Live it. Learn it. Love it.
FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Welcome

On behalf of the School Council, I extend a very warm welcome to the Lauriston community.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding results achieved by our Year 12 girls in 2012, and to thank not only our Year 12 teachers but all Lauriston teachers for the effort they put into working with the girls throughout their time at Lauriston and assisting them in reaching the next step in their life’s journey.

Secondly, a reflection on Howqua, which this year celebrates its 20th Anniversary. We should all feel privileged to have arrived at this important milestone, and grateful for the vision of former Lauriston Principal Ruth Tideman AM, and the School Council of her day, in establishing our unique Year 9 program for girls.

The Council is fully supportive of the Howqua program, and all that it stands for in terms of the development of girls in Year 9. Whether our students start their journey towards Howqua at kindergarten, in Junior School or Senior School, whether this was in Kindergarten, Junior School or Senior School, they developed into young women prepared for the next stage of their lives. The Class of 2012 participated in all of the opportunities provided at Lauriston and made significant contributions to myriad activities.

Success is not a place at which one arrives but rather the spirit with which one undertakes and continues the journey.

- Alex Noble

Past Lauriston student Mary Owen, OAM (Class of 1936), has been a regular visitor to the School in recent years. In February, at our Founders’ Day Assembly, Mary gifted to Lauriston a portrait of herself as a young student. Our staff and students alike enjoy welcoming Mary back to Lauriston and we all appreciate listening to her memories of school life. Mary was born in 1921, and through her life journey of ninety-two years she has both experienced times of joy and sadness and adversity. Mary was one of the two founding coordinators of the Working Women’s Centre in Melbourne and has been at the forefront of achieving equal rights for working women in Australia. She was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1984, and the Centenary Medal in 2001.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A journey towards equality

Mary is a good starting point for my contribution to this issue of Lauriston Life, as its theme is ‘journeys’...

The results achieved by our Year 12 students in 2012 were outstanding (see pages 5-8) and we are all proud that our 2012 graduates’ median ATAR (calculated across VCE and IB results combined) was 96.05. Lauriston was the top VCE school in Victoria and our IB results demonstrate the consistent excellence achieved by those of our students who choose this course of study.

Academic results form only part of the education and personal journeys of the students in our Class of 2012. From the time they entered the School, whether this was in Kindergarten, Junior School or Senior School, they developed into young women prepared for the next stage of their lives. The Class of 2012 participated in all of the opportunities provided at Lauriston and made significant contributions to myriad activities.

Some students found their passion in music, or drama, taking part throughout their school years – often with great distinction – in our music program and/or drama program. The Class of 2012 also provided us with some very talented students in the Art, Visual Communication, and Media subject areas. Work by two of our recent graduates is currently on display at Melbourne Museum, in the exhibition Top Designs 2013; selection for a Top Designs exhibition is a great honour and for the young women concerned, the culmination of their artistic journey at Lauriston.

Top Design 2013 Exhibitor Zoe Blow’s development of a brand identity for mock gelato company Willow and Sage.

The Class of 2012 included dedicated and talented sportswomen, debaters and public speakers, as well as recipients of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, participants in a range of community service activities, and passionate social issues advocates who involved themselves in Greens and in Amnesty International. All students devoted time and effort to House activities, and our student leaders demonstrated not only fine leadership skills, but also the ability to work collaboratively and to negotiate with peers, teachers and senior leaders, over a variety of issues.

Top Design 2013 Exhibitor India McKenzie’s development of a brand identity for mock café Two Halves.
For a number of the students, Lauriston’s Howqua program was a turning point in their personal development. They articulated the benefits of Howqua in terms of their self-confidence, independence, and willingness to “have a go” (instead of standing back in case they might fail). I was personally impressed by the extent to which the members of the Class of 2012 supported each other, and by their capacity for empathy and understanding – qualities actively fostered and encouraged by the Howqua program.

The Class of 2012 chose to make their Lauriston journey one that would give them a well-rounded education. Along with their intellectual prowess, they developed attributes and skills that will enable them to find a path that leads them successfully through the next stage of their lives. With a wide variety of tertiary programs open to them, they have chosen varied paths for their tertiary studies, undertaking courses ranging from Medicine to Design. Mary Owen is one of many Lauriston alumnae who have been at the forefront of change in our world. Lauriston alumnae have played important roles in medical and scientific breakthroughs; political, legal and social change; the world of finance; and literature, music, art and design. You will find Lauriston alumnae around the world, each of them making a contribution to her community and to the global society in which we live.

The excitement and passion that we all have as educators comes from our ability to travel with our students on their journey and to support and guide them throughout their years at Lauriston and beyond.

Susan Just
Principal

We are very proud of the outstanding academic results achieved by our 2012 Year 12 students. When we received our VCE students’ results, in December, we were absolutely delighted, and we were thrilled to learn that Lauriston was the top VCE school in Victoria for 2012. Our International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma results, which we received in January, were a further cause for celebration. The median ATAR for the Class of 2012 (calculated on the basis of VCE and IB results combined) was 96.05. I am enormously proud of our most recent graduates and of our teachers.

It is particularly pleasing to know that the Class of 2012 not only achieved wonderful results and first-round tertiary offers, but that they also made a significant contribution to the life of the School through their active involvement in all that Lauriston offers, including sport, our arts program, debating and public speaking, community service, overseas exchanges, exchanges within Australia, and House activities. The Class of 2012 are well-rounded and balanced young women who will go on to make a significant contribution to the broader community.
Results in focus

In 2012 Lauriston ranked as the school with the highest VCE results in Victoria (The Age, 20 December 2012). The results for the Class of 2012 can be summarised as follows:

- 23.86% of the students were in the state's top 5%, with an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) above 95.
- 76.13% of the students were in the state's top 15%, with an ATAR above 85.
- 68% of the students were in the state's top 1%.
- 93% of the students were in the state's top 10%.

Among the many members of the Class of 2012 who achieved extremely impressive individual results, four VCE students attained maximum study scores of 50 for a subject, and three IB students achieved perfect scores of 45.

Destinations

Eighty-six girls in the Class of 2012 received first-round offers from tertiary institutions in Victoria: eighty-five from universities and one from MIBT. Two international students and one domestic student chose to pursue tertiary options overseas.

The University of Melbourne made offers to 46.5% of the girls, and Monash University to 26.7%. With student interest in RMIT University having increased this past year, RMIT made offers to 10% of our 2012 graduates, as did Deakin University. Places were also offered by Swinburne University, La Trobe University, Australian Catholic University, and MIBT.

The most popular degree choice was Arts (29%), including double degrees, followed by Biomedical Science, and Science (27%), Commerce and Business (25%), Law double degrees (7%), Design and Creative Arts (6%), and Medicine and Physiotherapy (5%).

Other choices included Health, Media, Music, Communications, Psychology, Engineering, and Environments (12% in total). *

Six girls received offers for Law double degrees at Monash or Deakin. Three girls received offers for Medicine/Surgery at Monash, and two for Nursing. A number of girls chose to follow a pathway to Medicine through undergraduate Biomedical Science or Science degrees. The success of several of our recent graduates in gaining entry to Creative Arts, Design, and Communications courses with very rigorous selection criteria is indicative of the wealth of talent demonstrated by these girls.

