

# LutherLetter

Sharing news of Luther College | Number 2, 2021



Luther  
College



## Diving back in!



Cover photo:  
2022 House Swimming Carnival

## Highlights

Introducing our  
2022 Captains



Celebrating the  
Class of 2021



Universal  
Learning  
Programme



House Cup



Vale Edna Paech



Dr Nigel Taylor



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### **Principal**

Jacqui Layfield

### **LutherLetter Editor**

Lisa Trent

# From the Principal



I am thankful for the Lord's blessings given to us. The ability to support each other and celebrate the positives is truly a gift.

## The gift of celebration

This edition of LutherLetter 2021 is an opportunity to share and celebrate the memorable experiences, purposeful learning and excellence at Luther College. Throughout the pages it is clear to see that in a year where students have experienced more challenges than usual, they have admirably made the most of their time to connect with their community and immerse themselves in quality learning whilst looking for the silver linings each day.

I encourage you to peruse the pictures and articles throughout the publication. They present a snapshot of news and events at the college in 2021 and I am sure you will agree we have reason to be proud and to celebrate our students, teachers, executive leaders, alumni and extended college community members.

After months of At Home Learning, students and staff wasted no time in "diving back in" when given the opportunity, as the front cover of LutherLetter reflects. It is wonderful to see these special events and ceremonies from the diverse co-curricular areas throughout the school showcased throughout this edition.

The House Swimming Carnival and Cross Country provided students and staff the opportunity to unite as a whole school, enjoy the ability to connect in person and support one another. Many of our special events this year were also modified to be held online and I make special mention of the exemplary work from the staff and students of the Performing Arts faculty for

the great success of Luther in Concert. I commend our dedicated staff for their work in flexing with the times and adapting to enable such events to occur. I commend our entire college community for supporting each other through the various challenges of At Home Learning. Resilience and adaptability are lifelong attributes that we have all gained.

I reflect on the words of *1 Thessalonians 5:11*: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

It has been such a joy to safely gather together for the celebratory occasions at the college in Term 4 such as the Middle School and Senior School Awards Services and our special Valedictory Service for the graduating class of 2021 and their families. We are truly blessed to have such amazing people in our community who are committed to the provision of exceptional educational experiences, learning and outcomes for students. The college's values of excellence, integrity, service and community are embedded in the rich culture that continues to strengthen and provide a supportive environment for students to strive for the best and reach their potential.

I am thankful for the Lord's blessings given to us. The ability to support each other and celebrate the positives is truly a gift.

**Jacqui Layfield**  
Principal

# From the Pastor

## God with us

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." (Isaiah 43:2)*

This is God's promise to his people, especially during difficult times. Isaiah wrote these words when God's people were in exile in Babylon for over fifty years. Times were hard for them. Slavery and affliction had taken their toll, as they always do, but the people were to remember back to another time when things looked bleak – when they were slaves in Egypt. The "waters" are an allusion to the Exodus, where Israel passed unharmed through the Red Sea to escape the pursuing Egyptian army. The waters seemed to be a peril to their lives but ended up being the means of their salvation.

God's people in Babylon were to remember this momentous event, and trust that they would eventually be rescued from Babylon and return to their homes and to freedom.

But until then, they were to remember that God was with them even in their afflictions.

We as a Luther College community have had our own trials and tribulations this year. A viral pandemic, lockdowns, zoom classes, isolation from friends and family members, along with many other restrictions on our time and activities and lives. Like the people of God in Egypt and in Babylon, we might have a good reason to wonder whether our lives will ever be restored to normal. We might also wonder where God is in the midst of these trials.

But God's promise to his people of old is also his promise to us today: **"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."** Whatever we are dealing with at the moment, whatever "waters" may seem to imperil our lives, God is still with us, guiding and protecting us. This promise is echoed by Jesus when he says, **"Surely,**



***I am with you always to the close of the age.***" (Matt 28:20). God promises to be with us in our troubles and concerns and will eventually lead us through the waters to a new hope and a new day.

Until such time, remember that God is with you no matter what you are facing, for nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. **"And if God is with us, who can be against us?"** (Rom. 8:31).

**Pastor Mark Tuffin**

# From the Director of Educational Operations

**Luther College fosters independent, curious learners to collaborate, innovate, create and achieve using their God given talents. Lutheran Education's holistic development of students as individuals enables us to provide educationally relevant, diverse and engaging opportunities to develop the student as a whole.**

Our Co-Curricular Programs provide students with opportunities to learn, challenge and grow, and these programs drive student leadership, broaden horizons, build character, resilience and community. 2021 provided opportunities for transformation and exploration of co-curricular activities and with 2022 looking bright, we are very excited with what is to come.

We are pleased to announce that the college will be performing the entertaining and upbeat Shrek The Musical in 2022 with

auditions already underway. Our ensembles will be back in full swing and our students will be reaching for the stars in their individual and team sporting pursuits.

2022 will see the continued development of ASPIRE Program (Advanced Support Program and Individual Recognition of Excellence) which is designed to identify, support and recognise students who are pursuing performance excellence in the fields of Performing Arts or Sport. The program celebrates and recognises student achievements and milestones as well as strengthening community connections and partnerships into the future.

Service Learning and Work Experience provide students with opportunities to engage with the wider world, build positive relationships, serve the community, reflect and learn about themselves while fostering their independence. In providing enriching and real-world learning experiences, we welcome the opportunity to partner with



industries, people and employers from the Luther Community in preparation for Work Experience placements in 2022.

If you are interested in becoming a community partner, sponsor or elite mentor for the ASPIRE Program, or can provide an opportunity for Work Experience placements in 2022, please contact me on [caf@luther.vic.edu.au](mailto:caf@luther.vic.edu.au) or by calling the college.

Looking ahead to 2022 I encourage our students to be brave, to push their limits, to consider every possibility and to try something new!

**Celeste Acfield**

# From the Director of Senior School

Much of the work around establishing the Luther Learning Attributes of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creative thinking, self management and ethical, global and sustainable understandings can be attributed to Mr Greg Houghton, our retiring Deputy Principal. Through reading, investigation, working with professional networks and decades of personal experience as an educator, he was able to draw together research from around the world that identified the key skills and dispositions our students would need to thrive.

For the past 35 years, Mr Houghton has been guiding many key developments at the College. His work on developing

the Luther Learning Attributes, as well as many other key projects, has equipped our students with a strong foundation for a successful future.

The past semester provided many opportunities for our students to practice the Luther Learning Attributes as they experienced new situations and adapted to a changing world. Our students, staff and families can be congratulated for working together as a community, supporting each other and helping our students achieve their best.

During Term 4 we celebrated with our graduating Class of 2021 as they made the transition to life beyond Luther College. Through events such as the annual Last Day of Winter Uniform, the final Chapel and the Valedictory Service, we were able to celebrate and say thank you for their contribution to the Luther College



community. As a graduating class, they can be very proud of the way they completed their secondary education. We wish the Class of 2021 every blessing for a wonderful and successful future.

I would also like to congratulate Mia Carroll and Kiara Smith (Class of 2020) for receiving the prestigious Premier's VCE Award earlier this year, it's a tremendous honour. Finally, to our incoming student leadership team for 2022 – aim high and do great things, I look forward to watching you lead our student community.

**Tim Martin**

## Introducing our 2022 School Captains

The Luther College community congratulates our 2022 student leadership team on their Captain and Vice-Captain appointments. We wish you every blessing as you serve and lead the College community.

### School Captains

Joshua Churchward  
Cecilia Yuan

### School Vice Captains

Kate Baker  
Thomas Curnow  
Sam Kernich  
Darren Menezes  
Ella Rodaughan

### Middle School Captains

Hudson Bell  
Jasmine Gardner

### Middle School Vice Captains

Samuel Churchward  
Heidi Loebert  
Keely Pfander  
Gavin Wu



Our 2022 School Captains



Our 2022 Middle School Captains with Principal Mrs Jacqui Layfield

# Awards

## Premier's VCE Awards

**Congratulations to Mia Carroll and Kiara Smith (Class of 2020) who have been recognised with a Premier's VCE Award for their outstanding academic results in 2020.**

Mia received a Study Award for Food Studies (Teacher: Mrs Louise Ruzic) and Kiara received a Study Award for Health and Human Development (Teacher: Mrs Judy Heckman). The annual Premier's VCE Awards recognise the top-performing students in the state. This year, 297 students were recognised with awards for their outstanding results. The entire

Luther College community is proud of Mia and Kiara and would like to congratulate them on being the recipients of such a prestigious award.

