

# VILLA VOICE

VOL 35  
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**YEAR 7 LEARNING  
PRECINCT OPENS**

**SPORT RETURNS  
IN STYLE**

**HELP FAMILIES  
FACING TOUGH  
TIMES**

**CLASS OF  
2020  
CELEBRATES  
OUTSTANDING  
SUCCESS**

Developing fine young men





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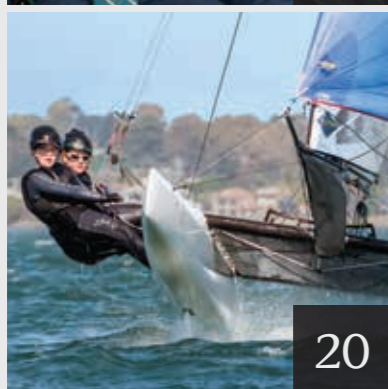


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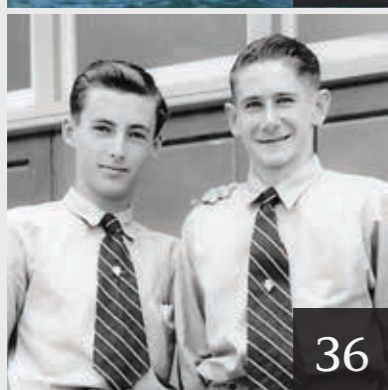
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 VNC Roar: 2021 College Captain,  
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# PRINCIPAL'S *welcome*

MR MARK STOWER — COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to a new year and new beginnings. I, like so many people, was very pleased to see the end of 2020 hoping that the threat of COVID-19 would be well and truly behind us and life would begin to return to a more recognisable 'normal'. Unfortunately, I had become complacent and the snap lockdowns Brisbane has experienced this year are a timely reminder that we must remain vigilant and take the necessary steps to stop the spread of the virus.

2021 has started with great expectations for an exciting year ahead. Students have settled in to the new challenges this year brings and I have been pleased to see our youngest students enthusiastically embrace their new learning spaces in the St Thomas of Villanova Learning Centre. Our Year 7 students began the year in new dynamic learning spaces in the refurbished O'Donnell Building and surrounds. This project has seen the refurbishment of eight classrooms into four dynamic learning spaces allowing a variety of learning and teaching options for students and teachers.

Early this year the Visual Arts Precinct also underwent a refurbishment creating two new Visual Arts classrooms and a new tech hub for multi-modal Visual Art projects. Located next door is the new Media classroom catering for Media and Film. These new facilities will allow our students to explore a range of subjects and develop new skills that will open up opportunities for post-school life.

Recent media attention has focused on the culture that exists in boys' schools. These matters have raised many questions including, "What values are 'taught and caught' by our students at Villanova College?" Being a gentleman is not old fashioned. Displaying good manners provides the social skills to navigate all the difficult social situations a young man will find himself in life. Respecting the dignity of all people is a central value of our College. Humility, love of neighbour and being a good member of our community are all values that are synonymous with Villanova College.



Principal, Mark Stower congratulates 2020 Dux of the College, Jack Dunbar

We are intentional in developing fine young men in partnership with our families and the whole community through the education offered at the College both inside and outside the classroom. We rely on the mentoring of Old Boys of Villanova College who display the characteristics that we are seeking to instil in all our young men. We need our community to wrap around our young people to ensure they are encouraged, supported and challenged to be good young men.

I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students across this year. I am confident together we will continue to carry forward the mission of this College.

God bless.

“Humility, love of neighbour and being a good member of our community are all values that are synonymous with Villanova College.”

# Honouring OUR VILLANOVA COMMUNITY LEGACIES

Villanova College formally thanks long-serving board members Mr Geoffrey Egert and Ms Donna McMahon and for their significant contribution and legacy made during their long term service on the Villanova College Board. Geoffrey and Donna have kindly supplied the following reflections.



## THANK YOU GEOFFREY EGERT

Geoffrey is a Villanova Old Boy and has served three terms on the Villanova College Board since 2012, the maximum time permitted under the Villanova College Constitution. Geoffrey has two sons at Villanova in Year 11 and Year 9.

Geoffrey was approached by the Augustinian Provincial Council to join the Villanova College Board due to his background, having practised as a barrister and worked in a Brisbane university teaching and researching in Corporations Law. Geoffrey's work in education extended to government, corporate and community groups, including Indigenous groups in locations such as Mount Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Alice Springs and Doomadgee. Joining the Villanova College Board provided an opportunity for Geoffrey to give back to the Augustinian and Villanova communities, which had afforded him a quality education.

Geoffrey stated: "I am gratified to have served with a very committed and diligent group of directors whose aim was to work with the College leadership team to provide the best governance for the College. I am pleased to have played a role in developing and also improving board policies for the College such as the Pastoral Care Policy, the Equal Employment Opportunity, Discrimination, Harassment, Vilification and Bullying Policy, the Workplace Health and Safety Policy, the Naming Policy and the Sponsorship Policy to name a few."

Geoffrey warmly encourages all parents and guardians to make a contribution to the College community by offering assistance to any of the support or affiliate groups.

## THANK YOU DONNA McMAHON

The McMahon name is part of the rich fabric of Villanova College. Donna's six brothers were all Villa boys and attended over the 1960s, the 1970s and the 1980s. Donna went on to marry the highly respected Old Boy and Villanova teacher Paul Finnimore. Their son Sean graduated from the College in 2012. All the Finnimore brothers were educated at Villanova and Donna now has the next generation of nephews attending the College.

After Paul Finnimore's tragic passing in 1995 a group of his students raised funds in his honour. This grew into the Paul Finnimore Trust providing practical support to school children and families in need. Donna was involved in the Trust until she joined the College Board in 2012. In time, Donna became the Deputy Chair of the College Board, Chair of the Board Succession and Performance Committee and a founding member of the Foundation Management Committee.

Donna joined the Board to give back to the College that she says gave so much to her family and community. She is proud of the advancement that the College has made in educating boys and the commitment to drive contemporary education for the betterment of students. Of particular importance to Donna is the continual focus on the mental health and wellbeing of students and families.

Key achievements that Donna is most proud of include the continuing education of Villanova young men in our changing world and creating built environment improvements culminating in the new Grandstand at Villanova Park and the St Thomas of Villanova Learning Centre. These significant works, in addition to the master plan, will ensure the College is future-ready for the generations of Villa boys who will spend their formative years at the College.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

# VILLANOVA COLLEGE COCKTAIL BALL

**Date:** Saturday July 24, 2021 | 6:30PM - late

**Venue:** The Tivoli

52 Constin St, Fortitude Valley Qld

**Dress:** Cocktail

**RSVP:** by 4 July

**COST \$155**

Includes live entertainment, gourmet canapés & 4hr premium drinks package, raffles and more, Raising funds for school facilities improvements.

TICKETS BOOKED VIA  
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BRDGA](https://www.trybooking.com/BRDGA)



# 25 YEARS of service

In 2020, four staff members celebrated 25 years of service. Villa Voice caught up with them as they reflected on their time at the College.



## Adrian Hellwig

“I truly feel that I’m part of a community that actually cares,” says College Counsellor, Adrian Hellwig.

Adrian has been caring for this very same community for the past 25 years in his capacity as a pastoral care worker, administration assistant to the Rector and now in his role as College Counsellor.

One of his fondest memories is when staff held a first birthday party for Sean Finnimore (his father who was on staff, had passed away during the previous year).

“The staff bought him a huge teddy bear [that he still has to this day]. Sean went on to become School Captain and a fine young man.”

As part of his early role, Adrian contributed to the organisation of liturgies and masses. Due to the increasing number and complexity of cases of students requiring support, he became a full-time Counsellor (now one of three).



## Janette Nobile

One of the most noticeable (and positive) changes that Janette Nobile has witnessed during her 25 years at the College is the issuing of electronic report cards.

Prior to this, Janette helped the Curriculum Office print and mail report cards every term – a huge job. Her former ‘tiny’ office in the Tolentine Building has now become the print room in the Staff Centre. Here, Janette manages the largest two printers in the College and provides printing and typing support to staff and the Teaching and Learning Office. While now only called on to format some exams, Janette was once required to type every exam for every subject. Janette still enjoys the variety of work and the ongoing gratification of helping others.

“She also cites ‘beautiful friendships’ as a highlight of her quarter century of service.”

## Brian Pascoe

Villa runs in the blood for the Pascoe family. A student from 1984 to 1988 and a teacher of PE and Science since 1996, Brian’s father, Gavin himself served 22 years as a staff member.

With son Jared graduating in 2016 and Luke set to finish this year, Brian has “had the privilege of being surrounded with those I love in my time at Villa.”

There’s not a lot that Brian hasn’t been involved in during his service at Villa. He has coached College swimming, rugby, volleyball, basketball, middle distance athletics, cross country and AFL. He was the first president of the St Vincent de Paul Society at Villa as a student and continued his involvement as a staff member. He has been instrumental in guiding and encouraging Villanova students through the arduous 96km Kokoda Challenge since 2010.



Perhaps Brian’s greatest ‘lived’ insight into the strength of the Villa community and the Augustinian ethos and values he holds so dear came in 2002 when he was involved in a serious road accident while on an early morning bike ride. He spent eight months off work recovering from his injuries.

“During my sick leave many staff, parents and students displayed acts of kindness to myself and my family that will be forever remembered and cherished.”

Those acts included visits, food and gift parcels from parents and students and his first Year 8 teacher, Mr Ralph Andrew delivering \$500 on Christmas Eve to, “ensure we had a good Christmas”.

Brian points to significant changes to the campus in recent years, but says what hasn’t changed is the Augustinian ethos and sense of community that underpin the value of relationships at Villanova.

“These relationships between teacher and student are as relevant today and continue to characterise an education at Villanova in the Augustinian Traditions,” he said.

## Mick Gaske



“I used to walk around campus with chalk in my pocket... now I carry a laptop.”

Middle School teacher Mick Gaske has seen significant changes to the profession since joining the staff of Villanova – especially the prevalence of technology as an everyday teaching and learning tool.

One of Mick’s best memories of his time at Villa was the First XV winning the 2010 premiership.

“I coached a lot of those players when they were in Year 6 and Year 7, and I told anyone who’d listen that they would win the 1st XV Premiership when they were in Year 12. I have to admit that I did sneak up and touch the Premiership trophy when it was sitting unguarded in the Cor Unum Centre after the boys defeated SPLC in the last game of the season.”

