



ORMOND COLLEGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

New & Old

ORMOND COLLEGE MAGAZINE



A *new* era

Issue No. 104
December 2024

Thank you,
Lara McKay!

Spotlight
on alumni

Dhombak
Goobgoowana

From the archives:
Mrs Callow's Gift

Cover. Master Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate
and former Master Lara McKay.

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New & Old is published by the College
Advancement Office for the Ormond
community. Printed on FSC-certified
carbon-neutral paper stock.

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The Wurundjeri People are the people of
the Wurun, the river white gum, who have
been custodians of this land for thousands
of years. We pay our respects to all
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Elders – past, present, and emerging.

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FEATURES

16 Thank you, Lara McKay!



24 A Magical, Musical Experience: Chong Voon Lim AM



22 Optimist at the Bench: Judge Hilary Charlesworth



14 Budj Bim On Country Experience



38 Encore! Celebrating 50 years of Stephen McIntyre at Ormond



THE REGULARS

- 4 Message from the Master and Head of College
- 6 Student life
- 10 Student enrichment
- 46 From the archives
- 48 Alumni news
- 58 Alumni honours
- 64 Vale

Message from the Master and Head of College

.....
Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate
.....

It's been another huge year for Ormond students, alumni and staff. The 2024 Valedictory dinner was in October, and it was impressive that night – and a little dizzying – to reflect on everything our students had achieved over the year.

I stepped into my new role as Master the following day, with a real sense of optimism and gratitude. It's such an honour to lead this extraordinary community, and to take the mantle from the 10th Master, my colleague and friend, Lara McKay.

Leading a community like Ormond is a challenge, too, but – as I've learned through my time as Vice Master here – a rewarding and often exhilarating one. I sincerely appreciate the support I've received from across the community as I settle into the new role.

When you flip through this edition of *New and Old*, you'll see what I mean by exhilarating. A lot has happened in our community in 2024! As Master I'm eager to build on the strides Ormond has made over recent years, especially with regards to enhancing engagement and inclusivity within the broader Ormond community; strengthening connections between the Wade Institute and the current student cohort and enhancing our campus to meet the needs of students today and in the future.

Students are, of course, at the absolute centre of everything we do at Ormond. In the Student Life section of *New*

and Old, we bring you up to date with some of the highlights of the year on the Ormond campus – from the College musical, *Into the Woods*; to the Intercollegiate Regatta (the Women's First VIII won!); to a boisterous staff vs students debate in the JCR (the staff won and we'll trounce them again next year.)

As part of our academic program, students have taken part in intensive courses on celestial mechanics, gene therapy and the link between psychoanalysis and politics. Nobel Prize-winning immunologist Professor Peter Doherty has visited the College, too.

In 2024 we've seen a record number of Ormond Scholars (students who have achieved a first-class honours grade average or more in their studies) and our dedicated tutors have played a huge role in this achievement. This year, we have a new Dean of Learning, Dr Emma Hoskins, and she is bringing great enthusiasm and energy to the role.

Things have been incredibly busy at the Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship, too, with the team running a range of excellent programs and events for movers and shakers in

the start-up world. On page 34, you can read all about an exceptional Master of Entrepreneurship graduate, Laura Youngson, and her mission to change the world of women's sports apparel.

At Ormond, the focus has always been on preparing students to make a positive contribution to the wider world. This year's edition of *New and Old* is packed with examples of Ormondians and Wade graduates who have gone on to do exactly that.

Judge Hilary Charlesworth reflects on the challenges and rewards of her work at the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Composer/arranger Chong Lim discusses the College friendships that kickstarted his incredible career in music. Magistrate Abigail Burchill, tells us about the Yorta Yorta leaders who continue to inspire her in her important work at the Magistrates Court of Victoria. And entrepreneur Michael Smith flies high – circumnavigating the continent in a seaplane.

So much of what happens at the College would be impossible without the generosity of alumni and the broader Ormond community, including parents and friends. You can read an archive story about a rather extraordinary benefactor,

Mrs Nell Callow, on page 46, and about our annual giving campaign on the final page of the magazine.

"THE FOCUS IS ON PREPARING STUDENTS TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION."

But generosity comes in many forms. There are so many great people who give their time and their expertise to our College. One surpassing example is Stephen McIntyre, our artist in residence – and my delightful neighbour at Allen House – who this year celebrates 50 years at Ormond College. It's impossible to measure the influence he's had on this place, and especially on the musicians who have passed through it, and it's been an honour to mark this milestone with Stephen in 2024.

The year 2024 marks a changing of the guard here at Ormond. We're not only farewelling Lara McKay (read more about her achievements and legacy on page 16) but we're also farewelling our Ormond College Association President Simon Thornton, after more than a decade at the helm, and welcoming a new OCA President, Eleanor Bridger. I'm so grateful to both Simon and Eleanor for their contribution to the College.

I hope you'll take the opportunity to connect with Ormond again in the new year. Please keep in touch – with us, and with each other in the College community – in the new year. Happy reading! •

STUDENT LIFE

Spotlight on Student Clubs and Societies

Did you know that Ormond now has more than 50 registered clubs and societies? These range from the Ski Club to the International Students' Club to the Pub 'n' Grub Society. We asked a few College club leaders and captains for their reflections on 2024.



01



02

- 01. Freshers exam during O-Week.
- 02. Womens+ AFL team members, from left to right (L-R): Emily Michel, Elise Angus, Tashi Briggs.
- 03. Nodmor wine society night in the Kaye Scott room.
- 04. Students celebrating a win for the Men+ Soccer team.

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Olivia Tallent - Head of the Debating Club

This year saw the first Ormond Staff versus Student debate. The topic was “current university students face greater adversity than prior generations did”. The staff (ironically) argued for the affirmative, and the students for the negative. Held in the Junior Common Room (JCR) with taps on, the night was filled with fiery debate and lots of laughs, with the staff emerging victorious by audience vote.



We also worked with the ‘Nodmor’ wine society and Trinity College to organise a wine and debate night in October. Trinity hosted the debate and we won! There are plans in the works for an intercollegiate debate in the second half of Semester Two.

The vision of the debating society this year was to make debating more inclusive. Through events like Speed Debating, and the Staff vs Student debate, we’ve been able to demonstrate that debating is not just for those who participated in high school.

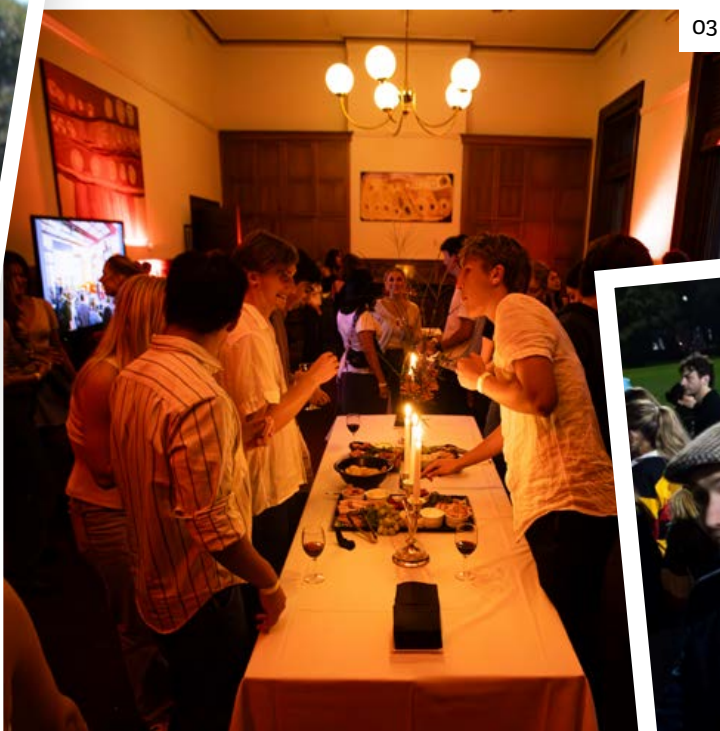
Oliver King – Captain of Men’s Soccer Club

It was another great season for men’s soccer – and a fairly relaxed one – apart from our narrow, penalty shoot-out victory against a rickety St Hilda’s outfit at the start. Surprisingly (even with yours truly as captain...) it felt like we waltzed through our remaining games to the finals before I could even register what we’d accomplished.

Our back-to-back championship victory was undoubtedly the highlight of 2024. We butted heads with Queen’s College under lights at Princes Park, ultimately demoralising them with two goals to their paltry one. We had a sizeable crowd with drums, bagpipes and trumpet to boot. The atmosphere was electric.



For the 2025 captain of the Ormond Men’s Soccer Team, I’d like to offer the words of Eric Cantona (a man famous for making no sense): “You can change your wife, your politics, your religion, but never, never can you change your favourite football team.”



03



04



"THE REGATTA IS ALWAYS A HUGE EVENT IN THE COLLEGE SPORTS CALENDAR. IT DATES ALL THE WAY BACK TO 1881, WHEN ORMOND AND TRINITY STARTED THE CONTEST."

- Elise Angus



Archer Bryett – Head of the Music Society

The biggest event of the year was definitely the "Rock Off" Smoko. In this extremely fierce annual musical competition, Ormond students compete to represent the College at the Intercollegiate Battle of the Bands competition. This year the Music Society Subcommittee was loaded with Rock Off veterans, including Claire Steel (Co-Head) and it was one for the history books - with a large-scale lighting and audio set-up and the biggest stage Ormond smokos have ever seen.

The remainder of the year was busy with planning for Open Mic Night and the second annual End of Year Music Gala. Open Mics are really important for maintaining our musical community and engaging a broad variety of students – presenting music, poetry and comedy! The End of Year Music Gala will include many solo performances and duets, as well as the Ormond College Choir and Jazz Band.

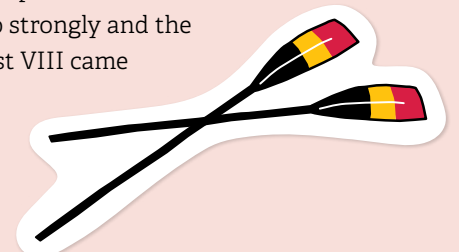


Elise Angus – Women's Rowing Co-Captain

The depth of skill and talent across the women's rowing squad was incredible this year. Both women's crews were filled with unbelievably talented rowers. The squad was mostly freshers this year and they were really energetic. This was lucky since the training schedule was gruelling at times, with 5am wake-ups, five or six times per week in the month leading up to the Intercollegiate Regatta.



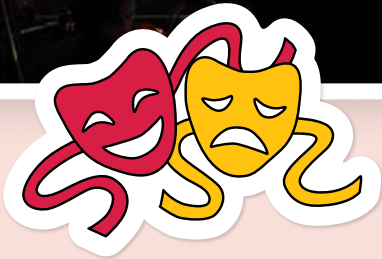
The Regatta is always a huge event in the College sports calendar. It dates all the way back to 1881, when Ormond and Trinity started the contest. This year was no exception, with a big Ormond crowd gathered on the banks of the Yarra, complete with chanting, drums, bagpipes and trumpets. The day was full of thrills and – thankfully – no major spills. All the Ormond rowing crews raced so strongly and the Ormond Women's First VIII came away with a win.





07

- 05. Ormond musical talent out in full force at Rock Off.
- 06. Ormond Women+ 1st VIII taking out the final of Intercollegiate Rowing Regatta 2024.
- 07. Ormond Drama production of *Into the Woods*.
- 08. Graduate students and members of Ormond Grads Run Club. L-R: Zoe McCalman, Jessica Osborne, Mitchell Fryer, William Thomas.



Max McKenzie – Head of the Drama Society



We've had plenty of fun events across the year including movie/musical nights, celebratory socials and, of course, the major and minor productions.

This year, we were thrilled to acquire rights to the 1980s classic musical, *Into the Woods*, for our major production. A bold choice! But there was a huge depth of talent across cast, crew and band and we rose to the challenge. The cast was incredible. The sound/stage team was exceptional in seamlessly integrating 18 microphones and quick scene transitions. The costume team spent countless hours creating Cinderella's stunning ball gown and devilishly handsome prince attires. The lighting team made the cast look sensational and highlighted the intricacies of our set design.