Mia is currently studying a Bachelor of Bio-medicine at the University of Melbourne and Kiara is studying a Bachelor of Education/Arts at Monash University.



## Luther Medallion Harry Smith

**First awarded in 1997, Luther Medallion Recipients exhibit leadership qualities, are involved in co-curricular activities, actively support the College ethos and demonstrate academic endeavour.**

Described as a pleasure to teach, Harry has enthusiastically contributed to all areas of school life during his six years at Luther College. His leadership qualities evident early and continuing throughout his time at Luther. Harry started his secondary journey as Class Captain in Year 7, Cheong House Vice-Captain in Year 9 and this year School Vice-Captain. Respected by his peers, Harry leads by example and is encouraging of his fellow students.

A passionate supporter of Cheong House, Harry has participated regularly in many House carnivals including athletics, cross country, swimming, public speaking and performing arts.

A dedicated and humble servant, Harry also volunteered his time to assist in the Karen Tutoring Program and Vive Café. Harry was also part of the student-led catering team for the 40- and 50-year Luther College reunion dinner. It should be noted that Harry was also chosen for the Year 11 service learning tour of the Northern Territory which, due to covid-19, was unable to proceed.

A member of the state netball team and EISM athletics team, Harry has also enjoyed participating in a number of sporting opportunities.



The College is proud to award the Luther Medallion to Harry Smith.

Congratulations Harry we wish you every success.

# Ampol Best Allrounder Award

## Alyssa Sanders

**Presented in many schools across Australia, the Ampol Best Allrounder Award recognises a student who stands out for their contribution to school life, demonstrates leadership, academic success, involvement in co-curricular activities and who actively supports the school's ethos.**

As 2021 School Captain, Alyssa has shown courage and determination, leading the student cohort during a very challenging period. Her leadership skills evident from Year 7 where she excelled as Class Captain and again in Year 9 as Middle School Vice-Captain. Alyssa has also been a Peer Support Leader in Year 10, Tour Leader in Year 9 and Training Band tutor.

Alyssa is a thoughtful and enthusiastic student, a collaborative and valued class member. Described as motivated and a joy to teach, she has been a very busy member of the school community during her six years at the College.

A talented music student, Alyssa played the clarinet and participated in the Concert Band, Clarinet Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Training Band and Show Choir. In addition, Alyssa also performed in Seussical and The Little Mermaid.

Her passion for Nelson House evident with participation in House Drama and Performing Arts Festivals, swimming, athletics, cross country, and public speaking. Even reaching EISM level for cross country, swimming,



and athletics. Alyssa has also been involved in the Girls in Science program as well as participating in the Chinese exchange program and touch rugby.

Alyssa has been an outstanding student and we wish her every success.

# ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award

## Charlotte Butler

**This award, established by the Australian Government as a tribute to the veterans of the battle of Long Tan in the Vietnam War, recognises a senior student who has shown teamwork, tenacity, compassion and leadership.**

An excellent communicator and enthusiastic collaborator, Charlotte is a worthy recipient of this award. Described as creative, motivated and positive, she has used every opportunity to excel in her secondary journey at Luther College.

Encouraging of her peers and collaborative in nature, Charlotte works hard to engage and include others, her energy and passion evident in all she does.

Committed to service, Charlotte has assisted at Vive Café, participated in the Karen Tutoring Program and was set to be involved in this year's Building Bridges program. A program designed to promote mutual understanding and respect and ethical behaviour across our cultural and religious diversities. Charlotte has also been a keen volunteer, putting her hand up to assist with the running of BBQs, fundraisers and more.

Charlotte is a keen Cheong House supporter, having actively participated in House Drama and the House Performing Arts Festival, athletics, cross country, swimming and public speaking. Her skills extended to cooking as she competed in the LutherChef competition and sport



through the Victorian State Netball Team and Running Club.

Charlotte is generous with her time, supporting others and always willing to lend a hand.

Congratulations Charlotte on this award, we wish you every success.

# Con Ruwoldt Medallion

## Ava Kernich

**The Con Ruwoldt Medallion is awarded to a Year 9 student who has demonstrated commitment and achievement across a range of areas at the College. The Medallion is awarded in recognition of the service that Mr Con Ruwoldt, former Council Chairperson and long-time College supporter provided to Luther College over many years.**

Ava is a worthy recipient due to her active involvement in academics, leadership, house, sport and music. Ava embodies the values of the College.

Ava is a consistently high achieving student in her studies and has shown great initiative as a Middle School Vice-Captain. Ava's contributions to Performing Arts commenced in Year 7, playing the double bass and has been an active member of The Scrolls, Maplewood Strings and now Collyer Strings.

Her contribution to competitive sport at Luther has also demonstrated talent and commitment of the highest order. She passionately represents Cheong at House events, has won gold at the EISM swimming finals, been selected for the EISM All Schools Competitions, and

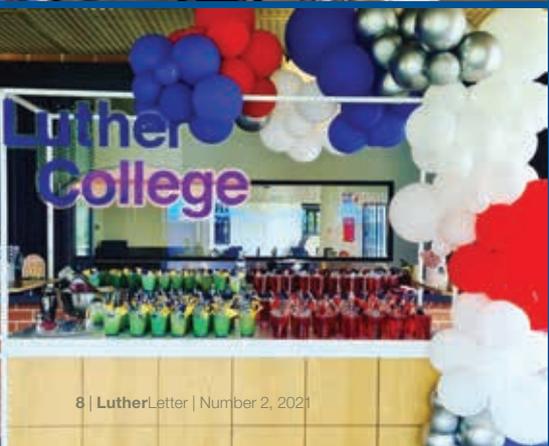


represented the school at EISM Athletics, EISM Cross Country and Touch Rugby.

Congratulations Ava.

# Celebrating the

After a challenging two years, our incredible Class of 2021 finished their secondary education at Luther College, with a Valedictory Service on Saturday 4 December. Students, together with their families enjoyed the service along with mocktails, plenty of photo opportunities and the opening of their Year 7 time capsules which drew plenty of reaction. Celebrations will continue in 2022 with a special reunion on 10 March.



# Class of 2021



# Introducing our Director of Learning

In Term 4, the College welcomed **Deborah Hollis** as our new **Director of Learning**.

Deborah is a highly respected school leader with an accomplished background in supporting schools to lead significant educational improvement.

With a wealth of experience in education, Deb has been at the forefront of leading and supporting Independent Schools with the introduction of new learning initiatives, professional development, and mentoring.



**Universal  
Learning  
Programme  
Luther College**

## From the Director of Learning

It is truly wonderful to once again be a part of the Luther College community, after almost 4 years away. I am excited at the opportunity to bring new knowledge and perspectives, as well as continuing the rich tradition of quality learning at Luther.

Luther College has also played an important role for my family over many years, as a parent of 3 children who attended the College between 2006 and 2015. As such, I hold an enduring regard for the values and community that make Luther such a special place to learn. It almost feels like a “homecoming” of sorts, after an adventure that was both challenging but immensely rewarding for me as an educational leader.

In considering the educational challenges presented over the last two years, and a joyful return to learning on campus, we can now focus our attention on ensuring we provide a chance to consolidate any learnings that may have been disrupted for our students. I would like to think that this does not preclude us from continuing to look ahead



for opportunities to re imagine and improve our approach to teaching and learning. The possibilities are endless for this generation of students, and I am inspired by the dedication and vision of those I work with each day.

Our partnership with International School of Geneva and UNESCO to adopt the Universal Learning Programme (ULP), is one such initiative that launches our students into a future focussed global learning framework. I consider myself fortunate to return at such an exciting phase with the introduction and development of this program over the next few years.

I look forward to re connecting with students, families, and staff of Luther College in the years to come.

**Deborah Hollis**

## Luther adopts the **Universal Learning Programme**

Luther has partnered with the International School of Geneva and UNESCO to adopt the Universal Learning Programme (ULP).