A Villa rugby coach even before he joined staff, Mick continues to coach rugby, athletics and volleyball, and is dedicated to developing College rugby players through his coaching involvement in the Ben Mowen and Andrew Slack Development Squads. In the days of the CIC Primary competition, he was rugby and athletics co-ordinator, and acted as the CIC Sports Co-ordinator for a stint.

What’s kept Mick at Villanova for 25 years?

He simply says, “the focus on the Augustinian principles of humility, interiority and community.”



## CLASS OF 2020 CELEBRATES *outstanding results*

Villanova College congratulates the Seniors of 2020 on their outstanding achievement. The cohort was the first to undertake the new Queensland Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance system, and in a year that threw many challenges at them, their dedication to their studies and perseverance was exceptional.

Overall, 45% of the cohort received an ATAR of 90.00 or higher and 12 students received an ATAR of 99.00 or higher (the equivalent of an OP1 under the old system).

The College welcomed back its 2020 graduates in February for the Graduates' Celebration to award subject prizes and major awards. In particular, Jack Dunbar (Dux) and Callum Moses (Proxime Accessit) were acknowledged for their outstanding academic results.

Dean of Teaching and Learning, Mr John Christie, saw early potential in the cohort.

I commenced at the College in 2018 and taught a Year 10 Mathematical Methods class that year. What was evident to me immediately was that the students in the class had great academic potential.

"Over the next three years, I was fortunate to see, not just that group of young men, but the whole cohort excel as they navigated the new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance system. Their results were a just reward for their hard work and determination."

## 2020 RESULTS *at a glance*



**45** % OF COHORT RECEIVED AN  
ATAR of  
**90**  
or higher

**6** STUDENTS RECEIVED A

**12** STUDENTS RECEIVED AN

ATAR of  
**99**  
or higher

**\$30,000**  
tertiary scholarship

**2** STUDENTS ACHIEVED

**100/100**  
in external assessments

**7** STUDENTS COMPLETED

school-based apprenticeships

Villanova College congratulates the Seniors of 2020 on their outstanding achievement.

**12** STUDENTS RECEIVED

QCAA commendation for As in six subjects

**47** STUDENTS RECEIVED ONE OR MORE

vocational education and training qualifications

# BRIGHT FUTURES *beckon*

With a range of pathways and study options open to Villanova students in their Senior years, our graduates are destined for diverse careers that allow them to pursue their passions. We spoke to five graduates from the Class of 2020, each with varied interests, as they reflect on their time on the hill and their future plans.



## Jack Dunbar

For the 2020 Dux of the College, Jack Dunbar, success came through a really good work-life balance in Year 12 and the support of his teachers.

“It is still very important to enjoy your last year and take up all the opportunities presented to you but at the same time, you need to put a lot of work into your studies. Getting this balance right made my year much more enjoyable.”

Jack, who was the top student in Mathematical Methods, Physics, Chemistry and Digital Solutions, and received an ATAR of 99.85, commenced a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at Queensland University of Technology. He points to a future in designing and creating electrical systems or as a software engineer.

He has high praise for his Chemistry and Physics teacher, Mr Graeme George.

**“He put so much effort into ensuring we received the best level of learning and understood all topics.”**

“His tutorials after school each day had a huge impact on my success,” Jack said.



## Nicholas Chay

A gifted musician on alto saxophone (he has been playing for nine years and holds an Associate Diploma in Performance), Nicholas also enjoyed academic success at Villanova College.

Nicholas was the winner of the 2020 Year 12 Music and Music Extension prizes and achieved an ATAR of 99.20. He was one of only two Villanova students to record perfect results in external assessments – in his case, Music.

Nicholas was accepted into a dual Mathematics/Commerce degree at the University of Queensland.

His advice to Year 12 students:

**“Say yes to any opportunity that’s available for you – the effort you put into these opportunities is exactly what you’re going to get out of them.”**

And while Nicholas has chosen to pursue a career outside of music, he still plans to explore his musical options. He will focus on achieving his Licentiate in Music (L.Mus.A) qualifications and is already teaching music outside his university studies.



## Declan Reis

Declan is in a perfect position to offer advice to new Villanovans. His little brother Darcy commenced in Year 5 this year.

And the advice?

“Dive head first into everything; the more you put in the more you get out at Villa. Make sure you talk to different boys every day. You never know where you’ll find a friend and the same with staff.”

Having originally applied for Business at the University of Queensland, Declan changed his preference to a double degree in business and secondary education at Queensland University of Technology.

“I was always interested in teaching as I really enjoyed teaching rugby to kids with learning disabilities as part of my Year 10 Study of Religion community service assignment. I found a passion for teaching people,” he said.

Declan shares great memories of his experiences and the people at Villanova; spirit rallies, the R U OK? Round, the New Zealand rugby tour, leadership duties of Murray House and the First V, the basketball program and its staff, Mrs Henry and Mr Olsen and the events that brought the Year 12 cohort together.

“I know you hear every Senior say it when they finish, ‘wow Year 12 goes quick’, but it really is true.”



## Jaxon Paterson-Wright

After a particularly busy 2020 juggling the demands of Year 12 and competing and training at a national level in cross country, Jaxon has opted for a gap year in 2021 and is enjoying the perks of a paid job and training.

From 2022, he’ll take up a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Griffith University. For now, the State cross country champion is focusing on training, in particular, for the 5km and 10km events with his running club, the UQ Borderstriders.

Jaxon was one of 12 QCAA Award recipients from Villanova (for obtaining six As in six subjects), and was the Dux of Biology and Physical Education. Jaxon received an ATAR of 98.55. He cites his teachers and a determination to making every minute count as being instrumental to his success.

**“Having set times for training and competitions throughout the senior year gave me no opportunity for procrastination because my time was limited to do school work. If I didn’t do it at certain times, it wouldn’t get done.”**

“This meant that whenever I was at home during the week, I’d be studying. This allowed time on the weekends to see mates and family.”

A proud Villanovan, Jaxon says the strength of the Villanova community runs deep.

“Whether you’re an Old Boy or new to Year 5, everyone is welcome on the hill. I appreciate the values that the College has embedded in myself and my mates, and if I ever have a son, I’d love to have him experience all that Villanova College has to offer.”



## Aidan Quinlivan

He’s getting used to the 6.30am starts and 10-hour days, but Aidan Quinlivan wouldn’t have it any other way. The first-year electrical apprentice is relishing the work with his company Electrical Data and Security Services and is determined to complete the three to four-year apprenticeship as soon as he can.

The start of Aidan’s apprenticeship in January this year was a baptism of fire, – sent out to Beaudesert in 35-degree heat.

“I got through 10 litres of water a day, and that probably still wasn’t enough,” he laughs.

His work involves anything from trenching, conduit laying, pulling cables and digging electrical pits.

Aidan knew early on that he didn’t want to go to university as he enjoys working with his hands. In Year 10 he participated in TAFE Queensland’s Trade Taster program and discovered his interest for electrical work. Work experience with a plumber and carpenter, confirmed his decision to pursue an electrical trade.

Always looking to the future, Aidan completed his ATAR to keep his long-term options open.

“I plan to start my own business eventually, and I wanted to be able to upgrade the Certificate III in Business I obtained at school so that potentially I could undertake another business course to develop the knowledge to run a really successful business,” he explained.

His advice to students considering a trade pathway.

**“Give it a try – get in and do some work experience. And remember, you’re not always going to be an apprentice – think long term.”**

# maximising STUDENT WELLBEING

MR MATT LEVANDER — HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



Positive Education is an applied field that weaves the science of positive psychology into educational practice with the aim of supporting student wellbeing and learning.

In shaping the College’s current Strategic Plan 2021-2023, the inclusion of Student Wellbeing as one of our Four Pillars highlights our fundamental commitment to nurturing an environment of care that allows our young men to realise their potential and to flourish in all facets of their development.

Against a backdrop of an increase in reported cases of adolescent mental health issues, coupled with the emerging challenges associated with our newly minted Queensland Certificate of Education and the pressures of external examinations, we are acutely aware of the need to build within our Senior School students the capacity to cultivate their own positive wellbeing and resilience. Our aspirational intention is to implement evidence-based and measurable College-wide programs that allow our young men to thrive.

One such approach that I introduced at the beginning of the academic year at the Senior School Parent Information Evenings is Positive Education. According to Australian Professor Lea Waters, Positive Education ‘is an applied field that weaves the science of positive

psychology into educational practice with the aim of supporting student wellbeing and learning.’ The science was brought prominently into the spotlight by the work of one of the world’s foremost academic psychologists Dr Martin Seligman and his theory of human flourishing. Underpinning this theory is the PERMA Framework:

**P**ositive Emotions  
**E**ngagement  
**R**elationships  
**M**eaning  
**A**ccomplishment

Several practitioners have extended the framework to include Positive Health, focusing on the importance of mindfulness, exercise, nutrition and sleep.

As part of a discovery phase for our specific context at Villanova College, our Pastoral Care Team has partnered with Geelong Grammar School’s Institute of Positive Education, in trialling their Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum (PEEC). Each domain within the PERMA(H) Framework is cultivated through focused engagement in the following modules:

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS	POSITIVE EMOTIONS	POSITIVE HEALTH	POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT	POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT	POSITIVE PURPOSE
Empathy and Compassion	Emotional Intelligence	Mind-Body Connection	Creativity	Decision Making	Caregiving
Forgiveness	Gratitude	Physical Wellbeing	Curiosity and Interest	Goal Orientation	Character Development
Leadership and Teamwork	Positivity	Self-Knowledge	Flow	Grit And Persistence	Core Values
Kindness and Connections	Self-Control	Resilience	Motivation	Mindsets	Sense Of Meaning

Over the course of this year, we will be trialling this curriculum within the Senior School Formation Program through the delivery of workshops to our students.

In addition, we have also partnered with The Learning Curve Wellbeing Diaries, who have produced our 2021 Student Diaries. These diaries have been designed with an explicit focus on the PERMA(H) Framework and offers

our young men with another resource outlining tips and strategies for enhancing their mental health and success in their studies.

As a College, we are excited to embark upon our journey of embracing Positive Education as we continue to place student wellbeing at the heart of our formation and pastoral care programs.

# THE YEAR 7 *learning precinct*

MR GREG O'NEILL — HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

The much-anticipated refurbishment of the O'Donnell and lower Good Counsel buildings is now complete. These rooms have been transformed into contemporary, dynamic learning classrooms that have become a feature of our new Year 7 Learning Precinct.

The journey of transformation began in 2016 when the College engaged with leading education design firm Fielding Nair International. Following a series of workshops and focus groups, FNI reported that the campus possessed 'many opportunities to create more agile, varied and flexible learning spaces'. With the educational landscape continually evolving, Villanova remains committed to ensuring that our young men develop the necessary 21st century learning skills, and that the classroom spaces are appropriately designed to support this development.

