

Lu Luceat





Front cover:
Some of the
Berwick Campus
Foundation staff.

Back cover:
Year 12 dance
scholar Ella
Morrison.

4 FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

5 TOP DESIGNS WINNER

Year 12 student Terry Prendergast has an ingenious solution to sorting LEGO.

6-7 BEACON EXPLORERS SPREAD THEIR WINGS

From Tasmania to France, our students are challenging themselves through the Beacon Explorers experiences.

8-9 READING CULTURE STAYS STRONG

Survey gives insights into the reading habits of Middle School students.

10 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Life has many 'seasons', says Revd Peggy Kruse.

11 STAFF PROFILE

Accomplished musician Max Storch is helping his students find their groove.

12-17 SINGING THE PRAISES

Berwick Campus founders honoured at the official opening of the new performing arts and human movement centres.

18 BOARDERS BUILD CONNECTIONS

From AFL games to a senior school social, our boarders are enjoying a host of activities across Melbourne.

19 GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Running clubs at each campus have a strong membership.

20 HANDS-ON SKILLS FOR LIFE

Middle School students are no strangers to power tools, thanks to a comprehensive technology program

22 ALUMNI REUNIONS

Class of 2018 alumni kick up their heels at their 5 Year Reunion.

23 LIFE MEMBERSHIP HONOUR

Long-serving headmaster Tony Sheumack was awarded life membership of Beaconhills College at the annual Governors Dinner.

24 TAYA PHILLIPS

Alum Taya Phillips has a rewarding career in event management.

25 FROM THE ARCHIVES AND ALUMI PONDERINGS

Don Laughton's band camp, plus a message from the Community Relations Co-ordinator.

26-27 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Alumni news.





Stephen McGinley
Executive Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already at this stage of the year.

It seemed only a short time ago that we were preparing for the start of the year, and helping our young people make the most of the opportunities available in a Beaconhills education.

2023 has proven to be a very exciting year, with our students once again heading overseas to visit our sister schools in France and Japan as well as attend programs in New Zealand and East Timor. It is wonderful that our students can once again experience these formative opportunities that help them see their place within the broader global community. This year has also seen students from overseas return to Beaconhills, with new students in our Residence Program as well as much-anticipated visits from our sister schools in Japan and France.

We have also officially opened our incredible Tony Sheumack Centre for Performing Arts and the Jenny Williams Centre for Human Movement. It was a great opportunity to not only celebrate 20 years of our Berwick Campus but also reflect on the exciting future these buildings represent. After 24 years of dedicated service to our College, Tony Sheumack

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS ON WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU BRING TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY.

has been awarded a life membership of the College, a fitting recognition of his tireless dedication to Beaconhills.

Congratulations to all our students on who you are and what you bring to our learning community. This publication is a celebration of all you do and how important you are to the College. **x**



VOX POP

What was the
highlight of your
final year in Junior
School?

My pen licence and
making new friends
were my highlights.

Shanouk,
Year 4

TOP DESIGNS WINNER

This year, the exhibition showcased the works of **69** students who were selected by panels of educators in various study areas, from Media to Theatre Studies, and Systems Engineering.

LEGO lovers everywhere will be impressed with Year 12 student Terry Prendergast's ingenious solution to sorting out all those coloured bricks.

Terry's LEGO sorter was chosen as one of the state's Top Designs and went on display as part of an exhibition at the Melbourne Museum until 9 July.

Terry designed his project in his VCE Units 3 & 4 Systems Engineering class last year. The project uses a colour sensor and stepper motor to separate the individual pieces by colour, then sorts the sizes by mechanically driving the pieces over different sized holes.

He said the sorter could also autonomously align all the bricks and separate the results into 16 different bins.

Top Designs is part of the VCE Season of Excellence. It showcases a selection of high-scoring VCE projects across nine product, visual, and audio design units. **x**

TERRY'S LEGO SORTER WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE STATE'S TOP DESIGNS.



BEACON EXPLORERS SPREAD THEIR WINGS

Beacon Explorers

programs are off to a flying start for 2023, with international travel back on the agenda.

The College's extensive global and outdoor programs have been boosted this year with some exciting new domestic and international experiences for students.

Victoria's High Country

Year 10 students from both campuses have already completed an outdoor program hiking through the spectacular trails of Bogong, Victoria's highest peak, and Mt Feathertop in Victoria's High Country. Year 10s were also able to choose from a new domestic program to Tasmania that started in late June, with an emphasis on the ancient cultures of lutruwita (Tasmania), travelling across the state's Central Highlands and West Coast.

