

LutherLetter

Sharing news of Luther College | Number 1, 2020



Luther
College



Community



Cover photo:
Parents, Students and Staff

Highlights

Class of 2019



Embracing the
Game Changer



Back to
their Roots



Reunions



Community News



Luther College

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From the Principal



As a school we have been immensely proud of the Luther College community and their commitment in supporting quality learning, teaching and care.

Unexpected blessings

The College invested a great deal of time and energy in carefully planning the areas of strategic focus for Luther in 2020. Clarity of purpose, a culture of continual improvement, high standards of teaching and learning and avenues for effective communication and feedback were all identified as key areas. Responding to a global pandemic was not. Ironically, the urgent and necessary response to the coronavirus pandemic has ultimately achieved many of our strategic goals with an effectiveness that may simply not have been possible under normal circumstances. There have been many unexpected blessings.

As a school we have been immensely proud of the Luther College community and their commitment in supporting quality learning, teaching and care. Not surprisingly, the clarity of what needed to occur to support our students and their learning highlights the values of the College and what truly matters. The support and care which was provided to children during At-Home Learning was exceptional. And it is the exceptional support of the whole community that means we will come through these uncertain times to our new normal in the best possible way.

Some of the stories and experiences of students with their At Home Learning are depicted in this edition of LutherLetter. This edition also showcases the myriad of activities which occurred during Semester 1. It highlights the learning experiences, celebrates the achievements and illustrates the service of the College community. These activities are what makes our community so special - staff, students and their families developing and using their gifts and talents in support of others for positive and lasting effect.

In this ever changing “normal” we are again and again reminded of the one constant. Even when we feel that we have the future all planned out, God blesses us in ways that we never expected. We give thanks for His love and His unexpected blessings.

Mr Michael Kleidon
Principal



Class of 2019

The 2019 Luther College Dux Benjamin Roe, Proxime Accessit Oscar Hodgson and subject Dux recipients for VCE subjects undertaken in 2019 were recognised for their outstanding academic achievements at the

Senior School Opening Service earlier this year. This wonderful occasion saw members of the Class of 2019, together with their parents, grandparents and friends, take part in a service which also included the installation of new

teachers, our School Captains and House Captains for 2020. It was a memorable way to recognise and celebrate our students' outstanding achievements.

Back Row: Ben's grandad Darryl Roe, sister Emily Roe, mother Lynne Roe, father Linton Roe.

Front Row: grandmother Jenny Roe, Ben, great grandfather Russell Collins, great grandmother Joan Collins.





Dux – Benjamin Roe

The Luther College Dux for 2019 was Benjamin Roe.

Ben was Subject Dux for Chemistry, German and Music Performance.

Ben is a talented musician, leader and outstanding role model. A humble servant, Ben's dedication to his studies and life at Luther was evident with a range of exceptional contributions recorded throughout his six years at the College. Academically outstanding, Ben's work ethic and commitment to his studies have seen him achieve great success. He has also played a significant role in the achievements of the Music Department, both in his role as Music Captain and as a member of the Symphonic and Concert Bands, Wind Quartet and as a mentor in the College Training Band.

We are proud of what Ben has achieved and wish him every success as he studies a Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Music at Monash University.



Proxime Accessit – Oscar Hodgson

The 2019 Proxime Accessit was Oscar Hodgson.

Oscar was a keen contributor during his time at Luther and appreciated by staff and fellow students for his commitment to Birt House. Oscar was most recently Birt Vice Captain and competed at House Athletics and Swimming Carnivals and Performing Arts Festivals. Oscar also competed at EISM Swimming Carnivals as well as participated in the Year 11 Presentation Ball and prior to that as a Peer Support Leader.

We wish Oscar every success as he studies a Bachelor Applied Science/Physiotherapy Practice at La Trobe University



Douglas C W Maroney Legal Studies Prize – James Hanna

This prize is awarded annually to the top student in Year 12 Legal Studies.

In 2019 the College was delighted to present the prize to James Hanna for his outstanding results in this subject. Douglas C W Maroney was a highly respected lawyer who served as Chair of the Luther College Council from 2000-2007. Prior to this, Mr Maroney was a parent and an active member of the Luther College community through the PTFA and College Council involvement. Mr Maroney's son Robert (Class of 1992) presented the prize.

James is currently studying Year 12.



Dr Caroline Gargett Scholarship for Excellence in Science – Benjamin Roe

This prestigious monetary scholarship has been established by the Gargett family in recognition of Caroline's role as a Professor and one of Australia's leading medical research scientists. It is designed to assist a student of outstanding merit in science to transition to studies in a science degree at a tertiary level.

Ben was College Dux and Subject Dux for Chemistry, German and Music Performance. He was also a highly active member of the College community serving as School Music Captain in 2018.

Year 7 and 8 Camps



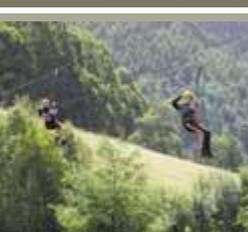
Camps are an important way for students to connect with their peers and teachers, build relationships and independence.

Year 7 students began their school year with a few days on campus before heading off on camp to beautiful Phillip Island. The weather was incredible allowing for plenty of outdoor (and indoor) shared experiences.



Year 8 students ventured to Forest Edge in Neerim for their camp. River sledding was one of the activities they enjoyed.





Year 13 Involvement

When students graduate from Luther there are many ways to stay connected.

Year 13 students were invited back to assist at camps, sporting activities and to mentor current students.

Class of 2019 graduate Kate Buruma (pictured second from left) joined our Year 7 students at Phillip Island earlier this year, enjoying every minute of being on the 'other side' of the camp experience.

"Being involved in the Year 7 Camp meant I was able to keep a connection with Luther which is really important - after all it was such a pivotal part in my life. I was also excited to be able to work alongside the teachers," she said.

Alumni support, particularly on camps, comes from 'Year 13' alumni right through to 'Year 20', with many alumni continuing to register their interest throughout their tertiary studies.

Year 8 Coordinator Doug Wilcock said the program gives alumni the opportunity to give back. "I usually see alumni return to support camps four or five times after graduating; each year playing a different role as their experience grows," he said.

Alumni play an enormous role in supporting staff and coordinators on the camp, bringing with them a raft of new ideas, games, cards and even musical instruments.



"I enjoyed the responsibility of my own group, getting to individually know a small number of kids was great. I hope I made an impact like my Year 13 leaders did on me," Kate said.

Kate is now studying a Bachelor of Nursing with the view to doing postgraduate studies in paramedicine.

House Swimming



Cheong won the 2020 House Swimming Cup with a total of 1374 points followed closely by Birt with 1282 points, Nelson and Wicklow.