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) nominate six core skills that underpin our Queensland curriculum, designed especially to prepare students for the 21st century.

These include:

- critical thinking
- creative thinking
- communication
- collaboration and teamwork
- personal and social skills
- ICT skills

In readiness for our new and exciting master-plan, a number of pilot classrooms were established to learn more about how classroom design can best enhance teaching and learning. Villanova's new Year 7 Precinct has included a number of design principles in response to what has been discovered through that process. The core subjects in Year 7 are co-taught. Co-teaching involves two specialist

teachers and a teacher-aide working with two combined Year 7 classes. There are many benefits to co-teaching which enhance the learning outcomes for our students. Co-teaching allows for greater levels of differentiation within the classroom and permits a greater variety of learning modalities.

Working in collaboration with architects from Architectus, Kane Construction helped the College realise its vision for its Year 7 Learning Precinct. The light-filled rooms, refurbished to include the old corridors, each feature their own 56-seat lecture theatre which we call the "launch pad". This space is designed to enhance the moments when teacher-directed instruction is required. The rooms also feature a range of furniture, acquired through Steelcase Furniture, that promote options for students to collaborate with each other, conduct small conferencing with teachers, or to work independently without distraction.

Each dynamic learning classroom also features double-sized, automated student lockers. These ensure each room is clutter-free and assists in keeping our young men organised and responsible for their belongings.

These refurbishments have created learning spaces that align with those in the new Year 5 and 6 classrooms in the St Thomas of Villanova Centre – this alignment allows for a smoother transition from Junior to Middle schooling.

The Year 7 Learning Precinct's design fundamentals also reflect the new senior spaces, such as the auditorium and breakout rooms, also a feature of the St Thomas of Villanova Learning Centre.

Since the Year 7 students and teachers have commenced using these spaces, we have seen an impressive level of engagement from the boys and a sense of ownership of, and connectedness to, their learning space.

As this stage comes to fruition, and new exciting projects commence, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of those teachers who extensively supported the project. I particularly wish to thank Mrs Kate Alexander and Mr Ben Lynam, who, along with myself and College Principal Mark Stower, led the design team for the Year 7 Precinct, giving countless hours to design workshops and site meetings. I also wish to acknowledge the Middle School teachers, Mr Sullivan, Mrs Elder, Mrs Alexander, Mr McGrath, Ms Sim and Mr Creamer who worked in our pilot classrooms, teaching us so much about effective use of space, co-teaching and effective pedagogy.

This process has been a learning experience for us all. To see it come to a reality that has enabled the amazing results that we are experiencing [not to mention the smiles of the students and teachers as they in turn experience the new spaces] has meant a lot to me personally and augers well for the future of the College.

“We have seen an impressive level of engagement from the boys and a sense of ownership of, and connectedness to, their learning space.”





Relationships are the platform for any achievement in life, especially our happiness.

## BUILDING *identity*

MR STEPHEN ROUHLIADEFF – HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Think about the people in your home, at your work and in the social groups you love to be around. Your favourite human beings will share commonalities beyond shared experiences and adventures over the years.

There are fundamental parts to these people – honesty, humour, trust - and our allegiances build through positive and meaningful moments. Belonging is very important to human beings. It plays a clear part in our young men establishing themselves – a sense of self, an identity in a group, a genuine feeling of having a place to call their home away from home.

The Ideal Team Player (Patrick Lencioni, 2016) identifies three virtues of the person we all want next to us when we learn, work, play, compete and hang out – these are humility, hunger and people smarts. Exploring these virtues can help us all – young and old – to remember what matters in our day-to-day relationships. At Villanova College, the Junior School takes relationships seriously – they are our priority. Relationships are the platform for any achievement in life, especially our happiness.

Humility is an interesting concept – we know that sharing our gifts and talents helps the community. Do not mistake humility for hiding your aptitudes, because achievements and success are certainly very important in life. Consider the captains of sporting teams. These people can be highly talented, spirited, and respected individuals. However, they are also quite likely to be humble, able to win graciously and admit mistakes in defeat. They can speak calmly and reasonably even when emotional and disappointed. Being humble is having the clarity to see both sides, even if you feel hard done by. Then there are the people who might invent or create ideas that set the stage for excellence. Perhaps these are the workers that go above and beyond expected hours to not just “get the job done” but rather build experiences that last a lifetime or show love and respect in a way that lasts a lifetime. Not for a title, recognition, or reward, but to build community.

People who have humility are those who think long term and know a legacy might be appreciated long after they are around to see the impact they have made. If there is too little humility, mates find you obnoxious; too much humility and people will not know the real you.

I liken the trait of hunger to being interesting. Having passions in life. You are moving forward towards what interests you and therefore you have things to share with others. There are conversations which will surprise and sustain your relationships. You are making the most out of this gift of being alive. Hunger also means being open to doing things in new ways: adapting to new technology and embracing some of the 2021 world. People are drawn to individuals who work on projects or pick up a new hobby. Boys in the Junior School have an incredible number of opportunities to try; to make the most of the chance to join a club or sporting team, to practise a new instrument, to speak publicly or help at College Masses. Be brave enough to bring your interests into the classroom – we have spaces that can support the budding gardener, builder, artist, or designer/builder.

People skills (or people smarts) are crucial to having relationships that foster genuine feelings of connection. We reach out to people who make us laugh and accept us for exactly who we are. Knowing that we can trust another person to respect, listen and support us through the highs and lows of life makes all the difference to engaging at

school. Learning how to build relationships takes time and patience. Some friendships begin with sparks and are easy to sustain with common interests, shared skills and abilities or when parents socialise together on weekends or holidays. Other friendships are a slow burn, especially when the risk of asking to join a work group or handball game feels a little overwhelming. Our Circle Time prioritises ice breaking games and encourages dialogue that allows students to get to know one another on a deeper level and build trust. Explicit effort must go into helping our students work on their skills in communication. Taking risks requires safe spaces as nothing beats a win or loss when your classmates are cheering loudly either way. Our Senior Mentors spend weekly Pastoral lessons to share their insights – eight years teaches them a great deal. Our Year 5 and 6 students can learn a great deal from their big brothers in the white shirts. Role models matter greatly to our young men. Staff, seniors, parents, coaches and peers all contribute to learning how to negotiate work and play to the best of our abilities.

Identity comes from a combination of humility, hunger and the ability to engage with others. It is the merging of who we want to be, who we are and how others see us. It is an exciting process to watch the Junior School students discover themselves and grow right before our eyes. They will never believe that we, as adults, also still must work on our identities every day, but that is the joy of working with your sons.



# SPORT

## RETURNS IN STYLE

Photo credit: High Flyer Images



After an interrupted 2020 sporting year, Villanova teams made the most of the full season of cricket, volleyball, AFL and swimming in Term 1.

Villa retained its hold on the Champion Cricket School title, winning the Aggregate for the third consecutive year with six premierships. The First XI spearheaded the campaign, taking premiership honours in a season dominated by bowling depth and batting grit.

Coach of the First XI, Nathan Dufty said the team stood up when it really mattered.

“The 2020 First XI will be remembered as a team that executed every time they got challenged. They turned up every game and never let their teammates down.”

In swimming, Villanova continued its rise through the AIC ranks, finishing in fourth place in the 12 Years to Opens. A podium place is in reach for 2022. The Years 5 and 6 team took out the AIC Primary Aggregate Championship for the second consecutive year.

AFL at the College goes from strength to strength. In finishing second in the Aggregate, College teams secured four titles out of the seven contested.

Our First VI volleyball team narrowly missed out on premiership honours in a tightly contested season while four teams recorded undefeated seasons.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO TRIMESTER 1 WINNING AND UNDEFEATED TEAMS:

Cricket	First XI, Third XI, 10A, 8B, 5B, 5C, 5 White
Volleyball	11C, 11B, 10B, 10C
AFL	Year 7, Year 6A, Year 6B, Year 5A
Swimming	AIC Primary (Year 5 & 6) Aggregate Champions Year 6 AIC Age Champions 12 Years AIC Age Champions

# CHARTING *Olympic dreams*



While the prospects of competing at a hometown Olympic Games in 2032 is exciting for Year 9 student, Oliver Davey, it's the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics that Ollie has in his sights.

Ollie, a sailor since he was seven years of age, was recently offered a place in the Australian Sailing / Queensland Performance Pathways program, a result of outstanding success at state and national level with his sailing partner, Niamh Meehan, a Year 12 student at Moreton Bay College.

That success includes a national solo title in Perth in 2019/20 in a Nacra 350 boat and a recent Queensland title (with Niamh) in January this year.

But sailing does not come cheap. Ollie is soon to take receipt of a new boat, a Nacra 17, the exact craft used in multihull mix crew Olympic competition. This will be Ollie's fifth boat since he took up sailing with his dad at North Pine Dam, and at \$70,000, it's a major investment in Ollie's Olympic hopes.

"It's a big jump to what I've been competing in," he says.

Ollie and Niamh's training schedule sees them running once a week, hitting the gym twice a week and sailing on Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday down at their club, the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron at Manly.

Those sessions will increase to four to five a week when the new boat arrives in preparation for competition at regattas including the National titles in 2022. From there, the pair hopes to compete at World Championships and vie for future Olympic selection.

Ollie admits that Niamh "does a lot more than me" during the 30 – 45 minute race duration. While Ollie steers and manages tactics and strategies (with assistance from Niamh), Niamh controls the jib, main and spinnaker.

"It's a physically demanding sport. It requires endurance and good upper body strength – and a great tactical mind – which I'm developing all the time."

Post school, Ollie is tracking towards a longer-term career in sailing and is hoping to undertake an apprenticeship as a sailmaker or boat maker.

“Whatever the future, Ollie will be following his passion.”

“He's a humble kid who has worked very hard to improve his skills and he's now reaping the rewards.”

# HITTING NEW *heights*

At 205cm tall or six-eight in the old scale, Year 12 student Harrison (Harry/Haz) Rouhliadoff stands out around campus. He's also been standing out in basketball circles and has emerged as a national talent.

In April, and at just 17, Harrison made his debut for the NBL 1 team (the second tier of the National Basketball League), the Southern District Spartans, the youngest player in the team by years. In May he was one of Queensland's starting five at the National U20 Championships in Mackay and helped the team to a gold medal.

There's also been talks with some American colleges for a scholarship post school, but Harry's not getting carried away just yet.

"Ultimately, I'd love to play professionally in the US, Europe or Australia," he said.

