Positive Boys go to Oasis

Alastair REALLY enjoying the flying fox at Oasis
An interview with Richard from the archives

Q. “What else was there?”
A. “Well, three terms in the end, two as Chairman.”
Q. “How long were you in the Board?”
A. “One thing leads to another. If you believe in something, it’s worth getting involved, even though I wasn’t sure what I could offer at the time.”
Q. “How long were you in the Board?”
A. “Well, three terms in the end, two as Chairman.”
Q. “Amazing. What were your main achievements in this time?”
A. “There were three. Firstly, with the encouragement of Harry Westerdorp, who was Board Chairman at the time, we worked at setting up a system of school governance. That’s where the Board involves itself with policy & direction rather than the nuts & bolts of how much to spend on a new whiteboard.”
Q. “What else was there?”
A. “Continued growth & development of the school, and attempting to resurrect the Association.”
Q. “What do you mean by growth and development?”
A. “My first job back in 1987 was to get involved with the newly formed Promotions Committee, and to start promoting the school. MECS was like the best kept secret in the district.”
Q. “What did you do?”
A. “I took some pictures of students in the classrooms and the grounds, wrote some text about MECS, and printed a 4 page colour brochure. We also started to develop fliers for postal drops as we began our first open days.”
Q. “Well done. Surely that was enough without getting on the Board?”
A. “I guess the challenge for any parent, myself included, is to ask the question, ‘Am I a customer or a partner?’
Q. “What’s the difference?”
A. “Customers are interested in fee for service. And that’s fair enough. We’re a school – we provide education to families who are willing to pay the fees. But a partner takes on a sense of ownership of the school. A partner is committed to the goal of Christian education and the long term viability of MECS. That’s who MECS needs in the school Association: Partners.”
Q. “Anything else?”
A. “I’m pleased you’re sending something out to our members. I hope they get enthusiastic about the school. It’s a very special place.
Q. “And your own children?”
A. “Sylvia and I have had four children go through MECS. I was discussing the school with one of my children recently, and she asked me whether I thought the sacrifice of paying fees had been worth it. And you know what? If we had our time again, we’d do it exactly the same way. MECS has been a wonderful blessing to our family.”
Q. “What about the MECS Association?”
A. “Continued growth & development of the school, and attempting to resurrect the Association.”
Q. “What do you mean by growth and development?”
A. “In the early years, most people knew each other, much like one great big family, and many people went to the same church. But that’s changed. We now have 46 Churches represented at MECS. So the challenge is to build a sense of community, where people feel connected to the school, and hopefully to one another.”
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Editorial Continued...

is a potential gap between funding the needs of students with disabilities and what the new NDIS will provide. And there is also a gap in funding for the delivery of vocational education (very costly) as we have it at Ranges TEC. There are of course many other issues that will impact how we vote. Please be praying that good and wise leaders will be elected – when the election finally happens.

Investigating Polynesia

Polynesian food Sampling in Cycle A

Last week and this week, as part of their History studies this term, Cycle A are looking at the migration, settlement, tribes and culture of Polynesia. As part of our rich learning experience, students sampled a variety of Polynesian foods including taro, plantation banana, coconut, sweet potatoes and yams. Most students really enjoyed sampling the foods, despite most tasting like potato!

Sharon
Cycle A Teacher

Will, Natasha, Jesse, Georgia, Celeste & Iris
MUSIC Notes

Save the Date!

For all musicians and singers in our Senior School and all those throughout the school with surnames between E and M - you are invited to perform in our next Recital coming up on Thursday August 15! The Recital will be in the SS Theatrette from 7-9.30pm including a 20 minute interval. Please speak to your Instrumental Teacher regarding this. If you learn outside of school, please email Annora for more information.

The Recital is an opportunity for soloists and groups to perform what they’ve been learning and gain some experience in live performance.

Watch this space for further information related to this Recital.

Annora
Music Performance Coordinator

Guitar! Violin! Drums!
Piano! Singing!

