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Year 12 Picnic 1993
Tracey & Amelia - Class of '93
What’s Happening at MECS?

Here’s a summary of some interesting things happening in the life of the school.

Ranges TEC

You might have heard or seen some of the exciting advertising that’s been occurring for the brand new Christian Trade Training Centre in Lilydale. In August we held a very successful ‘Open Night’ which showed off the new main campus behind Lilydale Railway station. Whilst there’s still a lot of work to do before Ranges opens in February next year, we are very excited about this marvellous expansion of Christian education into the vocational arena.

Successful grant & an Early Learning Centre

Over the past significant period we have been in a big development phase. In 2003 the Board adopted an Infrastructure Master Plan that has nearly been completed. Of the 23 projects identified back then only 3 have not been completed and 2 of these are no longer relevant. Our ‘oval upgrade’ is still hopeful.

Earlier this year we heard that we had been successful in applying for federal government capital funds to upgrade our Prep rooms and extend our Senior Primary complex by adding another classroom adjoining and on the same level. This will be $265,000 for an overall project costing well over a million dollars. The school community pitches in the balance, so that underneath this complex will emerge the new Early Learning Centre with a Preschool.

The Board views the development of Christian education from the start of schooling (kinder) as sufficiently important to provide for our 3 and 4 year olds.

A Muddy Oval

For quite some years, during the extended drought, our oval during winter has been a very pleasant playing surface – very green and reasonably firm. Not so this year, with all the extra rain it seems to be the Melbourne winter of old. Decent mud patches have re-emerged. About time we resurrected the old staff vs senior students footy match.

Interactive Whiteboards

Sometimes you wonder what the classroom 50 years down the track will look like. Very few teachers still use chalk, except if your name is Roger. He loves the feel and teaching approach chalk allows. So many classrooms around Australia have had ‘you-beaut’ technology like digital interactive whiteboards introduced only to find the teacher isn’t prepared or that way ‘wired’. Not so at MECS. We’ve only been introducing interactive whiteboards when the teacher is ready to make effective use of the technology. Used well these tools are quite amazing teaching instruments.

Principals come and Principals go

MECS has only had 3 principals, Jack, Stewart and myself. It must be something about MECS, in that we’ve all stayed for a decent patch. It is a delightful community to be a part of. Here’s a quick update on the three of us...

Jack popped in a few weeks ago and as I gave him a tour of the new Year 9 centre with its ‘break out’ space going up to Hawkins Hut, he gave me a potted history of when these buildings were built. A few years ago Jack retired from being CEO of the Northern Territory Christian Schools Association and still resides with Marlene in Darwin. He is the Board Chair of CEN and recently was pivotal in seeing the CS International Conference occur in Darwin.

Stewart retired back in 2005 and has since served three schools as a ‘fill in’ Principal or Board Chair. Ruth and Stewart must have planted the seed of Christian education into their daughters as they play significant roles in the separate school communities they serve. Living with Ruth in Woori Yallock, it’s not far for the occasional visit or offer of help. This continues to be invaluable.

I’m clocking up my 10th year at MECS which feels interesting as it’s passed so quickly. Recently the Board announced that I will be taking a sabbatical break in 2013 where I will take the opportunity to restock and reappraise. There’s quite a few ReConnects before that period finishes, and we’ll take the opportunity to update the community on what will occur.

Martin
Principal

Page 2

Welcome

Welcome to our third edition of ReConnect. Time seems to have flown since the last one.

ReConnect is certainly getting around. Past students, staff and parents have been encouraged to contact us with their current details so they can be on the mailing list. If you haven’t done this yet please e-mail me. Whether or not you wish to receive ReConnect we would still appreciate current contact details as we are updating the past student database leading up to the MECS 40th anniversary.

In this edition of ReConnect we are focussing on 1993. Sharon has written down her memories of that year which was her first as a teacher at MECS. I hope you enjoy some of the great photos from 1993.

