

illuminare



Edition 1 - 2018



Being inspired by our Community

Contents

College News

- 03 From the Principal
- 04 Spirituality at Aquinas
- 05 Our 2018 Leaders
- 08 Celebrating Our Success
- 10 Student Achievement


Aquinas Life

- 12 Snapshots of Aquinas Life
- 14 Art at Aquinas - The Chapel
- 15 Honouring Our Community
 - The Mahon Theatre
 - The O'Driscoll Room

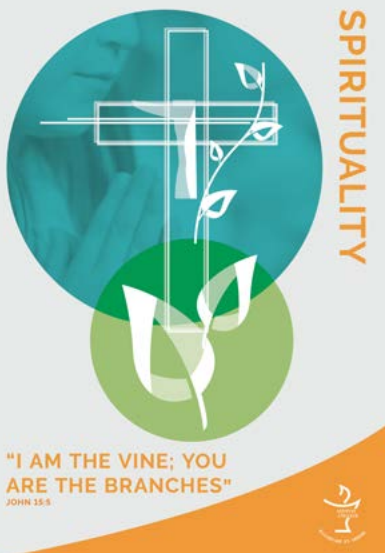
Our Alumni

- 16 Aquinas College Alumni - Leading Lights
- 18 Memories from an Alumni
 - Alan and Josie Littler
- 20 From the Archive: Aquinas in the 80s
- 21 Second Generation
- 22 Old Collegians Football Club
- 23 Lumina Theatre Co.
- 23 Tribute to Rick Van Duppen

 www.aquinas.vic.edu.au

 facebook.com/AquinasRingwood

 twitter.com/AquinasRingwood



Class of 2017

We want you back!

Let's celebrate your first year as Aquinas College alumni!
Congratulations on all you have achieved in 2018. We want to hear all about it and give you the opportunity to catch up with peers, friends and teachers.
Wishing our newest alumni all the best in their latest endeavours.

Friday 9th November 7.00pm - 9.00pm
@ Senior Years Building, Aquinas College

Save the date and watch out for an official invitation



Kick in for Kibera

In 2018, our year of Spirituality, we are aiming to raise \$20,000 to support the Mary Rice Centre located in the Kibera slum of Nairobi. The Kibera slum is in an area of extreme poverty, and the Mary Rice Centre supports children with physical and intellectual disabilities. You can learn more about the Mary Rice Centre here: <https://maryricekenya.com/our-mission/>

As part of our fundraising focus, we are holding a silent auction culminating with a dinner and auction on **Friday August 24th**.

Silent auction opens Friday 10 August

Use [this link to view and bid](#) on a huge array of fantastic items including:

- Dinner for 2 at Mac Forbes
- Signed State of Origin jersey
- Original artwork
- Tickets to the Royal Melbourne Show
- Samsonite suitcases
- Signed Chris Hemsworth photograph and a growing list of so much more

Auction opens Friday 10th August
Explore all the items and [start to bid here](#)



Aquinas has joined us as one

From the Principal

Being Inspired by Our Community

Recently we inducted six new members into our Leading Lights and, in so doing, acknowledged the outstanding contribution these members of the Aquinas College alumni are making in their chosen professions and to the community as a whole. We draw the students' attention to these past Collegians in a hope that they may be a source of inspiration to encourage our student community to continue to strive to be their best. This year we were very lucky as five of the inductees - Mr Andrew Conway, Dr Jessica Lye, Mr Ben Roche, Mr Patrick Thomas and Ms Caroline Tran - took time out of their busy schedules to visit the College and speak directly to student groups about their work and life experiences. The sixth inductee, Mr Daniel Kickert, was unavailable due to commitments overseas and we hope to arrange a visit from Daniel later in the year.

It was interesting to speak with the Leading Lights after they met our students and had an opportunity to offer some advice. Our Leading Lights commented to me that they were struck by how engaged the students were in the presentations they were making, how carefully they listened and demonstrated understanding of what was being said, and the insight they showed with great questions at the end. Those of us privileged to spend time with our young people on a daily basis can sometimes take their curiosity and interest in the world for granted, but of course, for others influenced by the prevalent media stereotype of the "disaffected youth of today", there is often genuine surprise when they find friendly, engaging and interested young adults in front of them.

Andrew Conway spoke to students studying Business, and in reflecting on his own professional career, spoke of the paths his life has taken as he has pursued his various and emerging interests. His take home message to the students was to find the thing that they are passionate about and work hard in its pursuit. Dr Jessica Lye spoke to Biology students about the spread of pests and disease and her research as a Scientist in agriculture and in support of farming organisations. Jessica outlined the challenges of biological pest management and the lessons we've learned from history. Ben Roche was able to talk to Health and PE students about his challenges growing up with cerebral palsy and how this has helped to shape his attitudes towards access for disabled athletes. Ben spoke about his commitment to training with the Pararoos and the balancing act that this required with the other important aspects of his life such as family and work. Patrick Thomas is a regular speaker at Aquinas College and covers issues related to his work with World Vision in some of the world's most volatile hot spots. Patrick was able to connect via Skype to one of his co-workers on the ground in



Afghanistan to give the Year 12 students some insight into a day in the life of a Relief Aid worker. Finally, Caroline Tran spoke to Arts students about her life as a Vietnamese immigrant and her pathway into a long career in broadcasting with Triple J. Caroline discussed issues related to the portrayal of beauty in the media, the creation of an "image" and engaged the students in lively discussion.

We invited family and friends of our Leading Lights to gather with the inductees for an evening in which we acknowledged their achievements. We asked each inductee to nominate someone they remembered from their time at the College to make their presentation. Past staff members Mrs Anne-Maree Grimaldi and Ms Alison McNeill and current staff Mr Michael Box and Mr Jacob Kogelman (on behalf of his father, Laurie) were invited to introduce each of our inductees. The inductees responded and spoke warmly of the welcome they had received and the pride that they felt in being deemed a 'Leading Light'. The stories of these inspiring past students are presented on the wall in the Mahon Theatre Foyer. We will be looking to induct Leading Lights again in 2020 and welcome nominations of candidates for consideration. The nomination forms can be found in the Alumni section of the College website as can the profiles of all our Leading Lights.

Darren Atkinson
Principal



Spirituality

at Aquinas

“In the beating of every human heart, in the striking of that flame, in the smallest of creation, God is not just present. God reigns.”



Aquinas College is a Catholic school. This qualification is measurable through the expression of ethos in actions, curriculum and authentic experience. A Year of Spirituality is harder to quantify. Perhaps it is not so much a year of extra effort but maybe it is a year when we are more aware of the interior work that makes a Catholic school a spiritually nourished community.

It is in the smaller unnoticed gestures that happen every day: the turning of the page in the lectionary in the Chapel to the Gospel of the day; the quiet ways in which staff prepare the morning prayer; the unseen daily prayer on the notices; the emails that ask for prayers for a loved one; the students that lead prayer in their Homeroom.



