

# *Making Waves* 2000



Mentone Girls'  
Secondary College

[www.mgsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.mgsc.vic.edu.au)



### "R. Malcolm Award" 1999

This annual art award and exhibition is generously sponsored by the Cheltenham branch of the Estate Agent and held each November. Last year (1999) the exhibition was mounted once again at Parkdale Yacht Club, which overlooks stunning views of Port Phillip Bay.

The winner of this acquisitive award was Sara James, a Year 12 Art student, whose design for her abstract painting was derived from the colours, shapes and patterns of toy soldiers' uniforms. Two Encouragement Awards were also presented to students: Raquel Marsich of Year 12 for her graphics and to Zoe Booth of Year 11 for her painting. The judging panel (which in 1999 comprised Mr. Frank Hellier, from R. Malcolm; Ms. Geraldine Bourke, Faculty of Education, Monash University and Ms. Deborah Lehner, Principal of the College) commented on the consistently high standard and great variety of talent and ideas evident in the work.

The exhibition displayed the culmination of a full year's work in the visual arts, including photography, graphics, painting and drawing, ceramics and printmaking. Sara's work is now on permanent display in the school, part of a growing and very impressive collection of student art works.

As we leave the twentieth century behind it is interesting to note the changes in direction that education has undergone over two centuries in Australia. Nowhere is this constant change more evident than at Mentone Girls' Secondary College.

Our girls are now expected to develop skills that will equip them for a professional role in work for life, rather than those that will serve until marriage. There is no limit to the heights to which girls can aspire - the 'glass ceiling' is only there to be broken.

I am very optimistic about the future for the young women at Mentone Girls' Secondary College. Helen Keller said that 'No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars or sailed to an uncharted land or opened a new heaven to the human spirit.' The main thing I hope to inspire in our students is that sense of confidence and optimism in their own ability which, supported by a sound education, will allow them to pursue their highest ideals.

Education today is focussed on the development of the skills, talents and understanding that will prepare students for an ever-changing environment.

At Mentone Girls' Secondary College we strive to improve both the academic rigour of the curriculum programs and their flexibility. This is so that each girl can seek success in her chosen area. For many girls the greatest learning occurs when she finds exactly **what** it is she succeeds in and enjoys most.

Our VCE success rate continues to be excellent, and our Triennial Review indicated that we are achieving at or above the level of schools with a similar intake of students in all areas.

Leadership activities have been a major focus for us in 2000. The College has been represented at many conferences and students are taking a more active role in running activities and Assemblies. I strongly believe that it is through the development of opportunities for leadership and participation across the College that we can best prepare our students as future world leaders. Congratulations to every student who has taken on a role, however large or small, this year ~ you have taken a step towards creating the future you want.

Four of our current students were selected to represent Australia in the Olympics this year - Trudy McIntosh, Melinda Cleland, Brooke Walker and Casey Redford, and past student Zeena McLaughlin. We are proud of their incredible efforts and the self discipline they have shown in order to reach their goals. Similarly, the hundreds of girls who have participated in all our winning sporting teams and individual events are to be congratulated.

Participation is as important (if not more important) than winning, however. Some students participated in sport, others in music, debating, subject competitions, hosting students from Shiga Girls' Senior High School, visiting Canberra and Noumea or by donating blood to the Red Cross Blood Bank.

This magazine captures some of the highlights of 2000, and reflects our commitment to student leadership. Congratulations to the editors and committee for their work throughout the year in producing such an excellent record.

Our senior students have been outstanding role models for younger girls in the College, especially the School Captains, SRC Executive and VCE Committee. I hope they take from the College a sense of the importance of social justice, a commitment to ongoing education, a respect for difference in our society and the confidence to take on the world.

Deborah M. Lehner  
PRINCIPAL



Assistant Principals: (back, left to right):  
Mrs Mary-Jo Putrino, Mr Laurie Morrison,  
Ms Carolyn Nield.  
Front: Ms Deborah Lehner



#### Mentone Girls' Secondary College

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Welcome to this year's magazine! We are sure that you will agree that this is a colourful and exciting production - we are very proud to be able to present it to you!

This year's edition of "Making Waves" expands on our theme of the past few years in celebrating our beautiful Bayside environment. We have used the fabulous photography of our Magazine Committee photographers Sarah Timms and Amy O'Neill extensively throughout the magazine. The cover photography is particularly lovely we feel and we would like to thank Sarah and Amy for their splendid efforts in capturing Mentone Beach at sunrise.

Our new magazine features spectacular colour pages that showcase the diversity of talent that is encouraged and supported by our fellow students and teachers at Mentone Girls' Secondary College. Because of the extra colour pages we have been able to highlight some of the events happening within our College. The centre spread is made up of two whole-school events, the Swimming and Athletics Sports Days. On the colour pages we also feature the work of Sara James, winner of last year's R. Malcolm Award; the creative work of the Visual Arts and Technology students and give you an idea of the exotic flavour of the Island of Noumea, where some of our students were lucky enough to travel and "brush-up" on their French. Also in vibrant colour we are able to celebrate the annual Year 7/12 Fancy Dress Party and the wonderful performances of our VCE Theatre Studies students. Colour has also given you the chance to see how stunning the girls who attended this year's VCE Ball looked. As the teachers spend so much of their time helping all of us throughout our school lives we thought they deserved a splash of colour as well!

Our school magazine is a representation and celebration of the many achievements in academic pursuits, arts and sports the students of our college have accomplished throughout the year.

Like most years the social calendar has once again been a busy one. We welcomed students from our sister school, Shiga Girls' High School in Japan, who were intrigued by our cultural differences and enjoyed their stay immensely. Within the school we held events such as the annual SRC talent quest, Footy Day and "Jeans for Genes" Day, which not only raised money for our school, but proved once again to be outstanding successes. There were so many events and activities in which our students participated that it was difficult to fit it all in 64 pages. We tried our best, but know that you will all have many stories of your own to tell friends and family!

This year we had an enormous workload involved with the completion of our magazine, as we decided to take a new approach by designing and producing our magazine using computer publishing programs. We spent hours scanning photographs, editing articles and stories and designing the layout while still learning how to use the programs.

We took on the role of Editor together as we are both in the process of completing Year Twelve and thought that having two Editors would lessen the load. Well - it did - but there was still an enormous amount of time and effort involved for both of us - not to mention the rest of the Committee! We must thank all the sub-editors and committee members for

their help in the collection and writing of articles. We also need to thank all the students who took time to assist us with the layout of our magazine.

We would also like to give our sincerest thanks to Mrs Sue Kinneally, who sacrificed countless hours and weekends so that the magazine could be ready on time!

Kellie Monger and Jessica Forti  
2000 Magazine Editors



Kellie and Jessica



Back Row (left to right): Sarah Timms 12G, Zoe Booth 12A, Cara Brockbank 12A, Leonie Beck 12A, Lindsay Evans 12B, Mrs Sue Kinneally  
Front Row: Heather Cunningham 10F, Chole Gunn 11C, Maggie Law 10C, Cara Bradley 10C, Rebecca Hudson 7D, Ida Vong 12G  
Absent on day of photo: Megan Atkinson 12A, Amy o'Neill 12E, Tiffany Pritchard 10F, Eiyse Waller 10F, Louisa Tatton 10F, Tania Smith 11F, Rachael Flitman 7C, Kirsten Frederiksen 10F, Renee Green 10D



### College Captain's Report



Initially, the task of condensing a description of this year into a half page report seemed somewhat daunting - to many of us, so did the idea of completing Year 12...

Especially during Year 7, the wearing of a maroon jumper was an event that seemed a terribly long way into the future. Even as a middle school student, the idea of VCE was still a comfortable distance away. But before we knew it, five years had flown by, and suddenly we were the ones pinning on the "MGSC Year 12" badges.

Fortunately, this intimidating view has changed significantly, and the initial shock to the system has worn off. Readjustments in attitudes have been made and the idea of "goal-setting" has become a strangely worthwhile idea. The self-discipline for the necessary hard work has been a *little* longer in the making, but has also eventually arrived.

Of course, these individual challenges have been helped along the way by events that have shown us the "fun" side of being in Year 12. The Camp, the Swimming Sports, the Year 7/12 Fancy Dress and the VCE Ball have both unified us as a class and have given us opportunities to get to know our teachers in out-of-school settings.

And it is to these staff members who so enthusiastically "Nutbushed" on the dance floor at the Ball, or who have supported us in other ways since February, that we, as Year 12's owe a great deal of thanks. Throughout the year, Ms Lehner and the Assistant Principals have continued to be a source of knowledge and encouragement. Mrs Ray and Mrs Salomon have again showed their amazing dedication to the Senior School, as have the hardworking members of the various Year 12 and VCE committees, including Laura Buckley and Natalie Cheetham.

As we begin to realise that "next year" really isn't that far away, the anticipation of the future is coupled with the knowledge that we won't forget our secondary school memories. I have especially valued this year as College Captain and thank all those who have supported me in this role. I wish all the Year 12's every success for the coming years and good luck to everyone at MGSC in 2001.

Simone Bouchier  
College Captain

### Student Representative Council 2000

This year has been an exceptionally busy one for the Student Representative Council (S.R.C.) We have organised various events for the school including; International Women's Day, Football Day, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Red Cross Blood Bank and BBQ's. However, the main highlight was "Jeans for Genes Day" on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The students and staff wore jeans in order to raise money for the Children's Medical Research Institute. It was a great day and raised over \$1000!

Importantly, we can't forget the Year 10 Dance Committee members who worked so hard for months to organise their Social, which was a fun evening for everyone who attended.

The main focus of the S.R.C. isn't just to organise school events, but to work with the staff and students in addressing issues arising in the College. The S.R.C. is a vehicle in the College that represents the students. We enable students to express their views and opinions on how to improve school facilities, rules, procedures and policies, just to name a few.

