Welcome

Welcome to our second edition of ReConnect.

The release of our first edition of ReConnect was a wonderful experience. We have had past students, staff and parents contact us and express their enjoyment of this new publication and ask to be put onto the mailing list, and the current MECS community really enjoyed a glimpse into the history of their school.

As a past student and current parent of MECS students, this has been very rewarding and I hope this second edition is enjoyed as much as the first.

MECS is a very busy place at the moment – we have recently completed building a gym. It consists of 2 basketball courts, kitchen, teaching room, stage and seating for large school functions and even a rock climbing wall! We have had a fun opening for the students and the gym is already being well used and thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone. We are also planning a formal gym opening on May 29. There is an invitation with more details on page 14. Everyone is welcome to come along – just call the school office and let us know if you can attend.

We are also planning ahead for the school’s 40th anniversary in 2013. We are going to have a ‘Festival Day’ where all past students and staff are invited to come and catch-up with old classmates, meet up with past staff and see the school as it is today.

Leading up to the 40th celebrations we are updating the past student database. Can I encourage you to make sure we have your current details, and if you are in contact with any other past students or staff, encourage them to do the same? You can contact me by e-mail – or call the school office. More details about the 40th anniversary will be sent out and will be on our website next year.

Till next edition,

Nicole class of ’90.

Community Relations Officer

What’s Happening at MECS?

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

Gym Opening

When a global financial crisis hits and a government opens the coffers to ensure that the building industry keeps on ticking, hey presto, a new gymnasium emerges.

After decades of promising a gym but finding that the huge cost meant it got ‘pipped’ by paying for toilet rolls, white board markers and buses! This time it actually happened. If you haven’t been to the school for a while, please join us on 29 May to see our amazing new gym at 2pm.

Car Parking is a Problem

There was a time when we had enough spots for cars to park, but with school population growth (we have around 580 students and will tend to hover around that mark), the rise in student (Year 12) car use and increased Prep parent involvement, we are constantly running out of sufficient parking. This is a headache that we will need to keep applying our creative minds to.

The Re-grade Continues

Schools are not about facilities, but we do put a lot of effort into upgrading and seeking to ensure that the facilities reflect our educational goals. In 2011 the Middle School will be getting some major attention, along with Hawkins Hut.

We have recently met with BGA (the Block Grant Authority – the body that recommends where Federal Government capital funding goes) for the upgrade of our Senior Primary classrooms and an extension to our Prep rooms. If the Board decides later this year to proceed with this large project, an early learning centre (Kindergarten) will emerge on the bottom level that the school will fully fund. The bus shed will be no more if this proceeds.

Are We Looking Too Nice?

The true pioneers of the school, a generation that has all but passed on (see the tribute to, mother of our Administration Manager, Gerry on Pg 14) were not that concerned about the look of the school and the type of facilities we had. They were committed to Christ-centred education.

Now as we take visitors around the school it’s overwhelming remark is what a delightful place it is to have a school. The bush flourishes, the buildings look great and the gardens are full of colour. Whilst that’s exactly one of the goals we have (a beautiful environment) it can have the effect that new people are attracted to the school because of superficial image. However we are hoping Christian education as the key basis and thrust of the school shines through in our promotions.

Cooperation on a New Level

In 2009 the very first CEN (Christian Education National – the new name for CPCS, Christian Parent Controlled Schools) Victoria-wide Teachers Training Intensive occurred. 500 teachers attended for a week at Maranatha Christian School. Last week the 2nd of these large events occurred, again at Maranatha with over 550 teachers attending. What a wonderful testimony to ‘working in unity’ and the cause of transforming our educational practice in service to the Lord.

Funding Review

The early pioneers of the school paid for nearly everything – land, buildings and teacher wages. The last ReConnect showed a 1973 balance sheet with a $8,500 amount for staff salaries. This amount has grown to $4.8 million! In the 80s the government support to Christian Schools commenced and we’ve become quite dependent on this source of funds. It covers around 60% of annual running costs.

In the context of a highly divisive debate about the amount of support that a government should provide to independent schools, the Gillard Government established a review in order to find a way through this difficult policy area. MECS has joined many interested parties in making a submission. If you are interested, it can be found at www.deewr.gov.au/fundingreview then follow the ‘submissions’ link.

Trade Training Centre – Ranges TEC

Along with Mountain District Christian School and Donvale Christian School, MECS has been very busy, working to establish a Christian Technical College in Lilydale. There are three key parts to what we are calling Ranges TEC.

Out at Coldstream Airfield, the Australian College of Mission Aviation is constructing a Ranges TEC Hangar for the delivery of the Aero Skills Certificate (mechanical) course. At Monbulk a farm has been purchased for the delivery of Rural Operation Certificate course. And at Lilydale, the factory (main base of the TEC) is about half-way there.

