

House Music spectacular



The Middle Years gets together

ELTHAM'S new city campus

A vintage celebration for 35 years

Master planning for future growth

Connections

bringing together the ELTHAM College of Education community

august 2009



LIVING AND LEARNING COME TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

ELTHAM has seen great excitement this year around an innovative way of working with the launch of the new Middle Years Program in 2009. The program has been designed to bring together Years 5-8 in new learning communities that nurture self confidence, promote friendships and develop a love of learning and living.



Bell and Ross Community getting down during Arts Infusion with Hip Hop artist Lama

Perhaps the most unique aspect of the new Middle Years experience is its four multi-age Years 5-8 communities formed around ELTHAM's houses. The communities enhance the social and emotional development of each young person and are led by Community Leaders who encourage collective effort to achieve common goals. The multi-age communities have proven to be a hit with both younger and older Middle Years students. Year 8 student Rebecca Connolly says, 'Being able to work with the younger years has helped me grow as a person.' Year 5 student Carly O'Brien comments, 'I like how in community we get to mix with Years 6, 7 and 8. I know by the end of the year I'll have a lot more friends!'

Russell Ives, Director, Director of Curriculum and Learning, says, 'Our goal in the Middle Years is to develop young people with a passion for living and learning. We aim for them to be socially confident, resilient, and with an increasing understanding of themselves as individuals and learners.' Personalised attention is key to the program with a focus on getting to know each young person, unlocking their talents with the care of a Learning Advisor and developing 'how to learn' abilities. An inquiry learning process is encouraged where students tune in, discover, sort out information, go further, take action and reflect.

Middle Years students follow a comprehensive core skills program studied in groupings of Year 5-6, Year 7 and Year 8 including Literacy, Numeracy, LOTE (Chinese and French), Physical Education, Sport and Outdoor Education. Opportunities for greater student choice and intensive study have been introduced through integrated Learning Modules across areas such as performance and teamwork, belief, philosophy and action, technology and design, creativity and innovation, and well being - people and planet. They are completed in groupings of Years 5-6 and Years 7-8 to address the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) framework.



Students using mobile technology in Community time in the new Bell community space

The refurbished Middle Years building is bustling with the energy of busy people as students and staff work together sharing the newly created and linked community areas. We look forward to seeing more Middle Years activities underway in 2009 including passion projects that explore big questions, community action to inspire positive contribution to others and our world, physical challenge to try new recreational activities, and arts adventures to pursue creative passions and interests.

MASTER PLAN PAVES THE WAY TO FUTURE ELTHAM GROWTH



For the past seven years, ELTHAM has been faced with a series of complex circumstances regarding further development of the Research Campus. Issues confronting ELTHAM include Green Wedge controls for Metropolitan Melbourne introduced into the Nillumbik Planning Scheme in late 2002. ELTHAM College land is located outside Urban Growth Boundary - the area designated for metropolitan growth.

Hopkins Clarke architect, presented the draft Master Plan at both staff and community meetings after its endorsement by the Board. The plan provides a vision of what development ideally could be achieved within the constraints it addresses and sets the directions for facilities development for the next 15-20 years.

From ensuing discussions, it is clear that the Minister for Planning is prepared to consider an amendment to include the College within a Special Use Zone, provided there is a Master Plan to show how the College will develop in the foreseeable future.

The Master Plan journey has involved special and rewarding experiences including initial design sessions with Years 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 student groups. Justin Littlefield said, 'The sessions concentrated on how students would design their own classrooms. Their insight into the environment, particularly with regard to natural light and ventilation, was amazing. They saw the incorporation of external experiences into the classrooms, with vegetation and wildlife being part of the décor, as important to their educational experience.'

In response to this challenge, the College's Master Facilities Committee swung into action consulting with students, teachers, academics, Board members, town planners, architects, parents, environmental experts and many others in meetings, discussions workshops and a charrette. The rationale behind the planning process was identified as sustainability, diversity and inclusiveness, creativity and imagination, smart technology and the desire to create a school firmly based in and supporting its community.