A significant number of girls were offered tertiary scholarships, with three girls offered places in the prestigious Chancellor’s Scholars Program at the University of Melbourne. One girl received an offer from the University of Cambridge.

I would like to congratulate the Class of 2012 on their meticulous planning for the next stage of their education and their life journeys. I wish them every success!

The Class of 2013 have already begun the process of final-year planning. So far this has comprised the Year 12 Conference, one-on-one careers counselling, and discussions about post-Year 12 options. Planning for our annual Careers Night, to be held on Monday 20 May, is in full swing, and careers engagement continues across the Senior School.

Susan Douglass
Careers Coordinator

*Career planning at Lauriston is underpinned by the Australian Blueprint for Career Development and the Victorian Careers Framework.

At Lauriston we help our students develop through involvement in both curricular and co-curricular programs. Students are encouraged to become self-managing individuals who know their strengths and limitations – individuals who feel empowered to design and manage their careers.

Lauriston students are fortunate to be well supported by our past students, a number of whom act as mentors, or speak at our annual Careers Night. Our alumnae can really help ‘light the way’ for our current students.

Our 2013 Careers Night will be held on Monday 20 May 7.00-9.00pm. The theme for this year is Transition to University. If you would like to be involved in future events, please contact Sue Douglass via douglasss@lauriston.vic.edu.au or on +61 3 9864 7554.

Susan Douglass
Careers Coordinator
Class of 2012

Meet some of our high achievers

Sophie Burn

A meticulous approach to learning earned Sophie many Academic Distinctions and prizes during her time at Lauriston. Involvement in a range of House activities, Sophie also undertook community service and was a member of the Senior College Council. Sophie is a talented sportswoman, and she was elected Captain of the Athletics Team in 2012 and awarded Full School Colours. Sophie achieved an ATAR of 99.75 and is following a medical career pathway: she is studying Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne.

Emily Chan

Emily excelled in the classroom, receiving numerous Academic Distinctions and enjoying success in national competitions. She was heavily involved in the School’s music program, represented Lauriston in Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV) debating, and was a valuable member of the Senior College Council. Emily was awarded Full School Colours in 2012 for her efforts. An IB student, Emily achieved a perfect score of 45, and was offered a place in Law at the University of Cambridge, and, under the auspices of the prestigious Chancellor’s Scholars Program, a place in Commerce at the University of Melbourne.

Kimberley Chow

Independence and an ability to work cooperatively are traits evident in Kimberley’s co-curricular and academic involvement at Lauriston. Kimberley displayed a genuine concern for others and showed great commitment to community service and the School’s Amnesty group. Kimberley was also a keen participant in sports at Lauriston, particularly diving, and in our music program. An IB student, she achieved a perfect IB score of 45, and was offered a place under the auspices of the prestigious Chancellor’s Scholars Program, in Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne.

India McKenzie

India’s contribution to school life was impressive. India represented the School in most sports – athletics, basketball, cricket, diving, hockey, rowing, swimming, tennis and volleyball. She was elected to the Senior College Council in 2011 and was Co-Captain of Irving House in 2012. India was also a great supporter of Lauriston’s music program and a key member of the School’s concert band. She was awarded Full School Colours in 2012. India achieved an ATAR of 99.75 in her VCE, with her results including a maximum study score of 50 for Visual Communication. She is now studying Environments at the University of Melbourne.

Georgina Davie

Georgina demonstrated outstanding leadership at School. She volunteered at Inclusion Melbourne (she was named the 2012 Stonnington Young Citizen of the Year in recognition of her voluntary work), while also maintaining involvement in a variety of House activities. Georgina was awarded Full School Colours for her exceptional contribution to school life at Lauriston. Awarded a perfect IB score of 45, Georgina is currently taking a gap year, and plans to take up her offer of a place in the University of Melbourne’s Chancellor’s Scholars Program in 2014.

Madeline White

An organised and diligent learner, Madeline received numerous Academic Distinctions and prizes at Lauriston. Beyond the classroom, Madeline’s many talents were evident through her involvement in the sporting, music and debating arenas. In a testament to the high regard in which she was held by her peers and by Lauriston staff, Madeline was appointed Co-Captain of Mitchell House. As a dedicated VCE student, Madeline achieved an ATAR of 99.85 and is now studying Commerce/Law at Monash University.

Seeding the next generation of physicists, engineers and software developers

Over the past half-century, women have made great progress in education and in the workplace, even in fields such as business, law and medicine, which have traditionally been male-centric domains. In science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), however, women’s progress has been slower.

Why are so few women becoming scientists, mathematicians or engineers? Many Lauriston graduates are working as – or training to become – doctors, dentists or physiotherapists, but very few of our graduates are physicists, engineers or software developers. And the issue is not simply one of gender: there is wide societal concern about the diminishing numbers of tertiary students in STEM fields at a time when technology is becoming ever more important in our lives.

So, what to do?

The landmark research report Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, published in 2010 by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), makes the following point: ‘One of the largest gender differences in cognitive abilities is found in the area of spatial skills, with boys and men consistently outperforming girls and women. Spatial skills are considered by many people to be important for success in [STEM] fields.’

The report’s authors go on to say, however, that key research indicates that ‘individuals’ spatial skills consistently improve dramatically in a short time with a simple training course’.

Lauriston initiatives

In 2012 Lauriston began a learning group focused on STEM, headed by our Head of Science, Di Wood, and our Head of Mathematics, Pauline Holland. The group brainstormed ways to raise awareness about STEM education and STEM career pathways, both by providing our students with positive role models and by integrating knowledge and experiences from the wider Lauriston community into student learning. The learning group looked specifically at the issue of how best to provide girls with opportunities to develop their spatial skills. Encouraging our girls with opportunities to develop their spatial skills. Encouraging our students to engage with construction toys and 3-D computer games, and enabling the girls to experience hands-on mechanics were identified as appropriate ways of promoting these important skills.

In November the STEM Learning Group ran a two-day program for Year 7 students that saw the girls develop, plan and make a model for a practical machine of their own creation. The model had to incorporate an electrical device, a mechanical device, and hydraulic or pneumatic movement, and the machine had to be able to perform a useful task.

The students loved this project – the group work, the creative challenge, the physical challenge and the relating of theory to practice. Two days was just not long enough!

Where to from here?

In the second half of 2013, Lauriston is introducing a STEM elective in Year 10, in addition to our Maths Problem Solving elective. With student take-up very good, further hands-on curriculum – encompassing robotics, TI-Nspire™ materials, and visits to the School by scientists and engineers – is being developed. We hope that we can turn the question Why so few? into an exclamation: ‘Wow – look how many girls are pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and maths!’
First steps

The children in Lauriston’s Kindergartens are right at the beginning of their school journey, which will take them down many different paths – paths whose twists and turns will inspire and challenge. Kindergartens are the foundation blocks for children’s journey through school, and one of our main focuses in Lauriston’s Kindergartens is to develop in each child the dispositions necessary for lifelong learning.

