



# Altior et Sapientior

The Newsletter of the Penleigh and Essendon Grammar Former Students' Association  
PEGS Website [www.pegs.vic.edu.au](http://www.pegs.vic.edu.au)

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September, 2004

## PEGS at the Olympics

PEGS Former Students' Association and The Friends of PEGS celebrated their annual Dinner Dance at a new venue, Ultima Reception Centre at Keilor, on 30 July. In accordance with the theme "PEGS at the Olympics" guests entered through a huge archway of blue and white balloons, while cauldrons flamed on either side of the stage throughout the night. Ivy entwined the candelabras on each table, where Hebden Kitchens had generously donated a smart personalised water bottle for each diner.

Splendid music was, as always, provided by the PEGS Stage Band under the direction of Mr Larry Walker. The evening was coordinated by our excellent Master of Ceremonies, Mr Peter Bohmer. Both associations express their heartfelt thanks to the vocalists - Ms Clare McDonald and Mr Fred Cheah - and the many

members of the music staff whose generous professionalism provided enjoyment and inspiration throughout the evening.

The auction conducted with skill and energy by Mr Tony Downward, of Rendina Real Estate, provided much excitement. Many items of Olympic memorabilia, donated by Mr Adam Luscombe (Year of 1988), were quickly purchased. Mr John Harding (Class of 1972), wearing his father's 1956 Olympic tie and blazer, was one of the enthusiastic and successful bidders.

The growing popularity of this annual event was manifest in the increased attendance this year. We anticipate that the 2005 Dinner Dance will be another happy occasion and we extend a warm invitation to those of you who enjoy good food and wine, great music and agreeable company to join us next year.

**The committees of both associations are grateful to the following sponsors for their unstinting support:**

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# Eildon Camp Turns Twenty

On Saturday 3 April, the school celebrated the founding of the Eildon camp, by inviting the members of Year 10M (1984) for a return visit.

Many of the former students from that class, now men in their mid-thirties, attended with their families. There was much reminiscing about the primitive conditions of those early days when tents were the only shelter and a sense of wonder and envy at the improved facilities that current students enjoy.

Paula, the camp's much-loved cook, served a delicious lunch. She was happy to talk about the difficulties of catering from the primitive kitchen of the early years which was a marked contrast to the gleaming commercial kitchen over which she now presides.

Former Principal, Rev HR Stevens, whose vision it was to establish the camp, attended with his wife. To mark the

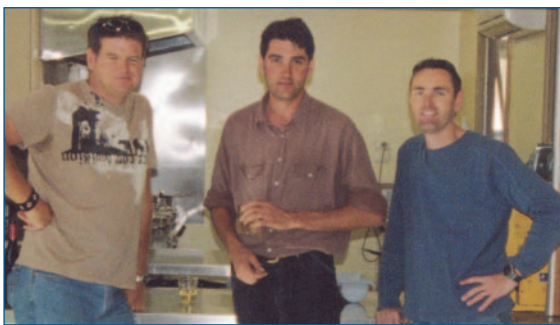
anniversary, the current Principal, Mr Tony Larkin presented them with an album of photos commemorating the early days of the camp and the construction of the present buildings. Staff from that era who were also present included Warren Allan, Michael Mihaljcek, Michael McIntyre and Margaret and Baden Hagger.

## Quotes from the day:

*Craig Williamson* – "When I came on the first camp, I didn't shower for five days. Now they've got showers with hot and cold water." Craig claimed not to recognise the site – "You've ruined it!" he announced fondly.

*Michael Lee* – It was like being a First Fleet convict. We had to clear a whole mountain of dead trees.

*Paula* – Thankfully the mice have moved on.



L to R: Michael Lee, Michael Dhillon and Matthew Ryan discussing the new premises.



The first camp - styled after M.A.S.H.



Rev Bert and Mrs Sadie Stevens after the presentation of the photo album.