The Lilydale base will teach VCAL, Hospitality, Cabinet Making, Building & Construction, Engineering and Electro-technology.

Meanwhile, thousands of man and woman hours are going into our RTO (Registered Training Organisation) application, curriculum writing and a broad range of establishment compliance matters.
A Founding MECS Family

(Back Row, Left - Right) Yvonne, Carol, Rob, Evonne, Mick, Jessica, Ryan, Tiffany, Jasmin, Chris, Ian, Evelyn, Josh, Melanie, Ed
(Front Row Left - Right) Steve, Brenton, Alexander, Henny, Imogen, Bill, Sean, Rowan, Dylan, Josh

**Ian**

**MECS Education**
Year 5 – 1973 to Year 10 – 1978

**Further Studies/Training**
- Qualified Motor Mechanic
- Advanced Diesel Mechanic
- Electronics Course
- LPG Conversion, Tuning, Maintenance & Business Development Courses & Certificates

**Current Occupation**
Technical/Sales support BRC Impco Australia, including Workshop Manager, Research and Development.

**The Impact of MECS on Life**
How much the teachers gave of themselves personally to build into their students.
The ethos of the school.

**Yvonne**

**MECS Education**
Year 3 – 1973 to Year 12 – 1982

**Further Studies/Training**
- Diploma of Teaching - Primary
- Graduate Diploma in Curriculum Studies with distinction
- Bachelor of Education Studies

**Current Occupation**
Middle School Maths Teacher and Camp Coordinator at MECS

**Highlights/Memories**
Centre Trip - 1980
- Biblical Studies & History with Colin
- Woodwork with Gerry

**Ed**

**MECS Education**
Prep – 1973 to Year 12 – 1985

**Further Studies/Training**
- CFA
- Dog Training
- Various other courses and certificates

**Current Occupation**
Jack of All Trades

**Highlights/Memories**
Centre Trip - 1983
- Painting with Russell
- Biology in the Senior School

**Michael Dubbeld**

**MECS Education**
Prep – 1976 to Year 11 – 1987

**Further Studies/Training**
- Qualified Carpenter
- Diploma in Youth & Community Ministries

**Current Occupation**
Farmer

**Highlights/Memories**
Centre Trip – 1986
- Painting with Russell
- Biology in the Senior School
Recent Celebratory Moments

Tanya (Class of 2001) marries Simon in February 2011. The two bridesmaids on the left are also ex MECS students: Vanessa (Class of 2005) and Jess (Left MECS in 2000 in Year 11).

The wedding of Nikkela (Class of 2007) & Brendan, March 2011.

Mount Evelyn Christian School ReConnect - Connecting the Community

Sharyn (Class of 1998) marries Dan. (Left) Sharyn with her brothers Hayden and Rodney, students of MECS in the 90s.

Bek (Class of 2004) marries Tom in April 2011. (Right) (Above) Di (Current PS Coordinator MECS), Jess (class of 2004), Bek, Hannah (Class of 2006) and Hannah (Class of 2011).

Class of 1979-80 Reunion

It was March 5, 2011, and a small group of students from the first two groups that went all the way to Year 12 at MECS, met up at the Pig and Whistle in Olinda for a sunny afternoon on the verandah.

Michael, (class of 1980) who now lives in England and works as a ‘Bobby’, was in town staying with Lance (also class of 80), so what better reason is needed then, to put the word out for a catch up? Three out of five from class of 1979 made it - Lionel, Martin and Gerry. Class of 1980 were represented by Judith, Nicola, Lance Peele, Michael and Ian.

Lance and Lionel often entertained with fiddle, guitar and banjo back in their school days in the senior school walk ways. They made a come back with an impromptu brief set with the house band.

Of course no one had changed a bit… more like a fair bit, and all agreed it had been too long since last we were together

Lance - Class of ‘80
April 2011

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.

Please forward us your contact details and e-mail address, what you are doing now and perhaps a current photo of you (and your family if you like).

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

It was good to be at the reunion with Michael, Lance, Nic, Martin and Jude, Ian etc, 30+ years after leaving the school!

As for me, I graduated in 1979 and then repeated in 1981.

I am active at Truth and Liberation Concern and have been over the last 30 years.

I taught Violin at MECS for a while in the 90s and I am currently Nurse Unit Manager at Maroondah dialysis. I still play music. I worked for NT Christian Schools Association in Indigenous education for Marrara Christian school. I have 3 daughters and 1 granddaughter who lives in Alice Springs.