From our first bump-in to the closing night – where the show drifted delightfully off script – it was a privilege to work with incredibly dedicated and passionate performers, both students and alumni.



08

Jessica Osborne – Head of Grads Run Club

We started up the Grads' Run Club last year and it's been great to see so much uptake from the postgraduate community.

As the head of the club, I've found it's crucial to maintain enthusiasm and commitment, even when the turnout is low or the weather isn't ideal. If you enjoy the sessions, others will too!

We've held around 100 Run Club sessions at Princes Park this year. Lots of us participated in the Run Melbourne 10km fun-run in July and that was a significant milestone, especially for members who had no prior running experience and trained for months to participate. We're really proud of the effort everyone put in. We had a good turn-out for [brain cancer fundraiser] Connor's Run, and the club even branched out into casual soccer and frisbee competitions too. •



STUDENT ENRICHMENT

Meet our new Dean of Learning, Dr Emma Hoskins

Hailing from Louth, Lincolnshire, Emma Hoskins' life and work have taken her far from home – from England to Australia via Türkiye.

Emma Hoskins began her academic career as an undergraduate at the University of Hull, studying sociology, anthropology and development studies. 'I really enjoyed social theory and social research and I went on to do a Masters in Social Research, specialising in pregnancy and birth experiences.'

An outstanding scholar, Hoskins was offered a PhD scholarship in anthropology, and moved to Türkiye. In Istanbul, she learned to speak Turkish and researched the experiences of internal migrants in the context of nationalism.

Melbourne has been home since 2010 and Hoskins has been at Ormond College since 2018, working first as a tutor in sociology and anthropology. 'Our learning team here is really unique and special,' she enthuses. 'We're focused on instilling in students a real sense of purpose and pride in their studies.'

This year, Hoskins has stepped away from hands-on teaching to take on a new role as the Dean of Learning. In this role, she leads a team to run the College's academic program – from recruiting leading tutors to overseeing academic intensives and managing the

visiting speaker program. So far, she's relishing the new challenge and the chance to present students with a wide range of learning opportunities.

'We recognise that students today have very different influences on their thinking than we did. But the learning journey is something that we all go through as human beings in the world, and making that a kind of stewarded affair is really wonderful, I think. It's a lovely thing we do.' •





Welcome to Joel Italia, the Charles Goode Leading Tutor in Commerce

Joel Italia joined the College this year as a specialist tutor across commerce and economics, but his background includes study in music and politics, too.

Some people are natural teachers. While studying at university, Italia tutored high-school students in maths, English and music theory and he loved it. After graduating, he worked as an analyst at a consultancy firm for a few years, but was drawn back into the vocation – taking on a casual role as a commerce and economics tutor at the College.

‘I realised that working with young people was something I missed,’ he says. ‘Though it was probably a little bit crazy, working long hours and rushing to make it to late tutorials.’

Italia’s own academic background is impressively varied. He studied a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in politics and economics and is also an accomplished pianist with a Diploma of Music from the University of Melbourne.

He was appointed the Charles Goode Leading Tutor in early 2024. In this role, he oversees Ormond’s casual tutors in the disciplines of economics and commerce, while also tutoring some first-year and second-year subjects himself.

‘I see it as my responsibility to try to keep my knowledge sharp across

the discipline. In a way, it sometimes feels like I’m back at uni myself again. There’s a lot of learning from my end – which I love.’

‘Everyone in the Learning team is super friendly, super funny and also very, very smart. I just love being in that environment.’

The College is deeply grateful to Charles and Cornelia Goode for their ongoing commitment to enriching the academic life of the College. Their support helps create opportunities for tutors like Joel Italia to inspire the next generation of leaders. •

THE YEAR IN LEARNING

Learning at Ormond has always extended far beyond the University curriculum and this year was no exception.

In 2024, visiting speakers to Ormond have included former Minister for Foreign Affairs Gareth Evans, Indigenous education scholar Jessa Rogers and poet Amy Crutchfield. Ormond academic staff ran intensives on a dazzling array of subjects – from gene therapy to celestial mechanics to the human brain and Indigenous politics.

A five-day intensive on Psychoanalysis and Politics run by Bryan Cooke over the mid-winter break was a major highlight, with one student raving: ‘This was the most enjoyable academic experience of my life so far.’



What next?

Students have been connecting with alumni as they prepare for life after university.



01

Mentoring

In July, we launched our 2024 mentoring program with dinner and drinks at the Dining Hall. This year, the program sees 47 third-year and postgraduate Ormond students paired with 47 career mentors from our alumni community. Our mentors bring a wealth of experience from a wide range of professions and come from all across the world – from Sydney to Switzerland and South Africa.



02



"RODRICK HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE MENTOR, IT HAS BEEN GREAT TO BE ABLE TO HEAR ABOUT HIS CAREER AND RECEIVE ADVICE. HE HAS PROVIDED A LOT OF CAREER SUPPORT, WHICH HAS NOT ONLY BEEN INSPIRING BUT VERY HELPFUL."

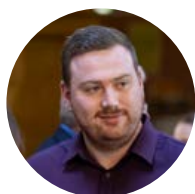
- Emmeline Duncan, Third year student in Science

Nostrum Futurum

In September, we celebrated the second year of the student-led “Nostrum Futurum” (Our Future) Dinner, proudly supported by the College. This event marked the culmination of the Ormond College Mentoring Program, reinforcing the valuable relationships built throughout the year. Keynote speaker and Ormondian Professor Rob Moodie (1972) delivered a powerful address on the importance of mentoring in shaping the next generation of leaders. We extend our gratitude to student Jennifer Wu and her committee for their dedication and hard work in making this event such a success. Welcoming alumni back for student-focused events is always a pleasure, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed their time and support. We look forward to welcoming more alumni in 2025.



04



“I TRULY APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK [DONE BY STAFF] THAT WENT INTO PLANNING AND MAKING THE EXPERIENCE SO ENRICHING. THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH ORMOND ALUMNI, GAIN INSIGHTS INTO THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND VISIT CANBERRA ALONGSIDE SUCH A GREAT GROUP OF PEOPLE WAS INVALUABLE.”

- Luke Ashcroft, Graduate student in JD



03

Capital Fun

In late September, our Senior Careers Consultant Sandy Cran and Dean of Students, Sophie Simpson accompanied a group of students interested in politics and public service on a transformative trip to Canberra. Selected students were from disciplines such as law, and arts with a focus on economics, and international relations. During the visit, students engaged with notable Ormond alumni, including Darcy Brumpton (2020) and Louisa Russell (2018), advisors in the Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Huw Hutchison (2011), First Secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The trip coincided with a cocktail alumni and parents event at ANU, allowing our students to network with approximately 25 alumni and parents based in Canberra. Additional activities included a behind-the-scenes tour of Parliament, attendance at a Senate sitting with a lively question time, and an Indigenous tour of the Museum of Australian Democracy. Students also explored exhibitions on political cartoons and public service, visited the Portrait Gallery, and experienced the vibrant Floriade festival showcasing spring flowers. Overall, the trip was a resounding success, with students expressing their gratitude and enthusiasm for the experience. This journey not only broadened their understanding of Australian politics but also inspired them in their academic and career aspirations. •

01. Associate Professor Jane Freemantle OAM spoke about the value of mentors.

02. Student mentee, Bobby (Zhebin) Wang and alumna mentor Sankkirtana Sellvakumaran (2019), at the launch of 2024 mentoring program.

03. Students in Canberra. L-R: Luke Ashcroft, Olivia Jones, Olive Breen, Meagan Hansen, Max Hepperlin.

04. Students Celeste Dunn and Jennifer Wu in conversation with Professor Rob Moodie at 2024 Nostrum Futurum.

In Semester Two, a group of 21 students set off on a transformative three-day camp to Budj Bim, guided by Gunditjmara community leaders. The program was designed by James Kelly (Dean of Students), and supported by Emma Hoskins (Dean of Learning) and Kristen Doran-Stawiarski (Dean of Wellbeing and Development).

Budj Bim On Country Experience



Budj Bim Cultural Landscape lies within the traditional Country of the Gunditjmara Aboriginal people in south-eastern Australia. Recognised by UNESCO, this site is home to one of the world's most extensive and oldest aquaculture systems.

Before embarking on their journey, our students participated in a series of pre-trip sessions designed to deepen their understanding of the rich diversity, history, and contemporary landscape of Australian Aboriginal culture.

Kirsty (Kaybee) Burchill, our Fremantle Fellow, opened the discussions with a powerful message: "In order to move forward we must look back". The session explored the deep impacts of colonisation and dispossession on Indigenous people and the resilience of their communities, setting a reflective tone for the trip.





Caleb Adams, our Indigenous Strategy Advisor, followed with an emphasis on how understanding historical contexts fosters better allyship and support for First Nations people and that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students could gain valuable insights into their identities.

The first day began with a moving smoking ceremony, the students then visited Lake Condah (Tae Rak), where they explored the wetlands and learned about the Gunditjmara people's sustainable eel farming techniques. That evening, they stayed at the historic Lake Condah Aboriginal Mission, immersing themselves in the historical significance

"IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD WE MUST LOOK BACK."

of Missions in the region and their impact on Indigenous communities.

The next day, they explored Tyrendarra and Kurtonitj, focusing on traditional land management and truth telling.

The afternoon followed with a hike through Budj Bim National Park, where the group visited 'Lake Surprise' and marvelled at the lava

tubes and caves.

On the final day, the students visited Allambie IPA, where they learned about how sustainable living was essential to the community's way of life. Their journey culminated in a visit to the Convincing Ground, where they explored

the history of the first massacre on Victorian soil and its profound impact on the Gunditjmara people.

This immersive journey served as an enriching exploration of Indigenous culture, history and resilience – an experience that the students would carry with them long after they returned home. This experience was a unique opportunity for student to expand horizons and foster meaningful connections. •

Thank you, Lara McKay!

A cool head, a willing ear and a big heart. Lara McKay, the tenth Master of Ormond College, will be missed.





01

At a special service in the Ormond Chapel on Sunday 14 October 2018, the College community officially welcomed its new Master, Lara McKay.

The Council had broken the mould with McKay's appointment. She was the first woman to serve as the College's leader. With her background as a media and marketing executive – McKay was the College's first non-academic Master, too.

At the service, McKay reflected on her first days in the role. In particular, she stressed the energy and optimism she'd already soaked up from Ormond students. 'The students have proven a great source of inspiration,' she said. 'Having the opportunity to mentor them is truly a privilege and perhaps the greatest aspect of this role for me.'

Inspiration, energy and optimism are three things any Ormond Master needs, but when McKay made that speech at Ormond chapel, she didn't know that a global pandemic was around the corner - which would cause her to draw deeply on those resources. But she'd already had some significant encounters with students, and she'd already begun to face some difficult situations.

Only weeks into McKay's tenure, a student had knocked on her door one day and told her she wanted to write a piece for the student publication *Ormond Papers* about her experience of sexual assault by another Ormond student. 'There was really no question in my mind that she should publish the piece if that's what she wanted to do,' McKay says.

McKay wrote her own piece to support the article in *Papers* and the pair worked together to implement a new assault disclosure policy for the College. In publicly supporting the student, McKay knew she would invite media attention to the College and she chose not to shrink from it.

Though sexual assault is unfortunately not uncommon on university campuses, the Crescent had never before seen the issue acknowledged with such candour. It had never before seen such an appetite for practical, student-led policy change before, either.

McKay says her actions at the time were guided and inspired by the student in question. 'She is an incredible young woman,' McKay said. 'She deeply impressed me from that very first meeting onward.'



02

- 01. Lara McKay at Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship with University of Melbourne faculty members.
- 02. With the 2024 General Committee.
- 03. L-R: Judge Hilary Charlesworth (1974), Lara McKay, Prof Alison Duxbury (1988), student Niveyn Nanayakkara, Master Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamata, Juris Doctor student Aleksandra Markovic, Acting Vice Master Kristen Doran-Stawiariski.
- 04. Lara with Will Petersen (2021) at the intercollegiate Rowing Regatta.

“I’ve met so many incredible people in my time here.”