Paula right, discusses the new kitchen with Hazel and Warren Allan.



Principal, Tony Larkin, welcoming the guests to the camp reunion.

## New Committee Members

**Ariane Aplin** graduated from PEGS in 2001 after starting in Prep in 1989. During her thirteen years at the school, she contributed to many facets of school life including drama and music. However, her most active role was in sport playing netball and volleyball.

Ariane is currently undertaking third year studies in Physiotherapy at The University of Melbourne. Still a keen member of the school community, Ariane is actively engaged in coaching netball. Her positive encouragement towards others and her friendly nature will be valued as she joins the committee of the Former Students' Association. Although busy with her placements in hospitals and managing her studies, Ariane was excited at being elected to the PEGS FSA committee and is looking forward to making further contributions.

**Ruth Chau** started at PEGS in 1989 and finished her school studies in 2001. She was an outstanding student, excelling at languages and public speaking. Always a

creative student, Ruth played viola in the school orchestra and the erhu in the Chinese orchestra. She is a proud former student with links to the school through her younger sister, Edith, who is currently in Year 12.

Since leaving PEGS, Ruth has been studying Arts at The University of Melbourne and is in her final year, majoring in Chinese language and studies. Her other areas of interest are History, Literature and German. When approached for



Ariane and Ruth at the Annual Dinner Dance.

nomination for the committee of the Former Students' Association, Ruth was most enthusiastic, as she would bring a fresh outlook to the association and at the same time maintain her links with the school.

# PEGS RESTAURATEURS RULE

On Sunday 28 March former PEGS students Shannon Bennett and Curtin Stone participated in "Delicious Double Acts" as part of the annual Melbourne Food and Wine Festival. Shannon is the owner/chef of the fabulous



L to R: Shannon Bennett, Carol Malcolm, Curtin Stone and Judith Glazner.

Vue de Monde restaurant in Carlton and Curtin most recently worked as a chef at Quo Vadis in London before appearing in the television series "Surfing the Menu" and "My Restaurant Rules".

Shannon and Curtin prepared sumptuous dishes including mushroom risotto, twice-cooked duck leg with oranges and a fabulous soufflé for the large audience which included Mrs Carol Malcolm (who taught both boys Home Economics at PEGS). Called from the audience, Mrs Malcolm was asked to score their culinary creations. The banter between these master chefs was most entertaining and they made the preparation of complex dishes seem beguilingly easy.

Also in the audience were Peter Georges and Tayissa Stel, the Melbourne contestants from "My Restaurant Rules". Peter and Toy are also both former PEGS students. Unfortunately, their restaurant, Seven Stones, did not win the competition but drew unbridled praise from the many ex-students who patronised it during the competition.

**Judith Glazner**

# PEGS vs Marcellin Football Luncheon

The PEGS Former Students' Association initiated its first "Windy Hill luncheon" in 2003 to coincide with the First XVIII football game between PEGS and Assumption College. The luncheon was so popular that the association decided to perpetuate this event. As the game against Assumption College was fixtured at Kilmore in 2004, the association invited Marcellin College to participate in this year's event. The significance of the game was confirmed by the ongoing rivalry between PEGS and Marcellin College. In recent years our two schools have consistently challenged Assumption College for the title of AGSV football premiers.

Again, the luncheon was well-attended by over two hundred supporters of PEGS football. Hosted by 3AW celebrity Tony Leonard, the luncheon featured interviews with Lance Picioane (Hawthorn player and former PEGS student), Peter McKenna (Collingwood legend and

former Marcellin teacher) and Greg Williams. While Greg is known to many as a dual-Brownlow medallist with the Sydney Swans and Carlton, on this occasion he savoured the role of father of two of the PEGS team - Jye in Year Twelve and Jake in Year Ten.