Leadership is another main focus of the S.R.C. We encourage students to take up leadership positions in the school and community. We have also encouraged students to attend and represent the College at various Leadership camps, forums and conferences.

It is both motivating and beneficial to attend these meetings, as it enables Mentone Girls' to strengthen ties with both public and private schools around the state. Furthermore, it gives the students an opportunity to work together and discuss school and youth issues to make our school a better learning environment for everyone.

It is an honour and privilege to have been trusted to be the S.R.C President this year. I have worked hard to fulfil my role and responsibilities to the best of my ability, but most of all I have enjoyed being able to work with so many wonderful people. I have worked with both a great executive team and Student Representative Council. However, I could not have done any of this without the support of the Student Development Coordinator, Mrs Judy Firestone, who has constantly guided, supported and encouraged me in everything the team and I have worked towards.

So on a personal note thank-you to all the students and staff who have worked with me and supported me in undertaking new challenges that I would never have been able to achieve without them!



# Student Responsibility Positions 2000

**College Captain: Simone Bouchier**  
**Vice Captain: Laura Buckley (Yr 12)**  
**Vice Captain: Natalie Cheetham (Yr 11)**

## Form Captains

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
7A Lauren Morecroft	8A Nikki Ziagas	9A Christie Knox	10A Melanie Trutsch
7B Mallory Barclay	8B Kirsty Werry	9B Erin Daly	10B Lauren Martin
7C Anna Moull	8C Gabrielle Geyman	9C Jessica Northorpe	10C Melanie Danson
7D Talita Haddad	8D Vanessa Nelson	9D Carla Salmon	10D Alana Westover
7E Lisa Bamberry	8E Kelly Reed	9E Victoria Murley	10E Claire Tudor
7F Felicity Lester	8F Erin Lilja	9F Despina Ganelia	10F Ashleigh Raymond
7G Marcelle Zidich	8G Rachel Sadler	9G Hayley Black	10G Ebonie Blake

## VCE Committee

11A Jenny Apostolidis	12A Traudi Almhofer
11B Belinda Cohen	12B Natalie Fraser
11C Bonnie Fogarty	12C Kim Hesse
11D Michelle Lilja	12D Amy Lake
11E Jenny Melvin	12E Julia Parry
11F Tania Smith	12F Melanie Shanely
11G Emily Wadham	12G Jane Sullivan

## Performing Arts Captains

### Choral

Kenny	Lorelle Buchanan
Melba	Elisa Knight
Jackson	Jenna Davey-Burns
Mackella	Loretta Coste

## House Captains

### Senior

**Kenny**  
 Captain Vanessa Toms  
 Vice Captain Tenielle Potter

### Melba

Captain Sarah Preston  
 Vice Captain Brooke Hebard

### Jackson

Captain Georgia O'Connor  
 Vice Captain Kirsti MacNish

### Mackellar

Captain Jenni Tumiat  
 Vice Captain Kate Hamer

### Middle

Captain Alana Westover  
 Vice Captain Jessica Frost

Captain Pia McGeogh  
 Vice Captain Jess Evans

Captain Katie Campbell  
 Vice Captain Courtney Mason

Captain Emma Knight  
 Vice Captain Jo Tumiat

### Junior

Captain Helen Wilkie  
 Vice Captain Ashleigh Holbing

Captain Jessica Round  
 Vice Captain Hayley Ratten

Captain Brianna Pierce  
 Vice Captain Freya Corr

Captain Briony Cargill  
 Vice Captain Lani Craven

## Sound and Lighting

Marika Nowill	Laura Collins
Sarah Kenny	Jessica Frost
Lauren McKenna	Maddy Prowse
Emma O'Hehir	Vanessa Nelson
Cassandra Symons	Haley Ratten

## Magazine Committee

### Editors

Jessica Forti  
 Kellie Monger

### Sub Editors

Zoe Booth	Cara Brockbank
Amy O'Neill	Megan Atkinson
Chloe Gunn	Leonie Beck

## Committee

Rachel Flitman	Ida Vong
Rebecca Hudson	Heather Cunningham
Elyse Waller	Tiffany Pritchard
Louisa Tatton	Renée Green
Kirsten Fredericksen	Maggie Law
Cara Bradley	Tania Smith
Lindsay Evans	

## SRC Executive Committee

**President: Elisa Iurato**  
**Vice President: Chloe Gunn**

**Secretary: Anh Tang**  
**Treasurer: Brianna Martin**

## SRC Representatives

7A Loren Newberry	8A Shelley Frost	9A Jennifer Dawes
7B Rachael Jones	8B Kylie Bruhn	9B Cassandra Keogh
7C Rachel Flitman	8C Bella Corboy	9C Stephanie Graham
7D Naomi Flood	8D Kathryn Stirling	9D Lauren Hudson
7E Julia Knight	8E Chloe Payne	9E Lauren McKenna
7F Riana Tucker	8F Rhebeckha d'Silva	9F Eloise Powell
7G Kate Monger	8G Jessica Sjostedt	9G Su Yee Cheong
10A Loretta Coste	11A Bronwyn Ault-Connell	12A Zoe Booth
10B Ly Ly Hong	11B Carly Dickenson	12B Jenna Davey Burns
10C Maggie Law	11C Chloe Gunn (V. Pres)	12C Elisa Iurato (Pres.)
10D Caroline Duff	11D Alicia Judd	12D Katie McLean
10E Emma Pearce	11E Brianna Martin (Treas.)	12E Emily Paterson
10F Elyse Waller	11F Tania Smith	12F Sharna Sloss
10G Pia McGeoch	11G Kelly Wright	12G Anh Tang (Sec.)

## SRC Workshop

It was only within the first few weeks of the year that a workshop had been organised. The day long seminar was designed to be fun whilst at the same time enhancing and creating leadership. The workshop consisted of a guest speaker from WIRE (Women's Crisis Line), hands on activities, but most importantly great food! Upon the completion of the workshop, the SRC committee had to vote on the executives for the new millennium.

The executive for 2000 is listed below:

**President: Elisa Iurato**  
**Vice President: Chloe Gunn**  
**Treasurer: Brianna Martin**  
**Secretary: Ann Tang**

## Footy Day

On May the 12<sup>th</sup> 2000 our College was lit up with colours from every different footy team in the AFL. Footy Day is an annual

event at our school and is always a fun filled successful day. A BBQ filled the quadrangle at lunch while the teachers versus students footy game took place on the oval.

With the dedication and enthusiasm of the SRC committee the day was a great success. We raised over \$600 which was given to charities.



MGSC Footy Fans

## Jeans for Genes Day

From fancy denim skirts to the old pair of scraggy jeans. You name it and someone at Mentone Girls' would have been wearing it. This year was the first time in history that we have been allowed to go ahead with Jeans for Genes day. As this was a great success I think that it will become an annual event. On the day we raised over \$1400. Even the teachers participated in this event.

## Casual Days

Casual days are a day to express your individuality. A day to wear whatever is sitting on the bedroom floor or your new Gucci dress. It is also a day that raises money for charities all around the world. With only a few casuals days allowed a year we have to choose carefully where the money is to be sent. The fundraising committee within the SRC organises this. The charities that we were able to donate to were:

- Royal Childrens Hospital Appeal
- Deafness Foundation
- W.I.R.E
- Childrens Research Foundation
- Red Cross
- State Schools Relief Fund

Chloe Gunn 11C



MGSC Talent!



On Casual days, SRC reps assist by cooking a Barbeque



The Year 7's brought cans of food to sell instead of \$1. It was a great success!

## Talent Quest

At the start of lunchtime on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, over 300 people squashed into the Nina Carr Hall to watch the talent quest that was being held. There were certainly a lot of talented people there. The acts ranged from a classical piano piece to dances to popular songs like Bardot's "Poison". Some people were even brave enough to sing solos!

The audience was very enthusiastic and involved, clapping and stamping along, sometimes even singing along with the performers. There were also quite a few laughs; especially with the group that sang "If You're Happy And You Know It Clap Your Hands". I think that enjoyment was had by all - the audience and the performers. Afterwards, prizes were given to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place getters. In 1<sup>st</sup> place was Cassie Crawford singing "Somewhere Over The Rainbow".

Overall it was a very entertaining, amusing and pleasurable performance that everyone enjoyed.

Rachel Flitman 7C



Back: Kerrie Wade, Natalie Cheetham  
Front: Chloe Gunn, Tania Smith

### Model United Nations Assembly

The United Nations stands for international peace and security. On the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of May, twenty-nine of its member states were represented by over 20 schools in a Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). Sponsored by local Rotary clubs, each team of two students represented and upheld the views of their prearranged country. This year our school had the privilege of entering two teams. Natalie Cheetham and Tania Smith represented Iraq, while Chloe Gunn and Kerrie Wade were the delegates for Israel. After weeks of preparation, finding information on our countries and trying to organise costumes, we were all extremely excited when the day came.

The weekend gave great insight into the workings of not only the United Nations but the State Parliament and Rotary as well. After arriving on Saturday morning, we changed into our costumes and entered the chambers of the Legislative Assembly. This was to be our home for the next two days. Inside the chamber we discussed issues of world peace, national security and other such matters, including discrimination against women, the situation in Fiji, nuclear weapons and drug trafficking.

MUNA is a great opportunity for those Year 11 students who wish to improve their debating and research skills. It was an invaluable experience that could not have been possible without Sandringham Rotary, who donated not only their sponsorship, but their support as well.

Tania Smith 11F

### Debating



Ashley Waterland, Cara Bradley and Kristel Bruhn

Standing up and speaking in front of a group of people that you don't know is hard enough. It's much harder when you have to try to convince them that you are right and your opposition is wrong.

Actually, debating isn't as hard as it may sound. It does involve putting in time and effort, but it's worth it anyway.

There were many competitions that the debating teams entered this year. The main competition was the Debating Association of Victoria's (DAV) competition. After four rounds of debates the Year 10 team came 3<sup>rd</sup>, while the Year 8 & 9 teams came 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. This was a great

achievement, as nearly all the girls had never debated before.