Not just because she was so brave to tell her story, but because she was very focused on making things better for other students. She was so well-researched and had so many ideas.’

Ormond has anonymous reporting now, and there’s an improved culture around sexual-assault disclosure, too. ‘We were able to implement a lot of the student’s suggestions. Things are improving here and, I hope, elsewhere around the crescent,’ McKay says. ‘And one of the really great things about that period was that I found there was a lot of support from within the alumni community – that this was absolutely the right thing to do.’

In appointing McKay to the role, the Ormond Council had identified a need for a strategically minded leader; someone with broad knowledge and wide-ranging management experience. In retrospect, the decision seems prescient. McKay had worked for more than 25 years in the public sector in portfolios including education, health and sport, as well as in higher education at the University of Melbourne. She’d led big-budget marketing campaigns, but she also had crisis-management experience.



03



04

This background came to the fore when the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020 and presented an unexpected set of challenges for McKay and for the whole College community.

'I started the year 2020 in February thinking, "Goodness, how are we going to get our Chinese students back to College?" and a month or so later, 380 of our student population had left and I was living in lockdown with 50 remaining students.'

For much of the pandemic, McKay lived on campus with students and a small number of staff. She juggled the shifting government regulations with efforts to keep the College financially afloat and a duty of care for dozens of young people, separated from their families. 'It was a really, really challenging time,' McKay recalls. 'We were trying to work through government restrictions that weren't designed for a place like us – we're not a school, we're not a university. And of course, people wanted their fees back. I spent the first half of 2020 deeply fearful that the College would become insolvent. But it was also a time when the generosity of the Ormond community really came to the fore, because people were asking, "What can we do? How can we help?"'

Social-distancing measures and travel restrictions caused an uncomfortable change of atmosphere on the campus, McKay says. 'The whole idea of a College is really the antithesis of social distancing, so it was difficult for everybody ... And the restrictions changed the student-staff dynamic around the College. We'd gone from being a values-driven community – really founded on mutual respect – to having to be very directive and authority-driven. It wasn't fun'.

Stephen McIntyre, Ormond's artist in residence for 50 years, has seen seven Ormond Masters come and go. He lived on campus in Allen House for much of the pandemic and was deeply impressed by McKay's leadership through the period. 'Shepherding the College through Covid without it closing down was a remarkable thing,' he says. 'But Lara has a very special relationship with students and staff. She is a very good listener. Lara's great talent – it seems to me – is the ability to immediately be a friend of yours.'

It's not just McIntyre who has noticed McKay's special aptitude for listening. Ormond's new Master, and former Vice Master, Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate says, 'Lara leads with grace and dignity, and always makes an effort to hear everybody out.' Olivia Tallent, the new chair of the GC, says she was struck as a fresher by the example McKay set through her leadership. 'As a first year on the GC, I was amazed at the partnership between students and staff, where both strived to understand each other, and work together towards a common goal. Lara spearheaded this from the staff side, and throughout her time, made a continuous effort to listen to the student perspective.'

McKay's forthright approach and plain-speaking manner are also common talking points among those in the Ormond community who have worked with her closely. 'Lara does not sugar-coat things; she tells it like it is,' says Council Chairman Richard Loveridge. 'Her delivery is direct and genuine.' 'Honest and approachable,' is how Ormond's duty manager Mary Grgurovic describes McKay. 'She's straightforward and very open.'

For McKay, candour and sincerity have been guiding principles in steering the College through this period of its history, and through navigating all sorts of challenges and difficult situations – from sexual assault disclosures to truth-telling around the College's colonial past (see page 40).



05. Lara McKay at University of Melbourne Open Day.

06. Welcoming parents at Father's Day. L-R: Students Daniel Ladbrook, Kayla Bryant, Archer Bryett, Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate and Lara McKay.



“The generosity of the Ormond community really came to the fore, because people were asking, ‘What can we do? How can we help?’

‘There are definitely things in the College’s history that I’ve never wanted to shy away from acknowledging. I think that’s what our motto, *et nova et vetera*, is all about. What do you take from our heritage that is positive, and what might have happened here in the past that is not fit for today. What do we need to change?’

The progressive, inclusive ideals on which the College was founded have served as an inspiration for McKay. ‘The fact that this place was founded in 1881 as a place for ‘all faiths and none’ is really important. I think that speaks to ideals of diversity. Now, our understanding of diversity is a little bit different today than it was back then, but I think this is such a great starting point.’

Throughout her time as Master, McKay has been focused on increasing diversity among the student population. One of her priorities has been the restructuring of financial assistance.

‘We are still not as socioeconomically diverse as I would like us to be. But during these last few years, we’ve been giving more money to fewer students.

This allows us to give transformative amounts of money – and opportunities – to young people who might never come here otherwise.’

She’s proud, she says, of the partnerships the College has nurtured with Skyline Education, Western Chances and the Smith Family over recent years. ‘These organisations are introducing us to incredibly bright young people, who can bring so much to our College. These are students who might never have heard of us otherwise, or think that coming here is even possible. I really hope the College will keep building on this work.’

It’s clear McKay and Reggie (her golden-retriever/poodle cross – often spotted bounding across Picken Lawn), will be much missed at Ormond. McKay says she’ll miss the place too. ‘I’ve met so many incredible people in my time here,’ she says. ‘People who are really motivated to make a positive impact on the world. It’s been a privilege.’ •



Optimist at the Bench

Judge Hilary Charlesworth (1974) is the first Australian woman judge ever elected to the United Nations International Court of Justice. On a recent visit to her alma mater, Charlesworth reflected on her College days and life at the 'World Court'.

'A series of accidents' – that's how Judge Hilary Charlesworth describes the extraordinary legal career that has taken her from Ormond College in Melbourne all the way to the bench of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague. But it's clear that factors other than accident have played a role in Charlesworth's trajectory. Her contemporaries from the mid-1970s remember a young woman with broad-ranging talents and a relentlessly enquiring mind.

Charlesworth was reunited with some of those contemporaries in August at a special lunch in the Senior Common Room held in her honour. She met other Ormond alumni, staff and current students over lunch, and reflected on her time at College. 'This was a wonderful place to be as a student,' Charlesworth said. 'Apart from being the place where I met my spouse and many other friends, it had a profound influence on me.'

During her time at Ormond, Charlesworth threw herself into many aspects of College life – writing for *The Chronicle*, starring in theatre productions [alongside now federal Attorney General Mark Dreyfus (1974)] and meeting her future husband, Dr Charles Guest, then a medical student.



Left. Hilary Charlesworth on the cover of Ormond Chronicle.

It was not just her peers but also the former Master of Ormond College, Davis McCaughey, who made a strong impression on the young law student. 'Still sometimes, when I find myself in a difficult situation, I ask myself: what would Davis McCaughey do?' Charlesworth said. 'He was always calm in a crisis and had a way of listening to all points of view, never just imposing his solution to the problem.'

Charlesworth's interest in international law was sparked in her final year of study at Melbourne Law School. She went on to complete the Doctor of Juridical Science at Harvard Law School, to intern at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to pursue a career as an academic and jurist.

The author of eleven books, she is celebrated as an original and highly innovative thinker, and has been recognised for her work to bring feminist theory into the study of international law. Charlesworth holds professorships at the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University.

Today, of course, Charlesworth is based in the Hague, in the Netherlands, as a judge on the ICJ. Sometimes known as the 'World Court', it is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Charlesworth has served as a member of the ICJ since 2021 and was re-elected to the court in 2023.

At the lunch in August, Charlesworth spoke about her work in the Hague. She is the first Australian woman to serve as a judge in the ICJ's 78-year history. 'I'm one of only four women out of 15 judges at the ICJ, so there's still a long way to go.'

During her time at the ICJ, Charlesworth has heard matters on some of the most pressing issues of our time – from state obligations regarding climate change to maritime boundary disputes and the conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In seeking solutions to incredibly complex problems, Charlesworth works with 14 judicial colleagues from vastly different legal systems, including the Chinese, Mexican, Romanian, Lebanese and Somalian legal traditions. 'One of the most noticeable differences is that between colleagues from common law and civil law traditions,' Charlesworth said.

"STILL SOMETIMES, WHEN I FIND MYSELF IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION, I ASK MYSELF: WHAT WOULD DAVIS MCCAUGHEY DO?" CHARLESWORTH SAID. 'HE WAS ALWAYS CALM IN A CRISIS AND HAD A WAY OF LISTENING TO ALL POINTS OF VIEW, NEVER JUST IMPOSING HIS SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.'

Charlesworth took questions from students and alumni on the evolution of the ICJ, the limitations of the United Nations and on the issue of compliance in international law. 'The case load at the ICJ probably does reflect the paralysis of the Security Council,' said Charlesworth. 'But the court has sometimes shown the capacity to bring solutions to long-standing problems that have reached dead ends elsewhere. And, more broadly, people are always doing all sorts of other creative things to improve the legal machinery of the United Nations.'

By way of example, Charlesworth reflected on the successful 'veto initiative' spearheaded by diplomats from Lichtenstein, which came into effect in 2022. States exercising their veto powers in the Security Council are now obliged to explain their actions at ensuing General Assembly debates.

Charlesworth spoke, too, about an inspiring group of law students from Vanuatu. 'They mobilised local and regional governments and they have campaigned to have the ICJ issue an advisory opinion on states' obligations on climate change under international law.'

While acknowledging the imperfections of the international law system, Charlesworth's remarks carried a strong measure of optimism.

'I'm an optimist because even if the big wheels turn slowly, and have their frustrations, there are small wheels and new mechanisms that people – including young people – are bringing to bear on the system as a whole.' •

A Magical, Musical Experience

He's a music-industry legend, directing some of Australia's biggest instrumental productions, and working with household names. But it was his time at Ormond that made Chong Voon Lim AM (1978) realise a music career was even possible.



01

When Chong Voon Lim arrived at Ormond College in the late-70s, it was like stepping into another world, one abuzz with new possibilities. 'It was very exciting...I describe it to my friends these days as a mini-Hogwarts. Very medieval, and a lot of rituals,' Lim laughingly recalls. 'At lunch and dinner we would be sitting at these long tables and chatting, exchanging ideas with students of other faculties ... exchanging ideas about the world.'

It was this heady atmosphere – students from music, law and engineering, all sparking creatively – that would set the young mechanical engineering student on a path he never thought possible. One that would lead to a stellar music career, working on huge projects ranging from producing and music-directing for John Farnham, Olivia Newton-John and Kylie Minogue to composing original works for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Sitting in his studio as he prepares for the final rehearsal of The Victorian State Schools Spectacular (an annual all-school extravaganza at John Cain Arena; Lim is, naturally, Musical Director), Lim reflects warmly on his time at College. And how it, rather unexpectedly, led him here.

"AT LUNCH AND DINNER WE WOULD BE SITTING AT THESE LONG TABLES AND CHATTING, EXCHANGING IDEAS WITH STUDENTS OF OTHER FACULTIES ... EXCHANGING IDEAS ABOUT THE WORLD."





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*Chong's advice to his Ormond self:
“Make friends with a wide range of other students. Don't get sucked into the vortex of your own faculty!”*

In his earliest days at Ormond, when he was still getting his bearings, Lim would regularly retreat to the green room to play piano. It was there, ‘tinkling away’, that he met David Hobson (1978). Today, Hobson is a celebrated tenor but, Lim says, ‘he was a rocker then, and he was very energetic. He played a lot of instruments.’ The pair started jamming together and soon formed a band.

From there, things snowballed. Through Hobson and his wider circle, Lim met musician Willy Zygier, who was already finding success in a jazz outfit with Vince Jones.

‘Willy was a working musician already,’ Lim says, ‘And ... he recommended me for all the gigs he did. And so, I started doing a lot of jazz gigs. And that’s how it all started.’

Soon Lim was regularly gigging with Hobson and getting inspired by the other working musicians in his orbit.

‘They were all doing great things. I thought, wow, it could be me, you know?’ says Lim. ‘They opened the doors to me because I was just a part-time player.’

Growing up in Malaysia in the 60s and 70s, Lim recalls, there hadn’t been much of a music industry, ‘Now there is a thriving music scene,’ he says. But in those days, you ‘learnt an instrument to teach, or to play in a hotel lobby. And I had no interest in all that. But this opened a world of possibilities for me. And so I embarked on my journey.’