New Zealand

With the return of international travel post-pandemic, **Year 10s** also headed across the ditch in term 1 to explore New Zealand's South Island in a program closely aligned to the Senior School Geography curriculum. Activities included a 35km hike of the Greenstone Caples Track and a cruise along Milford Sound.

Pakenham students like Aarush and Ryan were captivated by the views, waterfalls and snow-capped mountains.

Ryan described the hiking days as the most memorable and said he loved the "amazing feeling of being completely protected sitting in a valley surrounded by massive mountains."

Reid said: "We learnt a lot about the Indigenous people of New Zealand (the Maori), and a lot about climate change. It showed



“I ENJOYED ATTENDING SCHOOL LIKE I’M A FRENCH STUDENT.”

ASHLEIGH HALL, PAKENHAM CAMPUS FRENCH CAPTAIN

me just how bad climate change is getting and that we need to find a solution soon,” said Reid.

Other students formed new friendships. Tushar from the Berwick Campus said: “My most memorable moments were having chats with the people in my camp group who I normally never talked to at school, and it helped me realise how much fun it is to talk to those people.”

France

Six students from Pakenham and 14 from Berwick flew to France in March to take part in the first language exchange of the year for the French department, with Japanese programs scheduled for later in the year.

Students spent two weeks with host families in Laval, attending school and living life as a French student. The

trip also took in visits to local castles, culture sites as well as the Eiffel Tower, Versailles and Disneyland Paris.

Pakenham Campus French Captain Ashleigh Hall said it was an unforgettable experience to fully immerse herself in French culture and practise French outside of the classroom.

“I enjoyed attending school like I’m a French student, providing an authentic experience I could not get anywhere else,” she said.

The Beacon Explorers programs start in Little Beacons with a short overnight camp (with parents), building to an extended day in Prep, through to longer and more challenging experiences in each year level. **x**



READING CULTURE STAYS STRONG

A library survey of all Years 7 and 8 students across both campuses has revealed some interesting insights into the reading habits of Middle School students.

Reading remains a popular pastime across year levels, with 70 per cent or more of students reporting they 'enjoyed' reading a book.

Interestingly, physical books were still the overwhelming top preference for media type, followed by audiobooks, eBooks, graphic novels and manga in roughly equal measures.

Students also relied heavily on friends for their reading recommendations, but the results also showed the significant role of teacher/librarians in helping choose books. About 20 per cent of students said they would ask librarians for help in achieving their reading goals, while BookTok and Instagram were also popular references.

BookTok is a subcommunity of the popular app TikTok and focuses on discussions about books and literature.

Fantasy genres, in particular dystopian novels, were popular with this age group, a finding that did not surprise the heads of library Carmel Byrne and Michelle Gummer.

Ms Byrne, Head of Library at Berwick Campus, said the growing popularity of dystopian text – particularly in Year 8 – is a trend library staff had noticed over recent years.

"In Young Adult (YA) dystopian text, you have teenagers with agency addressing some of the big issues such as climate change and inclusiveness so they feel empowered," she said.

Students who enjoyed reading tended to enjoy reading physical texts, but Ms Byrne said, similar to adults, students enjoyed the flexibility of multitasking eg washing the dishes when listening to an audiobook.

Pakenham Campus Head of Library, Michelle Gummer, agreed: "Many students reported that they read a variety of different media types and didn't just enjoy one type."

FANTASY GENRES, IN PARTICULAR DYSTOPIAN NOVELS, WERE POPULAR WITH YEARS 7 AND 8 STUDENTS.



VOX POP

What have you enjoyed about studying Japanese?

I would highly recommend this subject as it can help students build great perseverance and resilience towards their work ethic.

Molleigh Lewis,
Year 12 graduate

FEATURE

PHYSICAL BOOKS
WERE STILL THE
OVERWHELMING
TOP PREFERENCE
FOR MEDIA TYPE.

enjoyed
reading a
book. **70%**

She added that it was also interesting to note the continued growth in popularity of graphic novels and manga.

"This trend will definitely continue into the future as many students prefer the mix of text and visual content."

Ms Gummer said new authors of YA fantasy incorporated diverse characters and situations into their books that were relatable to that audience.

Both teachers said they were pleased that students trusted teachers and librarians to recommend books, as well as their friends' recommendations. x

Years 7 and 8 reading survey results

Figures are total number of students from two campuses combined.



YEARS 7

About how many books did you read last year?

0 books	4
1-2 books	27
3-5 books	50
6-10 books	49
11-12 books	31
13-25 books	42
25+ books	36

YEARS 8

About how many books did you read last year?