Our main focus for first term is to help all of our children feel comfortable in their new environment, to assist them to develop bonds with the adults in this space, and to help them build relationships with each other. It is also important to establish routines at this time, at home and at school; children feel supported when they know what is coming next. And boundaries need to be formed so that the children’s learning environment can be provocative and innovative.

Early Years Learning and Development Framework (EYLF) is the planning framework used in both of our Kindergartens. The EYLF is built on the understanding that the principles underpinning effective early childhood pedagogy guide the practice of educators. The framework identifies five areas as being crucial in the development of the child: identity, community, wellbeing, learning and communication.

We also use literacy and numeracy guidelines developed by our Kindergartens. Our literacy document is a sequential guide focused on the four learning areas involved in literacy: speaking, listening, writing and reading. Our numeracy document ensures that all areas of numeracy learning are explicitly planned for, so that children have experiences in number, measurement and geometry.

Our philosophy is underpinned by a commitment to providing a play-based curriculum. Play-based learning is described in the EYLF as ‘a context for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social worlds, as they engage actively with people, objects and representations’. Play is hard to define but can be described in the following terms:

- Play should be pleasurable although it may sometimes cause frustration and challenges.
- Play is often symbolic as children learn to negotiate, self-regulate and problem-solve. Children naturally engage in symbolic play and, when they do, their games have meaning to them but not always to observers.
- Active play requires action – in the form of physical, verbal or mental engagement with materials, people, ideas or the environment. It requires children to use their brains in many different ways.
- Play can be voluntary and self-motivated, with children making their own choices about and including others in, their play.

Play is important to brain development in the small child. Research tells us that children need to develop secure attachments, and require stimulation and an environment that encourages active exploration. Play, which has a vital role in these areas, strengthens brain pathways and develops the learning skills needed for the journey through school.

As our young children begin this journey with us, you will see them engaged in many types of play. These experiences have been carefully planned so that as the children play they are developing the skills and dispositions they need in order to be successful learners throughout their journey.

Robyn Ambler & Fiona Ireland
Directors of Kindergartens

Thriving in Junior School: Care, share, respect

For many children, school is the place where they first discover the importance of developing skills that will assist them in their interactions with others. At Lauriston, our care values, which we explicitly teach and continually refer to, together with our commitment to our pastoral care program and Respectful Relationships Policy, are fundamental to our dedication to providing children with a safe and supportive environment in which to grow and learn.

Ann Hooper
Deputy Principal / Head of Junior School

A positive school community promotes feelings of belonging, and connection, in children. A child’s sense of belonging at school is in turn a key protective factor that promotes wellbeing as well as academic achievement (Kids Matter: Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative - Overview (2007)).

A school functions as a social learning context, providing a backdrop for children’s learning, and influencing how they learn. In a social learning context characterised by positive, healthy relationships, learning will be enhanced.

Central to the development of positive relationships is social and emotional learning. In the school setting, fostering social and emotional learning involves promoting positive interactions, together with caring, concern and respect for others, and a willingness to share developing children’s ability to recognise and manage their emotions; and assisting children both to discover effective ways of solving problems and handling challenging situations, and to understand what it means to make responsible decisions.

Lauriston’s educational journey model is underpinned by the principle that relationships play a fundamentally important role in learning. Our developmental pastoral care program is designed to ensure that all of our students receive explicit instruction, role modelling and positive reinforcement in the area of relationships, and have consistent access to strong, coordinated social and emotional development programs.

Throughout the journey from Kinder to Year 6, our junior students build the skills, understandings and dispositions that children need to develop in order to manage themselves and relate appropriately to others. As the children acquire core social and emotional competencies, and learn to resolve conflict in developmentally appropriate ways, they feel more and more positive about themselves and the world around them.

Source: Kids Matter (2007)
A transformative journey

It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.
—Ursula K. Le Guin

When our Year 9 girls return to Melbourne after their Howqua experience, they arrive quite literally full of life. They have bonded with each other, made incredibly good friends, and met physical, mental and social challenges; they have developed independence, self-assurance and a willingness to tackle any challenge that comes their way. And, in the course of their Howqua journey, they have gained life skills that will always stand them in good stead. When our ‘Howqua girls’ arrive back at Amadale, they arrive transformed. This is what students in other year levels see and are inspired by.

The journey that our Year 9s travel see and are inspired by.

None of which means, of course, that the Year 9s find their Howqua journey easy – far from it. Each student faces her own ‘trials’. For some of the girls, living with ten or eleven peers, and having little personal space, is difficult; for others, Howqua’s fitness and outdoor programs test their limits; others find it hard to adapt to aspects of our routines and scheduling; and, as in any educational setting, some students will occasionally struggle with their academic studies. Yet, over time, house groups become happy and cohesive units; schedules become part of the rhythm of daily life; and two-hour walks, with a daypack, segue into a six-day hike, just as 2.2 km runs become a 17 km mountain run.

The journey through Howqua is unique. There is much soul-searching and challenge along the way but, in the end, it is all truly worth it. Just ask the girls who have made the journey.

Sam Ridley
Assistant Principal, Howqua

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MEET OUR SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Meet our School Captains

Since my commencement, I have been able to immerse myself within a welcoming and inclusive culture, and participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including House events, leadership groups, debating and volunteer work. The Lauriston community has supported me in my pursuits at school, and at state and national level in my chosen sport, water polo.

I am extremely honoured to have been elected School Co-Captain for 2013, and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of this role. I hope to lead the School in utilising the skills we have acquired, while studying at Lauriston, to become inspired and engaged members of our local and global communities. I believe that, by building upon the strong sense of school spirit and interconnectedness between all members of the Lauriston community, we can bring about positive change, even if only on a small scale.

I have only attended Lauriston for a relatively short period of my life; however, I feel extremely privileged not only to have been given the opportunity to attend this school, but also to now continue my role as an active leader in my final year. Lauriston has meaning in every part of my life; indeed, it will forever be a school for life.

I began in Year 10 as an official Lauriston student after living abroad for many years.

Katie Blunt

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Katie Blunt

Wards cannot describe how honoured and elated I am to be elected as a School Co-Captain for Lauriston in 2013. Attending Lauriston from Prep onwards, I have watched as many fantastic individuals have
Acknowledging our students’ achievements

Tony Barry
BEd (Melb)  
GradDipAppSc (CSturt)  
PGDip (CompEd) (Melb)

Tony joined the Lauriston community in 2007 at the start of Semester 2. Tony’s current role is eLearning Mentor. Tony is responsible for managing Moodle and our new online reporting systems. He is also involved in the Years 7-10 one-to-one notebook programs and teaches IT to the Year 10 students as part of this program. In addition, Tony provides technical support to staff and students, both in and outside the classroom.

Tony has worked in a number of schools in Australia and overseas, including the Geelong College, Tintern Schools, and Marlborough College (UK). He also has experience in industry, as an analyst programmer.

As a state finalist in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award, Chloe was asked to speak at Parliament House at the celebrations to mark International Women’s Day 2013. As Head of Outdoor Education at St Kevin’s, William lived with his family at the school’s Outdoor Education Centre in Rowerdale, and consequently understands fully the commitment required of staff living in a small residential school community.