The Master Plan, in the context of the town planning process, will now initiate processes like traffic and car parking analysis, vegetation assessment, landscaping, study of contextual relationships, a concept plan, feature survey, town planning report, and preparation of statutory amendment documents for inclusion in the planning scheme.

With this in mind, the process stimulated new thinking, focussed on learning not teaching, clarified future visions, stimulated potential design solutions and embedded sustainability in its foundation.

Town Planners will be commissioned, along with other consultants such as engineers and surveyors, to prepare the Master Plan for presentation to Nillumbik Shire Council and from there to the Minister for Planning. The process will potentially take up to two years before planning approval is given and is full of promise for a great outcome.

In May Michael Houlihan, Chair of the Master Facilities Committee, and Justin Littlefield, ExECS Representative Board Director and Clarke

The abstract theme behind the masterplan concept has been an 'educational helix' which symbolises a student's journey through ELTHAM, climbing the knowledge ladder to future successes. The helix represents a logical progression of learning, while the surrounding satellites signify the unique and diverse curriculum that ELTHAM offers its students.



EXECS COLLEGE TOUR & LUNCH: SEPTEMBER 4 2009

Each year more and more ExECS are coming back to ELTHAM - as parents! With a growing number of ExECS enrolling their children at ELTHAM we've created a special ELTHAM in Action School Tour for ExECS to get to know their school again and reunite with old friends.

Your tour will include a look at the Early Learning Centre, the new Junior and Middle Years programs and the Senior Years facility. The tour will be followed by a light lunch (our compliments) at Swipers Gully Restaurant opposite the main campus.

Get together a group of your favourite ExECS or use this chance to reunite with old friends and rediscover your school. Join the ExECS ELTHAM in Action Tour at our Research Campus on Friday 4 September at 9:15 am. Lunch bookings are essential. RSVP to Ann Plush on 9433 9959 or execs@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au by August 27. For further information please visit www.execs.org.au



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2009 COMMUNITY RELATIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ELTHAM College 35 Year Anniversary Dinner Dance
Saturday 1 August
Heidelberg Golf Course, Lower Plenty

Class of 1994 - 15 Year Reunion
Saturday 22 August
Barr'd Wine and Tapas Bar
Lower Heidelberg Road, East Ivanhoe

ExECS College Tour & Lunch
Friday 4 September
Research Campus & Swipers Gully Restaurant

Class of 1989 - 20 Year Reunion
Saturday 24 October
Swipers Gully Vineyard & Restaurant

MASTERWORKS
October 17 to 30
Swipers Gully Vineyard & Restaurant
Gala Opening Night - Saturday 17 October
www.masterworks.com.au

ELTHAM in Action College Tours
Research Campus
See www.elthamcollege.vic.edu.au for 2009 tour dates

Visit www.elthamcollege.vic.edu.au for more event information

 Please notify us of any change to your email address details to ensure you receive our event invitations.

 **Get Connected with ELTHAM's associations and find out more about events and activities featured in this edition of Connections.**

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YEAR 9 EXPLORES THE CITY FROM A NEW SPACE



Year 9 Students explore all that the Melbourne Car Show has to offer Olivia Banks (UK exchange), Sarah Royse, Lachlan Sparkes, Rosie Brocksope & Nathan Switkowski

Early 2009 began with more than the usual flurry of activity for the Year 9 team. They completed the exciting but unenviable task of relocating ELTHAM's acclaimed Year 9 program from its original and somewhat tired campus in Flinders Lane to its delightful new premises at the corner of Little Collins and King Streets, also home to ELTHAM's Melbourne City School.