New House Swimming Records Set

New records for House Swimming were set in 2020. Congratulations to the following students on their record-breaking performances:

Age Group	Event	New Record Holder	Time/Distance	Previous Record Holder (year of record)	Time/Distance
Boys U13	4x50m Freestyle	Michael Buckle Sam Churchward Lachlan Deckert Heath Johnson	2:33.33 sec	Cheong (2017)	2:35.63 sec
Girls U16	50m Freestyle	Chany Underwood	27.93 sec	Emily Tuck (2000)	29.80 sec
Boys U17	50m Freestyle	Riley Williams	27.18 sec	Charlie Lawson (2019)	30.01 sec
Girls U16	4x50m Medley Relay	Genevieve Little Daisy Nicholas Chany Underwood Isabella Walkenhorst	2:37.06 min	Birt (2004)	2:48.85 min
Girls U14	50m Breaststroke	Ava Kernich	38.58 sec	Emily Tuck (1998)	40.47 sec
Girls U16	50m Breaststroke	Chany Underwood	37.20 sec	Emily Tuck (2000)	38.80 sec
Girls U16	50m Butterfly	Chany Underwood	30.98 sec	Isabella Missen (2019)	32.88 sec
Boys U21	50m Butterfly	Riley Williams	28.87 sec	Leigh Scukovic (1998)	29.84 sec
Boys U16	4x50m Freestyle Relay	Jack Anderson Joshua Churchward Reese Johnson Rohan Smith	2:24.07 min	Cheong (2019)	2:34.24 min
Girls U21	5x50m Freestyle	Birt	2:55.18 min	New Event	
Boys U21	5x50m Freestyle	Cheong	2:45.52 min	New Event	



EISM Swimming

In a great night of competition, Luther College students showed commitment and determination at the Division 1 Swimming Championships held at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Tuesday 3 March.

The College proudly placed second in the overall Aggregate trophy, with just 78 points between first and second.

Our individual place medal winners for the evening included: Chantelle Underwood (4 events), Isabella Walkenhorst (4 events), Piper Naismith (3 events), Johnny Fan (3 events), Sam Churchward (2 events), Tayla Theodore (2 events), Sam Kernich (2 events), Ava Kernich (2 events), Isabella Missen, Josh Churchward and Taylah Price.

Two outstanding performances came from the U16 Girls Medley Relay, and Freestyle Relay Team, consisting of Isabella Walkenhorst, Tayla Theodore, Madi Barker and Jess Mullarvey who broke the EISM record in both events!

At the conclusion of the event, Luther took home the Overall Girls Aggregate trophy, and were also Age Group Champions in four categories: Open Girls, U16 Girls and U15 Girls and Open Boys.

The presence of the many enthusiastic parents cheering on the competitors was a real bonus. Congratulations to all involved.



Welcome back Warran and Yarra



In 2021 the College will introduce two new Houses - joining Birt, Cheong, Nelson and Wicklow are Warran and Yarra.

From its inception, Luther College students have been placed into Houses. So much of the College culture flows through the lens of the House system. In fact, the attachment to Houses is so significant that past students, upon meeting one another, frequently ask, what House were you in?

The new structure will have one House Coordinator caring for about 200 students. Six Houses, each with nine Home Groups will make it simpler for parents, enhance communication, achieve consistency and clarity and deepen relationships between students, Home Group Counsellors, House Coordinators and parents.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God

Romans 15:7

When the College opened in 1964, there were two foundation Houses – Warran and Yarra. Two years later, enrolment growth saw the introduction of two further Houses and a renaming exercise to reflect local landscapes.

However, in a nice connection with the past, current students chose to bring back House names Warran and Yarra as we move to six Houses. Throughout this process, increasing student voice and choice was a focus. It is pleasing to see that honoring history and tradition is important to our current student cohort.

The introduction of two additional Houses came about as a result of our recent Pastoral Care Review. Continuous improvement is important at Luther, always seeking to build on our successes and improve the support and care we give our students. Key to the review was consultation with students, staff and parents who told us the most positive aspects of the current system were the vertical structure, the continuity of care and the family environment. Six Houses will continue to deliver these important aspects while proving additional opportunities to deepen relationships, and increase participation.



Throughout Semester 2, the College will continue to prepare for the introduction of Warran and Yarra Houses by appointing House Coordinators and student leaders. In addition, 2021 will see the introduction of new and diverse House events.

We look forward to continuing the creation of stronger bonds and connections and playing a significant role in the history of Luther College, while putting student care front and centre.

Quick Facts

- **Six Houses**
- **Nine Home Groups per House**
- **More House events**
- **Increased opportunities**
- **Reintroducing the foundation Houses of Warran and Yarra**

Embracing the Game Changer

We began the year with a heightened and keen awareness of the novel coronavirus situation unfolding globally and calmly set our sights on the “What if?” scenarios to prepare for our way forward.

Education as a sector was certainly making headlines around the world for lack of preparedness but at Luther College we had been working for years on a paradigm shift in learning delivery and engagement modes. With the introduction of Omnia in 2016, the College had focused on a careful, planned and deliberate pivot in digital learning management, curriculum design, organisation and delivery that would empower learners to be at the centre, take charge of their learning experiences, and embrace key skills and competencies of the future. It would be wrong to say that we did this with a global pandemic in mind, imagining that we would one day move an entire student body and staff off-campus to engage in learning remotely but that is exactly the situation that this agile and flexible model had enabled us to be prepared for.

On 11 March 2020, when the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic and the Australian Government shifted gears, we knew we would need to move at any given moment to our remote model, At Home Learning. A few minor tweaks and on-campus tests of the platform in the final week of term saw us ready to ignite an entirely new opportunity. This opportunity would see the end to traditional delivery of academic content in the classroom and a whole of college shift to high quality learning that fosters independent, critical and reflective skills focused on student agency, all bundled into a flexible approach.



We were able to maintain the fundamental aspects of our organisational structures to maintain confidence and familiarity, ensuring that major change was kept to a minimum, while extending and enhancing those aspects we see as critical to the future skills of our young people. Our students and teachers were highly adaptive, demonstrating resilience and creativity as they tackled the unfamiliar context at home.

As we move forward into the “new normal” it is critical that we maintain the positive aspects of this learning experience that have been identified by our students and staff, and to ensure they are incorporated into our future. What follows are some fantastic examples of their experiences in action, and the kinds of things our new normal will embrace.

Jacqui Layfield
Director of Strategic and Educational Operations

Student



My At Home Learning experience was a mix of positive and challenging! It was nice to have a bit more of a sleep in the mornings and not have to carry my heavy school bag around.

I was also really happy to see my classmates in our Zoom meetings, given we have all just made friends having started high school together. It certainly was challenging to just make friends and then not see them in person again.

My favourite subject was Food Technology while at home. This has been like a break for me because I get to cook and try out new recipes with my sister. All my teachers have been very supportive and have tried to help wherever they can.

My dog Bonnie absolutely loved curling up next to me while I was at home. She loved all the extra attention and all the walks we took her on every day.

Jasmine Gardner
Year 7

Our Year 7 students were welcomed back with a two-day re-orientation program to help them settle in and reconnect

Reflections

At first what seemed like a foreign and distant problem that would never affect us, the Coronavirus rapidly became real for all Australians. The most notable change was in the way we learn.

Luther College – like all schools in Victoria and across the world– had to make the abrupt transition from on campus learning to an at home learning model. The College made this dramatic transition seamlessly and did it in a well thought out manner. The incorporation of online attendance marking, Zoom meetings within classes and Home Groups as well as swift teacher responses via email and Omnia helped all students adjust to uncharted territory.

At Home Learning certainly came with its own challenges and opportunities. I'm sure that now school is back on campus, the biggest shock for students is not being able to go and grab food at any time of the day, as well as having to go back to hauling books from one class to another.

The ability to spend time with friends during the day at school and just being able to talk to people face to face was something that we all took for granted until it was taken from us. For me and I'm sure for the majority of students, this was one of the hardest things when learning from home. We were however fortunate that our friends

were always one text or Facetime away, but these don't compare to a real conversation. Personally, I found it a little draining sitting in front of a computer for a large portion of the day and found eating healthy and taking breaks between classes to get up and stretch, as well as daily exercise, a great way to recharge.

