

According to Carolyn, having a mentor is also beneficial in helping you to make the right choices for yourself.

"The right mentoring relationship can help increase your confidence, it can give you a broader perspective on career options and opportunities or allow you to gain practical advice, as well as learn from your mentor's experience.

Carolyn is also one of Allen & Overy's mental health advocates as she is passionate about the legal profession being a healthier and more sustainable career choice.

"I've witnessed first-hand the pressures of performing at the highest levels and



the impact addiction, anxiety and depression can have on an individual and their immediate relationships and felt I wanted to help,” she says.

“For those of you who are in the senior school years and others too, it’s important that you are able to discuss your mental health and the things that are on your mind that may be concerning you with those around you – whether that’s your friends, teachers or members of your family.”

“I know I’m most happy when I’m no-where near social media and now relish the idea of acquaintances not having this type of access to me.

“Managing your social media engagement when you feel anxious or helplessness is very important, as is knowing what isn’t appropriate content and how to ask for help. There are some great organisations out there that you can contact if you need help such as Beyond Blue, Black Dog Institute and Batyr.”

She believes that by talking openly about mental health it helps end the stigma and normalise the conversation, so it becomes natural.

Carolyn has many fond memories of her time at GVGS, particularly the outdoor education “adventures” and the overseas trips offered.

“The friendships I formed while walking through high mud on the Overland Track, sitting in the Denpasar airport waiting for yet another delayed flight, or climbing the hills of the Annapurna region are enduring.

“These trips were mind expanding, perspective gaining and a very special part of what GVGS offers students.

“While international travel is off the cards at the moment, now is a great time to save your pennies so you are ready to say, ‘yes’ when the next opportunity presents itself.”

Her final word of advice is to attend the GVGS reunions.

“It’s a great reminder of no matter how far you wander, you share history with an incredible group of people who celebrate each other’s choices and want only the best for each other.

“I nearly didn’t attend my 20th reunion, only to have several people convince me and even pick me up from the airport to get me to Verney Road...it was a great night!”

House histories, long-standing records

The first House Carnivals were held in the school’s foundation year of 1982. These carnivals have provided the opportunity to compete for the House colours, however many individuals have achieved their personal best and set records along the way. Below is a list of students whose record-breaking efforts have endured over the years.

- 1987 - Year 10 800m (2:37.52) **Andrea James** (McLennan)
- 1987 - Year 10 100m (13.00) **Andrea James** (McLennan)
- 1987 - Year 12 1500m (5:05.00) **Julienne Pogue** (McLennan)
- 1988 - Year 6 High Jump (.42m) **Steven Roussac** (Fairley)
- 1988 - Year 12 Discus (39.90m) **Mark Goodley** (McLennan)
- 1990 - Year 12 Javelin (45.75m) **Nathan Edwards** (Fairley)
- 1991 - Year 9 200m (24.13) **Rhys Popple** (Ryall)
- 1991 - Year 12 200m (23.60) **Matthew Lenne** (McLennan)
- 1994 - Year 12 50m Butterfly (32.70) **Shelley Cardwell** (Dunlop)
- 1995 - Year 12 Shot Put (4.29m) **James Bourke** (McLennan)
- 1996 - Year 9 800m (2:32.03) **Alethe West** (McLennan)
- 1996 - Year 9 Long Jump (4.62m) **Alethe West** (McLennan)
- 1996 - Year 9 Triple Jump (10.28m) **Alethe West** (McLennan)
- 1996 - Year 12 1500m (4:30.94) **Dale Woonton** (Ryall)
- 1997 - Year 7 800m (2:36.45) **Meagan Richmond** (Dunlop)
- 1997 - Year 10 Shot Put (13.94m) **Kurt Reimanis** (McLennan)
- 1997 - Year 10 400m (1:05.99) **Alethe West** (McLennan)
- 1998 - Year 12 800m (2:31.42) **Alethe West** (McLennan)
- 1998 - Year 10 Triple Jump (12.19m) **Jeff Anderson** (Fairley)
- 1999 - Year 9 High Jump (1.58m) **Meagan Richmond** (Dunlop)
- 1999 - Year 9 Long Jump (5.45m) **Carl Reimanis** (McLennan)
- 1999 - Year 12 Triple Jump (10.19m) **Alethe West** (McLennan)
- 2000 - Year 10 High Jump (1.55m) **Meagan Richmond** (Dunlop)

Note: McLennan and Fairley were established in 1982. Ryall and Dunlop were established in 1991 when the schools student population had grown to support 4 Houses.