From all accounts students and staff are delighted by the location which has given the program a new perspective on city life with improved access to public transport through Southern Cross Station and a stronger connection with the very heart of Melbourne's business community. Students and staff are enjoying working within the stunning refurbished space on the second story of the historical building. The move to operating on a single floor as compared to two separated levels at the previous premises has created enormous benefit.

Nerida Wilson, Year 9 Program Director, said, 'With everyone working together on the one level we have developed a powerful sense of community. All the students and staff are now a united group and as a result the relationships and collaboration that are so critical to this program are enhanced. The openness of the space has generated a wonderful sense of energy and freedom to move with lots of exposed timber that offers warmth and character. Fantastic skylights give us plenty of natural light, blue sky and interesting views of other buildings.'

In 2009 students and staff have been immersed in a range of learning experiences that meet the programs key objectives of encouraging students to step out of their comfort zone, manage their time well off-campus, learn to make choices, discover their own strengths and weaknesses, form strong friendships and relationships and become a part of the CBD community. The end result is huge personal growth, acceleration in maturity and newfound independence.

Students have elected to undertake various modules designed to challenge their thinking about a range of issues and which they are able to explore with academic depth. During 'Mobile Laundry' module students have been confronted with the plight and stereotyping of homeless Melbourneans for whom they have designed a mobile laundry which they are planning to make a reality. The Beachside module has explored Port Phillip Bay as part of Melbourne's history, development and sustainability. Students have been involved in Festivals such as the Melbourne Car Show, and have investigated the journey of immigrants including the study of the 'Lost Boys of Sudan.' Active involvement in Melbourne's community has continued through the subject 'Global' with visits to the Melbourne Blood Bank, the Lost Dogs Home, the Big Issue and city tours through the eyes of homeless youth.

There's a lot more in store for Year 9 as they take full advantage of the city's riches from their new home. In the words of so many Year 9 parents and visitors to the program, 'We wish we could have experienced Year 9 like this!'

A VINTAGE CELEBRATION

ELTHAM has operated Swipers Gully Wines since 2002 under the management of Jim Powell, ELTHAM's curator. Swipers Gully Wines processes about 10 tonnes of grapes per year from six grape varieties grown on five acres - quality rather than quantity the criterion.

The vines thrive in the rich black mud of the Merry Creek flats. In 2003, with the help of Andy Avar (then from Inglewood, Kangaroo Ground), we transplanted 300 mature Pinot vines to make way for the Hospitality Centre car park and access road. During this exercise, the watering system was often out of action. This, coupled with the effects of drought, meant that the vines were significantly distressed producing grapes with very high sugar content. The result was our 2003 Anniversary Vintage Red launched to mark the 30th Anniversary of ELTHAM College of Education. It is described in the tasting notes as '... an impressively deep impenetrable purple/red... with aromas of anise, liqueured fruit, vanilla bean and leather'.

During 2008, Swipers Gully Wines built its own winery equipped with state-of-the-art wine-making equipment. This is a significant step in the development and potential of the winery. It allows wine to be made to exceptionally high standards on the premises. A Premium Reserve Shiraz is being processed at Swipers Gully from the 2009 crop with the assistance of our winemaker, Stephen Bennett of Lovegroves. The wine will not be released for sale until 2011.

To stake your claim to what promises to be an extraordinary wine, purchase a case of the 2003 Anniversary Vintage Red at a give-away price

of \$132, usual price \$399. We will contact you in 2011 when the Premium Reserve Shiraz is released and give you the opportunity of being the first to order - no obligation.

An order form for the 2003 Anniversary Vintage Red is included with this copy of Connections and is printed on the back of the address sheet. Our wine is also sold by Swipers Gully Restaurant - ELTHAM's Hospitality Training Centre - and by a number of other local restaurants.



