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Colin - 38 Years of Teaching at MECS
14 April 2016

ReConnect

Welcome

Hi Everyone,

The end of 2015 saw a big change at MECS. Colin Youl, staff member since 1978, retired after 38 years of teaching at MECS.

In a society that sees the average person changing jobs every 5 years this is a remarkable achievement and deserves to be celebrated well! Colin has been on many Centre Trips, taught Walpiri for many years, and inspired a love for history and the Bible in countless students - so many wonderful milestones to celebrate!

As past students, many of you will have had Colin as a teacher; many parents will have sat with him at parent teacher interviews, seen him at school functions and the like, and some of you may be staff who worked alongside him. Colin is certainly a well known, respected and loved man who has made a huge impact in the MECS community for generations.

My own memories of Colin are fond ones. I enjoyed learning Walpiri (although I don’t think I was very good at it!) and the Centre Trip was a highlight for me in so many ways! It was one thing to read and hear about the challenges that Indigenous Australians face, it was quite another to actually stay in Yuendumu for a number of days and see it first hand. My parents said I changed a lot at the dinner table when they told us the Walpiri words they were learning and sang the Walpiri songs - it brought back great memories for Richard and I.

Colin’s family have also been a significant part of MECS - his wife Heather served the school as a board member and a teacher for many years (Heather was my prep teacher!) Their children Aimie, Anna, Benjamin John and James have all come through the school, with John graduating Year 12 in 2012. Colin and Heather have been Association Members since 1980.

This edition of ReConnect has a very strong Colin Youl focus. I hope you enjoy the memories, the update on his family, and seeing how we celebrated with Colin as he retired.

Colin and Heather, we thank you for your gracious and faithful service to our community for many years.

We wish you God’s richest blessing in this new stage of your life.

Nicole (Class of ‘90)
Community Relations

From the Principal

It takes a long time to grow an old friend.
(John Leonard)

Many of you reading this edition of ReConnect will fondly consider Colin Youl an ‘old friend’.

Whether you were a student of his, or a colleague, Colin has left a lasting legacy not only on us as individuals, but also on Mount Evelyn Christian School. I first met Colin in late 1991 when I arrived for my first job interview at MECS. I was just completing my education course and looking for my first teaching position. I was young, inexperienced and full of naïve optimism about faith and teaching. When I commenced working alongside Colin in 1992, he took me under his wing, provided lots of encouragement and our friendship began to grow. Twenty-five years later, Colin is one of my old friends. He continues to be a loyal, faithful and interested friend, not only in my role as Principal of this school, but in my personal life and that of my family.

Colin is a story-teller and I’m sure many of you remember his ability to keep you enthralled in a story from the gospel of John, or a Dreaming story as you head towards Yuendumu, or even keep you interested in the intricate details of the Nazi hierarchy or the particulars of German or Japanese warplanes. He has the amazing ability to get you hooked on things you have no interest in! When Colin retired at the end of last year, staff were keen to make sure he would be invited back to speak to staff on a regular basis. ‘On what?’ I asked. ‘Anything!’ they said.

Colin has the ability to draw you in as he muses on the often over-looked detail, or brings your attention to the things that really matter. One moment he is a comedian, and then you realise where he is leading you. Gently drawing you towards truth. Gently probing and challenging our humanity, our hypocrisy, our foolishness.

Colin is at his best when he brings you face-to-face with the truth of the gospel. He has the unique ability to bring new understanding to well-known biblical stories because of his depth of knowledge and his attention to the detail of the text. Colin treats the Scriptures like an ‘old friend’. A friend that is loyal and dependable. A friend that never lets you down. A friend that always has your best interests in mind. Colin has grown friendship over many years as he has sought to understand, know and live out the ‘grand story’ of the Bible.

