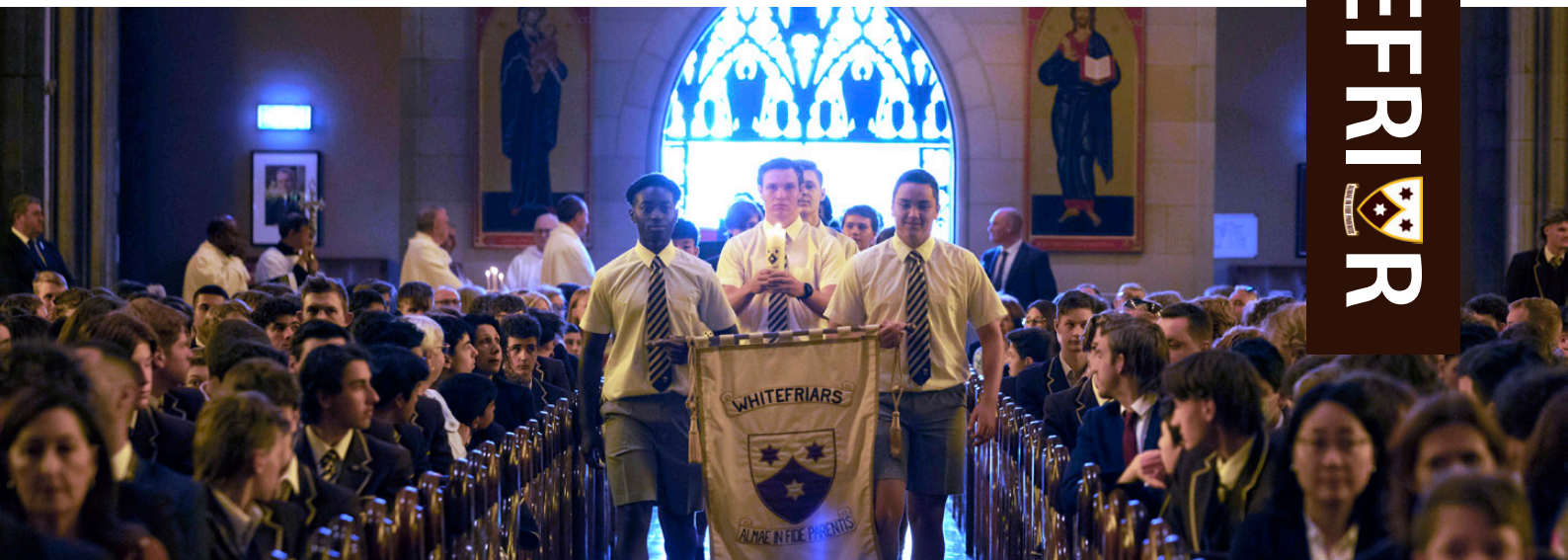




# WHITEFRIARS

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*Belong. Believe. Become.*



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# Board Report

On behalf of the College Board, I extend warm wishes to all within the College community for 2023.



Margaret McKenna

As you know, the Whitefriars College Board provides governance and strategic oversight in the areas of finance, risk, mission, development, and the bringing of the Carmelite charism to life in this community. Two areas of focus for the Board this year include the College Strategic Plan and the Victorian Government's renewed Child Safe Standards.

The Board is charged with considering the strategic needs of the College now and into the future. This will involve the Board's consideration of the current external and internal context in the light of our College mission, and the Vision and Values statement. I am hopeful that a high order Strategic Directions Statement can be promulgated to the community by the end of 2023. The intention is, that this work will inform future Board and Leadership direction and decisions.

The new Child Safe Standards place a key governance responsibility on the College Board; we appreciate that this responsibility is developed in partnership with the College Leaders and staff. To this end, the Board have committed to expand their knowledge and understanding in the new Child Safe Standards by allocating time on every meeting agenda and receiving regular reports and updates from College Leaders.

The Board, together with the College Principal Mr Mark Murphy, are committed to the safety and wellbeing of every young man at the College.

At the end of 2022, the Board farewelled the following long-serving Board members: Fr Hugh Brown O. Carm, Mr Damian Cairns, Fr David Hoffman O. Carm and Mr Mark Walters. I offer my thanks and appreciation for their wise and generous contributions to the governance of the College over many years.

This year, we have welcomed two new directors, Mr Simon Davies and Mr Neal Crossan. Simon brings extensive experience in the field of risk and professional standards within and beyond Catholic education. Neal is known to many in the community as former Deputy Principal and Charism Companion at Whitefriars College. I welcome both Simon and Neal and look forward to their contributions around the board table.

The 2023 Board members are: Mr David Alcock, Mr Neal Crossan, Mr Simon Davies, Mr Norman Elliott, Mrs Leonie Kearney, Mrs Gaynor Robson-Garth, Mr Nicholas Soraghan, Mr James Thomson and myself.

The Board looks forward to all that will unfold in 2023 and commits to working with and supporting Mr Mark Murphy in the provision of a great education for the young men of this College.

**Mrs Margaret McKenna**  
Board Chair

# Principal's Report

As a young person, I did not plan to become a teacher or a Principal.



Mark Murphy

"This is the time that we shouldn't fret too much that we don't have a plan. This is the time when we should just keep preparing. A time to take on new opportunities and new challenges without being particularly sure where they will take us."

Dear members of the Whitefriars College family,

Some of you might have heard of Julian Burnside AO KC. Julian is an Australian barrister, human rights and refugee advocate, and author. I once had the honour of hearing Julian speak to a group of senior secondary students. Following his inspiring address one of the students asked Julian how, as a young man, he had planned to become a lawyer. Julian replied to the question stating that he had never planned to be a lawyer. When he left school, Julian studied Economics and planned to enter the world of finance.