All of these efforts contribute to a community that assisted in their spiritual growth.

This year staff gathered in the Chapel each Monday for prayer. This has been received well and is a departure from the customary gathering in the staff dining room.

There is no better way to start the week!

Our scriptural focus of “*I am the vine, you are the branches*” has been our focus and has given a crucial source of awareness around our core values of education and making our students a leaven and a light for the world.



Through Christ (the vine), we (the branches) are supported so that we can flourish and grow together as one community. The mirror of Christ crucified is held starkly against us as a Catholic witness but, at Aquinas College we are a Risen People. As Thomas Aquinas said, “*Joy is the noblest human act*”. This is expressed in our Social Outreach, restorative practice and gathering at the Eucharist - the ultimate expression of God’s presence with us.

The Catholic Life Team

The years stretch before us with promise unsung

Our 2018 Leaders

We proudly introduce the College Student Leadership for 2018.

College Captain - Siobhan Brodrick

At my first College opening assembly I decided I wanted to pursue a leadership position. The College Captains at the time - Nathan Linton and Duyen Pham - became my role models inspiring me to embrace an attitude of participation. I aspire to have a similar impact on my peers and hope to instil in future students a willingness to take every opportunity they have so they may live the mantra of my all time idol, Nathan Buckley, striving to be *"all they can be"*.

College Captain - Matthew Cavicchia

As College Captain I wanted to give something back to the place which had given so much to me. I admit during Middle Years I was not keen to take on an extra load but something changed between Years 10 and 11 and I was filled with the feeling I had a lot to give. The role has been challenging but exciting and I feel as though I am thriving with the added responsibility. It has opened my eyes to how much I love Aquinas College.

College Vice Captain - Jordan Hendy

Being one of the Vice Captains is an honour and an experience I have thoroughly enjoyed. One of the best things is having a student voice in the College community, making change and contributing to College life and spirit. The Leadership group's goal was to enhance Middle and Senior student interaction so all year levels may learn from each other and enjoy their college years. I hope to leave behind a legacy where all students can thrive at Aquinas College.

College Vice Captain - Isaac Mumford

My strong belief is that student leadership is about two things - giving the student body a voice, and giving back to the College. Watching the 2017 graduating class inspired me to take on a role where I could be involved with these things. It's also what has guided my focus this year, and led to the initiatives we have started, like the new College Student Board we're currently working on. At the end of the year if I can look back and know that I helped make the College even just a tiny bit better, then it's all been worth it.

Aquinas College 2018 School Captains and Vice Captains with Principal, Mr Darren Atkinson





Aquinas College 2018 School Leaders

College Board Representative - Chelsea Tucker

As the Student Representative on the College Board, it is invigorating being a voice for students. If there are any issues or improvements required it feels good that students can come to me and their voice will be heard which will lead to resolution. It's amazing to be able to make a change within the College.

College Ambassador - Sophie Farinacci

I vividly recall as a Year 7 student, looking at the College Leaders with awe. My time in this role has culminated with the opportunity to embrace my forte - talking. I regard being a College Leader fondly, especially remembering the International Womens Day Breakfasts. It is truly inspiring to be surrounded by passionate, successful, and supportive women leaders. I am proud to have had the opportunity to represent the College at this event. I implore all students to embrace every opportunity Aquinas College offers - these may include some days away from classes, or at the least a free breakfast!

Internationalism Ambassador - Miguel Cortes Gama

When I heard about the position of Internationalism Ambassador, I thought about all the things I could bring to the table. Being trilingual and knowing what international students feel when facing the challenge of adapting to a new school in a new country, a friend suggested I would be perfect for the role. Knowing that I can make others feel as welcome as I felt has been my highlight.

Year 11 Captains - Annelisa Phillips and Mark Spataro

Annelisa: I was inspired to apply for this role when I saw past leaders make such a positive impact. A major highlight has been attending the Year Level Leaders' meetings, where we meet the other Captains and get to know our Year 12 Captains - who are extremely down to earth and inclusive. These meetings have improved the interconnectedness and has been beneficial in implementing whole school community events.

Mark: My highlight so far as one of the student leaders is the opportunity to not only represent Aquinas College but also my community. I draw inspiration from this. I am enjoying being part of the community and developing as a Leader.

Year 10 Captains - Ella-Jade Watkins and Jules Carboni

Jules: I was inspired to put my hand up as a student leader because I believe that everyone's voice should be heard, and as a leader, I can broaden the range of contributions being made to the College. As a student leader I've learned a lot and have been given the opportunity to practice my leadership skills. I've had the chance to voice not only my ideas but my friends' ideas too.

Ella-Jade: I applied as a College Leader to build my social skills and create and open up ideas, events and new experiences to my year level. Representing the school at the mental health youth summit has been a highlight. I truly believe freedom of expression and freedom of speech are very important especially in this confusing time as a teenager. I want everyone to know that life is too short to worry about what others think of you and should try things that you want to try.

Middle Years Captains - Luke Angelini and Grace Scutt

Luke: I was inspired to apply for a Captain's role to gain more confidence in public speaking. My Year 8 Homeroom teacher gave me the confidence to give it a go. One of the highlights of being a Middle Years Captain was going on the Zoo Snooze Overnight Camp. I also enjoy being part of whole school assemblies and masses and working with and meeting new people.

Grace: Leadership has possibly been the best experience I have had yet at Aquinas College because of all the amazing opportunities available. So far, I have been able to coordinate year level assemblies, speak at full school assemblies and masses as well as going on a team building excursion at Melbourne Zoo. I am passionate about making Aquinas College the best learning community possible and bringing everyone together.

Dominic Team Captains - Darcy Ingham and Rory O'Brien

Mackillop Team Captains - Sebastian Di Simone and Charlise Smith

Rice Team Captains - Flynn Wilkinson and Emily Box

Year 8 Captains - Ryan Webster and Grace Walsh

Grace: I have always been interested in leadership and love the challenges and rewards that come with it. This year I have been on excursions as a leader, and attended a Youth and Human Rights festival which opened my eyes. I have contributed to the College and worked with the other Leaders to improve the College.

Ryan: I was inspired to nominate as a student leader because good leadership is important to everything we do, and I wanted to have the opportunity to experience it. I really enjoy putting in ideas and helping the College and students be the best they can be. I'd like to continue in student leadership in future years and contribute more to the College.

Year 8 Class Captains - Dominic (Semester 1)

Aqua - Ebony Phillips and Zac Hanrahan

Blue - Ben Beattie and Isabella Flack

Gold - Sophie Kinsman and Taylor Murray

Green - Harrison Hall and Sophie Stokes

Year 8 Class Captains - MacKillop (Semester 1)

Maroon - Liam Moroney and Kasey Slattery

Navy - Gab Walshe and Ally Collins

Orange - Jame McLeod and Emma Brown

Purple - Alia Tran and Hannah Manders

Year 8 Class Captains - Rice (Semester 1)

Red - Georgina Ladd and Emily Bratton

Silver - Corey Nieuwenhuizen and Santiago Nunez

White - Oliver Renehan and Ashley Forder

Yellow - Hayley Edgar and Gaby Steen

Year 7 Captains - Sam Box and Kate Laukens

Kate: I was inspired by other College Captains encouraging us to make the most of our time at Aquinas College. This gave me the idea to apply for Year 7 Captain. My highlights include the Zoo Snooze Leadership Camp and getting to know other Middle Years' leaders. I think in Years 10, 11 and 12 I would like to nominate for a leadership role such as Music or Sport Captain.

