



# WHITEFRIR



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MAY 2021

*Belong. Believe. Become.*



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# Board Report

There is much on the horizon for Whitefriars College in 2021, important among these hopes is acknowledging the College's 60th anniversary.



Margaret McKenna

There are many differences and changes when one considers the College of 1961, and the College of today. The visible signs of growth, development, student learning and choices, as well as the opportunities that technology has provided, are but a snapshot of the 60-year journey. More significantly is the continuity of people who have carried the story, vision and commitment of the founding Carmelites. This continuity and enduring commitment to a Catholic Carmelite education for the young men enrolled here are a great strength of Whitefriars College as a thriving Catholic community. History tells us of the vision, creativity, adaptability and determination of the founding Carmelites and their teacher/student and parent partners. Today we stand on their shoulders, acknowledging their contributions and proudly continuing the journey that began so long ago. Today's students, staff, parents and Board continue the story and strength of that early community in new and different ways.

The College, now an incorporated entity, is governed by a Board, all of whom are appointed by Carmelite Prior Provincial Fr Paul Cahill, O.Carm. The Board's work continues the stewardship of the Carmelites with a focus on the strategic, mission and financial governance of Whitefriars College. In planning for the future, the Board work in partnership with principal, Mark Murphy and his Leadership Team, always striving for the best educational opportunities for current and future students.

The Board members for 2021 are as follows: Fr Hugh Brown, O.Carm, Fr David Hofman, O.Carm, David Alcock, Damien Cairns, Norman Elliott, Leonie Kearney, Margaret McKenna, Gaynor Robson-Garth, Nicholas Soraghan, James Thomson and Mark Walters.

At the end of 2020, the Board and College farewelled two women who have made remarkable contributions to the Whitefriars College Board over many years: Anne McKenna and Karlene Treyvaud.

Anne began at Whitefriars some 25 years ago. In the same era, Karlene joined the Finance Committee and then the inaugural Board. Anne has shared her many gifts and great loyalty to the College in the various roles that she has undertaken. She was the first 'Development Officer' overseeing enrolment, marketing and communications; a position now filled by a team. She then moved to the roles of inaugural College Archivist and then Board Secretary. Anne's talents, with her husband Brendan, helped produce and direct cabaret nights and musicals. Anne choreographing them and Brendan providing the lighting. Whitefriars College and the Carmelite community are woven through Anne's work and family life; her four sons attended Whitefriars College and her brother is a Carmelite priest.

Karlene joined the Finance Committee in 1995, at a time when her four sons were also students here. Later she joined the Board, whilst also continuing as a member of the Finance Committee. For many years Karlene has been a wise and insightful Chair of Finance.

Anne and Karlene have contributed their gifts and talents with gracious generosity and willingness to work for the best outcomes for all students. The continuity of Whitefriars College story is about men and women like Anne and Karlene, who embody the College motto, 'Almae In Fide Parentis' in the care of a loving mother. We thank them for their enduring commitment to the Carmelites and Whitefriars College, and wish them both every blessing in the future.

On behalf of the Whitefriars College Board, I wish every student, staff member and the wider College community a rich and fulfilling year.

**Mrs Margaret McKenna**  
Board Chair

# Principal's Report

It is with great joy and excitement that I pen this article from my office here amidst the beautiful grounds of Whitefriars College.



"I would like to take the opportunity to say how grateful I am to all in our Whitefriars family for the generosity, graciousness, resilience and support you have demonstrated through this challenging period."

I mention my location deliberately as this time last year I was in the less salubrious surrounds of my study at home during the first of two periods of home learning. Those words, joy and excitement, describe the prevailing atmosphere at Whitefriars since we commenced the new year at school. There is definitely a sense that all who venture through the gates here each day are taking this place less for granted than they did before. Staff are enjoying the opportunity to interact and collaborate with their colleagues, students are revelling in the company of their mates in the yard, and teachers and students have a newfound appreciation of the classroom as a place of learning.

I would like to take the opportunity to say how grateful I am to all in our Whitefriars family for the generosity, graciousness, resilience and support you have demonstrated through this challenging period. From our parents who partnered with us and placed their trust in the College to educate and look after their sons; to our staff whose work ethic, dedication, creativity and adaptability was inspirational, and to our students who walked with us and whose selfless support of each other gave us all great cause for hope that they were well on the way to becoming fine gentle men of Whitefriars.

Following an experience, such as the one imposed upon us by the Pandemic, it is important to stop and reflect on what we have learnt and how that learning will influence what we do next. I believe one of the greatest tragedies of last year would be if we learnt nothing at all and reverted to old ways.

From an education perspective we discovered that learning can take place remotely. Our teachers and Learning Diversity staff worked together to provide our students with meaningful and thoughtfully prepared lessons with a focus on explicit teaching, varied assessment, blended learning and explicit questioning. There was also an emphasis on assisting the students to critique the world outside the classroom. These observations will have a definite impact on future practice. The potential for online modules to enable students to work at their own pace, transition modules to assist students as they move from primary to secondary school, changes to assessment and online feedback are just some of the opportunities which have come from the experiences of 2020.

Advancements in learning pedagogy are an important part of this story. However, it is the growth and development of people which we essentially are about and 2020 provided new and unexpected opportunities for this to occur.



The Whitefriars Home Learning experience was a time of rich growth for all of us. Our staff developed greater agility and problem-solving skills as they shifted from face to face to remote learning. Their technological skills blossomed and collaboration between teachers grew along with selflessness and empathy for those doing it tough. The resilience of our staff was inspiring to witness. Workloads doubled as the preparation of classes and administration became more complex. Staff too, like many in our community, had to teach classes and complete tasks whilst also supporting their own children and other family members who were learning and working from home.

Our parents learnt much too. They became more engaged in the learning process and there was a greater sense of partnership in learning with the College. Parents not only developed a greater appreciation for the work of teachers, they also walked with the College and their sons as together we navigated this time of uncertainty.

The boys themselves were amazing. Their ability to adapt, to self-manage, to think critically, to problem solve and to take greater responsibility for their own learning was the most encouraging aspect of this time away from school. More than this, it was clear that these young men saw that others were doing it tough. There are numerous examples of how they reached out to their teachers and their peers to offer a word or practical gesture of support.

When I was a Year 12 English student I studied the great existentialist classic, *The Plague*, by Albert Camus. As a plague sweeps through a small French town, the community is initially indifferent to the suffering of others, choosing to focus more on their own needs but then later realising there is greater strength and solace to be gained by coming together. There were echoes of this response in the broader community as the Pandemic swept through our town last year, but not here at Whitefriars. From the outset we came together in solidarity. Our tenets of community and service came to the fore as never before and we are stronger for the experience.

Towards the end of the story Camus writes, "So all a man could win in the conflict between plague and life was knowledge and memories." I agree with Camus to an extent, but there is more to it than this. At Whitefriars, our community gained in confidence and strength that anything can be achieved when we work together. We gained in awareness and understanding of the comfort we can bring to another in need and mostly, we gained in hope for a brighter future.



And what of 2021? Well, it has its own challenges and learnings. Early March, I stood before a group of prospective parents at our College Open Day to speak about the virtues and advantages of a boy's education. I believe it was not possible to commence this address, without first acknowledging and supporting, the growing chorus of young women who continue to show strength and courage in calling out the extremely poor behaviours of some young men in our society.

# Principal's Report

"At Whitefriars our mission is to work in partnership with families to build a gentle man – one who knows who he is, how to take his place as a functioning member in community and how to respectfully engage with others – both men and women."



This issue presents us all with great challenges and opportunities. The opportunities come from the fact that there is inherent goodness in all our boys and therefore change and growth is possible. The challenge comes from the fact that these same young men are also capable of making very poor choices, which can lead to far reaching consequences and serious impacts on the lives of others.