However, after seeing Julian present in the Monash University Debating team, a friend told him that with "his gift for presenting an argument, he should become a lawyer" - which is exactly what he did. Julian said that unbeknownst to him, all that time spent in debating teams and other public speaking opportunities was actually preparing him for his future as a lawyer. That experience taught Julian that he should not so much plan his life but rather prepare for it.



Often in life we are not sure where we are going, we do not know what we want to be, the road ahead is unclear. This is the time that we should not fret too much that we don't have a plan. This is the time when we should just keep preparing. A time to take on new opportunities and new challenges without being particularly sure where they will take us. But then one day an opportunity may present itself and we will realise that all that preparation has led us to this moment, to this opportunity. Therefore, the better we prepare, the more doors will open for us.

As a young person I did not plan to become a teacher or a Principal for that matter, I certainly did not plan to come back to my old school as the Principal. I simply prepared and along the way opportunities seemed to present themselves at the right moment. The more I prepared, the more opportunities appeared and often just at the right time. Some call it luck, some would say it is purely hard work and perseverance, others may suggest it is the work of the Holy Spirit. I think it is probably all three.

Often, I ask the young men at Whitefriars about their plans for the future. Some tell me they have everything mapped out and know exactly where they are going. I think that is great. Plans are good. They give us purpose and direction. You might be like that too. There is much benefit and comfort to be gained in knowing where you are going, what career path you are heading down, what courses to enrol in and what subjects to take to reach your goal. May I suggest that we should also leave ourselves open to other possibilities and perhaps plan less and prepare more? Others of us will have no idea where we are heading and that is okay too. Just keep preparing and I promise you good things will happen.

Two young men who have been exemplars of preparation here at Whitefriars are our 2022 VCAL Excellence Award winner Harry Apostolopoulos and 2022 VCE Dux of Whitefriars College, Liam Gilmour. Recently, at our High Achievers Awards evening both of these fine gentle men spoke with passion, insight and pride about their time of preparing at Whitefriars. Each spoke about the discipline and determination it took to reach their goals, the process and strategies they employed and most importantly about the people who walked with them throughout this significant year in their lives. Harry highlighted the many staff who had supported him throughout his schooling, particularly at more challenging moments. Harry has recently been granted an apprenticeship at Box Hill Golf Club as a Greenskeeper whilst he is studying Sports Turf Management at TAFE.





Liam spoke about how he had organised his year, how he had drawn on the support of his family and his mates, and how 'being the best version of himself that he could be' was his measure of success. Liam has now gone on to commence a double degree in Engineering (Honours) and Commerce at Monash University.

Every day at Whitefriars, I watch as young men prepare for a future beyond our imagining. I watch as our boys grab hold of the myriad of opportunities that are on offer here, not knowing where they will lead them but always willing to have a go with great energy and enthusiasm. I believe this is one of the keys to success at school and in life, and one which will set our young people up for a bright and exciting future.

Almae in Fide Parentis

**Mr Mark Murphy**  
Principal





# New House Leader Alex Timms

## on his past and the value of Pastoral Care



Alex Timms



### Tell us a little bit about your work before you got here?

I have always had a strong association with Catholic Schools in Victoria ranging from co-educational to single-sex, boarding to day schools, and primary through to secondary. I am a big believer in a quality co-curricular program and have enjoyed coaching various sports teams over the years. Being part of a team helps us learn about commitment, cooperation and resilience.

### What drew you to Whitefriars?

The best advertisement for a school is their students. Driving around the local area, the Whitefriars boys always stood out as exemplary students - polite, friendly and well-groomed. That notion has been confirmed in the first term that I have been here at the College. Whitefriars has a proud history and a promising future. I am very excited to be part of it!

### How does a Pastoral Care House system work?

When students commence at Whitefriars College they are allocated to a House. Each House contains seven Pastoral Care groups, each with a mixture of students from Years 7-12. Students stay in that Pastoral Care group, with the same teacher, for the duration of their time at the College. The Pastoral Care Teacher works closely with the students to support their social and emotional wellbeing. They connect with each other at the beginning of each day, as well as a weekly session in the dedicated 'Wellbeing Program'.

### Why is Pastoral Care important in modern day education?

The ability to work with others is an essential skill, not only in the workforce, but for society in general. The Pastoral Care system at Whitefriars helps students develop their interpersonal skills, building connections with students of varying ages, backgrounds, experiences, etc. The older students play a mentoring role for the younger students, whilst also acting as a role model. We now know that looking after an individual's overall health (physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual) is important, and this is done through the Pastoral Care system.

### What is the process if a Whitefriars student needs support?

Whitefriars offers many layers of support. As a starting point, students are encouraged to talk to their Pastoral Care teacher. Often the matter can be managed there, but if not, they are able to direct the enquiry to the relevant member of staff. If the student is struggling academically, the College offers learning support programs in specific areas. Whitefriars also has a team of outstanding psychologists and counsellors, who can work with students who are experiencing social, emotional or mental challenges.

### What is the process if a student is concerned about another student?

All the staff here at Whitefriars want to help our boys. So, if a student is concerned about another student, they can talk to any trusted adults at the school. Those reports can be made anonymously if the student wishes. The staff member can then assess the report and seek further advice from the appropriate channels.

