



WHITTEPRIOR



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Belong. Believe. Become.



Features

- 07** | Dangerous little friar soon to be a Saint
- 08** | Who is Catherine Spurrirt?
- 10** | 2021 High Achievers
- 14** | A Moment at Whitefriars
- 18** | Whitefriars Peacekeepers
- 19** | Old Collegian Profile Daniel Purtell

Contents

- 03** | Board Report
- 04** | Principal's Report
- 12** | College Captain's Report
- 13** | Middle Years Captain's Report
- 20** | Whitefriars Parents' Association
- 21** | WOCA Presidents Report
- 22** | Great Stories Never Grow Old
- 23** | Old Whitefriars Cricketers

Board Report

It is with delight that I join Principal, Mark Murphy in welcoming students, staff and parents to the 2022 school year.



Margaret McKenna

I also extend the College Board's warm welcome to Year 7 students and those students new in Years 8-12. May it be a great year for each of you.

Early 2022 has seen a new set of challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The differences in 2022 are that Whitefriars College students, staff, families and the Board have proven skills and patterns which enable us all to respond in positive and energetic ways to the road ahead. A reflection of the College Board is that the Whitefriars College journey of 2020 and 2021 has prepared and continues to inform the confident provision of a Catholic Carmelite education for all students. We hear public commentators and community leaders speak about 2022 as being an opportunity to reset, perhaps even reimagine the future; the leaders, staff and students of this College are well placed for such a future. There is strength and rigor borne from the last couple of years which will position us well for the emerging opportunities in the year ahead.

The work of the Whitefriars College Board provides governance oversight of the College on behalf of the Carmelite Prior, Fr Paul Cahill, O.Carm and the Provincial Council. This work includes strategic oversight of finance, risk, mission, development and the privilege of bringing the Carmelite charism to life in this community. The Board and subcommittees of Risk, Finance and Mission, and Development continue to ensure the College is well placed for a strong and enduring future. Like all within the community, we are very excited by the new sports pavilion and related facilities that are currently in construction phase. Again, many great opportunities for the young men of Whitefriars.

The 2022 Board members are: David Alcock, Fr Hugh Brown, O.Carm, Damian Cairns, Norman Elliott, Fr David Hoffman, O.Carm, Leonie Kearney, Gaynor Robson-Garth, Nicholas Soraghan, James Thomson, Mark Walters and myself, Margaret McKenna.

In recent times the Board has incorporated presentations from College personnel into our Board meetings; these add a richness and currency to our understandings of and commitment to all that is Whitefriars College.

On behalf of the College Board, I extend very warm wishes for the year ahead, as we look to 2022 with optimism, strength and expectation.

Mrs Margaret McKenna

Board Chair

Principal's Report

Recently Whitefriars College welcomed the 62nd group of Year 7 students to commence at the College.



Mark Murphy

"a school where all are welcome, where all are encouraged to be themselves, to pursue their passions and to demonstrate compassion, empathy and respect for the dignity of each human person."

Whenever a new group of students starts at our school, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and responsibility. Gratitude to the parents of these students who, after a long period of research and discernment, have made the significant decision to send their sons to this Catholic school for boys in the Carmelite tradition. Responsibility, because the decision they have made has not been taken lightly. It is a decision taken as a **leap of faith** as these parents place their trust in our College to guide, nurture, develop and educate their son over the next six years in partnership with them.

An important question I ask myself as these shiny shoed, fresh-faced and excited students take their first tentative steps down that iconic driveway into the heart of Whitefriars is **why?** Why is it that these parents chose to send their sons here? What attracted them, what are they hoping for and what is important to them?

To assist us in understanding what led parents to make this important decision and to discover their aspirations, hopes and dreams for their son, our Development and Marketing team commissioned a survey. One of the most valuable questions presented to parents in the survey was... **When considering a school for your son what felt most important?**



The responses to this question were quite varied, however, it was clear that there was broad consensus regarding what our newest parents' thought were the most important considerations when choosing a College for their precious boys. In no particular order, the top four responses provided were:

- **strong and clear values under pinned by our identity as a Catholic school in the Carmelite tradition**
- **good pastoral care**
- **broad opportunities and experiences for all students both in and outside the classroom**
- **a school culture of acceptance and belonging.**

In reading these comments I was comforted and encouraged that these parents were clearly aligned with who we are and what we are about as a Catholic Carmelite school for boys. I was particularly pleased to see that our new parents valued a school where all are welcome, where all are encouraged to be themselves, to pursue their passions and to demonstrate compassion, empathy and respect for the dignity of each human person.

Having read these comments my mind was drawn back to a simple phrase uttered by one of our Year 9 boys from 2021, Maximillion Ceppi. Whilst on a school tour with prospective families, we came across Max engaged in a singing lesson with his vocal teacher, Tracey Langer. When asked what he loved most about his school Max said that he loved Whitefriars because it was a ***place where you can find yourself.***

When pressed to explain what he meant by this statement, Max said that Whitefriars was a place where each person is free to pursue their interests and passions without fear, judgement or inhibition. Whether it be on the stage, on the sporting field, in the classroom, matching witness with an opposing chess player or a group of debaters. Whitefriars provides a myriad of activities which allow boys to test themselves, to explore their limits, to expand their horizons and most importantly, to find like-minded souls who will become lifelong friends. I believe this to be one of the great strengths of Whitefriars College, where young men demonstrate support, empathy and encouragement of each other, and recognise and applaud each other's achievements across broad fields of endeavour.





