



New \$2 million Prep Centre

Our social networking entrepreneurs

A challenge to the VCE

Laurimar community embraces ECK

Connections

December 2009

bringing together the ELTHAM College of Education community



College of Education



REDISCOVER YOUR SCHOOL

Each year more ExECS are coming back to ELTHAM – as parents! They're rediscovering everything they loved about ELTHAM and lots more that's new. If it's been a while since you visited us, please join an ELTHAM in Action School Tour to help you get to know your school again.

2010 TOUR DATES FOR ELC, JUNIOR YEARS, MIDDLE YEARS AND SENIOR YEARS

Term 1 Friday 12 February, Tuesday 23 February, Friday 12 March, Thursday 25 March **Term 2** Friday 23 April, Thursday 13 May, Friday 28 May, Thursday 17 June **Term 3** Friday 23 July, Thursday 5 August, Thursday 19 August, Friday 3 September **Term 4** Friday 15 October, Thursday 28 October, Friday 12 November, Tuesday 30 November.

For more info please visit www.elthamcollege.vic.edu.au



College of Education

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2010 COMMUNITY RELATIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ECCA Year 7 Welcome BBQ
Sunday 31 January
Research Campus

ECCA Prep Welcome Morning Tea
Monday 1 February
Professional Learning Centre

ECCA New Parents Cocktail Party
Friday 12 February
Swipers Gully Vineyard & Restaurant

ExECS Class of 2009 First Reunion
Friday 19 February
Swipers Gully Vineyard & Restaurant

ELYA Welcome Picnic: ELC-Year 4
Sunday 21 February
Eltham Lower Park

ExECS Class of 1985 25 Year Reunion
Saturday 13 March. Venue TBA

ExECS Business Breakfast
Wednesday 21 April
Melbourne Museum

Years 5-12 Information Night
Thursday 29 April, 7pm
Research Campus

ExECS Class of 2000 10 Year Reunion
Saturday 1 May
Swipers Gully Vineyard & Restaurant

ELC-Year 4 Open Day & Fair
Saturday 22 May
Research Campus

ExECS Class of 1980 30 Year Reunion
Saturday 19 June
Swipers Gully Vineyard & Restaurant

ExECS Class of 1995 15 Year Reunion
Saturday 14 August
Venue TBA

ELTHAM in Action College Tours Research Campus
See www.elthamcollege.vic.edu.au for 2010 tour dates

Café Series 2010: Conversations about Education
Check website for topics, dates and venues

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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Foundation
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Friends of White Water Canoeing
Jan Anderson President
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WE'RE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE A NEW \$2 MILLION PREP CENTRE FOR SMARTER LEARNING

ELTHAM's Master Plan journey has started in earnest with the announcement of a grant of \$2 million to ELTHAM by the Federal Government, awarded under the Building Education Revolution segment of its Stimulus Package. The grant will be used to extend the learning facilities in the Prep and Junior Years.

Application was made in July and the College was told of its success at the beginning of September. The design and tendering process of the two-story building is well underway. Construction is due to begin on 1 December 2009 with completion planned for late 2010.

The new Prep Centre will be located adjacent to the Junior Years facility with direct connection to the existing Prep House and Early Learning Centre. The ground floor design comprises a multi-purpose area, toilets, kitchen, store room and staff room. The upper level has two open learning areas, a stage, kitchen and rear and front decking. The existing Prep House will be refurbished and used as a Discovery Centre by students from ELC, Prep and the Junior Years.

The design accounts for welcome flexibility for teaching and growth and a seamless transition to the personalised learning approach of the Junior Years' neighbourhoods. At every stage, ELTHAM's long-held values of nurturing individuality and collaboration between student and staff are further enhanced.

The project is being undertaken by architectural firm Clarke Hopkins Clarke with whom ELTHAM has a long standing relationship as the original designers of the Research Campus under the leadership of Les Clarke, Founder of ELTHAM. The new facility will be geared to the demands of not only a modern schooling environment but

one that reflects ELTHAM's philosophy of breaking down barriers in education including creating a new vision for learning spaces.