The ULP is a learning framework designed to structure, guide and implement our approach to contemporary learning. That is, what is the most important and effective in 21st century approaches to education.

We live in a world driven by technology and rapid change, so it's important we prepare our young people to live and work in a complex world that is evolving and changing at high speed. The ULP will support teaching and learning strategies in the years to come and forms an important core component of our teaching and learning philosophy at Luther College.

# What is the ULP?

The International School of Geneva partnered with UNESCO's International Bureau of Education whose work with think tanks, educational ministries, research hubs and universities present a compelling evidence-based vision. Harvesting the world's greatest educational minds, they have taken the very best of the research, knowledge and understanding of 21st century education and applied it to a teaching and learning framework which includes:

## Deep Thinking

Ensuring students understand what they learn, can make sense of it and how to apply it.

Not just memorise it!

## Competences

Students are not only assessed on their academic knowledge but on the development of their competences. A competence is a unity of knowledge, skill and attitude, grouped into four domains:



### Character (Who am I?)

Developing character, intellectual honesty, accountability, and values.



### Passion

(What is my purpose?)  
Developing self-respect, curiosity, motivation and vision.



### Mastery

(How can I go further?)  
Developing discipline, literateness, cultural awareness and depth of intellect.



### Collaboration

(How can we work together?)  
Developing effective teamwork, balancing rights with privileges, leadership, listening skills and negotiation.

Students should leave school with more than grades, they should leave with the ability to make a positive impact on people around them, the environment and society at large.

## Why do we need it?

While literacy and numeracy still form the essential foundation of learning, the world demands more, with digital literacy, financial literacy and scientific literacy essential elements. Greater self-agency and the ability to work together and collaborate is essential.

Young people today will have more job changes, greater career opportunities and work in yet to be discovered professions than anyone before them. The ULP framework will help build lifelong learners who are passionate, collaborative and have a fundamental understanding of who they are, what their strengths are and what drives them.

In addition and woven through the learning experiences enabled by the ULP is the concept of social good. The far-reaching purpose of education is to create good at an individual, collective, and public level and the ULP offers students the opportunity to do this while at school.

The ULP philosophy about service learning is a familiar concept in the Luther College community, you don't just learn to serve, you serve to learn and in doing so you enrich yourself, others in the local community and the world.

## What will it look like for students?

In 2022 the College will roll out the framework in a number of ways, some subtle and some more deliberate. The ULP provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate character, passion and mastery, supported by long term projects in the first three years of secondary school.

In Year 7, The Character Project asks students to challenge themselves physically, cognitively and emotionally. This leads into Year 8 where through The Passion Project students are asked to turn a passion into an entrepreneurial pursuit. The third and final project in Year 9 is The Mastery Project, which helps transition students to senior school while also focusing on building resilience.

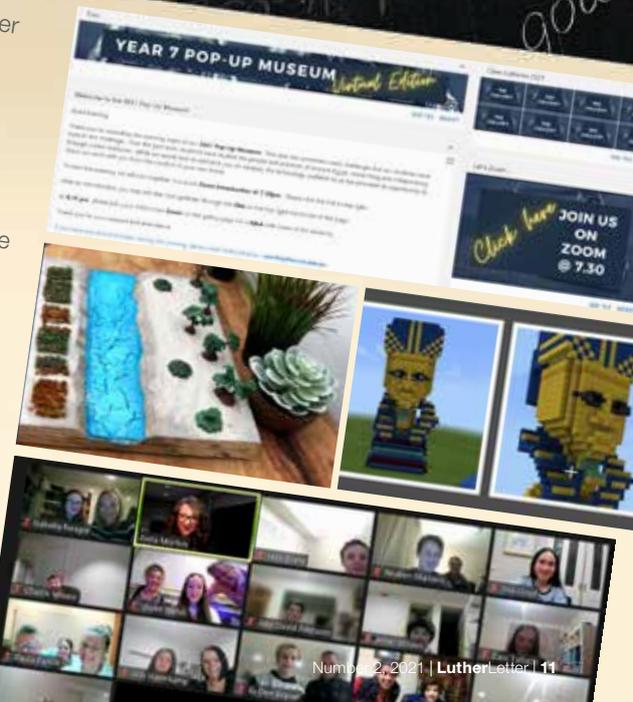
Through the ULP, students are being encouraged to question, analyse and discover (no yes and no answers here!), to make connections and use prior knowledge and experience. To examine the relationships between things and be active learners, taking the driver's seat in their own learning.

The introduction of Progressive Online Feedback has also meant increased and more timely feedback is available for both students and parents.

It's an exciting time to be a learner (and educator) at Luther College and we look forward to continuing to discuss the positive impacts of the ULP on our students.

Project based learning is another example where students work for a period of time as a team to investigate an engaging problem or question. Our Year 7 Humanities unit on ancient Egypt is a prime example of students working collaboratively, in this case to present a Pop-Up Museum.

As a group, students researched and collated information, designed and created an exhibition. There was also the task of assigning roles, working to each team members strength, and developing their weaknesses. This year the exhibition was online, with one evening dedicated to showcasing and presenting their work (and processes) to families.





# From the Director of Middle School

This season of COVID has been like holding a mirror up to ourselves. We have seen our strengths and weaknesses reflected back to each of us so clearly. For students, they have been forced to learn about themselves as learners - their motivation, procrastination, study habits, independent learning skills, ability to solve problems, and willingness to ask for clarification



and support. Additionally, they have been challenged with social and emotional issues of friendships, social connection, mental health and confidence.

Our core priority for Middle School students returning to school in Term 4, therefore, was wellbeing. Relationships have been key. As they always have been. There has needed to be recognition of what's happened, and that our experiences during lockdowns have all been different, life-changing and

significant; empathy for the mix of emotions in response to events at home, school, community and the world. It has been an opportunity to reflect on what matters to each of us and if we'd like to do anything differently.

So what has this looked like in practice for our Middle School students? We celebrated students returning with a red carpet, balloons, banners, music and lots of smiling faces. We implemented structured activities for students to share their stories, write gratitude letters, fill a gratitude wall, and symbolically threw away what they wanted to leave behind. We focused on recapturing skills of social interaction; rebuilding inclusive, responsive and respectful relationships. We created many active collaborative activities to reconnect students from the great skipping challenge to kayaking the Yarra River. We also encouraged a focus on others, such as our Walk My Way fundraising for Australian Lutheran World Service. We created opportunities for parents to be involved in student learning such as Expos where students could showcase their learning process and projects. And we had a deliberate approach to acknowledging and awarding growth and achievement.

This season of COVID has encouraged us to ask valuable questions about ourselves in particular and education in general. It has challenged us to embrace the wide tapestry of human experience and has enabled us to prioritise what is most important.

**Richard Malone**

# House Cup

The House Cup was presented at a whole of school assembly in the quadrangle in October, and in a very tight contest Birt House was victorious, beating Cheong by just a point. Congratulations to all our Houses for giving their all and keeping the House Cup alive and well during lockdowns.

Making up the House Cup was:

- Swimming
- Cross Country
- Athletics
- Public Speaking

## Overall Results

<b>Birt</b>
<b>Cheong</b>
<b>Nelson</b>
<b>Warran</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>
<b>Yarra</b>

# Sustainability Cup

**Congratulations to Birt House who also took out this year's Sustainability Cup, followed by Wicklow and Cheong.**

Sustainability is an important part of school life at Luther and we gratefully acknowledge the work of our Student Association for a Greater Environment (SAGE), a group of passionate students driving conversations about change. As part of this year's cup students collected over 1000 bread tags and participated in other challenges each term.





# 2022 House Swimming Carnival

The weather was perfect for our whole of school House Swimming Carnival at the Oakleigh Recreation Centre in Term 4. Students bounced through the gates with smiles on their faces as the day promised to be a success.

There were some stand out performances in the pool, particularly synchronised swimming routines, which were crafted to perfection for the crowd to enjoy. Congratulations to our Class of 2022 for their creativity (and bravery), it was pure entertainment.

The Year 12 water polo fixture showed some fierce competition as Birt, Cheong, Nelson, Warran, Wicklow and Yarra battled it out in the dive pool, while other students enjoyed a picnic with friends or one of the many other activities on offer.