The impetus to play and train internationally came when Harry travelled to Los Angeles with the Queensland U16 Emerging Squad in 2017.

"That trip definitely lit a little fire in him," according to Harry's father, Stephen Rouhliadoff, who along with mum, Nichole and brother Jackson (Year 10) have very much been a part of Harry's basketball journey.

Harry knows there is a lot of hard work ahead of him, but in tackling the demands of Year 12 and playing at elite level, he makes every minute count.

"There has to be Plan B and that's why my parents have always reinforced the need to keep up my studies," he explains.

Between two to three team sessions, three strength and conditioning sessions and two or three individual sessions each week, Harry completes study before and after school and over the weekend to ensure he's always one step ahead of assessment deadlines.

Even more time is dedicated to managing his growing body and ensuring he is diligent in preventing injuries.

While both his parents are tall, there is no further family lineage of height beyond his parents. They certainly weren't prepared for the extraordinary growth spurt through Year 9 and 10 that now sees him over the two-metre mark and able to hold his own with the men he now competes against.



Photo credit: Sports in Focus

The increased physicality of the game was brought home when Harry was invited to attend Basketball Australia's Centre of Excellence at the Australian Institute of Sport last December. Each session with Australia's best junior players and athletes from the NBA Global Academy was intense.

Competing against men has not only enhanced Harry's game, but also built his confidence according to Basketball Queensland's State Performance Manager, Luke Cann.

"I can definitely see him playing at a professional level. He's a humble kid who has worked very hard to improve his skills and he's now reaping the rewards.

The great thing with Haz is that he brings a really solid skills base as a guard (the position he played before his growth spurt) to his current game. He's now an all-purpose forward - a 'big' who can shoot."

And as for Villanova's prospects in the AIC competition this year, Harry thinks the First V are in a with a good chance and points to St Edmund's and St Laurence's as the teams to beat. "We are keen to bounce back from our grand final loss in 2020 and get Villa's name back on the trophy."



## Orava STRING QUARTET COMES TO VILLANOVA

The Orava Quartet, founded in 2007 by brothers Daniel Kowalik (violin) and Karol Kowalik (cello), Thomas Chawner (viola), and joined in 2011 by David Dalseno (violin), is one of the most exciting string quartets of its generation. Known for their passionate and engaging performances, they have been hailed by *The Australian* as, "the future of Australian Chamber Music, the real deal." This ensemble has performed to rave reviews across the globe, including for Queens Sofia of Spain and Pope Benedict XVI.

We are very fortunate that this fine ensemble has been engaged to work with our string program in 2021. Orava has worked with our Camerata and Sinfonia String Orchestras during March this year, where our students had an opportunity to participate in sectional rehearsals with these fine musicians. We will be joined again in early June for another rehearsal opportunity where our students will be preparing for a performance opportunity with Orava String Quartet. We look forward to sharing news with our community regarding this event shortly.

## Sebastian JOINS CONSERVATORIUM WIND ORCHESTRA

MR MICHAEL JONES — DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Senior Musician, Sebastian Allan, continues to excel in his musical studies. A home-grown talent (he began playing the euphonium in Year 5), Sebastian is a member of the Villanova College Symphonic Band, and Bass Trombonist (Big Band). He has completed his Seventh Grade AMEB Practical Examination recently on Euphonium for which he was awarded 'Honours' (A); a fantastic result and well-deserved.

Recently, Sebastian joined Open Conservatorium, a youth ensemble program hosted by Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University. As part of this program, Sebastian is involved in several ensembles, most notably the Young Conservatorium Wind Orchestra and was invited to audition

for an opportunity to perform with the Conservatorium Wind Orchestra, one of the nation's pre-eminent Symphonic Bands. He was successful in his audition and participated in the "From the End of the World" concert hosted in the Conservatorium Theatre in March.

In speaking with Sebastian after the event, he expressed excitement in having the opportunity to play with such fine musicians. He found the program of works challenging but inspiring, and looks forward to an opportunity to work with these colleagues in the future.

On behalf of the Music Department at Villanova College, we congratulate Sebastian for his hard work and fine musicianship and wish him all the best for his future musical endeavours.



# Arriving at Villa: GROWING FINE YOUNG MEN

MRS KATE GARRONE — DEAN OF MISSION AND IDENTITY



It is Holy Week in 2021. At Villanova College, a committed group of students and staff put in some hours cleaning up Norman Creek on Palm Sunday. On Monday morning all Senior students with a team of 19 staff were loaded on buses and set to head up to Tambourine Mountain for a time of retreat when lockdown is announced to commence at 5pm to prevent community transmission of COVID-19.

**Suddenly everyone pivots and what was to happen across the week is squeezed into a few hours.**

The YAYM (Young Augustinian Youth Ministry) groups swings into action to complete their huge efforts of raising awareness and funds to “Be More” for Project Compassion. Meanwhile, vans and cars are loaded and members of staff and Year 12s who were to be on retreat from our Vinnies group head out to deliver the baskets of food and Easter goodies to families who are doing it tough in our local area. My email inbox continues to ping with staff who were to prepare and serve breakfast to about 100 people experiencing homelessness in our city, checking out what is happening and extending their ongoing support.

As lockdown occurs Fr Saldie works with staff and students available to create an online liturgy to remember the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Yes, it is a big week! As I come to the end of my first term at Villanova, I realise it is also representative of how things happen here. The rhythm of taking action, responding to what is happening, meaningful conversation, prayer, intentionally setting up opportunities to challenge and stretch us, asking questions, digging deeper, generosity, responding to needs and creatively engaging is certainly what happens each day at Villanova.

The place is not perfect. There are challenges. It can be hard to keep up with the pace, and sometimes difficult to fit in lunch! There are times we get it right, and there are times when we are learning! What I have enjoyed immensely is

that there is encouragement to engage and to have a go; that creativity and ideas flow and are supported by others.

The Augustinian charism is new for me. I have delighted in beginning to uncover what it is. I have particularly appreciated the articulation of the Augustinian values of interiority, community, the restless search for truth, ongoing conversion and humility. What I have noticed is a genuine sharing of decision making within the context of community. I have felt the way the community comes together in the tragic loss of one of our new students.

I have witnessed how space is given to unpack difficult questions around relevant topics in our wider community around issues of consent and boundaries with a willingness to look more deeply at what we are doing in partnership with families to form boys and young men so that they have the skills, knowledge and emotional and spiritual intelligence to be respectful in their relationships. I have sensed amongst staff, especially those who have been in the school for some time, a recognition of the interior world and a respect for the inner journey. This has been supported and articulated by classroom teachers, support staff and members of the leadership team, such that I know mission and identity is held by many in the school. Together we are all in the business of growing fine young men at Villanova College! It is a job so worthy of our time and attention. It is a privilege to be part of the Villanova community.

**NICOLE WESTON**

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# JAKE'S VILLA STORY — HELP FAMILIES FACING *Tough Times*



This is me in Year 12, behind the smile the reality was very different. Half way through high school everything changed when my Dad was diagnosed with severe mental and physical illnesses. Instead of sport, home cooked meals and homework, the wards of the PA Hospital, and care facilities became our lives. From the outside no one ever knew.

I had no idea of the struggles my mum was going through. She sheltered a lot from us and kept us all going.

I wasn't the best student but Villanova saw something in me and helped our family more than they will ever know.

Villa provided a bursary to make sure mum didn't have to worry about our school fees. Plus so many teachers kept an eye on me. Without them my life could have taken a very different turn. For a long time Villa was one of my only safe places. I am forever grateful.

Seeing so many positive role models helped me learn how to be a good man. Villa also gave me bonds that will never be broken. I can catch up with Villa Boys after decades. The stronger those bonds have become.

No one knows what another family is going through each day, and we tend to keep all the bad stuff inside. The financial and mental pressure really can mount up following a rapid change to a once smooth running family unit. Speaking from experience, community support and positive influence was life changing.

Having the Terry Hendle Bursary Fund is so important, it changed my life and many more. I've gone on to run a successful business (with plenty of trial and error!), and enjoy acting as a mentor to others. Life is what you make it. I hope to make a difference in someone's life just like Villa did for my family and I.

I'm now a donor to the Terry Hendle Bursary and proud to give back because I will never forget the difference the care and support meant in making sure we always had a place to belong and that we didn't ever walk through our tough times alone.

 Jake Dwyer, Class of 2000

To help other families in need, please donate via the secure online link [www.vnc.edu.au/support-villa](http://www.vnc.edu.au/support-villa) or the enclosed donations form and envelope.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Wendy Zeremes with son Matt Zeremes, Class of 1998.

“As the Student Executive Leadership Team for the Class of 2021 we want to leave a legacy for those who will follow. With the help of our whole College community, we are aiming to raise funds for five bursaries through the Terry Hendle Bursary Fund, so that people going through hard times can have the same opportunities that we have been so fortunate to receive. I am proud to build on the great opportunities Villanova has given us and want to create this for others.”

Louis Henderson,  
2021 Villanova College Captain

This tax time we humbly ask you to donate to the Terry Hendle Bursary Fund and help reach the goal of five life changing Villanova education bursaries for students who, because of financial hardship, would not have access to the many benefits of our caring Villanova College community and education.

The Bursary Fund will provide the school fees for eligible students in need. This practical help is particularly timely due to the long term impacts of COVID-19 and assists in overcoming a significant barrier for families going through tough times. The average annual cost of a bursary is \$10,000 and each bursary will change a young man's future.

I remember when I had to advise Villanova that I would no longer be able to send my two boys due to finances. I was overwhelmed to receive a call and the generous offer that their school fees would be covered. We were never treated differently and always accepted by the community. It was reassuring to know that Villanova was watching over my boys and caring for them when they were away from me at school.

This meant one less stress in my life trying to make ends meet and less disruption in my boys lives. At Villa, they had friendships, parents of friends who looked out for them, understanding teachers, caring guidance counsellors who knew of our plight and a whole community full of compassion. This gave me such relief.

I always wanted my boys to grow up to be good men and thanks to the nurturing, guidance and support they received at Villanova I am indeed a proud mother.

Donating to this cause, can make a world of difference to someone's life.

It did for me and my boys - they are living proof.

 Wendy Zeremes



# HELP FAMILIES FACING *Tough Times*

Wendy Zeremes has every reason to be proud of her boys. Luke (1996) has become an educator, nominated as one of the best teachers on the Sunshine Coast (2020). He is also a successful rugby union head coach, with the U18 Sunshine Coast Schoolgirls Premiership Shield named in his honour. Matt (1998) has gone onto a successful career in the Arts including the title of Emmy Award winner (read more in this edition of Villa Voice).