There has been much said in the media and elsewhere about the significant role schools have in forming and educating students about issues of consent and respectful relationships. I fully support this view. Here at Whitefriars, over many years, we have been committed to the education of our students in relation to sexuality, respect and the inherent dignity and worth of all people. The College's Wellbeing program, which all students participate in weekly, has drawn on both external and internally developed programs to provide opportunities for Whitefriars students to stop, reflect, discuss, discern, and develop behaviours and attitudes founded on absolute and unequivocal respect for women.

The highlighting of this issue in our society has also provided us with a timely opportunity to reflect on the programs we provide to our students. It is clear, that whilst we do offer programs related to respectful relationships and sexuality, with a focus on the dignity of women, we should be doing more. We have identified some gaps, particularly around consent, which need attention.

Our staff, led by our Wellbeing team, are currently discerning a number of programs which will assist us in bridging these gaps to support the provision of a more holistic and comprehensive curriculum across a number of Learning Areas, including Wellbeing, Religious Education and, Health and Human Development, to support the growth of our young men.

In an article published recently Adolescent Psychologist, Dr Michael Carr Greg says this...

*While schools do need to re-examine what they are doing in terms of sex education and when they are doing it, it is time for parents, grandparents and adult carers to exert a steadying influence, to become the voice of reason to counter this culture of misogyny.*

As a father of five adult children, I have always been acutely aware of my role as a model of what it is to be a good man. Along with my wife, we are ultimately responsible for the development of our children's moral compass. Having said that, I believe that these conversations can be difficult at times and in hindsight, as parents, we could have addressed these issues more frequently. I know too, that it is not just our words which can educate our children but, more powerfully, our actions which dictate how our children will perceive our attitudes in this space. Our children watch and remember every word we say and every action we take and therefore our role in educating our sons is particularly crucial in their development.



At Whitefriars our mission is to work in partnership with families to build a gentle man – one who knows who he is, how to take his place as a functioning member in community and how to respectfully engage with others – both men and women. The gentle man understands gender equality and what consent means. He will comfortably call out all behaviours which do not respect the dignity and rights of others.

So, the message I wish to send to our College community in 2021 – is one of partnership. The saying “it takes a village to raise a child” has never been more appropriate than it is right now. The messages we send, actions we take and the education we deliver needs to be aligned. To this end we are currently discerning opportunities to provide our parents with knowledge and resources in this space as we work together to assist them in support of their son’s growth and development as a fine young gentle man of Whitefriars.

We thank you for being a part of this community and its’ journey.

Almae In Fide Parentis

**Mr Mark Murphy**

Principal

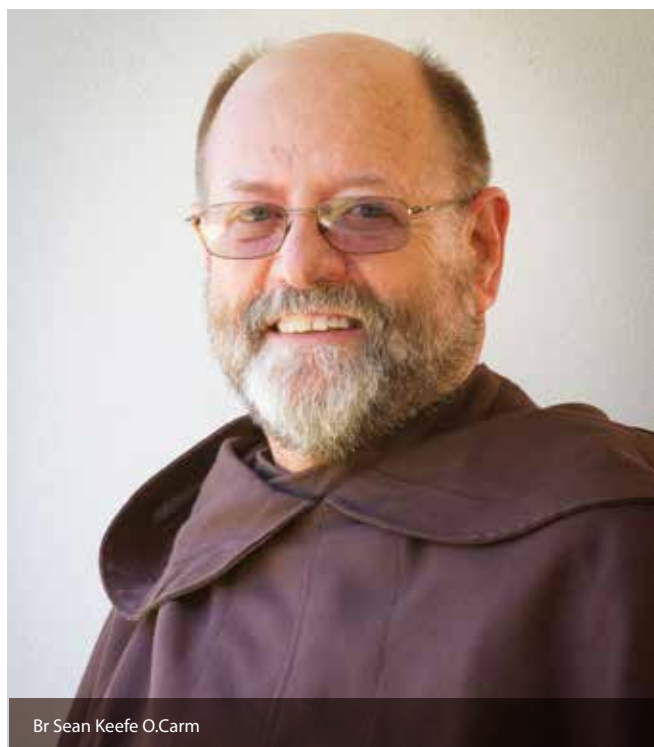




# VALE

Br Sean Keefe, O.Carm

29 August 1946 – 6 January 2021



Br Sean Keefe O.Carm

## Extracts from the Homily preached by Fr Paul Cahill at Br Sean Keefe's funeral Mass

Sean was born John Michael Keefe and, growing up, was known in the family as Mike. Now this was something that Sean fought valiantly and very successfully to suppress. He took Sean, an Irish name for John, when he joined the Carmelites in 1964 and never thereafter presented himself as anyone other than Sean. I knew he was very proud of the fact that he managed to have all his official documents, including both his United States and Australian Passports, name him Sean without ever, as far as I know, going through the bureaucratic process of officially changing his name. Circumventing bureaucratic processes was something of an art form that Sean assiduously worked at and, proudly, mostly mastered. He just wanted to get done whatever it was he wanted done, and the less red tape the better. And so, as Sean, he lived and as Sean, he died.

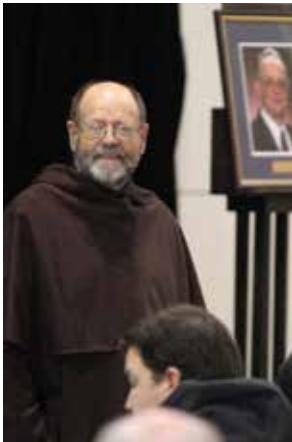
As we know, Sean had a very productive life, with which he was very happy and satisfied. After making his Profession as a Carmelite in 1967 and completing some further studies for the Religious life,

Sean was assigned to chicken farming at the Carmelite farm in Akron, Ohio. Whilst I don't think this was the favourite time of his life, he acquired a knowledge of and interest in chickens which ultimately led to his bequeathing a flock to his last community here in Donvale. Fortunately, other members of this community are more interested in and adept at caring for the chickens than me, so the chickens should continue to prosper to a ripe old age.

I believe he was a gifted teacher of History, Religious Education and Psychology but his greatest gift to the people he encountered wherever he went was the personal connections he made with them. Sean had a great capacity to hear people's stories, to journey with them in their joys and struggles, to support and encourage them, to challenge them and to empower them to make the most of their own lives by reaching out in love and service to others as he did. Sean was unstoppable, whilst physically capable, in reaching out in love and service energetically and very happily to people of all sorts of religious or non-religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, urging and inspiring them to do the same.

When I was talking with Sean just a couple of days before he died about all that he'd done and all the places he'd served in his life, I asked him if there was any period that stood out as particularly significant and fulfilling. With a twinkle in his eye, he said: "The day I met you." I laughed, of course, and assured him that whilst his body might be weakening, his capacity for spinning B.S. was as good as ever. He then laughed and replied seriously that coming to Australia was particularly significant for him. He said it had given him the opportunity to reinvent himself, leaving whatever may have been disappointments and setbacks in his past behind and start afresh in a context where he could present to people, who had no pre-formed images or judgments of him, as he was and be accepted for it. It was a response that was humbling to hear, but one for which, on behalf of all the people he has touched in Australia and Timor-Leste, I felt proud and grateful. To think that we, in Australia and Timor-Leste, along with all the people he had touched in the United States, had given him a gift which he appreciated so much was spine tingling. Sean wouldn't want us to underestimate the gift that we were to him even as we appreciate so much the gift he was to us.