Lionel (Class of ‘79)
The Vision of MECS

Thirty-eight years is a significant period of time from a human perspective — half a lifetime one could say. That is how long MECS has existed. I first visited the school thirty-four years ago and became its second Principal six years later, ‘retiring’ after twenty-three years. Since then I have enjoyed being ‘Principal emeritus’ thanks to the graciousness of the school board and Martin who still includes me in many ways in the life of the school which has been a major part of my own life. I am profoundly thankful for that, meaning that I see our Heavenly Father’s hand at work through these agencies.

Looking back, has MECS changed? Of course MECS has changed. A school is a living organism and constant change in response to its environment is a given. Each year old practices give way to hopefully improved ones; people — students, teachers and community members - move on and new ones take their place, trees are felled and new ones planted, worn out equipment is replaced and buildings spring up where previously there was bush, orchard or playing space. Very few people remain who saw the MECS site forty years ago when the land was purchased for a school.

And yet it is still MECS. The name refers to a living organism — an educational community that has been growing and maturing over time. After all, the physical changes have been the out-workings of the will and purposes of a community of people. What then is the essence that remains and makes it possible for old-timers to recognise that it is still the same MECS that sprang into being all those years ago? What, in the character of the school, persists and resists the forces of change? What is the MECS, ‘tradition’, though that sounds so hidebound and somewhat pompous... What are the living values or convictions that shaped and continue to shape MECS?

That’s what it comes down to — convictions living in the hearts of people. As a long-time observer, I have often said that the Lord brought together a special group of people to bring MECS into being. First there was an Association, and more particularly a Board, who had a clear understanding of how the fall of mankind had affected the society in which they lived and who were acutely aware of the antithesis (complete opposition) between that society and the Kingdom of God. They had a burning passion to see God honoured in education. The same passion drove them, in their families, to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord. Yet, though literate, none of them were professional educators. They did not know how to run a school.

Recruitment of teaching staff began. What kind of teachers did they want? Obviously they would be teachers who would share the same faith. More than that, they wanted teachers who could grasp their children — students, teachers and community members - move on and new ones take their place, trees are felled and new ones planted, worn out equipment is replaced and buildings spring up where previously there was bush, orchard or playing space. Very few people remain who saw the MECS site forty years ago when the land was purchased for a school.

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As the early years went by, the product, Christ-centred, child-oriented teaching and learning began to take shape and to attract attention and its share of criticism. The school did not go down any well-beaten path. It did not conform to the pattern of the world of education surrounding it. “How dare these (young) upstarts reject our tried and tested approach to education?” “Don’t they know that religion is an optional subject on the fringe of the curriculum?” “They will wreck their children’s further educational prospects if they don’t stick to ‘the proper curriculum’”. Such were the reactions forty years ago. What were they reacting against?

MECS was trying to do justice to the truth that all things (the content of the curriculum) have their true meaning and find their proper relationships in Christ, their creator. The traditional concept of a curriculum comprised of a collection of discrete subject areas reflected the thinking of the rationalists and humanists. The MECS curriculum developed what was called an integral core. Centrally it was comprised of units exploring ‘chunks of creation’ through several different perspectives and relating with the traditional subjects. Acknowledgment of Christ, as creator, sustainer and redeemer, was to be formative of the student’s growing understanding of his/her world and development of his/her response to it. Unit topics ranged over all the creation and the many subjects or disciplines were drawn into the process. There was a focus on the students getting out to “mix it” with the real world, responding concretely to what they were learning and exercising the life perspectives they were developing.
Look Who Came To Visit

Ned & Judith

Ned and his wife Judith visited MECS early in first term. They were in Melbourne to speak at Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville, and Ned rang and asked to visit. They had a great time catching up with friends and meeting some new MECS-icans. Ned is a Councillor of the Central Desert Shire (created 2008 in a shake-up of local government in the NT) which includes Yuendumu and many other places in the Territory. He is a significant and memorable man in his home area, involved in all that goes on there, and a good friend to MECS and our efforts to better understand his people and their place in the world. Among other things, Ned and Judith have been involved in making videos which we use here in teaching. Ned and Judith were concerned about our safety in relation to bushfires, and we took them for a drive to the Black Spur to show them the damage there from 2009. It is very humbling to realise how much our Warlpiri brothers and sisters are concerned about us and our community.

Colin

Suzanne, Kirsty & Sarah

(From Left to right) Suzanne, wife of Russell. Russell taught at MECS from 1985-1999. Their daughter Kirsty left MECS in 1999 and graduated in 2007. She Au-Paired in the U.S.A. from 2008 to 2010. She is in her first year Bachelor of Theology at The Melbourne School of Theology. Sarah left MECS in 2002 and graduated at Donvale in 2008. She is currently doing the 3rd year of her Science degree at Monash Uni, majoring in Maths.