Lim did pass his mechanical engineering degree – with honours – though he laughingly admits he’s ‘forgotten everything’. He never had to use his back-up plan, though, as his career reached soaring heights. His achievements were recognised in 2018 when he was conferred with an Order of Australia honour.

But looking back on the big successes of his career, was there a *particular* highlight?

‘Well, I guess it must be the Sydney Olympics, 2000,’ Lim says. ‘We had an opportunity to showcase our collective talent to the world.’

The event was the culmination of two years of work, all shrouded in secrecy. ‘They had huge budgets, and they allowed us a huge playground; a sandpit of creativity,’ Lim enthuses. ‘If I said, “I need a choir” they’d give you a choir. If I said, “I need a huge orchestra”, they’d give you a huge orchestra ... And so, it was very exciting.’

Now, as he prepares for his next big event at John Cain Arena, Lim reflects on the camaraderie and the life-long friendships he formed in his university days.

‘It’s a magical experience,’ Lim says. ‘You only get one chance in your life. [College] is a great experience to have.’ •

01. Chong Lim is among Australia’s most celebrated musical directors. Credit: Image Play.
02. Conducting the orchestra at the Victorian State Schools Spectacular. Credit: Jeff Busby.

A Game-changer in Concussion Research



01

**"I THINK THAT ANYTHING I'VE
ACHIEVED TO DATE IS A SUM
OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT
OTHERS HAVE GIVEN ME."**

Just four years after leaving Ormond, Ella Swaney's (2017) PhD research into blood markers in concussion has led to a significant discovery that could identify children at-risk of long-term head injuries.

'Well, this next story's a big issue for parents with kids playing sport,' said host Sally Sara on ABC Radio National one morning in April this year. The news? 'A new discovery from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute could help parents identify if their child is more susceptible to long-term concussion symptoms.'

Her guest that morning was PhD candidate Ella Swaney, an Ormond alumna, and part of the research team who'd identified that children with lower levels of a particular blood protein are likely to be at higher risk of a slow recovery.

Not only had the team's research been instrumental in the discovery, but Swaney – along with her supervisor Professor Vera Ignjatović – had patented the blood marker allowing them to predict which children are more susceptible to slow concussion recovery.

In 2019, just five years before the paper outlining her research was published in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*, Swaney had been in her final year at College, with no notion of what the future held.

'I never had any intention to do a PhD, and didn't have a good grasp on what it would entail,' says Swaney. 'It was only when I was working in the Diabetes Research team at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in 2019, during my last year at Ormond, that my boss suggested I do an honours year at the MCRI. I did my honours in blood markers of concussion, and then continued this work during my PhD. It certainly wasn't something I sought out, but it was an incredible opportunity.'



02

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Ella's advice to her Ormond self:

“There are many ways to achieve what you want to do, it doesn't need to be a set career path.”

For those who know Swaney and her commitment to service – she's a surf lifesaver and volunteered as an ambulance driver during the pandemic – her success in a field that contributes to the greater good makes a lot of sense. At Ormond, Swaney's community spirit led her to take on a leadership role as Vice Chair on the Ormond College General Committee (GC).

'Being on the GC was more difficult than any job or position that I've held since,' Swaney reflects. 'It was a role that you balanced on top of university and work commitments. It had no set hours, and it required you to live with the people that you worked with and for.'

Now having moved away from Melbourne, Swaney looks back fondly on the times she spent in Ormond.

'One of my closest friends and I shared a study in my final year on level one of Main Building. Everyone would always drop by the study to chat, have a movie night or get ready for events ... It's so special to have those memories of everyone spending time together in the study.'

To Swaney, it's the people she's met – the things she's been lucky enough to experience – that have deepened her desire to give back.

'There have been so many people who have gone out of their way to support me. I think anything I've achieved to date is a sum of the opportunities that others have given me,' says Swaney. 'The foundations of a strong community are people going out of their way to do things for others without expecting anything back, and I saw that volunteering in the ambulance service in 2021.'

'Having a sense of service is so important in medical research because so much of the work that's done isn't glamorous. It can be repetitive and requires a lot of attention to detail, but if ultimately it contributes to answering a research question, then it can hopefully lead to improved health outcomes for others.' •

03



01. In the lab at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

02. Ella Swaney (GC Vice Chair) and Noah Szto (GC Chair) at Students' Club Dinner in 2019.

03. Ella Swaney has great memories of her time at Ormond.

A Legacy of Leadership

Magistrate Abigail Burchill (1990) comes from a long line of leaders in the Yorta Yorta community and she's blazed her own trail in the law.

It wasn't easy for Abigail Burchill to leave her family behind in Mooroopna, near Shepparton, to come to Ormond in 1990. But the young student quickly found an auspicious connection between the community she was joining and the community that had formed her. 'The Ormond colours are the same as the colours of the Aboriginal flag,' she says. 'I saw that as a good sign.'

Those first few months at College were difficult for the young Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung woman. Family and community are important to her, and the separation was tough.

Now at the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, Burchill is from a family of prominent Aboriginal leaders. Her great-great grandfather, Thomas Shadrach James, was the polymath teacher to William Cooper, Douglas Nicholls and other figures behind the founding of the Australian Aborigines' League in the 1930s – recognised as a key step to the historic 1967 Indigenous referendum. Cooper is Burchill's great-great uncle.

'They achieved enormous things for our people,' Burchill says. 'My background was one where education was valued and encouraged.'

Community pride and the emphasis on education could not have been more important for Burchill

because, she says, racism was rife in her town and at her school. 'Mooroopna High School was one of the most disadvantaged schools in the state ... when I told teachers I wanted to become a lawyer, they suggested becoming a legal secretary instead.'

But with hard work and the persistent advocacy of her mother, Burchill was accepted with a scholarship into the University of Melbourne and into Ormond College. 'I felt really intimidated by Melbourne University and I know other Aboriginal students did too.'

But she found a supportive community at Ormond College. 'What I found [at college] was a warm, intellectually encouraging environment.'

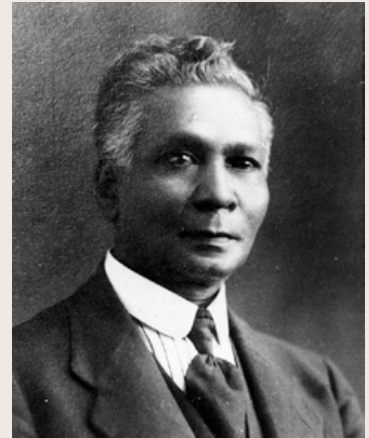
Burchill didn't have much time for sport or socialising during her College years. For the most part, she says, her head was deep in the books. 'I felt I had a lot of catching up to do. I didn't have any family connections in the law. If I was going to succeed, I had to concentrate on academic progress.'

After graduating, Burchill went on to enjoy a varied career in the law – practising in both Sydney and Melbourne; in prosecution and in defence – on a wide range of matters, from drug importation and Medicare fraud to murder trials. She went to the Bar in 2011.



Abigail's advice to his Ormond self:

"Back yourself. If you really want to do something, you'll do it."



*Magistrate Abigail Burchill's
great-great grandfather,
Thomas Shadrach James.*

"THERE'S A LOT OF HARD WORK, BUT LUCK AS WELL. AND THERE HAVE BEEN KEY PEOPLE WHO REALLY PUSHED ME; PEOPLE WHO HAD MORE CONFIDENCE IN ME THAN I HAD IN MYSELF."

'I've seen how precarious it is – to get into the legal profession but also to stay in it!' Burchill says. 'There's a lot of hard work, but luck as well. And there have been key people who really pushed me; people who had more confidence in me than I had in myself.'

Despite the challenges, Burchill has consistently taken on extra commitments, serving terms as director of Aboriginal Housing Victoria and as president of Tarwirri, the Indigenous Law Students and Lawyers Association of Victoria.

In 2017, Burchill was appointed to the Magistrates' Court of Victoria. She is only the second Indigenous woman to become a magistrate in the state's history. Since her appointment, Burchill has served both the mainstream court and Koori Court.

'It's a privilege to sit as a magistrate,' she says.

A lot of the matters that come before Burchill involve traumatic circumstances. But Burchill sees an opportunity, in her work, to intervene in people's lives in positive, thoughtful ways.

'It's a really important part of rehabilitation, and of healing, to acknowledge what has happened to a person – in their life; or in one incident – in a way that is meaningful,' she says. 'It can be life-changing. I've learned to try to slow things down, to talk with human language about human things. It's hard, but when you get it right, that's a huge achievement.' •



01

Flying as High as the Sun

The Sun Theatre has long been a cultural icon in Melbourne's inner-west. Now its owner, the entrepreneur Michael Smith (1987), is literally taking off around Australia and the world, taking the Sun marque to even greater heights.

The wing of the Southern Sun seaplane skims past startling blues and aquamarines fringed with white foam, past the sandy cliffs of the Great Australian Bight. The scene, posted on YouTube's Southern Sun TV channel, captures the breathtaking flight from Ceduna to Port Lincoln on the 42nd day of Michael Smith's 44-day circumnavigation of Australia.

Two days later, on 19 May, Smith touched down at Point Cook in Victoria, having successfully followed – as closely as he could – the flight path of two record-breaking RAAF pilots. Exactly 100 years earlier, pilots Stanley James Goble and Ivor Ewing McIntyre had completed the first air circumnavigation of the continent.

In choosing to commemorate that 13,600-kilometre flight, Smith was perhaps looking for a relaxing, low-key project. (Back in 2016, he was named the Australian Geographic Adventurer of the Year after circumnavigating the whole globe.)

Fearless adventuring, cinematic flights of fancy and a delight in reclaiming historical wonders – these have been recurring themes throughout Smith's remarkable life and career. It all started at College, he says.

'Out of Ormond College, I learned that the sky's the limit. Having grown up in the country, I probably had a reasonably narrow sense of where the world was going to take me. But Ormond really opened my eyes ... I met people from all walks of life, whether they were from Toorak and Kooyong or the Wimmera or the Mallee or the Omeo Highlands. It was the social experience of being at Ormond that I think set me on the path to where I am today.'

01. Michael Smith and his Southern Sun seaplane.

02. Michael Smith at Ormond standing on the far right in the middle row.

03. Michael Smith at Sun Theatre.

**"YOU KNOW AT ORMOND, I LEARNED
THAT THE SKY'S THE LIMIT."**



During his College days in the late Eighties, the young engineering student was drawn to cinema. He ran double-feature movie nights in the ground floor of Picken B that quickly became legendary. Smith was having 'a lot of fun', he says, 'but there was sort of an entrepreneurial spirit to what I was doing.' While he wasn't too sure about his engineering degree, Ormond gave him the courage to try something different.

After College, Smith started a successful business designing and installing cinema equipment. By the mid-1990s things were going so well that his workshop was 'bursting at the seams'. Rather than a warehouse, Smith thought, 'wouldn't it be cool to get an old cinema?'

That's when he heard about the old Sun Theatre in Melbourne's inner west. The place was a total wreck. Undeterred, Smith climbed through a hole in the wall to make his first inspection. 'I looked up, and I literally just fell in love with it. It was this magnificent art deco space. It actually reminded me of a 1930s-era ocean liner. It was streamlined, and, I mean, it was just brilliant. And somehow I looked past the fact that the ceiling was upside down on the floor...'

Years on, the theatre is nothing less than iconic: its neon sign is the emblem of the inner west. The place is a community hub, tourist destination and even a celebrity magnet. (Quentin Tarantino, Samuel L Jackson and Kurt Russell memorably turned up for a screening of *The Hateful Eight* in 2016, lured by the classic theatre setting and the 70mm film projector Smith restored especially for the screening.)



Since then, Smith has shone his cinematic sun further afield, as custodian of the classic Star Theatre in Launceston and Cinema Loro Sa'e in East Timor – a social enterprise supporting the local economy. These days, he's also running the Rothwell Estate Distillery, producing an 'Art Deco Gin' (naturally) with bottles bearing the same sun logo that shines through so many of Smith's endeavours – from his classic theatres to his Southern Sun seaplane.