I often found myself standing in front of the fridge with its doors open and no recollection of how I got there, thinking that if I leave it alone for five minutes maybe the food that I want will suddenly appear. With all of this free time, because of no need to travel to and from school as well as sports being cancelled, I started to do other things that I might not normally do, like painting or cleaning. Although isolation definitely took many things away from us, it has brought with it unique opportunities to try new things, be productive and spend time with our families.

As Middle School Captain, one of the most important things I did to lift the morale of students and to ensure that everyone was making the most of their learning opportunities was to set a good example. My Co-Captains and I created a Chapel video for fellow students that talked about the benefits and importance of community and how strong community connections can be maintained during isolation.



Something as simple as texting a friend to make sure that they are ok can be so impactful; you may have unknowingly made someone's day or inspired them to help someone else. In these unprecedented times it can be easy to get lost in the piles of what can be overwhelming amounts of work, stress and expectations but it is important to not lose hope. This is a challenging and unusual time but we will get through this together.

Charlie Oakley
Middle School Captain



Learning from home was more of a challenge to begin with and it certainly took some time to adjust to the changes!

Seeking help from teachers without being face to face was hard; so were the many distractions at home. To overcome this I found a good area to learn in and continued to keep in contact with teachers through email as well as Omnia. Given we all spent time staring at our screens I also walked my dogs at least once a day, knowing how important it was to get outside for fresh air. Although we are going through unprecedented times and have faced many new challenges, I enjoyed the opportunity to spend more time with family and to try many new hobbies. Throughout this time it was important that we all look after ourselves and each other as much as possible.

Staying connected and maintaining a healthy social life was very important during this time. We are all so fortunate to have technology that can keep us connected to others even when physically apart. While at home I have been keeping in touch with many of my friends and family, whether it's through texting or a Zoom call. Celebrating special occasions such as Mother's Day and birthdays was a challenge. My family and I tried our best to continue to celebrate with others by dropping off gifts, talking on the phone and making video messages. One of my favourite memories while being at home was during a Zoom call for school when everyone introduced their pets to each other. It was great to see everyone with their pets and I never thought that I would have the chance to experience a 'Bring your pet to school day.'

As Middle School Captains this year we have experienced a lot, trying to learn at home and also bring together the Middle



School. As Captains we have tried our best to face this challenge head on and continue our captain duties. We did a Captain's Chapel and used Omnia to post messages to lift morale.

Isabelle Grubb
Middle School Captain



No matter how well prepared you are for your VCE, nothing can prepare you for a global pandemic! Thankfully at Luther we had a great At Home Learning model to help students continue to grow and study.

Remote learning has certainly produced its fair share of not only unique opportunities, but also challenges. Balancing study and leisure, maintaining focus, staying motivated and keeping connected with friends and peers were among the most difficult of those challenges for us students, as we grappled with and accepted the reality of not being on campus daily.

Keeping a routine has proven beneficial for us students, helping us remain consistent in our application and concentration whilst working. Simple things such as making our beds, waking up at the same time, and eating a good breakfast all allowed us to be in the right headspace to tackle the day ahead. Switching off and breaking up the day with activities such as exercise, playing with the dog, listening to music and talking to friends also became vitally important for us to prioritise our mental health and wellbeing.

As College Captains, we've taken it upon ourselves to lead our peers and maintain the connection that we all cherish so much at Luther. Video messages, words of

support and encouragement all lifted the morale of our school and kept everyone involved. Even though we were physically distanced, it was really important to us that our peers still felt part of the Luther community, acknowledging the individual role they play in achieving success and creating a culture of service, leadership and excellence.

Personally, at home learning has allowed me to learn much more about myself. As much as I missed being at school and was frustrated by the situation, staying positive and keeping things in perspective was really important for me. Being patient and practising gratitude kept my goals in sight.

While I missed seeing my mates and sharing a laugh, being in the classroom and the one-on-one interaction with my teachers, learning from home presented a unique opportunity to develop sustainable study habits that will help me come exam time. Keeping my desk tidy, taking breaks, leaving my phone in a different room and carefully allocating my time also allowed me to be productive and hopefully get the most out of an unusual and unfortunate circumstance. I've also had the chance to do more during the day, as well as spend some really valuable time with my family.

Marcus Kane
School Captain



At home learning has been a mixed experience personally, with good and difficult days as I am sure every student has experienced.

Some days you are extremely motivated and focused to conquer the day and complete the tasks ahead. Whereas other days I was dragging my feet to sit in the same chair yet again.

Keeping motivated was the one main struggles I faced and luckily the College really understood how students felt and facilitated support and assistance to ease workloads and screen time at home.

It helped remind me that even though we were not on campus, the College was trying its best to help us as a cohort and make our last year as stress free as possible. I found studying around my family really helped me feel connected and happy, especially in this time of isolation.

Even with the background noise of multiple Zoom calls, online piano teaching, meetings and a classical clarinettist practising I was somehow able to concentrate on my study, and my family helped support me in any way possible which I deeply appreciate.

Overall this experience as Marcus pointed out has really helped me learn who I am as a student and how I work best. At home learning has been a big learning curve but it is one that I have grown from and will appreciate down the track.

Madison Bradshaw
School Captain



Year 11 History students visit **Harvard Semitic Museum**

Students in Year 11 History took a virtual field trip to the Harvard Semitic Museum in Massachusetts. Part of the unit was to engage students with content over 5000 years old.

The virtual tour was exceptionally well-done allowing students the opportunity to read and take part in the museum as though they were actually there. The exercise was to take students on a journey through a collection of antiquities gathered from the Ancient Near East, with a particular focus on Mesopotamia.

For the budding historians Mesopotamia is a region in southwest Asia located between the Tigris and Euphrates river systems that benefited from the area's climate and geography to host the beginnings of human civilisation.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the field trip, raising interesting questions and producing insightful responses to the various pieces on display in the museum.



Screen capture from the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East website

Year 7 **Lipscombe Park Geography goes virtual**

As part of Year 7 Geography, it's normal to glance out the window and see students crossing Plymouth Road to Lipscombe Park, however this year the excursion went virtual.

Learning to explain and complete the key steps of geographical inquiry that is, to collect, evaluate and represent data, students analysed photos and drone footage of the area to complete their field sketch and address a range of criteria.

Year 9 Selective **Designing Spaces for the Future**

Year 9 students met with Laura Hamilton-O'Hara, Chief Executive Officer of the Living Future Institute of Australia via Zoom in May as part of their Designing Spaces for the Future subject.

It was the perfect opportunity to discuss the Living Building Challenge, the built environment's most rigorous performance standard, which calls for the creation of building projects at all scales to operate as cleanly, beautifully and efficiently as nature's architecture.