The Old Essendon Grammarians' Football Club is another supporter of the day. They provided a trophy for the PEGS player who was judged as "best on ground". This award was presented to Dominik Leban at the conclusion of play. Other good players for PEGS were Jake Williams, Liam Castellias, Sam Caruso, Michael Robson and our captain, Chris Collins. While the final score was disappointing (Marcellin defeated PEGS by 35 points), the efforts of the PEGS team were unquestionable. The school, and all of its supporters, is looking to the 2005 season for renewed success.

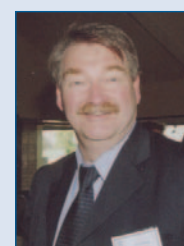
**Tony Larkin**



"The Interview" L to R: Lance Picioane, Greg Williams, Peter McKenna and Tony Leonard.



Kelvin Thomson and Bruce Henderson at the luncheon.



President of Former Students' Association, Lindsay Johnson.



First XVIII with coach Mr Ken Fletcher.



L to R: Lance Picioane, Peter McKenna, Tony Leonard and Greg Williams with their presentations of FSA wines.



# An Eye for a Good Picture

I wasn't sure what I really wanted to do after McNab so I experimented in various fields. I found a job in an architect's office and for a while thought I wanted to study architecture, but moved on to desktop publishing at RMIT. During this time I found an ad for a photography course and thought I'd do a year part-time and learn how to use a camera. Five years later I graduated from Photography Studies College with a Diploma in Illustrative Photography. This opened a whole new world for me.

With an eye for composition and a willingness to waste film I developed my own style of creating images. I experimented with cross processing, various film types and exposure of light. I relied on chance for an interesting colour/emotion to come through. Now we have the digital camera which allows us to experiment on photographs without destroying the original image (though I remain loyal to my film)!

I love to create a particular look so I shot a lot of fashion where I am able to research and style the job myself, from accessorising to backdrops to booking make-up artists. I eventually landed a job with an advertising company which enabled me to work with clients such as Crown Casino, Nissan, National Australia Bank and the Royal Melbourne Show. My passion was to create emotional images with an artistic edge rather than images that were clean and sharp and showed the product without flaws. I eventually decided I wanted to work for myself and target particular clients that suited my philosophy so I found a studio in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy and began freelance work. I had less-known clients but more satisfying work - wedding clients that wanted something different were referred to me, models requiring folios, artists wanting album covers . . .

As the industry is a tough one, I felt exhausted and decided to take a break, do some travelling and recoup. I still needed an income so I found a job working in the offices of Victoria Police. I thought that I would only be there a year, but five years later I'm still here. Once again, it's another world to explore. Working at Victoria Police has enabled me to look at crime and our justice system. It has also allowed me to continue with my photography through my travel - landscapes, cityscapes, documenting adventures, etc.

This wasn't enough - at the beginning of this year I felt I needed a challenge. As I was flicking through the magazine *MX* an article with the word challenge caught my eye. Clearly this was what I was looking for. It was a sign.

A new fundraising concept was launched in Australia, which involves recruiting volunteers to raise money for charities within their community. The Guide Dogs Global Challenge had two components - to raise \$5,000 or more for Guide Dogs Victoria and the physical challenge of walking the Great Wall of China. I decided that it would be a great adventure and it would give me a chance to give back to the community by helping vision impaired Australians.

I had never volunteered before. While there were moments of stress - it's not easy asking people to part with their money - it's been amazingly and surprisingly satisfying and rewarding.

Once I signed up with the Guide Dogs Global Challenge (one signs a contract to show that one is committed) I knew it was a great excuse to have an exhibition of my photographs. It was one of many events including a karaoke night, a trivia night, selling chocolates and

meeting heaps of people. It was my first solo exhibition which went without a hitch and I raised more funds that I had anticipated!

I have now reached \$4,000, my target no longer feels that far away. Though my family and friends and their friends' friends can't wait for me to reach my target so that I will leave them in peace, they're there with their support

helping design invitations/posters/ tickets, keeping me motivated, being at every function and buying every item I try to sell them!