What are your memories from 1993? Were you still at school? Who was your class teacher? Did you start uni? A new job? For me it was a significant year; I married Richard (class of ‘88). That starts me thinking… how many ‘MECS Marriages’ are there? I would love to know!

On page 13 you will see how MECS is going so stay tuned!

‘Till next year,
Nicole class of ‘90.
Community Relations Officer

Mount Evelyn Christian School ReConnect - Connecting the Community
Past Student News

Katie - The Past 10 Years

I was privileged to be a student at MECS from Prep to year 12, finishing in 2001. 10 years has gone past already!

When I finished school I commenced Nursing at Latrobe University in Burwood.

That same year I was signed to a Record Label called Humber and recorded my first EP, ‘What It’s Like’. Immediately after its release I went on tour for a month with a band called ‘Compliments of Gus’. While recording and touring I completed one year of Nursing and was then unsure if Nursing was what I wanted to do so I took a year off and worked in a Rose Nursery for the year, all the while working on my music career.

I went back to University after this year, finished my nursing degree and completed my second CD. This was a full album this time called ‘Fragments of a Wandering Mind’, and I continued to play gigs and work part time.

I finished University in 2005 then got a job in 2006 working full time as a graduate nurse at Maroondah Hospital. That was also the year I married Nicholas. Our first son Solomon Jon was born in April 2008 and I took time off Nursing and Music over the next year. My husband Nick went back to Uni studying a Diploma of Education.

I returned to work one day a week in 2009 until our second son Micah Casey was born in December 2009. Nick was teaching full time. At this time my Dad was very sick with Bowel Cancer and died a few months later. This made 2010 a very different year as I supported extended family, cared for my own and tried to find a little time for myself to grieve.

This year Nick and I decided to share the work and child caring load. This has given us freedoms to pursue our other interests. Nick has spent time doing art and I have been pursuing my music.

Late last year I started playing music again and came runner up in a local competition. This has been a springboard for me supporting musicians such as Ash, Blue and Carus. I recorded a 3 track Single called ‘Drink it in’ late last year and this year I recorded a full length album which is named ‘Far to go Yet’. This was mostly completed over 5 days in NSW with fellow musician Mike, and recording with many talented musicians including Jeff (who plays bass in Kasey’s band). The album, which was released in July, has had great reviews from friends and fans. Many have said that the music is enjoyable listened to closely (reading the cover notes!) or equally as background music.

I recently won a competition to play with Clare during her ‘Winter Secrets’ tour. This was extremely fun, and a real moment to remember as I am a great fan.

Currently I have been touring to promote the album’s release, as well as continuing with nursing and looking after the kids. It’s been a crazy time but I’m very proud of my achievements with my music as well as continuing to juggle the rest of life (with the huge help of my husband and family).

I still keep in contact with many of my friends from school and enjoy the occasional catch up with some of my musically inclined teachers at gigs, who have all been a part in kick starting my music career (John, Peter and Stacey).

I often reflect back on my time at MECS as a very positive time of my life. I was lucky to enjoy school and have supportive teachers and friends who have helped to shape who I am and how I think today.

I feel like I’ve packed a lot into the last 10 years and look forward to catching up with those friends from class 2001, who I don’t see so often, at our reunion coming up later this year.

And yes Colin was right in saying “you can take the kid out of MECS but you can’t take MECS out of the kid”.