We have just a few vacancies for instrumental lessons at present. Download a form or pick up a copy from the office if you’d like to join our wonderful programme! http://www.mecs.vic.edu.au/site/DefaultSite/filesystem/documents/music/music%20at%20mecs%202013%20booklet.pdf

Kerrie
Instrumental Tuition Coordinator

MECS Notes

Well done Cameron

After 8 years and 800 classes, Cameron has achieved his junior Black Belt in Karate from Edge Martial Arts in Mount Evelyn.

"I feel great but I still have a long way to go. My new goals are to move to the adult Black Belt class, participate in more tournaments, continue teaching the younger students, and eventually earn my senior Black Belt".

Well done Cameron!

Heather
Newsletter Editor

Year 12 Parent Supper

“Where there is no counsel the people fall, but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 11

On Wednesday 24 July MECS held its annual supper for the parents of the current Year 12 students.

Andrea and Colin were our two speakers for the night. They shared their collective wisdom on navigating the somewhat challenging and highly rewarding role of being a parent of a Year 12 student. It is really a rich community that MECS operates within, where we can draw on the counsel of those who have gone ahead of us.

We are very grateful for Andrea and Colin’s contributions to the night as well as the delicious supper provided by Karen. I would also like to extend a note of thanks to all the parents who partner with the MECS community so faithfully.

Sharon
Year 12 Coordinator
Woolies Earn and Learn
A big thank you to all the families that faithfully collected the Woolies Earn and Learn stickers. We earned 18000 points! What a great result.
We have started the process of selecting our prizes and they will arrive in Term 1 next year.

Fathers Day Stall
Thanks to those Mums who have already volunteered to help. We are still looking for a few more helpers - someone to oversee the stall, set up and organise the volunteers, a few more helpers for the Thursday afternoon, to help sort and price gifts and some helpers for the Friday to help run the stall. If you are able to help please contact Nicole through the office. Thank you!

World Vision 40 Hour Famine
About 10, Year 7 girls are doing the 40 Famine this year to raise community awareness and much needed funds to help fight global poverty. This fundraising will support World Vision Projects in Malawi, Ethiopia, East Timor, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda. If you wish you can support ‘Mecs Girlies’ at http://40hf.com.au/MecsGirlies. They would appreciate any sponsors.

New Email System
Thanks for all the positive feedback regarding our new Email system.
If you have any comments about receiving your correspondence via email please contact the office.
Thanks
Paula

Dance Classes
We are running Dance Classes again for your enjoyment and well-being. I say this because there is always a lot of laughing during a session, and it is really good exercise.
You don't need any previous experience.
Casey is a qualified instructor from the Dancesport studio in Lilydale and will start from square one with all of us. Those who did classes last year, if they are anything like me, have forgotten most of it anyway.
Parents of Year 11 students could enjoy dancing at the formal right alongside them.
The cost will be $10 per couple, per lesson. Payment for single nights will not be an option. We need to make this a 5 week package so that we can maintain consistency of numbers - $50 per couple or $25 per single. Come along even if you don't have a partner because we can swap and change to fit everyone in.
Lessons will take place from the week of 8 August and will run for 5 weeks. Thursday nights, 7:30pm – 9pm.
If you are interested in attending these dance classes please email Deb.
Deb
Trainee Counsellor

Money Matters
Education Maintenance Allowance
Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.
Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment.
Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to this school since 28 February 2013 will need to submit a new EMA application form.
Applications close on 2 August 2013.
Contact: School Office for an application form and further information.

MECS Notes
Do your children have asthma or allergies?
Are you a part of the local footy team, scouts club or netball club?
Do you worry about your children’s asthma when they are not at home?
Learn practical strategies for helping your children to live well with asthma each day from people who know. Join The Asthma Foundation of Victoria’s online forum. Ask a question, share your story, meet with others in your area. Call for more information or go to forum.asthma.org.au.