Due to the Cross Country being run on various courses over the years records are not compared.

The information above includes unbroken records set between 1982-2000.

At the frontline Dr Jesse Zanker, FRACP

Born in Geelong and raised in Echuca, Dr Zanker commenced at Goulburn Valley Grammar School in Year 10 after completing his first three years of high school education in his hometown. During his final year of VCE, Dr Zanker showed obvious leadership skills and a bright future ahead with multiple notable accolades to his name including receiving the Maxwell Brown Award for Citizenship, being awarded the Federal Government Highest Achieving Student Prize and holding the title of School Captain. “I had a tremendous time at GVGS, but when I first started I remember being quite upset at myself for my inability to keep up with everyone in Mathematics... it was a big learning curve, it took a bit of adjusting at the beginning,” he says. “The school supported me to set goals that maybe I otherwise wouldn’t have set and gave me the framework to realise and reach my potential, while being in a really fun environment with great people at the same time.”

Dr Zanker kept both his personal connections and social life equal priorities as he studied at GVGS from 2002 to 2004. “My closest friends still are the ones from school, every year for the past five years we’ve had a Christmas dinner in Collingwood with about 20 friends and it’s always great fun, it’s always a bit wild,” he says with a laugh. “We were really lucky with how tight knit we were and I think this has been a bit of a sad point because it’s been really highlighted in the last few years when we tragically lost some special people from our year level. This made us realise how precious our friendships are and how much support we can offer to one another and to enjoy our time together while we’ve got it.” Dr Zanker has many fond memories of his time with GVGS, noting the high caliber of teaching staff during his three years with the school and the impact they had on him. “I had

brilliant teachers while I was at Grammar, and I really felt that they explored how I could learn best and tapped into my interests as well, I always had an interest in medicine, but the school created a space where I could discover that and also reach my potential,” he says. “I was very fortunate with my peer group, while we had a lot of fun we also wanted to do well and I think that was the dominant culture in our year level, many of us ended up around College Crescent,” he says, referring to the various Melbourne University colleges that arc around the Parkville campus.

In 2005, Dr Zanker began his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) undergraduate degree at The University of Melbourne, which included a research year focusing on public and international health where he was based in Bangalore, India for some months. Dr Zanker moved around the state as he progressed through his undergraduate course, spending time at Shepparton’s Rural Clinical School, as well as Ballarat Health Services, Western Health and The Royal Melbourne Hospital, before graduating in 2010. At this point in his career Dr Zanker was keen to focus on paediatrics, but while completing mandatory rotations as an intern he met a geriatrician that made him consider his options. “I really loved the mix of ethics, human rights, medicine, social context and using all of that to create a plan that meets the patient’s values and preferences,” he says of his time as an intern where he completed an aged care rotation. “Working as a geriatrician is very much person focused, not process driven or organ focused.”

In 2012, Dr Zanker started studying his Masters of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (MPHTM) through James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland and opted to work as a locum doctor,

travelling around the country working in conjunction with his on-line studies.

In 2018 Dr Zanker became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP), with recognition as a consultant physician in geriatric medicine.

At the beginning of 2020 he received a call from Western Health asking for his immediate assistance with the growing number of COVID-19 cases in aged care facilities in Melbourne’s West.