Actually, when I come to think of it, I've had the most amazing time since I left McNab House!

See you in China! or Nepal or Vietnam . . .

*If anyone is interested in further information on Guide Dogs Global Challenge, check out their website [www.guidedogs.asn.au/challenge](http://www.guidedogs.asn.au/challenge) or contact John Boyle on 9854 4489.*

**Diti Karalis**



*Diti at her exhibition.*

*Photo by Ali*

## The Penleigh Bird Bath

Mrs Gabby Mahony was the face of the Penleigh Junior School over many decades. While she worked in this section of the school for thirty years, she is most fondly remembered as the Head of Junior School (girls) from 1985 to 2001. Her departure from the school was marked by numerous tributes from past and current parents and students.

The PEGS Former Students' Association acknowledged her contribution to the school by sponsoring a chair in her honour in the auditorium of the HR Stevens Music Centre at the Keilor East campus. The Miller family signalled their appreciation of Mrs Mahony's work with their daughters by donating a bird bath to the school. Located in the garden behind the main administration building at the Moonee Ponds campus, the bird bath is a daily reminder of Mrs Mahony's sagacious work with our students.



# VALE Finlay McNab

It was with great sadness that the school marked the death of Mr Finlay McNab earlier this year. For most of his eighty-nine years, Mr McNab was closely associated with Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. Initially a student at our antecedent school, Northern Grammar, in the 1920s, Mr McNab followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Council of Essendon Grammar School in the 1950s. He became a vital participant in a series of critical events that ensured a small Essendon school evolved into one of Australia's largest and most successful educational institutions.

The school's expansion to its Keilor East campus and the establishment of the coeducation senior section, McNab House, were features of his early years on the Board. The senior school was named in honour of the contribution by the McNab family. Mr McNab and his sister, Miss Joan McNab - a member of the Penleigh council - were, at that time, the custodians of their family's tradition of commitment to the advancement of education. Mr McNab became the Chairman of the Essendon Grammar School Council in 1975 and helped guide the sensitive and complex negotiations that led to the establishment of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School in 1977.

He oversaw the first decade of the amalgamated school as its inaugural Chairman until he retired from this role in 1988. He continued his association with the school as Chairman of the PEGS Foundation until 2002 and was a great advocate for the preparation of the school history that was released in 2001. In so many ways, the school is indebted to Mr McNab for the wisdom and good sense that he brought to the deliberations of the school and for



*Mr Finlay McNab (1914-2004)*

the ways, via his good counsel and governance, that he helped the school to set a true and forward course. That he combined his service to the school with a distinguished legal career and work in international hockey administration is truly incredible.

Singing was another great joy in Mr McNab's life. To many of our current students, Mr McNab is remembered

as the distinguished, white-haired gentlemen who joined the school choir each year at its Carol Service. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mr Finlay McNab was held in St John's Uniting Church on Friday 14 May. At the request of his family, senior members of the school choir sang at the service. Simultaneously, the school's Firsts hockey team played the game so beloved by him wearing black armbands as the school flag flew at half-mast. Penleigh and Essendon Grammar has been a lucky and grateful beneficiary of Mr McNab's generous notion of service to others. He will be remembered respectfully and fondly for his generous dedication to the advancement of the school.

**Tony Larkin**

# Frank Shann Oval

The Board of Management of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School decided last year that Oval No 1 at the Keilor East campus should be renamed "Frank Shann Oval" as a fitting tribute to the man who was Headmaster of Essendon Grammar School from 1952 to 1962. Dr Frank Shann was a man of outstanding qualities. His passion for sport dominated his time at the school and was reflected in many of his achievements. Personally proficient in lacrosse, hockey and cricket, he encouraged the boys to participate widely in sports and to achieve their personal best. Under his guidance, the school began to develop as a sporting entity for the first time in its history,

In 1956, as student numbers began to increase on the school's site in Raleigh Street, Dr Shann and the school Council acquired land at Keilor East with the intention of establishing a senior school. This acquisition, with its potential playing fields, enabled him to apply for membership of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria

(AGSV). This was granted in 1958. As Headmaster, Dr Shann inspired lasting affection from students and staff. However, his pioneering promotion of sport and his creation of an appropriate environment for its successful evolution are his abiding legacies. The school is proud to honour him.