At Whitefriars we discern opportunities to expand our repertoire of experiences both in and outside the classroom for the benefit of our curious, adventurous and courageous young men who take themselves out of their personal comfort zones in the pursuit of new challenges.

To this end we continue to develop our facilities to be sympathetic to an evolving set of offerings. Currently we are in the process of completing works on a new multipurpose synthetic courts area, the size of six tennis courts plus a new fitness centre and change room facility adjacent to the lower ovals.

We are also about to embark on a new College Master Plan process to secure the long-term future of Whitefriars. I look forward to presenting these plans to you in future additions of the Whitefriar.



Almae In Fide Parentis

Mr Mark Murphy

Principal



Dangerous little friar soon to be a Saint

The whole Carmelite world is getting ready to celebrate the Canonisation of Blessed Titus Brandsma with the official announcement from Rome that he will be canonised on Sunday 15 May.



That means that Brandsma will be officially recognised as a Saint and martyr.

Early Life

Anno Brandsma was born on 23 February 1881 in Friesland, a province in the very north of Holland. He joined the Carmelites in 1898 taking his father's name, Titus, as his religious name. He made his First Profession in October 1899 and was ordained priest on 17 June 1905.

Ministry and Mission

In 1923, Titus helped found the Catholic University of Nijmegen, and worked there as lecturer, professor and administrator. He served as Rector Magnificus (President) during the academic year 1932-33. Titus was kind and students at the university constantly sought him out.

As a Carmelite friar, he shared the Order's spiritual tradition with people outside the University. He travelled widely, including to the United States in 1935, lecturing on Carmelite Spirituality.

Journalism

Throughout his life Titus also cultivated his interest in journalism and publishing. In late 1935, he became the National Spiritual Adviser to the Union of Catholic Journalists. He encouraged opposition to the publication of Nazi propaganda in Catholic newspapers and in the Press generally. He was especially critical of its anti-Semitism. When the Nazis invaded Holland in May 1940, Titus encouraged the bishops to speak out against the persecution of the Jews and the infringement of human rights generally by the occupiers. In doing so, he became a marked man by the authorities.

Arrest and Martyrdom

As delegate of the Dutch Bishops, he fought to keep Catholic schools open and Nazi propaganda out of the Catholic Press. For doing that he was arrested by the Nazi regime and sent to a succession of concentration camps before arriving at his final destination: Dachau. One Gestapo officer called him, 'A dangerous little friar'.

Under the harsh regime in Dachau, his health quickly deteriorated, and he was in the camp hospital by the third week of July. He was subjected to biological experimentation before being killed by lethal injection on 26 July 1942. Brandsma was beatified (named Blessed) on 3 November 1985 in Rome and recognised as a martyr. He will be canonised as a Saint on 15 May this year.

Saint for today

Throughout his life Titus Brandsma remained deeply in touch with God and deeply in touch with the plight of his fellow human beings. He stood up for what he believed in, he fought racial discrimination and religious persecution, he urged people to goodness, he championed human rights, he held firm to his faith in God and became God's love in action for those around him. That's what being a saint is all about, isn't it?

Fr David Hofman, O.Carm

Who is Catherine Spurritt?



Your school experience

What was your worst subject at school?

Visual Arts and Textiles. I loved making lino prints and ceramics, but I wasn't particularly good at it. I also have memories of being in Year 7 and Mrs Reid telling me to unpick my handstitched patchworking over and over again. It didn't help my perfectionist tendencies. I've also had a love-hate relationship with the French language over the years. So much struggle but so much joy too! It was something that I never thought I would ever master.

What is your fondest memory of school?

Too many to list – my school days were pretty happy, even through my years of teenage angst. In 2000, there were a couple of big Jubilee celebrations – one held at Rod Laver arena and another at Marvel Stadium, where students from Catholic schools across the state came together to celebrate the Eucharist. I auditioned and was accepted into the Orchestra. Eddie McGuire was the MC. Being one of 60,000 Catholic youth at Marvel Stadium was just amazing!

What are your other hidden talents?

I speak and have taught French. I've lived in France and still feel at home there all these years later. My love of French was something that was fostered in me as a secondary school student and it has given me opportunities to connect with others and appreciate diversity in ways that I would not have, if I were monolingual.

Music and drama were also central to my memories of secondary school. In Year 9, I wrote an Italian-themed musical with some of my musically-talented and humourous friends. We filmed it on VHS and spent many hours manually editing it. It was the culmination of

a term of work, but it was never about the end product. There were so many opportunities for collaboration, creativity and problem solving along the way. Our music teacher was someone who gave us lots of scope to have a go and bring all our pizza-eating, 1950s Mafia-themed ideas to life. It was a great example of what young people are capable of when a teacher instils confidence in them, sets the boundaries and then steps out of the way!