Carolyn Dance
BEd (Melb)

Carolyn has been teaching in our Junior School for six years; she taught Year 6 for her first five years at Lauriston and is now teaching Year 3.

William Cleary
BEdSc (Melb)

William, who is Director of Operations at our Howqua campus, joined Lauriston at the start of 2010. As Howqua’s Director of Operations, he organises the day-to-day running of the campus, and also teaches Science, Health, and Humanities.

Tony has chosen to work in the field of education as he believes it brings a variety of ever-changing experiences. He feels that working with students and helping them identify who they are is a privilege, and one that he finds personally rewarding.

In his spare time Tony focuses on his family, and is very involved in all aspects of his two teenage children’s lives. Family is Tony’s main passion. His family share a love of sport and activity and are outdoors at any chance they get! Tony is currently renovating the family home, and enjoying restoring a 1967 MGB Roadster when he finds the time.

Carolyn believes that teaching is a privilege, and one that she has strong curriculum knowledge across, and a unique understanding of children’s various developmental stages.

Carolyn grew up playing a range of sports and particularly loved tennis, skiing, swimming and gymnastics. She learned to fly light aircraft at Moorabbin Airport at the age of thirteen, and was flying solo before she got her ‘learner’s’ and learned to drive a car.

Carolyn has been teaching at St. Monica’s School in Wodonga. She then returned to Melbourne to take up a position at Genazzano RCJ College. Next she taught at Wesley College, where many leadership opportunities led to her becoming Deputy Head, and then Acting Head, of the Junior School. Carolyn has experience teaching at all levels from Prep to Year 7, and as a result she has strong curriculum knowledge across, and a unique understanding of children’s various developmental stages.

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Carolyn believes that teaching is one of the few careers that provide opportunities to help shape society’s future and encourage a desire to continue to learn throughout life.

Away from work, Carolyn enjoys catching up with friends; the sounds and exhilaration of the Grand Prix and of air shows with their fighter jets; going to the movies; barracking for the Hawks; and eating chocolate!
Regatta titles. Today, Lauriston is one of Australia’s most respected rowing schools. Andrew attributes the success of Lauriston’s rowing program to three linked factors: coaches, students and parents.

‘It is the joy and enthusiasm of the girls, the direction and encouragement of the coaches, and the unwavering support of the parents that bring rowing success to Lauriston,’ Andrew says.

‘Over the past eleven years I have worked with some outstanding coaches at Lauriston, including Bill Tait, who coached Australia’s Women’s Coxless Pair to a Silver Medal at the 2012 Olympics, and Tom Abramowski, currently Victorian Women’s coach. Both began their coaching careers with Lauriston Year 8 girls.’

Many Lauriston students continue to row after leaving school. Several have taken their rowing to state and national level; some have obtained full rowing scholarships to universities in the US. Some alumnae have returned to Lauriston as rowing coaches, eager to share their knowledge and experience.

‘All of which is only possible with the support of parents,’ says Andrew.

‘I could not have done my job without their dedication to the cause. Ferrying girls to and from training, and driving them to regattas, is one thing; it is another to encourage daughters to meet challenges and step outside comfort zones. Parents have done this and, thankfully, trusted in the long-term and wider benefits.’

Whole-School House Family Picnic

On the evening of Friday 15 February the School community gathered on the Lauriston oval to celebrate the annual Whole-School House Family Picnic.

The event demonstrated that community spirit is alive and well at Lauriston. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all, and it was great to see our students full of excitement and getting involved in all the activities.

A welcome from the Foundation President

I would like to extend a warm welcome from the Lauriston Foundation Board to the Lauriston community as the 2013 school year gets underway.

We have had an exciting start to 2013, with the release of the IB results for the Class of 2012. The median ATAR for Lauriston’s combined VCE and IB results for 2012 was 96.05 – I am sure you will agree that this is an amazing achievement.

Congratulations must go not only to the students but also to our teachers and the wider School community, for providing such a vigorous, challenging and successful learning experience for the girls. I look forward to hearing more from the Class of 2012 as they settle into their first year away from Lauriston.

The Lauriston Foundation was established to ensure the long-term financial health and stability of the School, so that it is able to continue its tradition of academic excellence. We rely on philanthropic support as a key source of funding (over and above tuition fees) for innovative, rigorous, hands-on learning experiences for our girls – the kinds of experiences that can be offered through new programs and a curriculum rich with authentic, ‘real-world’ activities, and can require new or enhanced facilities.

In 2011, the Foundation initiated the Lauriston Equity Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to young women whose family circumstances and finances might not otherwise allow them to benefit from a Lauriston education. I would like to thank all who have given to the Fund to date, as they have helped make our Equity Scholarships program sustainable. We believe that a Lauriston education enables young women to make a valuable contribution in the broader community and we encourage the Lauriston community to continue to donate to the Equity Scholarship Fund.

Contributions to the Lauriston Foundation can be made through donations of any size, or through donations to the School’s Annual Appeal. No matter what the size of the gift, it is valuable and important to Lauriston. School-wide participation inspires other gifts and encourages support from major donors.

During the year, you will hear more from the Foundation about appeals targeted to support new and innovative work in the School.

Michael Rowland
Foundation President

Introducing Development Manager, Penny Reiners

Penny commenced with Lauriston in early January this year and has significant experience working with organisations to enhance their philanthropic and development programs. Penny has worked previously with not-for-profits including Bush Heritage Victoria. Penny has spent her first few months in the role working with the Lauriston Foundation, the School Council and the Old Lauristians association. Her areas of expertise include developing major giving and bequest programs.

I enjoy working with stakeholders from across organisations. One of the best aspects of my role is that I get to talk to current families, past students and people who were instrumental in the growth of Lauriston over the years, she says.

‘An early highlight has been attending the 100th Birthday Lunch for the Old Lauristonian Association. It was wonderful to see Old Girls from the 1930s mingling with Old Girls from the 1990s and 2000’s. That’s what’s so special about Lauriston, the combined history and the passion across the years to still remain connected to the School. I’m looking forward to meeting more members of the School community and to working with the Executive, Council and Foundation to continue our vital development work.’

To contact Penny please call: +61 3 9864 7562 or email: reinersp@lauriston.vic.edu.au

Penny Reiners, Development Manager
From the Archives

History of the Old Lauristonians’ Association

On 27 October 1913, twenty-nine former pupils of Lauriston gathered together to form an ‘Old Girls’ club’. The aims of the Old Lauristonians’ Club, as the new organisation was first known, were primarily social: the club’s members, who held regular meetings, hoped to maintain the friendships they had formed in their school days, and to enjoy with other Old Lauristonsians a range of sporting, dramatic, literary and philanthropic activities. The small subscription levied on club members was used to finance a school magazine (the Laurisonian), which included a section featuring news of ‘Old Girls’.

Since Lauriston was at this time a private business, owned by headmistresses Margaret and Lilian Halliday, the club (renamed the Old Lauristonians’ Association – the OLA – in 1923) did raise funds over the years for sporting facilities, and for a scholarship, to be awarded to the daughter of a fallen soldier.