Justin Littlefield, Board Director, ExECS President, College parent and leading architect with the project says, 'Good school design needs to meet the requirements of today, have the capability to adapt as needs change and the ability to rise to meet new challenges. Schools need to be places with possibilities and potential. They should be engaging, healthy and inspiring places that foster collaboration, creativity, independence, research and community.'

Chair of the Master Facility Planning Committee, College parent and Board Director, Michael Houlihan, expressed the Board's delight that this new facility commences the Master Plan rollout. He says, 'What's significant about this facility is that it has been designed to be centred on enhanced learning opportunities for young people. It reflects our philosophy right from the start of the student's learning journey.'

A number of Nillumbik Shire Councillors are working with the College to support the safe passage of other elements of the Master Plan through to the Minister for Planning.



The new Prep Centre will take shape in 2010, Justin Littlefield, Architect and ELTHAM Board Director (Top), and Michael Houlihan, Chair of the Master Facility Planning Committee and ELTHAM Board Director (Bottom).

TOTALSOCIAL A WINNER FOR SOCIAL NETWORKING ENTREPRENEURS

TotalSocial, the entry of Year 12 students, Daniel Sun and Jamie Phelan, won the programming category of the Monash University IT Challenge. Their winning entry in this internationally recognised competition was selected from a strong field of hundreds of entries received from secondary schools and TAFEs across Australia including many mature aged students completing higher qualifications.

Andrew Owen, Senior Marketer, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University and host of the IT Challenge described TotalSocial as a real stand out entry. He said, 'The judges were extremely impressed with the presentation and design of TotalSocial and it also drew the admiration of international competitors who study at specialised IT schools. TotalSocial has been designed with the same level of imagination and flair associated with interfaces such as Google and Facebook and we see enormous commercial possibilities for its application. We envisage a very bright future for Daniel and Jamie.'

Daniel and Jamie collaborated for many hours while they developed the program that allows users to simultaneously login to a number of social networking sites, such as Facebook, Myspace, Twitter and Youtube. Their proposal document read, 'The user only needs to remember one 'keychain' username and password combination; the application automatically logs them into the sites by means of accessing a centralised database system, and presents the different social-networking web applications in one unified interface'. Daniel and Jamie created TotalSocial using Visual Basic programming language.

'It was a lot of concentrated work and the results, I think, far exceeded the standard that was expected in the competition,' said Jamie.

Daniel and Jamie have already identified an impressive list of improvements and add-ons they want to make. Said Daniel, 'We want to enhance our program with better help documentation, more options tabs, cross platform chatting, support of more sites, improved security, multilingual support and animation.'

We look forward to hearing more about these intrepid entrepreneurs.



Year 12 ELTHAM students Daniel Sun and Jamie Phelan, winners of the Monash University IT Challenge Programming Award for their entry TotalSocial.

ALEX ADORNETTO DEMANDS A BETTER TEST

No stranger to writing, Alex Adornetto, an ELTHAM Year 12 student, recently had a full page article published in *The Age* (October 12, 2009). She tackled the thorny subject of ENTER scores with great courage and thoroughness.

Her article highlighted '...the narrowness and inflexibility...' of the VCE system. Alex argued her belief that the current system fails to reward the creativity, breadth of knowledge or the variety of skills, abilities and lateral thinking which students exhibit during their journey to their final schooling outcome, the ENTER score.

Her article generated a varied and vigorous response from readers. On *The Age's* web page, 'Forum: What Readers Say About the VCE - October 14', one reader said, 'As a Year 12 student, I am all too aware of the system of spoon feeding and regurgitation that is VCE. What's worse, this system is somehow supposed to prepare us for our tertiary studies. Frankly, it doesn't.maybe we should consider a system that teaches us how to think, not what to think?'

Some readers of Alex's article support the VCE system, but most only in part. Many agree that it has its flaws. The vital response to an article such as Alex's, is that it generates debate and through debate stimulates change. And perhaps that change is on the way. As another *The Age* Forum contributor said, 'Take for example RMIT, and the course that I am doing, Public Relations. The ENTER is not relevant, but to get into the course you must prove your knowledge of news and a current affairs and demonstrate (in a group interview) that you have the potential to develop the qualities of a good PR practitioner.'