Smith may have chosen to embrace adventure and novelty throughout his life, but – as Kenny Rogers once sang – you can't make new old friends. Despite his high-flying existence, Smith is still in touch with many old friends from his College days.

'Some of my best friends today are the folks I went to Ormond with. Whether it's that you went to lectures with them, or just ate dinner with them, or you snuck up to the tower when it was closed ... whatever it was that you did that you shouldn't have done. It's all those bonds that make it really special.' •

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Michael's advice to his Ormond self:

"Knuckle down and finish your degree," he says wryly. Though he now – on top of all his accomplishments – holds an MBA and owns he learned "more from Ormond than uni".

Perfectly Hilarious

Medical student and stand-up comedian Noah Szto (2017) is fighting a lifelong battle with chronic perfectionism. His progress so far has been woeful.



Noah Szto holds himself to punishingly high standards. At College, he excelled in his studies in Biomedicine, was a serial Ormond Scholar, and starred in productions of *Chicago*, *Footloose* and *Legally Blonde*. In his final year at College, he was Chair of the General Committee. (His close friend Ella Swaney, featured page 26, served alongside him as Vice Chair).

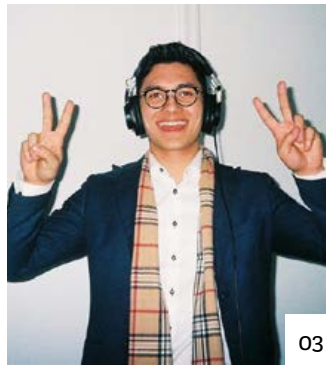
Szto left Ormond in 2019 and took a gap year to pursue his passion for comedy before starting the Doctor of Medicine in 2021. In 2023, he challenged himself to write a whole hour of stand-up comedy for the Melbourne Fringe Festival. This debut hour was called 'Success in Everything', and was all about his attempts to embrace failure and relax his stringent self-imposed standards. 'Success is an hour of jokes and stories that I haphazardly threw together in an effort to challenge my rampant perfectionism,' he explains. But perhaps 'haphazard' isn't really Szto's style. The

"I THINK ANYONE WHO KNEW ME AT ORMOND WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT MY HEART WAS ALWAYS WITH THE ARTS."

01



02



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- 01.** Noah Szto has won several awards for his comedy show, *Success in Everything*.
Credit: Nick Robertson.
- 02.** Performing his debut hour at the Melbourne International Comedy festival.
Credit: Nick Robertson.
- 03.** At College, Szto was chair of the GC and star of many productions.

show was polished, professional and hilarious. He took out the Comedy New Work Award. 'The award was very nice and a big surprise – but it probably set my personal development back a decade,' he jokes. Szto reprised *Success in Everything* for the 2024 Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF) and – in another public setback to his recovery as a perfectionist – took home the Best Newcomer Award.

Now in the final semester of his medical degree, Szto is working on a new show combining comedy and cabaret. It's called *Med School*. 'I think anyone who knew me at Ormond would be able to tell you that my heart was always with the arts,' he says. 'So this new show is all about my reluctant journey through medicine.' Broaching a range of topics from prostate exams to delivering babies, *Med School* will see Szto incorporating music into his comedy for the first time. 'I think musical comedy allows you to be a little more whimsical in a way you can't be with straight stand-up. The material in this show could be a bit heavy otherwise.'

Besides mining his medical degree for material, does he see any of his skills in comedy as transferable to medicine, and visa versa? 'Honestly, I don't think

so,' he laughs. 'They're pretty radically different jobs, so I try to keep my worlds separate for fear of accidentally being too funny at the serious place or too serious at the funny place. Case in point: the term for doing well in comedy is "killing," which I don't think Hippocrates would be too happy about.'

Szto's heart might be with comedy, but, having come this far, he still plans to complete his medical training and see where it takes him. As part of his MICF award, Szto has received a grant

to travel to London to perform a run at Soho Theatre. He'll take the trip in 2026. In the meantime, he'll be working as a doctor, fine-tuning his *Med School* show and keeping his eyes out for other creative opportunities. 'Being a comedian is a great way to sneak into some really interesting projects. I'd love the chance to work in film and TV one day!' •



Noah's advice to his Ormond self:

"Do not attempt to re-create Main Building in a 1:1 scale on a college-wide Minecraft server! You will underestimate the scope of this undertaking and the logistical complexity involved and also somebody is going to build the JCR upside down just to upset you. After countless hours invested the whole endeavor will be abandoned and that digital wreck will forever stand as a monument to your arrogance and perhaps your greatest failing as Chair. Don't do it."



Beyond the Classroom:

Entrepreneurs in Action

We celebrate the vibrant community of Master of Entrepreneurship alumni and students who have been shaping the entrepreneurial landscape since the program's inception in 2016. From innovative startups to expert consultants helping founders scale their businesses, our graduates are making waves across diverse industries.

From Wade Institute to Oxford Street

Since Laura Youngson graduated from the Master of Entrepreneurship program (MoE) in 2017, the gender-equality activist has changed the game for female football players, starting both a movement and a thriving global brand.

Thanks to Laura Youngson, female soccer players finally have their own footy boots. Until recently, even the professionals had to wear often-ill-fitting men's or kids' shoes – which seems ludicrous when you consider the wild popularity of the Matildas during the Women's World Cup last year. 'The main brands tend to prioritise men's football because of the money that's around it, and the attitude has been, 'Women will just buy [the other ones], so it'll be fine,' says Laura, an avid long-time player. 'Well, no, it's not fine.'



The glaring inequality has always annoyed her, but it wasn't until she joined the University of Melbourne's Master of Entrepreneurship program, co-delivered with Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship, that she vowed to do something about it. Youngson co-founded Ida Sports to make female-specific football boots and now, seven years later, the company is set to open Ida and Friends, a flagship store in the heart of London's Oxford Street next year – to coincide with Women's EURO 2025 and the Women's Rugby World Cup.

More than a retail space, it's the realisation of a dream for Laura, who co-founded the global movement Equal Playing Field. 'We've changed perceptions,' says the former Olympics organiser. 'My goal is to build Ida as big as I can, but also to change the industry, so that a girl can walk into a sports store and buy gear that's made for her.'

UK-born Laura moved to Melbourne to study at Wade Institute after Ormond offered her the \$25,000 Impact Scholarship. The scholarship was funded by Ormond donor Amanda Coote and set up to support a budding social entrepreneur with aspirations to make a positive difference in other people's lives. At Ormond, Laura found herself surrounded by students with similarly big ambitions. It was a place that encouraged intellectual curiosity and personal growth 'without the woo-woo', but also offered access to fellow high-achievers. 'No one at Ormond is a slouch,' she says, laughing. 'They might not be passionate about creating a business, but they're passionate about space politics or heart surgery ... The topic could be anything – it's that someone cares deeply about the thing they're learning about. That's a very stimulating environment to be in.'

While studying in 2017, Laura went to the Garma Festival in Yolngu country and gave a TEDx talk alongside broadcaster and Ormond alumna Lisa Leong (1990). 'I had so many pinch-me experiences as a result of being in Ormond,' she says. 'And I always find it fascinating to see what Ormond alumni are up to. Lisa Leong is like the embodiment of that cool Ormond experience. She's a reformed lawyer, a radio broadcaster and author and just an incredible storyteller. Meeting people like that who have these amazing careers and inspire others – that was a highlight.'

A pioneer in the sports industry and champion of female athletes, Laura is now an inspiration herself. Being an entrepreneur isn't easy, but Laura says she could never re-join the corporate world. 'Statistically, you're most likely to be successful when you're in your 40s and on your fourth business,' she says. 'Ida is number three and I'm not quite 40, so who knows what's coming in the next decade?' •

Meet some more Master of Entrepreneurship alumni

– **Yesha Patel** (MoE graduate 2021) launched After,



Australia's first textile recycling pick-up service. In just three years, After has diverted over 11 tonnes of waste from landfills, serving more than 800 households and businesses across Melbourne, Sydney, and Auckland. Patel's journey embodies the spirit of impactful entrepreneurship.

– **Godwin Shorland** (MoE graduate 2018), leverages



the entrepreneurial skills he developed in the MoE program in his role as senior consultant with the Global Employee Data Solutions team for EY. He emphasises the importance

of critical thinking in adopting AI, advocating for careful consideration of its value rather than blindly following trends. For Godwin, entrepreneurship extends beyond start-ups; it's about creating value and finding efficiencies across industries.

– **Arjun Agarwal** (MoE graduate 2020) is founder of



the fintech platform, Inaam, which empowers young people to invest in social-impact companies. He is also a portfolio manager at KPMG High Growth Ventures, which has more

than 300 Australian start-ups in its portfolio including some of the countries' best start-ups and scale-ups. Offering non-dilutive capital, strategic financial advice and structuring to help businesses scale and grow, Arj is always on the lookout for visionaries with the right qualities to succeed.

– **Vanessa Geraldine** (MoE graduate 2020) is



co-founder of PRIEDS Technology, an Indonesian supply-chain management software start-up, which is transforming Indonesia's supply chain landscape. PRIEDS has

already expanded into Germany and Taiwan, with plans for further growth in Malaysia and Singapore. Geraldine's dedication to tackling local challenges has made her a role model, inspiring young Indonesians to pursue entrepreneurship.

Wade Institute Assembly Dinner in November with members of Ormond and Wade alumni community in attendance.



WADE
INSTITUTE

Encore!

A standing ovation is in order for the distinguished concert pianist Stephen McIntyre, who has been artist in residence at Ormond College for 50 years.



When Stephen McIntyre arrived at Ormond College in 1974, he thought he'd be staying for six months. Fifty years later, he's still here, at Allen House, and it's impossible to imagine the place without him.

The young McIntyre, already a celebrated concert pianist, was returning to Melbourne after 14 years abroad. He'd been studying with the likes of Nadia Boulanger and Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli and he might have pursued an artistic career in Europe. But he came back to his hometown of Melbourne to take up an academic post at the Victorian College of the Arts.

There was one small problem; he needed somewhere to live. Word reached then-Master Davis McCaughey about the extraordinary concert pianist looking for lodgings. McCaughey seized on the opportunity and approached McIntyre with an offer.

'Davis said, in his inimitable fashion, that it might not be impossible to have me at Ormond for a time,' McIntyre remembers. 'The plan was to review the arrangement after six months.'

The arrangement was renewed; then renewed again. It's been renewed by six successive Ormond Masters in the intervening years. McIntyre says the role McCaughey offered was as a musician in residence. 'The idea was to have someone to do performances and arrange concerts with a range of musicians, and to organise talks about music, too. My role was to keep an eye on the upcoming performers and to promote the idea of what musicians do, and how they work, to the wider College community.'

"DAVIS [McCAUGHEY] SAID, IN HIS INIMITABLE FASHION, THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE ME AT ORMOND FOR A TIME."

And that's the role McIntyre has been doing at the College ever since. He's done it with enormous energy and enthusiasm, even while balancing his own career as an eminent performer and as a professor at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. He's done it while juggling various high-profile programming posts, too, including stints at Musica Viva and the Melbourne International Festival.

Some of McIntyre's favourite memories are of performances in his earliest years at the College – many of which presented logistical challenges. 'With Douglas Lawrence, his choir and orchestra, we used to put on performances with the choir and orchestra in the Dining Hall and it was very complicated,' he laughs. 'We had to pull out most of the chairs and half the tables to fit everybody in.'

McIntyre and friends have set themselves outlandish challenges over the years as well. There was a performance in the vestibule in the seventies of Erik Satie's notorious 14-hour marathon piece 'Vexations'. The piece consists of one motif, to be repeated 840 times. Staff and students pulled off the feat by performing in gruelling shifts. (Hilariously, McIntyre recalls, Robert Gribben (1977) yelled 'encore!' at the end.)

For McIntyre, one of the great pleasures of his long association with the College, has been the friendships he's formed. 'So many colleagues have become friends over the years,' he reflects. 'And it's such a nice thing when students become colleagues within the music profession.'

Composer Gordon Kerry (1979) is among McIntyre's students who have become colleagues.