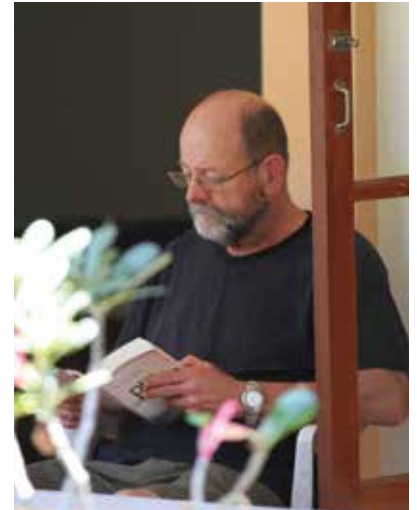




# VALE

Br Sean Keefe, O.Carm

29 August 1946 – 6 January 2021



I mentioned Sean's outreach to the people of Timor-Leste and I want to underline it. When the Carmelites in Australia were asked to reach out to the Order and the people in Timor-Leste back in 2001, just when Sean returned to Australia, he embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly to reach out personally to them. With his characteristic enthusiasm and energy, he involved others in a 'mission' of fundraising and practical support. He personally visited Timor-Leste many times and involved others in projects there to improve access to water and electricity in the remote village of Zumalai, where the Carmelites had responsibility for the parish. He ran many events here at Whitefriars College, mainly concerts, with the support of the Kiwanis club, and staff and students of this College, to raise funds for these various projects but particularly to support the education of young Timorese people. He established the annual College Walk-for-Timor as a major fundraiser and supplemented it with the generous support of his many friends in the United States, who were co-opted to the cause. He instituted and accompanied visits by staff and students of this College to Timor-Leste. These were life changing experiences for some of these people, but I suggest, eye opening and challenging in positive ways for all who participated. He developed a great empathy with and affection for many Timorese people and, as was typical of the people Sean connected with, they reciprocated with gratitude and affection.

I have mentioned the Kiwanis Club - and his service to and through this community service organisation needs to be honoured. He was a member of the Manningham branch for 19 years, for many of which he held the office of President. Through his involvement with Kiwanis, he reached out to many needy people and causes, particularly in our local municipality of Manningham. He came into contact with

many of the officials and support workers of the Council and sat on many committees. He was indefatigable in his support of the many community outreach services and initiatives of Manningham Council, including organising a major community raffle each year. Recognition of his extraordinary service came in the form of a Manningham Citizen of the Year Award and ultimately an Order of Australia medal. Being very self-effacing and wanting to deflect attention away from himself and on to others, Sean played down these Awards, to which was added one of the highest awards that the Kiwanis Club can bestow (the Walter Zeller Fellowship Award) and which is exhibited here today, along with his Order of Australia medal and citation. I'm sure he was quietly – and justifiably - chuffed with these Awards, but I didn't let him forget that as a good American and staunch anti-monarchist, he was, nonetheless, indebted to Her Majesty, the Queen of England for his Order of Australia award. I didn't labour the point, however, as I didn't want to jeopardise the great friendship we had formed over the 17 years we lived together.

Throughout the course of his 21 years here at Whitefriars, Sean was involved in many and various activities, apart from the day-to-day role in supporting staff, students and parents. One particular activity I want to highlight, however, was his involvement in the Kairos retreats for Year 11 students. Until his deteriorating health dictated, just a couple of years ago, that the salubrious accommodation and the unsociable hours of these retreats were more than his body could manage, he participated in almost every one of the three which were conducted every year. He had been involved extensively in these retreats in the U.S. long before coming here and so had hundreds of them notched up on his Kairos belt. The Kairos retreat draws the participating staff and students into a special





relationship as they openly share their joys and struggles in the journey of life, discovering that God is with them in the journey. Sean's undemonstrative but deep faith was revealed to those with whom he shared the Kairos experience. They discovered a man for whom God was real, love was real and practical, faith was essentially simple and didn't have to be complicated by lots of rules and rituals, Jesus and his way of life was the touchstone of a relationship with God, it was the spirit not the letter of the law that was important and what really mattered was the giving and receiving of love. It was a profound message which he taught by words, but more tellingly by the example of his own life.

Sean didn't find it easy to accept people doing things for him, but it was one of the lessons he had to learn as he grew progressively weaker from chronic and debilitating health issues. He learned that lesson very well, however, particularly in these last couple of years in which he needed dialysis in hospital three nights every week. He was immeasurably grateful to the doctors and loved the nurses who cared for him in dialysis and he formed a special and touching bond with them. I cannot thank them enough, on behalf of the Carmelites and all Sean's family and friends, for the support they gave Sean and the way in which, in the midst of all his health struggles, they brought him joy and comfort.

Sean's contemplative nature was revealed, not just in his great commitment to social justice and action, but in his profound respect for, interest in, attentiveness to and love for people and his capacity to reflect on and interpret life's experiences both for himself and others. This was a gift he shared with very many people. I believe this was what drew people to him and in sharing himself so



generously with others and in allowing them to share themselves so comfortably with him, he shared God's love with them and received God's love from them. I believe, too, that Sean's contemplative capacity enabled him to bear the struggles of his ill health so cheerfully for so long. He knew God was with him on the journey. This gave him the strength to carry on.

Sean Keefe, Carmelite, son, brother, relative, neighbour, mentor and very dear friend and esteemed colleague to so many was a man of the Gospels – a man of the Beatitudes. May he now enjoy the fullness of eternal life in the Kingdom of God, to which he witnessed so eloquently. May he rest in peace.

**Fr Paul Cahill, O.Carm**  
Prior Provincial

# 2020 High Achievers



Although the many milestones and unique events highly anticipated and celebrated by Year 12 students and their families looked very different in 2020, the achievements of the Whitefriars students in both the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) were most impressive.

In what unfolded as an extremely challenging and demanding year on so many levels, the determination, commitment and maturity displayed by our Year 12 students is to be admired and celebrated.

The VCE cohort had a median study score of 31, an average ATAR of 70.2 and 5.90% of Study Scores above 40. Also noteworthy was that 24 students achieved an ATAR above 90.

All VCAL students have moved into a variety of apprenticeships in the building and automotive industries, and two with further study.

Congratulations to our VCE Dux, Adrian De Saram with an outstanding ATAR of 99.2. Adrian was also the recipient of the University of Melbourne Principals' Scholarship. Joseph Chim also achieved an outstanding result of 99.15 and Lachlan Barr 99. Lachlan Hucker was the recipient of the VCAL Excellence Award.

In recognising these young men, we also applaud the many others who achieved well above their expected results in a wide range of studies. The majority of our graduates have selected Swinburne, Deakin, Melbourne, Monash or La Trobe universities.



*The most popular fields of study were:*

- Accounting, Business, Marketing, Banking and Finance
- Science, Biomedicine, Laboratory Sciences
- Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences
- Health and Exercise Science, Health Sciences, Nursing, Paramedicine
- Engineering and related Technologies
- Art and Design, Music, Performance, Film
- Psychology
- Architecture, Building Design and Construction
- Computer and Information Systems
- Sport and Recreation

The Year 12 students of 2020 should be most proud of the way they navigated through such a difficult year. While their commitment to studies was evident, it was also the support of each other which was a true reflection of their character, of the 'gentle men' they have become, ready to embark on their next journey.