0 books	0
1-2 books	26
3-5 books	70
6-10 books	50
11-12 books	28
13-25 books	24



YEARS 7

How do you prefer to read?
(could choose multiple answers)

Physical books	176
Graphic novels/manga	65
eBooks	63
Audiobooks	64

YEARS 8

How do you prefer to read?
(could choose multiple answers)

Physical books	166
Graphic novels/manga	63
eBooks	58
Audiobooks	56



YEARS 7

What will you do to help achieve your goals?

Ask parent for recommendation	64
Ask a teacher/librarian for recommendation	73
Ask a friend for recommendation	141
BookTok/Instagram	57

YEARS 8

What will you do to help achieve your goals?

Ask parent for recommendation	44
Ask a teacher/librarian for recommendation	59
Ask a friend for recommendation	132
BookTok/Instagram	55



LIFE HAS MANY SEASONS

One of the most wonderful things about living in Melbourne is the changing of the seasons.

Autumn is a beautiful time of the year with vibrant colours and falling leaves, and the refreshing chill that greets us in the early morning at dawn and again as the sun is setting.

Winter in Melbourne brings the opportunities for soups, casseroles, reading a book by the wood fire and shorter days. Summer and spring offer warmer and brighter days in which we can spend enjoying the outdoors and the comfort of the sun on our faces.

Life, too, as many of you would know and have experienced – has its seasons. We are certainly not bored as human beings with the myriad of emotions, situations, accidents, suffering and celebrations that can come in a lifetime.

Nothing expresses this more beautifully than Ecclesiastes 3. I encourage you to use this as a meditation today as you read it.

EVERYTHING HAS ITS TIME

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Make sure to honour the season of life that you are in now. x



STAFF PROFILE

MAX SLORACH

Accomplished musician Max Slorach joined Beaconhills in early 2022. He teaches saxophone and clarinet and has worked with some big names in the industry.

WHERE DO YOU TEACH?

I teach at the Berwick Campus. I'm very involved in the Year 5 Band Program all day on Tuesday, then on Wednesday I have my private students who range from Years 4-9. I've also started a contemporary ensemble which has been so much fun to watch grow.

MUSICAL BACKGROUND?

I grew up on the Gold Coast and moved down to Melbourne to study saxophone at the Victorian College of Arts straight after high school. I spent quite a few years involved in the Melbourne jazz scene and community before shifting toward pop music production, song-writing and live shows. I regularly play sax, guitar and keyboards. I've been lucky enough to have some really great opportunities to work with amazing artists on their projects. I produced an EP for a finalist of last year's season of *The Voice*,

played festival mainstages/sold out shows with artists such as Kingswood, Kyle Lionhart, Yorke and Dylan Joel to name a few! I perform very regularly at events and weddings on a variety of instruments which is the bulk of my work throughout the year. It has been great to see how much the events industry is bouncing back after a pretty brutal couple years through COVID.

WHO ARE YOUR MUSICAL INFLUENCES?

I never really grew up in a musical family, but always felt like my grandparents were part of the reason I got so into it. My family have always been extremely supportive of what I do which I'm very grateful for. Musically, my biggest influences were Stevie Wonder and John Mayer, but I've been influenced by a tonne of other artists, teachers and friends.

WHAT ARE THE SATISFYING MOMENTS IN TEACHING STUDENTS AN INSTRUMENT LIKE THE SAXOPHONE?

For me it's watching their curiosity about music grow and exploring artists/instrumentalists they haven't listened to before and learning from them. There are so many tough moments learning the saxophone, but I love being able to chat with my students about those struggles and how to overcome them.

HOW DOES BEING A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN ENRICH YOU AS A TEACHER?

I think the real-world experience of playing shows/gigs every week really keeps me from being locked into 'one way' of teaching music. I get to play with some really successful artists/musicians and it's refreshing to sometimes hear how little tuition they received yet still are incredible at what they do. I think that's why I try to instil a love and curiosity about music rather than

drill my students about theory and scales. If the love and curiosity drives them, that's what will last and constantly expand and improve their musical skill and intuition. That being said, I absolutely love getting into music theory concepts with my students and can be a bit of a music nerd when I want to be! x



**SINGING
THE PRAISES**





NEW CENTRES OFFICIALLY OPENED

The Berwick Campus has celebrated the official opening of the new Tony Sheumack Centre for Performing Arts and the Jenny Williams Centre for Human Movement.

The centres were officially opened on Wednesday 29 March in a ceremony attended by the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier and members of the College community, along with the College Board, State Government and key stakeholder representatives.