During the Great Depression, the OLA played an important role in keeping Lauriston afloat, rallying around the School’s new headmistress, Miss Elizabeth Kirkhope, and doing its best to bolster enrolments from within its own community. In 1948, the OLA was represented on the provisional committee set up to establish Lauriston as a non-profit, limited guarantee company, and secured the right to elect three members annually to the School’s newly formed governing body.

For many decades, the most important event on the OLA calendar was the annual ‘At Home’. Held at Lauriston, the ‘At Home’ attracted large numbers of Old Girls and their children, all of whom enjoyed afternoon tea served by the School’s prefects and probationers, followed by games and entertainment. In 1951, the OLA ‘At Home’ was renamed ‘Founders’ Day’, to mark the School’s 50th Jubilee and to honour the memory of the Misses Irving, who had died in the previous decade. Nearly three hundred people were present on the first ‘Founders’ Day. In later years, ‘Founders’ Day was replaced by an annual luncheon, and in 1989 by an annual dinner. In 2013, one hundred years after the establishment of the OLA, ‘Founders’ Day’ was once again celebrated at Lauriston.

Jenny Bars
Archivist

A lifetime of Lauriston links

For Richard Halliday, thinking about Lauriston brings back memories of his mother, his childhood, and school life.

Richard’s mother, Mary Halliday (née Lovelace, Class of 1902), attended Lauriston from 1908 to 1915, leaving to go to England when her father fought in the war, and returning to finish her schooling in 1909. After completing her studies, Mary taught music at Lauriston, and Richard reflects a great sense of community at the School, with his mother inviting teachers and Lauriston families to the Halliday holiday home.

Richard visited the School many times and used to attend luncheons with Miss Elizabeth Kirkhope (Lauriston’s headmistress 1933–56). His mother’s Old Lauriston connections continued after she left the School, and there were networks available to Richard when he was later in London. One of his most enduring friendships was with former Lauriston student Hilda Speyer (Class of 1940). Hilda had escaped, with her family, from the Channel Islands as the Nazis were invading. The Speyers made their way to Melbourne, and Hilda attended Lauriston, where she was taught by Richard’s mother. A strong friendship developed between Richard and Hilda. At the cessation of hostilities in Europe, Hilda and her family returned to England.

Hilda later married an Australian and she and her husband moved to Canberra. Thereafter, for more than forty years, Hilda’s family and Richard’s family enjoyed many holidays together, both in Canberra and at Hilda’s holiday house near Batemans Bay.

For Richard, the Lauriston connection is ongoing, with his granddaughter Zoe currently a student at Blairholme.

Being involved in the School community has been an important thread in Richard’s life and he has strong views on giving back to an institution that has given much to his family.

‘I’ve benefited all my life from the connections that Lauriston has enabled for my family’, Richard says. ‘I like to give back by being involved in what’s going on and am especially interested in the Lauriston Foundation. I also get much satisfaction in donating to Lauriston projects that develop girls’ capabilities and am excited by the rich academic life at Lauriston and the new and exciting frontiers of teaching at work in – and outside of – the Lauriston classroom.’

Richard Halliday as a young boy.
100 years of Lauriston memories

I have been a Lauriston student, a Lauriston parent, President of the Lauriston Parents’ Association, and a member of the Lauriston Council, and I am now an Old Lauristoniess.

I’m also related to nine other Old Girls spanning one hundred years, from Helen Outhwaite (1918), my grandmother to Saskia Milledge (2012), my daughter.

In 1913, my gran Helen Outhwaite was thirteen and a Lauriston student. Her unique claim to fame is that she was the Victorian School Girls Champion in 1917, and in 1918 she attended Lauriston. She was the Victorian School House in Malvern Road called Yarook. Her parents chose Lauriston partly because they knew and respected the Irvings but also because they lived close by, in a rambling Edwardian house, called Yarook. Helen’s younger sister, Jocelyn, also attended Lauriston.

Helen played baseball and excelled at tennis. She was the Victorian School Girls Champion in 1917, and in 1918 she was also a prefect for three years and Dux of the School in 1918.

Her parents chose Lauriston partly because they knew and respected the Irvings but also because they lived close by, in a rambling Edwardian house, called Yarook. Helen’s younger sister, Jocelyn, also attended Lauriston.

Gran had one son, my father, Sam Gray. Dad had three daughters in close succession — Sue, Jules and me — and we attended Lauriston from the late 1950s to the mid 1970s, from Prep to Year 12.

The grounds and facilities were much more modest then. The ‘Old House’ was still there, as was the ‘White House’, and, for a time, a ‘Top Field’ on Mercer Road. Handstands were forbidden there, lest passers-by should see our regulation navy-blue Bonds CottonTights. Of course we did them anyway.

When asked for one-liners about school, my sisters willingly obliged.

Jules: ‘I am not sure I truly appreciated what Lauriston meant to me until I was an adult.’

‘Friendships and lots and lots and lots of laughter.’

‘Miss Fox’s lemon butter and the rattie of the academic gowns of Miss Mackay and Miss Brumley.’

Sue: ‘Happy days, great friendships and left in no doubt that girls could and should make the most of their educational opportunities.’

After a fifteen-year break from Outhwaite blood, there was a rush as three of the next generation attended from the early 1990s to last year, when my daughter Sas completed Year 12.

All the girls from this generation rowed. In 1998 Emily Wilmoth, my niece, was in the Lauriston crew that won the state and national titles and the Head of the Schoolgirls. Emily went on to win the Australian Open Singles in 2012.

Very successful rower, competing at state and national levels and returning to Lauriston to coach. Her cousins Sarah and George Slobart also won a schoolgirl’s title, in the second four.

My two daughters, encouraged and nurtured by the School, are both very artistic. Alice is an interior designer in New York, and Sas is doing a gap year in New York, and will study Animation at RMIT in 2014.

All the cousins thrived at Lauriston and have gone on to university and professional careers. Four of the five are overseas — the global citizens the School groomed them to be. The eldest, Em, is at home, having just produced baby Tom.

A key challenge for Lauriston is to stay ahead of the game. And perhaps, because it also has a reputation as a privileged school, to dispel the notion that it doesn’t deserve our support. Lauriston girls are undoubtedly privileged but I have come to accept that this is okay, as long as those of us lucky enough to be educated there make the most of it by living worthy lives and doing what we can to help others who are not so privileged.

Amanda Milledge (Gray, 1972)

Nicole Yeomans (2005) takes on a unique challenge inspired by Howqua

Nicole Yeomans (2005) takes on a unique challenge inspired by Howqua

When I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis when I was eighteen months old and have lived with it ever since.

When I attended Howqua in 2002 the outdoor activities were difficult but I always tried to attempt everything. It has always been a regret that I was unable to complete the final six-day hike during my time at Howqua.

When I was unable to complete the hike, my teacher, Ms Sloane, said that she wanted me to see Mount Speculation. I promised her that, before I reached twenty-four, I would return and complete the hike. I’ve never forgotten that conversation.

In Year 12 my arthritis got worse and, by my first year at university, I was on permanent medication (which I had never needed before). My health fluctuated over the next six years, with my medication needs increasing as my joints deteriorated. This period included a sustained period of illness overseas and a battle with glandular fever. My health was affecting my study of Interior Architecture at Monash and I was in and out of school.