Elizabeth taught here during 1973 and 1974 - Grade 2, 3 & 4. She is pictured here with some of her past students Steve, Melissa, and Sue. I was a Year 2 student in 1973 here at MECS and needless to say it was a real surprise to see my teacher, Elizabeth come back to our school to visit. I can’t remember a lot about that time, except that there were 6 students in Grade 2, about 15 students in Grade 3 and about 10 students in Grade 4. We were all in the same classroom, and Elizabeth was our teacher. We were seated in groups according to our year level and I remember Elizabeth addressing each year level of different sets of instructions. She would move in front of each group or turn towards each year level as she addressed them. It must have been a challenging role for her then. It would have also been an exciting time, being one of the 3 teachers who taught the 83 new students at MECS during those pioneering days.

Having gone full circle and now being a member of MECS staff, I get to enjoy and appreciate all the changes that have happened over the years and it was particularly special to meet up with a teacher from way back in the beginning!

Sue (Class of ’83)

The Vision of MECS continued...

Much of what then passed for education (leading children into life) had centred on every child being pressed into a mould – one size fits all. (Or perhaps, grudgingly, two moulds – academic and technical.) “This is what the child has to learn and his value will be measured by how well he/she can absorb and recall it at given (exam) times”. MECS tried to break out of this thinking. Each child is a unique expression of the image of God. There had to be a curriculum suitable for each child, not one curriculum for all children. Pursuing interests and following passions in the discovery of individual giftedness was to be the introduction to one’s life path. Opportunities for the celebration of giftedness and encouragement of self-expression were given prominence.

As a Christian learning community, MECS came to value and factor in the individual contributions each could make as well as the co-operative team work necessary to meet the common goals. Children were not ‘streamed’ into ability–based classes where the degree of belonging was measured in ability to keep up. Rather classes reflecting a wider spread of ability provided opportunity for communal learning and playing one’s necessary part in the effort of the whole. Learning in teams – co-operative learning - contrasted with competitive learning – no-holds-barred fighting to be top of the class. Students used their gifts to help one another and to produce excellent team efforts. Doing one’s best for the sake of the teams output was the desired cultural norm.

Has the vision of MECS changed? I’d suggest it’s richer in that the values of the founding Board and staff are expressed even more fully today by a new team who, sharing the faith-commitment of their predecessors, are building on the foundations laid almost forty years ago. But I am biased - you have to be the judge so go and look for yourselves.

Stewart

MECS Principal/CEO 1983 - 2005

Mount Evelyn Christian School ReConnect - Connecting the Community
ReConnect

Class of 1979-80

Out on an Excursion

Judith, Lance and Friend

A Bus Trip with a MUCH younger Colin

Mount Evelyn Christian School ReConnect - Connecting the Community
Classes of 1979-80

A class in the Great Outdoors again!
1970s

Lionel (HSC 1979)
Back, way back.

Back before...before kids, before grand children, before I was a husband, before I drove a car, or a bus, paid a mortgage, before work... Back when everything was future, everything potential, everything ahead. I am pleased to say this moment is way better.

2011 is 32 years from that moment gathered in the library for a Grade 11 and 12 photo. 32 years ago I was 17 years old and facing HSC. Today I am Nurse Unit Manager at a busy Haemodialysis Unit caring for 70 people with end stage kidney disease.

Some of the relationships formed in those years persist. Cor was my first teacher and Jack the principal. My wife Shirley and I worked with Cor and Jack in the Northern Territory as house parents for Indigenous kids at Marrara Christian School. Lance and I still play music. Early in May I will be hiking Mt Feathertop.

From here everything is future, everything is potential, everything ahead. What will the next 30 years bring...a marathon? travel? music? Grandchildren? Recordings? Great grandchildren...I’ll get back to you.

1980s

Richard (Year 10, 1986)

I was at MECS from Prep to the end of year 10, when I left to start my motor mechanics apprenticeship with my uncle at Kroon Motors. I worked for a while at Brian Glynn Ford and then went to AG Autogas and did gas conversions on cars for 10 years. During those years I married Nicole and we have 3 lovely daughters (who now go to MECS!). I now work as a motorbike mechanic at a shop in Lilydale - this has opened doors that I could have only dreamed about! I have been the head mechanic on the Husaberg team at the Australasian Safari in Perth for the past three years. In January 2010 I got to go on team to the Dakar in South America. MECS played an important role in my life and continues that positive influence in my girls lives - love it!

2000s

Erin (Class of 2008)

I am currently doing my third year of primary teaching at A.C.U. in Fitzroy and am really enjoying it, I also love doing teaching rounds.