A strong performance from the Yarra Open Boys team saw them victorious in the final relay, while Warran was the only House not to miss an event for the entire day! A great effort from our two newest Houses.

At the completion of the day, it was a closely fought competition at the top of the leader board, with Nelson making a surprise climb up the ladder into third place. Wicklow showed some fight to finish in fourth, but it was Cheong narrowly taking the victory over Birt to win the day.

Thank you to all the students and staff who were involved in such a successful and positive day.





# Cross Country

They say Cross Country will always go ahead; rain, hail or shine...and in a great day of running and House spirit, we had all three! Students took to the Cross Country course with enthusiasm, energy and even a tad of creativity, with our Year 12s dressing up for the occasion.

Events were spread across the day, with Year 7 students kicking off proceedings. Year 8 was next in their first ever House Cross Country competition, given last year the competition was conducted from home during lockdown. Despite some challenging weather conditions, our senior students followed and set the tone for the Year 9 students to round out the day.

Congratulations to the following students for an outstanding result:

<b>Year 7 Boys Winner</b>	<i>Aiden Marasco (Birt)</i>
<b>Year 7 Girls Winner</b>	<i>Mia Morgante (Birt)</i>
<b>Year 8 Boys Winner</b>	<i>Ryan Zhang (Birt)</i>
<b>Year 8 Girls Winner</b>	<i>Annie Harrison (Birt)</i>
<b>Year 9 Boys Winner</b>	<i>Lachlan Marasco (Birt)</i>
<b>Year 9 Girls Winner</b>	<i>Adelle Schambre-Nickless (Wicklow)</i>
<b>Year 10 Boys Winner</b>	<i>Charlie Vermeulen Brown (Warran)</i>
<b>Year 10 Girls Winners</b>	<i>Mia Elam (Warran) and Jasmine McKenzie (Warran)</i>
<b>Senior Boys Winner</b>	<i>Luca Scholes-Robertson (Cheong)</i>
<b>Senior Girls Winner</b>	<i>Eve Parry (Wicklow)</i>

A very special thanks to all the staff who assisted with the day and encouraged our students to perform their best.



# Around the School



## Reconciliation

**The journey of reconciliation in Australia is an important one, we all have a role to play.**

In Semester 2, the College began work on a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Driven by staff, with contributions from students and parents, the plan will help guide our curriculum, the way we acknowledge our first nations people and importantly help us build mutually beneficial, respectful relationships with the local indigenous community.

In November, fourteen Year 9, 10 and 11 students, together with Mrs Kellie Lohrey, led Chapel, with the theme being reconciliation. It was delivered with

knowledge, understanding and respect and offered a powerful reminder that while our journey to reconciliation is underway, we still have much more to do. Two students shared personal stories after learning of their own Indigenous heritage, offering personal insights and tributes to their ancestors.

At the conclusion of chapel, those in attendance were invited to write a message of reconciliation on a paper hand which was then used for a display in our Library Resource Centre. The messages were of hope, support and commitment, allowing us to create a lasting reminder of the importance of reconciliation in Australia.

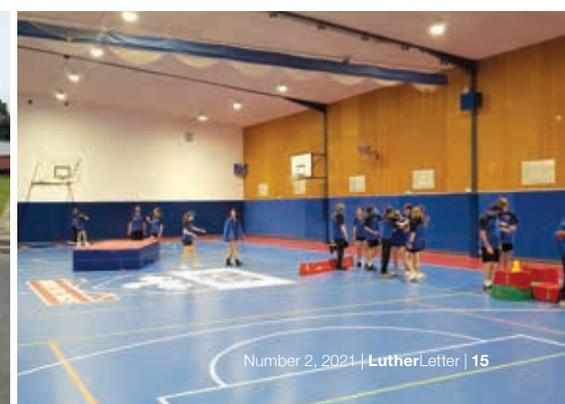


## Outdoor Adventures

Our Year 9 students finished the year with three days of action and adventure, kayaking down the Yarra River, learning how to cook on tranguia stoves and build group shelters. They also put to work important team building skills as they worked collaboratively to solve outdoor challenges. The whole year level also contributed to an art mosaic.

“Along with other activities, if the smiles and laughter were any indication the students had an awesome time”

**Doug Willcock**  
**Head of Year 9**



# Around the School

## SAGE Update

The SAGE team have weekly meetings where we organise events and challenges to help promote

sustainability and make a positive impact on the environment. We strive to make each event engaging

and fun for all year levels, whilst also making sure that it will make an environmental difference. We believe that each small step will ultimately help in our end goal of making Luther a more environmentally and sustainable school.

Throughout the period of At Home Learning, the SAGE team had to adapt and become more flexible in the handling of meetings and other sustainable school practices. SAGE met on Zoom most weeks to discuss and develop ideas to make the Luther community environmentally healthy. Topics of discussion have included campus tree planting, recycling and compost movements and student involvement in the form of chapels and interactive house challenges.

**Karri Butterworth**  
*Sustainability Coordinator*



## Building Bridges

In between lockdowns, students were able to participate in a Building Bridges session this semester, hosted in Building W.

The program, which Luther has been involved with for 11 years, promotes mutual understanding and respect and ethical behaviour across our cultural and religious diversities, to develop competent global leaders for the 21st century.

Students in Year 10 and 11 participate voluntarily, meeting after school throughout terms 2 and 3. Each school takes a turn at hosting a session with the program culminating in a presentation evening involving schools from across all three Melbourne regions of the program.

This semester's session saw our students give a presentation about the history and current day information of the College, information about Martin Luther and the development of the Lutheran Church in Australia. Students and staff shared a (covid safe) meal and broke into small



groups to 'gather materials for the bridge'. The focus was to recognise the difference between sharing our personal experiences and sharing information, opinions, abstract concepts or beliefs; and why sharing our personal experiences is emphasised in this program, and to begin to share some of these experiences with each other.

Throughout the program students engage in interactive activities on trust building, learning the faith practices of the host school and learn from and engage with each other's personal experiences of life and faith.



# Kids' Lit Quiz **Victory**

**Congratulations to Year 7 students Eleanor Draffin, Piper Banks, Olivia Genever and Issy Neilson for their outstanding performance at the State and National Kids' Lit Quiz Championships.**

The fantastic four took out first place at the State Championships and second at the Nationals, cementing themselves as quite the team.

Running for thirty years, the Championships run at a state, national and international level focusing celebrating the sport of reading.



The girls were excellent ambassadors for the College, encouraging one another and showing great team spirit.

Well done girls and a very special thanks to Mrs Jenny Doubleday for her involvement.

# Food **Glorious Food**

**Year 11 Food Studies students designed, cooked and presented gourmet picnic boxes as part of their SAC for Unit 2.**

Their task was to compare similar foods prepared in different settings, preparation of food in the home and adaptation to a commercial context. Covid-19 has made it difficult for many businesses, but it also provided opportunities for innovation and in this case take away picnic boxes.

Students started by looking at business opportunities, designing and planning

food for the boxes including health and environmental sustainability. Students also had to explore adaptations of differing dietary and lifestyle requirements.

*I love having the ability to be creative and make my own choices when it comes to cooking in the SAC - it allows me to achieve my best. I have learnt the importance of research when it comes to Food Studies, which has allowed me to expand my own views on different cultures and food.*

**Jack Averay  
Year 11**



# Around the School

## Year 10 Forensic Science Fingerprint Incursion

In October our Year 10 Forensic Science students engaged in a fingerprints incursion via Zoom. Fingerprint expert, Craig Hamilton, presented key information, helping students understand how fingerprints are formed, their distinguishing features,

and how they are used in crime investigations.

Students then completed a latent fingerprint practical at home, collecting their own fingerprints using a variety of methods, and identifying the features in their prints – arches, whirls and loops.



## Enterprise German Project



Students studying *German for Innovation* this semester partnered with Australian based, German companies to design an innovative new product or service as part of the Enterprise German Project, a national competition sponsored by the Goethe Institute.

With cash prizes on offer (and glory of course), the national competition culminated in an online awards ceremony on 28 October with students, representatives from each company and the German Honorary Consul General.

Our students worked in partnership with the following businesses:

*Grün Eco Design* – a passive house architecture firm.

*Brezel Biz* – a specialist German bakery in Melbourne with pop up stores and events.

*SBS German* – radio and TV.