# Friends of PEGS Craft Market

The Friends of PEGS Annual Craft Market will be held at the school's Essendon campus on Saturday 16 October. The raffle, as always, is the biggest drawcard and this year's prizes are sure to tantalise all comers. First prize is an Encel Home Entertainment package valued at \$12,090. The package includes a Plasma Television, DVD player, speakers and assisted installation. There are other fabulous prizes too, so don't miss out. Raffle books can be obtained at any of the school's campuses.

The Craft Market is sponsored by the parents' association, The Friends of PEGS. With over forty craft stalls, performances, barbecues, refreshments and many other things to see and do, it is the largest and most popular fund raising event on the school calendar. Many of the stalls are run by students.

**For further information, contact Deanna Zammit on 0418 551 630.**

## ADDRESS CHANGE:

Remember, if you are changing your address, please inform us so that we can keep you in touch with Association activities.

Have you registered on the Alumni database? Visit the school's website at [www.pegs.edu.vic.au](http://www.pegs.edu.vic.au) and follow the prompts from the Former Students button. This is a good way to stay in touch with your school friends.

### Contact:

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9336 1855 (BH) Email: [baden@westnet.com.au](mailto:baden@westnet.com.au)

# Forthcoming Events

## Reunions

This year seven reunions are being held.

- **Class of 1964** - this forty-year reunion will be held on Friday 12 November in **Garden Rooms 2 and 3** at **Crown Towers** from 7.30 to 9.30 pm.
- **Class of 1969** - will hold their reunion at the **Victorian Club**, Level 41, Rialto South Tower, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne from 7.00 pm to midnight on Saturday 9 October.
- **Class of 1974** - have organised to hold their reunion at the **Redback Hotel**, 75 Flemington Road, North Melbourne on Saturday 13 November commencing at 7.30 pm.
- **Class of 1979** - will hold their twenty-five-year reunion at the **Redback Hotel**, 75 Flemington Road, North Melbourne on Friday 22 October from 7.30 pm.
- **Class of 1984** - are meeting on the courtyard at **Bear Brass**, GR3A River Level, Southgate Arts and Leisure Precinct, Southbank 3006 (near the main staircase) on Saturday 23 October from 7.30 pm.
- **Class of 1989** - the fifteen-year reunion for this group will be held at the **Provincial Hotel** in **The Salon**, 299 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, on Saturday 4 September, commencing at 8.00 pm.
- **Class of 1994** - have organised their ten-year reunion to be held at the **Albert Park Hotel**, 83 Dundas Place, Albert Park, on Friday 26 November, starting at 7.30 pm.

# Congratulations

## Vicki Bell and Matthew Layton

Vicki Bell (Class of 1983) and Matt Layton recently became the proud parents of a baby daughter. On Thursday 1 July 2004 at 12.20 pm, Eve Rose Bell Layton weighing 3.5 kg was born. Their son, Luke, was thrilled to welcome home his new sister.



*Vicki with Eve, Matt and their son, Luke.*

## WE HAVE MOVED

The Former Students' Association in conjunction with PEGS Archives moved in early July to new premises at 59 Raleigh Street, Essendon. We invite you to visit us in our new home.

- **HOURS** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm
- **Phone/Fax** 9326 1327
- **Email** [Alumni@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:Alumni@pegs.vic.edu.au)  
[Archives@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:Archives@pegs.vic.edu.au)

We look forward to seeing you.



*New Headquarters*



*Photo gallery*

# On the subject of Real Estate...

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