Some of the topics we debated included "That young Australians should form their own political party," "That the Playstation has destroyed the playground," and "That the Victorian Government should save Waverley Park."

For one debate the Year 10's had an unseen topic. Until we got there on the night all we knew was that we were going to be debating something about the Snowy River. We were told one hour before the debate what our topic would be which meant we only had a short time to prepare our speeches and come up with possible arguments the opposition could use. Needless to say we got a little stressed out about our lack of time, but things went all right in the end.

At the end of our debates the best speaker of the night was awarded. The best speakers from Mentone Girls' at the DAV debates were: Tegan Dobbie, Melissa Riemer, Krista Seddon, Kirsten Frederiksen, Jessica Cummins and Despina Ganella.

The Year 8's & 9's also competed in extra debates in the Haileybury and Kilbreda round-robins. The teams went really well, as they won the majority of their debates.

We all had a lot of fun, learnt a huge amount and really improved our public speaking skills. Thank you to Mrs Ayers and Ms Koperszmidt for putting in hours of their spare time helping us and being at the debates for moral support.

Congratulations to all those who debated. Good luck for next year.

Kirsten Frederiksen 10F



For the past thirteen years Mentone Girls' Secondary College has entered the Sussan Fun Run 10 km Classic and has won a grand total of twelve televisions and 12 VCRs. This year was no exception as once again we had the most number of entrants winning us yet another television and VCR.

Bright and early on the morning of Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> over 150 M.G.S.C students from all year levels gathered at Bourke Street City Mall for the beginning of the run. After a fun aerobic warm up the count down began. At 9:15am on the dot the gun sounded and a crowd of approximately 6000 women shuffled forward. The serious competitors sprinted off while others were jogging, walking briskly, or just having a nice morning stroll. Some women were even pushing prams with babies. Some people dressed-up for the occasion - a group of Year Eight girls went as fairies!

The race went from the Mall, down Swanston Street, across the Princess Bridge, past the Shrine of Remembrance, around the Botanical Gardens and finally ended in the Alexandra Gardens by the Yarra River.

On crossing the finish line each entrant received a medal. Random prizes were awarded including Sussan clothing vouchers, memberships to fitness centres, and Nike gear. There was also plenty of free yoghurt and Gatorade for everyone.

Everyone had a fantastic time and put in a fine effort for the school. One particularly outstanding achievement of the day was by Belinda Hogan of Year Ten. She was the highest placed student runner and was awarded a clothes voucher from Sussan for her achievement.

Cara Bradley, Cara Brockbank and Zoe Booth

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 7B -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

MALLORY BARKLEY	SHEREE BARTOLO	SARAH BEAUCLEPHE	HANASH BRUCE	SEWY CHU	SARAH CLARKE	ANNA CROWER	KARLETTE CRUMMOND
ELIZABETH PIAN	KATE MCCORMACK	LISA MONICOPOLAS	JASMA MEDJJEVIC	TAMARA MOSS	LAREN MURPHY	WENDY NEAM	JENNA NING
SHANE ROSS	MADELINE LOZANO	ELIZABETH PIAN	REBECCA HUSSON	BRONWYN HOPKINS	JESSICA FALOUS	AMY MORPHOE	MACELINE GAIES
ELIZABETH PIAN	ELIZABETH PIAN	ELIZABETH PIAN	ELIZABETH PIAN	ELIZABETH PIAN	ELIZABETH PIAN	ELIZABETH PIAN	ELIZABETH PIAN

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 7A -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

KATE ANDREWS	LAUREN BENNETT	ARBEY BERGER	SALLY BERRETTI	MADELYN CRIMMIN	RACHEL DUNN	JACKY EARLE	TESS GREGES
PHANHON QUAYLE	CLAIRE REDSHAW	EMILY ROOSTED	TARA RONGONUI	ELIZABETH STAFFORD	COURTNEY VALENTINE	TESS VALENTINE	SARA WILSON
CLAIRE HOPKINS	FELICIA JABLONSKI	KUSHAWI JAYASINGHE	FELICITY JENKIN	TEGAN MILLS	HANASH MOORE	LAUREN MORGROFT	LOREN NEWBERY
CLAIRE HOPKINS	FELICIA JABLONSKI	KUSHAWI JAYASINGHE	FELICITY JENKIN	TEGAN MILLS	HANASH MOORE	LAUREN MORGROFT	LOREN NEWBERY

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 7D -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

LAUREN BARNHART	MOOSHA D'AROSE	ALISHA GIBSON	CYRILINA FAGAN	NAOMI FLOYD	JESSICA FRASER	EMMA FUNNELL	TALITA HADDAD
YATASJE FEARLE	ESTELLE RUSS	ASHLEA STEPHENS	KATIE STEWART	JESSICA VALE	LAUREN WHITZNER	SOPHIE WILSON	EMMA WINKLER
YATASJE FEARLE	ESTELLE RUSS	ASHLEA STEPHENS	KATIE STEWART	JESSICA VALE	LAUREN WHITZNER	SOPHIE WILSON	EMMA WINKLER
YATASJE FEARLE	ESTELLE RUSS	ASHLEA STEPHENS	KATIE STEWART	JESSICA VALE	LAUREN WHITZNER	SOPHIE WILSON	EMMA WINKLER

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 7C -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

MATALITA FREND	ELIOISE JOHNSONE	SARAH BREWER	ERICA BROOKS	JENNA CAMERON	MEGHAN CUNYASHARI	JESSICA GATE	KATALIE DOOLE
JESSICA LAU	TAYVAN LORD	ALEANDREA MCFARLANE	JENNY MCFARLANE	ANICA MCCARTHY	CHRISTINA MCGOWAN	ANITA POWELL	KATE WALLER
JESSICA LAU	TAYVAN LORD	ALEANDREA MCFARLANE	JENNY MCFARLANE	ANICA MCCARTHY	CHRISTINA MCGOWAN	ANITA POWELL	KATE WALLER
JESSICA LAU	TAYVAN LORD	ALEANDREA MCFARLANE	JENNY MCFARLANE	ANICA MCCARTHY	CHRISTINA MCGOWAN	ANITA POWELL	KATE WALLER

Crack! Again the sound travelled across the stadium. Crack! Again the buzzard picked up a stone with his beak and hurled it at the plaster egg in front of him. All his efforts were to no avail so another egg was put before him which he smashed straight away.

In case, by an off chance, you're wondering what I am talking about I'll tell you.

At the promise of rain we were thankful when the clouds parted revealing a bright sun above us. I'm not sure about anywhere else but at Healsville Sanctuary the air felt like summer. At the Birds of Prey Exhibit I was glad to sit down however hard the seats were. We saw circling around us a hawk, a buzzard, an owl, a great wedge-tailed eagle and a small yet speedy falcon.

Each one glided through the air on powerful wings, sometimes silent or screeching their voices. They swooped down upon the audience making them scream in return. Watching them fly I felt a pride that even though we are ruining this earth with our pollution the world can still hold something so beautiful.

Estelle Russ 7D



On the 9th of August, the Year Seven's went on an excursion to Healsville Sanctuary. There we saw the "Birds of Prey" presentation performed with live birds.

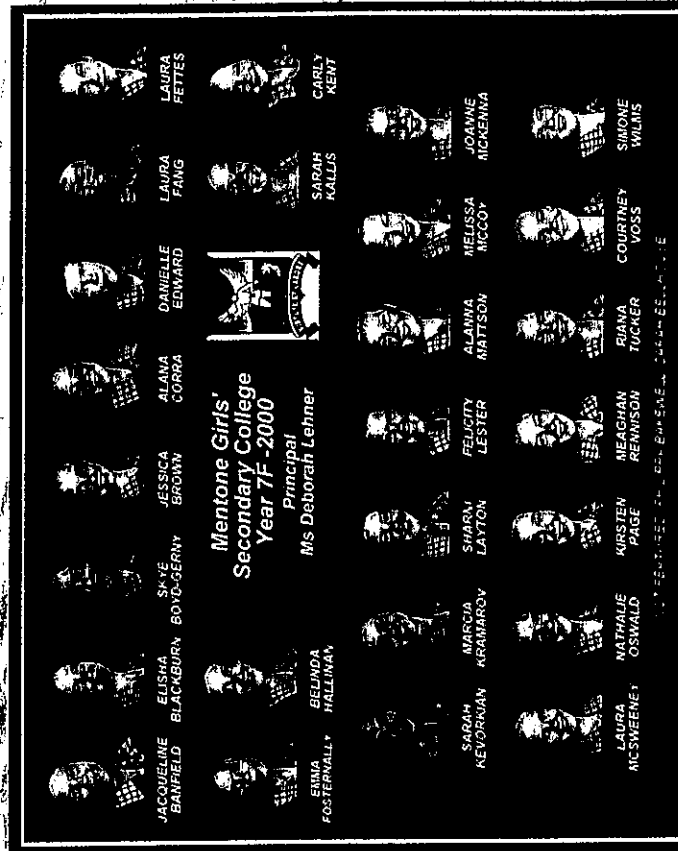
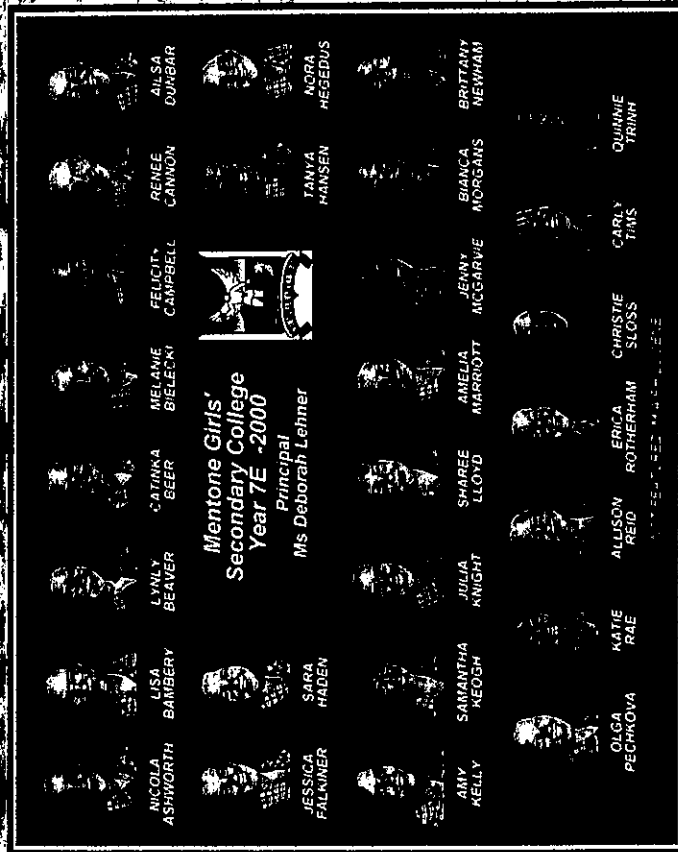
We walked through the gate into the closed off area reserved for the presentation. To be honest, I was prepared to be bored out of my mind.