**Mr Greg Clifford**

Director – Senior Years

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## Our 95+ Achievers

<b>Adrian De Saram</b>	<b>99.20</b>	<b>Harris Gierer</b>	<b>98.10</b>	<b>Alexander Dunmill</b>	<b>96.40</b>
<b>Joseph Chim</b>	<b>99.15</b>	<b>Joshua Hannan</b>	<b>97.90</b>	<b>Joshua Hulett</b>	<b>96.05</b>
<b>Lachlan Barr</b>	<b>99.00</b>	<b>Jayden Bardrick</b>	<b>97.90</b>	<b>Anthony Brand</b>	<b>95.50</b>
<b>Blake Ritchie</b>	<b>98.80</b>	<b>Benjamin Clarke</b>	<b>96.75</b>		

## Our 90+ Achievers

<b>Daniel Borg</b>	<b>94.50</b>	<b>Maximilian Shallvey</b>	<b>92.60</b>	<b>James Key</b>	<b>91.25</b>
<b>Emery Schulz</b>	<b>94.05</b>	<b>Luke Corda</b>	<b>92.30</b>	<b>Toby Brown</b>	<b>90.40</b>
<b>Gabriel Barrasso</b>	<b>93.60</b>	<b>Marcus Mohr</b>	<b>92.20</b>	<b>Spiro Damatopoulos</b>	<b>90.25</b>
<b>Minh Nguyen</b>	<b>93.45</b>	<b>Matthew Klos</b>	<b>92.20</b>		
<b>William Keehne</b>	<b>93.40</b>	<b>Ciaran Weir</b>	<b>91.35</b>		

# College Captain's Report

What an action-packed and exciting year 2021 has been so far!



Charlie Schroder, Baxter House and Alex Pisotek

The House Athletics carnival was also a brilliant way to kick off the sporting year, with all the boys putting in 100% effort to battle it out for their respective Houses. Whilst I did not achieve the glory of coming 1st in any events, I was grateful to get the chance to participate in a range of events with the entire school. A huge congratulations to Soreth House on their win and also to Trent Seegets on being crowned the Fastest 'Friar for the 100m sprint. The House Swimming carnival was also a great day, with each swimmer showing determination and commitment. Well done again to Soreth House on pulling off the win and to Aiden Gleeson (Senior) and Joel Pollard (Junior) Fastest 'Friars for the 50m freestyle.

It has been thrilling to be able to share the first term of school with the new Year 7s (Class of 2026), watching them form relationships within the College and becoming part of the Whitefriars community. Seeing their nervous yet excited faces reminded me of my first day and all the great memories they are certain to experience during their own school journeys. While it may seem like a lifetime away, their first term has already passed by and before long, they will be in my position as a Year 12. I can't wait to see what more they can contribute and inspire, inside and outside of the College grounds.

As per tradition, the formal start to our year came with a whole College Mass. This was a great way to practice our ever-present Carmelite faith, celebrated by Fr Paul Cahill, O.Carm and Fr Paul Sireh, O.Carm. This was also an opportunity to acknowledge all the great things to come and to commemorate the great achievements of the boys who completed Year 12 last year and achieved a study score of 40+ or a 90+ ATAR. For me, being presented with the College Captain's blazer was one of the proudest moments of my life and I am sure the same can be said for Vice Captains Alex and Baxter, and Middle Years Captains Maximillion, James and Jack.

In a similar vein, senior ACC Tennis, Cricket and Volleyball were great showcases of some of the talent of the Whitefriars cohort, with the Tennis and Volleyball teams making grand finals.

For me, as College Captain, there could not have been a better start to the school year. Especially with the ongoing support of my fellow Captains, and of course all the dedicated staff at the College.

I look forward to what 2021 may bring. Best wishes to all students with their studies throughout the year; with the effort and enthusiasm already displayed throughout the first term, I'm sure great things are coming to you all! I would also like to extend an extra thankyou to everyone in the College community who constantly commit themselves to making Whitefriars a better place for everyone. Good luck to everyone for the year ahead!

**Charlie Schroder**  
College Captain

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# Middle Years Captain's Report

As we begin the school year, for some it is an exciting new beginning, for others it is another year to better themselves.



Maximillion Ceppi

As we begin the school year, for some it is an exciting new beginning, for others it is another year to better themselves. Either way, we are always welcomed by the Whitefriars community with open arms. My name is Maximillion Ceppi and I am truly thankful that I have been chosen to lead and represent the Middle Years in 2021; alongside me are Vice Captains, Jack Apostolopoulos and James Hammerton. Together with the Whitefriars College Captain Charlie Schroder and the Vice Captains Baxter House and Alex Pisotek, we will be trying our best to serve Whitefriars and our wider community.

Year 7s started their journey with an orientation week and at the centre of it, something that is much awaited by all, is the three-day orientation camp. This camp includes team building and some very fun activities. I am sure many of my peers can agree that this camp holds the key to many long-lasting friendships.

The annual House Athletics carnival is held annually in Term 1, and many would know is a huge event for the College. It's filled with track and field events, Year 12s in fancy dress to commemorate their final year with their mates and most importantly, lots of House spirit. This year's victors were Soreth. Following the Athletics carnival was our annual House Swimming carnival and while the Senior Cup was won by Trinity, the Junior Cup and overall winners were Soreth again!



Jack Apostolopoulos, Maximillion Ceppi and James Hammerton

For the Year 8s to 12s, this is another year for us to improve ourselves in our studies – whether it's achieving better scores, studying more, improving positive mindsets, or setting new goals – we all have something to strive towards.

I hope everyone's year is better than the last and everyone's families are happy and healthy. I would just like to extend my gratitude to all of the teachers during the 2020 year, it is something no one has ever been through, it's something no one could ever prepare for and we will have hopefully learnt to be more appreciative and not to take anything for granted. Here's to 2021!

**Maximillion Ceppi**

Middle Years Captain

# Experience Whitefriars

The 'Experience Whitefriars' days for our Catholic feeder schools were wonderful experiences that enhanced our primary school partnerships and enabled Year 3 and 4 students to come on site and be introduced to some of the College's academic offerings.

*On Friday 19 March, the students from St Gregory the Great Primary School were invited to 'Experience Whitefriars'. The activities were organised by the students under the supervision of the teachers from a variety of Learning Areas such as Languages, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Science, and Humanities. I wish to thank the staff for the wonderful experience that our students experienced. They could not stop talking about their terrific day all the way home on the bus. The students from Whitefriars conducted themselves with pride, respect and professionalism. The staff who facilitated the sessions were impeccable and outstanding towards our students.*

*Thank you for an amazing experience and for the excellent organisation of the day.*

**Sandra - Year 3 and 4 Level Leader, St Gregory's Primary School**

*I loved experiencing the Performing Arts at Whitefriars when we got to listen to music and people singing.*

**Monique, St John's Primary School**

*I enjoyed the Science activities, especially the dust explosion experiment because there was lots of fire!*

**Lachie, St John's Primary School**

*At the 'Experience Whitefriars' day the students got to experience many different things. Every single student loved the assortment of activities on offer and the way in which it was presented.*

*Some of the highlights of the excursion included the rock band, the elephant's toothpaste experiment, and the masks made in Visual Arts, just to name a few. This day is an absolute credit to Whitefriars College. The teachers of St Thomas the Apostle would like to thank all the staff and students at Whitefriars for their preparation, assistance and amazing performances that made 'Experience Whitefriars' as special as it was for our students and teachers.*

**Stephen, Briar-Rose Crothers and Phillip, Teachers at St Thomas Primary School**

*The science experiments were really cool, I hope I get to do these experiments when I am in high school.*

**Maxwell, St John's Primary School**

*I loved learning new games in PE and playing with my friends. The ovals and stadiums were much bigger than ours.*

**Ben, St John's Primary School**

*My highlight was Languages. In Indonesian, we played a game of snap and had to say the number in Indonesian. I won one of my games but James won the second. Then in Chinese, we learned how to use chopsticks. The activity was to try and pick up jelly beans that were apparently 25 years old so we couldn't eat them. Last but not least, we did a quiz on Italy! I worked with Chloe and we only got one wrong! I learned that Italy has 61 million people living in it! But, of course, it had to come to an end. Learning languages was fun, especially at Whitefriars!*