Unfortunately, site visits and internships originally envisioned were not possible, however this crossover subject with commerce has seen students develop entrepreneurial and project management skills all while improving their language.

Congratulations to students Alicia Birch, Rebecca and Emma Starrick, Charlotte Bannigan and Grace Morgante whose travel product was shortlisted by the judges.

## Check Mate

Congratulations to our Luther College Chess Team who came second in a major chess competition this semester against nine other schools.

Navigating a game of chess using technology and Zoom isn't easy, so well done to the following students:

- Luca Scholes Robertson (Year 11)
- Sam Benson (Year 11)
- Mitch Davis (Year 11)
- Darren Menezes (Year 11)
- Thomas Curnow (Year 11)
- Alastair Lowrie (Year 7)
- Harvey Peck (Year 7)



# Chinese Cultural Heritage Incursion

In November students were treated to a visit (virtually) to the Museum of Chinese Australian History. Year 9 student Eva Kempster reports.

On the 9th of November, Year 9 and 10 Chinese students took part in a virtual Chinese incursion. Hosted by the Museum of Chinese Australian History, we learnt about ancient China, with a particular focus on the Chinese pyramids and Emperor Qin Shi Huang's Terracotta Army. It was interesting to learn about the ancient Chinese superstitions, and how the Chinese culture was formed.

We also learnt about traditional Chinese inventions and found that many of the items we use every day can be traced back to Chinese innovation. For example, gunpowder, compasses, and modern paper making all originate from ancient China.



The second part of the incursion was a martial arts session, where we learnt the importance of coordination, concentration, and control. Overall, the incursion gave us a



deep insight into Chinese culture, and the history in which it was formed, as well as the dedication required to practice Chinese martial arts.

## Lunch Clubs during At Home Learning

There was plenty to keep students connected and entertained during lunchtime while learning at home. Including:

*Brush lettering & ...Bullet Journals...*

**MOVIE LOVERS CLUB**



**Motivated Monday** Food Hacks & Chats

**ELECTRONIC BEAT MAKING**

**Talking Sustainability**



**Mustard**

**CHESS CLUB**



Teachers and students turned out regularly to talk movies or sustainability, share their passion for cooking or chess and so much more!

# Around the School

## Poetry that Sustains

Imagine being invited to write about something that matters, a topic that lights a fire in your belly, something current, something newsworthy, something interesting.

Poem Forest, created by Red Room Poetry in partnership with The Australian Botanic Garden, offered students the opportunity to write meaningful poetry, with every poem received a tree planted to help heal habitats and create a 'Poem Forest' for future generations.

Our students embraced the challenge and delivered some beautiful words.

### Forest of Lost Souls

Helena Farley, Year 7

Dancing sparks engulfing not only the trees that reach for the shimmering night sky, but hope, hope for the future.

Hope for the dead, the living, and the generations to come.

Hope to live another day, past the grip of death.

Gloom now blanketing over the forest, the very one of which many were killed by the fire, the flame.

The ever-building dangers of this world we face today.

Though now, decades on, flowers bloom, mushrooms pop, sunlight shines for the first time in years.

Effects of the devastation may be fading, but the ones who have died will never be returned.

This vast, uninhabited land full of ancientness and wonder, a constant reminder of the soft taps of shoes on concrete.

The coffin as it was carried out of the dark, looming halls.

The day that draws me here.

To this old and decaying forest; that pulses with hope in its own, exotic way.



### Lost Memories

Mili Peshavariya, Year 7

The sunset deepened in the rich ombre sky.

The scene of the sunset was a mesmerising sight.

The wispy wind, the ferocious waves, the stunning complexion this scene gave.

These may be your thoughts of visiting this beach, but you see, this place held deep memories only I could reach.

Where we'd fashion castles in the sand and let our minds go crazy, now there were lumps of sand and a memory that was hazy.

Or every night as we sat, watched the stars glimmer and in go the tide, now there were only scars and an aching heart I'd been left to hide.

We'd look for each other in the darkness of the caves and stone, at those times I felt so happy, blessed now there was only emptiness of being alone.

On that Day I lost it all, the loss of my beloved hit me like a bullet, or frightening fall.

In that moment I'd lost a companion, a friend, oh how I wish, that just for a second I could bring back that sweet moment of bliss.

Now I wait on this lonely beach, for your heart, your soul to come back in to reach.



### The Glow of the Bush

Sarah Hudson, Year 7

Drip, drip

Crunch, crunch

Falling slowing in the dark

A blood red sky

A broken arch

Green plump ferns and gum trees

Blackened after a morning fright

Trickle, trickle from the bush

Cool smooth stones for throwing back

Shallow, but deep

Clear, but blue

A morning cuppa for me and you

Frozen deep inside the bush

I will never show what they can't find

I'll leave clues for me and you,

Nature's beauty that will confuse

And as the sun sets, there goes another day

Alluring, quiet, the Aussie way



### **Generations of Light**

Elle Whelan, Year 7

A sabre of the deepest sky home to humanity,  
curtains pulled back to reveal never-ending strings of fairy lights.  
Each one holding a secret, a wish, a memory, a hope,  
something to hold onto in your life or another.  
Something to share to continue the generations.  
Black ink has drenched everything within eyesight,  
masking the clouds and cloaking the shadows.  
Merging them together into one hulking stretch.  
Unearthly ethereal moonlight swallows each without exception.  
The inconsequential light of the surrounding stars entwining.  
Countless lonely stars seem to be dotted throughout the bleak depths of darkness.  
A warm arm squeezes my shoulder a reminder that I am not alone, I never am.  
Staring out at the infinite sky I am reminded of all the things yet to be discovered.  
Every night when the stars shine, they seem to share their secrets.  
I wonder if they will share one with me.  
The air that we breathe, what we are made of,  
without it we do not exist, nothing does.  
To cherish, replenish our sky, our life,  
we must do our part.  
Otherwise, we will cease to exist, and we too will become stars in the sky.

### **Ashes**

Piper Banks, Year 7

Darkness eats away at the colours.  
The reds, the oranges, the yellows, the greens.  
Gone.  
The trees are hushed to a bitter silence.  
Nothing.  
Branches and leaves scorched black.  
Like death himself had trampled over it.  
Tall, ash singed trees, swaying.  
Falling, crashing.  
The fire has taken what it likes,  
but is it enough?  
Will it want more?  
We may never know but,  
this, is only the beginning.



### **Sunrise Stroll**

Chelsea Moody

As the moon begins to shy away,  
the sun peeks through the hazy mountains.  
The soldering trees shadowing over me,  
in the tranquillity of nature.  
The true meaning of life itself shone through to me,  
birds squabbling beneath the pine leaves.  
Tall trees rustling as if trying to speak to me,  
the peaceful serenity washes over me.  
Like a heavy wave in the ocean,  
the memories come rushing back to me.  
As the long adventure begins,  
walking through the great pine trees.  
The gateway of gateways through to the beauty,  
wondering how many have walked this path,  
how long will the trees remain?  
Am I the last?  
My legs begin to freeze with the cold breeze.  
As I grow older and older,  
the surreal, sentimental, feelings never change.



# LUTHER IN CONCERT *VIRTUAL*

An online event showcasing our talented music students Tuesday 12 October at 7.30pm.



In Term 3, at the beginning of *At Home Learning*, a number of our ensembles took on the challenge of rehearsing online, with many students keen to keep making music together despite the obvious challenges.

This year's *Luther in Concert: A Very Virtual Celebration* was unlike any we have produced before, showcasing a sample of the learning that had taken place online over the months prior. In particular, we celebrated our senior music students who have given so much to the College over many years. We enjoyed solo performances from our Year 12 VCE Music Performance students as well as a special 'virtual' item (*See You Again*) created by our entire Year 12 music cohort.

Then on Tuesday 12 October we hosted a live virtual event, via Zoom, where 180 families tuned in to share the wonderful work our ensembles had achieved.

The night featured a large variety of pre-recorded performances from both small and large ensembles, as well as our esteemed Year 12 music students. It was wonderful to see so many staff, students, and parents log on to enjoy this amazing event.

I know it is not that same as sitting in the same concert hall together but logging on together and viewing the items in 'real time' really gave a sense of belonging and being able to celebrate the wonderful work the students and staff were able to achieve.