We walked for what seemed like ages until a man came out with a bird on his shoulder. He explained that this beautiful black bird was a kite. He spoke some brief instructions to the bird and off he soared. She soared through the air with the greatest of ease: no, not quite, but near enough. I think most of us were amazed at how she could give a few quick flaps then keep her wings still while she flew on.

The bird swooped and dived and we all gasped as she headed straight for the ground. We all winced and looked away, but the awaited crash did not come. We peeked through our hands and, to our amazement, saw her gliding through the air again. She seemed to be laughing at our shock. When the man left with her we all clapped and cheered. But the thought, "Why are we clapping a bird?" did cross my mind.

Claire Valentine 7B





Girls arrived in ones and twos and came quickly to huddle under the shelter near the hall. It was a dismal day but there was excitement in the air. When everyone had arrived, we all made a mad dash for the buses. After a long drive we eventually got to Shiloh Ranch, Grantville (near Phillip Island). It had finally stopped raining. We sat in the bus staring longingly out at the camp while we were told our cabin numbers and with whom we would be sharing.

At last we were released. Out everybody ran, some to explore, and others to catch up with their friends and exchange stories. We unloaded the bags and then had hamburgers for lunch. Next we were given the usual talk about rules and regulations and then we had free time to unpack and set up our beds.

After dinner there was trivia and a teddy bear competition. For the trivia competition we were broken up into teams and each team had a sheet of questions to answer. The winning team got a packet of chips each. Then we had a teddy bear competition, with five categories – most accessories, biggest, cutest, smallest and most loved. Again prizes were packets of chips. After that we did karaoke in the same teams. Some of the songs we sang were, *Advance Australia Fair*, *Bananas in Pyjamas*, and the *Neighbours* theme song. Everyone had a great time and made big fools of themselves. At about 10pm we had supper and went to bed. Though it was a bit later before most of us actually slept...



The next day after breakfast we started the activities. They included a ropes course, canoeing, flying fox, archery, orienteering, initiative course, games room, trampoline, pool and the most popular activity, horse riding. Each group rotated around the activities, managing to do about five or six activities throughout the day.

That evening it was the "bus one" girls' turn on the waterslide. Everyone had a great time on it (apart from a couple of wedgies). Some people sang songs as they went down but some others just screamed! Miss Mountain and Miss Miller also joined in the fun having a couple of goes of their own!

That night after dinner we headed off to Phillip Island to see the Fairy Penguins. After a long bus trip there we sat down and watched a video about penguins. Then, after stopping off at the souvenir shop, we went to see them. We watched them climbing up to their burrows and everyone thought they were very cute. At about 9.30pm we headed home, had a quick supper and went to bed.

The next day (our last) at about 10am we finished up the last activities, bus two had their go on the water slide and then we each chose our electives. Later on we packed up and started styling our hair in funky ways for the bad-hair competition. Some of the hair styles were really wacky!!! The teachers judged it. At about 2.30pm we left for home arriving back at about 3.25pm.

Rachel Flitman 7C and Rebecca Hudson 7G

**Holly 7B:** The food was okay but I liked the waterslide best.

**Eloise 7C:** I liked horse riding, the ropes course and flying fox.

**Amy 7D:** My favourite activity was the flying fox and the accommodation was okay.

**Tinka 7E:** My favourite part of the camp was canoeing because people fell in!

**Natasha 7G:** The canoeing and the flying fox were great.

### Character poem

My name's Timonthy Smith, but you can call me Smitho.  
 My mates call me Smitho  
 My teacher hates me' cause I'm always makin' an ass of myself in class  
 My ambition is to blow up the school  
 My old man thinks I'm going to join the old family business, but I'm gonna be a footy player.  
 My record for not washing my hair is three years.  
 My mates and I like playing footy, and when we're not doin' that we're bashing up the girls.  
 My foods I like are chips, and I think vegetables suck.  
 My mates names are Chunky, Skull and Rat,  
 My name's Smitho and this is my story.

Taycian Lord 7C

### Lunchtime fantasy

I lay back and relaxed in the large, soft hammock strung between two palm trees. I looked around and saw how beautiful the tropical island was, palm trees, beaches wildlife...

My servant brought my drink and began to fan me with large leaves.

I sighed in pleasure as the most beautiful young villager came towards me.

She leaned over to kiss me, and just before she did, I snapped out of my daydream and unhappily realised I was in fact at school!

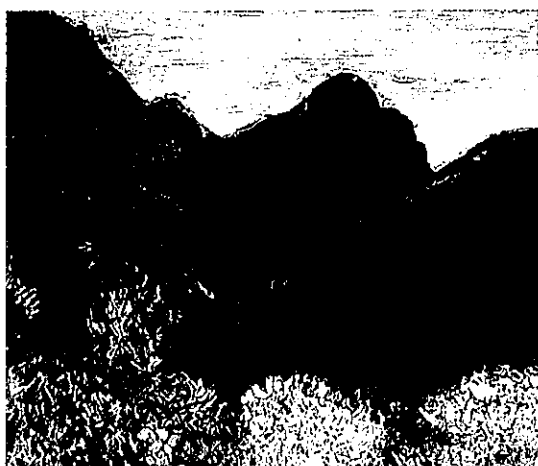
It was lunchtime, no, the bell had just rung and my friend was calling me, telling me to hurry inside for another lesson.

Sarah Richardson 7C

### Prison Poem

His family was a prison,  
 Of lies and balls and chain.  
 Never allowed to escape,  
 Even for a second.  
 He was dressed in prison uniform,  
 Never allowed to change.  
 Only allowed to see his friends,  
 Through his bars of steel, unchanged.  
 He was never allowed to leave,  
 Until he'd had enough.  
 And even then it wasn't right,  
 Because he'd left the safety of the light

Laura Richardson 7C



Sofia Riccio-Rodriguez 7G

### Egyptian Poem

Darkness all around  
 A faint scratching sound  
 A person appears with a light  
 That lights up my eternal night.  
 I watch them look around my tomb,  
 One looking like expecting doom.  
 He wanders around my resting place,  
 A look of awe upon his face.  
 Then they leave.

Felicia Jablonski 7A

### Cleopatra

I am the Queen Cleopatra  
 As gold as gold could be  
 I go to the temples to visit mummies  
 And people stare as they pass me.

I live in Egypt  
 A palace is my home  
 When I get back from the temples  
 I am forced to sit on my throne.

But that was thousands of years ago  
 I will not be watching people bow  
 I will no longer be sitting on my throne  
 For I rest in peace now.

Every chance I get  
 I have been looking into the past  
 It mostly feels as if  
 My life went by too fast!

Claire Hopkins 7A

### Dragons

At lunchtime the teachers turn,  
 Into their true identities.  
 With scaly skin and breath that burns,  
 Yep, that's why they're dragons!

They walk and pace throughout the yard,  
 Flashing their beady eyes.  
 Acting like a guard,  
 Yep, they're dragons!



They breathe ferocious words,  
 "Pick up that paper."  
 They turn naughty children into nerds,  
 Yep, they're dragons!

When the bell goes, they turn into teachers,  
 As nice as nice can be.  
 But we never forget that they are creatures,  
 Yep, they're dragons!

Eloise Johnstone 7C

### Junior Netball



Year 8 "A" Junior Netball Team



Year 8 "B" Junior Netball Team

As have most of our sporting teams the Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams have done exceptionally well. Our four teams (Year 7 A & B, Year 8 A & B) will be competing at the State Finals at Jell's Park on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>. All of the four teams were undefeated at the Southern Zone Finals.

Also Mentone set a brand new record at the Southern Zone by winning all four pennants. All the girls in the team made a fantastic effort. Special thanks goes out to all that helped coach the netball teams to victory including Miss Miller, Ms Gamble, Pia McGeoch and Courtney Mason.

Tiffany Pritchard 10F

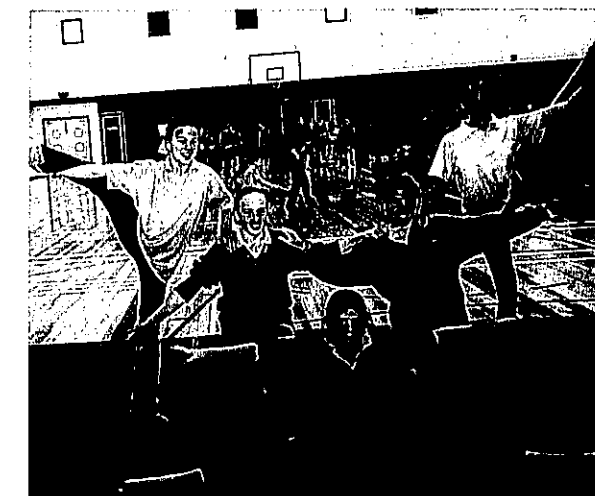
### VSSA Gymnastics Competition 2000 State Finals

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September the MGSC inter-school gymnastic team competed at the Knox Gymnastic Centre. The team started their preparation during term one with skill training sessions and sequence development which continued right up until the day of the competition.