Why did you choose education as a career?

A career in teaching wasn't where I thought I'd end up as a secondary school student. Back then, I had my eyes firmly fixed on a career in law, with an emphasis on social justice. During my first year at Monash University, I volunteered on a number of community camps with primary school aged children and young adults. Here, I realised that I had a real strength for connecting with young people and I took such energy and hope from these experiences. That said, I am a proud third generation teacher. Both my parents spent their careers in Catholic education and my grandmother was a fierce woman who pursued her studies in Economics and Education later in life.

Educating men of the future

What drew you to Whitefriars?

I've spent my entire career up to this point in girl's education. About 12 months ago, I knew that I was looking for a new adventure and I had a sense, call it intuition if you will, that my next role would be in a boy's school. Our young men need many role models in their lives – but more than ever, I believe, our young men need to see strong female role models occupying every seat at the table. The only way

that our young men will come to understand what respectful relationships look like, is to experience them in the authentic context of the classroom or in co-curricular pursuits. It is a real honour to be the first female Deputy Principal of the College, and every day I feel so well supported by the community in my work. It is an exciting time to be here!

Why is single sex, boy's education important to you?

In my first conversation with Mark Murphy, the notion of forming gentle men really connected with who I am and my aspirations for our young people in this community. When I reflect upon the influential men in my own life, they are all gentle too. They are kind-hearted, yet strong. They are wise, determined, focused, courteous and humble. What I love about working in a single sex school is that there is no single image of what it is to be a man. In this place, at this time, our young people (and our adults too) are free to be themselves without gendered stereotypes or labels.

How do you think we should be educating young men of the future?

Many people have strong ideas about an education fit for the future. My ideas are quite simplistic – an education in which the learning of the classroom connects to the world beyond our College gates, and that allows our boys, once they have left us, to know what to do when they don't know what to do. The world in which we live is increasingly uncertain and is rapidly changing. I believe we are in the business of shaping young people to respond to whatever may come their way in the future. If we've done a good job, they will be effective learners and decision-makers who can tackle any challenge that confronts them.

Nowadays

What is your greatest achievement?

Something I am proud of is the legacy I was able to leave during my two years working at Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) as a Coach/Consultant in the Languages Team. If you walk into many of the Catholic primary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese, you might witness a little bit of me and my practice in the Languages programs of these schools. I worked alongside Principals and school staff to reimagine their programs and improve student learning.

What advice would you give your young self – or perhaps your current self?

Take your time. There's no rush. My bias for action sometimes means that I take on too much, when I should just allow myself and others a little more time to tackle initiatives a little more slowly. A wise friend once asked me "How would you eat an elephant? One bit at a time." It's a good reminder to work methodically and slowly at things that are big and daunting. I also need to be better at savouring the moment. When my son was small, I looked forward to the next milestone – crawling, walking, talking, learning to ride a bike, learning to read, knowing that each stage would be more exciting than the one that came before. Now he's almost 9 years old, I just want to slow down time and savour the moments with him.

What is still on your bucket list?

I am looking forward to travelling again. My last trip overseas was with a group of Year 10 and 11 students on a language immersion to France and it is always such a joy to share adventures like these with young people. We also put a family holiday to Vietnam on hold back in March 2020, so it would be good to enjoy some family time exploring South East Asia. That said, I've actually never been to Central Australia so I'm hoping that in the not-too-distant future I'll have the chance to learn more about the spirituality and cultures of our country's First Nations peoples through visits to some of the sacred sites in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park area.

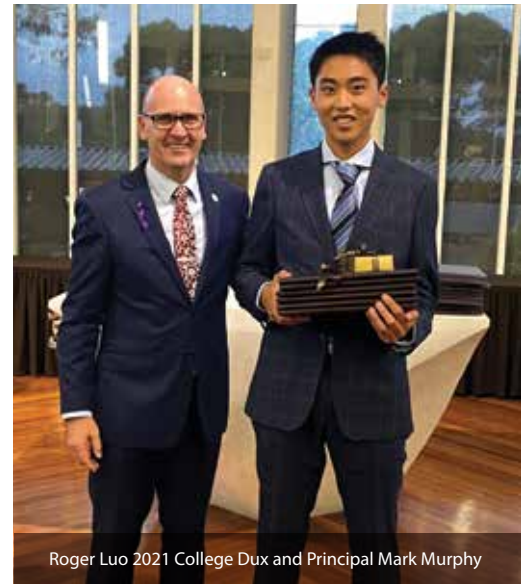
What legacy would you hope to leave at Whitefriars?

My work at Whitefriars College will be done when our teachers and students are consistently partners in learning - when we are all learning from one another all of the time. This year, I've introduced the inclusion of our Year 12 Academic Captains on the Learning Team (a committee of Learning Leaders and other senior staff charged with responsibility for evaluating the impact and direction of learning programs). I learn so much from our students and their insights every day. I'd love to see our students and staff working alongside one another on the 'big issues' of teaching and learning become the norm in the future.