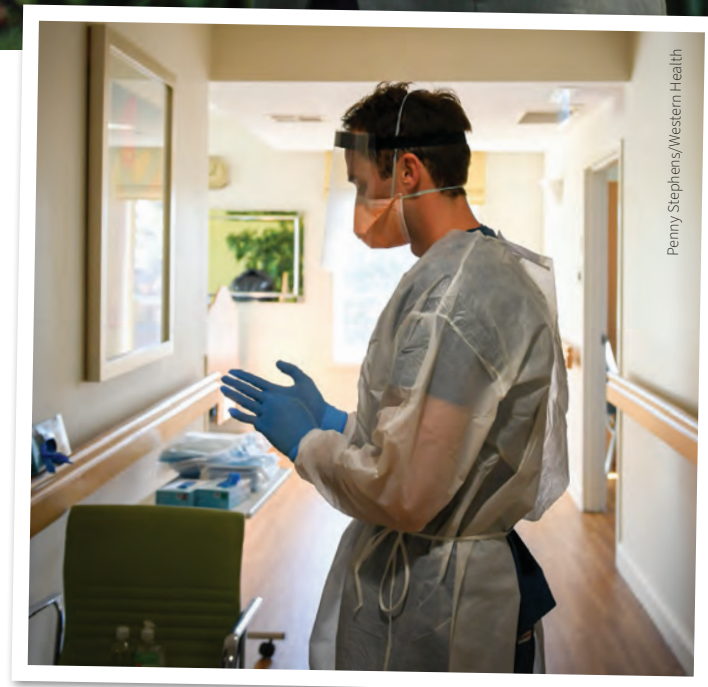
With a hasty induction, Dr Zanker and a team of healthcare professionals were thrown in to provide acute medical care to 45 aged care facilities that were buckling under the mounting pressure put on their existing staff due to COVID-19. “In many nursing homes, there are residents who have dementia, as well as hearing and vision impairment, which adds to their overall frustration and anxiety,” he says. “In many instances, the admin staff walked because they were scared and so there was no one answering the phones and important messages from DHHS were missed because there was no administrative support at the time.” Dr Zanker recalls a time at an aged care facility he was working at when an elderly couple who were married for 65 years were separated and never saw each other again, passing away separately. “It was quite overwhelming to see the flaws in the aged care system being highlighted and put on display in such a dramatic way,” he says. “Sometimes notifications of new cases would come in 5-10 days late and by then the whole facility was infected,” he says. Dr Zanker says that although making tough clinical decisions during this time was stressful, the absence of clear ethical frameworks, coupled with communication barriers, that made providing care difficult at the time. “When you think about how you typically relay difficult information to a family - in a room, face-to-face and

being able to talk things out - this was now having to be done behind layers of PPE and over a phone, and in a lot of cases it was during a time last year when people weren't being allowed access to see their loved ones, even on compassionate grounds," he says. "People were unfortunately dying alone and it was very tragic."

Dr Zanker knew the probability of him becoming severely unwell was unlikely during his time working in the aged care outbreaks across Melbourne. "If you've got the right PPE and are taught how to use it, then in most cases you're going to be OK." Ultimately, his stringent PPE processes were to protect those around him.

Reflecting back on his media appearances throughout 2020 - including ABC's 7.30 report, Channel 7's breakfast show program Sunrise and multiple interviews with The Age newspaper - Dr Zanker didn't particularly enjoy being in the limelight, but knew this was an opportunity to publicly address the injustices he was witnessing each day and to show the wider community why lock-down restrictions were so vital. "Putting my academic work on hold last year made me realise how much I enjoy my clinical work, I felt for the first time I was using all my clinical skills that I'd been building for 15 years."

When asked for his advice successfully enduring the past 12 months as a medical professional during a pandemic, Dr Zanker's advice is succinct. "Work hard when you've gotta work hard, but life's too short so enjoy life when you can," he says. "I think that's the fundamental point to come out of last year."



LEFT: Dr Zanker prepares for a shift during the 2020 pandemic.



Passionate learner, Sally Hayes aims to make a difference

Having never seen herself as a politician, Sally Hayes-Burke (Class of 2006) was elected to Strathbogie Shire Council's Seven Creeks Ward last year.

She's also not that keen on the spotlight. What does drive her, however, is making a difference.

"I knew that some change needed to happen in the region with changing demographics and global warming and I wanted to make a difference. I don't want to be a person complaining about things not changing and do nothing about it."

Sally was also part of making history last year: for the first time, Strathbogie Shire has a majority of women councillors.

The other thing that drives her is the opportunity to learn.

"I wanted the challenge of being on the Council, but I also knew it would be another opportunity to learn. Sometimes I think I'm addicted to learning!"

Born in Euroa where she once again lives with her young family, Sally did her primary schooling there and in Longwood, before her family moved to Shepparton in 2000, when she began at GVGS in Year 7.

Then in 2004, instead of heading into Year 11 with her peers, Sally headed off to France for a



year as a Rotary exchange student at a high school called Lycée Saint Ambroise in France's east.

"I think I've always been pretty mature, but I grew up a lot in that year. I just loved it."

She says interestingly in Year 12, late former footballer Tom Hafey was a guest speaker at school, striking an unexpected chord with her and motivating her to make the most of her life.

"His comment that he ran every day and lived well because he didn't want to spend any time being unhealthy as he valued his life so much sparked me to start running; he probably motivated me to do well in my VCE too."