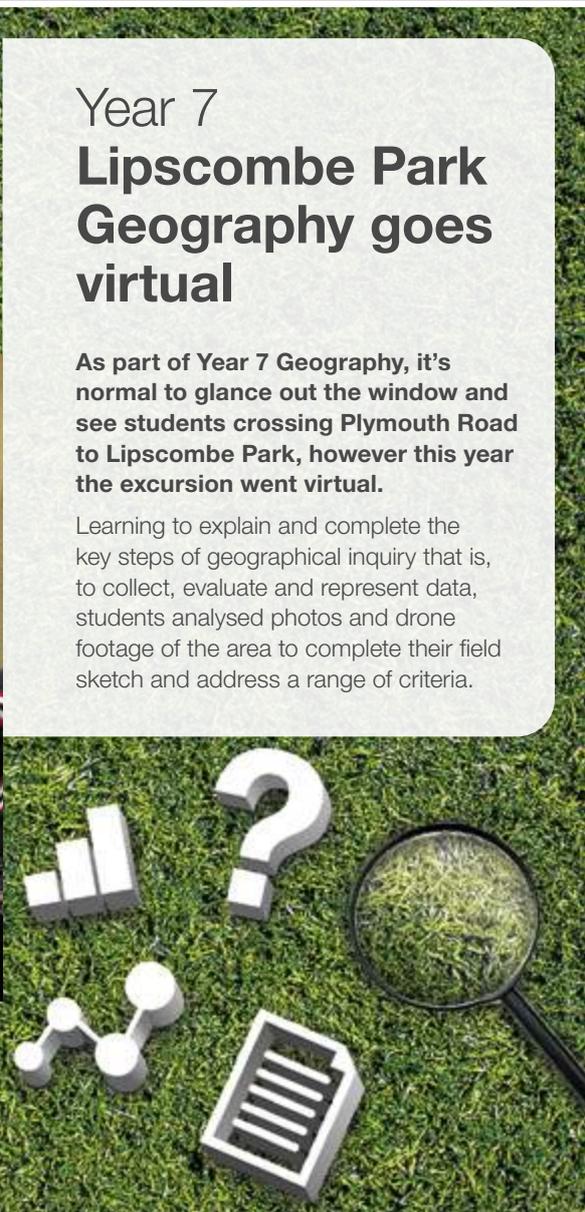
To be certified under the Challenge, projects must meet a series of ambitious performance requirements, including net zero energy, waste and water, over a minimum of 12 months of continuous occupancy.

So - what if every single act of design and construction made the world a better place?

This very question led student discussion.



Images from Living Future Institute Australia

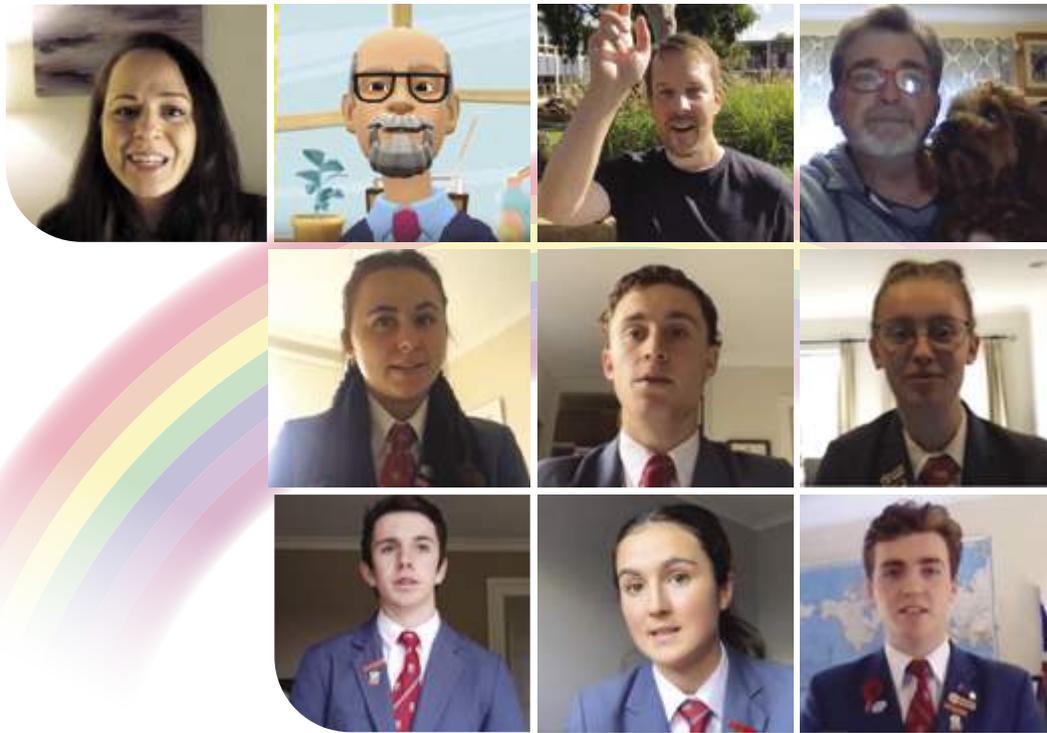


Chapel delivered differently

At Home Learning delivered new opportunities to get creative with Chapel for our students.

The Ministry Team mastered the art of video presentation to deliver the Gospel message through topics including ANZAC Day and rainbows!

Rainbows became the global sign of hope during the pandemic, appearing in windows, on footpaths and during Chapel!



Home Group Fun

Every morning students checked into their normal Home Group, with attendance marked, birthdays celebrated, and milestones shared.

Parents, siblings and College alumni dropped in on occasion and students enjoyed discussing all kinds of topics including gardening, pets, jobs, adventure and mishaps! Kahoots were also a regular feature.



Luther staff Karen Bliss, Robyn Langeveld, Ros Lawrence and Julie Parkes made over one thousand community meals for local organisations, The Dining Room and Vive Café. Nutritious takeaway meals were prepared to support those most in need.

Luther College Head of Christian Studies, David Paech, said these amazing people have generously used their considerable catering skills in the service of the growing numbers of guests who visit The Dining Room and Vive Café each week. The need for these take away meals has increased markedly as the lockdown continues. The guests receiving them have been very grateful.

"After connecting our staff with Vive Café and the donated food supplied by organisations such as Second Bite, they prepared menus, selected the ingredients and cooked at College for a number of days," he said.



David has been a regular volunteer at Vive Café on Thursday evenings, together with a changing team of Luther College Senior students, past students and staff.

The Dining Room Mission which runs every Tuesday evening, is managed by Jack Merx, retired Luther College Head of Sport. He, and The Dining Room team, have also been extremely grateful for this support, enabling his long-time volunteer cooks a few weeks of well-earned break!

With 'Service' as one of Luther College's values, we have been able to continue supporting these amazing organisations, even in this time of lockdown!



"Just thought I would let you know that I've been loving starting my day off with the Home Group zooms and I love being able to see you guys!"

Senior School Student



Run4Blue

supporting Police Legacy



My mum has been a policewoman my whole life. My step-dad Mick is also a policeman. Every day I see them get dressed and go to work and every day I see them come home, well nearly every day. Mum and Mick both work as collision reconstructionists. They travel around the state reconstructing fatal and serious injury car crashes. So sometimes they might not come home for a couple of days but they always come home eventually.

In April, we witnessed the tragic deaths of four Victoria Police officers on the Eastern Freeway in Kew. They were just doing their jobs. I saw how sad it made mum and Mick but it also made me sad too. What if it had been them that were killed that day? What would happen to me? Would I have to move? Would I have to move schools? Not only would I have to live without them but how else would it affect my life? I then got thinking about the families of those four police officers and wondered how they were going to cope? How would things change for them? I was talking to mum about it and she explained to me about Police Legacy.

Police Legacy is a not-for-profit organisation supporting members of the Police Force and their families. Their income is derived solely from generous donations. Police Legacy will make a huge difference to the families of the four officers killed on the Eastern Freeway.

I didn't think much more about Police Legacy until mum told me about a run she was doing during the month of May. She was aiming to run 159,485 km. It sounded like an odd number and an awfully long way but then she explained how symbolic the number is. When police graduate from the police academy they are allocated a registered number. This is their identification number which stays with them throughout their career. The registered numbers of the four members who lost their lives add up to 159,485.

Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor 27417
Senior Constable Kevin King 40942
Constable Joshua Prestney 45438
Constable Glen Humphris 45688

Mum said that she was running to raise money for legacy and it got me thinking. I couldn't train for footy with all the COVID-19 restrictions but one of the things we could do was exercise, so I decided to give it a go.

That's when I spoke to fellow students Charlie Oakley and Blake Gatherum and asked if they were in. They both came straight back and said they were prepared to give it a go! I couldn't believe how quick they came back and said they would do it. I am not sure they realised just how far it would be. It averaged just over 5km every

day for the month. The run started 1 May 2020 and by 31 May we collectively raised \$3520.

I'm really proud of what we have achieved and glad to contribute to supporting the families of those lost.

Jett Hartman
Middle School Vice-Captain



Together with Charlie and Blake, Jett raised an outstanding \$3520 for Police Legacy. A total that saw him invited to carry the baton for Senior Constable Lynette Taylor in the Run4Blue relay on Sunday 31 May. Jett and his Mum ran from Boorondara Police Station to the Eastern Freeway, proudly carrying the baton in memory of those who lost their lives.



Back to their

Brett Brookman Class of 1971

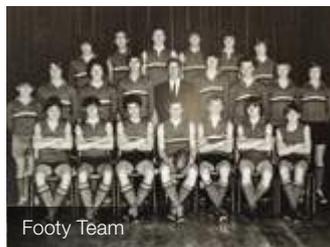
There are many things that make Luther College special - our beautifully manicured gardens, modern facilities and reputation for care and learning. But it's our community that sets us apart.

The College has been blessed to welcome back many alumni as teachers and staff over the years. At last count our current staff together with Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School staff comprises over 30 old scholars.

LutherLetter caught up with a number of them to find out what they have been up to, their fondest memories and why they made the journey back.



1971 Speech Night and Camberwell Town Hall



Footy Team



Class of 1971

"My first memory of Luther is sitting in an enrolment interview with Pastor Paech. He was a genuine and compassionate man, much like the community he represented," said Brett.

"My memories of Luther are fond and the friendships and relationships formed everlasting. I knew from day one I was not Captain material, but I also knew I'd be ok when a tall lanky kid by the name of Stephen Rudolph (Luther College Principal 1997 – 2002) introduced himself to me, asking what team I followed. We both followed Essendon and the rest is history," he said.

Brett has been a proud part of the team at Luther for over 17 years starting as Year 7 Coordinator followed by Birt House Coordinator, Leader of VCE Pedagogy and now as Director of Wellbeing where he leads our Pastoral Care Team. Most recently leading the charge to introduce two new Houses, Warran and Yarra.

"The commitment of this community is by far what makes Luther so special. I saw working



The Brookman Family!

at Luther as an opportunity to give back to the community that had been so generous to me. It's the every-day demonstrations of God's work in action, watching people caring for each other, forgiving each other, celebrating together to do His work that I enjoy most." he said.

The Brookman name runs deep at Luther with two sisters and two son's all College graduates, and his wife a fellow staff member.

"I've just become a grandfather for the first time – where can I get an enrolment form," he laughed.



Roots

Mark Greenthaner Class of 1974

The name Pastor Mark is pretty well known amongst Luther students, staff and alumni. Not just because our current Pastor is a Mark but because of Pastor Mark Greenthaner.

With 34 wonderful years of service Mark has seen students grow and flourish to become fellow employees, mothers, fathers, doctors, tradies, and more. He has conducted weddings, funerals and baptisms for many and continues to care deeply for our whole community.

Mark was School Pastor at Luther for 16 years before taking his current role at Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School.

"I have genuinely appreciated working between both schools as the dynamics of interaction in ministry are very different.

"While at Luther I studied to be a teacher, appreciating the structure of the classroom, the time to listen and learn from students and to hear from them. The classroom is a safe place to explore ideas, ask questions, give expression, to doubt and propose new thoughts.

"At Good Shepherd my role as School Pastor has given me the opportunity to lead worship and to connect with parents and students and the flexibility to move around the school, step into classrooms working in partnership with teachers.



Early days



Good Shepherd welcome evening in 2018 with fellow Alumni now parents Clare and Garrett Bosworth



Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School celebrates 40 years

"Perhaps one of the most 'special' things about my unusual opportunity to be a Pastor at Luther and at Good Shepherd has been the opportunity to work collegially with both former teachers and former students.

"When I returned to Luther as Pastor twelve years after graduating, there were a number of my former teachers who were still on staff. I appreciated immediately the respect and trust they gave me," he said.

Mark served as School Captain at Luther. He also met his wife Christine at the College. Together they have continued the tradition by sending their own children through both schools.

"My future hope for our community is that the role of Ministry continues to thrive and that we always seek to recognise individuals and their specific strengths and needs while also instilling a strong sense of 'belonging', Mark said.

Karen Balthasar (Steiniger)

Class of 1983

What are some stand out memories for you while a student at Luther College?

I remember squeaky blue vinyl seats and Chapel services in the hall at the east end of the front building. My passion for flowers developed early - in 1979 I volunteered to do Chapel flowers every week which I went on to do my entire time at Luther.

I am still spreading the love and joy of flowers in my role as Grounds Assistant at Good Shepherd and through my church.

I also fondly remember MaiFest on the Saturday before Mother's Day when we would buy chrysanthemums and catch up with old scholars in a wonderful day of celebration.

Why did you choose to come back and work in the Luther/ GSLPS community?

I had the opportunity to do something I love – gardening! My son Nicholas attended both Good Shepherd and

Luther and I have a strong family connection to this wonderful community.

What makes you proud to work here?

The teachers and staff are incredible and it's a place where God and faith are a daily part of school life. I am proud of the joy I give people through our beautiful grounds and gardens.

Tell us about your family connections.

I had an Aunt (Christa Steiniger) teach German and Sport at Luther in the 1960's. After that my dad Dieter also served on College Council. I was also the eldest of five children to go through Luther! And if that's not enough my son Nicholas also attended Luther.

Finally, Karen can you tell us what makes Luther special.

Education – Faith – Christian Values – Community



Karen played a major role in creating the Good Shepherd 40th Anniversary Garden

Janet Yen

Class of 1984

What are some stand out memories for you while a student at Luther College?

Definitely the Chapel being built. I can even remember interviewing the architect for Analecta. He detailed the building's acoustics and the stained-glass window. I also recall it was my year that introduced the red jumpers for Senior School. The House Drama Festival was another highlight with so many opportunities to participate – something that has stood the test of time.

What made you return to Luther as a teacher?

I trained as a teacher in 2011 following a career as a research scientist. My daughter Steph was attending Luther, taught by Julie Attrill who had just started the Girls in Science Program. I was invited as a guest speaker. A position came up the following year and I couldn't wait.

I am proud to be a science teacher. I think it is important for all students to understand how the world they live in



Janet runs the College Girls in Science Program

works and Luther gives us plenty of opportunities to teach this.

What makes Luther special?

The students!

I still see it as a place with lots of opportunities for students to be involved and it has a culture that encourages people to 'have a go'.

My two daughters are graduates!

What are you most proud of?

I think my biggest contribution has been in the Science Department. I organise the Girls in Science Program and find it rewarding to be able to encourage girls to enjoy science and continue it on in VCE. I hope that we will get to a stage when girls are equally represented in all our senior science classes (getting there) and I can open up Girls in Science to Students in Science!

Marie-Claire Stamford (Smits)

Class of 1988

What are some stand out memories for you while a student at Luther College?