Sam: This year as Year 7 Captain my main highlight has been the camp at the zoo because I got to know the other Captains. Also it was nice to get away from classes for a couple of days. Next year I won't go for Year 8 Captain because I'd like to try a different leadership role.

Year 7 Class Captains - Dominic (Semester 1)

Aqua - Ellie Anton-Wilson and James Brown

Blue - Brooke Tudor and Eliza Schulties

Gold - Aaron Steer and James Dempsey

Green - Ivan Tato-Guo and Alyssa Isgro

Year 7 Class Captains - MacKillop (Semester 1)

Maroon - Billy Box and Ava Campbell

Navy - Giulia Virgona and Joel Foxwell

Orange - Chris Barber and Elise Keeghan

Purple - Thomas Scutt and Caitlyn Sultana

Year 7 Class Captains - Rice (Semester 1)

Red - Sarah Taylor and Harry McGorm

Silver - Jackson Boundy and Nathan Magpantay

White - Ella Leavey and Olivia Della Gatta

Yellow - Lance Eugenio and Tyson Langsdon

Aquinas College 2018 Middle Years Leaders



Celebrating our Success

Our students' results for 2017 were very gratifying, and showed an increase in students with ATARs over 80 and 90. Overall, 18 students gained an ATAR over 90 and a quarter of the cohort (53) scored ATARs over 80.

College Dux for 2017 was Lachlan Faktor with an amazing ATAR of 99.15. This score put him in the best 1% of all students in the Nation. Lachlan studied two Mathematics subjects: Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics plus English Language, Psychology and Chemistry. In 2016, Lachlan accelerated in Biology. He was also Dux of Year 11 in 2016, was the recipient of the Deakin Shield, and was an active member of the AGiLE program.

The College VCAL students also achieved strong results, and the majority have continued in their apprenticeships or have qualified and now work in their chosen field. At our atEast Awards a number of students were acknowledged for their excellence in VCAL.

Congratulations to all of these high performing VCE and VCAL students and the dedicated teachers who have provided the framework in which excellence can flourish.

As a community we feel proud of the achievements of all our 2017 graduates, and look forward to learning about their future successes.

Darren Atkinson
Principal



Congratulations to our 2017 students who achieved exceptional results

Students with ATAR Scores over 90 and their University Offers

- Lachlan Faktor.....Medicine at Monash University
- Ashley Hanrahan.....Architectural Design at Monash University
- Nicholas Crosbie.....Medicine at Monash University
- Kate Woodstock.....Outdoor Recreation/Tourism at Holmesglen
- Elliott Muckleston.....Science at Swinburne University
- Michael Augustine.....Commerce at Monash University
- Simon Osinski.....Biomedical Science at Monash University
- Jack Dring.....Science at Monash University
- Harrison Kerr.....Engineering (Honours) at Swinburne University
- Cara Cross.....Laws (Honours).Global Studies at Monash
- Joel Dagher.....Applied Science/Physiotherapy at La Trobe
- Ryan George.....Computer Science at Swinburne University
- Tahlia Chowdary.....Biomedical Science at Monash University
- Elisa Lai Sang.....Architecture at RMIT University
- Alexandre Palace.....Commerce at Monash University
- Liam Stow.....Computer Science at Monash University
- Adelyn Hoser.....Science at University of Melbourne

From people we've loved and from challenges met

Award Recipients

Lachlan Faktorwas awarded College Dux for 2017

Chelsea Tuckerreceived the Deakin Shield as Dux of Year 11

Emily Johnstonewas presented with the Edmund Rice award for outstanding leadership in the field of Social Justice

Zachary Nuniswas presented with the inaugural Evelyn Hine Award recognising his performance in Drama

Tahlia Chowdaryreceived the Jan Rocznik award for the highest achieving female in Science

Cara Cross.....was presented with the Dave Mallia Award for Outstanding Humanities Student

Jeremy Van Nispen-Struhs, Elizabeth O'Connor
and **Nick Crosbie**.....were presented with the Paul Monk Award

Matthew Rushachieved Dux of VCAL

International Students

Zhikai (Henry) Chen was the top international student. He was offered a place in the B. Agriculture at The University of Melbourne

St Mary's School for the Deaf Results

Blake van Der Wal was the highest achieving St Mary's student. He was offered a place in B. Logistics and Supply Chain Management at RMIT.

Our Top 30 VCE Results

Lachlan Faktor	Adelyn Hoser
Ashley Hanrahan	Billy Nahon
Nicholas Crosbie	Courtney Ryan
Kate Woodstock	James McKenna
Elliott Muckleston	Laura Knight
Michael Augustine	Jones Valayath
Simon Osinski	Allen Mangalath Mini Sajive
Jack Dring	James Price
Harrison Kerr	Kiran Sahota
Cara Cross	Jessica Boland
Joel Dagher	Sarah Agius
Ryan George	Sonya Sandrasegara
Tahlia Chowdary	Georgia Redfern
Elisa Lai Sang	
Alexandre Palace	
Liam Stow	

VCAL Results

A number of students were acknowledged at the atEast Awards for their excellence in VCAL and being the top student in their industry.

Matthew Rush.....Automotive

Alex Di Simone..... Plumbing

Daniel Goudge.....Landscaping

Jasmin Italiano.....Business

Will Killen.....Warehousing

Amy Magoga.....Childcare

Emily O'Connor.....Floristry

Leon Omichi.....Educational Support

Mars Malinao.....Food Processing - was acknowledged with an Encouragement Award.

Aquinas College 2017 Students with ATAR scores over 90, with Ms Meredith Greenwood and Mrs Sharon Daley



Student Achievement

Amelie Pote Year 8



Amelie started acrobatic gymnastics at eight years of age, in a small club near Merimbula NSW. When she started she was too afraid to do a somersault. Amelie has come a long way since then and often finds herself balancing precariously in the air or orchestrating a complicated tumble routine.

She competed in her first state competition at Level 4, and since joining her Melbourne based club in 2015, has progressed through Levels 4 to 8 with her gymnastics partner. In May 2018, Amelie and her partner competed in the highly regarded Australian Gymnastics Championships. In recognition of their skills and performance they achieved a Gold Medal.

Acrobatics has been such an important part of Amelie's life and has taught her many lessons and values including perseverance, resilience, determination and hard work! She trains up to ten hours a week and, while it's very challenging and sometimes stressful, she finds it constantly rewarding.