**Tom, St Gregory's Primary School**

*I mostly enjoyed the Performing Arts performance. It is interesting that they play a wide variety of instruments. For example, the trombone, trumpet, drums, guitar and piano. The boys at Whitefriars are very clever. There are a few languages taught at Whitefriars too, Chinese, Italian and Indonesian. I had fun learning to count to 10 in Indonesian. Overall, I had a good experience and hope to go there again.*

**Evdoxia, St Gregory's Primary School**

*It was fun playing new mini games, like swamp ball and number soccer. The games involved a lot of teamwork.*

**Chase, St John's Primary School**







# Experience Whitefriars





*My favourite thing was the band - it was fun. The children are all talented in singing and playing instruments. At Whitefriars you can learn to play many different instruments. It was a very crazy performance, everyone went wild and sang to the music and danced. I liked this because I love loud music. My dream is to be a singer and dancer for life. There were casual songs, jazz and hip hop.*

*I also liked it because it is very dark and there are really cool stage lights and fairy lights on the walls and ceiling. You were with your class group and you had your teacher there and a guide to the places you were going to. We had an awesome time.*

**Georgia, St Thomas Primary School**

*I got to experience lots of different types of Science, that was different to our school. I like learning about the different chemicals and the reactions that happen when they've been mixed together.*

**Bella, St John's Primary School**

*In Humanities we tested the number of beetles in water. We started by looking at the TV where they showed us which bugs are vulnerable due to pollution. Then we collected beetles from tubs of swamp water with spoons and beakers before we shared what we had found with the class, the teacher and then classified what we didn't know.*

**Gideon, St Thomas Primary School**

*My favourite thing to do was at Performing Arts because we got to dance and listen to the amazing, beautiful music that the boys played. Also, I liked the Visual Arts because we got to make masks and I made my own colourful masks that looked very nice. I learned a lot of things at Whitefriars, I learned the Indonesian numbers 1-10, I learned all of the instruments and I learned that people from different parts of the world make different masks that represent their country.*

**Karson, St Gregory's Primary School**

*We first went to the Science where we learned about physical and chemical reactions. My favourite chemical reaction was the rainbow liquid. My favourite physical reaction was the elephant toothpaste because it kept going for ages.*

*We also went to Performing Arts. All the music was great. There was a pianist, choirs, violin ensembles and a rock band. My favourite part was the rock band. I like the way the music blasted very loudly.*

*Lastly, we went to Religion. We talked about the seven days of creation, Elijah and his cave and the statues at Whitefriars. One was Mary and Jesus, one was Elijah and the last was Jesus wearing his crown of thorns. My favourite part was the seven days of creation because it was a good story and we had lots of fun.*

*Thank you Whitefriars students and teachers for letting us come and showing us what you learn about during school hours. I had a lot of fun at your school.*

**Alex, St Thomas Primary School**



# Experience Whitefriars

*St Philip's Primary School attended a very special day at Whitefriars. There was great anticipation as we arrived at the College and saw all the children from local schools pouring off buses and being greeted by staff and students from Whitefriars.*

*Over the day we were entertained and educated in Religion, Science and Performing Arts. We were given a lanyard with a photo of a ringtail possum and our timetable on the back. Our first session was Religion and the children were impressed by the teacher's astute and thoughtful answers. The highlight was visiting and learning about the uniquely designed Whitefriars Chapel.*

*After a morning break we met the Science staff in the lecture theatre. There were many schools watching the amazing display where we learned about chemical reactions and witnessed some experiments - loud, fun and colourful. There was audience participation and children were craning in their seats to be chosen to wear a lab coat and be part of science in action. It was a wonderful advertisement for STEM activities and I am sure that all children regaled their parents with the amazing experiment where 'Elephant Toothpaste was created, exploding from a large beaker!*

*The Performing Arts concert was the Grand Finale to our day. What a concert! We were introduced to so many talented students playing so many different instruments. After living a "virtual" life last year, the children from all schools were ready to show their appreciation for the live music and the atmosphere was electric. You could see the light in children's eyes and I think that many were inspired to unleash their creative sides. After all the excitement we thanked the staff and students of Whitefriars and boarded our bus to return to St Philip's.*

**Rachel, Louise and Adi, Teachers at St Philip's Primary School**

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# New Hope

"I am a strong independent, determined, defiant woman and know I still have a way to go to reach my full recovery potential or my 'new normal' as it is known." The closing words delivered by Maria Bardsley at our recent Mother's Day Breakfast – a mother, wife, daughter, sister, and inspirational friend!



For Maria, Friday 22 May 2020 was an ordinary day. What was meant to be a planned walk with a friend became a trip to emergency and a journey that was never planned.

For Maria, a rare condition known as Lance Adams Syndrome changed her life forever. After a three-week induced coma, Maria was woken up, with a nasal gastric tube for feeding purposes, aware of what was happening around her, but only able to communicate with a nod or spelling via an alphabet card. She would learn that she had been resuscitated for 90 minutes and only because one of the emergency staff at Box Hill Hospital had seen her hand twitch while she was hooked up to the lifesaving ECMO machine. This machine had been her heart and lungs; without it, she would not be here today.

Due to the length of time her resuscitation took, and lack of oxygen to her brain, her limbs now jerk or shake. It affects her speech unless she is heavily medicated. It has changed her life forever and there will be no return to 'normal' function, physically and mentally.

"If I had a choice of how to avoid lockdown and home-schooling last year, this would not have been it," she said. To this, I smiled, because there she was, the high spirited, witty woman many of us know.

Maria was living this through the 2020 pandemic, a time with already limited visitors, that was then reduced to one person, for one hour a week, during Stage 4 restrictions. Maria was being treated at the Caulfield ABI (Acquired Brain Injury) Rehabilitation Unit and the flow of flowers, cards, messages and emails gave her much needed comfort – but not what she needed most, human contact. She was only able to see her husband, Tim, for one hour a week. She would Skype with her boys but could not hold them. Tim put a case forward to the ABI Unit Manager, that a personal visit was necessary for all of their sanity, and Maria finally got two one-to-one visits of 30 minutes with each of her boys over the four month period... and even managed to get her dog in for one visit!

Maria understands that she was restricted to her room for her protection and expressed her gratitude to the ward staff for their light-hearted conversation and to the doctors, nurses and specialists, and her family and friends. "I even played trivia once a fortnight with my Vision Blackburn gym buddies... No alcohol for me though!"

Maria spoke to the 470 guests at our Mother's Day Breakfast in late April. I watched mothers rub their sons backs and wipe away tears. I witnessed hugs as mums left the College and their sons went to class. I witnessed departures and goodbyes that were more intense because of what we'd just heard. No one could listen and not reflect on their own experience in 2020. Everyone has a story to tell and for me, Maria's story is one of hope, inspiration, and perspective. I love my life! It may have its moments, but I will no longer take for granted what I have. To my wonderful family, friends, and colleagues, I am so grateful you are in my life. Do I remember this often enough, and give thanks when I should? Not always. Do I need to revisit my gratitude journal? Absolutely.

Thank you, Maria, you truly are amazing!