In 2011 I decided that I needed to make some changes in my life. I resolved that, instead of fighting my health, I would try to manage it and adapt my life to allow me to be happy and healthy. I decided to transfer from Interior Architecture and focus on a career that I could still be passionate about but my health could handle. I now study Digital Media and Marketing at Swinburne and have one year left.

While travelling in Europe, I also decided that I wanted to hike to the top of Mount Speculation before I turned twenty-four, and that I wanted to raise money for Arthritis Victoria in the process.

Climbing a mountain is an obstacle that means more to me than just keeping a promise. It is also a metaphor for people with disabilities who face obstacles every single day and get to the top of the mountain but sometimes don’t get recognised for it.

Due to my health issues, hiking a mountain before my twenty-fourth birthday was impossible but seeing Mount Speculation is still my goal. I am aiming to do this in April this year and to complete the walk prior to the Howqua 20th Anniversary Open Day. I’m enjoying fundraising for Arthritis Victoria. My days are currently taken up with preparations and I am looking forward to keeping that promise.

Emma & Tom's: Where taste and design combine

Emma Welsh (1983)
Emma graduated from Lauriston with a burning desire to establish her own business. Her determination and commitment would ultimately see the birth of fruit juice brand Emma & Tom’s – now a household name across Australia.

After Lauriston, Emma completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree at the University of Melbourne. She felt that this broad degree would allow her to study subjects that would be useful to an aspiring entrepreneur.

Emma then spent time in the corporate world, working for Cargill, Mars, L.E.K. Consulting, and National Australia Bank. Having her own business remained her dream, and she continued to build on her entrepreneurial skills, obtaining an MBA from INSEAD in France.

While working in the UK, Emma met up with long-time friend Tom Griffith. Tom had been skiing in North America and had noticed that local café fridges were stocked full of natural, whole fruit smoothies. The drink offered a health advantage but no artificial colours, flavours or preservatives, or concentrations. Tom knew that there was something fantastic, and Emma agreed.

Emma & Tom’s was born.

So he called Emma, and the idea for concentrates. Tom knew that there was a gap in the market for people looking to start their own venture. Emma says, ‘Running a business is hard for anyone, irrespective of gender, so to succeed you need to have confidence, tenacity and passion.’

Having her own business has allowed Emma – mother to Alexander, 7 – the freedom to choose where she dedicates her time. She encourages other women to consider having their own businesses for this reason.

Emma & Tom’s: Look After Yourself, is central both to the company and to the corporate social responsibility work it undertakes. Each year Emma & Tom’s donates more than $100,000 worth of juice and Life Bars to community groups, fundraising events, and charities such as Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, SecondBite, Pharaoh Mission and the St Kilda Mission.

A strong commitment to sustainability is evident in the unique packaging methods that Emma & Tom’s has adopted for its products, all packaging is recyclable and where possible it is also made from recycled product (e.g. most of their cartons are made from recycled cardboard). They have also worked with Sustainability Victoria on a project to use recycle plastic in their bottles, to be launched soon!

When asked if she has advice for people looking to start their own venture, Emma says, ‘Running a business is hard for anyone, irrespective of gender, so to succeed you need to have confidence, tenacity and passion.’

Emma & Tom’s: Quenchers

Quenchers feature stevia leaf extract as a naturally low calorie healthy drink and only 0.5% of the sweetness of sugar. Quenchers feature a real fruit juice blend of cranberry, pomegranate, blueberry, and raspberry, and other botanicals to ensure a naturally low calorie healthy drink, made from minimally processed whole fruit juices toquench your thirst! and of course they taste delicious!

Deborah Conway (1977)
After graduating from Lauriston, Deborah attended the University of Melbourne, where she balanced study with modelling and singing. She appeared in advertisements for Bluegrass jeans, Big M, and Crunchie. At the age of eighteen, while at university, she started playing guitar. In 1979, Deborah joined the band The Benedicts as a vocalist and songwriter.

In 1981, Deborah moved to Sydney and joined the band Do Re Mi in 1985, Do Re Mi released the iconic ‘Man Overboard’, from their debut album, Domestic Harmony. The song was radically different from those usually heard on radio playlists, but went to the top of the charts.

In 1984, Deborah and Do Re Mi relocated to the UK. Their second album, The Happiest Place in Town (1988), was well received, but by late 1988 the band had dispersed. Deborah remained in the UK working on various projects – from singing with Pete Townshend’s The Iron Man to acting and singing in Peter Greenaway’s film Peppero’s Books, scored by Michael Nyman.

Deborah also continued writing and in 1990 returned to Australia with an extensive national tour with the band, ‘The Only Beginning’, ‘Teleme Me’, and the bittersweet title track, which saw her win the Best Female Artist ARIA Award in 1992.

The release of the String of Pearls album was accompanied by an extensive national tour with the band. The Mothers of Pearl in which Willy Zygier played guitar. This was the start of a successful songwriting and personal collaboration for Deborah and Willy, which has resulted (so far) in eight records and three children. Deborah and Willy married in 2007.

In May 2010, Deborah and Willy launched Half Man Half Woman, which includes a song sung by their three daughters.

Deborah and Willy recently launched their eighth studio record together – Stories of Ghosts.

Deborah has been recognised as an innovator and as a generator of unique ways of presenting music. From 2008 to 2011, she was Artistic Director of the Queensland Music Festival – the first woman to direct this statewide biennial celebration of music, which, in its geographic reach, is the largest music festival in the world.

In 2005, Deborah and Willy launched Broad, a project that brought diverse female singer-songwriters together in performance. Broad presented established names, such as Katie Noonan and the late, great Ruby Hunter, and introduced emerging artists like Mia Dyson, Kate Miller-Heidke, Clare Bowditch, Liz Stringer and Sally Sellmann.

Deborah’s achievements include writing for, and appearing alongside Toni Collette in, Geoffrey Rush’s Belvoir St Theatre production of Aristophanes’ The Frogs, presenting at Paul Gradowsky’s invitation, an evening of Conway & Zygier compositions at the Melbourne Concert Hall; performing in Andrée Greenwell’s Dreaming Transportation: writing and recording with classical composer George Dreyfus; recording with Brisbane band george; and performing in Half the Sky concerts to mark International Women’s Day.

Deborah is currently touring, following the release of Stories of Ghosts. For information, visit www.deborahconway.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS
Community News

News of Old Lauristians

Helen Wirtz

Helen Wirtz (Saaschens, 1959)

Helen has become one of the first winners of an Empowering Monash Women Award.

Helen has worked for MonashLink Community Health Service since 1976 and has contributed an enormous amount of professional time and expertise to the community of Monash.

The safety of women and children in Monash has been a major focus for Helen. Having listened to women who wanted change for their families, she developed the Men's Responsibility Group program. Designed to assist men to learn new ways of relating to their partners, children and others, this program is today highly respected across Victoria and is frequently studied by service providers, both Australian and international, that are setting up similar programs.

Helen also developed MonashLink’s Women’s ReCLAIMing Their Lives program, which was established ten years ago to respond to the needs of women with experience of situations of family violence.