To date, over 45 life-changing school fee bursaries have been provided through the Terry Hendle Bursary Fund, established in honour of Villanova Old Boy Lance Corporal Terry Hendle who lost his life serving our country. The sole aim of the Bursary is to give a hand up to struggling families who otherwise would not be able to afford a Villanova College education for their son. As Jake and Wendy have experienced, the bursaries provide significant practical assistance but equally important, access to the Villanova community of support, compassion, care and a place to belong.

*Every child deserves a good education. We are proud and humbled that the Terry Hendle Bursary was set up to help those families who want the best for their children but would not be able to afford a Villanova education. On behalf of my family and I, we would like to thank the Old Boys Association and Villanova College for honouring our Terry in this important way.*

Desley, Sister of Lance Corporal Terry Hendle



This tax time please support the Class of 2021 Legacy Project by giving in support of the Villanova College Foundation Terry Hendle Bursary Fund. Donations can be made via the secure online link [www.vnc.qld.edu.au/support-villa](http://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/support-villa) or the enclosed donation form and envelope. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and gratefully received.

## ABOUT THE VILLANOVA COLLEGE FOUNDATION TERRY HENDLE BURSARY.

Established in 1994 by the Hendle family and the Villanova Old Boys' Association Inc, the Villanova College Foundation Terry Hendle Bursary (ABN: 55 720 405 713) is a charity endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). Further information about the legacy and impact of the Terry Hendle Bursary Fund can be found at [www.vnc.qld.edu.au/support-villa/vcf-terry-hendle-bursary-fund/](http://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/support-villa/vcf-terry-hendle-bursary-fund/)

The Villanova College Foundation exists to engage our past, present and future Villanova community in enhancing educational opportunities for students through Bursaries and improved College facilities. More information about the Foundation can be seen at [www.vnc.qld.edu.au/support-villa](http://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/support-villa)

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# OLD BOYS news

## VILLANOVA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

<b>President</b> Chris Andersen (2003)	<b>Vice Presidents</b> Luke Moloney (2004) Rob Lucas (2014)	<b>Treasurer</b> Paul Green (1982)	<b>Secretary</b> Tim Gillespie (2004)
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**Members:** Xavier Vasta (2012), Harrison Adams (2011), Peter Ferguson (1964), Jack Drake (2011), Simon Healy (1977), Doug Caltabiano (2015), Tadgh O'Neill (2020), Fr Peter Wieneke (1962), John Godwin (1986)

CHRIS ANDERSEN — PRESIDENT - VOBA

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### G'day Old Boys and the wider Villa Community

How good is it to be able to attend events in 2021!

You may have seen that we caught up earlier in the year for burgers and beers at the school for Langlands Drinks. If you haven't seen the footage, there are plenty of photos and a video available on the Villa Old Boys Facebook page, as well as our Instagram page @villaoldboys and in this edition of Villa Voice.

We also held our first Old Boys Day out at Villa Park on a very rainy day during the first round against Iona College and we were able to rekindle some fond memories over burgers and beers. Now that we know the concept works, we'd love to make it bigger and better in 2022 with a larger crowd and, hopefully, better weather.

I think plenty of people realised during the Covid period in 2020 that it can be really hard to be stuck at home on your own. I know it made me really appreciate the opportunities I had to spend time with old mates and socialise with new people. My vision for the Old Boys is that we can eventually see our strong community as a massive team packing a scrum. We're connected by tight bonds and we support each other as we take on the world and our little village here in Brisbane together.

I know there are some great blokes in the Old Boy community and I'm very aware that I haven't had a chance to meet them all yet. Hopefully the events we put on each year give you an opportunity to make the most of that community to meet the people that are right for you.

The Old Boys Committee is really just a few blokes willing to put their hand up to help run events to get the community together and raise some money each year. We're made up of guys between the ages of about 17 and 70; there

are no barriers to entry and we'd love as much support as possible. We're all volunteers and I was handed the baton as President after Harrison Adams and John Walsh and all previous committee members did plenty of heavy lifting along the way.

I believe we will continue to grow stronger as a group over time and I encourage you to be a part of that growth at any of the upcoming events that take your fancy.

Speaking of events, our flagship event, the Old Boys Dinner, will be held offsite this year at the Royal on the Park on Friday 6 August with dinner, a drinks package and entertainment. We want to ensure we all have a great time celebrating old friendships and forging new ones and we believe that an offsite event will ensure we can bring a certain level of energy to encourage plenty of fun and comradery.

I think that's about it in terms of an update. Here are a few questions to consider:

When was the last time you connected with your old Villa mates?

Could the 2021 dinner be the right time?

How can we help you reconnect?



Chris Andersen (2003)  
President

## Where are they?

### Michael Bremner

(Villanovan of the Year, 1996) is Professor of Software Engineering at the Centre for Quantum Software and Information at the University of Technology, Sydney.

### Michael Muthukrishna

(Dux of the College, 2004) is Associate Professor of Economic Psychology at the London School of Economics, UK.

*In their Senior years, both Michaels received the Australian Student Prize (top 500 students across Australia).*

*From 1995-2007, thirteen Villanova students won this prestigious award. The prize was last awarded in 2014.*

### Neal Harvey



(1996) has been appointed CEO of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation. Neal will lead the TFFF to support rural, regional and remote communities in Queensland and the Northern Territory to address the particular challenges they face due to their geographic location. Neal holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a PhD

from the University of Queensland and an MBA from the University of Melbourne.

### Chris Simpson



(1999) has been named captain of the AIC/TAS All-stars First XI (Courier-Mail, February 10). Chris is the current Chairman of Queensland Cricket.

"Figures alone across his 51 match Shield career do not tell the whole, because aside from his handy batting and bowling, he was a shrewd leader and had an acute feel for the game. For the record he scored 1971 runs at 21.57 runs including two hundreds, while claiming 47 wickets in a slow bowling support role to the Queensland fast bowlers. An excellent one-day player, Simpson was once selected in the Prime Minister's XI against the West Indies."

### Michael Nolan



(1970) joins the growing list of Villanovan Old Boy authors. Michael authors the publication TechnoX, a news style crossword which combines a traditional crossword with SMS texting clues and answers, and also incorporates numerals, abbreviations, acronyms and similes. These crosswords and his 'Last Word' and 'QuickOne' traditional crosswords

are regularly published in Australian magazines and major daily newspapers. Thank you for your kind donations to the Library, Michael.

## Baptism

It was a triple celebration in April when Fr Peter Wieneke OSA led the baptism of the children of three Old Boys in the Villanova Chapel.

Pictured are: Thomas and Bridget Hickey (2003) with son Harrison [Tom is the son of Old Boy Tony Hickey (1969 dec'd)], Rachael and Nicholas Volk (2007) with son Louis and Michael and Jessica Pierro (2003) with son Rocco.





**Paul Gannon**

Paul Ernest Gannon passed away peacefully on March 18. Past parent and father of Stephen Gannon (deceased 1975, Class of 1972), Gerard Gannon (1979), Michael Gannon (1981), Luke Gannon (1984). Grandfather of Matthew O'Neill (1996), Liam O'Neill (1998), Josh O'Neill (1999), Brendan O'Neill (2001). Father-in-law of Gary Hourigan (1974). The Gannon Family are sponsors of the Stephen Gannon Memorial Trophy (800m House Athletics) which was won by Gerard Gannon (1978 and 1979), Luke Gannon (1984) and Joshua O'Neill (1999). The family commenced its relationship with the Augustinians at Villanova in 1967 through to 1984 with grandchildren continuing until 2001. (Stephen Gannon pictured in 1971)



**Heather Kelsall**

(staff member 2007 – 2020) passed away in January following a long illness with cancer. Heather joined Villanova in 2007 as Director of Research Services, before ill health saw her resign in 2012. She returned in a part-time capacity as Archive Manager in 2013, working behind the scenes cataloguing and organising the College's heritage, historical files and memorabilia. Despite her illness, Heather was always positive. She was truly inspirational.

**Russell Lea**

(1960) passed away in May 2020. Russell was one of the first students at the then newly opened Villanova College at Coorparoo along with his brother Barry (1961). Russell went on to become a carpenter and remained in the building industry all his working life. Russell and Marie raised their sons John (1983) and Anthony (1989) within the Villanova family and the third generation of the Lea family includes Daniel (2009), Jack (2010), Maddison and Olivia, Lachlan (Year 12), Caitlin and Abby. He was proud to see his sons and grandsons attend Villanova and embraced the ethos of the College.



**Fay Thomas**

passed away on Christmas Day, 2020. Fay was married to Ray (dec), the groundsman at Villa Park from 1970 – 1992. Fay's three sons, Glen (1969), Mark (1973) and Shane (1979) attended Villanova and seven grandsons and two great grandsons continued the tradition: Grandsons: Matthew (1992), Christopher (1993), Benjamin (1996), Sean (1998), Joshua (2000), Jacob (2014), Nicholas (2019); Great grandsons: William (currently in Year 12), Ned (currently in Year 10). Ray and Fay worked at Villa Park and at the College from 1970 to 1992.

**Michael John Schmidt**

(1977), passed away on 15 January 2021 in Brisbane aged 60.

**Neil Fallon**

Father of Mark 1979 (dec'd), Simon (1981) and Paul (1987).

**Tess Walsh**

died on April 6, 2021. Tess is the mother of past Villa Old Boy Association President, John Walsh (1976) and grandmother of Terence Walsh (2008).

**Terence (Terry) Wild**

(1975) passed away on 22 February 2021. Much loved husband of Wendy, father of Tim and Kate, brother of Michael (1973) and Shelley. Terry attended Villanova from Years 4-12 and was extremely active within the College. He was a member of the Athletics team every year, where he was age champion in 1970 (U13), 1971 (U14) and 1972 (U15). He was also in the Rugby team every year and was a member of the First XV in 1975. Terry was a Prefect, and a member of the Sports Committee and Interact Club.



Upon leaving Villanova he attended the University of Queensland, obtaining a commerce degree. After a short time in an accounting firm, Terry joined the family manufacturing business, ultimately running the business, and was later joined by his son Tim. Terry formed and maintained lifelong friendships with his Villanova classmates, 26 of whom paid their respects at his service.

**Dr Brian Francis Sheahan**

(1968) passed away on 25 January 2021. Brian retired from full-time practice as a veterinarian in 2015 but maintained a close interest in veterinary matters. Brian will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and the College's prayers and sympathy go to his immediate family, to his sisters, and brothers Michael (1963), John (1965), and Tony (1966).