**Mrs Natasha Alexander**

Director – Development and Enrolment

# A Parents' Perspective



Reed heading to Whitefriars

*The welcoming of the Stein Boys at the commissioning Mass has been such a warm and positive experience. The boys all looked so proud and I know that Reed felt very special and included in the Mass.*

*The effort and care you invested in preparing the evening was obvious, and we felt very much part of the 'Friar's community.*

*A special thank you also to Fr Paul for his singing and the Year 12 boys for guiding the reflection.*

*The introduction Reed has had to Year 7 is so warm and the care shown to him fills us with hope and enthusiasm.*

*My mother Carol Blewitt, a Whitefriars mum herself, also loved joining in the evening and I think this is such a great reflection on the community you have nurtured and developed over many years.*

**Siobhan (Reed, Year 7)**



Hayden at Year 7 Camp

*Starting Year 7 is a significant step in the education of any child, and I'm delighted to say that my son Hayden has thoroughly enjoyed the transition.*

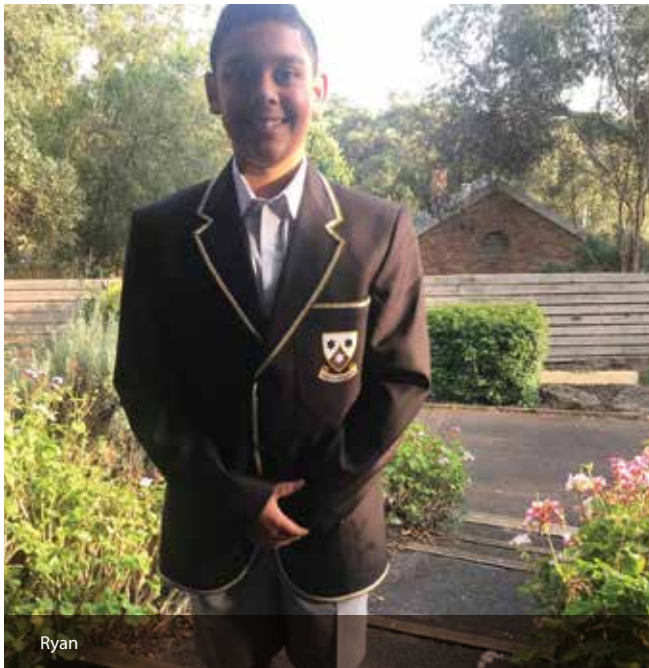
*I can recall his first response when I picked him up from orientation day last year, "Mum... it was awesome!" He felt a real sense of belonging from the very first day. It was very clear that being in Avila House was going to be an important part of his life at the College.*

*It was a very busy start to the term, leaving for camp on his second day, but he returned home with a group of new friends and an extremely positive outlook for the term ahead.*

*He has enjoyed the many opportunities available, including early morning athletics and swimming training, band and badminton try-outs. I also believe the many House activities at the beginning of the year contributed to his sense of belonging to Avila House.*

*Whilst there is a great deal more to think about in terms of daily organisation, I am proud to say that he has embraced all aspects of College life and has thoroughly enjoyed this new challenge. I am grateful to Whitefriars for providing a rich learning environment and a varied co-curricular program. I believe these have contributed to a very positive start to his secondary education.*

**Angie (Hayden, Year 7)**

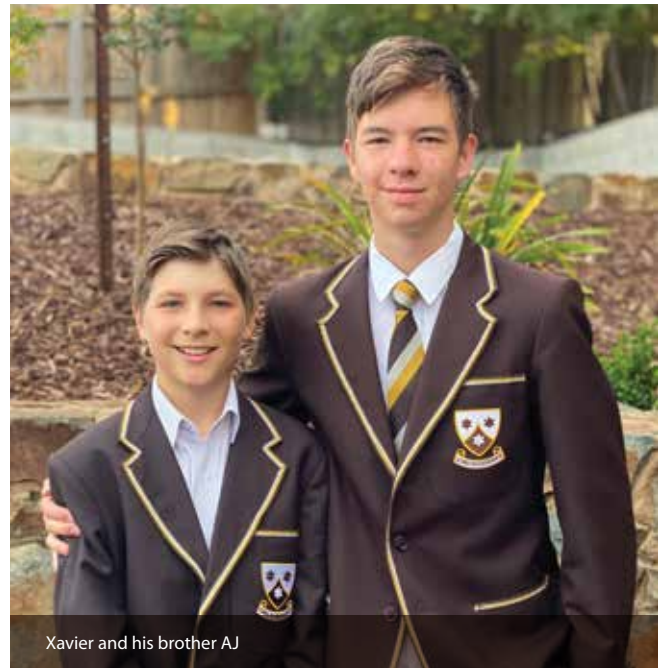


Ryan

*It was Saturday, the day after his first day of school. "I can't wait to go to school on Monday," were the words that came out of Christopher's mouth while we were watching 'The Croods'. At that very moment, any concerns that we may have had regarding his transition to high school immediately evaporated. Both Miriam and I were relieved!*

*We had excellent contact with the College prior to commencement of the school year, however, were unsure how our son would settle in. We are extremely happy to report that he has settled in well. His two main highlights for the year so far have been camp, which he has described as an incredible bonding experience with the Trinity boys, and the close friendships that he has already formed, as well as football try-outs. He enjoys the subjects, teaching approach and his face lights up when he talks about his day.*

**Ryan (Christopher, Year 7)**



Xavier and his brother AJ

*First term is over as quickly as it began. My son Xavier's experience of secondary school at Whitefriars has been positive and wonderful in so many ways. His statement after his first day was a clear indication on how the term would unfold. "Mum, I had the best day; I wish tomorrow wasn't the weekend and it was Monday already." Xavier was so excited to start at Whitefriars and that excitement and gusto has yet to fade. At primary school he missed his older brother the last few years so being able to be together again starting in familiar surroundings was great. With all the worry about COVID and the disruption to their final year of primary school, as a parent I was naturally concerned about how transitioning into Year 7 would go, not only for my son but all the cohort this year. I feel the College and teachers were very prepared for this and have been accommodating to the group as they settled into first term with many exceptions to various aspects. It has been a great start with camp going ahead, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, and making it into the football team. Xavier could not be a happier 'Friar albeit tired from the early morning bus commute. What a great start to the 2021 year.*

**Cass (Xavier, Year 7)**



# A Parents' Perspective



Kayden at his House gathering

*Kayden's transition from primary school amid a global pandemic was loaded with unpredictability and uncertainty, however he has been blessed with a wonderful introduction to the College environment.*

*As the first day of school dawned Kayden was incredibly calm and downplayed the monumental milestone on which he was embarking. I was both excited and nervous, and remember lingering near the bus stop trying to snap a few customary 'first day of school' photos. Kayden wasn't impressed by the influx of attention, but when he arrived home that afternoon, he was happy and I could see he felt comfortable about his future at Whitefriars.*

*I was still a little apprehensive about the next few weeks but remained hopeful the Trinity boys would form genuine connections with each other during their three days at Camp Manyung. When Kayden returned from camp, he was full of energy and excitement, and enthusiastically shared heart-warming and wildly amusing stories about his experience. From that moment on, all my nervous tendencies were eliminated.*

*The past nine weeks have enriched our lives immensely and it is clear Kayden has developed a genuine sense of belonging. He has become more independent; he has fostered a cluster of new friendships and is thriving on the Whitefriars sporting opportunities and diverse curriculum.*

*I would like to sincerely applaud the Whitefriars teachers and support staff who have helped create a safe, positive and memorable transition for all the Year 7 students. Our family is thrilled about belonging to the Whitefriars community and we look forward to watching Kayden grow into a kind, caring and gentle man.*

Jessica (Kayden, Year 7)



Brock with Lisa



Brock and Blake

*Blake and Brock's first term at Whitefriars has come and gone quickly. A big step up after a challenging year of online learning - to now being organised for their myriad of classes.*

*Overall, they have settled into their new environment and transitioned well to Year 7 - though with some expected hiccups along the way, (missing the early morning bus, forgetting laptops).*

*Both have friends from previous primary schools who have joined them at Whitefriars (St Thomas the Apostle and Park Orchards Primary). They have also formed new friendships through their respective Houses, Brandsma and Trinity.*

*Their Year 7 highlights to date have actually been, being able to go to Camp Manyung and the array of sports to try-out for and participate in each term.*

*From a parents' perspective, the commencement of secondary school has been a whirlwind, getting used to a new routine, not doing the school run, attending House badge nights (which was great), meeting House Leaders and teachers, as well as the wealth of information communicated on SEQTA.*

*Both Steven and I are enjoying being a part of the Whitefriars community and are buoyed by the potential of what lies ahead in the upcoming years for our boys.*

Lisa (Blake and Brock)



# Josh Hannan

Aspiring Musician

**Class of 2020**



Josh Hannan

My name is Josh Hannan, I started at Whitefriars in 2015 and I graduated in the Class of 2020. Throughout my time at Whitefriars, I loved being a member of the Performing Arts Learning Area, singing in a rock band, performing covers and originals or playing trumpet in the Big Band, (which took part in Generations in Jazz, an insane Australian festival/competition with many of Australia's jazz greats such as James Morrison).