Through her tireless work, Helen has achieved a great deal, and MonashLink is now a best-practice, innovative organisation in its provision of services for those affected by family violence. There are many women in Monash who would see Helen as having played a crucial role in the development of their self-worth and sense of personal value.

We congratulate Helen on her very significant achievements.

Debbie Marks

Debbie Marks (1994)

Debbie writes:

Upon leaving Lauriston I had a well-worn path to the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Commerce degree. I found my way from HR to IT project management, where I worked for twelve years, in Australia and the UK. During my time in the UK I married and had my first child. As a family we returned to settle in Melbourne and I became pregnant with my second child while working full-time and caring for a two-year-old. I realised that work-life balance was very important to me, quit my job and retrained as a business coach and trainer, and started The Edge Coaching and Training.

The experience that I had as a professional woman dealing with a clash between work and family values led me to my niche business, which supports other women in similar situations. I now work with organisations such as Australia Post, Monash University and Tourism Victoria to provide them with the Working Parent Resilience Program and Manager Training for Flexible Workforces. The programs aim to increase retention, diversity, health and wellbeing and provide attendees with the opportunities to set goals around their personal and professional lives and then achieve them! For more information you can go to the website www.theedgecoaching.org.

Just to add some diversity to my new career I’ve also taken on working with jobseekers, facilitating soft skills training to enable them to get back to work – which I love doing! And all in three days a week, so I can enjoy being a mum too. Just the way I want it – but what a journey life can take!

Kate Fitz-Gibbon

Kate Fitz-Gibbon (2004)

Kate writes:

In February last year, I completed my PhD. Doing a doctorate was an amazing experience, although certainly challenging at times. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to spend three years researching and influencing an area of the law – the partial defence of provocation – that I am very passionate about. It is very exciting that this is a topical issue, one that many governments in Australia and internationally are grappling with. In this respect, it is rewarding to see my research having an impact in both Victoria and NSW. Being invited last year to give evidence at the NSW parliamentary inquiry into the operation of the partial defence of provocation and having the results of my research featured on the front page of The Age have been two definite highlights of this so far.

Since completing my PhD, I have been given the fantastic opportunity, as a Lecturer in Criminology at Deakin University, to continue to dedicate time to my research while also lecturing the next generation of criminology scholars.

Beyond beginning at Deakin, and my provocation research, I have also recently had my first book published. Written with Dr Asher Flynn, and launched in February by David Galbally QC, the book analyses the legal decisions made in the ‘Honeymoon Killer’ case, where Gabe Watson was prosecuted twice, in Queensland and in Alabama, for his alleged involvement in the 2003 death of his wife on Queensland’s Great Barrier Reef. Writing the Watson book, A Second Chance for Justice, was an amazing experience that allowed me to travel to Alabama to attend Gabe’s capital murder trial and to interview those most closely involved in the case.

With the book and thesis behind me, I am turning my mind to what I am sure will be an equally busy 2013. I am also recently had my first book published. Written with Dr Asher Flynn, and launched in February by David Galbally QC, the book analyses the legal decisions made in the ‘Honeymoon Killer’ case, where Gabe Watson was prosecuted twice, in Queensland and in Alabama, for his alleged involvement in the 2003 death of his wife on Queensland’s Great Barrier Reef. Writing the Watson book, A Second Chance for Justice, was an amazing experience that allowed me to travel to Alabama to attend Gabe’s capital murder trial and to interview those most closely involved in the case.

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I have been sent to work here for a year as part of AusAID’s Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development program.

I finished my studies last year, completing a Master’s in International Relations an exchange at Sciences Po in Paris, with a focus on international development. My undergraduate study was a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne.

Harriet Dwyer

Harriet Dwyer (2004)

Harriet writes:

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We love to hear from you!

We are always keen to hear from our alumnai. If you have an interesting story to tell, please write about it for us and send your article and any accompanying photos to Katie Garrett, Communications Officer, at kgarrett@lauriston.vic.edu.au.

Old Lauristians on Facebook

You can now keep in touch with Lauriston and with the Old Lauristians’ Association (OLA) via Facebook. Next time you visit Facebook, why not visit the School’s page, at www.facebook.com/LauristonAmadale (from there, just search for Old Lauristians to access the OLA’s page)? ‘Like’ our pages to ensure that you receive all our latest news.
**Engagements**

Emma Mason (2004) got engaged recently. Her partner, James, proposed on the balcony at sunset, on the seventh anniversary of when he and Emma met in Broadbeach, Queensland. The happy couple are enjoying being engaged, and wedding planning is well underway. Emma is working at Dandenong Hospital as a Clinical Dietitian.

**Future Lauristons?**

If you are expecting a future Lauristonian, please contact our Registrar, Donna Galloway, on (03) 9864 7544, to register your interest in a place at Lauriston.

**Births**

Kimberley Wolkow (Lean, 2003) was welcomed their beautiful son, Matthew, brother to Rebecca, on 4 December 2012.


Katrina Gowans (Howie, 1994) and her husband, David, welcomed their beautiful son, Matthew, brother to Rebecca, on 4 December 2012.

Stephanie Murphy (Morton, 2001) and her husband welcomed their son Henry George William Murphy on 15 August 2012.

**Weddings**

Emma is working at Dandenong Hospital as a Clinical Dietitian. Emma got engaged recently. Her partner, James, proposed on the balcony at sunset, on the seventh anniversary of when he and Emma met in Broadbeach, Queensland. The happy couple are enjoying being engaged, and wedding planning is well underway. Emma is working at Dandenong Hospital as a Clinical Dietitian.

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Naomi Cranenburgh (2005)  

Naomi passed away suddenly at the age of twenty-four on 14 January 2013.

Naomi was a highly compassionate and motivated young woman who always put others first. This trait was evident in her committed volunteering, which included work with the Brotherhood of St Laurence; with refugees, at the Rowville Community Centre; with a Bolivian orphanage while she was travelling in South America in 2009; and at the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, in Melbourne.

Naomi’s mother, Angela, remembers that as a child Naomi was mature and advanced for her age, teaching herself to read by the age of three (and learning her ABCs by reading Dr Seuss). Naomi was the youngest of five children and she watched and learned from her siblings.

At the age of four, her advanced development having been recognised, Naomi began school early, at St Leonard’s College in Frankston. Travelling each day from Seaford to Armadale was another mark of her dedication to learning.

At Lauriston, Naomi chose to study in the IB Diploma program, taking up singing as her cultural activity. She developed a love for singing, and took additional singing lessons. She also added her contralto voice to the school choir and was chosen to sing at her Year 12 Dinner. After leaving Lauriston, Naomi continued to enjoy singing, progressing to the finals of Teen Idol and, in more recent years, joining the Gay and Lesbian Choir and Gay and Lesbian Chorus in Carlton.

In her final year at Lauriston, Naomi studied English, History and Biology at a higher level, as well as Maths Methods, Chemistry and Spanish. She completed her final exams at the age of sixteen, receiving full marks for History. Naomi graduated from Monash University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, with majors in English and History. She also studied Spanish to third-year level and worked in the university bookshop.