2021 High Achievers



2021 High Achievers



Roger Luo 2021 College Dux and Principal Mark Murphy

Living in COVID-times has indeed reminded us of the importance of patience, flexibility and adaptability.

Long after the memories of their Year 11 and 12 experience have faded and the key terminology, quotes and formulae of their Year 12 subjects have been forgotten, we hope that these attributes stay with our Whitefriars College graduates into the future. These are the attributes that will enable them to create change, and to make a positive contribution to our rapidly changing world. Our world is waiting for you, and you are ready for the world!

We congratulate the Class of 2021 on their achievements in another challenging year and commend them on their efforts. Each one of these young people, whether pursuing a VCE or VCAL pathway, has pursued personal excellence. They have made the most of their Whitefriars College education to open up new possibilities and pathways in the world that exists beyond the gates on Park Road.

We have witnessed them work with optimism and comradery, striving to achieve mastery in their learning. They have contributed their talents to the College community, in sport, the arts and a range of other co-curricular activities. They have demonstrated servant leadership and have modelled the Carmelite tenants of community, contemplation and service in their living.

The 2022 College Dux, Roger Luo, achieved an ATAR of 99.45, including a study score of 50 in Mathematical Methods – placing him in the top 0.3% of the subject cohort state-wide. Roger has accepted an offer from the University of Melbourne to study Science/Engineering in the Masters accelerated pathway. Our congratulations are also extended to our Dux Proximus, Ben Ostermeyer, for his ATAR of 98.60 and his study score of 50 in Psychology. Ben has accepted an offer to study Speech Pathology.

at the Australian Catholic University.

Our VCAL High Achiever was Darcy Fenech. Darcy’s collaborative and supportive approach to his Senior VCAL studies was acknowledged by all who worked with him. In 2022, Darcy is undertaking an apprenticeship in carpentry and will be joining the Australian Defence Force.

The success of students in their senior years is due not only to the students themselves. We acknowledge the important role that the whole community plays in fostering an environment in which young people can flourish. To the parents and families of the Class of 2021, we say thank you. To our dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff who have challenged the Class of 2021 to explore, to experiment and to persevere, we say thank you.

We give thanks for the *gentle men* of the Class of 2021 and for all that they have contributed to the Whitefriars College community over the years.

We wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Mrs Catherine Spurr

Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching



Darcy Fenech, VCAL Excellence Award recipient addressing High Achievers and their families

Our 95+ Achievers

Roger Luo	99.45	Joseph Blaser	98.25	Oscar Lam	96.05
Ben Ostermeyer	98.60	Seamus O’Neill	98.25	Witton Liang	95.95
Lachlan Callander	98.55	Samuel Cant	97.10	Joshua Tapley	95.70
Fynn Jones	98.50	Maxwell Hartnett	96.55	Jake De Andrade	95.60
Nathaniel Barnes	98.45	Domenico Lepore	96.55		
Charlie Schroder	98.40	Angus Ballantyne	96.20		

Our 90+ Achievers

Patrick Cotter	94.15	Ashley Hartnett	92.60	Edward Levi	91.20
Robert House	93.65	Athanasios Stefanos	92.40	William Jennings	91.10
Callum Tham	93.35	Leo Chen	92.30	Samuel Montgomerie	90.90
Andrew Coppin	92.85	Peter Andrikopoulos	92.00	Tom McKenna	90.30

College Captain's Report

It has been a privilege to see all the success that the start 2022 has brought for the young men at Whitefriars and the College community.



Jordan Goss, Evan O'Connor and Luke Verhoeven

Term 1 has demonstrated triumphs, growth and possibility through incredible experiences and opportunities, and I have been fortunate enough to oversee and participate as the Whitefriars College Captain for 2022. Supported by the College Vice Captains, Jordan Goss and Luke Verhoeven, as well as Ashley White, Middle Years Captain and Middle Years Vice Captains, Gabe Bajan, Declan O'Farrell and James Dorrat-Sims, our roles remain a collaborative effort. Together we will continue to work alongside staff and students, in a constant effort to make positive contributions to the Whitefriars community and wider society.

Welcoming the new Year 7s (Class of 2027) has seen the College charisms and spirit continue, as we have watched them form new friendships, grasp opportunities and enter our Whitefriars community, wearing their blazers with the upmost pride. These initial connections were only strengthened on their trip to Mt Eliza, as well as their House welcoming dinners and masses. For all 'Friars boys, these experiences remain more than fond memories, they are the beginnings of lifelong connections with friends and a community like no other. Quickly, they have found themselves a part of College life, and I have already seen them contribute and achieve, inside and outside of the grounds. I'm beyond eager to see all that they can achieve!

The year started with an Opening Mass for our Year 7s and Year 12s on their first days. It was an indescribable experience for both parties. The Class of 2022 graciously entered their last year at the College – a bittersweet moment. I've been fortunate to work, grow and journey with these boys since our first days here, and I have no doubt that our last year here will be a testament to the incredible individuals who make up this cohort.