Guests were treated to orchestra, vocal and dance performances, as well as a haunting didgeridoo solo performed by teacher Joshua Long.

The complex features a range of contemporary spaces, including an acoustically designed auditorium with 637 tiered seats, motorised orchestra pit and 22m high fly tower. There are also dance and yoga studios, a black box studio, music rooms and gallery/exhibition areas with foyers for meetings and displays.

The Jenny Williams Centre for Human Movement has double courts, a spin room, weights and wellbeing rooms, changerooms and a kitchenette.

Board Chair Dr David Moseley said the two centres were “a fitting tribute to the hard work and vision” of former Headmaster Tony Sheumack and founding Berwick Campus Principal Jenny Williams.

He said both magnificent new facilities were the only two buildings occupied regularly by every student on the campus – and now also available for wider community use.

In their speeches, both Tony and Jenny paid tribute to the founding parents, students and staff whose commitment had contributed to the success of the campus and the College as a leading light in education. They said it was testament to the proverb that “it takes a village to raise a child”.

Business Manager David Young said the deconstruction of the old performing arts centre to make way for the project was done in an environmentally-sustainably way, with 98 per cent of the building waste successfully recycled.

The opening of the new facility this year comes as the Berwick Campus celebrates its 20th Anniversary. **x**



Community
pays tribute
to Berwick
Campus
founders



CENTRE NAMESAKES HONoured

During the opening ceremony, Berwick Campus Principal Sam Watson gave his insights into why the new facilities were named after “two incredible servants of Beaconhills College”. Here is an excerpt from his speech:

JENNY WILLIAMS

Late in 2001 Jenny was asked by the College to take the lead in the planning and development of a second campus, which in turn would be known as the Village Campus.

Jenny has a deep connection to the College's Sport Program, and it seems only appropriate that we would name our human movement facilities in her honour. Jenny was a talented athlete in her own right, and to this day continues to bring her coaching prowess to the SEISA sports competition - of which she was one of

the founding principals and chairs. Jenny is an avid sports fan, regularly attending the MCG to support her mighty Hawks.

Jenny's incredible capacity to set high expectations and to inspire those in her care would allow her to build a strong campus and even stronger community over the 18 years that she would lead as Campus Principal. Jenny's influence can still be felt today as she continues to support and mentor new staff and pre-service teachers at Beaconhills.

TONY SHEUMACK

From the moment Tony started at Beaconhills College (in 1997) he has worked hard to lead a community-focused school with a worldly outlook.

Tony oversaw the continued growth of the Pakenham Campus, had the vision and the foresight to develop the Berwick Campus and then complemented each campus with their own early learning centre.

However, it is far more than facilities that allow a student to access a world class education. Tony travelled the world to discover best practice and introduced concepts such as middle schooling structures and the *Learning That Matters* framework. Tony understood that learning for Beaconhills students was far more than a prescribed curriculum and ATARs. It was about educating students about the world, our Christian faith, the environment, service, culture, learning mindset, wellbeing, Indigenous culture and nurturing confident contributors to the community.

Tony always spoke about providing a range of opportunities for our students. His hope was that this would allow our students to find their passion, become connected to school and engage in their learning. I feel it is fitting that Tony and his family's name will forever be associated with this building. x



Berwick Campus
foundation staff share
their thoughts on the
new centres.

STAFF REFLECTIONS

Jacki Turpin

*Junior School College
Services Administrator*

I am extremely excited about the opening of both centres, as it is a sign of how far our College has come - from our humble beginnings with minimal buildings to the amazing campus we showcase today. I feel extremely proud as a staff member of the College to be able to show off these two outstanding venues to our wider College community.

Clare Polglase

*Head of Faculty -
English and Literacy
- Middle School*

The new centres are incredible additions to our College and it's hard to believe how far we've come. They will further enhance our academic, creative and sporting talents, further enriching students' experiences.

Matt Newman

Head of Junior School

The two new facilities are in an incredible addition to the Berwick Campus. They give both the students and staff access to state-of-the-art facilities and provide a learning environment for both performing arts and human movement, where the possibilities are endless. They will allow the students to experience ways of learning that were not previously possible.

Jenny Williams

*Leadership Support
Co-ordinator and
Berwick Campus
founding principal*

The two new centres are outstanding and are a credit to all involved in bringing them to fruition. They provide Beaconhills students and the wider community with state-of-the-art, modern and functional facilities.

The overall benefits for all participants is an environment that enhances creativity, imagination, teamwork, confidence, positive physical and mental health outcomes and commitment. They promote valuable social connections and opportunities to grow and develop.