On the day of the competition the team arrived at the Knox Gymnastic Centre eager to warm up and try out the rings and even parallel bars, new events introduced to the girls for the first time this year.

There were twelve teams competing in Olympic and rhythmic gymnastics, with a group performance at the end. The team competed keenly in all events and when lined up to hear the final results all hoped their efforts would be rewarded with at least a placing. When second place was announced and our school had not been called, we presumed at first a first placing but the next school mentioned was not Mentone, but Karingal. Our school had not been given a place and the organisers realised our results had been left out. A quick addition revealed Mentone were the runners up on the day being narrowly defeated by Karingal. Mentone finished first in the group performance.

Congratulations to the team members Talia Alt, Katherine Baker, Bree Cole, Freya Corr, Nicky Croker, Shelley Frost, Christine Kopman and Jessica Wilson for the great team effort and sportsmanship displayed.



Jenna Evans and Alicia Stock did an excellent job as judges on the day.

The team coaches Bree Cole and Jessica Wilson did a fantastic job training the team; choreographing the group performance and organising the team on the day. Team members were most appreciative of their efforts throughout the year. Special thanks to Mr De Munk for his help with transport on the day.

Mrs J M Barnett – Team Organizer

### Junior Footy Team

The Junior Football Team, under the coaching of Mr De Munk, won the Southern Zone Finals at Maffra. Our team, which is made up of mostly Year 9's, with some handy year 7 and 8's, has had a tough path to the Semi Final which is to be played on August the 30<sup>th</sup>. On one day we played five matches, winning them all before playing two more matches in the following weeks – winning one by over 100 points and winning another at Patterson Lakes which was quite... physical. Our full-forward, Lauren received a black eye, but soon bounced back to kick seven goals at Maffra. We're all looking forward to playing our next match.

Emma Coats, Captain





**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 8B -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

MEAGAN FRENCH	CAROLYN JONES	SANDHU RAJENDRA	ASHLEE YAP
LOUISE EGEN	ANNY HOYAH	ERIN QUINN	JESSIE WILSON
GENEVEVE DE JAYS	RHANNON CROCKER	KATHRYN FERAZZO	HELEN MILNIE
KYLIE BRUNN	RYLIE PARKER	KYLEIGH PARKES	MIRRY MERRY
DEMISE BOVENKERK	EMELY ORWIN	HANNAH PARKER	CHAYLINA BARRY
ANILA BOJADZIC	JIMMY NORTHWOOD	ANGELA THOMAS	CASSANDRA SMOUT
HAYLEY ANDERSON	ANDREA HAH	ELIZABETH HORTON	KATHERINE SMITH

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 8D -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

GEORGIA EVANS	SOPHIE HOLLINS	LAURA OSWAIN	KRISTEN WILLMOTT
VERONICA DURAN	ASHLEIGH HOLBING	MELISSA MONTACOTT	ELISE USHER
TEGAN DOEBIE	WENESSA WELSON	JAYNE STRUTHERS	KATHRYN STIRLING
OSANNE CZARNECKI	ASHA AMUDHOL	KRISTA SEDDON	CASSIE SAMPSON
LANNI CARLEN	CASSANDRA MILLAR	EMILY RUSSO	HAYLEY RATTEN
FRYA CORR	ABBY MCMICHAEL	BREANNA KEEM	HOLLY JEPSON
ASHLEE COLLINS	STEPHANIE HANSTEIN	MATRINA HALL	EMILY RATTEN
KATHERINE BAKER	STEPHANIE HANSTEIN	HOLLY JEPSON	EMILY RATTEN

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 8A -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

SHIELLY FROST	KRISTINE KOPMAN	JESSICA O'BRIEN	MIKI ZAGAS
TEGAN DUDLEY	MELISSA HAYSTE	JESSICA MAUGHTON	WENDIE WALKLEY
ERIN DENNIS	SALLY MANN	MCJONIE WALKLEY	BIANCA TUCKER
LEURA CAT	YOHAN AGUMASINORHE	CAMELIA TAN	ELEANOR STUBBS
VICTORIA CHAPMAN	SHIONE NUJR	JENNIER MADDRICH	JESSICA ROUND
ELIZABETH BROWN	DALIN HANG	SARAH LANSDOWNE	ELIANE GILTEF
JESSICA BEAUMONT	JENNIER MADDRICH	SARAH LANSDOWNE	ELIANE GILTEF

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 8C -2000**  
Principal Ms Deborah Lehner

HAYLEY ELVA	GABRIELLE SEMIN	SARAH DE NIJKA	CATHERINE ZOPPOLATO
MICHAELA CONNOLSON	ASPLEY GASPERRING	MADELEINE MITCHELL	STEPHANIE MATHERS
BELLAMY CORBET	ARWA LEE	ELISE WHITE	RACHAEL THORNLEY
JUSTINE CARROLL	ERIN KIMBERLIN	ELISE WHITE	RACHAEL THORNLEY
BRIGIONY FARGILL	JENNIER KELLY	ELISE WHITE	RACHAEL THORNLEY
JESSICA CAMPBELL	MERRILEE HOGAN	ALEXANDRA MANDONI	SUNDARARAJ THORNLEY
ELVA BELLEGLIARDIS	CLAIRE FLACK	ALEXANDRA MANDONI	SUNDARARAJ THORNLEY
JACQUELINE ELLIS	CLAIRE FLACK	ALEXANDRA MANDONI	SUNDARARAJ THORNLEY

### Snakeman

On Wednesday 19 July the Year 8 and 9s had a visit from Fred, the "Snakeman". We sat around Fred and his snakes in boxes. He spoke to us about the different species of snakes, how to tell them apart, safety and first-aid. Occasionally he would let a few snakes out in the middle of the room. They would slither across the floor, sometimes slithering up Fred's pants.

After the talk about the snakes we went over to a pool filled with newspaper. When he removed the newspapers we saw he also had heaps and heaps of reptiles. There were Blue Tongue Lizards, lizards that looked like they had two heads and spiky lizards that clung to our school jumpers. We all had a chance to hold one.

The "Snakeman" then let everyone who was brave enough hold a little non-venomous snake. He told us "They are as dangerous as butterflies." And to prove it he put one in his mouth. He then let everyone hold or touch the biggest snake of all, a huge python. It took three girls to carry it as it was so heavy. All in all, we had a great and very educational day.

Anna Lee 8C



### John Marsden

"Tomorrow When the War Began", "Dear Miffy" and "Letters from the Inside".

These are only three of the many books that the famous author John Marsden has touched so many of his readers with.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August all the Year 8 classes moved into the library to meet John Marsden. After we had found our places and settled down, Mr MacMillan introduced John Marsden to us.

He started off talking about where he gets his ideas for his books from.

"What if...?", "What next....?", that is all you need to know and then you've got your book" were his inspirational words.

He introduced us to the ups and downs of being an author. It was clear that he has a vivid imagination and a very active mind. His characters are very much a part of him. He told us how you need to feel and think like the characters you are writing about and be able to see through their eyes and follow them through the book.

"A book isn't just one story, it is thousands of stories woven together to form a book" he told us.

He was a very amusing and entertaining speaker and seemed like a very down to earth person. It was sometimes difficult to believe he was a famous author.

John Marsden's visit was informative and entertaining. It gave Year 8 an insight into the world of professional writing.

Hannah Parker 8B



**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 8F - 2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

JACQUELINE GOY	ERIN LEE	BRIANA PEIRCE
REBECCA EBB	NELDA HUMPHRIES	CLARE MURRAY
USA OUNSTAN	SHELLEY MORECROFT	VERA TEP
RHEBECKHA D SILVA	LAUREN MCCONCHIE	LAUREN STEIN
JENNIFER DELANEY	VERITY MACKENZIE	BROOKE SADLER
CHRISTINE CHAMBERLAIN	CHANTHELLE CUNNETT	BETA ATAN
LOUISE BLANKS	ERIN ELICA	DANIELLE ROTH
USA HUMPHREYS	SARAH LENTINI	MELISSA REISER
ELIZABETH AYNARS	CHE HOWELL	

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 8E - 2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

REBECCA HUTTON	KELLY REED	ILANA ROUJKE
ASHLIE AINAVES	SARA SMITH	NATHALIE SORENSEN
EIKO NUNOKAWA	ANGELA MARGHESE	WENDY STONE
WISHKO OYA	DANISE D'ATHE	MARTINE WEBB
STEPHANIE GABRON	RUSHIKA FERNANDO	EMMA BANWISTER
REVEE BROWNING	SARAH HARDY	LOUISE ECKEL
USA OUNSTAN	SEEMA GREY	CATHERINA CHERNOBYL
EMMA BANWISTER	REBECCA HUTTON	LOUISE ECKEL
MATRINA ANASTASSIOU	STEPHANIE GABRON	REBECCA HUTTON
REBECCA HUTTON	STEPHANIE GABRON	REBECCA HUTTON

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 8G - 2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

LAURA GAGNON	TESSA METCALO	ENSHU PARTHASARATHY
SONNIE BREMER	RANJAN PALLE	MELISSA WICKS
KIRILLEE DANSON	JESSICA SJOESTEDT	CAROLINE WEBB
RACHAEL CROCKER	JESSICA SJOESTEDT	CAROLINE WEBB
CARLY BROWN	LEAH NORTON	JESSICA SJOESTEDT
JESSICA BRADY	HAYLEY LEIGHTON	JESSICA SJOESTEDT
STEPHANIE BOVINCI	TAHLI LAYSON	JESSICA SJOESTEDT
LAURA AREARTE	GEORGIA HUNT	JESSICA SJOESTEDT
TAHNEE FREYER	NATALIA GIOCONO	JESSICA SJOESTEDT
LAURA AREARTE	GEORGIA HUNT	JESSICA SJOESTEDT
LAURA AREARTE	GEORGIA HUNT	JESSICA SJOESTEDT



### Rocket Group

It all started with the initiative of one small Year 7 (a Year 7 who barely reaches my armpit!) – Estelle Russ. After seeing Mr Seddon talking about this exciting club in which you can make real rockets at her Year Level Assembly, Estelle was the only one brave enough to ask him about it. I decided to come and see what it was all about.