If you are interested in a copy of Katie’s latest Album there will be copies available in the school office over the next few weeks ($25 each). For more information on gigs and latest news visit www.reverbnation.com/katieharder or become a fan on facebook.
Recent Celebratory Moments

Kylie married Leon on 22 January 2011 at Inglewood Estate, Kangaroo Ground
Left to right, Cameron (class of ’97), Lisa (class of ’98), Wendy (class of ’82),
Kylie (class of ’02) Leon (Maranatha, class of ’02), Eric (class of ’79) & Nathan (class of ’05)

Miller Rose born 21 July 2011
Laura & Rod (class of ’02) with baby Miller
Rose born 21 July 2011

Rebecca & Derek with Derek’s Class

Kylie, Yorin (MECS 91-93), Rebecca (nee Poste),
Derek (class of ’98 & current MECS teacher), Emily and Ash
Richard and Sylvia and Family - In Focus

Richard and Sylvia

We heard about Mount Evelyn Christian School from friends at our church, so when we bought a house in Mount Evelyn we decided our children should have a Christian education, and MECS was the obvious choice. Our four children were at MECS from Prep to Year 12 and we have been very happy with our decision, taken some 25 years ago, to educate our children at MECS. Throughout our children’s schooling, we have been involved at different times in Parents and Friends, Year 10 Centre trips, Working Bees, committees, classroom activities and serving on the School Board. We have made lifelong friends through the school and we continue to maintain our MECS Association membership.

Sylvia works in aged care at Olivet in Ringwood, and is also enjoying her role as Granny to Abi and Bethany. She loves the garden, and with some young gardeners growing up fast it’s even more fun. Richard (sometimes known as Pa) writes, illustrates and publishes books and computer software. He also presents cartoon workshops to schools across Victoria. We still fellowship at Truth and Liberation Concern.

Danny

Started at MECS in 1994. Graduated in 2006. Further studies: Currently in my first year of a Bachelor of Emergency Health (Paramedic) course at Monash University Peninsula Campus.

Highlight: The camps, especially the Year 10 Centre Trip - seeing the natural wonders of Central Australia and meeting some of the Aboriginal people, an experience unique to MECS.

Impact: The smaller school sense of community helped me to communicate and interact with people older and younger than myself - a valuable thing to learn. I really enjoyed the relationships with the teachers, and particularly those in the Senior School. It promoted an excellent learning environment and was heaps of fun.

Assunta

I started as a student at MECS in 1997 in Year 11, and graduated from Year 12 in 1998. I returned to MECS as a graduate teacher in 2003. I then taught at MECS for a bit over 2 years. Lately I completed a Bachelor of Health Science, Human Movement at ACU, then a Diploma of Education at Vic Uni. I will be graduating from a Masters of Educational Leadership at Melbourne Uni in December this year.

I am currently teaching at Padua College, Rosebud Campus in the areas for PE, Outdoor Ed and Humanities.

One of my favourite memories of MECS was the pig dissection we did in Biology with Rog. I also thoroughly enjoyed the antics Colin Youl got up to in our Year 12 English class, he always kept us on our toes!

MECS has been a place where I have felt accepted and nurtured. I admire the creative environment that enables students and staff to learn, imagine and work together.

Dylan

I started at MECS in Prep in 1988, and finished Year 11 in 1999.

I completed an electrical apprenticeship and more recently completed my Solar Power Design and Installation Accreditation. I work as an Electrical Contractor and I’ve been running my own electrical business, ‘Blue Reef Electrics’, for the past 7 years.

My favourite memory of my time at MECS was changing the time on the clock in a teacher’s class to get out of school early.

Looking back, even though at times I did not really enjoy school, MECS has had a positive impact on my life.

Reuben

1990 – 2002 graduating from Year 12. Reuben completed an electrical apprenticeship and has run his own electrical contracting business, Dingo Electrical, for the last four years.

Highlights for Reuben include lunchtime sports, the Centre Trip and the wonderful relationships he experienced with his teachers. He always appreciated the interest and care his teachers took in him.

Anna

I started in 1987 and graduated from Year 12 in 1999. I went on to complete a Bachelor of Nursing, and work as a registered nurse at Maroondah Hospital. Brad and I have two children, Abigail (2) and Bethany (just born).

A favourite memory is backpacking around Wilson’s Promontory in Year 8. I loved the challenge of carrying all the gear, camping out and achieving more than I thought possible. I was inspired to return to the Prom a couple more times after that and do the Sealer’s Cove to Waterloo Bay circuit with friends.