Peggy Kruse

*Senior Chaplain -
Pakenham Campus*

The two new centres will help create community by bringing people together and offering a haven in which to worship, perform, celebrate, honour, exercise and enjoy. Two very special people and their enormous contribution to our College will long be remembered in the 'life' of these two structures. x



HIGH TECH SPIN ROOM



The high tech spin room in the new human movement centre features some of the latest technology and with 26 spin bikes, it caters for an entire class.

The bikes are ic5 ICGs by Life Fitness and each has a digital display that is paired with the front lead bike via Bluetooth. The display uses a concept called Coach By Color – the colour indicating the training intensity of the rider.

The lead bike system, called Myride+live coaching, can

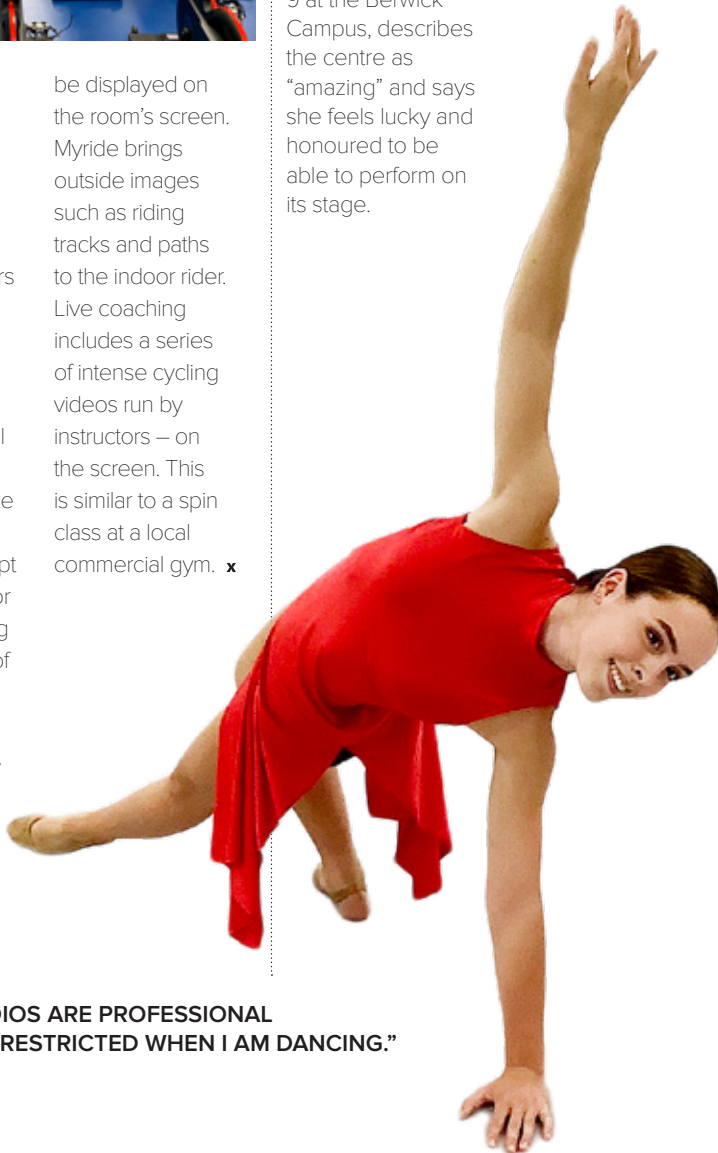
be displayed on the room's screen. Myride brings outside images such as riding tracks and paths to the indoor rider. Live coaching includes a series of intense cycling videos run by instructors – on the screen. This is similar to a spin class at a local commercial gym. x

DANCERS REVEL IN NEW SPACE

For dancers like **Indi Kemp**, the studios and performance spaces in the new Tony Sheumack centre get a big thumbs up.

Indi, who is a dance scholar in Year 9 at the Berwick Campus, describes the centre as “amazing” and says she feels lucky and honoured to be able to perform on its stage.

“The dance studios are professional and I don't feel restricted when I am dancing,” she said. “The ballet barres are great for warming up and stretching. I am so lucky!” x



“THE DANCE STUDIOS ARE PROFESSIONAL AND I DON'T FEEL RESTRICTED WHEN I AM DANCING.”

LIGHT, SOUND AND VISION

FEATURE



One of the impressive technical features of the Tony Sheumack Centre for Performing Arts is the professional standard orchestra pit.

The front section of the stage is on a hydraulic system which lowers to create the large orchestra pit space. This is used by musicians to play live with an entire cast without the need to play backstage out of sight.