We really look forward to a bigger, better and more 'live' 2022.

Steven Majstorovic  
**Co-Curricular Performing Arts Coordinator**





*A virtual Luther in Concert. Not the best of my expectations for 2021, yet I was willing to persevere because the concert would be phenomenal! For us to individually produce this concert, it was tough, we had to practice on Zoom, then record afterwards. I thought this was going to be simple, yet it never came to be.*

*In our ensemble Zooms, we either listened to a recording or helped each other in breakout rooms. When our band directors felt comfortable with our playing, then we began the recording process. We required multiple devices to record. One was to record ourselves and another to listen to the official recording (on a metronome). More importantly – and possibly annoyingly – recording required a very silent house.*

*Once I had played through the whole piece, I listened back and picked at every little horribly wrong detail. Thus began a repetitive process of record then listen, and again record then listen until I felt somewhat satisfied! I hope not to experience a virtual concert again, yet optimistically speaking: I gained many learning skills. Perseverance, motivation, and striving for greatness were skills that I have obtained during this experience. Even though it was a struggle, I know I will long keep these memories of hardship and success experienced throughout Luther in Concert 2021.*

Shivesh Nand  
**Year 9**

*(Shivesh plays piano, is a member of the Concert Band and plays percussion in the Symphonic Band. He has recently joined the Make It Up Club Stage Band.)*



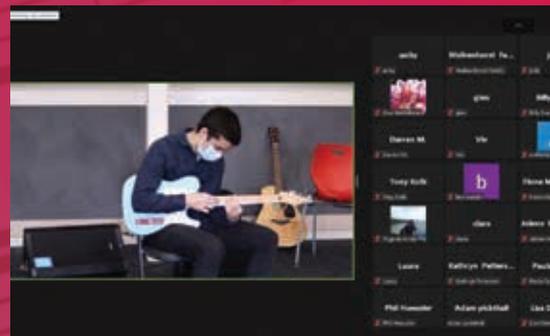
*Luther in Concert was an experience! Zoom rehearsals became normal, and practice was done using backing tracks. To create something for the concert, we practiced individually, with backing tracks, and metronomes. Everyone then recorded their parts and sent them in to be compiled into one track. It was a major challenge to learn the piece, and record it at the right tempo, so it all worked together. Being in an ensemble during this time was definitely a different experience, rehearsals were more like guided personal practice sessions, and being able to hear others at all was hard. Overall, Luther in Concert 2021 was a very different experience!*

Lucas Kent  
**Year 8**

*(Lucas plays the French Horn, is a Training Band tutor and plays in the Concert Band and has recently joined the Make It Up Club Stage Band.)*

*This year posed many challenges for the music department, particularly producing the annual Luther in Concert. Despite the challenges, the concert showcased the many talents of Luther College music students in an entertaining manner. Much effort was put into recording a piece however it was near impossible to play together and rehearse in sync. Despite such, the conductors and teachers pieced together some amazing video and audio performances.*

*Being in three bands this year, it was interesting to see ideas develop in order to make the concert entertaining despite*



*it not being conducted in the traditional manner. Despite the challenges, students were still able to enjoy performing for the community. A huge thankyou to Mr Majstorovic and Ms Clisby in particular for organising the event and making it possible for it to go ahead.*

Darcy Allen  
**Year 11**

*(Darcy plays the Alto Saxophone and Tenor Saxophone, is a Training Band tutor, member of Make It Up Club Stage Band and Concert Band. She has also progressed to Senior Stage Band and Symphonic Band.)*



# Greg Houghton leaves a lasting legacy

**To hear Greg describe Luther is to fully appreciate its unique nature; that essence so valuable you'd bottle it if you could. 'It's the reality community members experience,' Greg says, 'that's a special fusion of genuine, holistic care extended to everyone; our faith-based ethos expressed in action; the broad, relevant education delivered; and the significant part each person plays during their time at the College.'**

Over a 35-year career of dedicated service to Luther, Greg's influence and impact as a teacher and leader has well and truly helped shape that uniqueness.

It was holding the positions of Literature teacher, Wicklow House Coordinator, English Faculty Coordinator, Head of Middle School, Director of Learning, College Council member and Deputy Principal, that enabled the thread of Greg's contribution to be woven into the fabric of the school. Indeed, it would be hard to identify a significant area of school life in which Greg hasn't been actively involved. He's helped perpetuate the school's foundation values and outstanding public reputation through direction setting, curriculum development, teaching and learning improvement, nurturing staff professional growth, culture and community building, and the oversight of staff wellbeing. He did all this with an eye to honouring tradition and Luther's core values while helping find and implement contemporary expressions of them. That takes insight, wisdom and courage, which others testify Greg had in spades.

Certainly, people have always been front of mind for Greg. How would students, staff and families be affected by policy and direction? How could he understand and support their journeys better? If you want to know the secret of Greg's positive impact it was, at least in part, this: his gift for developing relationships with people and the trust that came with it. That trust allowed Greg to bring people along, to help them be their best. This in turn, helped make the College its best.

In reflecting on his time at Luther Greg is deeply aware of and grateful for the sense of belonging he's enjoyed throughout. He will carry with him the friendships he's made and the impact of the relationships he's enjoyed. He's had the privilege of forming others and being formed himself while working with five of the College's principals and numerous other key senior leaders. 'It's been wonderful to be exposed to and learn from such different leadership styles', Greg offered.

It's the spiritual life of Luther that has both nurtured and sustained Greg over the decades. He cites Chapel as a highlight of his experience at the College and Luther's fundamental faith values as the strength at its core. 'It's a strength', he says, 'that only deepened as necessary changes were made to educate for the times because that core was kept intact.' If he had any parting words to the community it would be in relation to these founding values. 'I'd encourage people to stay close to our Christian values, and continue to be guided by them,' Greg said.

When asked why he came to Luther and never left, the unhesitating response was that he'd simply fallen in love with the place and its people, its mission and purpose. The honeymoon never seemed to wane. As growth opportunities and meaningful apprenticeships presented themselves, he took them. He dived in and relished the chance to put the notion of 'greater care, greater learning' to work for the sake of students and the wider community.

The love affair was mutual. Luther loved Greg back. And for good reason.

He likes to think that he communicated his passion for Literature to a generation of students, giving them a lifetime gift. 'You see, Literature opens doors to understanding,' Greg explained. 'It demystifies things and gives readers a sense of what life's all about. Take Chekhov, for example...read his plays and truths might dawn on you for the first time'. Mission accomplished, Greg! Years, on students have offered their recollections of Greg's passion for his subject and

his care of them; of how he catered to each student's needs and guided them through what was some very challenging coursework, weaving in extensive knowledge, scholarly thought, wonder, insight and joy. Perhaps most significant, however, was the reflection that his words of wisdom have stayed with them.

His colleagues agree. It's not lost on them that Greg's love of literature fits with how he builds relationships. What's been appreciated by so many, is his intellect and the culture of thinking and research he modelled. Greg has been able to bring people along because outcomes - always in the best interests of students - were based on evidence, not opinions. This counted when difficult educational issues had to be tackled. It was Greg's particular way of turning dry educational theory into a narrative that brought it to life and made it not only palatable, but doable.

Many remember all this unfolding in the development of the Luther Middle School. It was Greg who understood that this sub school was far more than a mere physical location in the school, it was a cohort of students for whom a philosophy of education had to be applied. He subsequently set up teams of teachers, instructed them in middle schooling best practice, and set high standards for the delivery of an experience that would produce lifelong learners. You can't put a value on that.

Others reflect that Greg's influence was not only a thread woven into the school's fabric, but the glue that held it together. His humble and quiet approach to supporting





staff through the many and varied challenges of their private and professional lives was a big part of that. If you needed Greg, he'd find time for you. He'd open that magnificent diary of his - a work of art really with its color coding, annotations and detailed jottings - and find you a timeslot. Why? Because what mattered to him was investing in your growth as a strong, more effective and better informed educator, for the benefit of students. And it always worked because Greg's passion for learning was positively infectious.