I really enjoyed my time at MECS. I loved the relationships I had with my teachers, and knew that they always cared about me and had my best interests at heart. Now that I have two beautiful daughters of my own, I also want them to attend MECS, so that they will have the same positive experience of school that I did.
1993 was a special year in my teaching career at MECS. Although I worked as a casual relief teacher for the latter part of the previous year, it was January of 1993 that I was interviewed and offered my first official teaching position. I was so excited that I recall going up to my new classroom several weeks early just to dust and clean my classroom, organise folders and begin preparations for my very first Year 7 class!! I couldn’t believe it when I was sifting through the mountains of files in my classroom, only to find my own Year 7 teacher’s class notes and samples of work from my own year level. All the memories came flooding back fast.

Ever since I was a Year 7 student myself at MECS, just eleven years prior, I had wanted to come back to the school and teach this same year level. I was greatly influenced by my amazing teacher Mrs G, and was thrilled when this dream finally became a reality.

My first class were a brilliant bunch of eager and highly excitable students. Most of the students had come up from Senior Primary at MECS where they had been taught by the irrepressible Mr John McCormack, who had his very own distinct way of teaching and maintaining the students’ attention (often involving loud music and guitar playing.) I, on the other hand was a young, quiet, nervous teacher.

I recall that being a ‘newbie’ teacher certainly had its challenges. In 1993 there was only one Year 7 class of thirty students, and I taught this lively bunch for Core Studies, Scripture, Maths (yes it’s true!), English and Drama, meaning we spent a lot of time together. Many of these students still recall today that I cried a lot that year. One student whom I met up with recently, said he feel so bad that they made me cry so often. I don’t remember that, but I do recall how exhausting it was being a first year teacher, and how tough it was to learn discipline routines and to build relationships with young teenagers. Thank goodness I was able to hang in there and hone my skills.

1993 was the year that our Science teacher, Mr B (or ‘B’ as he was often referred to fondly) got engaged to be married. We were so excited that my class and I organised to decorate his car in balloons and streamers, posting a ‘getting married’ sign on the back. This was also the year of our Wilson’s Prom Camp in Term 4. I hadn’t hiked at the Prom since I was in Year 7 myself as a student at MECS, so this was an exciting adventure.

I actually brought along the same hiking pack I had used as a student, and once again, I returned from my hike with bruises and pain from the cheap ill-fitting pack! I took a tonne of photos along the way, only for my camera to seize up on top of Mount Oberon, and my photos to never see the light of day.

This was also the first of many, many years that I would teach puberty as part of the ‘Who am I?’ unit, and I was pretty mortified as a young teacher having to talk about such personal issues. I recall just wishing the ground would swallow me up sometimes, especially if another teacher appeared in the room.

However we all survived my first year of teaching and this group hold an extremely special place in my heart. I have kept in touch with many of this group, and even had the privilege of watching a few of them get married and celebrated as they have had children of their own. I will end this trip down memory lane here before I burst into tears at the realisation of how old I feel now.

Sharon
Year 7 Teacher (STILL!)
Where are they now?

Allan, Colin & Merran, Christine & Jamie

Allan and I work at the Sattler Christian College in the NT along with Colin and Merran. At the end of August this year Allan and I went on an adventure with our Year 8 class to Victoria. We stayed in the Gym at MECS for 5 days while we travelled in and out of the Melbourne CBD. Some of these students had never been out of Darwin before. Experiencing some of the many things that Melbourne has to offer over the week opened their eyes to a ‘real’ city and a very different life. Each of the students expressed how impressed they were with MECS and were touched by the generosity, love and welcoming arms of so many MECSicans we came into contact with.

Allan and I both still feel a strong sense of belonging to MECS. While I have been away for 8 years now and Allan only 9 months, we both believe that we will always refer to MECS as ‘our school’.