I will always remember and treasure performing in The Pirates of Penzance. I was Ruth – the Pirate maid. Our Director was Robert Mau, he had so much faith and trust in us, allowing us the creative freedom to deliver our scenes and acting. Our singing was guided by Mr Collyer who had the patience of a saint- he must have cringed inwardly at times with the notes we tried to reach!

I also recall fondly the important relationships and guidance staff offered to students. That has always stuck in my memory and how connected people were. I remember my first day at University walking around totally lost – where were all the red jumpers? The friendly smiling faces? Where were my family?

What inspired you to become a teacher at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School?

I was studying teaching at Melbourne University and we had to do an

independent school teaching round- so I thought – why not try Good Shepherd? The minute I walked in I felt this amazing atmosphere – the place was buzzing with excited and interested children. They were happy and felt cared for and staff were friendly. I went up to the Principal at the time, Mrs Irma Dymke and asked her, “How do I get a job here?”

Once I had finished my degree I rang the Director of Lutheran Schools Bob Bartram every day for nearly two weeks after which he said “Stop calling me, call Bruce Walkenhorst in Hamilton.” So I did. Three years later I arrived back in Melbourne, teaching Year 3 at Good Shepherd.

What makes Luther special?

The extra care and support from the staff involved. They go above and beyond to care for the students and nothing is ever too much to ask of them.

It is not just about education at Luther- it is looking at the whole person, embracing them and helping them to achieve and be the best person they can be.

It's become quite the family tradition. Tell us about that.

My nephew and niece both went through Luther. Hopefully my great nieces will too. The eldest will be starting Good Shepherd! My three daughters all went through Luther as well.



Janet in Year 11



Marie-Claire's Confirmation



Daughter Lucy's Presentation Ball



Mare-Claire, husband Trevor and three fellow alumni, daughters Olivia, Katrina and Jacinta



Class of 2005 Captains with Jared far left, Tom to his right and Tamara far right

Jared Skilbeck Class of 2005

Winning the EISM Hockey Grand Final in 2004 is a standout memory for Jared Skilbeck. So too is the naming of Shin Guard Corner, the now infamous street a player lost his shin guard out the bus window on a trip home from a game.

The Skilbeck name is pretty well known at Luther. Jared's four siblings are also College alumni. In fact so much so that the community section of LutherLetter regularly features news of the family.

Jared has taught at Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School for a decade, grateful for the continued opportunity to work in a Christian school with excellent facilities, talented colleagues and supportive families.

"When I think about Luther (and Good Shepherd), I love the sense of community, presence of the Christian faith in the curriculum and dedication to helping everyone strive for their best and have a wide variety of educational opportunities.

"Looking back I can see every year there were new initiatives being implemented, giving students better learning experiences and broader opportunities. Beginning the day with a time of worship (Chapel or Devotion) was also something I valued. Luther was one of the rare schools committed to this practice.

"Performing Arts gave me wonderful opportunities. Looking up to the likes of Kiernan Fowler (Class of 2001), Matt Moran (Class of 2003) and Scott McConnell (Class of 2005) perform on



Jared with wife Kathleen and daughter Annika



Jared's first day at Luther

stage and how they would captivate their audiences," he said.

Now inspiring a younger generation Jared gives the following advice:

Giving anything you are interested in your best go, forgiving yourself and others when something isn't done right, asking questions when you are unsure, having good leaders to look up to and know that there is someone out there looking up to you, so be the change you want to see.



Jared hosts the 2005 Performing Arts Festival for Nelson House

Tom Schneider Class of 2005

A keen contributor throughout his time at Luther, Tom served as School Vice-Captain alongside Jared Skillbeck and Tamara Quilligan. All three now returning as educators.

A proud member of Wicklow House, Tom still recounts the 2004 Open Boys 100m Relay win as a standout. In fact, such a great win it continues to stand as a school record.

For the last three years Tom has served as Year 10 Coordinator, introducing students to life in the Senior School.

“I have been fortunate enough to work with outstanding young people. The greatest gift I receive is shaking their hands when they graduate from our College.

“Looking back, both Mary Walkenhorst who taught me in Year 7, and John Buruma who was my Home Group Councillor, Maths and Chemistry teacher



Tom with wife Alysha and son Judah

were instrumental in my development as a learner, as well as inspirational for the kind of teacher I wanted to be.

The people and community make Luther a great place, together with the students who are genuinely interested in building connections with one another,” he said.

Tamara Quilligan Class of 2005

“My first memory from my time at Luther is the immediate feeling of being part of something, a community, a place where I would be offered experiences, be challenged, supported and nurtured into a well-rounded human.

“That feeling has never left me and is one of the main reasons why I wanted to come back to the community as a teacher. I want to give that same experience to every child that I teach,” said Tamara.

Tamara has taught at Good Shepherd for six years and has just become a parent herself, welcoming son Taj into the world and commencing a period of parental leave in April.

“I am hoping that my son will begin his education at Good Shepherd and move through to Luther College. It is a dream for me as an educator to be able to give my children the love of learning and sense of belonging I felt whilst being educated,” she said.

Her second memory?

“The day I found out I was nominated as School Captain. When I applied I didn't expect to be nominated, I was by no means the smartest or most academic child in my year. I was quite the social butterfly, however, I worked hard and



Dave and Tam

immersed myself in all the opportunities and experiences that Luther had to offer.

“I applied because I wanted the opportunity to give back to a community that helped shape the human I am. So the day I was told I was Captain I was awe stricken, I couldn't believe it. I remember my Home Room Counsellor Mrs De Rues crying tears of joy for me and shouting with excitement in the background as I rang my parents to tell them! I remember having a profound sense of fulfilment that I had never felt before,” she said.

Clearly Tamara's journey has led her to a place of happiness and a fulfilling career.

“At Good Shepherd we are a community, a team, a family that support one another. I am proud to work with such dedicated colleagues, who support one another,



Letterland Parade



German Day 2019

share a vision, collaborate and see all of their wonderful talents in action each day.

“I am also proud to work with the wonderful families and students that we have been blessed with. They help make our community the vibrant and beautiful place that it is. I feel blessed to come to work each and every day,” she said.

Karri Butterworth Class of 2007

What are some stand out memories for you while a student at Luther College?

Where to start!

I am lucky to have had numerous opportunities in my student life (at Luther), including my role as School Captain. So many of those experiences have shaped the person I am today. The Central Australia Trip (Year 11) for me personally was a big 'game changer'. It was the reason I sought teaching experience in the Northern Territory upon finishing my degree.

The Captains' Chapels were also always the best fun, plus sporting carnivals, dressing up and getting into the House spirit.

What makes Luther special?

It's a great community! It is a respectful and happy place to work. The people are incredible - non-teaching staff, teachers, students and parents.



First day of Year 7



Captains 2007



What's your current role?

I teach Health and Physical Education, Sport and Science and coordinate the School's Sustainability program.

What are you most proud of?

My goal is to ensure every student in my classes feel cared for and supported both academically and personally.

In regard to my career, it has and will continue to be a journey for me as I grow as a person and a professional. I am proud of the work I am doing at Luther and the work I continue to undertake with Indigenous communities. It's a passion of mine and something I am very committed to.

Some of the projects I have worked on include the Ganalanga Mindibirrina (Waanyi Garawa People) Protected Area and Connecting Woman with Country with the Northern Land Council.

And your hopes for Luther's future?

That we continue to grow and learn together. I hope that every student has a positive experience whilst spending time within our community – whether for a short time or for generations.

Jess Fox Class of 2010

What are some stand out memories for you while a student at Luther College?