Every Thursday lunchtime, we would make our way to the technology block and gradually, after much concentration and dedication, we came up with the stunning final product. In the end we only had four people left – four people who are now firm friends.

The rocket is made of a cardboard tube with a carved balsa wood nose (there was a stage at which many of these just dropped out). Then came balsa wood fins and a small inner case to stop the rocket from being ruined on landing. Then came the best part – decorating. I attached silver tape strips and it looked fantastic. I called it "Incom Star."

On Launch day we traipsed out to the oval and set up the launch pad. Lauren's rocket was launched first. At the end of the countdown she pushed the button and it flew about 100 metres up into the air. Unfortunately, the parachute didn't open and we had a "crash landing", but with little real damage. Mine was next – I was really nervous about it but after I pressed the button it was

an amazing thing to watch – something that you made work like that! It flew at least 150 metres up into the air, then arced gracefully (if not awkwardly) down to the ground. It was an amazing experience!

Anya Nerenberg 8C

### The Silent Grave

We sit around the grave in silence. Crying has ceased. Some have cut themselves with shells or stone tools. The bleeding has ceased. They know that when their wounds have healed their spirits will also heal.

The feathers from my head covering flutter lightly in the breeze on the open plain, and I remember how lightly and easily his ashes fluttered away, how easily his spirit left his worn, rotting, old body.

I know that my brothers will find new names, for the name of this great man will never again be spoken. And I know that one of them will step into the circle of the Asti Elders, to fill the vacant hole now left, but now is not the time for thinking of such things. The Elders will make these decisions. I am just a woman. Those old women have the knowledge and leadership that I do not.

But I will know, we all will know, when his beautiful spirit has found its spirit place in sky camp. Found his place with those gone before him, the wise old men of the past, replaced by those I sit with now.

The breeze kisses my face and flutters my feathers. Kisses my chest and dries the pipe clay markings that were carefully, somberly painted onto my body. While I have these thoughts, I hope and pray that we will never again have contact with this dead man's spirit body. May he never harm us or warn us of coming danger. May he be at peace in sky camp. But he is not there yet. So we will wait.

In my head I see again the cremation ceremony. The perfect cremation ceremony. I watched, and cried and sang for him. And now I wait for him.

Now is the time.

With a final blessing, we each rise. We walk back to camp. My feathers flutter in the breeze.

Jenny Delaney 8F



Laura Day 8A



### They Turned Their Backs On Her

They turned their backs on her and casually walked away. Bec stared sadly after them, trying desperately not to cry. Stephanie glanced back over her shoulder nervously as they walked off slowly, but a sharp glare from Alison was enough to make her spin around quickly.

Bec couldn't believe it. Her closest friend Alison, Joanne and Steph weren't her friends at all anymore.

Bec turned around, shivering from the cold. Who could she hang around with now? She wandered slowly up to Miranda.

"Hey Miranda...do you mind if I play with you?" she inquired.

"Yes actually", Miranda snapped, glaring fiercely up at Bec.

Bec frowned. "Why?" she asked.

"You and your stupid friends never let me play with you", Miranda replied angrily.

"Uh...Well I'm...I don't want to sit with Alison, Joanne and Steph anymore", Bec said.

"And I don't want to play with you..Now excuse me, you are in my way", Miranda said and she walked off, leaving Bec alone.

Bec couldn't even remember usually speaking to Miranda, but alone being in the hall she was feeling despondent, she sank down onto the hard bench.

Everyone had a friend, but she had none. Instantly regretting her decision, she thought about how she was superior to them, when she really was just a mediocre musician.

The bell sounded, bringing a friend to her. She slowly walked down the other grade four stairs and into the busy, but slightly warmer classroom.

"History", she groaned when she remembered she was working on their group assignments.

Reluctantly, she joined Alison, Joanne and Steph on the floor.

Joanne and Alison chatted away to each other, talking cheerfully about Alison's upcoming party.

"And you'll be coming of course Joanne I mean, you are my best friend Alison cried excitedly.

Bec bit her lip. "Alison used to be my best friend", she thought bitterly.

Joanne stared coldly at Bec. 'Shouldn't you be working Bec?' she questioned.

Bec sighed and got down to work, while the others chatted happily. Steph tried to help a little, but Alison and Joanne always managed to stop her.

"Steph don't forget, you're going to buy me my lunch today" Alison smiled sweetly.

Steph nodded miserably, retrieving her money and writing down everything she was supposed to be buying for them at lunch.

\* \* \* \* \*

During lunch, Bec spotted Steph in the canteen line.

"Hi Steph, what are you buying?" Bec asked curiously.

"Stuff for Alison and Joanne."

Bec nodded. "Have you noticed that Alison and Joanne treat you like a slave?"

Steph didn't reply, so she thought it safe to continue.

"They don't really think of you as a friend!"

Steph sighed deeply. "I know, they just use me but what can I do without them?"

Bec raised her eyebrows in surprise; "You can hang around with me instead!"

Steph smiled, almost in relief. She stepped out of the line. "You know, that sounds like a good idea to me!"

Bec grinned, linking her arm through Steph's. Come on, we can play with Katy and Aleesha! After all, it is the quality of friends...not the quantity".

Meagan French 8B

### Intermediate Soccer

The Intermediate Soccer team is to be congratulated on, once again, reaching the All High Final from 2000. Our Co-captains Kim Warren and Penny Kargo were an inspiration to the team who did not lose a game in reaching the final. We wish our team the best of luck in the final. We will be CHAMPIONS!



Mr. Santos (coach), Mahana Crofts, Liz Whitfield, Susan Cadman, Cathie Hibberd, Kate Torgersen, Laura Head, Jenna Morecroft, Penny Kargo (captain), Katie Campbell, Erin Daly, Emily Sarkies, Emma Coats, Kim Warren (captain) Emergency- Kate O'Connel

### Intermediate Netball

2000 has been a year of outstanding achievement for the Intermediate netball team.

The 'A' team, coached by Miss Miller won the "All High" State Championships. After an undefeated run through the rounds to the Southern Zone Finals we then progressed to the "All High" finals, held at Waverley Netball Complex. A fantastic day's play ended in an undefeated position on the top of our pool's ladder. This put us into the Grand Final, where we wore down the excellent Leongatha by 15 goals in the Grand Final.

Congratulations to all concerned for your excellent display of skills, competitiveness and sportsmanship.



Back: Louise Rogers, Jess MacFarlane, Bree Everett, Courtney Mason, Ainslee Thompson  
Front: Louise Comerford, Megan Voss, Pia McGeoch (Captain), Rachael Purzer, Jo Tumiat

### Cross Country 2000

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000 eighteen girls from our school competed in the Zone Cross Country at Landner Park, Drouin after qualifying from the previous District level. The under sixteens were followed by the under fourteens. I was in the under sixteens school team. I came through in first place followed closely by other team members who came in the top 25. We came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall as a school team and progressed into the state finals six days later at Yarra Bend Park.

We did extremely well in the States and came 3<sup>rd</sup> as a team, but unfortunately we were four points off receiving a medal. Only 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places received medals. All in all we had a great time and we look forward to some tough competition next year.

Merrilee and I also ran in the Australian Cross Country championships on August 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a great day and a fantastic experience for we had never reached such an elite level before.

Belinda Hogan 10E



Our Team consisted of: Belinda Hogan, Merrilee Hogan, Emma Coats, Kate Boyle and Carly Chapman.

### Intermediate Hockey

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 16 Hockey stars headed off to the Moorabbin hockey field. We played three great games against Cheltenham, Highett and McKinnon, winning two out of the three. Our two goal-scorers were Carly Chapman and Fiona Lawson. Thank you to all the team for their dedication and effort. Also I would like to thank Mrs Bainbridge for coaching us. It was a great season!

Angelique Bonti 10A

Members of the team: Angelique Bonti (Captain), Taryn Ashton 10A, Jessica Travers-Johnson 10E, Kristel Bruhn 10G, Cathie Hibberd 10G, Penny Kargo 10D, Emily Sewell 10D, Sarah Williams 10B, Jill Robinson 10G, Fiona Lawson 10 A, Stacey Hopkins 9D, Rachel Dick 9D, Carla Salmon 9D, Emma Junhankit 9D, Fi Ho 9D, Carly Chapman 9E, Sarah Kenny 10D.