In my final year, I completed Music Investigations as one of my VCE subjects and it ended up being my top score. As a result, I had the opportunity to play Matt Corby's 'Brother' in the Top Class Music 2020 Concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre in front of over 1000 people. This VCE concert involved an audition process of around 300 top VCE acts which were then selected into a few concerts totalling around thirty acts, so you can imagine I was stoked to play (and very nervous).

From niche cultural instruments to stage show entertainment, there was a crazy amount and range of talents; it was incredibly surreal and humbling to be a part of it all. I would like to thank my music teacher Mr Fitter and particularly my vocal teacher Ms Langer who were instrumental in my success in the subject, spending many hours on zoom and in person, both before and throughout the hardship of quarantine.

Recently, I have been developing a live show and cowriting with a hit producer and his label in America, which has been a dream come true. I hope to share some of the fruits of that soon. Around all this excitement I've also been doing a Bachelor of Science at Monash whilst flipping burgers at Maccas. I am beginning to secure some gigs and I'm hoping to start transitioning from the grill to the guitar as soon as possible.

For anyone wanting to get into music, I suggest you keep refining your skills and be patient to get better at your craft. It is so much easier to make your own music and release it these days, and you can even do it without a label, but it's also good to have a backup, like my Bachelor of Science and Maccas, just so you have options for when the gigs are dry and if it doesn't work out (it can be pretty hard making a living as a muso).

Despite all the excitement ahead, I am missing Whitefriars a lot now and would like to say thanks to all the staff, teachers and boys from along the way for shaping me into who I am today. I am realising more and more how incredible the support from the Whitefriars community has been and it truly does mean a lot.

If you would like to follow my music and stay up to date with gigs and what I'm releasing please follow [@joshhannanmusic](https://www.instagram.com/joshhannanmusic) on Instagram and follow my Spotify too at Josh Hannan <https://spoti.fi/3n3OK5G>

# Jason Wong

Architect / Property Developer / Investor

**Class of 1992**

Thanks be to God for a life well guided.



Raised in a Catholic family and educated in Catholic schools throughout my life, I found myself drifting in and out of my faith during my adolescence years. Upon reflection, my life has always been guided by a higher being and I am truly grateful for everything I am now blessed with.

As a student at Whitefriars College, I had always excelled in Visual Arts, Mathematics and Science. As far back as I can remember, I had always aspired to be an Architect. After I successfully completed VCE, I was surprised to be offered a place into Medicine at Monash University. During the admission interview, I was asked, "Why would you like to become a doctor?" My naive response was, "I did better than expected in VCE but I actually wanted to become an architect". It is fair to say that my medical career was very short-lived.

During my first year of Architecture at the University of Melbourne, I was reacquainted with my colour pencils to design buildings, as well as the art of meeting girls and pub crawls, (the missing curriculum at Whitefriars!). I excelled in the latter and found myself close to failing first year of architecture. I have never failed anything and found myself in uncharted waters. I questioned my architecture

calling and decided to transfer into Law. In my first year of Law School, I was provided with our reading list which was comparable to both volumes of the Yellow Pages. I knew then and there that I loved my colour pencils!

Fast forward 5 years, it was by miracle that I attained my Bachelor of Planning and Design (Hons), Bachelor of Architecture (Hons), and Bachelor of Property and Construction from the University of Melbourne with my liver and sanity intact. My working life began with a boutique architecture studio focusing on bespoke homes in Melbourne's affluent suburbs and later expanding my knowledge - joining a large prominent architecture practice Peddle Thorp Architects.

The notion that my life was being 'guided' is especially true with my career. I was given the opportunity to run one of Melbourne's largest residential projects being the Chevron Redevelopment on St Kilda Road. The original Project Architect's impromptu resignation to start his own practice allowed yours truly, a relatively inexperienced newly registered architect, to step up and take on the lead role. I was at the right place at the right time. It was certainly baptism by fire. At the age of 26, I was responsible for the design and coordination of a 300-apartment unit development with a \$90M construction value. From there my career took on a brand-new direction as I began to focus on residential developments - working as a Project Manager directly for property developers, including the well renowned MAB Corporation where I honed in my property development skills.

In late 2008, I married my wonderful and talented wife Miranda who is also an architect (and the better one in the family). Although we studied the same course, at the same university, at the same time, I never caught her eye. Nevertheless, it was probably God's plan that we eventually met at our mutual friends' wedding some years later. The rest as they say was history.





Making the wish at Trevi Fountain, Rome

Miranda and I travelled to Europe on our belated honeymoon trip in mid 2009. We visited the Trevi Fountain in Rome and I still recall tossing a coin over my shoulder into the fountain - wishing that I would one day become a property developer myself. Upon our return, I was told that I had been made redundant by my work during my absence. My prayer was answered too promptly! I was not ready yet! The Global Financial Crisis in 2009 was the most challenging time Miranda and I experienced. We purchased our family home, but I was left without a stable income. Fortunately, at the time we were not planning for a family, so with Miranda's unwavering support and encouragement, I started my consulting business from our dining room table.

In life, many great achievements come about from desperate situations. One can never be fully prepared, but we must embrace what immediately lies ahead. In times of challenges come opportunities. From a consulting business, we grew over the years and pivoted - eventually undertaking our own property developments. In November 2017, we designed and developed our very own 98 apartment complex overlooking Box Hill Gardens. The project was named "Astrina" - after my brother Simon's (Class of 1995) daughter Astrid, and our own daughter Karina. Words cannot describe our feelings seeing the project finally coming into fruition.



Damien Evans and Jason Wong at the MCG

In recent years, we have diversified our focus into investing in various development opportunities from multi-unit developments, mixed-use, retail, commercial, industrial through to land subdivisions across Victoria and NSW. Apart from properties, we are also involved with shares and options trading. Stepping back from our own developments has enabled Miranda and I to free up our precious time and focus on our family.

Being 'older' parents with two very young children aged 7 and 3, our primary focuses now are on health, fitness, and wellbeing. Ironically, back in the days of Whitefriars, one of my greatest fears was the dreaded cross-country run up to the Monastery. In recent years, I have picked up cycling and running. I have completed five Melbourne Marathons - the most memorable one was with my life-long friend at Whitefriars Damien Evans (Class of 1992), when we crossed the finish line together in the MCG under four hours in 2018. Damien and I were certainly not runners at Whitefriars - we were table tennis players! But what we once feared, we now love.

On reflection, what might seem at the time to be the worst moment in your life, could be very much a blessing in disguise. There were many of those moments that I recall in my life. As my great mentor Tony Robbins once said: "Life doesn't happen to you, it happens for you" and that "God's delay is not God's denial". We all need to have patience. We will be guided, and the path will be revealed to us. You, together with your loved ones, will have the life you deserve. You just need to have Faith!