Congratations to Marita
We would like to congratulate Marita (VCE 2006) who has been awarded the 2013 John Storey Scholarship ($5,000) by The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University. John Storey (Jnr) was a young man full of drive and energy who studied Mechanical Engineering at RMIT. As an undergraduate he helped found the Student Representative Council, acted as its first President, and lobbied for the establishment of a central library. His studies were cut short when he was diagnosed with leukaemia and he died in 1947, aged just 22. His father, industrialist Sir John Storey, left a sizeable bequest to RMIT for the establishment of a scholarship fund to commemorate his son’s life.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, candidates must:
• have been accepted into the RMIT overseas student Exchange Program.
• have achieved the required grade point average in their studies.
• be involved in community service activities
• have extra-curricular interests.

As well as performing exceptionally well academically, Marita has been a TEAR Australia volunteer for 3 years, volunteered in South Africa with Youth for Christ for 6 months and is a regular volunteer with Surrender and Soul Survivor. She will be using the scholarship to continue her study for a Bachelor of Social Work degree (second year) for one semester at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland.

Dr Roger F
VCE Coordinator
Positive Boys - A Day at Oasis

On Monday 30 July, all the Year 6 boys went to Oasis in Mount Evelyn.

As soon as we got there we were put into groups and then we did an Oasis hunt which was very hard. We next put on a harness and helmet on so we could go on this HUGE flying fox which is 90 metres long and 10 metres high. Next we did some more amazing activities like the low ropes course, archery and milk stack climbing. Then we did some initiative games which involved teamwork and communication. My highlight was the flying fox! My next highlight was where we had to climb up milk stacks, with a harness of course.

It was an AMAZING day for all the Year 6 Positive Boys!!

*Brad*

The activities we completed during the day were archery, low ropes course, flying fox, initiatives, milk crate stack climbing and the Oasis hunt. My highlight was when we went on the gigantic flying fox which was 10 metres high and 90 metres wide. My other highlight was climbing the milk crates where you would have to stack the crates on top of each other and keep climbing until you fell off. Josh V got the highest then it was Cooper P, Daniel P and Asher K.

It was the most exciting day for all of the Year 6 boys.

*Cooper*
Positive Boys - A Day at Oasis

When we arrived at the camp, we strode up to the meeting hall where we were introduced to the staff of Oasis. The very first thing we did was an Oasis eye spy game - it was like the amazing race but smaller and more entertaining. The first people to finish were Cooper and Aiden. We were then split up into 2 groups. Group 1 did the archery while group 2 did the flying fox. We swapped after about 30 minutes and then did the archery where we made up scores for it. Michael came first with 920 points and Aiden second with 840 points. We then had our play lunch and Group 2 went to initiatives while Group 1 did the low ropes course. Initiatives was all about team work and communication. After a lot of hard work it was time to switch over and do the low ropes course. The rest of the day was all hard work with climbing on milk crates and putting your life in the hands of your friends.

Music for Young Children Program

The Music for Young Children program has been capably led by Rachel for the past eighteen months. It is a program developed by Wendy (4 year old Kindergarten teacher and Early Years Coordinator) that was designed to help children to develop a sense of beat, to learn to sing in tune and try new songs, to experience a variety of music and to become familiar with differences in music and experiment with different props and puppets.

Last week Tuesday we held the final session for this program and we celebrated with a little party after the session.

We are keeping open the option of restarting this program further down the track. Thanks to Rachel for doing a great job and to all the parents and children that came along and joined in the fun each week.

Amanda & Nicole
Community Relations Officers
**MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES**

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.

**NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**

(can also be downloaded from website)

- SS Careers Newsletter (last week)
- Yr 9 Readiness for Yr 10 Info meeting letter
- Prep Pipeline Term 3
- SS Year Level Subject Selection Sheets
- SS Subject Selection Information Meeting
- Primary Production Letters for every Primary Class

**2013 Term 3 Week 2: 28 JULY - 3 AUG**

**Thur 1 August**
2014 Year 11 & 12 Info Evening 7.30pm

**Fri 2 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals

**Sat 3 August**
Working Bee 8am - 1pm

**2013 Term 3 Week 3: 4 AUG - 10 AUG**

**Tues 6 August**
Year 12 VTAC Info Meeting 1.30pm
Student Leadership - Board Dinner 6pm

**Thur 8 August**
Year 9-10 Netball/AFL
2014 Year 10 Info Meeting 7.30pm

**Fri 9 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals

**2013 Term 3 Week 4: 11 AUG - 18 AUG**

**Tues 13 August**
First Aid Training Staffroom 6pm

**Wed 14 August**
Year 7/8 Netball/AFL
Animal Farm at Kindergarten & Busy Bees
3 year old Kinder Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am

‘Are you ready for Prep?’ Information evening Pump Room 7.30pm

**Thur 15 August**
Instrumental Recital 7.00pm

**Fri 16 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals
New Parents Dinner Chirnside Park

**2013 Term 3 Week 5: 19 AUG - 24 AUG**

**Tues 20 August**
Year 7-12 Tribal Athletics
First Aid Training Staffroom 6pm

**Wed 21 August**
Prep Chesterfield Farm Excursion
Parent Seminar A

**Fri 23 August**
Primary Concert Rehearsals

**2013 Term 3 Week 6: 25 AUG - 31 AUG**

**Mon 26 August**
VCE Netball/AFL

**Tues 27 August**
4 year old Kinder Connect Morning Tea Staffroom 9am
First Aid Training Staff Room 6pm

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**Canteen**

Desperately needs 5 volunteer helpers for Fridays.
If you can help please contact the Main Office on 9738 6000.

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**2013 Term 3 Week 7: 31 AUG - 6 SEP**

**Thur 15 September**
Primary School Production Term 3 Week 9
Tues 17 Sept Dress - Rehearsal
Wed 18 Sept - Matinee
Thur 19 Sept - Evening Performance

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**Found**

Found at the kiss n drop 23 May: 1 x Hi Country sleeping bag. Unnamed black, silver and blue. Was in a black bag.
If yours - enquire at the Main Office.

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**Apprentice Man Next Visit**

Friday 2 August at 11.45, then fortnightly for a time. If you can’t be there to buy them yourself you can leave an order with the Main Office and they will collect them for you to pick up later.

**Secondhand Clothes Needed**

My name is Pamela and I am a current MECS Year 12 student needing to raise money for a Schoolies Revolution mission trip to India at the end of the year, followed by some months working with ‘Mukti’ - an organisation founded by a Christian Indian woman offering education, housing, practical training and work opportunities to help break the cycle of poverty.

I am holding a casual stall at Camberwell Market during July and August selling secondhand clothes and accessories. If you can help me with any items, please leave them at the Main Office or contact me. Final drop off date is Friday 2 August. Thanks.

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**Fundraiser for Jinja Christian School – Uganda**

A pleasant Sunday afternoon at the club rooms hall at Lilydale Lake on Sunday 18 August. Exact time and cost TBA.

Barbara a singer/songwriter/harpist will be performing traditional folk music, contemporary songs and originals. She will be accompanied by John on the didgeridoo.

**RELEASE @ Ringwood**

Program for young people with anxiety and depression. Express yourself through art therapy, incorporating yoga, art, and strategies to overcome anxiety; and in a safe environment.

For 14-18 year old boys and girls at UYCH Ringwood, 100 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood, every Wednesday, Aug 14 – Sept 18, 10.00am – 12.00pm, 6 weeks (includes food)
Contact Jess.
www.uych.vic.edu.au

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**Primary School Production Term 3 Week 9**

**This Saturday 3 August**

8.00am-1pm
Morning Tea Provided

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**Remember the Working Bee!**

This Saturday 3 August
8.00am-1pm
Morning Tea Provided

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