Although unsure what she wanted to do after Year 12, Sally knew she wanted to go to The University of Melbourne, where she did an undergraduate Arts degree followed by a post-graduate

Law degree at Monash. Shortly after her undergraduate degree, she spent seven years as the assistant to the Vice Chancellor at The University of Melbourne.

"One thing I was very happy to have achieved at Melbourne Uni was setting up the farmers' market there in 2016, which was a huge success."

She later worked for a year as a lawyer before having her two children, which she and her husband are now thoroughly enjoying raising in her home town.

Sally's time as an exchange student ranks highly in her memories – along with some special teachers at GVGS.

"Mr Field taught graphics and also acted as the careers advisor, and while I didn't really rely on him for that sort of advice, I felt we really understood each other. My legal studies teacher, Julia Mathers, also really stands out, along with Mr Edwards



and Mr Cathcart, who was my tute teacher and my geography teacher, Jeff Moran, who lives in the Strathbogie Shire.”

Another who stands out strongly is English teacher, Mr Todd.

“He was a good teacher because he really challenged us. I remember at the time thinking he was pretty tough, but I needed that – I wasn’t great at English and I appreciate it now.”

Of course, French remains as a love for Sally.

“I try and read stories to my girls in French, which they enjoy too.”

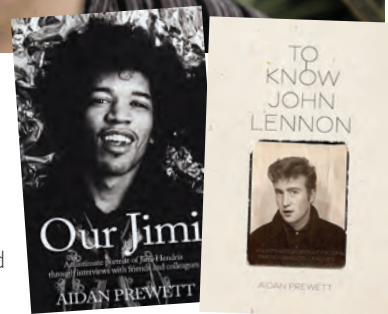
It’s another way the former GVGS student continues her lifelong passion of learning.

ABOVE: Cr Sally Hayes-Burke is pictured with husband Simon and children Roma (1) and Frankie (2).

Alumni Updates



The 2019 Spring/Summer edition of Nexus, featured Class of 2004 alumni, Aiden Prewett with the release of his book *Woodstock at 50: Anatomy of a Revolution*. Since then Aiden has been busy compiling a further two titles. *Our Jimi* released in September features interviews with the friends, family and musical colleagues of legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix. *To Know John Lennon* is based on conversations with the friends and colleagues of John Lennon and will be available later in the year. Political Animal Press publishes Aiden’s books.



The band *Go Dog Go* made up of Class of 2016 alumni Winton Findlay, Charlie Bowmaker, Tobi Oladele and Class of 2017 alumni James Cowling have continued to pursue their passion for music since graduating from GVGS. Their 2020 released single titled *Isolation* and their 2021 single titled *The Movie* are available on Spotify. Alternatively you can visit the *Go Dog Go* Facebook page for the latest information.

Photos from the Archives

THIS PAGE: L-R FROM TOP: Different Drummers; Foundation staff, 1982; Tutorial group from the Class of 1996; Foundation staff and students, 1988; 1984 Year 5 class; Staff 1986.

OPPOSITE PAGE: L-R FROM TOP LEFT: Tutorial group from the Class of 1996; GVG's inaugural Year 12 class graduated in 1986; 1982 House Cross Country; tute group from the Class of 2000; Eisteddfod Raft races on King's Lake; the Class of 2001 Indonesian class; Class of 1991 in their netball jumpers.







Kahn Sutherland (Class of 2013) and Satsuki Roe of Shepparton welcomed triplets on December 3, 2020. A boy and two girls Pictured L-R: Suvi, Emrys and Mina. Instagram: @theres.some.roes.in.this.house



Annie Carter (nee Thompson, Class of 2008) and husband Shane had a boy Jack on January 18, 2021. Jack is a brother for Evie (2). The Carter family are living in Shepparton.



Lyndon Galea (Class of 2009) and wife Belinda have welcomed their first child Luca Galea. Luca was born on April 9, 2021. The Galea family are living in Melbourne.



Class of 2006 alumni Ella Bradshaw welcomed a daughter, Hadley Flora Bradshaw on March 9, 2021. Hadley was born at GV Health weighing a healthy 3.74kg. Ella and Hadley are living in Nagambie.



William David Barry is the first child of Sarah Barry (nee Hamilton, Class of 2010) and Nicholas Barry (Class of 2010). He was born on August 25, 2020. The Barry family currently reside in Albury, NSW.



Alex Vibert (Class of 2013) and partner Uriah Green welcomed their first child Freya Layne Green on October 5, 2020. Freya was born at Colac Area Health.