### What are the benefits of educating boys in a single-sex environment?

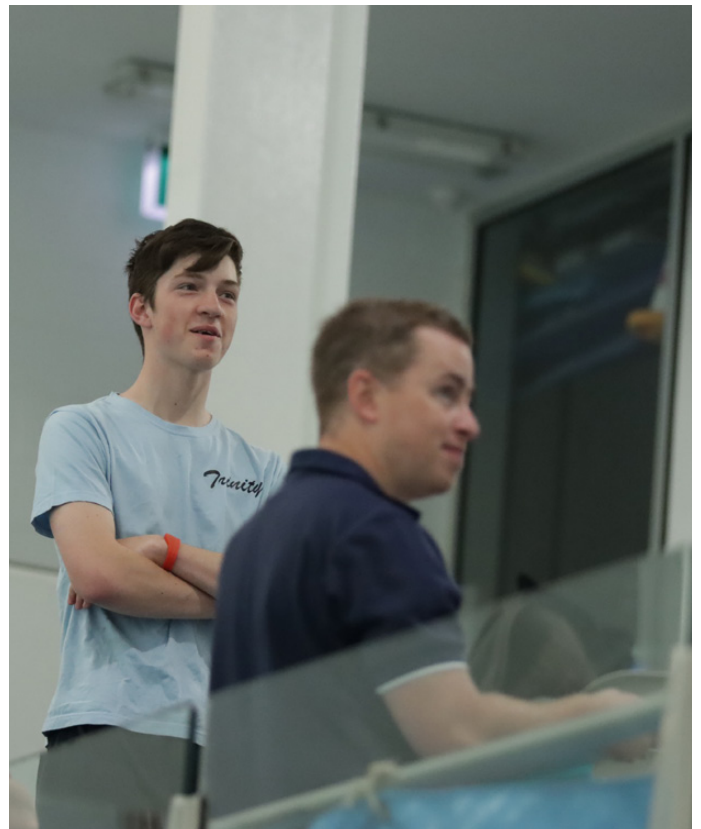
Without a doubt, boys education allows for the delivery of a specific, targeted program, suited to the needs of boys. This begins with the subjects that are offered, but also extends to the way that teachers teach.

### What advice would you give to your younger self?

Make the most of the opportunities that are presented to you! Life goes by so quickly and, as much as we would like it sometimes, there is no rewind button. Don't be afraid to say 'yes'!

#### Mr Alex Timms

House Leader - Trinity



# 2022 High Achievers

Whitefriars College provides a Catholic education for boys where excellence is valued and all are challenged to achieve their best.



On the evening of Wednesday 8 March, we acknowledged the achievements of the graduates of the Class of 2022 and a number of students who achieved exemplary results in their completion of a Unit 3&4 sequence while in Year 11 last year. How joyful it was to gather with our 2022 High Achievers, accompanied by their parents, and in some cases their grandparents too, in recognition of their commitment to their learning.

When I think of these award recipients, I cannot help but reflect upon the interactions that I have had with these young people over the past 18 months or so in my time at the College. Within this group of High Achievers are our College's Leaders – whether they held a formal role or not – these are students who have displayed grit and determination in their learning journey, who responded with conviction to feedback and who contributed to the positive and productive learning culture in our classrooms. They are impressive young people, who have contributed much to our great school. Whitefriars College exists to shape the next generation of leaders and changemakers who are contemplative, who contribute actively to community and who serve generously following Christ's example. These young people have, indeed, left a legacy that will endure.

We congratulate the following students on their achievements in 2022:

College Dux – Liam Gilmour (ATAR 96.70)

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Excellence Award – Harry Apostolopoulos

Our 2022 College Dux, Liam Gilmour, has this year commenced a double degree in Engineering (Honours) and Commerce at Monash University. In his address, Liam highlighted the importance that support from his family and his peers played in his success. He challenged our current Year 12 students to have confidence that through consistent and focused application to their studies, they are capable of achieving beyond their own expectations. This awards presentation also recognised the contributions and achievements of our Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Excellence Award recipient, Harry Apostolopoulos. Harry acknowledged his gratitude for the support that he had received from a number of key staff across his six years at the College, and he spoke with conviction about the value of the experience that he gained both at school and in the workplace while undertaking his studies. Harry is undertaking an apprenticeship in Sports Turf Management while working at Box Hill Golf Club.

**Mrs Catherine Spurrutt**

Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching



## Our 95+ Achievers

Liam Gilmour	96.7
David Dunlop	96.2
Thomas Mutton	95.95
Andrew Sparrow	95.3
Hamza Basam	95.2

## Our 90+ Achievers

Ethan Oppy	94.9
Nathan Jiang	94.8
Ryan Dickenson	94.65
Marc Cordeiro	94.1
Benjamin Smith	94.05
Ben Duffy	93.55
Jacob O'Brien	93.5
Evan O'Connor	93.35



Harry Apostolopoulos 2022 VCAL Excellence Award and Principal Mark Murphy

## Exemplary Unit 3&4 results

Joshua Adams	Adrian Frisina	Thomas Mutton	Adam Scutella
Archie Ballantyne	Thomas Harman	Ryan Nguyen	Oscar Seegets
Hamza Basam	Junshen Huang	Nathan North-Coombes	Noah Sim
Oliver Brand	Matthew Huang	Jacob O'Brien	Benjamin Smith
Lachlan Burns	Will Jackson	Evan O'Connor	Andrew Sparrow
Marc Cordeiro	Nathan Jiang	Ethan Oppy	Ting Wa Tai
Zoravar Deo	Andrew Kelly	Andre Pauli	Dominic Varrasso
Ryan Dickenson	Samuel Kessler	Patrick Pellegrino	Jacob Whitehead
Ben Duffy	Alexander Kolovos	Matthew Pitcher	
David Dunlop	Oliver Laing-Nobrega	Carter Prokop	
Edward Fisher	Jack Mow	Joel Savy	

# Opening Mass

It is a meaningful gathering in acknowledging the new staff and new Student Leaders which shows our spirit of solidarity.