Amelie will soon be travelling to Queensland to compete at the National Clubs Carnival for Level 9.

Editor's note: Amelie also recently showed us that acrobatic gymnastics is not her only skill. She did a fantastic job playing the role of Winifred Banks in the junior musical, Mary Poppins Jr.



Phoebe Bengough Year 12

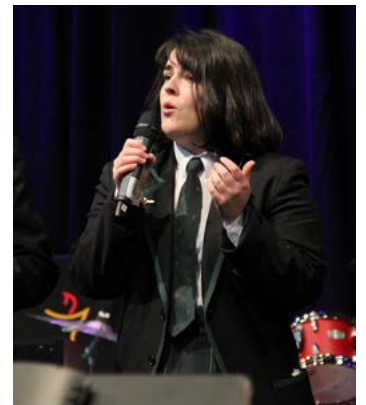
If you are lucky enough to have heard the beautiful voice of Phoebe Bengough over her years at Aquinas College, you will not be surprised that she was presented with the coveted Ron Denning Award for her professional level vocal technique at the Generations in Jazz festival earlier this year.

Phoebe has been singing "for as long as she can remember" and started taking lessons when she was ten years old. Here she shares her love of singing and what inspires her.

"I absolutely love just being in the moment, feeling as if nothing else exists but the music. I particularly love jazz because of the ability it gives you to create new melody on stage. Every time an individual performs a piece of jazz music it's always different and exciting due to the ability to scat and improvise."

Some of my musical inspirations include Paul Simon, The Beatles, Tracy Chapman, The Seekers and Ed Sheeran. Their ability to write and sing such beautiful music is something that I really admire.

Honestly, I'm not too sure what my future singing ambitions are at the moment. I'm really just trying to survive VCE! However I know for certain that I want to be writing my own music, performing on stage and collaborating with as many talented musicians as possible."



As we follow the Lord's leading way

Patrick Nailer Year 12



In the Easter school holidays, Year 12 student Patrick Nailer embarked on a work experience placement with Virgin Australia in Sydney and Brisbane. While Virgin Australia does not typically run work experience placements for high school students, Patrick's tenacity produced great results. Here Patrick talks about his experience.

"In the school holidays, I was lucky enough to complete a work experience placement with Virgin Australia. It was fascinating being immersed in such a fast-paced working environment and learning about what goes on behind the scenes of running an airline.

After trawling through numerous websites last year, I found the email address of Virgin Australia's CEO, John Borghetti. I reached out to John via email, asking him for advice about pursuing a career in the airline industry once I finish school. About a week later I received an email from his assistant, who organised a phone call between John and myself. During the call John gave me some useful tips for when I finish university and offered me a work experience placement with the airline.

I spent two days in the Sydney office, learning about the Sales, Sustainability and Alliance departments of the business. Did you know that Virgin Australia has over ten airline partners operating to 400 destinations spanning the globe?

I spent the remainder of my week in the Brisbane office completing rotations in various departments including Revenue Management, Network Planning, Crew Control and Service Culture. It was amazing having the opportunity to observe the many processes which go on behind the scenes to ensure that customers have a safe and enjoyable flight, many of which are not obvious and mundane. For instance, 'dull' inflight products like napkins and air-sickness bags are constantly reviewed to ensure that Virgin Australia's customers always have an outstanding travel experience.

I had an amazing time with Virgin Australia and learnt so much about the airline industry, even though I only scratched the surface. I recommend to my peers to pursue their own opportunities like this. It helps you build your working skills and will give you a succinct advantage over others when applying for jobs in the future."



Standing strong as the years fall away

Behind the Scenes



Tom Cooper Year 12

Tom first got involved with the audio visual technology (AV) around the College in Year 8 when he volunteered to help with lighting for the junior musical.

He had always been interested in technology and thought it was a good opportunity to get involved and meet some new people. After the musical was over Tom expressed an interest to the Theatre Manager about helping out again with the AV. Within a few weeks he was asked to help set up a whole school assembly in the gym and from then continued to get involved at most internal school events. Tom's knowledge and experience increased as he focused on trying to learn something new by doing jobs he hadn't done before. This led to him to undertaking a VET course in Technical Production in Years 10 and 11.

In 2017, the Theatre Manager started an *Access all Areas* program which allowed students to experiment and learn about aspects of the theatre over a few hours one night a week. Through this program, Tom was able to improve his understanding of the technology in the theatre and also had an opportunity to get his hands on some older equipment which is no longer used.

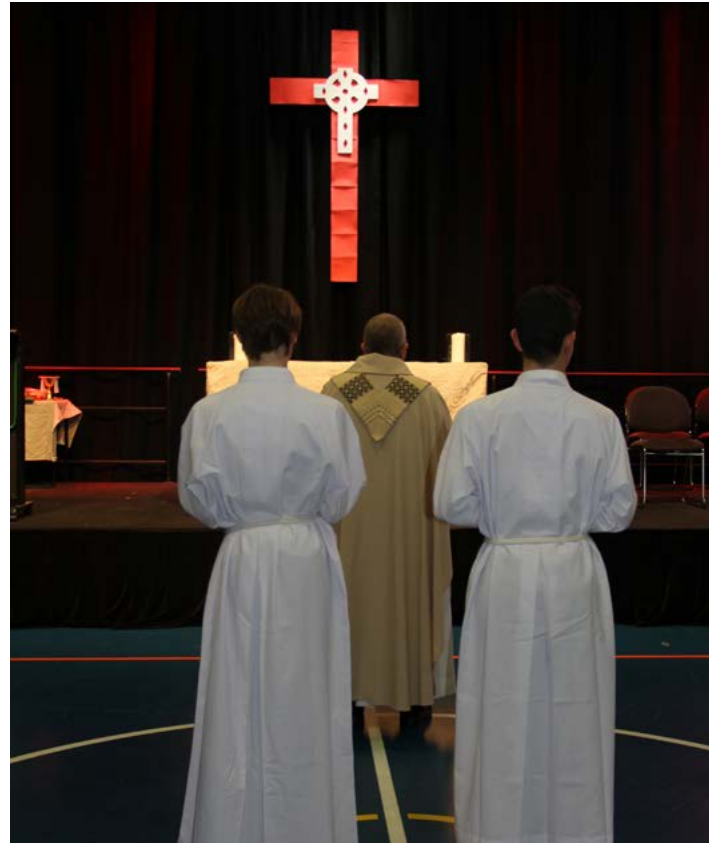
Currently, Tom is assisting in preparation for this year's Senior Musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Recent changes to the management of the theatre have given students more opportunity to be involved. Tom is enjoying the deeper level of involvement, saying *"...this type of opportunity allows students to really feel the stress of a larger scale show and test their skills"*.

Reflecting on where the experience he has gained at Aquinas College can take him, Tom says *"I'm not overly sure where I want to end up in my life, but with my VET certificate and record of experience, I believe I would be able to get straight into a job in the live event industry"*.