I enjoy hiking with my friends in my spare time and I work at Adanac Campsite in Yarra Junction. I have recently become a fully qualified swimming teacher.

Bethany (VCE 2009)

I had been a student at MECS since Prep and completed my VCE in 2009. The following year I went to Latrobe University where I studied the first year of a ‘Bachelor of Creative Arts’ – Majoring in Creative Writing, Film and Theatre. This year I have deferred and am volunteering with the Salvation Army in a program called ‘Order 614’. This is a one year course, studying ‘Certificate IV in Urban Mission’ where we connect and journey with the forgotten people in the city of Melbourne. I am living in a community with others in the program in the city.

Order 614 is a group of people who are passionately committed to serving those that live on the fringes of our society. We help to build community amongst those that are isolated and doing life on their own. We do this by offering a range of practical supports, by running a variety of community groups where people are given the opportunity to develop new skills and polish old ones, as well as developing new friendships and supports. We also offer support through our outreach programs. www.order614.com.au

I am loving life!

2000s

Stephanie (Year 6 1984)

I went to MECS from Prep to Grade 6 and left at the end of ’84 to go to high school at Strathcona in Canterbury. After high school when I turned 18, I embarked on a six-year backpacking journey that took me to 73 countries across six continents.

With the world as my classroom, I immersed myself in different cultures, learning their unique ways of living and cooking. Traveling taught me about different spices, herbs and culinary techniques. It also taught me a thing or two about wine. Being exposed to so many diverse cultures and lifestyles opened my eyes to a different view of the world.

Fascinated by the wineries I encountered during my travels, I returned to Australia to earn my bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Science Oenology from the University of Adelaide. I also gained hands-on experience in the vineyards and cellars in the Yarra Valley. An exchange program at the University of California at Davis brought me into the world of California winemaking.

In 2003, I joined Gallo’s winemaking team as a research oenologist, where I experimented with 40 different varietals. I became an assistant winemaker, overseeing the production of Merlot, Shiraz and Pinot Noir, and later focused on aromatic white wines. Today, as a senior winemaker, I lead the award-winning winemaking team for Turning Leaf.
Past Student News

Robyn

Recently I made contact with one of our students from the HSC class of 1983. Robyn was the eldest daughter of a berry farmer from Seville. She was academically gifted, a joy to teach and had a real desire to serve God as a nurse. Robyn, together with Coby and Michelle (died from cancer in 2009) all gained 90+ scores in HSC Biology which made me very pleased. Michelle went on to study Histology at RMIT and later worked in Diagnostic Pathology, while Coby went on to gain her Ph.D in Physiology from Monash University.

Robyn studied nursing and during this time, I gradually lost contact with her. In 2001, my daughter Karen enrolled in a Post-Graduate Diploma at Melbourne University in ‘Emergency Nursing’ and told me that one of her lecturers was Robyn. At the time Robyn was enrolled in her own PhD program at Melbourne University. So it was encouraging for me to recently discover that Robyn is now the head of education at the ‘Centre for Remote Health’ which is a joint venture of Flinders and Charles Darwin Universities and is currently based in Alice Springs. I enclose a brief biography of Robyn taken from the ‘Centre for Remote Health’ website.

Brief Biography

Robyn is a nurse academic with over 20 years experience in clinical nursing, nurse education in the hospital setting and nurse education in the higher education sector. She has led undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum development locally and internationally. Although she is new to the Northern Territory and remote health, Robyn’s previous work in developing and implementing a Master’s program for Nurse Practitioners and promoting access to education for rural Victorian nurses has translated well to the ‘Top End’ and Central Australia. Robyn frequently consults with members of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Directorate of Nursing in Indonesia where she was the team leader for a World Bank Human Resource Development Project. This has given her significant understanding of delivering health care in resource poor settings and the links between poverty and health in marginalized and once-colonised indigenous populations. Robyn’s PhD examined the contextual and historical factors that influence cross-cultural knowledge transfer.

Education

PhD University of Melbourne, Australia: Internationalizing nursing education in Central Java, Indonesia: a postcolonial ethnography.
Master of Educational Studies, Monash University, Australia.
Bachelor of Educational Studies, Monash University, Australia.
Post-basic Certificate in Anaesthesia & Recovery Room Nursing, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Australia.
Certificate Registered General Nurse, Austin Hospital Heidelberg, Australia.

Colin (who was a staff member on Robyn’s centre trip) and I are grateful that we have had the privilege of teaching Robyn. She is the second MECS student who is actively involved in working with and for Indigenous Australians. We encourage you to pray for Robyn as she works at the coalface in the difficult and challenging area of Indigenous health.