## FROM OUR STUDENT MINISTRY CAPTAIN

### What does Opening Mass mean to you?

To me, the Opening Mass represents the unity of Whitefriars, not just Years 7-12, but the staff and other members of our rich community. It is the initiation of the new school year, inclusively inviting all members of the Whitefriars community to celebrate together. As a Catholic Carmelite school, the mass becomes the central part of the life of the community, and all are encouraged to be active participants.

### During the pandemic, we were unable to celebrate at the Cathedral. Has anything changed or did it feel different?

The services have changed via the addition of the television screens placed throughout the Cathedral to make the viewing of the mass easier and more engaging. Post lockdown, it definitely does feel different, as the mass is one of the first school gatherings that all students attend as a whole community. Being there in person (as opposed to watching it streamed on zoom from our pastoral rooms, as we did last year) for the duration of the mass did feel different. It reminded me of my first visit in 2018, sitting in a sort-of unfamiliar environment with a lot of time to listen and contemplate.

### What do you think the experience is like for non-Catholic students?

Whether Catholic or not, the experience of the Opening Mass caters for the needs of all students, as well as staff and parents/friends. Students can choose whether to respond to the hymns being read; nothing is forced upon them. During communion, boys who have received their first Eucharist are invited to receive the bread of Christ, whereas those who are not Catholic receive a blessing. Staff are always there to help assist when students are not sure about anything, (usually every row of seats has at least 1-2 staff members), and are then also invited (again Catholic or non-Catholic) to take communion or receive a blessing.



### How or why do you think the experience enhances the students journey at the College?

At Whitefriars, being a Catholic Carmelite school, we are focused on the teachings of Jesus and his life through the cross. The Opening Mass allows students to connect in a setting where all are welcome, regardless of religion or what their faith journey might be. Students are able to develop a knowledge of religious beliefs and use this experience as they progress through their high school years, knowing that Catholic or non-Catholic, God is with them. As it is also the first whole College event for the year, it allows them to unite with each other and to become social with each other in an environment outside of the classrooms and school grounds.

**Johnny Papadopoulos**  
Ministry Captain



### FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

This year's Opening Mass was great. In evaluating the whole liturgy, it was a prayerful and sacred ambiance at the Cathedral which enabled active participation from all. The choir and the instrumentalists were great!

Annually, it is a meaningful gathering in acknowledging the new staff and new Student Leaders which showed the spirit of solidarity of the College. The Faith and Mission Learning Area worked hard in preparing the liturgy and those who worked out the logistics of the event put a lot of effort into it.

I love that the experience is inclusive for all, with respect paid by our non-Catholic students, in following our Catholic tradition. The liturgical gathering enhances all by bringing meaning to our Catholic Carmelite spirit and ethos.

I pray that the year is blessed by such a meaningful gathering, and ask God to bless our year of schooling, our students, their families and our staff.

**Fr Paul Sireh, O.Carm**  
College Chaplin



## FROM A NEW STAFF MEMBER

Attending the Opening Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral was the first time I got to see the whole community gather together. It was remarkable to see the Cathedral full. I appreciate that within this context, I was officially welcomed into the community and blessed by Father Paul as I begin teaching Religious Education.

For a Religious Education teacher, it is a privilege and joy to be part of the Carmelite tradition. The Carmelite tradition offers a rich well of spirituality to draw upon and make connections in the classroom. The students have the House patrons to look up to but also many more remarkable role models that lived out the Carmelite charism within their own context. My aim is to make the Carmelite charism relevant to the lives of the students and to encourage them to live out this charism in their own unique way through the school's emphasis on community, contemplation and service.

The Opening Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral reminds the students that their Carmelite community in Donvale is part of the broader Catholic community in Melbourne. A building like the Cathedral does not happen by chance. It was built and is looked after by multiple generations who wanted to leave a lasting reflection of their faith and values. All of us became part of that rich tradition by attending the College's Opening Mass.

**Mr Dario Juric**

Religion Teacher





# A Captain's Journey



Acelin Adama, Harrison Evans and Joel Savy

Often at Open Days or College events, I am asked why I ended up at Whitefriars but I can never quite answer that. It was totally up to my parents! So what I talk about is why I love this community so much, and why I think I would send my son here, *(who is hopefully a long way down the track!)*.

One of the best parts about Whitefriars is the countless opportunities that boys are given. Whether it be in the classroom, on the field or on the stage, each student is given the gift of opportunity. A chance to test the waters, and a chance to see what he can become.

Each and every person is unique. Every student has different interests, hobbies and strengths and the aim is for each one of them to find their place. No two students are the same, and no two students should be the same. Any boy that comes to Whitefriars has the chance to become whatever version of a Whitefriars boy he desires.

Throughout my time here, I have seen the older boys in my Pastoral Care transformed into something the staff call 'Gentle Men'. Now to be a 'Gentle Man' does not mean to be placid, submissive or shy – rather, it means becoming a well-rounded, respectable and authentic young man. A man that sets out to make a difference, a man that pulls others up instead of pushing them down, and a man that chooses to be kind, rather than just being right.

Now, being a Catholic Carmelite school, our learning is based on the Carmelite tenants of Community, Contemplation and Service. These help guide us as students, as we further develop our connection to faith, but what do they all mean?

Contemplation is about identifying God's presence in all of us. It is a compass that helps us navigate through the many obstacles of life. Contemplation gives us a way of thinking, a way of loving, and a way to understanding what it means to be a Catholic Carmelite. It helps us grow in spiritually, as we strengthen our personal relationships with God and with ourselves.

Service is about giving. Giving without expecting a reward in return. Giving to others when they may need help and of course, giving back to the College that has enriched us in so many ways. Through service, not only do we grow ourselves, but we help others grow too.