It’s always a great privilege to hear a great story-teller tell a great story! This is what I will treasure most as we celebrate Colin’s contribution and friendship to MECS over many, many years: his faithfulness in wanting to understand and share the greatest story of all – that ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.’ John 3:16

Narelle
MECS Principal
Past Student News

Congratulations Joshua
Congratulations to Joshua (Class of ’13) who was nominated as a finalist in Tony Smith’s Casey Apprenticeship of the Year 2015.
Josh works for Jarlem, an engineering company in Bayswater. He finishes his apprenticeship in July this year.

Nicole
Community Relations

Well Done Steph
We would like to congratulate Steph (Class of ’12) who has received three awards for academic excellence from La Trobe University. Steph, who spent 2013 enjoying a ‘gap’ year, began a degree in Wildlife and Conservation Biology in 2014 and has performed extremely well. Her first award was for achieving the highest mark in Chemistry by a first year student and the second was for achieving the highest mark in Biology by a first year student and the third was for achieving the highest weighted mark across all 8 first year subjects in the Wildlife and Conservation Biology degree. This is a wonderful effort and makes this Year 12 Chemistry and Biology teacher extremely proud. Well done Steph.

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Congratulations Scott
We would like to congratulate Scott (Class of ’06) for reaching the top 16 stage of the national voice talent program ‘The Voice’, 2015. Scott made the top 4 under coach Ricky (a Grammy and multiple Latin Grammy winner). Scott impressed all (including myself) with his amazing voice. Well done Scott and we look forward to the next step of your musical journey.

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator

Mel
We are very excited to announce that Mel (Class of ’10) has been selected by the leaders of the Australian Apprenticeships Ambassadors Program together with the Australian Training Awards and the Australian Embassy in Beijing to talk to students in China about the benefit of vocational education training (VET).
Mel informed me that in Australia about 40% of school leavers go on to university, and consequently we have a skills shortage within the workforce. China has 80% who go on to university, so there is a more severe lack of technical skills. Australia is in some ways partnering with China to help them create an outstanding VET sector like ours and also that of renowned industrial countries such as Germany.
So Mel, over the course of the week will be visiting 4 polytechnics (TAFE) across Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing and Shanghai. She will be speaking to the students (male and female), teachers and parents at these polytechnics, who are undertaking the equivalent of a diploma. Mel will share details of her apprenticeship journey and the challenges, rewards and benefits of training. The purpose of this is to encourage and inspire these students in their vocational education, as well as help to eventually change the perception of VET as a lesser option in the eyes of students and parents alike. She tells me that these are issues that we are also combating in Australia, as we desperately need more young people choosing VET as a pathway into their career. She believes that VET is a fantastic study option these days, and can provide a great career start into many industries, as well as further education.
Our school was founded on the premise that all students are gifted and that all gifts are to be used in our worship of God. While academic gifts are important, they are no more important than the ‘hands on’ gifts. Mel as a student was incredibly gifted academically but also with her hands and at the end of her VCE chose an apprenticeship pathway to work rather than a university route. She is a qualified Fitter and Turner, the current title holder of the Australian Apprentice of the Year and an Australian Apprenticeships Ambassador for the Australian Government. She is currently working at Hargo Engineering in Croydon. We at MECS are extremely grateful to God for her ongoing witness to Christ in this important area of life.

Dr Roger F
Lexi’s Story

On New Year’s Eve 2013, I had my 12 week ultrasound at Box Hill Hospital. This showed an abnormality, so I was to be scanned again by a specialist 2 weeks later. He was quite concerned that the baby wasn’t moving around as it should and speculated that the baby could have a serious condition such as Trisomy 18 and suggested that, despite the risks, an amniocentesis test would provide valuable information. This test on chromosomes came back normal.

After a further ultrasound we were given a diagnosis of Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC). This started seemingly endless hospital appointments, scans and specialists after being transferred to the care of Monash Medical Centre Clayton.