We are further saddened to learn of the passing of Brian's wife **Christeen Sheahan** on 9 April 2021. In 1978 Brian and Christeen established the Samford Valley Veterinary Surgery which has grown into a leading animal hospital. Brian and Christeen formed an indomitable, creative, productive and visionary team. Brian was the charismatic, highly talented and skilled veterinary face of Samford and Christeen was the anchor.



**Tuckshop Volunteer Extraordinaire**

Her years as a Villa Tuckshop mum have passed, but that doesn't stop Gerda O'Donnell continuing as a Villa Tuckshop grandmother. At 77 Gerda feels just as young as the other Tuckshop volunteers that serve the hungry army of Villanovans.

She re-established her Tuckshop connection some years later when the first of her grandsons attended Villanova – that was 12 years ago. With two grandsons currently at the College (Robbie O'Donnell in Year 12 and Caleb Johnston in Year 6) and Elliott to commence in 2023, Gerda has a lot of years to give.

“I enjoy coming back and interacting with the mums.”

Gerda first started volunteering in the Tuckshop when her sons were attending Villanova in the late 80s and 90s (Michael 1988, Paul 1989 and Andrew 1997).

**TO THE CLASS OF 1981:**

It has been 40 years since we graced the classrooms of Villanova as Seniors, so let's get as many of us as possible together to mark this milestone at the 2021 Old Boys dinner. So far we have put together a list of over 40 of us, but there are still many more we have not been able to contact. If you did not receive any emails regarding this, and you would like to catch up with your classmates after all these years, please send your email address to Jeff Duncan at [jeff@militaryservices.com.au](mailto:jeff@militaryservices.com.au) and we will add you to the list. The dinner will be held on 6 August. Hope to see as many of you as we can.—JEFF DUNCAN



## Simon Vaughan



I have fond memories of being a Villanovan between the years of 1989 and 1996. Being a second generation student meant that there was a tradition or rite of passage to attend the school that had given so much to my father and then me.

The school provided me many opportunities from being part of the theatre production of "Bats" in Year 7 to representing the College at the highest level in Senior Cricket, the First XI. I remember distinctly the relationships I had with key members of staff including Ralph Burge who was my cricket coach for the last three years of my schooling at the College. We spent many a morning and afternoon at the nets below 7th Avenue fine tuning bowling actions and talking cricket in general. I would say he was the catalyst for the love of the game I have today.

There were many other teachers at the school that shaped the person I have become, too many to list. I often reminisce about the time I spent at Villanova, the friendships, events such as The International Carnival and Muster, the sport days against rival schools such as Ashgrove and St Laurence's, all of which are now part of entrenched memories I hope to pass on to my son.

Fast forward a number of years and I find myself back in Catholic Education as a Deputy Principal. I left Villanova and became a teacher after being inspired by the great role models I had at the school. I spent the first two years in state education in Bundaberg and moved back to Brisbane where I took a role with Sheldon College and became Faculty Leader for Business, Humanities and Technology. After taking some long service leave and making my way to Cape York, we (my wife and at the time four-month-old

son) spent some time in Mareeba and thought it would be a great place to live as a family. After applying for a Middle Leader – Business role at St Stephen's Catholic College in 2017, I was alerted to a Deputy Principal's position becoming available later that year. I applied for the position and was offered the role for a 2018 start. I could not think of a better school to do my apprenticeship in this role.

Since becoming part of Catholic Education again, I find a transcendence back to my days at Villanova as a student. The liturgies, masses and Catholic ethos, although not a part of my career for some time, felt comfortable when I returned to it. To work in a school that has ties to the Augustinians and a primary school in the town being St Thomas of Villanova in some way has meant that my position at St Stephen's was meant to be.

## AFAS News *by Tony Hindmarsh*

A great night was had by all who attended the third AFAS Elders and Greg Cooley Concert. The evening began as the sun set over Cassiciacum Terraces with the backdrop of the city skyline. Luke Dickinson was the wonderful support act that provided the platform for the night's main act of La Forza. Those in attendance had a wonderful night and were entertained by the many songs that were part of La Forza's repertoire.

The event was dedicated to supporting AFAS Elders' projects on Kinatarcan Island in the Philippines.

This year's focus was to raise money towards the purchase of a steriliser worth approximately \$2,500 for the midwife on Kinatarcan. Currently the midwife must make regular trips to the mainland or another island to sterilise her equipment for use in delivering babies and other medical procedures. There is no hospital, doctor or ambulance service.



Staff, parents and Old Boys who have worked on Kinatarcan Island supported the fundraiser

The importance of the night was highlighted by Juanita Jacobs and Mark Edgerton speaking of their experiences on their trips to Kinatarcan Island.

*Thanks to the generosity of all those who attended the night, a steriliser has now been ordered for the midwife.*

## 2021 Old Boys DIARY DATES

**FRIDAY 6 AUGUST**  
Old Boys Dinner

**SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER**  
End of Year Gathering

**TBC**

Charlie Fisher Cup

There was a great turnout of Old Boys at the first 2021 events held under the new St Thomas of Villanova Learning Centre in February and for Old Boys Round at Villa Park in May.

**SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**  
Deceased Villanovans' Mass

**SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER**  
Mothers of Villanova Old Boys



### STAY CONNECTED

Join the Old Boys Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/villaoldboys](http://www.facebook.com/villaoldboys)

Follow us on Instagram: [villaoldboys](https://www.instagram.com/villaoldboys)

Let us know if you have changed address or contact information:  
[www.vnc.qld.edu.au/our-community/update-your-details/](http://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/our-community/update-your-details/)

# Early Reflections of Villanova College

Gavin Hegerty (1954) is amongst the first university graduates from Villanova College and built a successful career in dentistry. Gavin has kindly penned these reflections on his time in the early years of College life.

"The memories of my school days at Villanova College at Whinstanes and Coorparoo were one of the best times of my life. The first time I heard "Villanova" mentioned at home was when Dad said it was time that I went to a boys' school. He eventually won the argument, but it took him three years. Hence I commenced schooling at Villanova in January 1950, the third year of Villanova's existence.

I lived at Toombul and I rode my bike through the suburbs of Clayfield and Hendra to Whinstanes. Quite often I was riding past champion racehorses having their morning exercise. I was in grade seven (then known as the scholarship class) with fifteen other boys. A few of the students left after grade seven at the age of fourteen as they were able to gain apprenticeships.

Father Ben O'Donnell was the Rector of the College (known as OD) to the boys. Father Louis Hanrahan, known to we boys as "George" taught English and later Latin. Oh how he could put the fear of God into us, if we could not recite our poetry. Father Brian Mahoney, Father Woods and Father O'Shea were always full of encouragement for we boys. These five Irish priests were the first teachers at Villanova and the total number of boys was about 80.

The following year Father Bernie Connolly and Father Rod Cameron returned from their time in the USA. They both became officers in the newly formed school Army Cadet Unit. We were taught to drill, route march and army style discipline.

During this time the choirs of many Catholic schools participated in the St Patricks Day concert at Brisbane City Hall. Our Villanova choir gave us so much pride and joy under the tutelage of "George."

Most of the students left after the junior level (today's year 10) obtaining positions in the State Public Service, insurance companies and banks. They could also gain extra studies at technical college. At this time there was an abundance of jobs for everyone.

In sub-senior (today's year 11) there were only three students. The following year in 1954 was the opening of the new school at Coorparoo, and there were only two students in the senior grade.

I still lived on the other side of town. To get to school I had to travel by train to Central Station and then tram to Coorparoo, a journey of one hour each way.

If students passed Year 12 they had opportunities to join the Commonwealth Public Service, go to university or the seminary. It was not an expectation that most students attend university but I enrolled in dentistry at the University of Queensland. At that time the whole university had a total of 3,000 students.

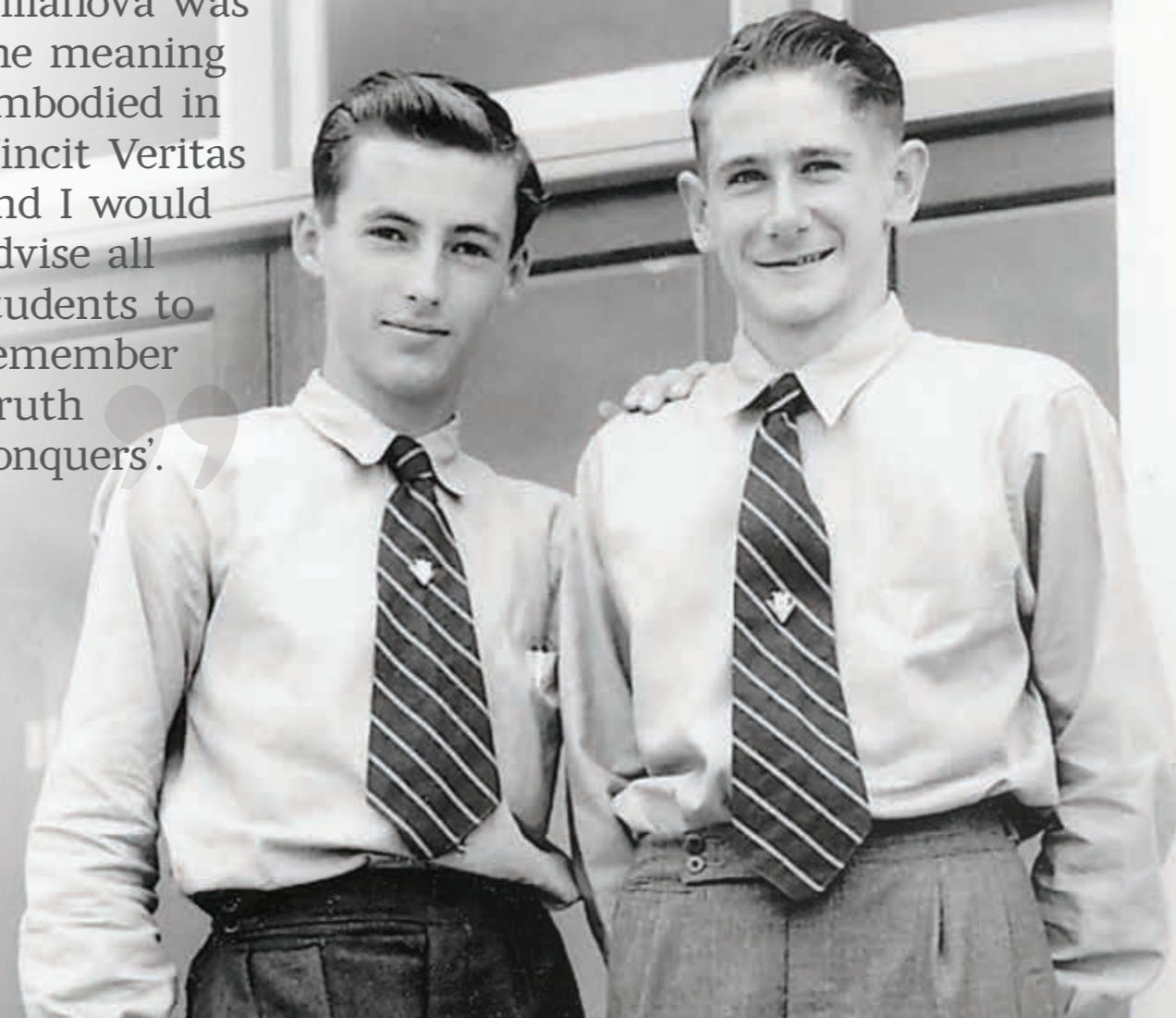
I was awarded a Fellowship with the State Health Department and received an allowance of five pounds a week. This also meant I had a Government position for three years after graduation. I held positions in the Atherton Tablelands, Innisfail and Townsville where I became Officer in Charge of the Townsville Dental Clinic. I then opened a private dental practice where I worked until retirement in 2002, 42 years of dentistry. During this time I married my wife Colleen of 58 years, raised three children and we enjoy eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Even all these years later, I feel very honoured to have been educated by the Augustian Fathers. What I learnt from Villanova was the meaning embodied in Vincit Veritas and I would advise all students to remember "truth conquers." That motto has stayed with me all my life and I call it the Villanova Way.