'As a teacher and an artist – as a person – Stephen is patient and generous, and keen to help any musician achieve their promise,' says Kerry. 'He himself is a musician of the highest order – not only cultivating immense technical proficiency but always having something fresh to say about anything he plays.'

Joining Ormond College as a residential Music Tutor in the 1990s, the composer Linda Kouvaras was a neighbour to McIntyre for many years. Kouvaras observed McIntyre's kindly way with students. 'Not only does he mentor Music students, but he extends a wise, avuncular hand to others,' she says. '... And a more consummate artist and musician one would be hard-pressed to identify!'

Indeed McIntyre's influence extends far beyond the Music department. Edwina Cornish got to know McIntyre in the Eighties when she joined the College as a tutor in Biochemistry.

'He has a gift for bringing disparate groups together,' she says. 'Thanks to Stephen, Ormond has been a place where intellectual discourse across the disciplines has been nurtured in the most convivial settings.'

Even after 50 years, McIntyre continues to give so much of his time and talent to the College community. Yet he insists that it's he who is the lucky one. 'Many of the young people I've worked with here have been extremely gifted and motivated,' he says. 'You can learn a lot from them.'



02

- 01. A special reception was held at the College in April, to celebrate 50 years of Stephen McIntyre at Ormond.
- 02. Stephen McIntyre featured in a 1974 edition of Chronicle.
- 03. With former Master, Lara McKay.



03

The College is gaining a deeper understanding of its institutional and colonial past, thanks to a sobering work of scholarship about the troubled relationship between Indigenous people and the University of Melbourne.

Dhoombak Goobgoowana at the University and the College

Dhoombak Goobgoowana can be translated as 'truth telling' in the Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, on whose traditional lands the University's Parkville campus, and Ormond College, are located.

In May 2024, the first volume of *Dhoombak Goobgoowana: A History of Indigenous Australia and the University of Melbourne* was published. This book, co-edited by distinguished Prof Marcia Langton AO and historians Dr Ross L Jones and Dr James Waghorne, delves into the earliest days of the University, including research on Ormond College founders Francis Ormond and John Wyselaskie.

Both Ormond and Wyselaskie amassed significant wealth during the 1800s as settler pastoralists in the Western Districts of Victoria. Francis Ormond became one of the most prominent philanthropists of the 1880s, founding Ormond College, the Working Men's College (now RMIT) and the University's Chair of Music. John Wyselaskie gave significant funds to Ormond College and the Presbyterian Theological Hall.

In acknowledging the generosity and legacy of these benefactors, it's important to acknowledge at whose expense this benevolence was derived - specifically, the Wadawurrung and Djab wurrung Traditional Owners. Research shows that Indigenous peoples were violently displaced and mistreated during the occupation of the Western Districts of Victoria in the 1840s, around the time that Francis Ormond and John Wyselaskie arrived. It is also well documented that exploitative labour practices were almost universal for First Nations people in this region and era. The Ormond and Wyselaskie stations employed First Nations peoples.

Zoë Laidlaw (1991) is a Professor of History at the University of Melbourne, specialising in British imperialism and colonialism. She's also an Ormond alumna and contributed a chapter to *Dhoombak Goobgoowana* about the university's 19th-century benefactors. 'While we already have official, institutional histories that have been written about the colleges, the university and their benefactors, there's a very different body of evidence that we can use to understand who it was that they dispossessed and what the experience of dispossession was like for Aboriginal people at the time,' Laidlaw explains.

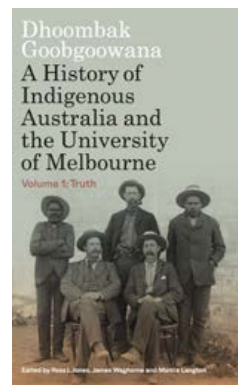
'Colonial newspapers help with this, as do settler journals and letters. Some pastoral companies kept records that show who they were employing – even if they weren't actually paying them. We have knowledge of differential rates of payment and of people getting paid by rations rather than money – and there's a racial divide with that. We also have the oral histories of descendants, as well as government records because there was heavy government surveillance of Aboriginal people in the 19th Century.'

A separate chapter of *Dhoombak Goobgoowana* discusses a scholarship established by Ormond alumna Dr Merrilyn Murnane Griffiths (1954) in honour of her father Dr Daniel Murnane, who was a graduate of the University of Melbourne and a veterinarian. The research reveals Daniel Murnane's involvement in a massacre of Indigenous people in the Kimberley in the 1920s. The scholarship was renamed the Dr Merrilyn Murnane Veterinary Science Scholarship earlier this year.

There is more work to be done. The College has begun work on its own, separate truth-telling project. This work, led by Dee Teao from the Indigenous Knowledge Systems consultancy, aims to facilitate open, candid and respectful conversations about the impact of Ormond College's benefactors on First Nations people. It aims to document and acknowledge historical truths and provide recommendations for addressing injustices of the past.

Laidlaw believes it's important for the College and the University to acknowledge this painful history. 'As a historian who has worked on this subject matter for decades, I still find it shocking,' she says. 'But it's important that people beyond academics engage with this history and consider its consequences. [The universities and colleges] rose to prominence on the back of wealth that came from dispossession.' •

For a detailed look into the University of Melbourne and Ormond College's colonial history and its impact on Indigenous communities, read Dhoombak Goobgoowana: A History of Indigenous Australia and the University of Melbourne. You can purchase your copy through scanning the Qr code.



Scan to purchase your copy



OUR PLAN FOR RECONCILIATION

Towards the end of Semester One, the College launched the Ormond College 2024-2026 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

This is the College's fourth RAP and its most ambitious. In this RAP, we acknowledge uncomfortable truths about Ormond's past and outline the community's priorities and commitments in advancing reconciliation.

At Ormond, we believe the best pathways for reconciliation lie within the leadership and ideas of First Nations people. Through our RAP, we seek to champion the voices and ambitions of First Nations peoples and foster inclusive economic development.

The success of this RAP is a collective responsibility. Students, staff, alumni, friends, and partners—everyone in the Ormond community has a key role to play in advancing reconciliation.

As our 2023 Indigenous Subcommittee Chair, Guruji Wagner, reflected: 'While the path to true reconciliation is long and filled with complexities, the genuine intentions and collective will of the Ormond community give me hope for a stronger future.'



01



Scan to read
the plan





RENATE KAMENER ORATION WITH THOMAS MAYO

The College community reflected on justice and recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the annual fundraising event.

In September the College was privileged to host Indigenous activist and author Thomas Mayo for the annual Renate Kamener Oration. In his speech, Thomas reflected on justice and recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people following last year's Voice referendum and discussed his new book, *Always Was, Always Will Be*. He spoke of the

importance of resisting polarisation in the media and the urgent need for policy consistency in Aboriginal affairs.

Some guests included former Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans AC, KC; Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC (Governor of Victoria); Professor Glyn Davis AC and Professor Barry Judd. Dinner following the event hosted by Master Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate. •



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01. Caleb Adams, Ormond Indigenous Strategy Advisor.

02. Orator Thomas Mayo and Larry Kamener.

03. Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate, with students Luke Ashcroft, Ty Gilson, Simone Stenner, Tully Mahr, Kitana Price and Thomas Mayo.

04. Honourable Margaret Gardner AC (Governor of Victoria) and Professor Glyn Davis AC.

05. Former Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans AC and Ormond Fellow Associate Professor Jessa Rogers.

Top Picks from our Bookshelf

Looking for a summer read? Look no further. The College Library team has you covered.

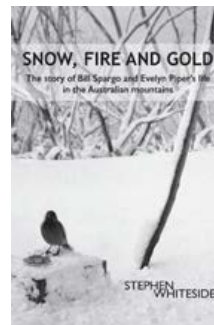


Recommended by
Dr. Jo Allan - Librarian



The Bones
by Katrina Watson (OC 1973)

A box of bones purchased by a young, female student haunt this story of the dispassionate indifference that was present in the medical training of students in the 1970s. The sexism and racism of staff and fellow students sits alongside their casual cruelty and disdain towards the human and animal lives at the centre of their lessons, with only Shelley Conway troubled by questions of the morality and humanity of these practices and behaviour. A hidden note buried at the bottom of Shelley's box of human bones sparks a continent-spanning search to uncover the stories of the human beings who were stripped down to their bones (varnished or unvarnished) and sold off to Australian universities in the name of education. This novel really shines in the quieter moments, as Shelley shows gentle care and respect for the bones of the young boy whose skeleton now sits in her bedroom. Her conversations with Bob, as she names him, form the heart of this story that fights against injustice and indifference with connection and compassion.



Snow, Fire and Gold
by Stephen Whiteside (OC 1974)

An abandoned cabin in the snow is the catalyst that drove Stephen Whiteside to discover the history of the place and the people who had left behind this scattering of personal possessions, frozen in time. This novella takes the fruits of these investigations – newspaper articles, photographs and interviews – and expands them into a fictionalised imagining of the lives of the two people at the centre of the story, Bill Spargo and Evelyn Piper. Lovingly researched and impeccably referenced, this melding of fiction and non-fiction brings life to the story of two people bound by love and separated by circumstance, in the shadow of devastating wars and amidst the thrill and anticipation of gold-mining.

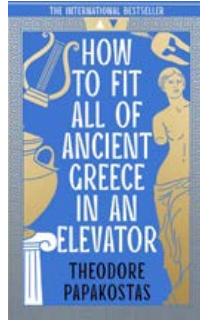


Recommended by
Wilma Kurvink - Senior Librarian and Archivist



Kuracca
by Us Mob Writing First Nation
Voices

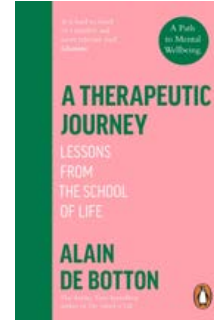
Kuracca is the title of this anthology and represents the work of a number Indigenous women writers. *Kuracca* is also the word for the white sulphur crested cockatoo; the totem animal of Wiradjuri woman Aunty Kerry Reed- Gilbert. The book is a tribute to Aunty Kerry Reed Gilbert who for many years was a member of Us Mob Writing Group which was founded in Canberra in 1997. An activist and strong proponent of Indigenous writing, Aunty Kerry nurtured and influenced a generation of First Nation authors. The anthology portrays and gives voice to the spirituality, and deep connections with ancestors and culture. Intrinsic to many of the poems and prose is the connection to land and nature; to creeks, trees and plants, animals and birds, the wind, the moon, the sun and how relationships to this form the deep attachment to country. Reading *Kuracca* is a welcome opportunity to open one's heart and be moved by the voices of these Indigenous writers.



**How to fit all of ancient
Greece in an elevator**
by Theodore Papakostas

Archaeologist Theodore Papakostas is not only a household name in Greece, he is also known globally for his social media presence where he has single handedly demystified the discipline of classical studies.

The book is set out as a dialogue between Papakostas and a stranger, as they are stuck in an elevator, and begin a spirited dialogue on heroic people and ancient civilisations. While he might describe the advent of agriculture, animal husbandry, and pottery as “neolithic lightbulb moments”, the light-hearted tone does not negate the historical accuracy and pertinence of the subject matter before the reader. This book is a highly recommended read for anyone who wants the cooks tour of the ancients by a true archaeological chef de cuisine.



A Therapeutic Journey;
Lessons from the School of Life
by Alain De Botton

Published by “The School of Life” organisation, founded by De Botton, this work has been described as a valuable supplement to traditional psychotherapy and counselling. However, it does not bear much resemblance to the traditional self-help books we come across. Instead, this book offers insights into how we can manage the complexity of modern life, our existential and unresolved anxieties, and provides solace and multifaceted perspectives to assist our mental wellbeing.

The book is laid out into sections with distinct chapters on love, work, culture and other aspects of living. These can be accessed in parts, depending on the reader's concerns. The sections on love and work are perhaps the most outstanding.

The strength of “*A Therapeutic Journey*” is the interplay of philosophy and psychology. It is by no means a replacement for clinical care or therapy, but a valuable adjunct which offers solutions and the right questions with which to interrogate difficult passages in our lives.