Dr. Roger

Robert Simpson

During the last week of school (2010) we were privileged to enjoy a visit from Robert (VCE Class of 1999). Robert is an academically gifted young man who excelled in the VCE. Right up until about the middle of his VCE year, Robert was planning to study medicine in order to equip himself to serve overseas as a “missionary”. However, because of the MECS policy to ask students to undertake a study rich in Christian perspectives (then it was VCE History of Western Ideas - HWI), Robert began to have a change of mind. Geoff Wilson, the teacher of HWI, opened up to Robert the wonderful world of the Arts, Ideas and Philosophy so that by the time the VCE results were out, he had a change of mind. I remember Robert, who received a TER (today it is the ATAR) which would see him easily enrol in medicine at both Melbourne and Monash Universities, saying to me that he really no longer wanted to study medicine but felt that he was expected to, given his results. So, during the “change of preference” time, Robert changed his preferences and made a combined Arts/Science degree at Monash University his first course of choice.

Having received his B.Arts/B.Sc Robert undertook an honours degree in Philosophy and left behind the equally wonderful world of science (sigh!). Success in this course led to an MA at Monash, in Philosophy (philosophy of religion). He completed the MA in 2008 with first-class honours on an APA scholarship. This led him to be awarded a prestigious scholarship, jointly funded by the Philosophy Faculty and Somerville College to study for a Ph.D (called a D.Phil) at Oxford University. His research topic is in the area of Political Philosophy and involves an investigation of Britains “Hatespeak” laws. Robert started at Oxford in September 2009 and hopes to submit and defend his thesis sometime in 2013.

I remember what an amazingly balanced student he was. During his VCE Robert continued to play sport (basketball), work at a supermarket and run a young peoples’ Bible study. What I did not know then was that Robert was and is also musically gifted. He and his wife Kath were part of an “Indi” group called “The Triangles” and this year has seen their song “Applejack” rise to the top of the Spanish charts as a result of it being used (in its entirety) to promote a brand of Spanish beer (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egrwsjzQkUA). The song has the feel and lyrics of a modern Psalm. You will also recognise the first part of the song being used as background music for the current round of JetStar advertisements.

During his visit to MECS, Robert caught up with staff from his days at MECS. They included Colin, Allan, Alison, Sharon, Peter and Lance. Please continue to pray for Robert as he works in the challenging environment that is Oxford University.

Dr. Roger (Robert’s Chemistry Teacher)
ReConnect

5 May 2011

A Potted Timeline!

1979 Begins

Year 12s start for the first time at the beginning of '79. Students: Gerry, Ken, Lionel, Martin and Sharon get to know each other really well. Interestingly 40% of that first class go onto PhD’s. Did the statistic continue?

Roger arrives as the student teacher, joining the passionate duo of Doug and Cor. Wilma (she's a legend - still 32 years later, the Science Lab Assistant) gets everything ready for weird Roger's biology dissections. Must have been a quality education as class ratios are around 3:1. Blessed are the small classes.

First school production 'Antigone' takes us back to Ancient Greece... So tragic.

Music was ever present. The sounds of Dylan and Neil Young were the fav's. Resident muso Lionel chooses different instrument for each day of the week.

Melodettes (the girls singing group to get into) on tour again. Lots of red ink in teacher rolls.

Bush dances were the craze. Lionel and Lance call the moves.

Friday night at Doug’s - Beatles records, deep philosophical chats and a feeling of home amidst the pipe smell, strengthened the bond of the group.

Martin married Judith, Coby married Mark, Julie married Mark. What sort of school was this? The investment of providing space behind the library obviously paid off. Countless others also imbibed in the 'behind the Library' kissing routine.

Doug thought that 'the end justifies the means' so he made us read Machiavelli’s 'The Prince'.

Michael & Lance provide entertainment for Staff/Board Dinner with the 'Out behind the Barn' and 'Oh Lord it's hard to be humble'.
1979 – Student Lance drives mini bus for Biology camp at 16 years old on temporary Canadian licence. Times have changed but he still drives school buses to camps and excursions with an Aussie bus licence.

1979 - 1980

The path up to the Senior School was a goat track full of ruts and holes. We couldn’t see the rest of the school and felt isolated with beautiful bush surrounds.

Did study happen in the Study Centre back then, or was it carpet bowls?

The teaching methodology must have said learning happens best when it’s not at school because Cor takes up any opportunity to go off-campus. Perhaps rear ends on seats wasn’t exploratory enough.

Australian Christian Party formed. Cor as a key member opened young minds to issues of justice and radical Christianity. “If only the church elders knew what we were talking about” was a Cor quotable quote.

The smell of burnt toast and enough crumbs to feed an army of mice hang out with students in the common room.