The highly anticipated House Athletics Carnival was a fantastic demonstration of all the sporting talent at Whitefriars. Each of the eight Houses competed in numerous track and field events, with true mateship and sportsmanship exhibited in every race! With participation from all year levels, the incredible performances were only second to the Year 12s costumes; a colourful array of outfits graced the Bill Sewart Athletics Track, including 15 Mr Pryer's, a selection of Tetris blocks and more superheroes than a comic book! The day was won by Avila, led by House Captain Dom Varrasso who was momentarily lifted by the rest of Year 12 Avila upon their victory!

Our House Swimming Carnival was another incredible display of all that our boys can achieve, with each swimmer and supporter demonstrating true determination, hard work and talent. Harrison Barker from Year 12 Avila took home the Fastest Friar medal, alongside Joel Pollard who won the Junior Fastest Friar. Congratulations goes to Edith Stein for their victory in the Senior Carnival, as well as Soreth for their victory in the Junior Carnival!

On Tuesday 8 March, the College actively participated in International Women's Day (IWD), where we committed to #BreakTheBias. The Student Representative Councils worked hard in the weeks prior, hand-making our purple ribbons and question cards. Student Leaders participated in 'Conversation Café' at Our Lady of Sion College, where students of all ages spoke in an open dialogue about various issues, including gender, identity and safety. These conversations were not only important to have on IWD, but proved vital as the beginning of long-term dialogue between both schools – a commitment to a continuous relationship.

The College theme for this year, 'community' has been embodied in all aspects of the word. As a student leadership team, we've made a commitment to also embody the Carmelite tenants of service and contemplation, as we aim to strengthen the relationships within our school as well as serve those in our wider communities. This has already been demonstrated through our fundraising efforts in the World's Greatest Shave (almost \$15 000 raised), as well as our donations and commitment to Caritas Australia.

Already, we've seen the promise, hope and opportunity that 2022 has to offer. As 'Friars boys, we've picked up where the past two years have left off. These events and opportunities here have yielded connection, laughter and enjoyment as we've joined to journey, to live and to support one another. I can't wait to see the incredible things we achieve.

Evan O'Connor
College Captain

Middle Years Captain's Report

If anyone would have told me at the end of 2019 that we would be in and out of isolation for the next two years, I would have thought they were crazy.



Ashley White with his mum Heather



College and Middle Years Captains receiving their blazers

Same goes for everyone. What a different, challenging and interrupted past two years it has been. We haven't had the chance to do the things we love doing and see the people that make us smile.

My name is Ashley White, and I am the 2022 Middle Years Captain. Working with Gabriel Bajan, James Dorrat-Simms and Declan O'Farrell as the Middle Years Vice-Captains, as well as College Captain, Evan O'Connor and Vice Captains, Jordan Goss and Luke Verhoeven, I will be striving to make 2022 a year of belonging. A year where we can truly delve deeper into what the Whitefriars Community really is.

The start of the year put us straight back into reality; RAT testing, isolating and mask wearing. Year 7s missed their camp experience but instead were still able to do day trips with the same activities.

Again due to COVID restrictions, our Opening School Mass which normally takes place at St Patrick's Cathedral was cancelled and a modified ceremony was held at the College. It was still a great event and was a special day for all captains and student representatives of Whitefriars.

At the annual Athletics Carnival, Soreth House was going for their back to back to back win and fell agonisingly short in 2nd place, behind Avila House.



Some Soreth runners at House Athletics

As we go forward in 2022, I wish everyone happiness and the best of health, knowing that Whitefriars is a great and safe place for all – a place where everyone can feel like they can belong, believe and become.

Ashley White

Middle Years Captain

A Moment at Whitefriars

Year 7



The frigid ocean breeze blew over my face as my shoulders were tired from the vigorous power needed to paddle my kayak. We could view the substantial buildings of Melbourne city through the ocean mist.

The safety boat stopped moving as its low grumble coming from the engine stopped, I knew it was time.

I hopped out of the kayak into the water, causing it to capsize and send Joseph into the refreshing water! I took a dip into the icy cold bay water to cool off on the 32-degree day. It was exciting to kayak with Joseph as our first experience together.

Travis Murray

My heart was pounding. Luke was rushing towards me, and I was getting ready to bolt.

Before the relay, I wasn't confident, and my mind was spinning. It was killing me, waiting for the signal of the race to sound. "Am I fast enough?" I thought. "I've never trained for this!"

But this was it. I was about to prove myself worthy of Soreth, and the whole of Whitefriars!

Luke was swiftly approaching, sprinting as fast as he could. Suddenly, I felt a jolt of fizzling energy. I started to jog as Luke got closer.

Whoosh! I was off with the baton.

Bailey Chessum

It was finally the day. The day that as going to be one of the greatest days in Year 7. The camp was going to last for two days. This was going to be exhilarating.

At Camp Manyung I was walking nervously towards the introduction where I could see three houses sitting. I slowly stumbled over to the Brandsma area. I sat on the grass next to a couple of other Year 7s. I felt timid greeting them, but I finally did. They did as well. The dismay loosened as this was becoming a friendship and my beginning journey at Whitefriars.