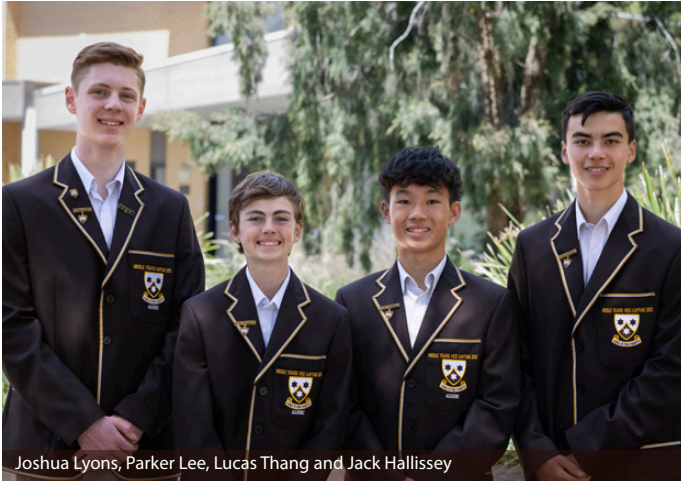
And finally, Community. Just recently, we watched a number of boys and a member of staff shave their heads to raise money for the Leukemia Foundation, while students fundraised via donut sales and bands played in the background. Another day, the students took on the teachers in a netball match. In Pastoral Care, we made a video message and voted for Old Collegian Josh Hannan to take out Australian Idol. Over the course of a few weeks, our community met on the tennis courts at lunchtime to battle out the inaugural Whitefriars Cup,... and the list goes on. Our community is like no other.

When answering questions at Open Day, I like to tell parents that in Year 7, someone told me that it was not the buildings, programs or canteen that make a school - that it is the people. And over my past five years, I have to say, he was 100% right.

I have been so privileged and blessed to be a Whitefriars Collegian, and as Captain, I hope everyone experiences the unconditional support and encouragement that I have. *And I hope my son likes it just as much too!*

**Harrison Evans**  
College Captain

# Middle Years Captain's Journey



Joshua Lyons, Parker Lee, Lucas Thang and Jack Hallissey

I was first introduced to Whitefriars College when I was in Grade 3 at Our Lady of the Pines Primary School – when we were invited to a rock concert here at the College. At the time, my family had not even thought about where I would go to high school but the excursion was great!

I remember walking into the Whitefriars theatre, already astonished by how big everything was. We found our seats, and I was still in shock at the sheer size of everything, but when the first band started to play... I was in awe!

Seeing those students perform on stage really was a tipping point for me. Without ever really considering it – I knew – this is where I wanted to go to high school.

Over the next couple of years, my excitement grew. Across a few more Open Days and Open Morning tours, I saw the basketball courts, the library, the opening of the Science and Technologies building, and I spoke to students who took us on tours.

While Mum and Dad asked questions, I looked around at the breathtaking environment, 19 hectares of green, and I could not wait to get started.

Not too long after, I was a big Year 7 ready to start my journey.

I put my hand up for everything. I had played piano through primary school – but I decided since I was here, and opportunities were my thing - I would play trombone and become the lead singer in a rock band. I also joined the swim team, tennis team and basketball team ... yes, I was really busy but I had a really good time!

When do you have time to learn, I hear you ask? Well, that's just it. In a boys' school – it is all learning. Opportunities, movement, putting our hand up, being in classrooms, not being in class, on the courts, in front of the Chess board – it is all learning.

And the side effect of all these clubs and all this learning? The more you learn, the more friends you have and the better your high school journey.

For me, the best part of Whitefriars is the community. I'll be honest with you, the first few days in this big school, full of even bigger buildings, it can be tricky. You might not know anyone. You might not be best mates with the other kids coming from your school. You might be the only boy from your primary school. There are locker combinations, and timetables, and a whole canteen menu to look through but trust me, every single person who works here or learns here – had a first day too. And someone helped them out.

I spoke at Open Day about my time here and I boldly said that Whitefriars was not just my school but it was my community. That, now as a Year 9 student, I am different to when I came here. More able and closer to finding out who I really am. As well as being awarded Middle Years Captain this year, I was lucky enough to recently perform in Catholic Ladies' College's production of Mamma Mia. This was a really amazing experience that I am very grateful for.

To our new Year 7s, as well as our Year 8s and 9s, I encourage you to embrace opportunities, enjoy them and to dream a little bit. Try and remember what it was like when you first came here, what you thought you would try, what excited you! Whether it is sport or a club or drama, I really encourage you to try new things and make some new friends.

**Joshua Lyons**  
College Middle Years Captain

# Year 7, 2023

From the minute, you enter the gates of Whitefriars you are welcomed and after about a week, I felt like I had been here forever.



From the minute you enter the gates of Whitefriars you are welcomed into the school and after about a week, I felt like I had been here forever. Mantua, my House, was the reason I felt so welcome. I have a great Pastoral Care teacher named Mr Wight and awesome House Leader, Ms Rock.

My favourite part of the year so far has been camp, where we travelled to Mount Eliza. We had just started at Whitefriars and before we knew it, we were on the way down to the beach for three exciting days away.

It was not only a fun experience but also one that really gave us the chance to bond with each other, seeing as though we had only met a week prior to the camp. We were split up into cabins with other boys from our House group. The camp had great activities, my favourite was the giant swing and pizza making!

After camp, we started timetabled classes, which I am really enjoying. We were also introduced to a wide range of new subjects, which I had never had the opportunity to learn before including Innovations and Technologies, Chinese, History and more.

At Whitefriars, there is plenty of opportunity to get involved. At the moment, I am trying out for the Football team, taking part in before school Athletics training and trying out all the yummy options at the canteen!