Snapshots of Aquinas Life





Art at Aquinas

The Chapel

When the Chapel was opened on the Solemnity of the Assumption in 2002, the custom designed liturgical furnishings distinguished the Chapel as a sacred space and home to Aquinas College's continuous spiritual story. The artists at Orchard Studios wanted a consistency of themes that spoke of our geographical history, spiritual tradition and progression.

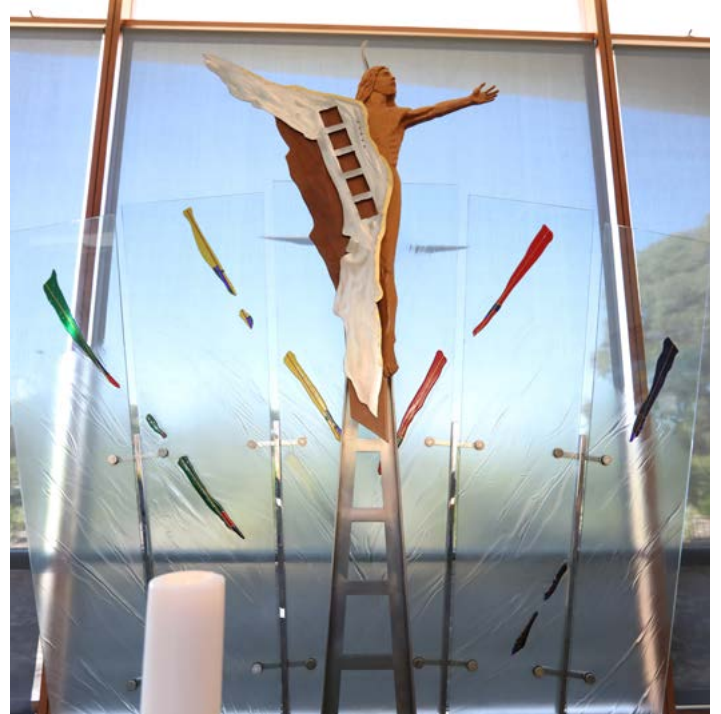
Waves of the Birrarung - Waves are carved into each liturgical piece. This indigenous totem reflects the Upper Yarra and the water of new life, they represent the different directions of our student community whose aspirations flow outward in every way imaginable.

The Flame - Including the iconic cross outside the Chapel, the furnishings feature the flame in iron. This is an echo of the College crest and reflects our motto *Illuminare et Ardere*. The Chapel is a place where Jesus lights the flame of inspiration.

The Motif of Five - Five squares adorn each furnishing to indicate the five wounds of Christ and the five stars of the Southern Cross. On the glass reredos behind the altar, you can see the five movements in the College identity through the uniform colours.

The Cross of Grace - The figure of Jesus behind the altar is cruciform but the iron shroud is falling away, the eyes wide open. This is Thomas Aquinas' theology of grace where the crucifixion is a gateway to the Resurrection. As one sits before the altar, they notice that the Cross outside lines up with the corpus inside, placing Jesus on the Cross.

The Four Seasons - The most recent installation was inspired by student contributions describing life at Aquinas College. In their words: *"The mural beautifully captures what each of the four seasons look like here at Aquinas College, promoting the Indigenous community and highlighting aspects of our Catholic faith. It aims to unify our College community through social justice and common beliefs, goals and aspirations. The outreaching hand in the second panel encourages inclusivity and guidance so that we may learn from one another and share our many gifts, always helping those in need."*



All of these beautiful elements of the Chapel construct a celebration of who we are as a Catholic Community and form an immediate identity that is life giving and Christ centred. The Chapel is not a museum of religion but a living space – the first place of prayerful gathering on Monday morning during staff briefing, the place of liturgical formation for Year 10 and 11 students and where we sing God's praises in Years 7 and 8.

May its walls always echo with the voices of the Aquinas College Community.

Matt Hufer

Liturgy Coordinator, Catholic Life Team



Honouring our Community

The Mahon Theatre

John Mahon was originally appointed Headmaster of the Junior Girl's School in 1975. When the Christian Brothers withdrew from the College at the end of 1978, he took on the role of Headmaster across the newly amalgamated Aquinas College. During his years as Headmaster he was involved in numerous building projects including the College library, motor mechanics and wood work rooms, Senior School building and the gymnasium.

John Mahon was instrumental in creating the "Aquinas Community", introducing College councils, task forces, seminars and parent and teacher forums to bring the community together. He saw to the provision of counselling and career guidance, an audio visual centre, sports equipment, and the early installation of computers.

Fostering a strong Catholic spirit and promoting the unity for which the College is now renowned was key in all that he did. John Mahon retired from Aquinas College in 1988.

In 1996, in recognition of his contribution to the College, the Mahon Theatre was opened in John Mahon's honour. Since its opening, the Mahon Theatre has been the location for iconic school performances and important gatherings.



The O'Driscoll Room

As one of the founding Priests of the original Boys School in 1961, Father O'Driscoll is said to be the inspiration behind the "Aquinas Project". There was a pressing need for a Catholic secondary school in the district, and College folklore says Father O'Driscoll climbed through a wire fence at the south end of Thomas Street, tramped through an old apple orchard with the trickle of a creek running through it and declared that this was the spot. Fr O'Driscoll was also responsible for the building of St Francis de Sales in East Ringwood, and the church hall at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. His drive to meet the needs of the growing population in the Parish has been an inspiration to many future generations. In an interview from 1981, when asked about the building projects he simply said, "*I knew it had to be done. We wouldn't need a church if there weren't people there. The needs are created by the greater population.*"

While the Christian Brothers teachings did not initially allow them to take girls, Father O'Driscoll felt very strongly about the importance of coeducation. He made a great effort to introduce coeducation, and was instrumental in adopting this.

In recognition of his contributions to the foundation of Aquinas College, and all he did for the greater Ringwood community, we dedicated our largest function area the *O'Driscoll Room* in his honour. Opened in 1987, the O'Driscoll Room is used for a variety of different internal and external functions - from fund raising events and presentations to recreation. We believe Fr O'Driscoll would be proud of its diversity of use.

The Leading Lights Award acknowledges the outstanding achievements of our Alumni. Their ideas, passion and achievements inspire our current and future students.

ANDREW CONWAY

Peer Year 1997
 Civics

Andrew was the youngest person in Australia to be appointed CEO of a public entity and has played a direct role in shaping corporate regulation. He has represented Australia at international events including APEC and the G20 and was appointed as Professor of Accounting at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics for his contribution to accounting and finance regulation. Andrew is the Director of a not-for-profit community broadcasting body and was awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal in 2001 through the Order of Australia for community service.