The centre's Technical Operations Co-ordinator, **Ben Carroll**, said the 22m high fly tower was another feature of the state-of-the-art performance space. It enables the operator to ‘fly’ set pieces in and out of stage.

“The fly tower currently has four lines for lights and technical equipment (eg speakers and microphones) and four bars for flying scenery pieces in and out,” Mr Carroll said.

He said audio features included two front-of-house line arrays and suitable delay speakers so the entire audience receives consistent sound quality.

And of course the auditorium space comfortably seats 637 in tiered seating. x

BOARDING

BOARDERS BUILD CONNECTIONS

An AFL game was on the list of weekend activities for Beacons Hills boarders.



Students in the Beacons Hills College Boarding Program are enjoying exploring Melbourne and connecting with boarders from other schools this year

Students loved the chance to attend an Australian Football League (AFL) match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in May between Richmond and the West Coast Eagles, rugging-up in Richmond scarves to support their team.

Head of Boarding, **Joel Blashki** is also building relationships with other boarding schools around Melbourne to find future

opportunities for collaboration. The boarders this year have attended a senior school social with students from Presbyterian Ladies College and an excursion to Wesley College for a 'boarding is back' event, where they rode mechanical bulls and played bubble soccer and table tennis.

The College has two boarding houses next to the Pakenham Campus and now welcomes local, along with international students, to boarding.

Mr Blashki said one of the unique benefits of Beacons Hills

boarding is that only two students share a room. Each room has an ensuite too, rather than just one common bathroom.

Boarders enjoy a wide range of fresh, healthy food, with an in-house cook preparing meals each night, and breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea also provided.

While some activities and study times are more structured, Mr Blashki said students are also encouraged to suggest ideas around their own interests.

"Overall, it's a pretty energetic and positive place," he said.

Boarding student **Colin Yeung**, from Hong Kong, said he liked getting up each day and cooking breakfast with his roommates and friends.

"Playing football (soccer) with them on Thursdays and Sundays is also one of the great things in the boarding house," he said.

For boarding enquiries email enrol@beacons.hills.vic.edu.au x

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

FEATURE

Twice a week, students turn up at each campus for an early morning run.

Twice a week, bright and early at 7.30am, up to 20 students turn up at each campus for a morning run before school with sport department staff.

The Running Club has been a popular co-curricular activity for many years for students in Years 5-12. Students love it because they not only use it to get fit or train for cross-country events, but it's also a great way to meet new friends.

Pakenham Campus Deputy Head of Sport **Peter Ashmore** has been involved in the club since 2006 and said they meet Tuesday and Friday mornings all year round. The students take a variety of routes, running for about an hour either across to the lake at Pakenham, along Brown or Henry roads, or up 'Mt Pakenham' (the small hill to the east of the College).

At Berwick Campus, Head of Sport **Chris Johnson** leads his group of students on Monday and Wednesday mornings for runs around the campus 'Tan' – a track at the back of Little Beacons and the ovals. In bad weather he makes use of the new fleet of exercise bikes in the Human Movement Centre for a spin class.

Pakenham students **Calen** and **Ryder** said they enjoyed the club because it was good for fitness and cross-country training, while **Dan** said it "gets me up early, keeps me active and I get to do it with friends."

Former Beaconhills student **Natalie Templar** was a keen participant in the running clubs from Year 2 at the Berwick Campus right through until she graduated from the Pakenham Campus in 2014.

The Pakenham Campus Running Club even has one of its popular runs named in her honour, which she was delighted to learn when contacted for this story. The NTR (Nat Templar Run) route is from the College, across the highway bridge to Lakeside at Pakenham and back.

Ms Templar, who now works as a prosthetist, was a talented all-rounder at sports during her College years and particularly loved the team sports such as running and swimming.

"Running Club was a very good outlet for me. It taught me skills that I still use in life, like how to strive for a little bit more," she said.

"I still run with friends now and completed my first half marathon last year." x



"I STILL RUN WITH FRIENDS NOW AND COMPLETED MY FIRST HALF MARATHON LAST YEAR."

HANDS-ON SKILLS FOR LIFE

Beaconhills College's technology department is a thriving hub of activity. On any given day you will find students busy designing robots, using power tools, tinkering with circuit boards or painting furniture.

Technology in the Middle School (Years 5-8) is a semester-based program Food Studies, Product Design and Technology (Resistant Materials), Product Design and Technology (Textiles) and Systems Engineering.