# Community Connections

## 60th Diamond Jubilee Gala Celebration

## Whitefriars Parents' Association

After a very challenging year in 2020 we are looking forward to dusting off our dancing shoes and celebrating our 60th Diamond Jubilee Gala.

The Whitefriars Parents' Association in conjunction with Whitefriars College are delighted to invite our Whitefriars community (no current students, 18 years and over) to an evening which will be a celebration of friendships and history. The cost of the tickets is simply to cover the cost of the venue, food, beverages and entertainment. The Whitefriars Parents' Association will be donating funds towards the evening to ensure it is cost effective for the wider community.

The event will be held at the Vogue Ballroom on Friday 20 August from 7pm. Tables of ten are available but with a capacity of 370 people, make sure to get in early.

Ticket includes three course meal, canapes and all beverages and entertainment by 'Spin' – Melbourne's ultimate Cover Band

Get the early bird special price of \$110/ticket (until 1 June) or \$120/ticket until bookings close.

Visit [whitefriars.vic.edu.au/gala](http://whitefriars.vic.edu.au/gala)

How different it is writing to you in this year than in 2020.

We were so fortunate in Victoria this Easter to be blessed with stunning Autumn weather. The freedom of being able to go to church, see family members and holiday away reminds us how far we have come from this time last year.

The Whitefriars Parents Association were thrilled to be able to hold their first face to face meeting in 12 months and we welcomed new members to the committee. Thank you to our committee members Samantha Clifford (Vice President), Mark Trajcevski (Treasurer), Jessica Ramirez (Secretary), Dimity Catlin, Kate Coombs, Anna Fenech, Lisa Stackpole, Michelle Plant and Ryan Chhajer.

We were able to successfully hold eight House Gathering Masses and Dinners for the Year 7 boys and their families. It was wonderful to see the boys and their families stream down the path to the Science and Technology Centre, and to have members of the WPA and Senior boys mingle with them over refreshments. They are always wonderful evenings for parents to meet other parents and for our Whitefriars family to continue to grow.

Open Day on Sunday 14 March was wonderful. The sun was out and the grounds looked spectacular and green. The teachers, students and WPA committee were busy all day showing prospective families around our beautiful campus.

The Kookaburras laughed at us trying to feed all those hungry families at the sausage sizzle!

We look forward to seeing you through the year especially at the upcoming Whitefriars 60th Anniversary, Friday 20th August

Kind regards

**Mrs Michelle Stapelfeldt**

WPA President

[parents@whitefriars.vic.edu.au](mailto:parents@whitefriars.vic.edu.au)







# Old Whitefriars Cricketers

## Whitefriars Cricket Club Premiership



Premiership Team



The scores were level. The Old Caulfield Grammarian (OCG) bowler turned at his mark, looked up to see all his fielders crowded around the batsman before he charged in for one last delivery. OCG had won nearly every game since Christmas so was rightly favourite to win the MCC Club XI Div3 Grand Final. The onlookers of old boys, family and friends, all fell silent as the bowler reached the crease, arched his back, and released the ball. The wide-eyed batsman, Dom 'The Finisher' Soundareswaran, looked through the grill of his Friar emblomed helmet, and locked onto the ball. He pivoted his bat backward to the sky with the grace of a ballet pose, and stepped forward ready to strike.

In that split second, with the ball in mid-air and the silhouette of 'The Finisher' stepping down the pitch I thought about how surreal this season had been:

- Only hours earlier we had been using garden blowers to dry out the pitch to play
- The previous weekend in the semi-final we defeated the top of the ladder side, Old Haileybury, while rain threatened all day
- How our team kept the faith in our game plan to bounce back after a series of close losses
- To have our players put the team first, embracing our concept of 'playing a role' over individual interests
- How the season started with the College supporting our Covid-19 plan.

As the split second passed the ball was pitched in at a good length, slightly holding up in the soft pitch as the wielding willow of 'The Finisher' carved one last arc for the season. The ball swung in towards

the middle stump as the bat connected, which edged the ball down past fine leg for the winning runs. With our hands in the air and loud rejoicing voices, the celebrations began.

Our Premiership Captain, David Stephen, was instrumental in bringing energy and belief to win the flag. Our Most Valuable Player award went to Robbie Laurence with a record best 17 wickets including a 4/7 off 8 overs. Darren Holland (HS.63\*) wound back the clock to make a truckload of runs to win our Batting Award. David Larratt (avg.36) joined Rob and Darren in the MCC Club XI Team of the Year. We had Adam Marchesi (56\*, Semi-Final) and Mark Ronan (Final) as the players of the finals. Our 'Spirit of Friars' Award went to Xavier Smith (aka Captain Covid) for his own resilience and support of others throughout the season. We enjoyed the 50 Game milestones reached by Eddie Boal and Bharat Batra. Across the season we had 27 old boys and friends play for the team from classes of 1989 to 2020.

As Coach I feel very blessed and humbled to have played and won with such genuinely fantastic guys. We're all very proud to represent the wider Whitefriars community. We thank WOCA and SmithFeutrell for their financial support and the College ground staff for our immaculate ground. We look forward to seeing more players, mentors, and administrators to step up and enjoy being a part of our vibrant club.

**David Larratt**

Coach, Whitefriars CC

[whitefriarscc@gmail.com](mailto:whitefriarscc@gmail.com)



# Reunion

## A Kyneton Lunch to Celebrate 50 Years

During the COVID year, the Class of 1970 always planned to catch up but the logistics were continually a problem.

A long and very enjoyable sequence of emails plus a 'sub-committee' coffee meeting resolved that a possible lunch at a convenient hotel in Kyneton was do-able and so a date was set some seven months into the uncertain future.

On 27 February, a group of 15 intrepid travellers met at Southern Cross and travelled by bus and then train to Kyneton. The transit time provided a great opportunity to reminisce on our years at Whitefriars and many dodgy and questionable memories flourished – Did we really wear those brown caps? Were the teachers really that bad? Why wasn't I in the Bird Club? How many times did Michael visit the principal's office to be caned? Was the bottom oval ever dry?

Our merry band of white-haired 'gentle men' got on extremely well together and the attendees certainly missed those who couldn't make it on the day. Special thanks went to Phil Guiney who now lives in Perth and very kindly initiated the bar tab at The Albion. Particular praise was provided to our College Captain from 1970, Patrick Tehan, QC, who was awarded an Order of Australia medal in the New Year's honours.


Our group has experienced a great variety of adventures over the years – teachers, engineers, artists, lawyers, managers, truckies, doctors, Buddhist monks and business owners – the common thread was definitely the basic life principles that we attained at Whitefriars and these have kept us on the 'straight and narrow' through the years.

Another catch-up is planned to be held soon at the College so that we can get a feel for the daily life. Special thanks to Tim Wolff and Felix Hude who worked with me arrange the lunch and making the day a great success.


**Mr Philip Thomson (Class of 1970)**

WOCA President





*Shine Bright*  
like a **60** Diamond



**WHITEFRIARS**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR BOYS

cordially invites you to the  
*60th Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner*

<p>FRIDAY AUGUST</p> <p><b>20<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>2021</p>	<p><b>Vogue Ballroom</b></p> <p>399 BLACKBURN ROAD BURWOOD EAST</p>	<p><b>7:00<sup>pm</sup></b> DRINKS</p> <p><b>7:30<sup>pm</sup></b> Dinner &amp; Dance</p>
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Visit [whitefriars.vic.edu.au/gala](http://whitefriars.vic.edu.au/gala) for more details



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