Recently, all of the Mantua Year 7's were invited to a badge presentation, where Ms Rock and our House Captain Josh Tovey presented us with our House badges. It was a great night with supper afterwards where our parents could all chat together.

One thing I think the Year 7s really benefit from is the vertical Pastoral system. This is where we spend the start of our day. The group contains a mix of Year 7s through to Year 12s. You stay with this group all the way from Year 7 to 12 with the inclusion of about four new Year 7s each year. I think the benefit is doing work with older students who share their perspectives with us and can serve as mentors.

Overall, I am loving my first term at Whitefriars and I cannot wait to continue my journey and try all of the opportunities I am given. The teachers are kind and the older students are great role models, what more could I ask for?

**Will Nielson**

Year 7





# Year 7 House Welcome Evenings

## A Ritual of Belonging

One fundamental belief we have at Whitefriars is the importance of belonging.

As a primary human need, belonging is connected to happiness, a flourishing mental health, motivation and a sense of purpose. At Whitefriars, we have many rituals to reinforce the importance of belonging for both our students and their families. One of these is the Year 7 House Welcome Evening which took place across the first four weeks of Term 1.

The Year 7 students and their families came to the College one House group at a time to mark the significance of belonging to Whitefriars and their House. Each evening began with a Mass, celebrated by our Carmelite Chaplin, Fr Paul Sireh. The focus of each Mass was on the Patron Saint of each House and Father Paul challenged the boys to adopt the characteristics of these inspiring individuals: Saint Teresa of Avila, Blessed Titus Brandsma, Saint Andrew Corsini, Saint Edith Stein, Therese Martin (Lisieux), Blessed Baptist of Mantua, Blessed John Soreth and Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity.

Following the celebration of the Eucharist, Mr Mark Murphy addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of the brotherhood that the boys would form with their fellow House mates and the important role parents/guardians play with the school to enhance their son's success at school.

The second significant part of the evening is the presentation to the boys of their House badge. This badge is a symbol of their membership to their House and a reminder of the qualities required to emulate their House patron as a responsibility of this membership. This membership is also extended to the families of the boys as the positive partnership between home and school is also an important belief at Whitefriars.

Finally, families, students and staff shared a meal together supported by members of the Parents' Association. This also symbolises the connection of families to both Whitefriars and their House. It provided an opportunity for parents/guardians to meet their son's Pastoral Care Teacher who will be walking with them for the six years of their Whitefriars journey.

I wish all Year 7 students and their families every success in the years ahead as the boys slowly forge their own pathways both inside and beyond the gates of Whitefriars.

**Mr Mick Lafferty**  
Deputy Principal – Students



# Tom Macrokanis

## Founder and Director of Macro3D Class of 2016

Where I am today, compared to where I imagined I would end up, are two drastically different places.



Tom with the 3D printing robot

Year 12 saw me start as Vice Sports Captain, with no idea I would finish top of my class in Software Development. Immediately after leaving school, I worked as a Business Analyst, advising various business owners on new technology through talks at both workshops and events. Fast forward to today, I run Macro3D - a Concrete 3D Printing company I founded in 2018 that sits at the forefront of construction technology in Australia.

In 2016, I began my final year at Whitefriars, a determined athlete rather than an exceptional student, with high hopes to pursue my cricket and footy to play higher levels post-school. Unfortunately, or rather fortunately, due to a leg injury five months into the academic year, I was forced to put my sporting career on hold and try something new. After dropping PE, I joined Mr O'Day's Software Development class to build on a newfound interest and potentially bring my new ideas to fruition. Being Vice Sports Captain, I definitely felt like a fish out of water, but something about what we were learning just clicked with me.

After my surgery, I was stuck at home for a few weeks. Whitefriars is not the easiest terrain to navigate on crutches, so I read ahead in my textbook out of curiosity and drew up a plan for my end-of-year project. The software I would build was to view and track your personal financial position (like Money Brilliant or like most bank apps do today). The project



was great for my grades in the subject but more than that, the research on the market helped me to see it may have merit to be commercialised.

Once exams finished, I started reaching out to some people who might be able to help with my hunt to commercialise this project. My hunt lasted three months and didn't end quite the way I thought. The massive capital raise and flashy startup plans were scrapped in favour of a job at a business consultancy, one that could set me up for future ventures - a wise piece of guidance I can thank my parents for. I met with the owners of the company to discuss how to raise capital for my business and came out being offered a job as an analyst. I spent a year at Elephant & Co, a small business consultancy firm where I got to experience a lot of facets of business such as strategy, basic accounting, business governance, along with soft skills like public speaking, sales, the importance of a strong network and day-to-day operation of a small business. Part of the role was to research and write papers on new and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, blockchain and 3D printing, and it was during the writing of my paper on 3D printing that I came across concrete 3D printing.

At the time, I wondered why this technology had not made its way to Australia, and five years on, I can understand why. I have endured a lot of rejection, long hours, blood, sweat and tears,

but now watching my company begin to change Australia's construction industry has made it all worth it. For the first two years, I spent a lot of time understanding the industry, flying to Europe to examine existing 3D printing houses and the machine providers. I also worked part-time as a Labourer and Software Developer, researching and investigating how to get a machine to Australia to give investors a glimpse of how 3D printing could change the construction industry.

In 2020, I managed to facilitate RMIT's purchase of their concrete 3D printer to Australia through my distributorship from a European company, and I thought I was off to the races but I was wrong... the pandemic hit. My best-laid plans of using a machine from overseas were stifled because no one could access the campus. And so I was forced to devise a new plan, locked inside with not a whole lot to do - I would work out how to build my own.