The specialists did not have many positive things to say about the life or survival of a child diagnosed with AMC, and that I shouldn’t be surprised if I had a miscarriage. That was particularly upsetting because I had already had two miscarriages in that year.

Other possibilities were that the baby was only being kept alive by me and would die at birth. Best case scenario was implied to be severe physical deformities and brain damage.

So on numerous occasions I was advised not to continue with the pregnancy. There was only a very small chance that the problems would be localised to the limbs and not affect the whole body.

At 30 weeks an MRI scan was done on the baby’s brain, and I was advised to come back ASAP to get the results in case I didn’t want to continue with the pregnancy. They said, the earlier that decision was made the better and when I said I would continue no matter what the outcome, the impression I got was then, well why are we doing tests at all? Either way the results for her brain came back normal.

Next on the list of disappointments was when I was advised that because baby was breach, a C-Section was going to be done and no attempt to turn the baby would be made.

Alexandra Grace Wulfrun was born on 9 July 2014, screaming may I add, as if to announce “I am here and doing fine”.

I asked that as there were no life threatening issues, could the baby be kept with me but my wishes were again ignored. Despite no obvious breathing issues, Alexandra was admitted to the Special Care Nursery where she was poked and prodded for a week.

Life for our little treasure was going to be tough.

She was born with hip dysplasia, stiff pointed ‘club feet’, stiff knee joints, small stiff unmoving arms and hands bent in at the wrist, but passed all other tests of hearing, sight, feeding and responsiveness.

The hospital was to become a very familiar place; she saw a physiotherapist at 2 ½ weeks old, and was put in plaster from feet to hips, to be changed weekly for 11 weeks, to treat her club foot, and stretch her feet up and out, including a tenotomy (cutting of the Achilles’ tendon to let the heel drop down into place).

She also saw an Occupational Therapist who made her various fabric/plastic type wrist splints to slowly pull her hands into a neutral position. She has to wear a foot brace and hand splints at night until she is 4 years old to prevent them from regressing back into their birth positions.

At the start of this year we started her in a group therapy called CPEC (Cerebral Palsy Education Centre) who have agreed to take her on; even though she doesn’t have Cerebral Palsy, her condition could benefit from the physios and OTs that they have, who are very good at finding creative solutions to everyday problems.

Today Alexandra is just over a year old. She is a very smart, happy and a very, very, little but strong girl. She sits up really straight and uses her feet to play.

Lexi (as she has become known) has recently been able to stand up while supported and is expected to learn how to walk, while using her body strength to swing her arms around. She has limited movement to touch & grasp things with her fingertips.

Lexi’s future is unknown but she is God’s little miracle and we expect He will look after her extremely well. She gives us plenty of joy and inspiration in her adaptability and capabilities. We expect she will have a full life, despite the obvious challenges she will encounter ahead.

Her mind is keen, eyesight and hearing sharp, an excellent set of lungs and all of the organs essential for living and functioning well, are showing no abnormalities.

We are thankful to be blessed with this young life, and acknowledge ALL who have had input into Lexi’s development now and in the future.

Visit Lexi’s Facebook page using the link below:

Vanessa (Class of ’05) and Paul.
Congratulations Asha

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Asha (Class of ’15) has been selected to undertake officer training with the Australian Army. For the past three months she has been put through a demanding and challenging selection process. The first of this three-stage process involved aptitude, academic and lifestyle assessment. The second stage consisted of a job interview, a psychological and medical test. Having passed these two stages, Asha was then selected to be flown to Canberra as part of a group of potential officers to face the Officer Selection Board. The group was put through individual and team activities, psychological testing, a job interview and more fitness testing. This group of 9 had been selected from over 200 applicants.

After this exhausting and challenging day, Asha was informed that she had been selected, along with three males, to attend the University of New South Wales to study for a Bachelor of Arts while also doing military training. Following this 3 year course Asha will spend a year at the Duntroon military college completing her training. She will then be commissioned as Lieutenant at the end of 2019. To my knowledge, she will be the first MECS officer in the Australian Defence Forces. Interestingly, another of Asha’s classmates, Dillon, who is undergoing Army training at the moment, has told her that when she is an officer, he will have to salute her! Congratulations Asha!