Daniel Borowski

As the day of camp was concluding my group headed to the tree-top challenge. When we arrived, I saw how high we were going, and I felt like giving up. I hoped we were doing the lower one but when we finished the practice course everyone headed to the top.

I felt like in the future I would be disappointed if I didn't do it. At the top I knew it was too high, but I needed to try.

The instructor said I could do the short course, I did, and in the end, I felt I tried my hardest and had fun.

Harry Rodman







As I positioned myself for the race, my heart feels as if it's a termite mound getting thrashed by a predator, caving in on all sides, my legs feeling like jelly melting on a hot summer's day. My body has gone numb as my teammate has started off, and my confidence is seeping out of me.

Before I knew what was happening a scarlet red object was driven into my hand, the wind screeching in my ears, my hands producing sweat like juice boxes. I end my role, screaming encouragingly with all my force. My knees buckle with relief, I can rest.

Will Hunter

I step out the packed bus with a spring in my step and full of anticipation; it was my first day of Year 7. It was a fresh start, my Whitefriars journey was under way. Who knew what 2022 would bring?

I made my way excitedly down to the reflective garden. There were so many new faces and surroundings, so I felt a mixture of emotions. I caught up with my mates from Trinity at the flag and I soon felt Whitefriars is where I belong.

My high schooling had started, and I couldn't wait to take on the challenge.

Ben Nicholls

My stomach filled to the rim with butterflies as the sound of the siren shattered my eardrums. I was so focused on the track ahead of me that I could barely feel my legs, but I knew they were moving. I held the tube tight in my hand as I ran around the bend. Breath after breath it became harder to breathe, until I slapped the bat into Flynn's hand. When Flynn flew off, I realised we had a chance and in a blink of an eye, Oscar was bolting to clutch a second-place finish in the Year 7 Whitefriars relay.

Jonathan Hewitt

Whitefriars Peacekeepers

The dust and humidity in Juba, South Sudan in October 2021 was an unlikely place for two old boys to meet.



Whitefriars alumni Major Michael Lee (left) and Major Krystian Havlin at the entrance to the UNMISS main camp in Juba, South Sudan.

UNMISS is charged with the protection of civilians, creating conditions favourable to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, supporting the revitalised peace agreement, and monitoring, investigating and reporting on violations of humanitarian and human rights law. It is a privilege to serve as an Army Officer representing Australia as part of the United Nations, and doing our small part to make the world a better place for all humanity.

After completing Year 12 in 2007, Major Krystian Havlin was accepted to the Australian Defence Force Academy and studied an Engineering Degree with Honours. He was commissioned as a Royal Australian Engineers Officer and has held several appointments within Engineer Construction Squadrons. He is married to Anna and they welcomed their daughter Charlotte in 2020. After his return from South Sudan, Krystian will serve as the Officer Commanding for 108 Works Section.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) only has 15 members at any one time working in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Yet, an offhand comment about growing up in Melbourne and going to school in Donvale swiftly narrowed down the possible options until only Whitefriars remained.

We were soon sharing stories and memories about our time at Whitefriars, comparing notes about which teachers were still there and the huge developments and improvements that occurred during and after our time. We both reflected on the education we received and the culture of 'Belong, Believe, Become' and 'Gentle Men', which Whitefriars is committed to fostering in the young men entrusted to their care and how this had shaped us.

To serve as a peacekeeper is a humbling and challenging experience. South Sudan is one of the youngest and poorest nations on Earth, having fought a brutal civil war until their independence in 2011. There is so much that needs to be done to support the many people who live in extreme poverty while intercommunal/ethnic violence persists and the threat of renewed civil war still bubbles beneath the surface.

I, Major Michael Lee, attended Victoria University after completing Year 12 in 1996, and studied Computer Science while serving in the Army Reserve. I was later accepted to the Royal Military College Duntroon and commissioned as a Royal Australian Corps of Signals Officer. I have held numerous appointments within Signals Regiments and headquarters, deploying to Afghanistan in 2007-08, UAE/Afghanistan in 2010-11 and Iraq in 2017-18. I am married to Renada and have three children: Parker, Jonah and Portia. Parker commenced Year 7 at Whitefriars in 2021, happily using the father-son rule to join the best House, Soreth. Jonah will continue the family tradition in 2023.

In service of peace and Almae in Fide Parentis.

Major Michael Lee
Class of 1996

Daniel Purtell

Occupational Therapist / Accredited Hand Therapist

Class of 1999

Whilst I never thought I would go around promoting this, I do have quite fond memories of my time at Whitefriars College.



Daniel Purtell



1998 Whitefriars 'Herald Sun Cup' winners at the MCG



Daniel with his family

Aside from the many friendships that were made and remain, I received a balanced education which allowed my interests in sciences and sports to co-exist without the need (or pressure) to excel in either. This balance is one that I carried forward into my life after high school.