Definitely being part of Cheong winning House Swimming in 2007. It was the first time in a long long time! This began the 'comeback' for Cheong who went on to become 'the House to beat' in the years that followed. I was also lucky to be Cheong House Captain in 2007 and 2010.

Athletics and cross-country events – school and EISM level were also a highlight. For me individually and the College as a whole, we achieved such success. I can still feel the burn in my legs when I think back to the cross-country training sessions run by Mrs Mallinder and Mr Merx!

OES (Outdoor Environment Studies) was a favourite subject, getting to know staff and students in an enjoyable, engaging, and challenging environment. The College was able to provide many outdoor experiences that may not have been accessible to me otherwise.

What's been your journey back to Luther?

I started out as an OES Assistant Leader at Luther from 2011 – 2015, then in 2016 I taught primary P.E. and secondary Health and P.E. at Lakeside Lutheran College



Bear Gully



Jess hits the city on CENSUS 10



Falls Creek 2009 Outdoor and Environmental Studies

in Pakenham. I was blessed to return to Luther in 2017 as P.E., OES and Health teacher. I also coordinate the SOAPE Program (Studies of Outdoor Activities and Physical Education), a Year 9 elective that gives students the opportunity to combine theoretical elements with practical elements such as scuba diving, archery, caving and much more.

What do you enjoy about teaching at Luther?

Luther has a real sense of community and that's what makes it so special. The community extends beyond the students and staff at the College, to the parents, Good Shepherd and other organisations that support the curriculum. Everyone is

so caring, understanding, inclusive and supportive.

Luther staff have initiative – we're forward thinkers. We stand by our mission and value of creating greater futures for students by preparing them for all situations and providing support every step of the way. The current situation (COVID-19 and At Home Learning) is a great example of how the College has pre-empted how the situation will unfold and put strategies in place to ensure we will be successful.

What are you proud of?

The re-creation of the Year 9 SOAPE Program and running the annual Surf Life Saving Camp where students have the opportunity to obtain their Bronze Medallion with Waratah Beach SLS Club.

Rachel Piper (Ewart) Class of 2012

Rachel never really left Luther, swiftly returning the year after graduation to take up the AFL traineeship position in the Sport Department. She now boasts fourteen continuous years at the College.

“My Home Group Counsellor Deb Price told me about the AFL Traineeship program and encouraged me to apply. At the end of Year 12 I was quite upset about leaving and didn’t feel like I was ready to say goodbye. I thought being the trainee would be the perfect opportunity to stay a little bit longer,” Rachel said.

Since then Rachel has been a key member of the sport team, her passion for her work and love of Luther evident in all she does.

“I have so many memories of being a student here including the unexpected Grand Final netball win in 2009 led by coach Tania Smith. We won by two goals and were the definite ‘underdogs’ going in.

“Winning the *Race Around Maroondah* is also a highlight - a busy day of hitting local landmarks and taking photos ‘amazing race style’ to win team points. It was a lot of fun, solving puzzles, doing sporting challenges and trying to navigate our way around



Cheong through and through

places we had never been using only public transport,” she said.

Since joining the College as a staff member Rachel has relished the opportunity to help shape the experiences of current students, giving them the same positive journey she had.

“I’ve also been blessed to have a front row seat to my younger sister Lauren’s Luther journey, from Year 7 right through to her graduation last year. I’ve been very privileged to have that opportunity.

“As a student I was always so proud to say I went to Luther College, and I carry that through now as a staff member. Luther is so successful because they strike the right balance between learning and care.

“The staff at Luther are incredibly caring and dedicated. They genuinely invest in the lives of their students and care about their whole development, not just their schoolwork.

Looking to the future and despite now being a staff member, Rachel secretly hopes her beloved Cheong becomes the dominant powerhouse in the House competition.

“The HPE/Sport team is very special, and I feel privileged to be a part of it. I also look forward to continuing to provide opportunities for students to participate and achieve success wherever possible” said Rachel.

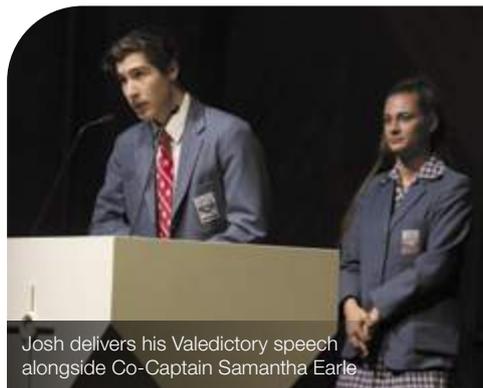
Josh Mitchell Class of 2019

Just six months ago Josh stood proudly delivering his Captain’s Valedictory speech to the Class of 2019. A year before that he took to the stage as the Cat in the Hat in *Seussical* and now in his latest adventure he is working hard to support the College’s Performing Arts team as trainee.

There is little doubt Josh’s highlights from his time at Luther are performance related taking on three musicals (*Oliver*, *Hairspray* and *Seussical*) together with annual House Performing Arts competitions and more. But perhaps his most memorable experience was that of Captain, leading his cohort and delivering a record breaking \$6000.05 to youth mental health organisation **headspace**.

“Last year delivered so many opportunities for personal growth, some serious and some fun. Our Chapel videos were definitely interesting – just ask Mr Martin,” he said.

Coming back to where he felt most comfortable was an easy decision.



Josh delivers his Valedictory speech alongside Co-Captain Samantha Earle



Ripping up the stage in *Seussical*

“Most kids can’t wait to get out of school.....turns out I couldn’t wait to get back in. When this opportunity came up I even cancelled my gap year plans! Honestly, the reason I came back boils down to one thing - community.

“It’s the people that make this place special, always has been, always will be. The people here are some of the most kind, thoughtful and generous that I have ever met,” Josh said.

This year Josh was given the role of Assistant Director for College Musical *The Little Mermaid* and while rehearsals have looked a little different via Zoom, it’s been an opportunity he has loved.

“As a staff member I am only at the beginning, but I look forward to being able to encourage more students, particularly young men in our community to pursue their passion for the arts,” Josh said.

Reunions

In February, the College hosted its second annual Gold Reunion, bringing together alumni from the Classes of 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970. On the same evening alumni from the Class of 1980 also came together to celebrate their 40-year reunion.

Conversation flowed and laughter filled the air as people recounted stories of their time at Luther and their adventures since.

Canapes were prepared by current students with the support and guidance of Mrs Susan Sharkey. Students also provided excellent service and delivered freshly brewed coffee and tea.

The large group took a tour of the College, led by Principal Michael Kleidon. It was a wonderful evening and an honour for the College to host.



We give thanks to Kim Kernich who after 17 years of managing our wonderful alumni program hosted her final reunion in February. Kim was appointed Director of Admissions in late 2019, a role that sees her welcome new families into the College.

Congratulations Kim and thank you for all you have done to keep our alumni connected.





Mrs Susan Sharkey and her team of students

Like many events world-wide our reunion program was postponed due to COVID-19. LutherLetter invited College Captains from the Classes of 1990 and 2000 to share their thoughts about their time at Luther, their cohort and life since graduating.

Hello Class of 2000!

We hope you are all well and staying safe! Who would have thought the year of our 20th school reunion would find us in such unprecedented times! We have been searching high and low for hand sanitiser just as we campaigned for soap in the toilets throughout Year 12!