“...the school spirit is clearly alive and well which is Aquinas’ greatest and most enduring feature”

Andrew Conway

DANIEL KICKERT

Peer Year 2000
 Sport

Over 14 years of his career as one of Australia’s finest basketball players, Daniel has played for 8 different teams across 5 countries. Graduating in 2006 from St Mary’s College in California as the all time leading scorer, Daniel went on to become the sole member of the elite basketball shooting club with the first eligible 50-40-90 season in NBL history. He has competed for the Australian Boomers and helped his team win gold medals at the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup and 2018 Commonwealth Games. He most recently signed a deal with the Sydney Kings.



JESSICA LYE

Peer Year 2002
 Science & Technology



Jessica’s management of the AUSVEG Vegetable and Biosecurity program sparked a passion for agriculture, taking her to rural areas across Australia. Focusing on biosecurity in Victoria’s potato and vegetable

industry she often worked with growers to help ensure the Victorian horticulture industry is safeguarded against pests and disease. In 2016, Jessica received the AgriFutures Rural Women’s Award (Victoria), which identifies emerging women leaders who have the desire, commitment and leadership potential to make a greater contribution to primary industries and rural communities.



***“I am very honoured to, in a small way,
be a source of guidance to these creative,
curious and very warm people!”***

Caroline Tran

CAROLINE TRAN

Peer Year 1988
Arts & Entertainment

Caroline Tran is a music radio broadcaster, program producer, podcaster and writer with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. She is a passionate champion of Australian music and has worked within the ABC network for almost 20 years. Caroline first dabbled as a volunteer at a Sydney jazz community station and worked her way to hosting and producing programs on Triple J, Radio Australia and Radio National. Since 2014, Caroline has hosted weekly programs on ABC Digital station, Double J. While music is her passion, connecting with and learning from people through radio gives her the biggest buzz.



PATRICK THOMAS

Peer Year 2001
Service

Patrick manages World Vision Australia's Africa and Middle East Grants Team, which oversees community development initiatives across some of the world's most fragile countries. He has held roles within international NGOs, and worked alongside the EU and UN agencies as well as various Ministries within the Afghan Government. His work has involved establishing human rights curriculums for women; programs to improve agricultural practices, including water technology; and the provision of opportunities for vulnerable groups to engage in meaningful work. In 2017, Patrick was awarded a Community Service commendation by Afghanistan's Ministry of Women's Affairs.



BEN ROCHE

Peer Year 2006
Health

Born with Cerebral Palsy, which affects his balance, muscle control and fine motor skills, Ben discovered soccer at a young age, but struggled to be included. Feeling isolated and bullied, he chose to embrace his disability and lead from

the front. At 12, he got the opportunity to train with the Australian Paralympic Football Team. Since then, Ben has represented Australia, competed in 3 World Cups, won a Silver Medal at the FESPIC games, and been nominated for numerous awards. Ben is most proud of the programs he has launched, helping kids focus on physical and mental health, community and inclusion.

***“Ben has not only inspired me
but many other students to thrive
and help others. He was a truly
inspiring alumni, as were the other
motivational Leading Lights”***

Chelsea Tucker
Year 12



Memories

An interview with Alan and Josie Littler. Aquinas College teaching alumni from 1976 to 1990

Alan Littler worked at Aquinas College from 1976 to 1990, first as a Chemistry teacher, then as Girls School Deputy Principal and later as head of the Senior School. His wife Josie Littler worked on reception in the school office and later as secretary to the Principal. Their two daughters both attended Aquinas College and Sue returned to work at the College as Health Centre Manager in 2000.

“My first contact with Aquinas College was as a parent when our elder daughter, Susan, started Year 7 and I joined the Parents and Patrons Association. At that stage the library was not built and all the roads in the College were unmade dirt roads. One of the first things that I had to do for the school was to help dig a ditch for a drain in front the Year 9 and Science block. Rainwater was coming off the slope from Great Ryrie Street straight into the building.

Until 1975 girls wishing to study Year 12 Physics and Chemistry had to go across to the Boys School. Unfortunately in 1975 the Chemistry class was full and the girls could not be accommodated. I was teaching Year 12 Chemistry at St Joseph’s North Melbourne at this time and was asked if I could fill the gap. The only time we could fit in was on a Sunday afternoon. It was my first teaching assignment at Aquinas College.

At the end of 1975, the Deputy Principal (a nun) was moved to Adelaide and a replacement was needed. Father O’Shea from Ringwood advised John Mahon, the new Principal of the Girls School, who was still getting to know everyone, to offer me the job. I accepted and that’s how I started as Girls School Deputy Principal.

In 1978 all four of us were at Aquinas College. Melanie was starting Year 7, Susan was in Year 12, Josie in the office and I was teaching and had the Deputy Principal role at the Girls School.

Amalgamation and the co-educational Senior School

When the Christian Brothers decided to leave Aquinas College, the College had to consider the structure of the ‘new school’. Lack of numbers in some subject classes at senior level made the retention of the two previous schools untenable. After much discussion it was decided there would be a Junior Girls School (Years 7 to 10) a Junior Boys School (Years 7 to 10), and a co-educational Senior School (Year 11 and 12). I was very pleased to be appointed Head of the Senior School.

Allocations of classrooms proved a problem. The Junior Girls occupied the former Girls School and the Junior Boys occupied the former Boys School. The Senior School was scattered across the campus. We had four Year 12 rooms from the former schools, a portable behind the Junior Girls for the secretarial studies classes, two portables opposite the Junior Boys and four portables facing the oval. With no designated assembly area, if I had to make an announcement it took me just under an hour to visit every class.

At a parents meeting it was suggested that I be provided with a moped or small motorcycle to get around. In spite of the difficulties, we managed to have some fun along with the learning experience. I think the hardships that the Senior School encountered in those early days pulled us all together.

When I was appointed Head of the Senior School it became very important to me that it should become a collaborative experience for the students and staff. I wanted to make sure both students and teachers enjoyed their time at the College and being a part of the Aquinas community. Homeroom and extracurricular activities helped to foster this idea of togetherness and was reflected in excellent academic results and student behaviour. I remember a parent



“We had great fun. I think the hardships that the Senior School encountered in those early days pulled us all together.”



“Teaching can be very stressful and I think it is important to retain a sense of humour. You must be able to laugh and enjoy things.”



telephone was taped down so that when the receiver was lifted no connection was made. Fortunately the sun reflected on the tape to reveal its presence. I took the tape off, had a bit of a laugh and said nothing more.

meeting at the very beginning when I let it be known that students would call teachers by their Christian names. Some parents didn't like the idea, but they accepted it once they saw how it was working.

Leaving a lasting legacy

The new building for the Senior School opened in 1982, just in time for the final set of exams to be held in it. Whilst the Education Department dictated the design to some extent, I requested some changes, in particular to do with my office. Initially it was an extension of the office space assigned to the Year Level Coordinators (Cheryl Gargan and Peter Griffin), and was tucked away in a corner. I had a doorway constructed allowing access to the main corridor as well as the doorway to the outside. With the door always open, students passing along the corridor could see me and I could see them. Some Principals like their offices to be away from the students and often keep the door closed. That's not my idea of leadership.