At the completion of her BA, Naomi travelled to South America, spending time in Peru, Bolivia and Chile. In 2010 Naomi undertook her honours year in history, graduating with first-class honours in 2011. Her honours thesis, ‘From ‘invisible’ to ‘Menace’: Lesbians in Australia from 1939 to 1965’, received acclaim for its groundbreaking work, which included examination of archives, and oral history based on participant interviews.

After graduation, Naomi commenced in the Commonwealth Government graduate program at DEEWR. She left the program at the end of 2012 when she was accepted into the PhD History program at Macquarie University with a full research scholarship, funded by the government, for three and a half years. She was proposing to extend her research into the medical literature so as to examine the treatment of gay women in Australia from about 1939 to 1975.

Naomi joined the Professional Historians Association and was looking forward to a career as a historian. Her illness and sudden death cut short a promising future.

She was laid to rest at the Cheva Kadisha Cemetery at Lynnhurst on Friday 18 January. More than 150 friends and colleagues gathered with her family to farewell Naomi; among them were Lauriston Old Girls, who made generous donations in Naomi’s honour to causes dear to her heart, including the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and the Lesbian and Gay Archives.

Naomi’s family thanks these many girls from Lauriston’s 2005 and 2006 peer years for their generosity, and advises that Naomi’s tombstone will be consecrated in January 2014, a year after her funeral.

Naomi’s mother remembers that Naomi was a highly compassionate woman who always put others first. This trait was evident in her committed volunteering, which included work with the Brotherhood of St Laurence; with refugees, at the Rowville Community Centre; with a Bolivian orphanage while she was travelling in South America in 2009; and at the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, in Melbourne.

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At Lauriston, Naomi chose to study in the IB Diploma program, taking up singing as her cultural activity. She developed a love for singing, and took additional singing lessons. She also added her contralto voice to the school choir and was chosen to sing at her Year 12 Dinner. After leaving Lauriston, Naomi continued to enjoy singing, progressing to the finals of Teen Idol and, in more recent years, joining the Gay and Lesbian Choir and Gay and Lesbian Chorus in Carlton.

In her final year at Lauriston, Naomi studied English, History and Biology at a higher level, as well as Maths Methods, Chemistry and Spanish. She completed her final exams at the age of sixteen, receiving full marks for History. Naomi graduated from Monash University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, with majors in English and History. She also studied Spanish to third-year level and worked in the university bookshop.

At the completion of her BA, Naomi travelled to South America, spending time in Peru, Bolivia and Chile. In 2010 Naomi undertook her honours year in history, graduating with first-class honours in 2011. Her honours thesis, ‘From ‘invisible’ to ‘Menace’: Lesbians in Australia from 1939 to 1965’, received acclaim for its groundbreaking work, which included examination of archives, and oral history based on participant interviews.

After graduation, Naomi commenced in the Commonwealth Government graduate program at DEEWR. She left the program at the end of 2012 when she was accepted into the PhD History program at Macquarie University with a full research scholarship, funded by the government, for three and a half years. She was proposing to extend her research into the medical literature so as to examine the treatment of gay women in Australia from about 1939 to 1975.

Naomi joined the Professional Historians Association and was looking forward to a career as a historian. Her illness and sudden death cut short a promising future.

She was laid to rest at the Cheva Kadisha Cemetery at Lynnhurst on Friday 18 January. More than 150 friends and colleagues gathered with her family to farewell Naomi; among them were Lauriston Old Girls, who made generous donations in Naomi’s honour to causes dear to her heart, including the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and the Lesbian and Gay Archives.

Naomi’s family thanks these many girls from Lauriston’s 2005 and 2006 peer years for their generosity, and advises that Naomi’s tombstone will be consecrated in January 2014, a year after her funeral.
Founders’ Day
On Tuesday 5 February, the Lauriston community gathered together to celebrate Founders’ Day, an event that was established early in Lauriston’s history (see page 19).

Lauriston Celebrates the 100th Birthday of the OLA
On Saturday the 23 March almost 200 Old Girls gathered together in Irvine Courtyard to celebrate the 100th Birthday of the Old Lauristonian Association (OLA). Alumnae from peer years ranging from the 1930s to 2007 enjoyed champagne and canapés beside the treasured Moreton Bay Fig tree. The group then moved into the Courtyard for a seated lunch. OLA President, Prudence Barker guided proceedings and introduced guest speakers including Nene Macwhirter, Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School, Judy Sloan who spoke about her School experiences and Principal Susan Just who appeared via video link while on a study tour in the UK.

Displays included old school uniforms and report cards, sporting trophies and pictures. The Old School banner had pride of place on the main stage.

Proceeds from the event contribute towards the Moreton Bay Fig refurbishment project supported by the OLA. The work of the group to maintain this much-loved tree will ensure that it forms part of the Lauriston Girls’ School experiences of further generations of students.

2013 Reunions and Key Events

In 2013 we will be trialling a new reunion format, and will be hosting several reunions on the one Saturday in May. This format will make it possible for alumni from different year levels to catch up with each other.

21 April
Howqua 20th Anniversary Celebrations and Open Day

25 May
Reunion Weekend
Class of 1963 50-year reunion
Class of 1968 45-year reunion
Class of 1973 40-year reunion
Class of 1978 35-year reunion
Class of 1983 30-year reunion
Class of 1988 25-year reunion
Class of 1993 20-year reunion
Class of 1998 15-year reunion

11 October
Class of 2012 1-year reunion

18 October
Class of 2008 5-year reunion

15 November
Class of 2003 10-year reunion
Term 2 Events
Tuesday 16 April – Friday 28 June

Howqua 20th Anniversary Celebrations and Open Day
Sunday 21 April, 10.30am–2.00pm

Principal’s Morning Tea
Tuesday 23 April, 9.30am–11.00am

Years 5–8 Autumn Concert
Wednesday 24 April, 7.30pm–9.00pm

Senior College Musical Seussical
Wednesday 1 May, Thursday 2 May, 7.30pm
Friday 3 May, 5.30pm

Foot of the River Cocktail Party
Friday 3 May

Discover Howqua Day/Year 8 Picnic
Sunday 5 May, 11.00am – 2.00pm

VCE/IB Performance Evening
Friday 17 May, 7.00pm–9.00pm

Careers Night
Monday 20 May, 7.00pm–9.00pm

Fathers of Lauriston Dinner
Tuesday 21 May, 7.00pm–9.00pm

OLA Reunion Weekend
Saturday 25 May

Montrose Recital
Friday 31 May, 3.30pm–5.00pm

Foot of the River Regatta
Sunday 2 June

Blairholme Lunchtime Recital
Thursday 23 August, Wednesday 26 June, 1.00pm–1.30pm

More information on these and other events can be found in the ‘News and Events’ section of the Lauriston website (www.lauriston.vic.edu.au).

Live it. Learn it. Love it.

Advertising in Lauriston Life

Members of the Lauriston community now have the opportunity to advertise in Lauriston Life. If you have a business or service that you would like to promote, consider placing an advertisement in a magazine that goes out to more than 6000 readers – alumni, Lauriston parents, current and past staff, and all of our donors. Advertising rates are: full page $800; half page $500; quarter page $350; eighth of a page $200.

For further information, please email our Communications Officer, Katie Garrett, on garrettka@lauriston.vic.edu.au.