ELTHAM Curator, Jim Powell, with the new Swipers Gully wine bag press, stainless steel vats and de-stemmer



Swipers Gully 2003 Anniversary Vintage Red



REUNITING FRIENDSHIPS

Class of 1988 Reunion BBQ

On February 5, the ExECs Association hosted a reunion for the class of 2008 outside the senior school building in the sail yard. The atmosphere of this event was sombre, with many, no doubt, in a state of disbelief; thinking that we were on an extended holiday and that graduation was someone's idea of a joke. The event began with chatting and catching up on time past, while eating and drinking the food provided by ExECs.

After an hour of catching up we relocated to the auditorium to watch the 2008 Year 12 DVD to celebrate our years shared at ELTHAM College. The DVD inspires the idea of a community; select students from the 2008 class put it together for the entire year level to enjoy. This idea of a community is what students will remember most from their time at ELTHAM College, and I know that we will all be looking forward to the next class of 2008 reunion.

- Luke Rosa

Class of 1999 10 Year Reunion



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CLASS OF 1984

Kate Fielding

We live on 20 acres called Featherwood Vineyard. My husband is an archer and carpenter, we grow grapes and make award winning red wine. We are grandparents to Tatiannah with another baby on the way. Big Ben has naturally adopted the Barker family tradition in the carpentry trade and is a great dad. Beautiful Emily has followed in the footsteps of her paternal grandmother and is a qualified nurse - full of common sense, empathy and big dreams. After leaving a 15 year career in tertiary education, I found my calling in life in community development, counselling roles and in my role supporting children and families in Kinglake, recently made more challenging by the bushfires. My experience and skills in community arts, the healing arts, spiritual midwifery, groupwork and music give me a wealth of tools to use in my work and for my own personal growth. My latest passion is for both creative and community dance and in the coming year I intend to learn to play the violin or the banjo.

Caroline Ritchie (nee Carter)

After completing the Secretarial Diploma at EC, I went on to be a Personal Assistant in various roles, including working for the same manager for 8 years at Coles Myer Group, Crown Casino and Shell Australia. I have just celebrated 10 years with Shell, jobs including PA, Community Development Officer, and Communications Officer and have just been appointed Country Website Manager Australia/New Zealand. I lived in Lara for eight years and have now moved to Coldstream in the Yarra Valley. I have two gorgeous girls, Chloe 8 and Jessica 6. My partner Dean, the girls and I enjoy our family time swimming, playing outdoors, camping and off road racing.

Karen Izard

Since leaving ELTHAM College, I have gained an Honours degree in Archaeology, spent around nine years in the UK working as an Archaeologist specialising in identifying and analysing animal bone, found a husband, Paul, and

had a child, Alex, both things I swore I would never do! In 1998 we came back to Australia and lived in Melbourne for six months. Paul was promoted and transferred to Adelaide where we lived for three and half years during which I had my second child, Amy. Paul was then transferred to Perth, where we have now lived for just over six and half years. Alex is now in Year 9 and Amy in Year 5. I have been heavily involved with the local Primary school being P&C President, a member of the school council and one of the founding members of the Currumbine Joondalup Art and Craft Show. While I was Adelaide I began making greeting cards. I still make my own cards which I have been selling at the annual Art and Craft Shows.

Kate Tinkler

Left Melbourne in 1984 and moved to Sydney. Worked in Sydney for 10 years then moved to Cambridge, UK in 1994. Returned to Sydney after two years away, pregnant with first child (Zoe now 12) and had second child (Tom now 11) the following year. Moved to New York with the kids and Jeremy, my partner of 17 years, in 2002 and stayed for five wonderful years. We're now back in Sydney for the last year and very happy to be back in Australia. Life revolves around kids' sport and social lives, Jeremy's golf, our two dogs and a few days a week of work.

CLASS OF 1999

David Frazer

Since school I have worked on a number of events and toyed with the idea of being a farmer, but ended up working for Melbourne Theatre Company, then starting my own production company and small publishing business. About to head over to London to do a TV course with the BBC. Live in Carlton. Still love Paul Kelly. Still crap at sport!