My ideas on how a school should run developed from the early 1970s. I was at a Catholic Education Conference when a nun in a speech said her biggest disappointment was that she had never worked in a school where the kids were happy to be there. From that moment on I thought, if ever I was in charge of a school it would be a school where the students are happy to be there; the teachers are happy to be teaching there; and both contribute to the school atmosphere. I like to think that during my time at Aquinas College I was able to make this happen. Staff and students have been kinds enough to tell me so. During retreats I told the students what I was aiming for and they would all agree and say 'we enjoy coming to school'. One or two kids played up but generally we had not trouble with discipline. I think this was because they really did enjoy coming to school.

Recruiting Staff

One of the most difficult part of the job was to find teachers who would fit in with my concept of teaching. There was also the need to balance the sexes for Homeroom purposes and the need for a knowledge of Catholic principles. Fortunately I was able to build the staff with excellent teachers who fitted in very well including some non Catholics who were happy to take Religious Education with their Homeroom partner.

Alan retired from Aquinas College in 1990.

Teaching can be a very stressful vocation and to relieve the stress I think it is important to retain a sense of humour. You must be able to laugh and enjoy things. Fortunately some of the teachers were as much as a clown as I was. I remember one April Fool's day, my



Aquinas College through the years

the 80's

Following on from our article about Aquinas in the 1970's, we look at the next decade in our College history

While the 60's and 70's were very developmental years at Aquinas College, the 1980s were a time of consolidation and building. In 1979, on the eve of the 80's, the College was officially formed with the amalgamation of the Aquinas Girls' College and the Aquinas Boys' College. The Senior School became a third campus, and John Mahon was appointed Headmaster across the whole College.

Aquinas College continued to physically grow, and in 1982 the building of Stage 1 of the new senior block was completed. The Senior School finally had an official home. It was opened and blessed on November 11th, and used for the first time for the H.S.C exams that year. Up on the hill the new gym gradually moved from skeleton to solid structure, opening officially in February 1984. In 1986 Stage 2 of the Senior School was completed, with extra classrooms and a whole school staff room.

The newly amalgamated Aquinas College saw a flurry of social activity and a shift in atmosphere reflecting the societal changes of the early 1980s. Musicals, formals, dances, dress ups and

Aerial view of Aquinas College Campus, 1981



Aerial view of Aquinas College Campus, 1989



the inaugural Aquinas Grand Prix launching in 1988 featured prominently on the College social calendar. The annual excursion to Central Australia was in full swing, with students flying back from Darwin on the now defunct T.A.A. Spirituality played a foundational part in the College, where the Opening Mass and End of Year Mass being fundamental to the spiritual life of the College, as they still are.

The curriculum in the early 1980's included Needlework and Department for the girls; Metalwork and Woodwork for the boys. In 1980 the first stenography lab was opened, with two golf ball style typewriters, which were the latest technology. By 1982 the old weatherboard chapel near the Ford Street entrance had been converted into the College's first computer lab with fifteen desktop computers. Students learned to program in BASIC, and write FOR-NEXT loops. The 80's was very much the era of the video cassette as a learning tool, and the College had a state of the art Commander system allowing videos to be played remotely from the Library AV department. All you had to do was lift the intercom phone receiver and ask for 'Guy'.

The end of the 80's saw the departure of John Mahon, and Tony O'Byrne commenced as Principal of Aquinas College. With the change of leadership came more significant change as preparations began to become fully co-educational.

What shines through the material we have from the 1980s is the sense of humor that lifted each day, especially in the Senior School. The informality of the College yearbook, and publications like ACNE (the Aquinas College News Editorial/Extraordinary) are difficult to comprehend compared to the polished publications we see today. However, the personalities of staff and students and their contribution to College life are still real and tangible.

The Archive Team

The inaugural Aquinas College Grand Prix, 1988



Hand in hand now, we will stand now, Et Ardere

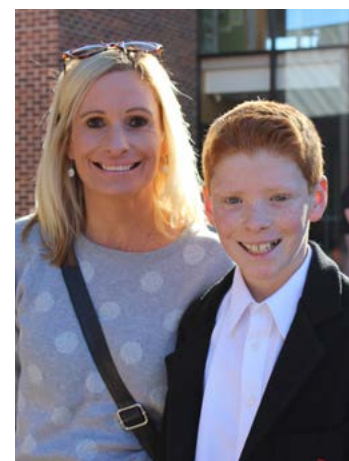
Second Generation

We welcome former students who
are now Year 7 parents



STUDENT NAME	PARENT NAME	PEER YEAR
Zoe Abrams	Belinda Abrams (North-Coombes)	1997
	Benjamin Abrams	1997
Elena Anton-Wilson	Isabel Anton	1986
Matthew Azzopardi	Brendan Accopardi	1980
Michaela Bicknell	Mark Bicknell	1987
Keira Block	Marissa Block (Abate)	1990
Owen Blyth	Robert Blyth	1991
William Box	Stephen Box	1979
Sam Box	Phil Box	1988
Zake Tucker	Nolene Bradshaw	1989
Kyan Brasher	Nicole Brasher (Gill)	1988
Charlotte Brown	Mary-Anne Brown (Glumac)	1989
Ava Campbell	Adrian Campbell	1981
Chloe Cooper	Monique Cooper (Challinor)	1991
Kamryn Disney	Kristi Disney (Johnston)	1991
Aidan Doherty	Wayne Doherty	1997
	Paula Doherty (Day)	1997
Matilda Dring	Rebecca Dring (Fenech)	1989
Eden Shaw	Jessica Hobbs	1998
Akex Hristidis	Marita Hristidis (Skiiner)	1998
Mahley Standford	Sheridan Jones	1994
Alex Kane	Warwick Kane	1998
Machala Kearsley	Janine Kearsley (Chapman)	1991
Ella Leavey	Rory Leavey	
James Liddell	Kellie Liddell (Lickett)	1995
Georgia MacDonald	Brendan MacDonald	1994
Adele Marshall	Peter Marshall	1989
	Paola Marshal (Perez)	1989
Bianca McCall	Tanya McCall (Fitzgerald)	1991
Makedde Hartman	Richard Mills	1998
Bridie Howie	Kristen Moran	1986
Jordan Moran	Kellie Moran (Lobosco)	1992
	Nicholas Moran	1992

STUDENT NAME	PARENT NAME	PEER YEAR
Chloe North Coombes	Justin North Coombes	1992
Julia Pannowitch	Steven Pannowitch	1978
Thomas Rees	Jessica Rees (Pote)	1993
	Lucas Rees	1993
Nicholas Reichart	Marnie Reichart (Kett)	1988
Eliza Schulties	Rohan Schulties	1991
	Melanie Schulties (Hewitt)	1991
Thomas Scutt	Adrian Scutt	1992
	Caroline Scutt (Manion)	1992
Nicolas Sorace	Vince Sorace	1994
	Jennifer Sorace (Barlow)	1994
Connor Oldfield	Judith Trig	1988
Brooke Tudor	Penny Tudor (Frank)	1995
Jason Watts	Jacqueline Watts (Pote)	1991
Kaiden Woolhouse	Danni Woolhouse	1994



Aquinas Old Collegians Football Club

“The Bloods”

From humble beginnings: the creation of the Aquinas Old Collegians Football Club

In early 1981 the rather ambitious idea to form an Aquinas Old Boys football club was brought to life by former Aquinas College students. Prompted by the obvious lack of a team in the Eastern Suburbs Churches Football Association (ESCFA), and with limited local alternatives for enthusiastic players, a series of hastily convened meetings took place to establish a committee and formal admission into the ESCFA in time for the 1981 season.