Over the course of 12 months, I sourced the components, wrote the code and with help fabricated and verified engineering calculations to produce the first commercial concrete printer in Australia. By 2021, we were ready to start determining the mix design for the concrete. Due to the lockdowns, our progress was severely hampered, only getting a day or so every couple

of weeks to print. But eventually, we got to a point where we were printing daily, providing demonstrations and getting ready to close our first home but once again we hit roadblocks. Our engineers required more testing, and the results and final calculations are only now being finished. At the writing of this, we have our first build getting ready to be printed!

I started Macro3D because I looked at the property market unsure how I, or anyone my age, would be able to buy a home. In the proceeding years, further rises in price, further shortages, increasing interest rates and a lack of labour to serve demand, is creating a worsening situation. Today I believe there is hope for a future where we are not looking at astronomical housing prices, we do not have a deficit of 1 million homes a year and there is an exciting pathway for students who can fuse new STEM skills with old trade skills to create a job of tomorrow. If you had told me what I would be doing now when I was in Year 11, I would have laughed at you.

My journey to date has shown me you need to stay curious and teach yourself, build a strong network and not be afraid to pick up the phone. If you are interested in learning more, please find me via LinkedIn or [whitefriarsconnect](https://whitefriarsconnect.com).



# Daniel Edwards

## Sport Producer Channel 7

### Class of 1996

I am super lucky to be able to drive the broadcasts of Australia's Number 1 Summer and Winter sports.

#### What did you do straight out of secondary school?

During my VCE, I studied Studio Art, Multimedia and Literature, which gave me a great grounding for the media industry. My interests were primarily in photography and video editing. At the time of graduation, television in Australia was exploding, Foxtel, Optus Vision, and other payTV services were launching, and I decided there would be more opportunity if I was to head down the TV production path.

Directly after graduating from Whitefriars, I attended RMIT studying Media and Video Production. I was also fortunate enough to have a contact at Channel 7 who was able to hook me up with some part-time work with the 7SPORT department, doing odd jobs, dragging cables, assisting with staging, lighting, and audio - whatever was going, I said yes. So while learning my editing craft at RMIT, I was able to work within the industry I was aiming to join. Channel 7SPORT has been my primary employer still to this day, 27 years on.

One of the most beneficial skills I learned was how to operate an EVS replay machine, which is a universal tool used world-wide to provide instant replays on sporting broadcasts. This is the exact same equipment they use in the NFL, the Premier League or the NBA. So this opened up a lot of possibilities as a freelancer to work abroad and experience different productions.

#### How did that shape the career path that you ended up choosing?

RMIT gave me the confidence to pick up the phone and ask for opportunities, and cultivated my love for editing, music and moving image. While I worked across almost all departments in my first five years, I eventually settled in the 7AFL Editing department, creating all of the pre-produced elements for the weekend broadcasts.

I did also have a passion for drama and film, but I recognised the stability of sports broadcasting. A drama can be axed a week into its series, but the AFL season (for example) will never stop.

#### What have some of the challenges been along the way?

Broadcast rights can be a challenge, Channel 7 was where I had made all of my contacts within the AFL TV industry, and in 2001



Channel 7 lost the rights to the AFL football for a five-year period, which meant I had to pick up the phone again. I ended up at the FOX Footy Channel, which is where I got my first opportunity as a video editor. Over the journey, I have worked on a lot of tennis, the Winter and Summer Olympics, and horse racing but these opportunities are always dependant on which network has the rights to the sports at any given time. I been fortunate that Channel 7 has been the leader in sports broadcasting in Australia for my whole career.

#### What have some of the highlights been?

I have had the opportunity to travel extensively all over Australia and internationally broadcasting sport: the Beijing Olympics were a big highlight, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Winter Olympics, AFL Finals, Spring Racing Carnival, Big Bash Cricket, Bathurst and Australian Open Tennis. I have met a lot of athletes along the journey and had the privilege of interviewing Roger Federer and Raphael Nadal, two of the all-time greats of their sport. The TV industry is a tight community and the people I have met, and continue to work with, are the highlight. I met my partner Emma at Channel 7, and we now have two beautiful boys Zach (2.5 years) and Archie (5 months). That has been the biggest highlight.

Another honour of my career has been working with Bruce McAvaney. There is simply no more professional and knowledgeable broadcaster in the country. Bruce is a one-in-a-million individual who inspires those around him.

While Bruce has now left the AFL team, I am grateful that I did get to work with him for a long period. I take great pleasure seeing Bruce receive accolades for his contribution to the industry and welcome his induction to the AFL Hall of Fame later in the year.

### **What is the best part about what you do now?**

Currently I spend my winter producing Friday Night Football for Channel 7, and producing the Big Bash Cricket in the summer. It is a wonderful to have variety in the sports I broadcast. As a massive AFL fan it is a privilege to broadcast the footy. Sport is the greatest reality TV show, the journeys of the athletes are many and varied, and it is an honour to tell their stories.

Watching Friday Night Football has always been a part of my life, well before I ever dreamt of working in it. I would hang out for Friday's to sit back and enjoy the battle that would unfold; it sets the agenda for the weekend and the watercooler conversation of the nation. To be the architect of what people experience on their couch each week is an honour.

The Big Bash is the backdrop to a great Aussie summer. Families all over Australia are cooking BBQ's after a day at the beach and get to sit back and enjoy the drama that unfolds. As a producer the Big Bash is great fun, through player microphones were able to take the viewer to the crease with the batsman as they face deliveries of over 140km per hour.

I am super lucky to be able to drive the broadcasts of Australia's Number 1 Summer and Winter sports.

### **Have you achieved some personal or professional goals that you had set for yourself?**

The progression in my career has been an organic journey. I never aimed to be doing the role I am currently occupying, it was offered to me along the way. During each step of my career, I tried to do each role to the best of my ability, and I'm passionate about the product. If you enjoy what you are doing, you will excel, and opportunities will organically present themselves.