God has lead the two of us to another one of His schools, just like other MECS staff and students have become part of other schools across Australia. Son Centre, Port Pirie, Mountain District and Benalla are a few examples.

We give thanks to God for our MECS family and delight in the knowledge that as each of us move and join other communities, the MECS family grows, making stronger connections between our schools. We look forward to making this an annual trip for the SCC Year 8 class.

Chris
Assistant to the Principal, Sattler Christian College

Reconnect!

We would love to hear from any past students wanting to reconnect.

If you would like to be on the mailing list and receive ReConnect either by post or e-mail, please let us know.

The next edition will focus on Centre Trips. Please send us your favorite photo and/or a 100 word story of your memories. We will look forward to seeing them.

You can contact the school by going to the ‘Past Student’ page on the MECS website: www.mecs.vic.edu.au Or e-mail us.
The Grapevine - Class notes across the decades

We’d love more articles like this! Feel free to drop us a line with your news and a photo for the next ReConnect.

1970s

Sharon (class of ’79)

I started at MECS in 1973 in the first Grade 6 class and continued until our class of five Year 12s, graduated in 1979. I have wonderful memories of my high school years filled with great friends, lunch times spent on the oval and teachers who inspired me.

I’d always wanted to be a teacher, so I enrolled at Monash University to complete a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Education. I worked at Beaconsfield for 2 years and then became the Year 10 teacher at MECS, a dream come true! I then went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Curriculum Studies.

My husband Ken and I have 3 children, all who have been educated at MECS too. These days I use my teaching skills in a different environment. Debbie and I have set up a ministry (www.tripleheartministries.com.au) that seeks to support those who are vulnerable in our community, in a small group environment, as well as offering training to the body of Christ.

In partnering with MECS over the last 38 years, I have seen the school grow from tiny seeds of hope to the fully grown MECS community we have today. It has been a source of great joy to see the school step up into maturity and offer its unique brand of Christian education. To God be the glory!

1980s

Monica (class of ’88)

I attended MECS from Prep to year 12. My positive memories and experiences of MECS had their part in shaping who I am today.

After graduating I worked in Child Care full time and studied part time, completing the Certificate in Child Care assistant and then the Associate Diploma of Social Science in Child Care Studies in 1994.

I married my wonderful husband Luke in 1993 and have been blessed with 4 beautiful kids (Chris 15, Alyssa 14, Jordan 11 and Sharni 5). They are all at MECS except Sharni who is eagerly waiting to attend next year!

In 2005 Luke studied aircraft engineering and God led us to become members of Wycliffe Bible Translators. We spent a year in the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea, assisting in the work of bible translation by helping in the aviation department there. That was the best adventure of our lives! Luke now works with ACMA (Australian Centre for Mission Aviation) where he teaches Aircraft engineering to new students and is involved in the setting up and implementation of the new Ranges TEC Aviation Engineering program.

I am currently assisting in the Wycliffe Member Care department. I often marvel at how God uses everything in our lives for His glory – nothing is ever wasted. I look forward to the adventures ahead as we live the life He gives us knowing he is always faithful.

1990s

Joshua (class of ’90)

I spent 13 years at MECS starting in 1978 until my HSC year in 1990 and have fond memories of my time there. I’m sure many teachers would roll their eyes at the sound of my name but I was blessed to have many very good influences in my time at MECS. With my father there as a teacher it was always a fine line I tread, seeing how far I could push some of the boundaries without coping a serve of good healthy discipline when I got home at night. Sadly, too often I was too late to realize I was over the wrong side of the line, but I’m wiser for it today some 20 years later. It has been a long time since I have visited MECS but I can see by this ReConnect newsletter that it has come a long way since my time there and I enjoy seeing what is taking place. With the principal being my old youth club leader, it is obvious he and his team have done an amazing job in progressing the school. I wish I could tell some great stories of our time together during those Youth Club years, but for the sake of his impeccable reputation I shall refrain from doing so!