The huge College workshops house an expansive range of industry-standard equipment, from wood lathes to pedestal drills and portable sanders. It's an exciting space for students keen to explore some hands-on product design skills, gain knowledge of basic electronics and materials, and improve their health and safety awareness.

In the fields of product design and systems engineering, students from Year 5 begin with robot design and programming, then progress to making marionette puppets in Year 6, clocks and remote-controlled cars in Year 7, and toys and storage units in Year 8. Students also complete alternating semesters in Textiles or Food Studies each year through Middle School.



Technology teacher **Anthony Greaves** has been with the College for 30 years and believes technology subjects impart valuable life-long skills.

All students get a chance to safely learn the use of scroll saws, sanders, pedestal drills and even wood lathes. In his Year 8 Product Design class, girls were busy this semester designing and building storage units and toys.

"It's an important skill because we go through the design process and it's a problem-solving process," he said. "We start with a design 'problem' and work through the design principles to find a solution."

Ayen in Year 8 designed and built a storage box in her

Product Design class which she said she would use at home once it was finished.

"I really like the class because we get to make what we like," she said. x

"IT'S AN IMPORTANT SKILL BECAUSE WE GO THROUGH THE DESIGN PROCESS AND IT'S A PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESS."

HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

ALUMNI



VOX POP

What do you want
to be when you
grow up?

A policeman,
because I want to
protect the world.

Jiayang,
Prep



5 YEAR REUNION



Upcoming reunions

1 Year Out, Class of 2022
Friday 13 October

10 Year, Class of 2013
Friday 10 November



LIFE MEMBERSHIP HONOUR

FEATURE

Long-serving headmaster Tony Sheumack was awarded life membership of Beaconhills College at the annual Governors Dinner held at the Pakenham Campus on Friday 31 March.

The annual event celebrates the service of current and past College Board directors, who volunteer their expertise in the governance of the school.

Tony will become the 23rd name to be added to the list of Beaconhills College life members.

In announcing the award, Board Chair Dr David Moseley told guests that while Tony had finished in his headmaster's role at the end of 2021, it was wonderful to see one of last projects – the Tony Sheumack Centre for Performing Arts – officially opened this year.

“Tony’s vision led directly to the development of the Berwick Campus, the College International Program, significant environmental and sustainability initiatives, and the impressive *Learning That Matters* framework that has been such a successful driver of high-quality education and development for our students,” Dr Moseley said.

“Tony is an outstanding leader and he built an impressive leadership team and staff, that has continued to flourish, a real testament to Tony’s legacy.”

He said Tony shared his wisdom freely and humbly with others and was a “most-fitting” life member.

Under the *College Constitution* adopted in 2019, the College Board can appoint life members in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the advancement of wellbeing of the College.

One of the key criteria is that candidates should have contributed to the continued development and growth of the school and provided leadership and wisdom to College decision-making.

Tony Sheumack served as Beaconhills College Headmaster for 24 years. **x**



TAYA PHILLIPS

MANAGER, INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT, AQUATICS & RECREATION VICTORIA

Taya Phillips
(Class of 2010)
has launched
into a rewarding
career in event
management.

For Beaconhills alum Taya Phillips, the seed of an idea of a career in event management was first planted in her Year 12 careers class at the Pakenham Campus.

Her organisational skills and attention to detail certainly made her a good fit for what has now become a successful and rewarding occupation.

As Manager, Industry Engagement at Aquatics & Recreation Victoria (ARV), Taya's job is interesting and varied, with a vast number of events, experiences and leadership opportunities. She sees the future of the sector as pivotal to keeping Victorians active and healthy.

Taya joined Beaconhills in Prep. Later, as a dance scholar, she spent many hours in the performing arts facilities rehearsing for concerts, shows and performances. Dance, Drama and Music were her favourite subjects and over the 13 years, she was part of every College production and enjoyed teaching

dance to Junior School students at lunchtimes.

After graduating, she completed an event management course at William Angliss Institute, then joined an internship and placement at Walt Disney World, USA, where she was trained in event management and guest experience.

"My experience working at Disney and attending Disney University was the catalyst for my growth and involvement in the event management sector," she said.

After a year at Disney, she returned to Australia to work as an event co-ordinator with ARV, moving to a role at Cricket Australia working on special events and hospitality engagement for the Australian Cricket team. She later returned to ARV to expand her industry knowledge and networks.

Taya is now responsible for all industry events including the iconic gala awards evenings, industry

conferences, sponsorship portfolios and professional development programs. Her key role also services and supports development of ARV members, sponsors, networking committees and facilitates connections and partnerships between ARV and industry stakeholders.