In addition to this recent media attention, Alex already has a prodigious reputation as a writer. She wrote her first book, *The Shadow Thief*, at 13 years old, followed at 16 by the sequel *The Lampo Circus*. The trilogy, *Strangest Adventures*, was written for the 9 to 14 year old audience. She has recently completed *Halo* which is the first book in a series of teenage fiction books. Following her VCE exams she travelled to New York to meet with her publishers. In all 30,000 copies of her books have been sold.

Alex credits her move to ELTHAM at the start of this year with helping her to 'cope with the trials and tribulations of VCE.' She says, 'This is because meeting student needs is seen as paramount. The school prides itself on being student-centred, and this is not just a glib line in a glossy prospectus.'



Year 12 student, Alex Adornetto, challenged the VCE system with a hotly debated article published in *The Age*. Photo credit: Copyright C Bill Bachman & Associates

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

LAURIMAR COMMUNITY EMBRACES ECK

Three years after its establishment in Melbourne's northern residential growth corridor, ELTHAM College Kids Child Care and Kindergarten at Laurimar has experienced healthy growth in the last 12 months, now servicing the needs of over 190 families each week.

ELTHAM College Kids (ECK) is fast becoming an important aspect of the Laurimar community gaining wide acceptance as a high quality service provider, with a friendly, personal and professional culture, centred on the needs of families and their young children.

Its united team of caring, dedicated and expert childcare professionals is helping to grow ECK's reputation for offering engaging programs and experiences designed to honour each child's thoughts, feelings, ideas and abilities. The qualified team of child carers, assistants and kindergarten teacher encourages each child through the use of positive language. In an approach based on the

highly successful ELTHAM Early Learning Centre program children are engaged in self-reflection, revisiting and reinforcing their learning.

Community participation at the centre is evident with special events such as animal visits, guest speakers including the local police; fun days for dressing up and crazy hair, and lots of opportunities for parent and grandparent involvement in the program.

The ECK Laurimar centre, which was purpose built



with an appreciation for the natural environment with lots of natural light and fun interactive spaces, has also been embraced as a popular community venue. A recent market night fundraiser held at the centre featuring over 30 stallholders was widely attended by the local community who enjoyed some early Christmas shopping purchasing cosmetics, jewellery, handbags, home wares, candles, clothing and more.

Sommer Dempsey, ECK Director commented: 'We were delighted at the number of people who came along to our fundraiser: It was wonderful to see so many of our families supporting us but also to meet many more people living in the local area. We will look forward to holding another market night in 2010.'

The \$400 raised from the event will go towards the centre's sustainability project, helping to purchase items such as water tanks, worm farms, compost bins and to build a vegetable patch.



The police visit to ELTHAM College Kids at Laurimar caused much excitement and typifies involvement with the local community.

REUNITING FRIENDSHIPS

Class of 1994 15 Year Reunion

An intimate bar with great atmosphere was the venue for the Class of 1994 15 Year Reunion, one of the first held off campus. Great food, private bar service and big screen music meant Barr'd in East Ivanhoe was a setting for a get together where conversations drifted from school days to the goings on of the past five years. In some instances not much had changed, in others there were monumental differences. As the invitation suggested, 'A lot can happen in five years!' We hope to see many more of you at the next reunion (20 years) in 2014.



Class of 1989 20 Year Reunion

Arriving in the car park of Swipers Gully in the early evening of Saturday 24 October, I have to say was a little nervous. I hadn't seen anyone from school since our 10 year reunion and it may have been the full 20 years since I had last seen those that didn't make it that night.

However, all the nerves and apprehension were very quickly gone. It's amazing how easy it was to recognise people and how simple it was to fall into conversations about school days and to catch up on what everyone had been doing since; married or not married? Kids or no kids, and how old? Tattoos, what, where? The range of occupations included stay-at-home parents, hairdressers, manual laborers, business executives, teachers, scientists, and everything in between and beyond. Many still lived in the local area, and many more had moved elsewhere in Melbourne. However, it was especially great to see the number who travelled interstate just for the occasion. A highlight of the evening was perusing the class photos on display - perms and mullets - the 80s have a lot to answer for!