FROM THE
ARCHIVES

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Mrs Callow's Gift

Nell Callow was a quiet, unassuming woman, whose modest regular donations to Ormond College have supported more than 200 students ... and counting.

Dr Kaye Scott didn't know much about Mrs Nell Callow when she turned up for her interview at his radiology practice on Collins Street, in 1947. She was 'nervous and jumpy', he observed at the time, a woman in her late forties, but she came with excellent references from a Sydney secretarial school and a shorthand speed of 130 words per minute. Dr Scott hired her as his secretary and she presented impeccable work to him the next day and every day after that.

Mrs Callow continued to work for Dr Kaye Scott for 35 years – first at his office at Collins Street, then at William Street. She provided crucial clerical support in Scott's work with Peter MacCallum to establish the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Mrs Callow assisted Dr Scott in administration of matters in his personal life, too, including his significant involvement with Ormond College. Mrs Callow and Scott retired at the same time in 1982.

Dr Scott's daughters, Janet Hubbard and Barbara Herbert, remember Mrs Callow with great affection.

'Her relationship with Dad was very respectful, quite formal, but with a lot of trust,' says Janet. 'They always referred to each other as Mrs Callow and Doctor Scott. She was very self-effacing, a very gentle person - and she excelled at her work.'

'She was a bit like an auntie to us,' Barbara says. 'And Dad's patients loved her to bits. She was always kind to them.'

Mrs Callow worked long hours at Dr Scott's practice and declined to take holidays, or accept payment for overtime. She lived a quiet – almost reclusive – existence. Before coming to work for Dr Scott, she'd lived in Sydney, and she had no family in Melbourne.

The course of her life had been greatly, and tragically affected, by the two World Wars. Mrs Callow's husband suffered from serious mental illness, partly caused by the traumatic experience of serving in World War One. He couldn't work and she moved to Melbourne because they couldn't live together.

- 01. Dr Kaye Scott and Mrs Nell Callow.
- 02. Mrs Callow with her son, Peter.
- 03. Peter Callow with a friend.
- 04. Peter Callow served as a flight sergeant with the No. 467 Squadron of the Royal Australian Airforce.
- 05. Mrs Callow kept a copy of the sonnet 'High Flight' by John Gillespie Magee Jr among her mementoes and photographs.



"FROM HER INITIAL GIFT OF £80, THE COLLEGE NOW HAS A FUND OF OVER \$7 MILLION."

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Their only child – a son, Peter – was a flight sergeant in World War II. In 1944, when he was 20 years old, Peter's plane was gunned down over Stuttgart. He was posted as missing and for a time Mrs Callow did not know if her son was dead or alive. Eventually, authorities concluded that he had been unable to bale out of his plane. Mrs Callow received confirmation that her son was dead.

'It's a very sad story, and it all must have been very fresh - still - when she first came to work for Dad,' Barbara says.

Dr Scott was a keen investor, his daughters say, and liked to keep an eye on the stock exchange. In the days before compulsory superannuation, he gave Mrs Callow some shrewdly chosen shares each year.

'She lived very frugally and quietly,' says Janet. 'She made her own clothes, she didn't go out much. The money must have added up over the years.'

In 1953, Ormond College received a donation of 80 pounds from a new and

surprising benefactor. It was from a person who had never attended Ormond College, and who had never even visited the campus in person: medical secretary Mrs Nell Callow. The donation came with a suggestion for a new scholarship and a letter.

I would prefer that this scholarship be awarded if possible to a medical student and to one who without this assistance would not be able to afford the benefits of residence and tutorial assistance at Ormond. I offer this in memory of my son Peter whose university career was interrupted by the war...

The Peter Callow Scholarship Fund was born. Mrs Callow continued to send contributions until her death in 1980. Her donations were modest, but – as Janet says – they added up. Over time, Dr Kaye Scott was inspired to contribute to the fund himself and so were some of his patients.

From her initial gift of £80, the College now has a fund of over \$7 million which has supported more than 200 students to attend Ormond.

Mrs Callow passed away when she was 81. She made a final, significant donation to the Peter Callow scholarship in her will and her funeral, held at Ormond, was attended by many recipients of her scholarships. More than 40 years since her death, still more students have been through the College thanks to Mrs Callow's generosity. In 2024 alone, 28 students have received varying levels of financial support from her scholarship.

For Mrs Callow's friends, it's hard to imagine what she'd make of this continued – rather staggering – impact, if she were alive today.

'She was a very private person. She would have been embarrassed by any kind of public recognition, I think' says Janet. 'But I know Mrs Callow would have been pleased that so many people benefited from the scholarship in Peter's memory.' •

ALUMNI NEWS

Message from Outgoing OCA President

After eleven great years as President of the Ormond College Association, Simon Thornton reflects on the highlights of 2024 and his tenure with the OCA.



Simon Thornton (1988)
President of the Ormond
College Association

Hello Ormondians,

As we dive into the end of the year, it's a great time to reflect on the exciting events and initiatives that have unfolded this year. Our focus has been on bringing together old friends for social activities while mobilising our shared network to support the newest generation of Ormondians as they launch their career journeys.

The OCA committee members have organised some great events over the year. We started with our Ormondian Sundowner BBQ in semester one – complete with an Ormond band for entertainment on the Picken lawn. In semester two, Eleanor Bridger (1988) led a wonderful cocktail party for the 1988-91 cohort in the SCR, followed by dinner at Naughtons, creating an opportunity for connection and nostalgia.

In July, our then Vice Master, now Master, Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate, entertained London-based alumni at the Caledonian Club in Knightsbridge.

Luke Bennett (2011) hosted a Formal Hall event and fireside chat featuring McKinsey Ormondians David Dyer (1994), Will Abbey (2012), and Will Smibert (2010), drawing interest from current students eager to explore consulting careers. Another discussion on investment banking took place in September, with Hugh Macdonald (1986) sharing insights at Formal Hall.

The Ormond Connect mentoring program has continued to make its mark, connecting 47 later-year students with alumni mentors who provide invaluable guidance and networking opportunities. The impact of these relationships is profound, helping students navigate their career paths with confidence.

The annual 1881 Club lunch was a highlight, gathering our bequest supporters for a meaningful event. Phil Bell (1988) coordinated another wonderful dinner in Canberra, bringing together Ormondians past and present for an evening of camaraderie.

**"THANKS TO ALL THOSE ORMONDIANS WHO WERE SO GENEROUS WITH
THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO HELP US TO KEEP THE GOOD TIMES ROLLING!"**

- Simon Thornton (1988)



To stay in the loop, be sure to follow the College's social channels including LinkedIn and keep your email address updated so you don't miss any announcements about future events.

I am also delighted to announce that Eleanor Bridger (1988) will now step into the role of OCA President. Eleanor will bring new energy, relationships and ideas to the OCA world and I am excited to see how she will lead the community. I have really enjoyed my time leading the OCA over the past decade and thank all those Ormondians who were so generous with their time and energy to help us to keep the good times rolling!

We wish our Ormondian friends well as we head into the festive season and 2025.

Simon

The College extends its sincere thanks and gratitude for Simon Thornton's service and generosity over 11 years. Thank you, Simon!



Meet our new OCA President: Eleanor Bridger (1988)



I enjoyed four years at Ormond between 1988 and 1991. I completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) during that time.

My career began in cultural heritage, at the State Library of Victoria. A place in the Victorian Government Graduate Recruitment Scheme set me on a pathway to roles in Marketing and Communications. I returned to the State Library and became the Communications Manager. From there, I was the Manager, Marketing and Communications at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne for ten years. I now work as a freelancer on marketing, communications and cultural heritage projects.

My husband, Geoff Rose (1987), and I regularly attend alumni events. As Ormond Ski Club members we enjoy the opportunity to stay in contact with Ormondians from across the generations.

As the OCA President, Simon Thornton established a strong link between alumni, the student body and the College. As President of the OCA, I would like to continue to find opportunities to bring the new and the old together. Whether it's the opportunity to reignite an old friendship, or support a young Ormondian in finding their way, our community has so much to share and enjoy. •

Reunions and gatherings

Sundowner Barbecue, April



Above. Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate with Lucie Wilkinson (2016), Patrice Cialdella (2016), Megan Carney (2016), Tim Kay (2016) and Manning Clifford (2016).

London Alumni Reunion, July



Above. Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate and Kate Meggit (2014).

OCA 1988-91 Cohort Cocktail Party, August



Canberra Alumni and Parent Reception, September



Left. Dr Areti (Ari) Metuamate and Director of Advancement Gareth Crowe with Richard Gate (1954), students and alumni.

Family celebrations

Mother's Day Brunch, May

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- 01. Student Xavier Joyce with family.
- 02. Student Valmai Morden with family.
- 03. Student Charlie Vella with family.
- 04. Student Lucie Gill with mother.

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Father's Day Brunch, September

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- 01. Student Nick Renwood with family.
- 02. Dining Hall on Father's Day.
- 03. Student Rayna Dutt with father.
- 04. Student Abbie Ralph with family.

Student learning events

Fireside chats, August - September

Images. David Dyer (1994) and Luke Bennett (2013) of McKinsey & Company, Investment Banker Hugh Macdonald (1986).



Professor Peter Doherty visits the College, October

01



01. Isabelle Harris, Leading Tutor in Science and Mathematics, Professor Peter Doherty, Dr Meena Iyer, Leading Tutor in Biomedicine.

Benefactor celebrations

1881 Club Lunch, August

Right. Students Yael Marks and Max Kielly.



Founders and Benefactors Service and Luncheon, October

01. Student Emma King.

02. Students Laura Vivian and Kayla Bryant musical performance in the Dining Hall.

03. Dr John & Dr Jenny Leapers with their scholarship recipient student, Luca Crone.



For more information and to register for these events, please visit ormond.unimelb.edu.au/events

To arrange your own gathering, please don't hesitate to contact the Community Engagement Manager who can help with group invitations on 03 9344 1169 or alumni@ormond.unimelb.edu.au

ALUMNI HONOURS

The College extends its congratulations to members of the community who have been recognised in this year's Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours lists.

2024 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Seven community members were recognised in the 2024 Australia Day Honours list:

The late **Mr Max Burnet OAM** (OC 1959) has been posthumously awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through a range of roles.

Dr Lindsay Carey CSM (OC 1987) has been awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal for devotion to duty in moral injury research and the development of resources and training to support Australian Defence Force personnel.

Dr Glen Farrow OAM (OC 1978) has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to military medicine and patient safety.

Dr Ian Hardingham AM KC (OC 1969) has been made a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the law and legal reform in Victoria.

Dr Jeffrey Robinson OAM (OC 1986) has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to medicine.

Mr Rex Candy PSM (past parent) has been awarded a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service in waterway management.

Ms Georgina Gubbins OAM (past parent) has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to primary industry, and to the community.

2023 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Two members of the community were recognised in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours list:

Ms Sakshi Thakur OAM (Wade 2017) has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through social welfare organisations.

The late **Mr Graydon Read Henning OAM** (OC 1964) has been posthumously awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to maritime history, and to tertiary education.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI ON THEIR RECENT SENIOR APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS



Professor Sharon Pickering (1991) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Monash University in February. Sharon is a leading expert on Australian criminal justice and refugee law, as well as an outstanding advocate for higher education.



Kate Jenkins AO (1988) has been appointed the new chair of the Australian Sports Commission. The appointment follows from Kate's high-profile roles as Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner and Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner.



Dr Peter Brukner OAM (1977) has won this year's prestigious Victorian Sports Award for an outstanding contribution to Victorian sport. Peter is a specialist in sports medicine who, over a career of 50 years, has served five Australian national teams (swimming, hockey, athletics, football and cricket) and many local clubs, including the University Blues Football Club.



Dr Todd Fernando (2014) has been appointed as one of three independent Treaty Commissioners in New South Wales to lead state-wide consultations with Aboriginal communities about the possibility of pursuing treaty negotiations with the NSW Government. Previously, Todd was the Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities.



Professor Ken Smith (1981) has been appointed Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Chair in Medical Biology at the University of Melbourne. Previously he was Head of the Department of Medicine at Cambridge University.



Sip and Celebrate:
Ormond Vineyards

Spotlighting incredible wineries and delicious
drops made by Ormond alumni.