Whilst our reunion has been postponed, one positive aspect to come from time spent in isolation has been an increased opportunity for reflection (and Netflix!). Our time at Luther College brings back many fond memories such as our morning chapel services, including Pastor Mark's famous "I am not Ned Flanders" devotion! Other memories include buying a half salad roll from the canteen, morning coffees in the common room and the many laughs shared through our House drama presentations.

Our Year 12 valedictory speech focused on uniqueness, reiterating that our talents, gifts and skills lie in all different areas. This certainly rings true if we look at the vast array of different industries we find everyone working in today. Many of us have pursued careers in the finance, hospitality or retail sectors; others work in the music industry, emergency services or find themselves in science, sustainability, charity or research fields. Amongst us there are health care professionals, educators, tradies, pilots,

IT consultants, architects, musicians, business professionals and interior designers. Some of us are taking time out from our careers to raise families, some are juggling both. Many of us are married, have partners or children, whilst others are travelling the world.

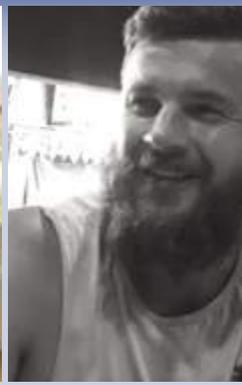
Evidently, everyone's journey has been different. Wherever your journey has taken you, it's helped shape the person you are today and contributed to your life story; a story that is important, meaningful, and unique. We are really looking forward to seeing you all at our reunion so we can hear your life story and share in your experiences, challenges and adventures. We hope the night will give everyone the opportunity to either reignite an old friendship or simply chat with someone you didn't know overly well during our Luther days.

In the words of Jim Stynes who famously facilitated our Year 12 Orientation Day, "Life is 10 percent what happens and 90 percent how you deal with it." We encourage our 2000 cohort to maintain a positive outlook, seize opportunities and enjoy ISOLife with your families as best you can.

Stay safe and we can't wait to see you all in the near future!

**Ross Dunn and Cindy Hall
(nee Schneider)**
School Captains (Class of 2000)





Hello Class of

“But at my back I always hear times winged chariots hurrying near”

Andrew Marvell

I used this quote from the poem *His Coy Mistress* in my Valedictory speech in 1990, to describe the feeling of imminence at the impending conclusion of our school years at Luther College. Back then, it was hard to believe that we were about to permanently leave the security and familiarity of the corridors and classrooms of the place where many of us had spent the majority of our adolescence, to start the next chapter of our lives.

That “winged chariot” has clearly been speeding down the freeway of life because suddenly it has been 30 years since we graduated. Surely not?!

I feel very privileged to have served as School Captain with Sam Lanyon and our Deputies Rod Walkenhorst and Susan Kempson. Representing the school at Leadership forums, causing a stir with our “Safe Socks” campaign and our regular meetings with Mr Ottens and Mr Nitschke are remembered with fondness.

Although it seems like yesterday that we were all hanging out together in the Common Room, much has happened



School Formal



Carly, her husband Graeme and children Harry and Alice

in each of our lives. We have gone on to become teachers, NGO project managers, engineers, physiotherapists, finance brokers, marketing directors, business leaders, photographers, accountants, farmers and have families, to name but a few of the life journeys taken by our Alumni.

Personally, after studying at Uni, I worked at the AFL (Go Pies), dabbled in a bit of acting (unsuccessfully, LOL), worked at the Melbourne International Film Festival before commencing at Live Nation where I've been for nearly 9 years. My career highlight

undoubtedly is where my passion (ok, obsession) collided with my professional life and I was able to “fangirl” and work on the recent U2 tour. I'm married to Graeme Kernich (Class of 1986) and have two children, Alice and Harry. I love spending time with them and our beloved pets, travelling (when not in Isol) and hanging out with family and friends, including my partner in crime Liesl Schultz, who is still a kindred spirit and confidante after all these years.

Whether it's the bonds forged through friendships; the songs sung in Oklahoma

It doesn't seem that long ago that the 16-year old, 1989 version of myself was headed to Luther College for my first few days of boarding school orientation prior to starting Year 11. Luther wasn't a completely foreign place given my family connections to the school but there were equal parts of uncertainty and nervous excitement as I settled into my dorm room for the first night. The thing that struck me about Luther in those early days was how different it was to my home in Boort but how familiar it was in terms of sense of community.

Everyone was welcoming, from the teachers, seniors, classmates and boarders, so it did not take long to fit into the school and start to enjoy a whole raft of new experiences on offer.



Sam with wife Heidi and sons Raffy and Jasper

Looking back 30 years, it is hard not to smile. The feeling of nostalgia strengthens over time and has a lot to do with the unique experiences had, such as being

part of a champion cricket team, being part of losing football team, being part of the Sentimental Bloke Musical (definitely a once-off), the habitual and hilarious “Home-and-Away” TV sessions in the Girls' Boarding House (good grief), having the privilege of representing the school alongside Carly, Susie and Rod, getting tuxed up for the valedictory dinners and being pushed by the Luther teachers to work harder - which took a little getting used to but had the desired effect.

That said, all those unique experiences would have faded a long time ago if it wasn't for the people we shared them with as they were the ones that created the colour that makes those memories last. The Class of '90 delivered fun in spades and all from a completely diverse group of characters.

1990!

and A Sentimental Bloke; the lines read at House Drama; the music played in Concert Band; the boarding house antics; the races run or won at EIS; the sports played; the art created; the peaceful times in Chapel; the challenges worked through or the interactions with teachers, I hope that we all have memories that we hold dear of the time we shared at Luther. Each of us is part of the history of Luther College and in some way has left our own indelible mark.

What have I learnt? High school doesn't define you as a person, but it can help set you up and give you the confidence and resilience to take you through life's journey, and I feel that Luther enabled me to do just that.

Whilst we won't be able to come together to celebrate the milestone of our 30-year reunion at this time due to COVID19, hopefully we will be able to meet again in the near future to reminisce and share some laughs and memories of our high school years together.

Stay safe and healthy Class of 1990!

Carly Griffen

School Captain, Class of 1990

School reunions are a great opportunity to relive those past experiences together and having a laugh, whilst also hearing about how those diverse characters left Luther and forged their paths in life. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has been a significant life changing experience for all of us. Whilst the Class of 1990 Reunion is postponed until better days ahead; it is a small problem in context. The "glass-half-full" view is that the delay makes you reflect on the value of these events and how touching base with your past classmates is something to look forward to. Stay safe and see you all at the 31st reunion!

Sam Lanyon

School Captain, Class of 1990

Community News

LutherLetter

If you have news you wish to share in LutherLetter, please contact the College on (03) 9724 2000 or email communications@luther.vic.edu.au

Births



Congratulations to **Josh SKILBECK** (Class of 2001) and **Jessica SKILBECK** (nee Monro, Class of 2004) on the birth of Aaron William on 23 May 2019. A brother for Isaac.



Congratulations to **Luke SKILBECK** (Class of 1999) and Shehara Skilbeck on the birth of Asher Luke on 20 December 2019. A brother for Ezra.



Congratulations to **Jared SKILBECK** (Class of 2005) and Kathleen Skilbeck on the safe arrival of Mateo on 27 May 2020. A little brother for Annika.



Congratulations to **Ray WANG** (**Mathematics Teacher**) and his wife Kate on the safe arrival of their son Matthew. Matthew was born on 11 May 2020.

Engagements



Congratulations to **Pam COWIE** (Class of 2010) and **Phil LONGMAN** (Class of 2010) on their engagement. Phil surprised Pam on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River in Wagga Wagga on 12 October 2019.