See you all (and more, I hope) again in five years.

Kylie Pilkington (nee Knuckey)



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CLASS OF 1994

Emma Fisher

I was married in 2004 and had our son, Theo, in 2007 and have been kept busy ever since! I have been working as a graphic designer part time whilst also lecturing at RMIT in Graphic Design.

Eliza Lester

I have been a chef since 1996, working in Australia and in the UK and France. Whilst overseas did a lot of travelling from 2001-2005. I set up my own business in Dec 2008 in catering and handmade products.

Liz Moore

Since 1994 I have survived a house extension and trekking in Peru (pregnant!), had a beautiful baby girl, been endorsed as a nursing practitioner, taken long service leave, completed a Master of Nursing at Melbourne University and published my research project!

Emma Reeves (nee Disney)

I currently work from home as a publicist and editor in order to look after my two daughters; Amelie (3) and Sophie (17 months). My husband and I have celebrated the milestone of our 10 year wedding anniversary earlier this year.

Class of 1999

Kirsten de Bomford

I spent five and half years studying Law/Economics, which is where I met my husband, Pat. Study was interspersed with a couple of

seasons working with ski schools in Vail and Whistler. I commenced articles with Corrs Chambers Westgarth and, after five years working as a lawyer and time spent on secondment with BP, headed to the UK. Worked at the BBC and had a contracting role with a toy company. Got engaged in the Dolomites, headed back to Australia, married in Thredbo and now we have two children - James (4) and Sophie (2). I am back at Corrs working with the management team on partner and strategic issues. Longevity of employer has its benefits - at Christmas time we will take long service leave to spend a couple of months in Italy.

Kammeron Cran

I've worked in the media and publishing industry since 1994 in brand marketing, new product development and strategy, including 3 years in London 2001-2004. I have a beautiful son Georg Louis (2) who is a very talkative and funny little character. Georg and I live with my partner and soul-mate, Andrew George (class of 1986), who is a landscape architect. I am currently group marketing and business development director with Leader Newspapers. Still interested in music, though mostly I'm listening to it rather than making it - wish there was more time!

Julia Fahey

20 years is a long time! But in a nutshell, I completed a degree at Melbourne Uni in Information Systems, got a job with Price

Waterhouse Coopers and learnt about SAP. I ended up in London for a few years on a finance solution and married Sean Collins. I then returned to Oz and joined IBM where I have racked up five years. I have two kids, Riley (5) and Madison (2) and am working with Sean to renovate a warehouse in West Melbourne into two townhouses. So busy, but happy and healthy.

Anna Morton (nee Marston)

I studied Vet Science at Melbourne Uni, and then did a PhD in Vet Microbiology after deciding Vet Practice wasn't for me, (getting married in the meantime!). I then got into English as a Second Language Teaching for a while, had a daughter, then went back to Microbiology and Herd Health teaching in the Bachelor of Equine studies at NMIT. Left there at the end of last year to return to ELS teaching and am now studying a Grad Cert. in Education (TESOL) part time at Deakin. I also sing with the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Choir, volunteer at Brunswick Neighbourhood House and practice Tai Chi.

Paul Stockley

I am currently working as a project manager for the Dept. of Human Services, focussing on capital works, IT and financial systems. I have been working for the department for nearly 13 years, starting out as a vacated tenants clerk. Prior to that I travelled, worked and studied around Australia. Civil Engineering and Business Studies at RMIT followed on from my time at EC.

Karen Donaldson

My studies post EC included B. App Sci (Human Movement) and Adv Dip Myotherapy at RMIT and a Masters of Physiotherapy at UOS in NSW. I married my husband, Matt Donaldson, in London 2002 and have a son, William (2). I have travelled and worked in UK and Europe as an exercise physiologist and in the USA as a snowboard instructor. I am currently working as a physiotherapist in private practice in Geelong and am enjoying life by the surf coast near Torquay.