### **Any advice for others wanting to get into your field?**

The television industry is an odd beast, university qualifications are not really required, its 'on the job' experience that counts. Contacts are king, so keep pressing until you can find an 'in'.



# Whitefriars Parents' Association

The energy around the campus and our community is amazing.



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

Our 2023 objective is to connect our community while supporting our school with its endeavours. During February and March, the WPA and the College hosted eight House Masses and Welcome dinners. It was fabulous to see the Year 7 gentlemen and their families join us at the Science and Technologies Centre and to have WPA members and Senior boys host. They are wonderful evenings for our Year 7 parents to connect and our Whitefriars community to continue to grow.

Open Day on Sunday 5 March was a huge success with the WPA hosting a BBQ lunch and information for prospective students and their families – a large turnout with great community involvement.

On Sunday 26 March, the WPA hosted the annual Parents' Twilight Evening – a brilliant evening of food and drink on a warm night for parents to connect and have a few relaxing drinks in the area overlooking our fabulous oval. A great night was had by all.

We are fortunate to have an active and committed WPA - thank you to the awesome committee members who make all this possible.

We look forward to seeing you soon – and as always, feel free to contact us should you wish to join the WPA

## Mark Trajcevski

WPA President

parents@whitefriars.vic.edu.au

## 2023 Committee

Mark Trajcevski (President)  
Paul Virgona (Vice President)  
Michelle Staplefeldt (Secretary)  
Brian Lane (Treasurer)  
Joanna Cao  
Ildiko Ciocca  
Vince Ciocca  
Ad Wolst

Caroline Athey  
Marjie King  
Marijke Daniels  
Davina Bate  
Kate Coombs  
Zara Boyd  
Sharon Wolff



Save the date

## WPA Inaugural Comedy Night

Friday 2 June 2023

with line-up soon announced!

Currently seeking auction donations

# Old Whitefriars Cricket Club

## Cricket Club defies the odds, breaking records and reaching the Grand Final.

We had a fantastic record-breaking 2022/23 season that provided immense excitement. After Round 5, we sat on the bottom of the ladder with a belief that we could still improve. Through focus and good teamwork we started an impressive run that culminated in reaching the MCC Club XI Division 3 Grand Final.

### New and Returning Players

This season we welcomed in old boys David Gallacher and Anthony Laver, along with Brett Meehan, who brought us a whole new lease of life both on and off the field. Glenn Ibbot and Eliot Ciardulli returned for some games, and Jordan Arrowsmith played his first game for the season.

### Record-breaking Bowling Attack

Anthony (23 wickets) bowled some inspiring quick spells to break the previous club record of 17w in a season! David G (15w) opened our bowling with speed and bounce that left batsmen dangling their bats in a daze. Together they formed our front line bowling attack providing the extra pace and bounce we had been missing, and complementing our mid-innings bowlers Brett Meehan (9w), Robbie Laurence (17w) and Amit Dengle (12w) as the leading wicket takers. Current student, James McGowan (4w) continues to develop as an exciting player for the years ahead.

### Record-breaking Batsmen

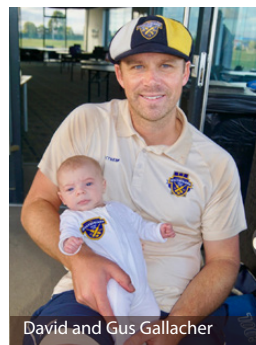
Previously no 'Friar had made it past 400 runs in a season, although Adrian Graham came close (386 runs, 2012/13). Enter Danny Laufenberg (Opener, 440 runs) and Adam 'Cheesy' Marchesi (no.3, 514 runs) who both smashed the ceiling on the 400 and 500 run barriers. In Round 6, they put together a batting clinic with a 162 run partnership. The top order delivered well, led by Captain David Stephen and supported by the middle order of Robbie Laurence, Brendan Gouin and Darren Holland. In another club record, David Larratt became the first player to pass 2,000 runs.

### Grand Final

Our Grand Final was against Old Penliegh and Essendon Grammar School (PEGS) at PEGS Sports fields on Oval #1, which typically sees scores of 200+. Being only a short distance from the airport, we had to adjust to the noise of jets taking off and flying directly overhead, plus the wind whipping down the ground. Our bowling and fielding built pressure till PEGS were shocked to find themselves all out for 134 (Gallacher 4/30, Laver 3/25, Laurence 2/14). We felt confident to reach 135



2022/23 Grand Final Team



David and Gus Gallacher



Adam 'Cheesy' Marchesi

if we batted out the 40 overs, but luck turned against us and we were all out in the 36th over for 108 (Laufenberg 41, Larratt 16). An MCC Official noted, "The match, and after the match, showed great spirit. The game was hard-fought, and while Whitefriars were bitterly disappointed with losing, you would never have known with David Stephen's glowing review of PEGS. A photo of both teams and umpires was taken to commemorate the day, and while Grand Finals have to produce a winner and loser, I believe that cricket was the winner, and MCC Club XI Competition is in good hands with two greatly spirited teams."

### Join Whitefriars Cricket Club!

Many thanks to our friends and family that came through the season to watch. A special thanks to the College, our fabulous Curator, WOCA and Tesla Carson for supporting us. For anyone interested in joining for 2023/24 please email [whitefriarscc@gmail.com](mailto:whitefriarscc@gmail.com) as we are assessing the interest in a Second XI as a youth and senior experience side (perfect for Dad and son)!

### Whitefriars Cricket Club

[oldwhitefriars.vic.cricket.com.au](http://oldwhitefriars.vic.cricket.com.au)  
[whitefriarscc@gmail.com](mailto:whitefriarscc@gmail.com)



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