Tanja primary task was being the resident mum; secretary and PA to Doug come second fiddle. Many a lovely meal was consumed by students at the Meadows’ house, all prepared by a wonderful warm and caring lady.

Biology Prac on respiration sparks fitness craze. Julie led the way with regular runs around the block. “Eat my dust” – Julie

The theatrette, commandeered for many-a purpose was set up as a lecture theatre – to prepare students for a possible up-coming tertiary life.

The infamous mouse dissection. So many gizzards in such a small package.

How to celebrate the end of a year? Why not fill the Coordinator’s (Doug’s) office full of balloons. It took a ship load of balloons to get to the roof. Graduation was not a formal affair but a joyous celebration of friends at the Log Cabin in Olinda. (How tame were we?)

High powered table tennis battles took over use of the theatrette once production was over. A ready-made indoor stadium for the bat wielding gladiators.

Montrose Maths – Extra classes at the Koole’s cool place in Montrose. The maths help was good but Elisha’s food was better!

1980 Ends
As a Board, we have great pleasure in announcing the appointment of our new Deputy Principal, Paul. Many of you will have been taught by Paul during your senior school years at MECS. Paul is a great addition to our extremely competent and hardworking Executive team. Join us in praying for Paul as he uses his gifts to serve God in His kingdom.

This year has seen a few changes to the landscape of the Board. Our Secretary, Natasha, resigned from the Board as she took up employment in the school as the Principal’s PA. Although Natasha is sorely missed on the Board, we are delighted at the way she is able to use her gifts in this area of the school. We also welcomed Phil and Eric as new Board members.

Not only has the landscape of the Board changed but also the landscape of the Association. This week, a very special woman, Truus, was called home to be with her Lord. Truus sat at a Ladies Guild meeting in the mid 50’s and suggested the group raise funds for a Christian school in Mount Evelyn. Although she never imagined that her own children would be able to attend the school, she faithfully worked at realizing the vision. The school opened in 1973 and three of her five children were able to attend. Some of you may remember Gerry (Administration Manager at MECS today), Roger and Anthony (known to friends as Arnie). She was then blessed with grandchildren who also attended MECS; Laura, Rebecca, Emily, Hannah, Jaclyn, Elijah, Caleb, Sam and Jonathan.

As a community we offer our condolences to the family. We also celebrate with them that their dear Mum and Oma is at home where she belongs. We are thankful to God for blessing us on earth which such a wonderful, tenacious woman. A role model and inspiration to many!

Sue
On Behalf of the Board

Truus went to be with the Lord on 3 April 2011 aged 86.

Her love for the Lord was expressed in so many ways during her long life. She developed a deep desire to see a Christian School established in our district not long after she and husband John arrived from The Netherlands as a newly married couple in 1952. That dream became a reality in 1973 and was in no small way due to her prayers, encouragement and fundraising with the members of her church - the then Mount Evelyn Reformed Church (now Christian Reformed Church). I understand that she was very much part of a group who - from the mid 50’s - would encourage young and old to contribute as little as 25 cents per week towards a Christian School from the day employment commenced. As a Board Member, during those exciting days of the 70s, I clearly remember her encouraging words and actions. I fondly remember her ‘Mona Lisa like’ smile which implied she had a secret. She differed from Mona Lisa in that Truus was always prepared to reveal her secret – her love for the Lord and the resulting contentment and confidence in His plans for her priorities: family, church and school.

It was wonderful to share in a service of thanksgiving to the Lord for her life and witness.

Praise the Lord for the down-to-earth, yet powerful life of Truus Beimers in His strength.

Jerry
Founding Board Member
Visit

ReConnect - Connecting the Community

40th Anniversary

School opened in 1973

Stay tuned

Planning has started on the 2013 anniversary

Visit

See the changes that have occurred

Come for the new gym opening May 29 at 2pm

If you hit a good time we’ll sit down for a cuppa

Got ideas? Contact Nicole

Make sure we get a photo with you. It’ll get in the next ReConnect

Sending your children to MECS

Come to Open Day – May 14, 10am – 1pm

Lots of students do this

Ring up and get an information pack

Check out our website

Past Students

Facebook – search for the Mount Evelyn Christian School group and join up!

Give us your up to date contact details

Link on our web-site www.mecs.vic.edu.au

Reunions

They happen, but it requires someone to take the lead

Class of ’91 – reunion coming up, October 15. For more details contact Samantha

What a great way to catch up?

E-mail Nicole Nyhouse for assistance in organising a reunion.