Dr Roger F

Our Newest Lawyer

We would like to congratulate Jake Roberts (Class of ’09) on successfully completing his Master of Laws (Juris Doctor) degree at Monash University. Jake has spent the last six years, since his graduation from MECS, working towards this momentous goal. In his last few years he has also been employed by Monash University as Student Success Advisor. Now that he is qualified we would like to celebrate the fact that Jake has been able to secure work as a Legal Assistant with Sharrock Pitman Legal. He started work at this legal firm which is based in Glen Waverley.

Dr Roger Fernando

Congratulations to Kate

We would like to congratulate Kate (Class of ’07) on being awarded a 6 week internship in the Indonesian Media Industry. Kate was one of 25 Media and Communications students chosen from over 100 applicants from all over Australia. The internship, which starts in January, is based in Jakarta and will involve Kate gaining experience from working for either the ABC, Reuters or the Australian Embassy. Kate is currently in her second year of studying Media and Communications at Swinburne University in Hawthorn. It has taken some time for Kate to find a career focus but she is now enjoying pursuing her passion by studying journalism. Congratulations Kate.

Dr Roger Fernando

In the News

During the Christmas-New Year break Tim (Class of ’06) worked as a Parks Victoria campground host at Kinglake National Park. Tim worked closely with the Park Rangers welcoming campers and taking them on guided walks during both the night and day. Tim was interviewed on ABC breakfast radio on Saturday January 9, as well as featured in the local paper. Tim, a qualified nurse, is currently enrolled in a Conservation Biology honours degree at Deakin University and hopes to find employment as a Park Ranger.

Jared (Class of ’09) is now into the second year of his Ph.D at Deakin University and has just written his first scientific paper. This has been accepted for publication in the journal ‘Aquaculture’ and appeared in print (Volume 452, 1 February 2016, pp. 128-133). The paper is titled ‘Effects of commercial diets and temperature on the growth performance and stress response of hāpuku (Polyprion oxygeneios)’. For those of you who are interested, the hāpuku, hapuka, or whapuku is a wreckfish of the family Polyprionidae, found around southern Australia, Chile, Tristan da Cunha, and New Zealand at depths between 30 and 800 m. Its length is between 60 and 180 cm, and it can weigh up to 100 kg.

Jared is doing his research at the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Centre for Integrative Ecology, Warrnambool Campus. We are thrilled with the news of this publication and offer Jared our warmest congratulations!

Dr Roger F
Some Thoughts on Centre Trips

It was in 1980 that we set out on our very first Centre Trip, with a hired coach, driver and cook, and very little idea of what lay ahead. Looking back over the 30-odd trips since, there are many specific and some general things which spring to mind.

Specifically, no-one who was there could forget the day we actually lost the back wheels on one side of the school’s very own coach a few dozen kilometres short of the bitumen, heading north on the Oodnadatta Track. That experience taught me that no matter how severe the breakdown, as long as wind and limb were preserved, we would come out the other side of the debacle intact. Members of the ‘Steering Committee’ on that occasion remember the young roustabout from a local Station who gave our mechanic a lift into Marla in quest of a new wheel hub. It seemed a forlorn quest, but God was good to us, and a suitable part was found.

Of a similar ilk was the day we pulled up for lunch on the ‘Victory Downs’ road short of Mt Connor, only to discover that the trailer was missing... only the ‘stump’ of the hitch, clinging to the ball at the back of the bus, remained. Well, back we went, found the poor trailer, chained it to the ball, and off to Mt Connor, where we prepared to weld the show back together by the good grace of the proprietors. I will never forget the question, “Where did you put the hitch?” at that point. You guessed it, gentle reader, we had left it back where we found the trailer!!!