### THE MOTTO HELPED ME TO:

- Do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay
- To always be true to yourself and be able to live with yourself
- To treat strangers as you yourself would like to be treated
- To be generous with my time and resources
- To stop and listen to others
- To speak daily to my best friend Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother."

What I learnt from Villanova was the meaning embodied in Vincit Veritas and I would advise all students to remember 'truth conquers'.



Gavin Hegerty



Father Louis Hanrahan with three Sub-Junior students, Gavin Hegerty, Keith West and Gerard Liddy (1951)

Peter Gladwin and Gavin Hegerty (1954 Senior class)

“Despite the vast world we live in, it really is a small one! Two Villa Old Boys serving the communities of south western Queensland discovered their common link.”

## VILLA OLD BOYS SERVING QUEENSLAND COMMUNITIES

Leo Jensen (1987, left Villanova at end of 1985) has worked with a range of local government authorities across Queensland over the last 30 years. A town planner by profession, Leo has held senior leadership roles in the local government sector and has also operated his Brisbane-based planning, environmental and management consultancy for the last 12 years.



Leo Jensen and Vaughan Collins

Leo currently works with five south western Queensland councils reviewing their disaster management plans and supporting documentation. During a recent visit to the south west and in particular the Bulloo Shire, two Old Boys crossed paths at the Bulloo Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) meeting held in Thargomindah.

About 1000km west of Brisbane, ‘Thargo’ as it’s more affectionately known, is a progressive and resilient little town situated on high-ground adjacent to the Bulloo River.

Sergeant Vaughan Collins (1997) has lived in Thargo for the last 11 years with his wife and family, as the Officer in Charge at the Thargomindah Police Station. Vaughan has 20 years of mostly outback policing experience, having performed duty in locations including Dajarra and Mt Isa. He wears numerous hats in the local community including one as a Councillor for the Bulloo Shire Council.

The Thargo police station covers an area of near 70,000 km<sup>2</sup> stretching north from Cameron Corner in the remote south-west to Arrabury Station on the South Australian border, and east along the New South Wales border to the Currawinya National Park boundary near the Queensland town of Hungerford.

During a casual chat between Leo and Vaughan, they found out they both grew up on Brisbane’s southside and then discovered their shared Villanova connection.

Leo and Vaughan will catch up later in the year as the disaster management project progresses.

## LIFE AS A COVID-19 FIRST RESPONDER

Villanova Old Boy Anthony Sullivan (Class of 2011 and Villanovan of the Year) travelled from Brisbane to London and found himself helping at the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. His involvement in College Mission projects laid the foundation for his career.



Anthony remembers that, “In my years at Villanova I tried to get involved in all aspects of the College as much as possible. I competed in both cricket and football, played violin and trombone in the music program, was a part of AFAS and lucky enough to go to the Philippines in Year 12 as part of the AFAS tour. That was a highlight of my final year. It also helped me to understand what it was like to work with people from all walks of life and the impact you can have on people.”

When Anthony graduated from school he didn’t have a clear career goal, but went to QUT and completed a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedics). In 2014 he gained a graduate paramedic position with the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS).

Anthony says that in working as a paramedic,

“no two days are the same. I have met people from all walks of life all with their own incredible stories. Being able to support them through their most vulnerable times is extremely rewarding.”

After working for the QAS for a year and a half, Anthony answered a call from the London Ambulance Service for Australian paramedics.

“I saw this as the perfect opportunity to both challenge myself in my career and to be based on the doorstep of Europe to travel as much as possible.

Working in London was an incredible experience and I loved every minute of it. It is such a diverse, multi-cultural city on a scale I couldn’t have imagined.”

2020 brought the most challenging conditions in Anthony’s career. “Being a paramedic during the London COVID-19 pandemic involved 12-hour shifts spent in full PPE (personal protective equipment). We were often required to do overtime at the end of the shift or take on extra shifts.

All the hospitals were completely filled with COVID patients. The severity of patients became more challenging and at times difficult decisions were having to be made on a regular basis. All of this while stuck in strict lockdown. It was certainly exhausting and a challenging time for myself and my colleagues.”

Anthony had planned to return home at the end of 2020 and managed to fly back without delay or complication just prior to Christmas.

“It was quite a shock initially having been around COVID precautions in the UK to walk the streets here with no face masks and life as seemingly normal.”

“I still keep in contact with a lot of mates from Villa; we had such a good group and even though I had been gone for five years, those connections are still as strong today. I had a few school mates visit me in London and to travel around Europe. It is certainly nice to be back, catching up with those I haven’t seen in quite a while.”

Anthony has since accepted a position as a paramedic with the QAS based in Charters Towers. While a very big change from London, he is looking forward to experiencing rural Queensland.

Anthony’s advice for students?

“Be involved in as many aspects of the College as you can, whether that be through ministry, sports, music, academics or in general College life.

“Former drama teacher Susie Lawson always had a quote on the wall in her drama classroom saying, “Life is not a dress rehearsal...this is it”. It’s a quote I took through my time at Villa and still think of today. Take every opportunity you can get”.



Keith and Anne Druery with members of the First XI and family at the unveiling of the Keith Druery Nets.

## HONOURING A LEGACY

Last year on a warm summer morning, the Druery family, friends, staff, former staff, students and Old Boys gathered at Villanova Park to honour the significant legacy of Mr Keith Druery through the official unveiling of the Keith Druery Cricket Nets.

Keith has a long connection and impact on the Villanova we know today. He began teaching English and History at Villanova in 1972 and became the First XI cricket coach. In 1974 Keith coached the Villanova First XI to a premiership – a first for the College and one of four in Villanova’s history. Keith himself played A Grade cricket for Easts and the Queensland Colts Team.

Keith saw the need to set up a cricket coaching program that started at the grass roots. He and teacher, Don Holdsworth set up the Villanova Cricket Club and organised and coached many students from Years 4 to 12. As there was no interschool competition for Primary Cricket, they took part in the Zone 4 Cricket competition in terms one and four. Countless hours were spent coaching, preparing team lists, cricket kits, match balls, and parent rosters.

Keith’s dedication to cricket continued for many years coaching the younger grades and often going over to Villanova Park to watch the Villanova teams play, including his sons Tony (dec. 1981), Paul (1983) – who both played First XI cricket - and Damian (1984).

In recent years, Keith’s grandsons – Ben Druery (2011), Chris Druery (2013), Jack Druery (2016), Alex Druery (2018) and Harry Weule (Year 9) would often have granddad watching proudly from the boundary. Many young men benefitted from Keith’s love for cricket and his commitment to the community.

In addition to cricket, Keith has held a variety of College leadership roles across education and the arts, including:

- 1972 – 1975 (Secondary English and History Teacher – Years 10, 11, 12)
- 1976 – 1978 (Secondary Administrator)
- 1979 – 1999 (Primary School Headmaster)
- 1982 – 1999 (Key role in the development of the College music program and success of the Queensland Catholic College’s and Schools’ Music Festival)
- 2000 – 2012 (Editor of the Villa Voice)
- 2004 – 2006 (Chair of the One Mind One Heart Project, resulting in the much-loved Augustine Centre)

At the naming of the Cricket Nets, Mr Andrew Slack (Class of 1972, Captain of the 1972 First XI) read some of Keith’s humorous coaching notes from that time. While this drew laughs and rekindled some more fond memories it was also a tribute to the respect that is held towards Keith.

Mrs Anne Druery, in her speech remembered the long hours Keith devoted to sports, arts and education at the College and expressed how proud she and the family are of Keith’s legacy.

*We thank Mr John Godwin for his key role in honouring Keith.*

# A Master of his Craft

Did you know that a Villanova Old Boy is one of the very few in Australia to practise the art of frame conservation? Robert Zilli graduated from Villanova in 1988. Little did he know it would take a trip to the other side of the world a few years later to set him on a highly specialised pathway.

Robert remembers particularly enjoying manual arts in his early years at the College as well as art and ancient history, which in some ways laid the ground work for his future career. He was active in the cross country program, track and field, rugby and volleyball. After leaving school Robert wasn’t quite sure of his pathway. While he was looking into cabinet making apprenticeships, he began labouring in his father’s construction business. On a trip to Italy to visit relatives, Robert was introduced to a friend of the family who ran a business in historical building conservation. Robert says, “That piqued my interest in conservation and restoration, however as there were no courses in Australia in frames or furniture conservation and restoration I started looking overseas and that led me to study for a diploma in restoration in Florence.”

When Robert arrived back in Brisbane in 1992 he worked for himself and various restorers while volunteering with the Queensland Art Gallery in restoration framing one day per week for almost two years. Robert says, “I knew I wanted to pursue this area and there were very few jobs so I backed myself and volunteered. It paid off because I applied for a one-year traineeship with the Gallery, for which I was selected, and in time I was successful in gaining a full-time role in 1995. Now I lead the Frames and Furniture Conservation team and am involved in incredible conservation projects.”

Robert has furthered his skills through an esteemed Churchill Fellowship and another through the International Specialised Skills Institute. These provided opportunities to travel to Chicago for a study tour and work in the National Gallery in London for almost three months. While in London, Robert secured a six-month role as a Frame Conservator at the Guildhall Art Gallery and Museum in the City of London, before heading back to the Queensland Art Gallery.