**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 9B - 2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehnert

ERIN DALY	TIFFANIE GEE	GEORGIA LAVERY	JESSICA WHITE
KATHERINE CROUCH	KATE FRANCIS	CASSANDRA KEDGH	ANGELA SOLDATOS
LISA CLAPHAM	NELLY HUGHES	NERMIA SOKOLC	
SARAH CARMAY	KATHERINE HOWLETT	EMMA REID	
SUSAN CASHMAN	LAURA HEAD	KYLE PEEL	
INGRID BRINK	MONICA GUERRERO	MEGAN PAGE	
AMELIA BOAL	MELANIE GROSE	HAYLEY MILLOTT	
KLOVER BARRY	TEGAN GRIGSBY	JESSICA MCFAGGART	
MICHAELA DAVIS			

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 9A - 2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehnert

CHRISTINA HOULLIS	CHRISTIE AROX	ANNE ROSS	ANNE ZINOPPOULOS
JENNIFER DAVIES	LUCY KENNEDY	LOUISE ROGERS	JESSICA ZARWAT
JESSICA BROWN	MELINA RIZOS	JESSICA ZARWAT	
JESSICA BLEES	DIANA RIGG	KATE WALKER	
EMMA BLAKE	MEGAN PATERSON	CATHERINE TUXEN	
KIMBERLEY BARKER	JOCELYN MCGLONEY	SUSAN TINSLEY	
ELISE ARNOLD	REBEKAH LLOYD	GEORGINA SPRUNT	
SHANNON ALEXANDER	GABRIELLE SHARPE		
TAMARA HOWARD			
YVONNE IOANNIDIS			
JOHANNA LAURENT			

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 9D - 2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehnert

LISA GREAVES	LAUREN HUDSON	REBECCAH PATERSON	STEPHANIE WATTT
SARAH GLENISTER	STACEY ACPAUNS	EMMA MCKENZIE	JOHANNE TURBATH
RACHEL DICK	JESSICA CUMMINS	JANE JUNG	KATHRYN TORGERSEN
JESSICA CUMMINS	TARA CHAPMAN	KELLY KEIR	KERRY SYMOT
EMMA JUNHANNIT	EMMA JOLLY	CARLA SALMON	ASHLEE RAYNER
AMANDA JOLLY	AMANDA JOLLY	CARLA SALMON	ASHLEE RAYNER
VICTORIA JOHNSON	VICTORIA JOHNSON	ASHLEE RAYNER	
DOMNIQUE APPREA	KENDALL GREYSON		
FRWA HO			
NICOLE BARRETT			
TARA CARROLL			
JESSICA CUMMINS			
JANE JUNG			
EMMA MCKENZIE			
STEPHANIE WATTT			
JOHANNE TURBATH			
KATHRYN TORGERSEN			
KERRY SYMOT			
ASHLEE RAYNER			

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 9C - 2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehnert

SARAH GOUGH	TULJA KATA	JESSICA DAKES	AMANDA THORNBURY
AMANDA GIBB	ASHLEE IRVINE	JESSICA NORTHORPE	ISMAT SVED
MEGHANN GESCHKE	SHANA NERENBERG	ANDREA MORRIS	AMY RYAN
MONIQUE DUDLEY	EMMA COATS	RACHEL MOORE	SIMONE PUYOL
STEPHANIE CLOAK	TANVA CLARKE	JOANNE MARASHIJ	ALANA PLYMIN
AMANDA GIBB	ASHLEE IRVINE	JESSICA NORTHORPE	ISMAT SVED
MEGHANN GESCHKE	SHANA NERENBERG	ANDREA MORRIS	AMY RYAN
MONIQUE DUDLEY	EMMA COATS	RACHEL MOORE	SIMONE PUYOL
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MEGHANN GESCHKE	SHANA NERENBERG	ANDREA MORRIS	AMY RYAN
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MONIQUE DUDLEY	EMMA COATS	RACHEL MOORE	SIMONE PUYOL
STEPHANIE CLOAK	TANVA CLARKE	JOANNE MARASHIJ	ALANA PLYMIN

On Tuesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> May, approximately ninety Year 9 students (accompanied by eight teachers), left by bus for Canberra at 7:15 in the morning. On the way to Canberra we watched a few videos and had lunch at the Ettamogah Pub. We reached our accommodation at around 6:00 pm and everyone moved into their cabins.

On Wednesday we visited the High Court of Australia, then Lake Burley Griffin for lunch and then went on a bike ride. Next we went to Parliament House for a few hours and participated in a political debate. That night we had a buffet style dinner at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) which was yum.

On Thursday we visited the Australian National Gallery which had some very interesting paintings and exhibitions. Later on we went to the Electoral Education Centre where we held our own election, and then on to Questacon where we had pizza for lunch.

At Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre, there were many things to see and do, including an exhibit called "Sideshow". After Questacon we visited "Screen Sound Australia", the National Sound and Film Archives. That night we went ice-skating which was heaps of fun.

On Friday, we went on tour of the AIS and to the Australian War Memorial. After lunch Group One went to the airport for their flight back to Melbourne and Group Two went to the Old Parliament House. Then, on our way to visit Telstra Tower we drove past some of the Embassies. The views from the tower were good. We had McDonalds for dinner before heading to the airport for our flight home.

We arrived back at school around 10pm and I'm sure that everyone else was as tired as I was!

Kelly Hughes 9B



Year 9 Canberra Canara



Romeo! Romeo! For goodness sakes, I wish he'd show up" Juliet said to herself as she walked out onto the balcony. "I'm right here angel" Romeo replied and appeared from behind a tree. He looked more handsome than ever, his dark brown eyes met hers and Juliet felt weak at the knees.

"Where the hell have you been? I expected you here at six, it's eight thirty," Juliet said angrily.

"Sorry babe, I had to do my hair," Romeo replied and pushed his blonde locks out of his eyes.

"It's okay honey bunch, you're here now!" Juliet forgave Romeo in a second, as she loved him more than life itself. She was just angry with him because he was late, and she wanted to spend every spare minute possible with him.

"Well aren't you gonna come down here and give me a hug?" Romeo asked impatiently. He didn't want to tell Juliet, but he had an appointment with Balthasar at 10:30. Balthasar was now the most well-known plastic surgeon in Verona, and because he and Romeo were good friends, Romeo got discounts on all his alterations. So, Romeo didn't want to waste anytime, he wanted to see his gorgeous girlfriend Juliet, then get down to Balthasars ASAP.

Juliet climbed down the ladder that she had put there to make it easier for her Romeo to get in and out of her room. As soon as she got down she hugged him close.



Su Yee Cheong 9G

"Hey babe, lose the grip, you're creasing the new shirt," Romeo said and pulled away. Juliet let go reluctantly. She walked over to the garden shed and pulled out a neatly wrapped present from under a cardboard box. "This is for you honey," she said and gave Romeo the present.

Romeo pulled the wrapping paper off, and opened the box. Out came a dark blue cap.

"So you don't get sunburn. I know how your skin reacts to a lot of sun. You go as red as a tomato!" Juliet said happily.

"Gee, thanks princess," Romeo replied without much enthusiasm. Sure, he liked it and all, but it just wasn't his style. He would never wear it anywhere; maybe around the house sometimes, but never out where anyone would see him. He did like it, just on someone else.

"So aren't you going to put it on?" Juliet asked impatiently.

"Hey babe, what do you think this is? Daytime? No. Its night and plus, I'm not ruining my curls for anyone," Romeo replied, "but I'll wear it when I get home, to see if its a good fit and all."

Juliet didn't seem too disappointed. He always acted like this with the gifts she gave him.

"Okay honey, so what time do you have to leave?"

"Ummm... right now actually, I have to go give Balthasar his shoes back."

"Okay, I'll call you tomorrow! See ya honey!"

"See ya babe!" They parted with a kiss, and Juliet started to climb the ladder again.

Little did she know, Rosaline, the evil nun, was hiding behind the cubby house. When Romeo had disappeared out of sight and Juliet was climbing the last rungs of the ladder, Rosaline walked out of the shadows and pulled the ladder out from the wall.

Juliet's cries rang through the night air.

Romeo's footsteps ran closer. And Rosaline's evil laugh was the last thing Juliet heard before her head cracked open when she landed on the pavement.

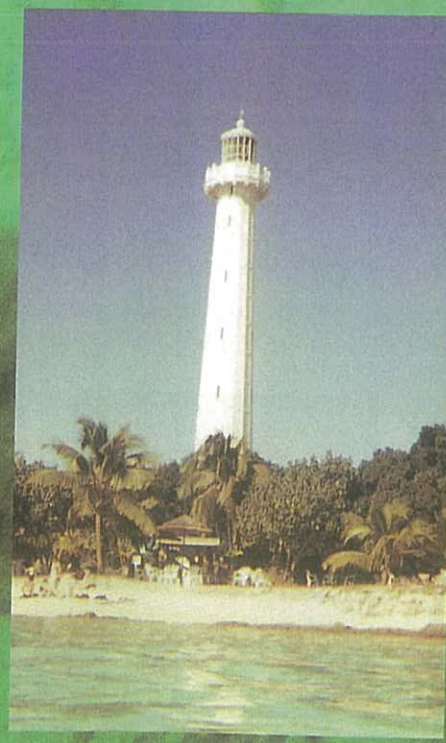
Kerry Synot 9D



Laura Costello 9E



Nerma Sokolic 9C



*On est allé à Nouméa – c'était super. Nous avons fait beaucoup de choses; on a nagé, on a mangé, on a parlé français, on s'est beaucoup amusé.*

In late June, a small group of girls studying French went to Noumea, in New Caledonia. There were 5 Year 10s, 4 Year 12s, as well as Mrs Goldis and Ms Earls. The main aim of the trip was to extend our language skills, which ended up being more fun than it sounds. It was amazing how much of the language came to us when we really needed to use it. Instead of doing worksheets in class we were speaking French whilst ordering lunch in cafes, catching the bus and buying souvenirs.

Our accommodation was spread between the Ibis Hotel in the Baie des Citrons and the best part of the trip - with our home-stay families.

They hardly spoke any English which was good for us because we had to use more French. (It did however make times like needing to know where the bathroom was a little more complicated.) We didn't let the language barrier beat us though, and we had a fantastic time with the kids, going out on the family's boat and to the beach.

I have to say that one of my most memorable moments of our stay with our host family was the dinner they cooked us one night. The dad had gone fishing that day with his friends and they came back late in the afternoon with enough marine life to feed the whole island.

There were the usual ingredients of course, fish and lobster, as well as something out of the ordinary for us. An enormous sea turtle. Later that night, after a bit of hesitation, I served some up on my plate, all in the name of absorbing some more Noumean culture. I was quite surprised, as it actually tasted quite delicious!