There are many wonderful memories that do not hinge on a particular trip. There is nothing like the majesty of the starry sky on a bush camp. An alert observer could see the great dance of the stars as they wheeled their way around the sky each night. And so many of them! ‘Burrs in the socks’ is another unforgettable Centre Trip aspect.

Speaking of the stars, of course, reminds me of the Dreaming paths which are all around us on the journey. The Seven Sisters and Orion, and the story of Jakamarra’s attack on those seven Napaljarris in the Dreaming are up there in the sky from every spring until winter. The trip pauses for a bush camp very close to the place where the ancients believed the drama was acted out on earth, long, long ago. Then there is the Moon Dreaming on the road to Yuendumu, the Yeperrenye caterpillar Dreaming at Alice Springs, which was also where the Seven Sisters began their flight to the south. Dreaming pathways are all around us here too, but no-one keeps the stories alive now.

Speaking of traditional beliefs reminds me of the ‘Christian corroborees’ we used to witness in the early days. The whole community would gather, people would paint up and decorate their bodies with brush, and then dance and sing the stories of Christmas or Easter. Everyone was involved. Many people in the long preparation period, then everybody singing the stories and beating time. These ceremonies are still alive, and occur within the Warlpiri church, but the novelty of our visits has worn off somewhat, so it’s been some years since we were last involved in one.

The word ‘hunting’ conjures up such romantic visions, far removed from the long rambling walk under the blazing sun which was our experience so often. Still there were witchetty
grubs, honey ants and sometimes goanna to
taste at the end of it, and the mind-numbing
tedium of that long walk helped us appreciate
what it must have been like to live in the desert 300
years ago, when there was absolutely no alternative to
surviving by virtue of your own skills. Yes, the memory of the
sun on your hat and burs in the socks is very tenacious.

I must mention Darby Jampijinpa here, also Shorty Jangala, who
Painted two of the Dreaming panels on the north wall of the gym at
MECS. That these wonderful old men took us into their hearts was
quite overwhelming. To have them show us their country was a
tremendous and humbling experience.

One night we pulled up and unloaded on the Victory
Downs Road just over the NT border. We scurried about,
looking forward to another night sleeping in the open.
I remember that it was terrifically humid. When after
our evening activity had ended and we snuggled down
to sleep… the first huge drops of rain fell, and within
minutes we were all soaked. We were wet, our bedding
was wet, our luggage was wet through. The dusty red soil
had become thick, claggy red mud, and with every step we
became taller. We threw up tents and dragged our wet things
and our wet selves into them to try to sleep. I have never spent a
night like it, on a wet airbed and pillow, wrapped in a damp towel.
But the sun came out the next day, we eventually dried off, and
the experience became a very memorable talking point. No matter
how severe the setback, God always brought us through.

The Yuendumu Community welcomed us year after year. As
the old people became too old the hunting dwindled, and the
corroborees too, but the warmth of the greeting remains. We have
swollen the church attendance figures at Yuendumu every Sunday
we’ve been there, a great deal of basketball and football have been
played, Warlpiri songs have been sung and relationships have
been established.

Looking back over three decades of Centre Trips I am very
proud indeed that hundreds of our students can inject into any
discussion of Aboriginal Affairs the telling ideas “I have been to an
Aboriginal settlement”, “I know Aboriginal people, and the negative
stereotypes are not true” and “I learned a bit of an Aboriginal
language at school. I remember bits of a song I learned, and it
goes like this…”

Colin
Association News and Views

Association Membership

There are many reasons why parents decide on MECS as the educational choice for their family – no doubt you remember yours. For my husband and I, it was really important that a Christ centred approach was at the forefront, and that we would be able to positively feed into the schooling journey of our children: as parents we invest much time in raising our children - why should that investment cease between 9am-3pm Monday to Friday?