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Want to let other ExECS know how you are going? You can do this in a number of ways: Send us an email with a short biography to be published in the next edition of Connections or on our website, or write on our facebook wall.

ELTHAM COLLEGIANS CRICKET CLUB CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

The ECC Club offers junior teams introductory Milo Cricket in two sessions (ages 5-8) and senior level cricket sides in the DVCA competition. It provides a great vehicle for current and former members of the school and local community to enjoy sport and stay connected socially. While we are a relatively small club, we have league batting and bowling champions, the best ovals around, and a great atmosphere for all ages. Our coaches and officials are committed to providing quality, personalised care to developing junior players. Senior teams this season even feature a Father-Son-Grandfather side! Captain Jamie Hardy reflects, "Since my junior playing days I always wanted to play with my dad, and finally being able to, and together with my son is extra special." Sharing a passion for cricket and competing together is certainly providing a great father-son bonding experience. New players of all ages are always welcome at the Club. If you have a passion for cricket and want to play with friends, then join the Collegians and play for your school's club! Visit the Sports Pavilion most Saturday afternoons, or call 9439 5855 or visit elthamcollegians.cricketaustralia.com.au.



ELTHAM Collegian Cricket Club Father-Son-Grandfather Team

THE ELTHAM COLLEGIANS AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB WANTS YOU!

The Eltham Collegians Amateur Football Club (ECAFC) invites you to join their club. The Turtles play in the Victoria Amateur Football Association (VAFA), the largest football league in Victoria where every one is playing for the jumper, love of the game and club, which is why it attracts such a high calibre of players.

ECAFC has a young and talented list of players who were promoted two divisions in two years. Following successive grand finals appearances, the club has now secured a foothold in the D2 competition and is ready to move to the next level. Our fine facilities comprise full gymnasium, indoor pool, first-class club rooms and one of the best AFL sized playing surfaces in the competition maintained by our own water supply. The club has a solid financial base and a strong passionate committee. The playing group consists of numerous past Eltham College Old Boys. The club captain,

much of its leadership group, and committee members, played footy for the College.

ECAFC is entering a new era, with the appointment of Kevin Brickley as Senior Coach. Kevin brings a wealth of experience to our club, having played at the VFL level and been involved in coaching for many years at both junior and senior levels. Most recently Kevin was a senior member of the coaching staff at Olinda-Ferny Creek who were Premiers in Division 2, beating Kinglake in front of 10,000 fans, including the Prime Minister. Kevin holds a level 2 coaching accreditation and has won all seven grand finals he has coached in.

If you are interested in hearing more about the club please feel free to contact Head Coach Kevin Brickley on 0433 382301 or Football Manager Clint Watson on 0403 034747.



Clockwise: Winner of the Best In Show award Silvi Glattauer pictured in front of her works. Artists Eric Mack and Faye Alexander Jenkins. MASTERWORKS committee member Linda Nicoll, Platinum Sponsor Ingrid Christon from Bendigo Bank and Susanne Detje. Susanne & Holger Detje, Gold Sponsor Shane Diamond and guests

MASTERWORKS in the Vineyard 2009 was held at Swipers Gully from 17 - 30 October. This invitational exhibition showcased the talents of extraordinary local and international contemporary artists working in a diverse range of media, including oils, watercolours, sculpture, ceramics, glass and jewellery.

The MASTERWORKS Judging Panel comprising Sigmund Jorgensen of Montsalvat, Delsha Rees, Curator Nillumbik Arts Acquisitions and Margot Tasca, ELTHAM Board Director, awarded the Best In Show prize to local artist, Silvi Glattauer.

The Gala Opening Night held on Saturday 17 October was a fabulous celebration of the artists and their work. Guests were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite 2D and 3D artworks. The winners of The People's Choice Award were Janet Ayliffe and Paul Barton, who will hold a joint exhibition at Swipers Gully in 2010. This exhibition will be sponsored by Hurstbridge & Diamond Creek Community Bank branches of Bendigo Bank, Platinum Sponsor of MASTERWORKS 2009. We extend our thanks to them, and all MASTERWORKS sponsors for their generous support, including Morrison Kleeman Estate Agents, the Diamond family, Ex-ELTHAM College Students Association (EXECS), Pattersons and AJC Printing.