The community is grateful that this expertise and level of inspiration was extended beyond the College and that Greg's influence rippled out into the wider community through his long-term commitment to the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English (VATE) and associated dealings with the Victorian Department of Education (DET) and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). It will come as no surprise given this reach, and Greg's involvement in writing the VCE Literature and English Language Study Designs, that he was awarded a life membership from VATE and from the Council of Professional Teaching Associations of Victoria.

Before Greg turns the page on this chapter of his life and takes up all that an active and meaningful retirement will look like for him, the community wants to acknowledge and express its fulsome gratitude.

Greg, thank you for being the extraordinary person you are and all you mean to us.

Thank you for the passion and energy you brought to everything you turned your hand to through every season of your time with us; for your teaching, leadership, vision and relentless pursuit of progressing all that grew and honoured our students, our staff and our College. Thank you for the gift of head and heart you delivered in full. It is our inspiration, and your legacy. For that, we are grateful beyond words - but not beyond action. Please be assured that we intend to grow the seeds of good you have sown in us all so they multiply and have a positive effect on those we encounter where ever life takes us.



# Vale

## Edna Paech

28 January 1921 – 20 October 2021

Edna Paech was a loyal, faithful and devoted servant of Luther College during the years 1964 – 1980. A teacher of English, History and Scripture, she also mentored students as the unofficial Senior Mistress of the girls Boarding House. Married to College founding Principal Pastor John Paech, Edna's contributions across every aspect of Luther's early years provided an integral foundation helping shape the school we are today.

Edna passed away peacefully in October aged 100, we celebrate her wonderful life.

From her early days Edna recognised the importance of education. She completed her Leaving Certificate via correspondence while sitting in the corridors of Dimboola Higher Elementary School. She boarded in Horsham during 1937 and 1938 so she could attend Horsham High School. As dux, her results earned her a scholarship to study for an Arts degree at Melbourne University in 1939. Always passionate about English literature, she graduated with majors in English and French. Her second teaching post was at Concordia College in Adelaide, where she met her future husband, John, who was at the seminary studying for the Lutheran ministry. After their marriage she also taught at Geelong High School and Malvern Girls High School. When John accepted the call to be founding principal of Luther College, Edna used her considerable expertise to teach English, History and Scripture.

Edna's contributions to those first years of Luther's history comprised so much more than mere facts tell. She was widely recognised and respected for her excellent teaching skills, thorough in her preparations, expecting her students to be as committed to their education as she was. Despite managing the rigours of a teaching load as well as motherhood – career mothers were relatively rare at that time – Edna became

dedicated to the welfare of the girls, the boarders in particular, unofficially taking on the role of Senior Mistress. The girls gained a reputation for being the best dressed students in the area. She was firm and forthright but very supportive of staff and students alike.

The original suggestion of Luther College as the name for our school came from Edna Paech, and when her husband John agreed to the suggestion the seed was sown. By August in 1962 the name had attracted enough support to be officially adopted by the various committees and councils of the Church.

Always gracious and unwavering in her support of the College and the Headmaster, Edna quietly carried out her many duties with patience and dignified efficiency. She was dedicated to teaching secondary students, trying her utmost to engage and encourage them in learning and discussion. One of the highlights of her career at Luther, in the eyes of many, was her portrayal of "Aunt Eller" in the school's musical production of "Oklahoma".

Edna's life was full and varied, but it was her selfless dedication to service that truly stands out. At 90 years of age Edna penned the autobiography *Indomitable Mouse*, from the book are these words.

*My life is filled with contentment, and gratitude for what I have had in the past, what I have now, and what my faith assures me is awaiting me when I die. Meanwhile there are so many precious memories to mull over, so very many special people close by whose company inspires me to seek them out and I am never lonely. Nor am I any longer the shy reclusive mouse I once was. I have truly learned that I am indomitable as far as that is concerned. I still have a life to live to the full.*

Thank you Edna for your steadfast support and dedication to our school.

Rest in peace.





## Dr Nigel Taylor Class of 1973

**When your personal passions align with your profession it's a particularly sweet spot to be in. It doesn't happen for everyone, but it did for Nigel.**

As someone who loves to be in and around the water, attracted to related sporting and recreational pursuits, Nigel's role as CEO of Life Saving Victoria (LSV) was a terrific fit.

Although recently retired from the role after 30 years in the organisation's top job - first with Surf Life Saving Victoria (SLSV) and then with Life Saving Victoria (LSV) once the two lifesaving bodies merged - Nigel played a huge part in delivering benefits for members and community users of aquatic environments.

Among Nigel's career highlights are having helped facilitate that important merge, and subsequently developing a close working relationship with other emergency services and government generally. Nigel was also proud to have overseen the introduction of sun-safe uniform for patrols, the compulsory introduction of Learn to Swim and water safety curriculum in primary schools, the adoption of common standards for aquatic amenities, the redevelopment and modernisation of dozens of lifesaving club facilities, the driving of multicultural programs in Victoria and abroad, and a commitment to innovative research. The expansion of LSV's research and development department has meant that the organisation is now considered a world leader in drowning prevention, innovation and program delivery.

Nigel's been thrilled to see record membership every year since 2004, gender parity across clubs and the organisation, and to observe growing diversity generally.

He was also grateful for how LSV rose to the challenge of undertaking complex preparations for the 2020-21 season considering the global pandemic and the need to maintain service levels while adhering to restrictions to keep volunteers, staff and the wider community safe. It involved developing 57 individual COVIDSafe plans and coordinating more than 1200 worker permits.

Despite these obstacles, the season was LSV's longest and busiest to date with volunteer lifesavers and lifeguards patrolling an estimated 200,000 cumulative hours across more than 62 locations and undertaking more than 500 rescues, 230,000 preventative actions, 130 missions and 15 winches using the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service.

Those statistics say it all! And as Nigel so rightly observes, each one of those interactions could have turned out very differently without the dedication and commitment of LSV's more than 38,000 volunteer members who commit themselves to keeping Victorian's safe around water.

Nigel is also grateful for the experiences his work provided for extensive travel in relation to water safety. SLSV and LSV enjoyed a close sister relationship with the Californian Lifeguards, and LSV took responsibility for developing a strong water safety culture in Sri Lanka and Bahrain which has enabled them to now stand strong in terms of program promotion and delivery.

What an incredible story of critical community impact locally and globally!

As a boarder at Luther from 1968-73, Nigel could have had no idea where his interests and career trajectory would



lead. He is aware, however, that those formative days of tackling the significant personal challenge of independent living, of gaining a strong appreciation for working and indeed living closely with others from different backgrounds, interests and motivations held him in good stead. What better preparation could there be, he observed, for learning to work cooperatively in an increasingly diverse world? 'These learnings were particularly valuable when progressing through my professional career,' Nigel reflected. The whole business of not knowing what life has in store for us is why Nigel would encourage today's Luther students to 'roll with the punches, good and bad, and take an interest in a broad range of pursuits and activities because in the future you might rely on some experience, that at the time you felt was inconsequential or a waste of time'. What specifically comes to mind for Nigel by way of example is the half year of touch typing imposed on him that proved to be a practical skill he values professionally and personally every day, 50 years on!

Thank you, Nigel, for your amazing contribution to an Aussie institution. Having read this article, I doubt any of us will be on the beach or in the water this season without being deeply grateful for all you have contributed to LSV, and being that bit more mindful of what a blessing our lifesavers and lifeguards are to us.

## Nick Buruma Class of 2011

### It's been ten years Nick! What have you been up to?

After finishing at Luther I took a gap year and worked at Falls Creek and then Big White in Canada as a ski and snowboard instructor. It was an amazing opportunity to meet people from all over the world and see some incredible sights, especially in Canada!

On my return, I completed a Double Degree in Business and Economics/ Outdoor Recreation at Monash University. Coincidentally, fellow Luther alumni Mariah Dhar (Class of 2012) was also completing the same course, so we spent four years in the same classes together without really knowing each other prior to commencing. This course seems to be a popular selection for Luther alumni, particularly those who came through the Outdoor Education program (Henry Rushford (2012) and Hannah Womersley (2013) amongst others). Although Monash has since adjusted the course to more of a health and physical education focus, the memories made on some incredible outdoor expeditions and experiences will be remembered forever (eight days self reflection on French Island, two weeks self-led sea kayak expedition around Flinders Island, including a very rough 50-foot catamaran journey across Bass Strait, and a 10-day canoe journey down the Murray River). My years at university were pivotal in shaping my growth both personally and professionally.