My education continued at La Trobe University where I studied a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (2000-2003). A health science degree that offers many and varied employment opportunities. It was through my four-year degree that I was exposed to many areas of practice with one appealing to me, Hand Therapy. Upper limb rehabilitation provided a great mix of patient interaction, thermoplastic orthotic construction and research-based treatment and I could see myself pursuing a career in this. I followed the specialty immediately upon leaving university at Monash Health and in multiple private Upper Limb Surgical Centre's in the outer east suburbs.

Again, I divided my time between studies, work and sports. Pursuing my love of AFL football developed on the top oval at Whitefriars (and the MCG!), through the U/18 competition and into the VFL with Port Melbourne Football Club. Never would I have the ability to make a career of my sporting abilities but was happy to keep the balance between sport and academia.

In 2007, my future wife and I took our shared university degree and travelled to the United Kingdom to work and travel in Europe for 24 months. We had the pleasure of working in hospital's in Scotland,

northern England and London. Travelling throughout Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Russia in between juggling short-term hospital contracts. The ability to balance travel and work meant this was a very enjoyable chapter in my life.

Upon return to Melbourne, engaged to my now wife and soon to start a family, my career continued to develop. Exposed to a fantastic group of upper limb surgeons and therapists at St Vincent's hospital I went on to setup my own practice. With many opportunities to be involved in both local and international research projects, conferences, and scientific journals. The highlight for me was to be part of the treatment team for Australia's 1st Hand Transplant in 2011. I worked intensely with the recipient to ensure the best possible result was achieved following such an extensive and high-profile surgery. The results were impressive and his rehabilitation was largely a great success. To have the opportunity to teach someone to write a letter, with his newly transplanted hand, to the family of the donor is something I'll never forget.

In more recent years my wife and I are lucky enough to have welcomed two healthy young boys to the world. A challenge, but one that rewards day in day out. So now I balance my time between my practice, my two young boys, my Wife and my mates. This balance is difficult, as at any one-time work, family and relationships can demand more attention than I can give. I'm not sure anyone get's this balance 100% right but it's something to strive for.

Whitefriars Parents' Association



The energy around the College and our community is infectious.

Term 1 has been magnificent! The Whitefriars Parents' Association (WPA) is excited and energised to be back on campus working with the College and you – our fabulous community.

Our 2022 objective is to connect our community while supporting Whitefriars with its endeavours – and to have fun.

During February and March, the WPA and the College hosted eight **House Welcome Evenings**. It was fabulous to see the Year 7 gentlemen and their families join us at the Science and Technology Centre, hosted by WPA members and the Senior boys. They are wonderful evenings for parents to connect and for our Whitefriars community to continue to grow.

Open Day was also a huge success with the WPA hosting a BBQ lunch and information for prospective students and their families – a large turn out with great community involvement.

On Sunday 27 March, the WPA hosted its inaugural **Twilight BBQ** – a brilliant evening on a warm summer's night for parents to connect and have a few relaxing drinks in the area overlooking our fabulous oval. A great evening was had by all who attended – the WPA will definitely be scheduling another one!

Every event this year has exceeded expectations with consistently strong feedback around the opportunities these events provide to parents and guardians. The WPA looks forward to that continuing. Our next event is our much anticipated 60th Anniversary Gala on Friday 15 July, from 7pm. This is a black-tie celebration of the College's 60th year. To book visit whitfriars.vic.edu.au/gala

We are fortunate to have an active and committed WPA who make all this possible. Feel free to contact us should you wish to join.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

All the best

Mark Trajcevski

WPA President

parents@whitfriars.vic.edu.au

WOCA President's Report

Wow – what a couple of years we've all had to endure!



It's fair to say that 2020 and 2021 were somewhat of a wipe out but the resilience, perseverance and courage of our College students has been amazing to witness!

Your Association over this period has been in 'caretaker mode' and simply unable to contribute significantly but now it's time to breathe new life into the organisation starting with an AGM to form a new committee. Once we establish a solid group, we can develop and implement some new ideas which will hopefully build bridges across Old Collegians, past and current parents, friends of the College, existing sporting teams and the wider Carmelite community. The date for the meeting will be announced soon via our Facebook page.

Whitefriars Cricket Club has had another enjoyable season competing in the Melbourne Cricket Club's Club XI competition (Division 3). Finals were not the reward this season but the gentlemen who have played for the Club were a credit to the College. Week after week the main oval was presented in excellent condition thanks to our brilliant groundsmen.

Whitefriars Football Club will hopefully get to complete a full season in Division 1 of the VAFA competition after their stellar 2019, abandoned 2020 and interrupted 2021 season. We wish them all the best under new coach, Luc Matthews. The Women's team will again be competing hard and both enthusiasm and participation levels are high. We hope that all teams achieve success this season and hope that many more future AFL recruits can emerge from Donvale.

Reunions are a major WOCA endeavour and the 1971 group have recently kicked off the 2022 group. The College is keen to assist with the organisation of all types of reunions so please don't be shy – dates, formats and venues are negotiable. Initial contact is via woca@whitefriars.vic.edu.au

Remember also to register as an Old Collegian through whitefriarsconnect.com.au which helps you to stay informed about happenings at the College relevant to you. You can also visit the College website whitefriars.vic.edu.au/community/old-collegians to find details of all upcoming events.