Chelsea Sali was born on March 4, 2021 and is the third child of Shane (Class of 2005) and Lirie Sali. Chelsea is pictured with older brothers Jacob (left) and Lachlan (right).



Nicola Puckett was born July 28, 2020 and is the second child of Tina (nee Demaio, Class of 2012) and Bill Puckett. Nicola is pictured with Tina and big brother Theodore James. The Puckett family are living in Cobram.



Charlie Fenech was born on March 23, 2021. He is the second child for GVGGS staff member Kathryn D'Elia and Matthew Fenech and a little brother to Ellie (2). Miss D'Elia will return from parental leave at the end of 2021.



Kate Collins (Class of 2008) married Armaan Mohd Amin in Melbourne at The Old Treasury Building. After postponing twice Kate and Armaan were married between lock-downs on December 18, 2020. Kate and Armaan are working as doctors in Melbourne, having met on rotation to Echuca hospital in 2015.



Laura Pankhurst (Class of 2011) married Jacob Johnson at Perricoota Station on December 19, 2020. They were lucky with their wedding in NSW where they could have all their guests join them to celebrate after postponing in April 2020. Laura is a current teaching staff member at Goulburn Valley Grammar School.



On October 10 2020, Martha Craig (Class of 2016) and Mitchell Prewett (Class of 2012) married at Split Point Lighthouse, Airey's Inlet. Martha will soon finish studying a double degree of Criminology and Law at Deakin while Mitchell a Senior Constable of Victoria Police is now a Prosecutor at the Ballarat Magistrates Court.



Mae Mactier (Class of 2011) married Lachlan Baulch on April 10, 2021 at Baie Wines on the Bellarine Peninsula. Mae works as a community lawyer for people with disabilities in Geelong and they live in the house they are renovating in Geelong West.



Vale - Melanie Brown

Melanie Brown commenced at the school in Year 7, 1993 and completed Year 12 in 1998. Melanie was a very popular student developing strong relationships with a diverse range of people across the school community. She was very active in the full life of the school. A talented saxophonist she performed in many ensembles and was involved in school productions and ANZAC services. She was a Peer Support Leader and popular member of the Benalla bus contingent.

Beyond school Melanie continued her commitment to caring for others through her profession as a nurse. Many members of the school community recall Melanie fondly both as a past student and a long serving nurse in Emergency department at Goulburn Valley Health.

The Class of 1998 supported Melanie, including producing a video with messages and photos in the final months of her illness. We extend our thoughts to her mother Anne, brother Daniel (Class of 2002) and extended family.

Vale - Kate Price

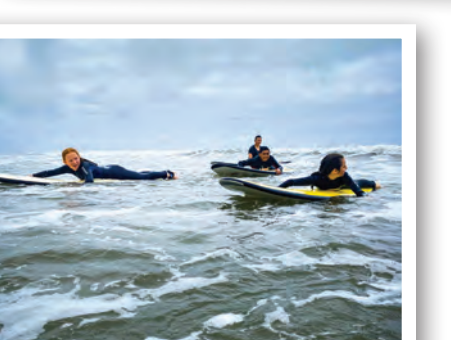
Kate was a past student of GVGS (Class of 1994) and attended the school with her siblings Lukas (Class of 1990, deceased), and Nick (Class of 1997). Kate is the mother of current student Jaida Welsh in Year 12. Kate's parents Len and Glenda Price have been long supporters of the school and have been particularly close grandparents to Jaida. Len Price has worked for the school professionally in his role as engineer.

The school community is deeply saddened and extends our sympathies to Jaida and her extended family.

It's great to be back

On the final day of Term 1 the School held the inaugural Gratitude Assembly. The purpose of this assembly was to take time to pause, reflect on and be grateful for the many opportunities and privileges we experience both as members of Australian society and the School community. After the challenges of 2020, many in the GVGS community have expressed their gratitude for not only returning to on-site learning but being able to participate in the many GVGS events, activities and traditions. Here we share some highlights from Term 1 and 2.

L-R FROM TOP: Senior Production, "Return to the Stage"; Founders Hall, Friday Assembly; Concert Under the Stars; Peer Support Programme activity; Harmony Day activities; Valentines Day celebrations; Year 7 camp; The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence; Year 5 and Year 9 Buddies; House Athletics Carnival.



**GOULBURN VALLEY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**
SEMPER ULTERIUS

For upcoming events visit www.gvgs.vic.edu.au