I am married to my childhood sweetheart Natalie (Class of ’91) and we live out in the Yarra Valley. I have four amazing kids, (Madison 11, the twins Samuel and Jorja 6, and Hadasah 5). I currently work as a Territory manager with Davye Water products and have been with the company for just over 2 years. I still enjoy my sports and I have successfully completed the Oxfam 100km challenge, ‘The Channel Challenge’ at Phillip Island and several fun runs in recent years.

2000s

Cassie (class of ’09)

I’m working parttime at Dollar Curtains & Blinds, driving around to customers’ houses to consult, measure and quote, as well as spending some days in the shop. It can be so interesting meeting different people in their homes and briefly getting to know a little bit about them. I met one woman who ended up telling me the story of how she became a Christian... It’s always so exciting and encouraging, having real conversations with complete strangers. I think that’s my favourite part of the job.

Next year I’m planning to do ‘Year in the Son’ at Tabor, and after that a Bachelor of Arts, hopefully at Monash. Somewhere in there I’m planning (as I have been for years!) to spend a year or so in Ireland living and working on some sort of organic farm, as well as visiting my Grandpa in England, and probably spending at least some time in Scotland and perhaps Wales too. I’m so excited about all that as I’ve been itching to travel for some time.

In the long term, my plans are to teach, but I have no idea how that will look. It may not even be school teaching. I just know that God has made me, among other things, a Teacher and as I learn more and more about who He is, my future feels secure because I can see that He knows what He’s doing.
It was a week after graduation and I was off to America for my gap year! It was good to see family after three years and spend Christmas with them. It's my favourite time of year and spending it in America with family was a highlight. It was full of food, laughter and stories. This time I was able to stay for more than two months, so I could work and save up for a mission trip to Africa. Ironically we went to the only one with my name in it; Rwanda. Wanda was in Rwanda! It was an amazing trip, the people were so gorgeous! My home church partners with a mission in Kigali (Capital of Rwanda) called 'Solace Ministries'. It's run by Christian Rwandans who want to see a change in their country. Without going into too much detail, Rwanda went through a devastating genocide almost 10 years ago. Not one person we met was not directly or indirectly affected by it. Solace ministries provides counselling and programs to help villages become self-sustaining. We partner with them to help build and raise money for Medical clinics, community farms, houses, churches, etc. It's important for Rwandans to help Rwandans and not be reliant on one church in America. My highlight of the trip was at a church service for genocide widows where a woman who was tortured shared her story. Her horrendous story of what was done to her and how she survived was hard to hear. She was so beautiful and brave I couldn't help myself and I cried. Another woman from the opposite end of the church saw me crying and walked over to me and gave me a tissue. I was overwhelmed by her kindness; I cried even more! Feeling like I have no reason to complain for anything in my life after what she has gone through, she continued and prayed for the whole team. She blessed us, our families, our church, our finances, our futures... etc. I never felt more blessed in my life! Sadly we were only there for a week but I left a little bit of my heart in Rwanda. I hope to visit there in the future, but for now I'm back in Australia working part time and excited to start my Graphic Design course next year. All Glory be to God for my amazing gap year!
Mount Evelyn Christian School is very excited to announce the expansion of our educational program to include an Early Learning Centre (ELC), planned for opening in 2013. The ELC will have 2 classrooms (catering for both 3 year old and 4 year old programs) and a dedicated play area, both designed by an architect and based on the latest research into young children’s learning and play space design. The building and play area will be located close to the current Prep rooms.

We are now accepting Expressions of Interest from our school families and the local community. You can get hold of a form for this by contacting the school office. Completing this ‘Expression of Interest’ form does not commit you to enrolment, nor does it guarantee an enrolment position. It is simply to assist with initial planning and to gauge the level of interest within the school community and local community. It will also allow us to keep you up to date with all information and developments relating to the program. Early in 2012 we will have a better idea of the ELC Program and we will be able to provide you with more detail.