DELATITE

390 Pollards Road, Mansfield, Vic 3722

Ormondian: David Ritchie (1983)

Established: 1968

Region: Upper Goulburn

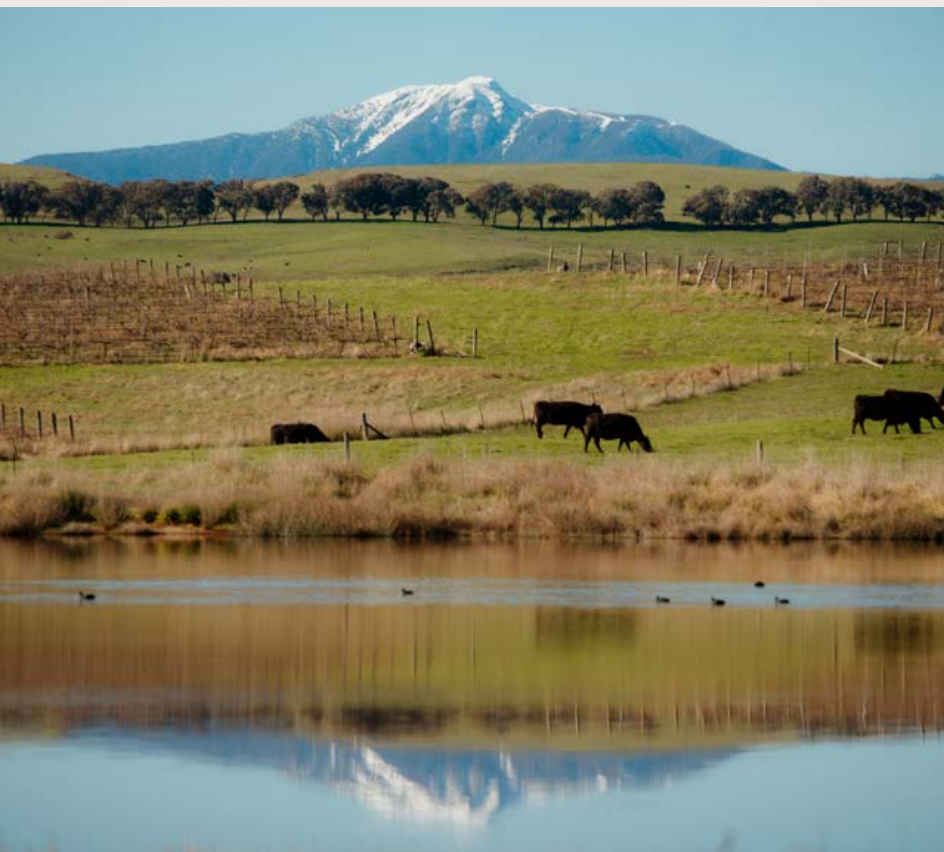
Overview: Family owned, followed biodynamic principles and make natural wines, award winning restaurant

Specialties: Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris, Riesling, Tempranillo

Bottle to try: Estate Pinot gris

Tasting notes: The 2024 Pinot Gris boasts a lavish nose of ripe pear and nashi, with apple blossom aromas. Its palate is full and round, featuring luscious tropical fruit and complex layers of flavour. Perfect with full-bodied white meats like pork or chicken thighs, this wine has great ageing potential, cellaring well for 5 to 10 years. The cool, dry start to the growing season and beneficial early summer rains contributed to exceptional flavour development while maintaining natural acidity.

Where to buy: Bottega Tasca – Lygon Street or www.delatitewinery.com.au





SEPPELTSFIELD WINES

730 Seppeltsfield Road, Seppeltsfield, SA 5355

Ormondian: Fiona Donald (parent) is the Chief Winemaker

Established: One of Australia's oldest wineries, established in 1851, famous for its 100-year-old Para Tawnys have been produced every year since including the year the College was founded - 1881!

Region: Barossa Valley

Overview: One of Australia's oldest wineries, famous for its 100-year-old Para Tawnys have been produced every year since 1878.

Specialties: Grenache, Shiraz

Bottle to try: Para Grand Tawny and 2023 Barossa Grenache

Tasting notes: Para Grand Tawny: mahogany in colour with rich amber hues, this tawny has a lifted, stylish bouquet of lightly toasted almonds, praline, and vanilla nougat. The medium-bodied palate offers rich, lingering flavours of toasted nuts, age complexity, and fine brandy spirit. Pair with mature Australian cheddar cheese. After opening, store in a dark, cool location for maximum shelf life.

2023 Barossa Grenache: sourced from the Seppeltsfield plantings of Grenache on the western ridge, the 2023 Grenache is crafted in a 'joven' style. It has medium body weight, with a core of red fruits and lithe tannins. The color is youthful and bright with crimson hues. The lifted aroma highlights cranberry and redcurrant notes, while the palate offers a succulent profile of red fruits, graphite nuances and fine tannins.

Where to buy: www.seppeltsfield.com.au





CRAWFORD RIVER WINES

741 Condah Hotspur Upper Road, Condah, Vic 3303

Ormondian: Belinda Thomson (1996) and John Thomson (1966)

Established: 1975

Region: Henty

Overview: The Crawford River Vineyard was planted in the relatively unknown region of far South-West Victoria. The location of the site – outside traditional wine growing areas at the time – owes thanks to the vision and determination of its founders, John and Catherine Thomson. After numerous soil explorations within an area of land originally settled in 1886 by John's great grandfather for grazing, the first plantings of Riesling and Cabernet Sauvignon took place in 1975. The cool southern latitude, maritime influence, complex soil, and favourable micro-climate create a terroir that validates the initial vision. The second generation now continues the journey, with daughter Belinda at the helm.

Specialties: Riesling, cabernet sauvignon

Bottle to try: Crawford River 2023 Riesling and 2024 Pinot Gris

Tasting notes: Citrus is the dominant feature throughout this wine, in many guises. Soft, lemon curd elements on the nose, with edges of Kaffir lime and pink grapefruit to closely follow. Fresh lime zest and pretty talc are supported by white florals and pith-like textural quality. The palate is complex, long and even, with the chalky, supple texture lending integrity and wonderful length. Crawford River through and through, with many years ahead of it. Fresh, lively acidity and balanced weight is key to its drinkability now and longevity into the future.

Where to buy: www.crawfordriverwines.com



VALE

Remembering George Gerald MacCallum Swinburne (1944 - 2023)

George will be remembered at Ormond College as a warm, generous and kind man. Since coming up to College in 1964, George remained an important member of the Ormond community and a regular face at College events for decades. His commitment to supporting numerous students to attend Ormond College over many years will be just a singular legacy of George's many achievements during his life. We extend our sincere condolences to George's wife Maureen, his daughters, grandchildren and extended family and thank them all for their continuing support. •

By Maureen Swinburne



Remembering Ian Hewitt (1928 - 2024)

Ian was born at Kooweerup into a family with strong associations with Ormond College. His paternal Grandfather Joseph Hewitt (1889) lectured in Logic and Theology and was in residence. Ian's father A B Hewitt (1918) did his medical course 1918-23 as a resident student and was much involved in intercollegiate and university athletics. Ian's elder brother J B Hewitt (1943) preceded him by three years which gave Ian a good idea of

college life. Joining Ormond College in 1946, Ian's first impression was a wonderful sense of freedom. A large picture of Ormond College remains hanging in the family home. He held lifelong friendships with many from his peer year. His younger brother G E Hewitt (1950) followed Ian into Ormond.

Ian studied hard and enjoyed golf and football earning a university football half-blue. He captained the Ormond College First Eighteen 1949 and 1950 and was a member of the GC in 1950.

Ian graduated in medicine in 1951 and spent 1952 at Mildura Base Hospital, 1953 at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, and 1954 at Royal Women's Hospital. He married Jean Stephens in 1955 and commenced as a medical partner with his father A B Hewitt when J B Hewitt moved to the city. The three Hewitt family doctors and wives

served the Kooweerup District for seventy years; Ian eventually retiring after forty years in 1995.

Ian received bursaries for secondary school and university, for which he was forever grateful. To support education and help young people with their student life at Ormond, he established the Hewitt Family Scholarship.

Ian passed away 13th July 2024 in Palliative Care aged 96 years. His summation of his life, "Much blessed with a wonderful wife, two children, their spouses, two grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. I was lucky, I had a good run". •

*By Ian's children Bill Hewitt
& Mary Hosking*



Remembering Philip Norman (1949 - 2024)

Philip was born in East Melbourne on the 16th of November 1949, the second son of Howard and Jean Norman. He attended Scotch College from 1955 to 1966 where he excelled academically and rowed in a successful Head Of The River crew. He went to The University of Melbourne to study Economics obtaining an Honours degree, residing at Ormond College from 1967 until 1970.

He rowed for Ormond and the University of Melbourne, where he won the Intercollegiate Eights, Kings Cup and represented Australia at an international competition in Tokyo.

He met his future wife Sue Lewer at university and they married soon after graduation in 1971 before relocating to England. Philip obtained

a Masters Degree in Economics from Southampton University. Philip and Sue returned to Sydney where Philip worked for the Reserve Bank for a number of years before returning to Melbourne to take up a position with BHP. They settled in Flemington before moving across town to Kew where they raised their children Josephine, Timothy and Felicity.

Philip worked for 8 years at Norman bros, the family stationery business before taking up roles as a Senior Economist with various organisations. During this time Philip returned to Ormond as a Tutor in Economics for a number of years while also being involved in the College life. He was also a stalwart of the Economics Society of Australia and held offices there including Honorary Treasurer.



In January this year Philip was diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer, and passed away on the 18th of July. He is survived by his 3 children and 7 grandchildren. •

By Peter Carland (1967)



VALE

Ormond College extends its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our community members who have recently passed away:

Ms Eileen Gillies (1940)
 Dr Lindsay Francis (1942)
 Dr Ian Hewitt (1946)
 Rev Ken Melville (1949)
 Dr Alex Robertson (1950)
 Rev Alan Matthews (1951)
 Assoc Professor Duncan Ironmonger AM (1953)
 Mr Paul Brothie (1954)
 Mr Peter Sloane (1956)
 Mr Robin Friday (1957)
 Mr Max Burnet (1959)
 Mr Graydon Henning (1964)
 Mr George Swinburne (1964)

Mr Brian Stafford (1964)
 Mr Tom Keeble (1964)
 Dr Helen Hill (1965)
 Mr Jim Pfeiffer (1966)
 Mr Phil Norman (1967)
 Mr Michael Penington (1976) Ms Vi Dang (2008)
 Ms Bella Ainsworth (2013)
 Dr Alan Gregory - Former Master of Ormond College
 Mrs Anne Huffam - Spouse of Bill Huffam (1950)
 Ms Deborah Chemke - Spouse of Hon Mark Dreyfus (1974)

ANNUAL GIVING APPEAL 2024



The College set two priorities for Annual Giving in 2024 – both of which have proven close to the hearts of those in the Ormond community.

We're thrilled to share the progress we've made this year in our Annual Giving campaign. Our Capital Works focus has been the refurbishment of the Junior Common Room (JCR). The beloved (if slightly battered) venue for smokos, debates, speech nights and study-cramming sessions desperately needs an upgrade. As part of this project, we're planning some subtle upgrades to landscaping in the Quad, too.

Our second focus has been the OCSC (Student Club) Scholarship. This is a scholarship for students who are already making significant contributions to the Students' Club and the College and who need significant financial support to return to College for another year. The OCSC scholarship is administered by the College and distributed through Ormond's Financial Assistance program.

Ormond donors have given generously to these appeals this year – and to other great scholarships, too. Thanks to our incredible community, we have raised over \$280,000.

However, there is still much work to be done and, as the year draws to a close, we sincerely ask for your ongoing support. Every donation, no matter what size, brings us closer to our goals. Thanks to all who have donated this year – your generosity means so much to the whole community.

Contact Robbie Latour, our Alumni & Community Manager, via email rlatour@ormond.unimelb.edu.au or by telephone 03 9344 1168.

RAISED OVER
\$280K



Scan to donate to
our appeal today





*L-R: Students Chelsey Webster
and Skip Pieper in JCR.*



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