ReConnect – The Magazine

E-mail Nicole and suggest what the next editions ‘year in focus’ could be

Read it, find your photo

Want more copies? Get them from the office

Make a contribution to The Grapevine page

Send us great school photos – we will print them

Keep up with everything that’s going on by visiting our website www.mecs.vic.edu.au

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6 May</td>
<td>Immunisation Yr 7 Girls, Yr 10 Age Careers Expo, Mothers Day Stall Lunchtime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 7 May</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 May</td>
<td>Year 7/8 Interschool Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10 - Thu 12 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Yrs 3, 5, 7, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10 May</td>
<td>Schoolwear Sales 2.45-3.45pm in Canteen</td>
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<td>Wed 11 - Fri 13 May</td>
<td>Year 6 SP Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11 May</td>
<td>SP Connect Morning Tea</td>
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<td>Thur 12 May</td>
<td>Association AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 14 May</td>
<td>Open Day 10am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16 May</td>
<td>Yr 10 Interschool Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 17 May</td>
<td>School@Work Open Day 9-11am</td>
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<td>Wed 18 - Fri 20 May</td>
<td>Year 5 SP Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 19 May</td>
<td>Yr 12 Mentor Supper 7.30pm TTT AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 May</td>
<td>Yr 7-12 Interschool Cross Country</td>
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**NAPLAN for Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 students**
The National Assessment Program Literary and Numeracy will be conducted during 10 – 12 May for Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 students. A NAPLAN Information for Parents brochure will come home today for those families who have students in these year levels. If you require further information you can go to the NAPLAN website www.naplan.edu.au. You can also contact the Primary or Middle School Coordinators if you have any other questions about NAPLAN.

**MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Craft Classes**
Careforce Craft provides opportunities for women to enjoy great company while enhancing their creative skills. Choose from: Patchwork, Embroidery, Folk Art, Quilting, even Mosaics.
Entry from rear car park Careforce Church 89 Monbulk Rd Mount Evelyn. Free Crèche available. Cost $18 enrolment plus craft requirements.
Term 2 runs from 11 May to 15 June on Wednesday mornings 10 - 12. Contact Cynthia or Cathy.

**Flat to Let**
Flat in Christian home at Kalamurra - small, self contained one bedroom. Part of a large house. Owner lives on site. Own entrance, bathroom and toilet, sitting room and kitchen. There is facility for connecting a washing machine. A bus runs past the door. Off road parking.
$200 pw. Lease available. Electricity and water included. Heating with bottled gas paid for by tenant.
Suit a single person, preferably a woman, non-smoker and living according to Christian standards. Ironing could be done in exchange for a reduction in rent.
Phone Jenny after hours.

**Donations Needed**
Bek and Tom will be leaving for Arnem Land in 2 weeks. They will be living and working in the remote Aboriginal community of Gapuwiyak NT. They would love to fill their container with things to help the community. If you can help by donating old bikes, mattresses, clothes, couches or towels it would be greatly appreciated. Please ring Bek if you can help with any of these items.
Clothes need to be suitable for warm climate and culturally sensitive. For instance women's clothes including long skirts and t-shirts, shirts or sleeveless tops. T-shirts and long shorts are suitable for teenage girls. Clothes and towels may be left at Di's office. Your help will assist the community greatly.

**Open Day, Sat 14 May, 10am-1pm**
Light FM, local papers and promotional banners are advertising this event. If you have family or friends who are interested in Christian education, you are welcome to take them on a personal tour on Open Day or encourage them to come along.
We have quite a few activities happening around the school on the day. We need some volunteer parents to help with:
- Welcoming visitors
- Supervising a jumping castle
- Serving food and coffee
- Helping in the classrooms.
If you are available to help us (even for an hour), we would really appreciate it. Please phone Amanda or Nicole on or email us.
School @ Work Morning, Tuesday May 17, 9.30 -11am. This is an opportunity to see the school and students on a normal working day.

**P&F Entertainment Books**
Earlier this week, a flyer was sent home to let you know that the Entertainment Books will be handed out next Wednesday, 11 May. If you wish to buy the book, just place the money in the envelope and return to school, if you do not wish to purchase the book just return the book in the envelope to school. As the Grade 6 students are leaving for camp on that day, their books will be handed out the following Monday. Senior School students will have theirs handed out in devotions on Thursday morning. Make sure you have a good look through the book and see all the different things you can save money on. We do need some more parents to hand out the books on Wednesday morning so if you can help please meet at the office at 8.45am. Any queries contact Evelyn.
Our next P&F meeting will be on Monday 9 May at 9am in the conference room. Our meetings are open for anyone to attend. It's a great way to meet other parents in the school. There is always a lot of laughter and yummy food to eat.

**Notices Sent Home This Week**
- JP Newsletter Term 2
- Prep Pipeline Term 2 Week 1
- Hop Chook House Excursion
- Cycle A Term 2
- SP Term 2 Letter
- Cool Concert Choir Kids