A current project Robert is undertaking at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art involves recreating the intricate details of a mid-19th century frame for an original artwork by Brisbane artist Anthony Alder (who was also Queensland Museum’s former taxidermist). This process involves months of research and intricate work to recreate an authentic frame for the artwork which is part of Queensland Art Gallery’s permanent collection.

Robert’s advice to current students is that when aiming for industries that can be challenging such as the Arts, “just follow your passion because you never know where it is going to end up. Don’t be scared to put yourself out there and show initiative like volunteering. Be open to entry-level roles, as it can take time to reach a certain point. Also, don’t stop learning. I am always looking to do professional development and I research options. Follow what you enjoy, believe in yourself and the rest will fall into place. It really is okay to take some time to figure things out because your future might just come from the most unexpected experiences.”



Matt Zeremes  
Class of 1998

# Make rejection your *best* friend



These are not the words you expect to hear from an Emmy award-winner but they form one of the key learnings behind the successful acting, writing, directing and production career of Matt Zeremes (1998).

Since leaving Villanova, Matt completed a bachelor's degree in acting through Queensland University of Technology and built on this qualification through writing and producing his own films and plays. He has featured on TV screens across the country in shows including Secret City, Underbelly and Home and Away. He has also built a successful theatre career with performances at the Sydney Opera House and London's West End.

Matt says, "while I have been fortunate to be in interesting roles, I had to be persistent and proactive in creating my own opportunities. I would audition and so many times just miss out because I wasn't quite what they were looking for, or was what they were looking for, but didn't have a big enough public profile."

**It was like going for 200 job interviews with 199 rejections. To keep going, I had to make rejection my friend."**

"It meant that I found other ways to build my career and started creating opportunities by making my own content through films and plays. I never doubted my talent, or my effort, the hard times were many, but eventually things started to turn around."

The much-loved ABCME kid's series - Hardball, and soon to be released Season 2 (watch this space) represented

a significant turning point. "Hardball was created by me and long-time creative partner and best mate, Guy Edmonds. It follows a kid named Mikey who goes on a journey to become the 'sweetest-acest-bestest' handball champ in Western Sydney. It's a funny series with a lot of heart. Hardball's success was a huge recognition for the massive team effort it takes to bring a show to life."

That success saw Hardball receive an Emmy at the 9th International Emmy Kids Award and judged the world's best children's fiction program for 7 to 10-year-olds at the Prix Jeunesse International Awards in 2020.

Matt's commitment to recognising those involved in the journey was evident during his recent visit back to Villanova. Addressing the graduates of 2020 and the 2021 Scholars' Assembly, Matt shared how the College, his Mum, and in particular, his Drama teacher, Susie Lawson assisted and inspired him to pursue his dreams no matter how many obstacles were in the way. Matt also generously gave his time to share his learnings with the Year 12 Drama class about the entertainment industry and toured the new St Thomas of Villanova Learning Centre where he was quizzed on his own handball skills.

Matt also said, 'None of Hardball's success would have been possible without the support of the team at Northern Pictures, Screen Australia, Create NSW, ACTF and of course, ABC.'



**VOBA  
DINNER**

**Friday 6 August 2021**

**Royal on the Park**  
Tickets on sale now!  
[www.trybooking.com/BRHLO](http://www.trybooking.com/BRHLO)

# You're Invited!

TO THE FOURTH ANNUAL  
**Mothers of Villanova Old Boys**

**Saturday 9 October 2021**  
**2.30-5.30pm**

Villanova College, Senior School Terrace  
\$50 per person, canapes and drink on arrival  
Cash bar, raffles and more!

RSVP by 30 September  
Tickets via <https://www.trybooking.com/BRJMK>  
**For further information please contact**  
[events@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:events@vnc.qld.edu.au)

*MoVob*  
*Mothers of Villanova Old Boys*



# FROM THE *archives* THE EARLY YEARS OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM



Last year saw a significant change to education in Queensland with the ATAR system replacing Overall Positions as the standard pathway to tertiary entrance. It is generally expected today that students will complete Junior and/or Senior level studies before entering the workforce, apprenticeships, university or other pathways. However, did you know in the early days of Villanova, and education more broadly, this was a rarity, with students often leaving to go into the workforce at the end of Year 7. Until the 1960s the majority of students left school at the age of 14 ([www.education.qld.gov.au/about/history](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/about/history)).

## Our education system of not too long ago had the following structure:

A Queensland State Grade system was in place when Villanova College opened at Whinstanes in 1948. This included:

**Prep** Years 1 and 2

**Primary School:** Grade 1 to 7, with Grade 7 having been the Public Scholarship Examination year since about 1937. "The scholarship examination was a very thorough assessment of student academic performance generally featuring a few different papers including Arithmetic, English, Geography and History. Students had to possess

more than average ability to answer examination questions intelligently and had to have been taught well." ([www.education.qld.gov.au/about/history](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/about/history))

Until 1963, the endpoint of primary education in Queensland was the Scholarship examination, which selected students for entry into secondary school. This exam determined the future opportunities for students of a very young age.

Have a look at the example scholarship exams (on the next page) from the 1940s found in the College Archives. Imagine sitting this in Year 7 with much at stake from the results.

**Secondary School:** included Sub-Junior (Grade 8), Junior (Grade 9), Sub-Senior (Grade 10) and Senior (Grade 11 and 12).

**Villanova at Whinstanes** enrolled the following year levels:

- 1948: Grade 5, 6, 7 and Sub-Junior
- 1949 and 1950: Grade 5, 6, 7, Sub-Junior and Junior
- 1951: Grade 5, 6, 7, Sub-Junior, Junior and Sub-Senior
- 1952: Grade 6, 7, 8 (Scholarship), Sub-Junior, Junior, Sub-Senior and Senior
- 1953: Grade 7, 8 (Scholarship), Sub-Junior, Junior, Sub-Senior and Senior
- In 1952 an extra year of Primary School was added to the Curriculum with Grade 8 becoming the Scholarship year. Prep was reduced to one year, and Secondary School then became Grade 9 – 12.

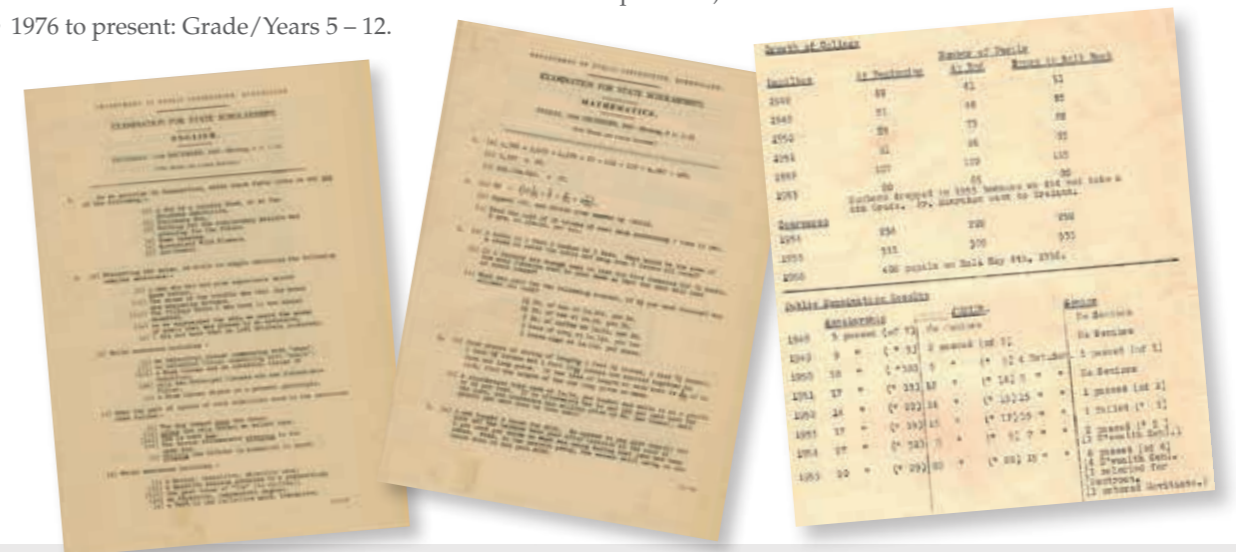
**Since moving to Coorparoo**, the College has offered the following year levels:

- 1954 – 1955: Grade 5 - 12
- 1956 – 1975: Grade 4 – 12
- 1976 to present: Grade/Years 5 – 12.

In the 1950s in Queensland many primary teachers had not completed secondary school. Some were apprentice trained after Year 10. Secondary teachers often had only two years' teacher training after finishing high school.

The Augustinians who taught at the College were very well-educated with the majority of the Villanova founding staff holding university degrees in education. For example, Father O'Donnell O.S.A. studied philosophy, obtained a master's degree in Theology from a university in Rome and received first class honours through a Higher Diploma in Education from a university in Galway. Father Hanrahan O.S.A. studied theology at a university in Rome, then completed his Arts degree followed by a master's degree and finally a Higher Diploma in Education. (One Mind One Heart, Villanova - Its story and traditions, p11).

Since its founding days, Villanova has grown from 40 students on the opening day of the College at Whinstanes in 1948 to 238 students when the College moved to Coorparoo. It currently enrolls over 1,400 students across Year 5 to 12. (One Mind One Heart, Villanova - Its story and traditions, p25 & 29).



## Preserving Villa history one photo at a time: Digital Archive Project

Did you know that Villanova Archives has over 30,000 photos from 1948 when Villanova was founded at Whinstanes through to our Villanova of today? Thanks to a generous donor, this important history will be preserved through a newly established digital archive project.

The project will enable the restoration, scanning and tagging of thousands of (often one of a kind) photos. Belinda Grant from College Archives has begun the process and is enjoying being part of preserving the history of the College for past, current and future members of the Villanova community.

"With every photo that is scanned, another important piece of our history and community is preserved. I am excited and honoured to work on this important project," she said.



### CAN YOU HELP??

We are currently seeking photos from 1962 and 1963. If you have any photos or memorabilia from these years or others that you would like to share with the College please contact [foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:foundation@vnc.qld.edu.au)



**2021 *community* EVENTS**

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**SATURDAY 24 JULY**  
Villanova Ball

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**SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**  
Deceased Villanovans' Mass

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**SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER**  
Mothers of Old Boys afternoon

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**SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER**  
Derby Day for Ladies

*\* All 2021 events subject to COVID restrictions.  
Please note that any cancellations/postponements  
will be advised through the College's Facebook page.*