Doug Hendrie

Since leaving school I studied Arts (Media & Communications) at Melbourne University. I was an editor of the student paper, Farrago, in 2003 and worked for The Reader magazine during my degree. I lived in Japan for most of 2005 after graduating, and began working as a local reporter covering Eltham and surrounding suburbs in 2006. After two years as a reporter and feature writer for the Heidelberg & Valley Weekly and other Fairfax

community papers, I left to start freelancing as a magazine writer and now work mainly for Sunday Life magazine. I teach writing as a tutor at Melbourne University.

Julian McCartney

I spent the first few years after ELTHAM juggling ever-changing ideas in study (from public relations to criminal justice), and work (ranging from chocolate-making to bar work and everything in between). In early 2005 I disappeared overseas for almost two years; travelling and working in Europe (mainly living on the Mediterranean), before moving on to the U.S. and Canada to live in the Rockies for a while. After returning to Melbourne I began an apprenticeship in Furniture Making, now specialising in traditionally hand-crafted reproduction and antique restoration in the workshop of Robert Brown, Toorak. I muck around with writing and music production in my spare time, and still see many old school mates on a regular basis.

Travis Mee

It has been a busy 10 years since leaving ELTHAM. I am now happily married to a beautiful woman, Danielle. We are the proud parents of one, Fergus. I am a retired football champion for the Turtles and my current career focus is to join the US PGA tour and win the US Masters. I am also an active Greenpeace member and an upcoming model for 'Picture' magazine. My current part-time employment is that of Fleet Presentation Manager for Mee's Bus Lines, (Bus Washer)!



Want to let other ExECs know how you are going? You can do this in a number of ways: 1. Log on to www.execs.org.au and leave a diary entry for other ExECs to view 2. Send us an email with a short biography to be published in the next edition of *Connections* or 3. Send us an email notification for the ExECs Announcements section on the website for Births, Deaths, Engagements and Marriages.

Classes of 1984 25 Year Reunion

Such a fabulous rainy reunion night with good food and wine and surrounding views. To see those faces again felt like appreciating special treasures from the past and part the person I am today. With fewer numbers this time, I found more opportunity to reconnect and rekindle friendships, reflect, make peace with the past and give thanks to those who made a difference.

The night ended reluctantly for many of us, as there was so much more to say and wine to drink. There were conversations about children and family, marriages, deaths, careers and money, past teachers, who still lived in the area, those of you that didn't come and where you were, the bushfires and how close some of us were to them, old friendships and rumours, the people we were then and are now. There were some pretty interesting updates in people's lives too, and so those of you who didn't come will have to come next time (in five years time) to find out what they were. I hope you will.

- Kate Fielding



Classes of 1978-79 30 Year Reunion

What a great night Saturday 13 June, 2009 turned out to be. We didn't have a venue as plush as Swipers Gully at the College in our day. Could have left the gumboots at home after all! Even for those of us who had been to previous reunions, it was tremendous to meet up again with peers we had not seen in a long while. A special thanks to those who came from interstate and to the many teachers who attended.

It was fantastic the way people moved around, chatting away and finding out what was the news about each other's lives. At the end of the night, many had availed themselves of the couches, but there were a few hardy souls left standing, telling tall stories that grew 'taller' by the glass. Thanks to ExECs for organising the event, and now we can look forward to our 35th reunion in 2014.

Check out the photos of the night at www.execs.org.au



XX CRICKET & FOOTY ELTHAM College & community bushfire charity event

On Friday 13 March 2009 ELTHAM College Cricket Club and Football Club together with ExECs joined forces to organise an event to help raise funds for those that were affected by the Black Saturday Bush Fires of February 7.

The main feature of the event was the Twenty20 Cricket Match played between an ELTHAM College side, represented by past students and members of the football and cricket clubs, and a Community side represented by celebrities and local sporting figures.