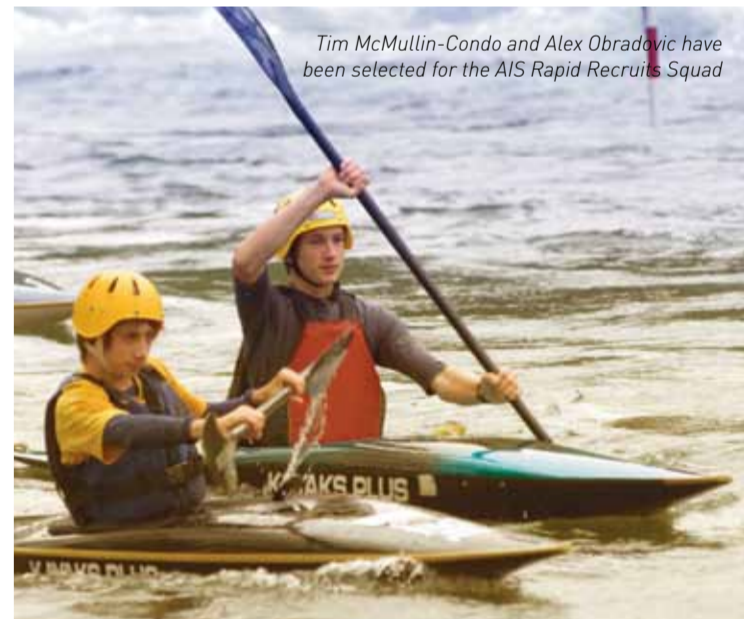
The growing reputation of this exceptional exhibition, organised by ECCA, is a true reflection of ELTHAM's steadfast commitment to the arts. All proceeds raised from sales will be used to advance the 'Greening ELTHAM' endeavours, a committed effort to increase the environmental sustainability of the College.

ELTHAM PADDLERS MAKE AIS TALENT SQUAD

ELTHAM has a team of students who have made the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) talent squad called Rapid Recruits, which is aiming to uncover the next wave of Olympic paddlers.

The paddlers involved are: Tim Lau, Tim McMullin-Condo, Simon Nuccio, Matt Owen, Freya Wrigley, and ex-student Alex Obradovic. Four of the successful students are direct graduates of ELTHAM's Middle Years program, which gave them a chance to try out paddling as a physical challenge.

The program is being run by ex-ELTHAM College student, and current Olympic paddler, Warwick Draper who is Australia's number one K1 paddler, and a driving force behind paddling in Victoria. The objective of the program is to open up kayaking to a larger group of young people and accelerate their progress, with the aim of getting a group of paddlers to national level, and hopefully onto Olympic level.



Tim McMullin-Condo and Alex Obradovic have been selected for the AIS Rapid Recruits Squad

FRIENDS OF SNOWSPORTS

What a year for ELTHAM Snow Sports! In late June we had a successful snow camp at Mt Hotham. The very enthusiastic group braved the very cold and often cloudy conditions during the day but the highlights were the opportunity to do some night skiing, waking up to see snow falling and the awesome snow ball fight. ELTHAM Sports Director Chris Dixon supported Friends of Snowsports Coordinator, Penny van Gelderen on the trip along with the students and parents who came along for the ride.

At the Victorian Interscholar Championship at Mt Buller in late August the ELTHAM Ski team did exceptionally well under very tough, cold and windy conditions including races being moved to different ski runs and ski lifts stopping due to strong winds. The ELTHAM spirit was seen first hand as our young people proudly represented their school through the various events of the week. Thank you to Paul Cifone for organising, and being the number one student supporter and to the Friends of Snow Sports committee, in particular, Colin Royle, Susan Royle and Ann Hart.



Sarah Royle placed 24th out of 105 in Skiercross, Division 2 Girls at the Victorian Interscholar Championship at Mt Buller in late August