We believe we have a great relationship partnering with MECS in reference to our own children, but we also see that it so very important for us to serve MECS for the benefit of the whole and wider community.

MECS is blessed to be a parent governed school. That simply means that collectively the parent Association is the custodian of the Christ centred culture of MECS and is the director of the future of MECS.

So what does that mean to me? We all know why we personally chose MECS, but if you have a little bit of a deeper look, you can see the ideals and desires of Christ centred education which were held so dear by our founding families, are still as relevant and as profoundly important today. How has MECS been able to uphold those ideals from 40 plus years ago? The parent Association. The Association was formed before MECS had even officially opened! The members of the Association were the founding families of MECS.

Over the years the Association has been able to guide and invest into MECS to bring the school to where it is today. I am a bit of a nostalgic person and I often invest my time into things which are significantly important to my faith. When thinking about my connections with MECS, I am not a past student and I have no connections with founding families, but I feel I understand the MECS’ ethos. I decided to join the Association because I wanted to contribute to seeing the MECS we know and love now, still going strong when my children have the pleasure of deciding where the education journey begins for their children.

The beauty of the Association is that it can involve various levels of time investment - a bit like a donation you may give to the Good Friday Appeal, some have a capacity to give a little, while some have the capacity to give more, with neither being less valuable than the other.

The Association meets twice yearly for general meetings. The evening starts with dinner or supper and then moves on to the agenda, which is sent home to all members prior to the meeting. For those who have the capacity to invest a little more time, there are a number of sub-committees comprising a variety of people - association members, staff and board members. The formation of a sub-committee is usually requested by the Board to focus attention on a particular area of MECS. There is usually quite a number of sub-committees on the go throughout the year, and each will present findings, suggestions or ideas to the Board for consideration. I have served on a couple of sub-committees over the last 12-18 months and I personally feel guided towards investing time into MECS in this way. The time commitment while serving on a sub-committee has been more than reasonable and I haven’t found the commitment in anyway overwhelming. There always seems to be a well thought out time frame from start to finish. At the end of the journey of a sub-committee, it is clear to see the value, impact and importance the Association has on the ongoing direction and growth of MECS.

While joining the Association might not be for everyone, I think it is very important to acknowledge how vital the Association is to MECS. While Jesus is the cornerstone on which we build our faith upon, the Association is the cornerstone on which we continue to build MECS upon.

I encourage you to just have a think about what the Association means to you and through prayer, consider if you might feel led to join.

Simone
Association Sub-committee Member
Introducing our Association Sub-committee:

Lisa - current Board Member, Mum of 3 current MECS students, past student and Association Member.

Eric - parent of 2 past students, past Board Member and Association Member

Beth - mum of 5 current MECS students, past student and Association Member.

Nicole - parent of 1 current student and 2 past students, on MECS staff, past student and Association Member.

Simone who is the mum of 3 current MECS students, great parent volunteer and Association Member.

From the Archives

ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MOUNT EVELYN
NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Member,

You are cordially invited to attend this year’s bi-annual General meeting which will be held at the Mount Evelyn Christian Primary School starting at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 20th October 1973.

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

a. Opening of meeting by President
b. To consider the following motion: “That Form 1 Secondary Education be commenced in February 1974 and that the necessary funds be set aside for this purpose”

The Treasurer, Mr. Enzmann to explain the financial aspect and Mr. Nachits, the school’s Principal will present the educational side of the proposal.

c. Building progress report by Mr. K. Koerbergen
d. Interim report on the Association’s financial situation by the Treasurer.
e. Progress report from the teaching staff.
f. General business.
g. Supper.

Please show your interest in the affairs of the Association by attending this important meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

J. T. Hyndman Honorary Secretary

Lilydale 3rd October 1973

Contact Us

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

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive ReConnect either by post or email, please let us know by sending us your contact details and email address.

We would also love to hear what you are doing now and even see a current photo of you and/or your family.