After finishing university, I travelled to East Africa for three months with my partner Emily to attend the wedding of our friends Emmanuel and Anne-Marie who live in Kampala, Uganda. During this time we travelled around Uganda for a month, then moved on to Kenya, Tanzania and then Zanzibar to catch a 2-day train across Tanzania to Malawi, then on into Zambia to end at Victoria Falls. This was the trip of a lifetime for us and it changed who we were as people. Living life in the moment and flying by the seat of our pants for a lot of the trip really forced us out of our comfort zone and that's when the best life experiences happen.



Proposing in Noosa to my partner Emily in 2021

Emily and I continued our adventures in the UK, working on a tiny group of islands off the coast of Cornwall, named the Isles of Scilly. A very unique place surrounded by crystal clear, azure Atlantic Ocean waters, filled with shipwrecks doomed on the fast flowing, shallow tidal sand banks between the islands. Known to have the warmest mean annual temperature in the UK of a balmy 11.5 degrees, it was a place with an odd mix of sub-tropic Mediterranean flora thrown in with blistering cold ocean storms. I worked as the local bar-keep at a pub named Fraggie Rock on the smallest of the Islands, Bryher, which could be completely circumnavigated with a leisurely 90 minute stroll. After leaving the Island, we then went on to travel around the rest of Europe with the money we had earned for another two months before returning to Melbourne.

Throughout university and in-between travelling I was working in freelance outdoor education, especially at Luther with teachers David Henwood and Doug Willcock but also at Lord Somers Camp. Along that journey I worked with other Luther alumni such as Rohan Sultana, Josh Kousal, Lucas Chadwick, Henry Rushford, Mariah Dhar, Stephen Cousins, Katherine Turner, Jayde Arnold and Josh Probyn-Smith. Early 2018, I had a short stint back in outdoor education after returning from Europe before gaining my job at ESTA.

(ESTA is the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority or as most people know it – Triple 0)

Emily and I had originally planned to continue travelling around Australia in 2018 but her career took another path so we decided to



Awkwardly posing for a Herald Sun photo at work



My beautiful family

settle down in Melbourne. My application at ESTA was pure serendipity. No word of mouth, no “someone I know works there”. I chanced across it and thought it would be a rewarding career to pursue.

I’ve been at ESTA now for three and half years and I love my job. I work as an Ambulance dispatcher and call-taker, which can be very stressful and chaotic at times, especially throughout the COVID pandemic, but the support I get from ESTA is incredible. Working at ESTA has afforded me fantastic work life balance and incredible opportunities to have a true, positive impact on the community and on the people you speak with on the phone everyday, a lot of whom may be going through the most difficult moment of their life.

Most recently, I have bought a house in Lilydale with my now fiancé Emily and have an 18-month-old fur baby, Fernie the cavoodle. We are now embarking on our most exciting and rewarding adventure yet raising our newborn baby girl Bobbie May!!

### **Wow that’s a very busy ten years! What are your fondest memories from being at Luther College?**

My fondest memories of Luther would have to be the Outdoor Education program, particularly the influence of teachers Doug Willcock and David Henwood. I made lifelong friendships on the camps and they spurred in me a passion for the outdoors and environment. Although my career is arguably the complete opposite of working outdoors, the values and life skills I gained from the Outdoor Education curriculum were invaluable and still open doors for me to this day. I am not entirely certain that I would have been to the places I’ve been or achieved a lot of the things I’ve achieved if it wasn’t for the influence of Outdoor



Our little seaside cottage in the Isles of Scilly, UK

Education at Luther. If you’re a student reading this and wondering which elective to choose, I cannot recommend Outdoor Education enough.

Ten years on after finishing school you look back and realise how incredible it was to be able to see your best mates every single day, especially at a school like Luther, and it’s something, in hindsight, that you take for granted. I am lucky that I still see a lot of my old school mates regularly even with everyone’s lives being so busy and moving in different directions. A lot of us now at the stage of supporting each other through wedding planning and parenthood!!

The encouragement and support we received from the Luther community as students was amazing and from all reports is still just so. Through my journey since leaving school, I never seemed to be far away from someone that knew of Luther’s great reputation (even abroad) and it still seems to open doors for me today.

### **Tell us a little more about your job. Are there any highlights or moments you are especially proud of?**

The best feeling as a call-taker and dispatcher is when you learn of a really good outcome for a patient that you thought may not have had a good one. For the most part we don’t find out what happens to the patient once the call has ended and the ambulance has been sent, but on the odd occasion you get feedback from the callers and patients that their husband/wife/daughter/son had survived

after we helped them administer CPR to them before the ambulance had arrived. It gives you an amazing sense of purpose knowing that what you did may very likely be the defining factor in someone living to see another day.

I enjoy my job so much that I convinced my sister Elle (Class of 2013) to apply and she has now been there for nearly two years and is loving it.

### **You also work alongside alumni Lauren Ingamells, did you one of those moments where it clicked, she was also from Luther?**

I had no idea Lauren worked at ESTA when I started! I had not had any contact with Lauren after school and we ran into each other in the tearoom at ESTA (Lauren had just gone through the call taker training immediately before I did). A very coincidental moment. Lauren and I have since gone on to complete the dispatch training together and are good friends. As mentioned before you are never far away from some Luther connection. Lauren and I get to talk to our fellow 2011 alumni Daniel Allwood over the dispatch radio regularly (he is a paramedic) and Nic Tiedemann works as a triage paramedic at ESTA’s referral service.

### **Congratulations Nick on an incredible ten years, we can’t wait to check in on you again.**



Working on the Isles of Scilly

# Reunion dates 2022

If you are a member of a graduating class with a '2' at the end of it, please schedule your reunion date into your diary and start contacting your friends from Luther and encourage them to do the same. Great reunions rely on the domino effect – one person contacting another, contacting another...

*Note: Reunions offer an important chance to reconnect especially after the challenges of the last two years. However, as you can imagine, planning three years of reunions in 2022 is a difficult task and as such we will only host the years that correspond with 2022 (1972, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012). We encourage anyone who is looking for an opportunity to connect that was unable to over the past two years to do so outside our formal reunion program and if we can assist you in any way, we will certainly try.*

For more information about reunions please email the Luther College Alumni Association [alumni@luther.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumni@luther.vic.edu.au) or call (03) 9724 2000.

2022	Class of <b>2021</b>	Thursday 10 March 6.30pm
	Class of <b>1967-72</b> 50 years+ reunion	Sunday 3 April 12pm
	Class of <b>1982</b> 40 years	Sunday 3 April 12pm
	Class of <b>1992</b> 30 years	Sunday 28 August 12pm
	Class of <b>2002</b> 20 years	Sunday 28 August 12pm
	Class of <b>2012</b> 10 years	Sunday 16 October 2pm

All reunions will be held on campus. We will post updates with further information on our website, you can also update your details by visiting [www.luther.vic.edu.au](http://www.luther.vic.edu.au)

# 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](mailto:communications@luther.vic.edu.au)

### Births



Congratulations **Juliet HAINES** (Class of 2001) and husband Daniel, on the safe arrival of their first child, Emma Rose. Born at Box Hill Hospital 17 September 2020, weighing 8lb 13oz.



Congratulations to **Lauren O'NEILL** (Class of 2002) and Brett Ross on the safe arrival of Koa, born October 2020.



Congratulations **Daniel RUFFLE** (Class of 2007) and **Catherine RUFFLE (BRADSHAW)** (Class of 2008) on the safe arrival of their first child, Mason James. Born 24 August 2020 weighing 8.36lb.



Congratulations to **Joel SKILBECK** (Class of 2003) and wife Sarah on the birth of Wesley Benjamin. A brother for Jethro, Carson and Levi.

### Wedding



Congratulations to **Katharine PROUT** (Class of 2011) on her marriage to Reuben Covington. It was third time lucky after the wedding was cancelled twice due to covid-19. Katharine used the same burgundy Wolseley (pictured) for her wedding, that ten years earlier drove her to the 2010 deb ball (thanks to the Ladiges family). Bridesmaids **Erin Hutchinson, Georgia O'Brien** and **Kirsten Harris** all Class of 2011 were in attendance.