She believes Beaconhills teachers, the College culture and educational opportunities allowed her to thrive into a career which she thoroughly enjoys today.

"I am forever grateful for the opportunities and skills developed through Beaconhills and have fond memories of all of my teachers across the 13 years." ✕



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FROM THE ARCHIVES

ALUMNI PONDERINGS

GENERATIONS IN JAZZ FESTIVAL – 2008

Founder of the College band and instrumental programs at both campuses, **Don Laughton** was always seeking opportunities for band members to perform publicly – from Alice Springs and Tasmania to this event, the Generations In Jazz festival at Mt Gambier. **Jessica Williams (nee Berton)** from the Class of 2008, remembers it well. Jessica is pictured centre, just to the right of Don.

“As with any multicampus event, competitiveness ran high. However, while playing in our first ever combined campus jazz band, music bridged the boundaries like nothing else can.

Under the expert guidance of the legendary Don Laughton, the Berwick and Pakenham jazz bands came together to rehearse and prepare for the multi-day trip to Generations In Jazz. Colloquially known as GIJ, the annual festival brings young musicians from all over Australia and New Zealand to compete, perform and learn from some of the best jazz musicians in the world. Nerves were high as we performed our set for the adjudicators, but we played well. Being the first year to attend, there was no pressure to win, but to learn and grow from the experience. Outside of rehearsing and performing we explored the festival and all it had to offer. No matter what age, or which campus we were from, the general consensus happened to be it was just awesome to be out of class!

During the final evening we enjoyed performances from the top bands as well as renowned jazz trumpet player, James Morrison, who delighted the audience with his typical showmanship. Thanks go to Don and supporting staff members who made it all possible.” x



Last year saw the distribution of our first benchmarking survey to the alumni community and it has been enlightening to read the variety of responses that we received. We really are very grateful to you for all the feedback and want to incorporate as many of the viewpoints expressed within our future thinking as possible.

To this end, I'm thrilled that follow up activities have generated several active volunteers who want to become a part of a focus group panel to help steer our initiatives. Within the survey results, two areas emerged resoundingly as areas of genuine interest: mentoring and networking. However, these words are, in themselves, vague and imprecise, clearly needing a focus and a precise direction – hence the need for the focus group to put flesh on the bones of these skeletal ideas. Our aim is that, via consultation and collaboration, we find ways to support each of you and allow you to find

ways in which being a part of the alumni community of Beacons Hills could enrich your lives – professionally and personally.

The reunion events of 2023 kicked off in style with the Class of 2018 sharing anecdotes of their relatively brief time away from the College. Later in the year, we look forward to catching up with the Class of 2013, 10 years down the track, and checking in with last year's Class of 2022, to see how their early months have treated them.

As ever, if you have ideas and proposals that you would like to share, email me on alumni@beacons.hills.vic.edu.au x

Alan James
Community Relations
Co-ordinator



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1. Carla D'Angelo

Carla D'Angelo (Class of 2014, Berwick Campus) has certainly found her feet in the finance sector. After graduating from Beaconhills, she went on to complete a Bachelor of Commerce, Accounting and Finance at ACU. Carla is now Senior Associate, Deal Structuring & Execution, National Australia Bank. **x**



2. Griffin Kempster and Alexandra Blackman

Former Pakenham Campus Japanese captains Griffin Kempster (Class of 2019, pictured left) and Alexandra Blackman (Class of 2018) now have something new in common. They are both working together on the same orthopaedic ward at Knox Private Hospital as Graduate Registered Nurses. **x**



3. Meg Bayley and Rachel Carroll

Meg Bayley (Berwick Campus, pictured left) and Rachel Carroll (Pakenham Campus), both from the Class of 2019, graduated from Deakin University earlier this year. They have both taken their new skills to hospital emergency departments – Rachel to Box Hill Hospital and Meg to Casey Hospital. We wish them all the best in their new careers. **x**



4. **Olivia Williams**

Olivia Williams (Class of 2018, Berwick Campus) is a final year Arts/Law (Honours) student at ACU. Earlier this year she was awarded the Executive Deans Faculty Commendation for high performance in her degree, the third year she has received recognition. Olivia has been working as a legal intern at the Department of Education and Training, Victoria. **x**





THE MAGAZINE OF
BEACONHILLS COLLEGE

PAKENHAM CAMPUS

30-34 Toomuc Valley Rd,
Pakenham VIC 3810

BERWICK CAMPUS

92 Kangan Dr,
Berwick VIC 3806

1300 002 225

enquiries@beaconhills.vic.edu.au

www.beaconhills.vic.edu.au

CRICOS Provider No. 03182J