You can contact the school by going to the ‘Past Student’ page on the MECS website: www.mecs.vic.edu.au, by calling 9738 6000 or by emailing us at reconnect@mechs.vic.edu.au.

Nicole
Community Relations

AGM
Thursday 26 May
7.00pm - Coffee & Supper
7.30pm - Meeting Start

We will be meeting in the MECS Main Staffroom
All Welcome

Like us on Face Book!
Mount Evelyn Christian School - MECS
MECS - Kindergarten
MECS - Past Students

Transformational Education

Last year MECS launched a book called ‘Transformational Education’.

This book is proving to be popular among parents, Boards and teachers across the wider Christian schools community. If you would like a copy they are available from the MECS office for $20 each.
Recent Celebratory Moments

Paul (Class of ’07) and Marilyn welcomed a baby boy - Hezekiah, born on 12 August, 2015.
First grandchild for both sides of the family.

Vanessa (Class of ’09) married Ben on November 5, 2015.

Nathan (Class of ’05) and Laura welcomed a baby boy - Ezra Champion, born on November 17, 2015.

Tim (Class of ’06) married Lisle on March 28. Attending him as groomsman were (L to R) his cousin Liam and former MECS classmates (Class of ’06) Justin, Jarrod and Sam.

Ranges TEC Open Campus
Saturday May 28, 1-4pm
1/9 Hightech Place Lilydale
9738 7100
Recent Celebratory Moments

Sammie, (Class of ‘06) married Andrew on the February 11, 2016 at Portsea Hotel.

Tanya and Simon (Class of ‘01) welcomed a baby daughter - Emily Elizabeth on Jan 18, 2016.

Joel (Class of ’11) married Sabrina on January 23, 2016.

Look Who Came to Visit!

Recently I had the privilege of taking two very special visitors for a walk around MECS: Jack (first Principal at MECS) and Andrew (Teacher in 1980’s). We spent a lot of time reminiscing about the early days and showing Jack and Andy the changes that have happened around the school.

Jack lives with his wife Marlene in the NT and Andy lives with his wife Sherrin in Healesville.

Nicole
Community Relations

New Book by Janette

Janette, who has been a Casual Relief Teacher for over 30 years at MECS, has just had her second book published.

Patches of Godlight – poems, prayers and contemplations includes extracts from her prayer journal alongside poems and colour photographs, and is an ideal gift. It has 152 pages, including 23 in colour, and is available for $30 from the MECS office. Janette is also available as a guest speaker at churches, women’s groups or camps. You can contact her by email: janettefernando@iprimus.com.au.

“This is the work of a courageous, sensitive, vulnerable, new millennium Psalmist, who like David of old, finds intimacy and faith in the realities of life. From the laundry to the cathedral, from the tragedy of NY 9/11 to the desert outback of Australia this is poetry on a journey to the Promised Land.”

John, Author, Preacher, Founder of God’s Squad

“Patches of Godlight is a raw, honest and inspiring account of the wrestle so many of us face in life; the questions we seek of God and the desire to know Him with greater depth and intimacy. This book reflects how, in our deepest struggles, and darkest hours, the Lord shines His light through the cracks and crevices of our lives, to remind us of His eternal presence.”

Sharon, Author, Educator
MECS does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by Mount Evelyn Christian School for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

Calendar

2016 Term 2 Week 1: 11 Apr - 17 Apr

Fri 15 April
Year 6 Positive Boys Oasis Day
Year 12 VCD Excursion

2016 Term 2 Week 2: 18 Apr - 24 Apr

Mon 18 April
Primary GT 9am PUMP room. MP Blue (Ali Coffey) ANZAC Theme

Tues 19 April
Parent Seminar A, 7.30pm Staffroom

Fri 22 April
Year 6 Empowering Girls Oasis Day

Mon 25 April
ANZAC Day Public Holiday School Closed

Tues 26 April
SP Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

Wed 27 April
Primary Cross Country

Fri 29 April
Years 7-12 Cross Country

Fri 30 April
Working Bee 8am-1pm, with Morning Tea

Mon 3 May
2016 Term 2 Week 3: 25 Apr - 1 May

Calendar

Celebration Evening Footage Needed

Last year Primary students performed at the Celebration Evening in Term 4, and we are so proud of how well they demonstrated what they'd been learning in Indonesian and Music.