After approaching the Principal at the time, John Mahon, approval to use the College branding and facilities, the Aquinas Old Boys Football Club began its illustrious 37 year history.

Fundraising in the early years was an absolute priority, with the oval lacking many of the desired facilities. Through club supplied “blood, sweat and tears” a scoreboard was quickly erected, and most importantly, a caravan to serve food to football supporters was towed from Footscray and set up overlooking the playing fields.

The building activity at Aquinas College in 1984 also included a new permanent home and improved facilities for the old boys. In 1986, despite the motion being officially rejected the year before, the name of the club was officially changed from “Aquinas Old Boys” to “Aquinas Old Collegians Inc” with the view to incorporating other sports at some time in the future.

Now playing in its 37th season, the Aquinas Old Collegians Football Club has grown from its humble beginnings of a Seniors and a Reserves team. Multiple teams across all abilities including Juniors and Women’s teams have seen consistent wins and a strengthening club over the years. The founders should be very proud.

Editor’s Note: Despite extensive research, we are still unable to uncover where the term “The Bloods” came from. If you have any information on why the Aquinas Old Collegians Football Club are referred to as “The Bloods” we would like to know more.



Join the Club

If you are considering becoming involved with a progressive, family oriented Local Suburban Football Club, please contact one of the following club officials.

Terry McEvoy

President

president@aquinas.com.au

0424 187 861

Jack McDonald

Secretary

secretary@aquinas.com.au

0430 130 520

Club News

Aquinas Old Collegians came into the 2018 season as reigning Premiers in both our Senior and Reserve sides. With the Senior team taking home the Premiership Cup last season for the first time since 1996 and the Reserves added an exclamation mark on their undefeated season.

It is an exciting era for the club with the development of our first ever Women’s team – currently competing in Division 2 of the development league. The Women’s team held their first ever training session in November of 2017, with over 30 girls in attendance on the first night. Since then, over 50 girls have trained with us in the season so far – adding a great buzz around the club. With a few early wins the Women’s team are building towards making the finals series in our inaugural season in the competition.

The Senior team appeared to continue from where they left off last season, kick starting our Division 3 campaign with an emphatic 126-point victory, however a disappointing month of football early on has seen Aquinas Old Collegians drop off the pace with a series of injuries to key players. The Coach Ash Naulty is confident the young group can turn it around quickly,

The Reserves have been the barometer for the Club for the past 5 years, with an incredible 24-game winning streak. The 2’s finished their 2017 campaign with a mammoth percentage of 99.8 and didn’t stop there, winning their 2018 Round 1 clash by 111-points.

Our 4th side competing in the 2018 campaign is our U19’s team, which is made up mostly of 2017 Aquinas Year 12 students. The young group has started off the season in a positive position. The Club remains in a strong position with over 35-players registered for the U19 team, setting up the future of the Club for the years to come.

The 2018 campaign for the Aquinas Old Collegians has been an incredible success, with the introduction of four separate teams for the first time in the Club’s history. All four teams are in strong positions to make finals this year – as the Club hopes to bring back more silverware to add to our already-crowded trophy cabinet.

Go Bloods.

Lumina

Theatre Co.



Lumina Theatre Company (LTC) is currently in rehearsals for their third show, **Legally Blonde: The Musical**, by Laurence O'Keefe, Nell Benjamin and Heather Hach. Based on the 2001 movie starring Reese Witherspoon, it tells the story of Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to follow her boyfriend. She discovers new people, hardships and how her knowledge of the law can help others. It is a wonderful, gripping story of empowerment, love and how we all have to find our way.

Spearheaded by director Lachlan Trappett, musical director Isaac Stott and choreographer Madeline Pratt, LTC have assembled a seriously talented and hardworking team. There will be songs, dance, jokes, skipping ropes and two very cute dogs.

You do not want to miss this!

Only five shows! Book your tickets at www.trybooking.com/VTLY

Show Dates: 31st August, 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th, September
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Mahon Theatre, Aquinas College
46 Great Ryrie Street, Ringwood 3134

Like them on Facebook, follow on Instagram (@luminatheatreco) for updates and offers for Legally Blonde and beyond.



United our hearts will remain.

Rick Van Duppen Tribute 1958 - 2018



The son of Dutch migrants, it was clear from his early primary school days that Rick Van Duppen was bright and determined, was comfortable working with numbers and enjoyed his sport.

During his high school years at Aquinas College, Rick met his wife Anne, and started a lifelong friendship with Peter Griffin. Rick and Anne married at 21, and at the age of 26 became the proud parents of twins, and eleven years later welcomed another baby boy to the family.

Rick returned to Aquinas College to start his teaching career as Sportsmaster, and played an enormous role in the development of the College's extensive sports program.

He was a highly respected teacher throughout the 80s and 90s. In the classroom his direct approach and high expectations constantly challenged students, but also often led to excellent results.

Rick was a man of integrity and unwavering standards. He didn't look for trouble or conflict, but was prepared to confront students, parents and colleagues when the need arose. Despite the hard exterior, Rick was a good sport, and was always happy to take his seat on the dunking machine.

After many wonderful years at Aquinas College, Rick was offered a position as Deputy Principal at Vaucluse College in Richmond and eagerly took up the challenge. He became a valued member at Vaucluse and all subsequent schools including Mount Lilydale, Loyola and finally John Paul College where he spent the last 10 years as Deputy Principal.

As well as his children and family, sport was Rick's big love, particularly soccer. He enjoyed many years playing and coaching at Ringwood City Soccer Club, and eagerly cheered on his beloved Manchester United.

Rick will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father and friend, providing a safe and loving environment for his family.



illuminate

If you have any information about past students, in particular: births, engagements, marriages, in memoriam or outstanding achievements, we would love to hear from you.

Please email them to illuminate@aquinas.vic.edu.au with your contact details.

Illuminare Editor
Rebecca Presta

Design and Composition
Rebecca Presta

Photography
Aquinas Staff

Our Website

www.aquinas.vic.edu.au

Would you like to be added to the mailing list to ensure you get every future copy of Illuminate?

Register on the [Alumni section](#) of the College website.

AQUINAS COLLEGE
Great Ryrie Street
(PO Box 190)
Ringwood Vic 3134
Ph: +61 3 9259 3000

Cricos
00127G