Introducing Ranges TEC

Ranges TEC is a Christian Trade Training Centre, located in Lilydale, which supports senior secondary school students to prepare for work as trade professionals. From the beginning of 2012, Ranges TEC will open its doors to students in Years 10, 11 and 12.

Together with Mountain District Christian School and Donvale Christian College, MECS is excited to be part of this exciting new initiative. Ranges TEC will cater for students looking to complete their secondary school education in a hands-on learning environment while providing a variety of options for students to complete a pre-apprenticeship trade qualification together with the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

As a Christian Trade Training Centre, Ranges TEC is distinct from other vocational education settings in that it not only provides a nurturing environment, through pastoral care and mentoring, but also affirms that each student is unique and valued as a person created and loved by God. As a Christian learning community, Ranges TEC aims to support learners to develop a deep sense that they have been gifted for service, worship and stewardship in order that they may participate in God’s creative and reconciling work on earth.

www.rangestec.vic.edu.au
To the wider MECS community

We are very excited to announce that we will be marking the occasion of the MECS 40th anniversary with 12 months of celebrations.

20 October 2012
We will kick off with a Ball for the current school community. (Details will be in the newsletter in 2012.)

March 16 2013
We will be celebrating and acknowledging our pioneers, founders and early staff and board members with a re-enactment of the MECS opening ceremony and a formal dinner in the evening. (Invitations will be sent out in 2012.)

26 October 2013
Reunion / Festival Day
All past students and staff are invited to come back for the day and celebrate together.

So mark your diaries and stay tuned for more details in the next edition of ReConnect.
From the Board
Welcome to the latest edition of ReConnect. I hope you are enjoying reading about the history of MECS, as well as some news of what past students are doing now.

I have served on the Board at MECS for the past year and a half. My responsibilities include the Parents and Community portfolios. This means keeping up-to-date with any happenings and events in these areas and making sure we are meeting our requirements as set out in Board policies. Recently I have also taken on the role of Board Secretary. As a parent partnering with MECS in the education of my children, it was important to me to become a member of the Association when we joined the school community almost five years ago. I wanted to be able to participate as fully as possible in the life of the school. Attending Association meetings is a great way to find out about what is happening at MECS as well as what is planned for the future. They are held twice a year in May and October and are always informative and inspiring. Any member of the school community is welcome to come along as an observer.

My connection to Christian education goes back to my own schooling when my parents sent me to Christian schools. I attended Donvale Christian School for five years and then MECS for Years 11 and 12. When my husband and I came to look at MECS for our children, I could see that it was the same wonderful place with fantastic staff and a marvellously innovative curriculum and creative atmosphere, even though it took me a while to recognise any of the buildings in the Senior School!

The vision and dedication of the MECS founders encourages the Board in it’s role of ensuring that the School continues to be a dynamic place of education and community, seeking to give glory to God and truly equipping its students for life.

Louise
On behalf of the Board

Tribute to Richard

27 March 1939 - 1 June 2011

In May, Richard passed away. Richard was a Board member of MECS in the early days, when Heather and I first came to MECS. His children, Stephen (and his wife, Megan), Chris (now a Baptist Minister), Malcolm and Ben all came here as students.

Richard’s funeral was on 7 June 2011. He had a great deal of ill health - surviving a brain tumor (1983) then later lung cancer, as a result of which he spent many years with only one lung. He is now with the Lord.

Colin

Gym Opening 29 May

As the saying goes, “You only have one chance to make a first impression”. The moment was set and all was in readiness. The Official Opening was on! This was a ‘huge event’ in the life of Mount Evelyn Christian School. For the many families who came to celebrate the opening of our new facility, it was a memorable day. The program told the story of the ‘journey of the MECS Gymnasium’.