The Community Side battled first making 8/236. Leigh McTaggart made an impressive 76, David Love 46 and Victorian Bushrangers member Adam Crosthwaite made 30. John Wallace was the best of the bowlers taking 2/36 for the College side. In reply the College side fell just short, making a respectable 9/212. Jason Timos top scored with 46 and the Cricket Club

Captain Coach, Luke Kennell made 36. John Garrard 2/26 and Adam Crosthwaite 2/29 were the pick of the bowlers for the Community side in a thoroughly entertaining match.

Around the perimeter of the oval there was further entertainment to enjoy with live music from Simon Imrei, North Carolina and DJ Matt Ross, and a jumping castle for the kids along with refreshment tents. We also had a special visit from the Kangaroo Ground CFA and their fire truck!

Together with the support of the many sponsors that kindly donated to the cause, and everyone that attend the event, we were able to raise nearly \$10,000 - a fantastic effort by the ELTHAM College Community and one of which we should all be very proud.



IN MEMORIAM - 2009 BUSHFIRES

The ExECs Association, together with the ELTHAM College Community extends our heartfelt sympathies to those that have lost loved ones and their homes as a result of the devastating fires in February. Thank you to all the ExECs who have sent us information regarding other ExECs and their families. And thank you also to the many who have generously offered assistance in all manner of ways.

Our condolences are extended to the families of the following ELTHAM Community members who tragically lost their lives:

Eva Zann (class of 2000) and her parents Richard and Eileen Jon LeGassick (Class of 2009) and his parents Sue and Bob Dr Rob Pierce, father to Christopher (Class of 1990), Lucy (Class of 1991) and Tristan (Class of 2001)

Our best wishes and support extend also to the many families within the community that have lost their houses and who have been directly affected by these events.



Parents Supporting ELTHAM

Cover Image: Evelyn Dance



HOUSE MUSIC, WHAT A NIGHT!

Each year ELTHAM students from Year 5 through to Year 12 participate in one of the most anticipated events on the ELTHAM calendar: House Music represents a showcase of extraordinary talent across the dance, chorale, instrumental and chamber items. Students and staff give enormous time and commitment to produce a professional and entertaining evening in a very short period of time.

The student-led event promotes interaction between all year levels and provides a great opportunity to learn organisation, communication and management skills. Student leaders are responsible for music selection, choreography and orchestration, and spend countless hours making costumes and props, as well as running rehearsals.

This year House Music was, for the first time, streamed live over the Internet. This allowed family and friends around the world, who were unable to be at Hamer Hall on the night, to still enjoy the wonderful creative talents of our young people.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved, and to Evelyn House as the overall 2009 winner.

FRIENDS OF SWIMMING MAKE A SPLASH



ELTHAM has a new Friends of Group, Friends of Swimming. Known as EC Waves, the club had its official launch in March this year helped with sponsorship from Swimming Victoria and the State Government's Active Families Challenge. The club has grown from ELTHAM College's commitment to a strong sports program and is open to all swimmers in the local community, not just to ELTHAM College students.

We provide a professional learning environment for competitive swimming whilst maintaining an environment of fun and fitness, striving on confidence, spirit and determination to achieve to the best of our ability. Visit www.ecwaves.org.au for more information.



F.O.E. CANTER ON

Friends of Equestrian has been very busy over the past 12 months competing at various events including dressage, showjumping, eventing and showing. At ELTHAM College of Education we have between 20 and 30 riders who represent the school throughout the year. Some of the events are for individuals; however, most times the school competes as a team.

One of the major achievements for the past year was when our team won the Glenbrae Interschools Dressage Event, where each dressage score counted towards the overall winner on the day. During first term the Horse Studies group held the ECE Gymkhana where students competed in rider classes, showjumping and handy mount. It was a great day to get all the students together to meet each other and also gave the Horse Studies students a great opportunity to help run a horse event. Anyone interested in horse riding should contact the Friends of Equestrian at ELTHAM.