Mr Philip Thomson

WOCA President

Great Stories Never Grow Old

It seems such a long time ago when a group of wide eyed 11 and 12-year-old boys started out their secondary education at Whitefriars.



Well yes it was, 50 years ago, in fact. So, what better excuse for the group to get together again, to share those stories and memories of the past.

This wild idea and organisation behind the scenes was masterminded by Damien Cook with my assistance, and was held at the Imperial Hotel, Melbourne. COVID restrictions had seen the event postponed from late 2021, but the group finally made it through the doors in March. Thanks also to Mick Bannenberg who put together a video montage of photos from the past, while unfortunately he couldn't actually make it on the night.

Hunting down those young faces from long ago proved to be an exercise in itself. People had spread far and wide, but through the contacts, rumours, Facebook, and old phone and address lists, a good number were found. Right down to Noel Murphy now living in England and Leigh Frayne driving ferries in Norway! Unfortunately, given the age of the participants, some had passed away, while others were simply unlocatable.

Even with those limitations, 19 of the originals turned up, and one virtually! There was more than a smattering of grey hair or no hair, and while all had increased in height since that first 1966 photo, there was also a suggestion that some horizontal growth had also occurred over time.

It was fantastic to find out where people were and what they were doing, and it was truly appreciated how far some of the group had travelled, just for this event. John Alsop, Pete Wood, Richard Lee, Simon Dickinson from NSW, Frank McKeown from QLD, Tony Barrett from Tasmania, Noel from England and Peter McDonald, who couldn't join us due to WA border restrictions but hooked up via Facetime on the night.

John Jordan held the floor with the microphone and invited all to recount stories of their time at the College and as each of those memories were brought back to life, the heads were nodding with the recollections of how good and how funny they were. Richard Lee gave some advice on how to avoid the pain of the cane, a bit late now... Some were an enlightenment of what really happened all that time ago, as the truth could be now told without any fear of a trip to 'Pops office'.

Hopes are now that a few of those unable to make it on the night can get together over a lunch and liquid refreshments to re-live some of those precious memories. Perhaps we will find out what Gavan Connell and Frank McKeown were doing on the roof at La Verna and how they got stuck there?

George Fishlock

Class of 1971

Old Whitefriars Cricketers

Our 2021/22 pre-season was spent watching 'Dee' best 2021 AFL Grand Final in Perth and waiting for Lockdown #6 to end.

On November 7 we started playing without any training and after two rusty losses we earned our first win chasing down 137 set by Melbourne CC on their world class MCC North Oval at Beaumaris.

The following week were against Essendon CC at 'Windy Hill' where we were allocated the old Bombers' change rooms that evoked stories of Maddens, Danihers, Watsons, et.al. It was a beautiful sunny day so when our Captain David 'Super' Stephen won the toss, he promptly elected to bat. We started well with an impressive 145 run partnership between Super (71) and Adam 'Cheesy' Marchesi (77), which saw us reach 6/213 off 40 overs. Onlookers in the Reynolds, Hird and Cookson Stands clapped and cheered such that their echoes stretched across the ground just as a young Simon O'Donnell would have experienced. After 'Tea' we knew that we would have to bowl and field exceptionally well given many of the ECC players also play in District Grades. Fortunately, we were able to keep a tight line and hold our catches to see ECC slip behind their required run rate and eventually fall short (8/177) with DK Larratt's 4/20 the stand out.

After a few frustrating losses in January we found ourselves out of the finals race before the last round. It was a sobering experience after the highs of last season (a premiership hangover). We had 37 players from across the Whitefriars Community play, with notable contributions from Justin Kenez (played his 300th game), Darren Holland, Robbie Laurence, Xavier Smith, Eddie Boal, Timothy Sedgwick, Mark Ronan, pacemen Rob Coslovich and Joe Schwef, James McGowan and Alex Stephen.

A special mention for David Stephen as our tireless Captain, organiser and motivator that scored over 200 runs opening the batting. Well done to our top run scorer Adam Marchesi (286 runs) and to David Larratt who stepped up to fill a bowling void to take the most wickets (15).

Our appreciation to the wonderful support from the College, Mark Murphy and all the Grounds staff. Many thanks to our sponsors; WOCA, SmithFutrill and TeskaCarson. We look forward to seeing more cricketers join us when we return back to the College for our training sessions in Season 2022/23.



WindyHill



Adam Marchesi



MCG



Windy Hill Rooms

Whitefriars CC

oldwhitefriars.vic.cricket.com.au

whitefriarscc@gmail.com



Shine Bright
like a 60 Diamond



WHITEFRIARS
CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR BOYS

cordially invites you to the
60th Diamond Jubilee Gala Dinner

FRIDAY
JULY
15

Vogue Ballroom
399 BLACKBURN ROAD
BURWOOD EAST

7.00 pm

Drinks

7.30 pm

Dinner & Dance



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