Various speakers, from Jack to Anne-Maree, recounted the many years MECS has been waiting for a Gym. Each speaker focussed on topics including ‘The Pioneers’, ‘The Builders’, ‘The Disappointeds’, ‘The Left-too-sooners’ but finally finished with those who represented ‘The Truly Blessed’. Ultimately we are all blessed to have such a wonderful place for our community. The involvement of our students was a highlight; after all, the gym is for them and all the students of MECS’ future.

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All those involved in the creation of the Gym had a part to play in the opening, including politicians, builders, the architect, the climbing wall designer, past and present teachers, students and parents and last but not least, our own P&F group who raised money to fit out the Gym.

A huge thanks to all who were involved.

Paul
Deputy Principal
It’s ‘ALL’ in the numbers!

38
Number of years the school has been operating

200+
Visitors to Grandparents Day

$45,000
Amount raised for MECS by P&F in 2010
(incl. $5000 donation by Bendigo Bank)

3
Number of editions of ReConnects printed

408
Number of months Colin has taught at MECS

$2,300,000
Cost of the new gym

15%
What the school contributed to the gym

365
Number of days ‘till the first celebration for our 40th anniversary kicks off

6,100
Number of times that Roger has walked around after school locking up doors

$120,000
Investment in the school’s IT upgrade

5
Number of archive boxes of Board minutes

163
Number of kids who catch the bus to MECS in 2011

106
Number of new parents in 2011

$10,750
MECS running costs - 1973, 79 Students

$6,145,596
MECS running costs - 2010, 570 Students

3
Number of Principals of MECS

70
Number of Association Members in 1973

255
Number of Association Members in 2011

0
Number of times Sharon has yelled at Year 7s

43,621
Number of times Sharon has wanted to yell at Year 7s

120
Number of car parking spots at MECS

6
Number of times specific proposals to fix the mud/drainage problem on the oval have been put forward

1435
Number of hits on the Ranges TEC website

www.rangestec.vic.edu.au

Mount Evelyn Christian School ReConnect - Connecting the Community
**Active After School Communities - AASC**

In Term 4 activities to be offered for Primary children (Prep to Year 6 only) are:
- **Monday 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm:** AEROBICS
- **Thursday 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm:** BAT and BALL GAMES

The program will run for 7 weeks beginning on the 24 Oct 2011.

Return consent form to the Main Office by Fri 21 Oct.

**Housemate Wanted**

Bec is looking for a new female Christian housemate who is fairly tidy and quiet who’d like a home, not just a house. To share: a 2 bedroom cottage in Boronia with a big backyard.

Very reasonable rent (lawn maintenance included), great landlords.

Close to train station and shops. Bills are shared. Most furniture is included but a washing machine and vacuum cleaner would be appreciated to contribute to the household. Available now. Contact Bec. [Link]

**Music Lessons**

Violin and Drum lessons available at school - enrol now at the office.

**Prayer Group Running**

For those who are interested in joining the prayer group for the year 10 kids - surrounding them in prayer as they go through the life issues they are facing at the moment, this term we plan to meet on the following dates:

Friday 21 Oct, 4 Nov and 18 Nov. We meet at 2pm at Monica’s place. Please feel welcome to join us whenever it suits you or alternatively if you are unable to come but have prayer needs you would like prayer for, we would love to pray for you. All prayer points are confidential.

**Yr 12 Celebration and Farewell Assembly**

Invitation to the MECS school community to celebrate with the Class of 2011 at the Yr 12s Last Day School Assembly.

**Term 4 Recitals**

Save the dates for these great events.

**Volunteer CRE Positions**

In 2012 there are positions available to teach Christian Religious Education (CRE) at a local primary school. The position of team leader is also available. Both roles are easy and training will be provided through Access Ministries. All you need is to regularly attend a Christian Church and be available for one hour a week. If interested please contact Vicky (Chaplain).

**Congratulations**

to Megan and Trevor on the birth of their baby girl, Pearl Elizabeth Born 9/10/2011. 8lb 8ozs.