If you have any video footage of the performances (particularly the Indonesian items) that you'd be willing to share with MECS, we'd really love to have a copy, and to show future MECS families at Open Days and such events. If you can help with this, please contact Rachel Jaraba (Indonesian Teacher) via email at rjaraba@mecs.vic.edu.au.

Instrumental Music Lessons

Now's the time to start learning an Instrument...

We are currently taking enrolments in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, singing, violin and drums.

Did you know...?

• Learning an instrument can assist with improving your memory, increase concentration, coordination, learning, language and comprehension.
• Students who study music from an early age do better at a range of subjects.
• Playing an instrument helps develop kid's creative thinking and motor skills.
• Music helps kids become more active listeners.
• Learning an instrument fosters patience, perseverance, self-discipline and confidence.
• Music is beneficial to your overall well-being and can relieve stress.

and...it's fun!!

So, what are you waiting for? Pick up an Instrumental Enrolment form at the Main Office!

Questions or queries? Contact Penny at pmentiplay@mecs.vic.edu.au.

Keen on Green Donations

Our Year 8 and 9 Termtaster, ‘Keen on Green’ is looking for your donations of:

• Teapots without lids, tea cups and saucers (see photo)
• Clean, label removed, large, medium, and small tins (milo tins or the like)
• Wooden clogs (to be kept at school in a plant display)
• Old chains of any sort
• A variety of succulent plant cuttings (If you have any pinkish or reddish ones or ‘string of pearls’ types that we could get cuttings of, please send in a bag with your child to Mrs Anne-Maree Forbes or drop at the office with the other donations)
• Any bulbs.

Please leave donations in the box outside the office. Thanks,
Anne-Maree

Term 2 PS GTs

Mondays 9am Pumproom on the following dates

Week 2, Monday 18 April
MP Blue (Ali Coffey) ANZAC Themed

Week 5, Monday 9 May
JP Wallabies (Viv Theunissen)

Week , Monday 30 May
SP Green (Michelle Ketelaar)
Parents and Friends Welcome

Next Working Bee

Sat 30 April, 8am-1pm
with Morning Tea

Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.
Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office

Apple Man

The Apple Man is coming tomorrow - April 15 and the following varieties will be available: Granny Smiths, Fujis, Royal Galas and Pink Ladies. Apples $10 a bag. Please put the correct money in an envelope with your order written on the front, and hand it into the office before 10.30am on Friday April 15.

Coldstream Auskick

Register online now at www.aflauskick.com.au for ColdstreamAuskick, running from Friday April 15 to Aug 5, 5.30-7.30pm Main Oval Coldstream. Contact Karina 0425 784 193, auskick@yahoo.com.au. Cost $82.

Notices sent home this week and on Website www.mecs.vic.edu.au/Resources/Downloads/Notices-Home

• Kinder Connections Edition 2
• Foundation Bush Telegraph Term 2
• JP Newsletter Term 2
• JP Show and Share Roster Term 2
• MP Newsletter Term 2
• SP Newsletter Term 2
• SP Goldfields Camp Notice
• Positive Boys 2016 Notice
• SP Connect Morning Tea Invitation
• Year 7 & 8 Newsletter Term 2
• Year 8 English Notice
• Year 8 Man Camp Letter
• Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp Letter
• Year 9 Open Village Term 2 Letter
• Year 10 Term 2 Letter
• VCD Units 3 & 4 Excursion Notice