Another major highlight of the trip was a cruise out to Amédée Island, where we snorkelled off a glass bottom boat, watched traditional island entertainment (Mrs Goldis with a grass skirt on) and enjoyed a tropical feast.

The trip overall was a fantastic experience and success. On behalf of myself and all of the other girls, I'd just like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Goldis and Ms Earls for making the trip as great as it was.

Salut! Georgina Seddon 10B



"Only Drama People know Drama People..."



Absolutely no truer words were ever spoken. This was said to me on a Monday morning at school after a 12 till 10 Sunday rehearsal. At the time it meant nothing to me but now it seems to mean a whole lot more.

Everyone who thinks Theatre Studies is a breeze is wrong. It is truly the hardest, yet most rewarding, subject I have involved myself in.

Over two years, Mr Perks has moulded us into a well oiled performing group of budding young actors!

It took us many Sundays and after school rehearsals to learn our lines, design and construct the set, organise costumes and research the era that the play was set in.

When it came to the big Opening Night, the mixture of nerves and excitement electrified the stage and everyone performed beautifully. The following nights were performed with the same amount of enthusiasm and not a single mistake (well, none that were noticed thanks to our quick thinking improvisational skills).

All of our hard work and effort paid off, even when at times throughout the pre-performance months some doubters thought we'd never make it, but we did!

The play "CROW" was written in 1994 by Australian playwright Louis Nowra. It is about the struggle of Aborigines for their rightful land and social rights in the 1940's. Therefore we needed to be emotionally charged and in tune with the play to perform it well.

Mr. Perks became more of a friend than a teacher and guided us through the "ups and downs" of the performances we have achieved in the past two years. Throughout Years 11 and 12 we have gained and lost students, but those who were ever involved in Units 3 & 4 Theatre Studies made friends that will last a lifetime.

To all of you considering Theatre Studies, do it! And when you're performing you'll see the class of 1999 - 2000 (we'll be the ones in the front row) applauding the loudest!

Amy O'Niell 12E



The hall was packed with super stars and famous persons at Mentone Girls' Secondary College. Could it be an audition for a super secret upcoming movie? The Oscars maybe? No! It's the annual Year 7/12 Fancy Dress!

The theme was "Famous People from Last Century". There were simple ideas to just flat-out bizarre; Rock stars, Movie stars, Royals, Drag Queens, Religious personalities, politicians and many more danced around on stage to various medley routines that would have put the Tony Bartucio dancers to shame.

An interval gave us all a good chance to give our cameras a good work out, chat to parents, friends and teachers and munch on the delicious foods supplied by the Year 7's. Some even took the opportunity to seize the microphone and belt out the classic "Grease Mega Mix" hit.

Finally, Elvis and Britney Spears (our college captains) presented the awards and announced, after much thought that 7D were the winners.

Congratulations to 7D and to all the Year 7s and 12s who participated. I think that everyone would agree all those lunch times that were given up were definitely well worth the outcome.

Thank you to the committee, parents, teachers and students who made the Year 7/12 Fancy Dress 2000 the best ever!



On Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March at 7.00pm, the Year 7's and 12's came together for the school's annual Fancy Dress party. Meanwhile, our parents enjoyed a wine & cheese night.

At first we chatted, admiring each other's costumes, then we paraded our costumes for the judges. Soon the dances began, one Year 7 form after another. Halfway through we had a break, where we ate and danced. Then we saw the remainder of the forms.

It was then time for the judges to decide on the awards for the best costumes for the teachers, Year 7s and Year 12s and the best Year 7 form dance. We all waited with baited breath as the judges conferred with each other. The awards were: prizes for best costumes to Mr Thomson as Christopher Skase, Beth Weir as Pauline Hanson and Simone Wilks as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz.

The Year 7 form who won the dance was 7D. They were really happy and excited. They performed their dance again for everyone to see. I think everyone had a really great time - I know I did!

Rachel Flitman 7C



The sun was shining brightly when busloads of girls piled into the Oakleigh Swimming Pool, for the annual swimming sports.

The fight for first place was tight throughout most of the day, with Jackson narrowly beating Melba in the overall score. The Aqua Olympics were great fun, with Kenny coming up on top! Go Kenny!

Six records were broken on the day. Carly Wilson broke the U21 100m Freestyle record, Melba broke the U17 Freestyle Relay record, Jackson broke the U16 Medley Relay record, Nicole Croker broke the U13 Butterfly record and Briony Cargill broke the U14 Butterfly. These were all great achievements, but the outstanding was probably that of Yvette Pauligk who broke Linley Frame's long-standing U15 Breaststroke record.



The year 12 'Bra' relay was great fun for all, so too was the 'staff versus the house captains' freestyle relay.

Congratulations to all the level and age group champions plus all runners-up.

Champions:

- U13-Nicole Croker
- U14-Lana Areaiti
- U15-Stacey Hopkins
- U16-Ashlee Waterland & Heather Cunningham
- U17-Carly Wilson
- U21-Casey Redford
- Junior School-Briony Cargill
- Middle School-Yvette Pauligk
- Senior School-Laura Buckley

The day was a great success, thanks to the teachers and all the newly elected house captains.

Heather Cunningham



Our Athletics Sports Day was a great success. As the day began, girls flocked into the gates of Dolamore Oval wearing the traditional house colours of purple, green, yellow and blue. Everywhere you looked there were girls running and jumping, groups of friends sitting around talking and listening to music. We really couldn't have asked for a better day, 30 degrees and not a cloud in the sky!

There were many great achievements made on the day as well as records being broken. An exceptional athlete was chosen from each age group and given the honour of being the

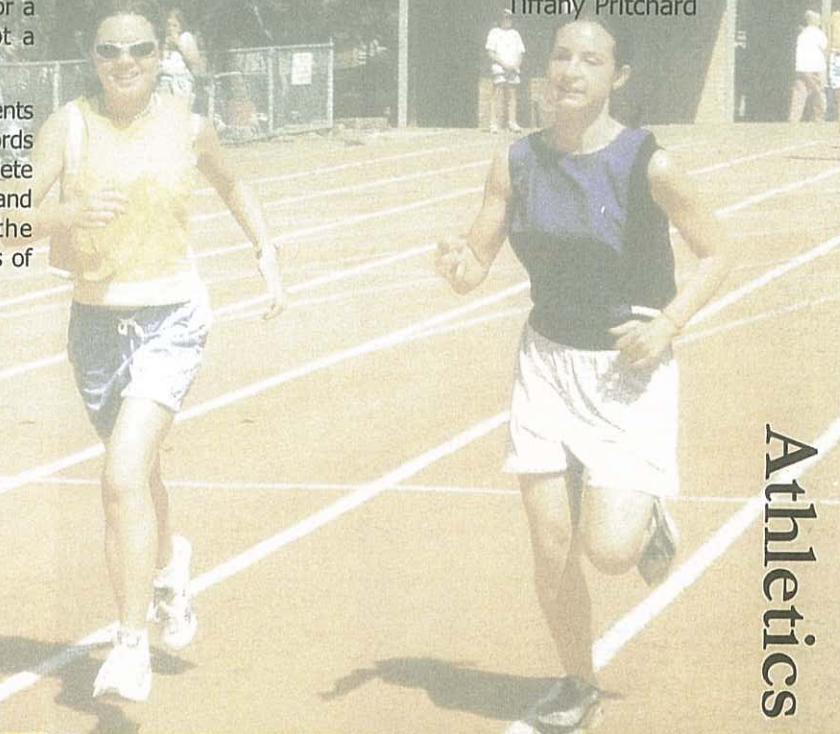
"Individual Champion". The following are the champions of each age group.

- U/13 Champion: Taycian Lord
- U/14 Champion: Briony Cargill
- U/15 Champion: Carly Chapman
- U/16 Champion: Emma Knight
- U/17 Champion: Emma Aprea
- Open Champion: Anne Hibberd
- Junior School Champion: Lynly Beaver
- Middle School Champion: Joanne Tumiati
- Senior Champion: Vanessa Toms

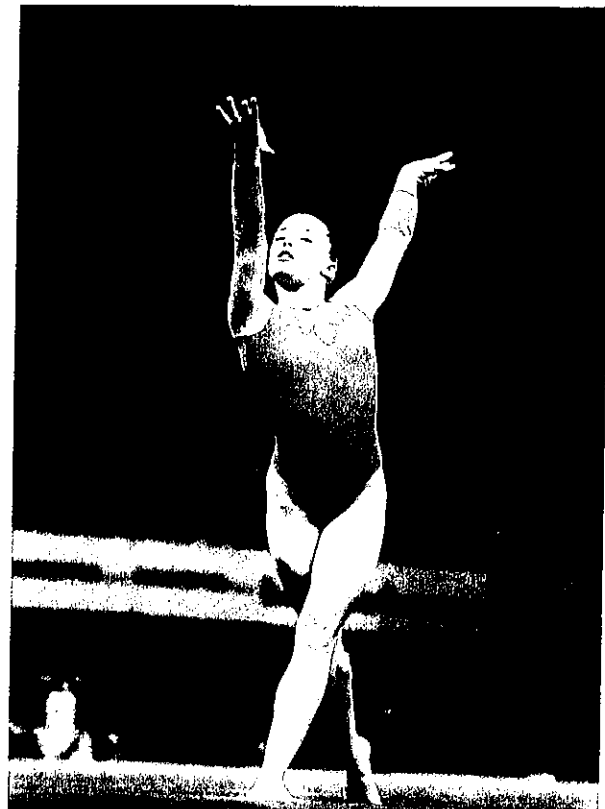
As they did last year, Mackellar went home triumphant winning with 1925 points They were closely followed by Kenny with 1669, then Jackson scoring 985 and coming fourth was Melba scoring 811.

Special thanks go to Mr DeMunk and Mr Ferguson who both put great effort into making the day a success and also all the teachers and students who also participated in making the day one to remember.

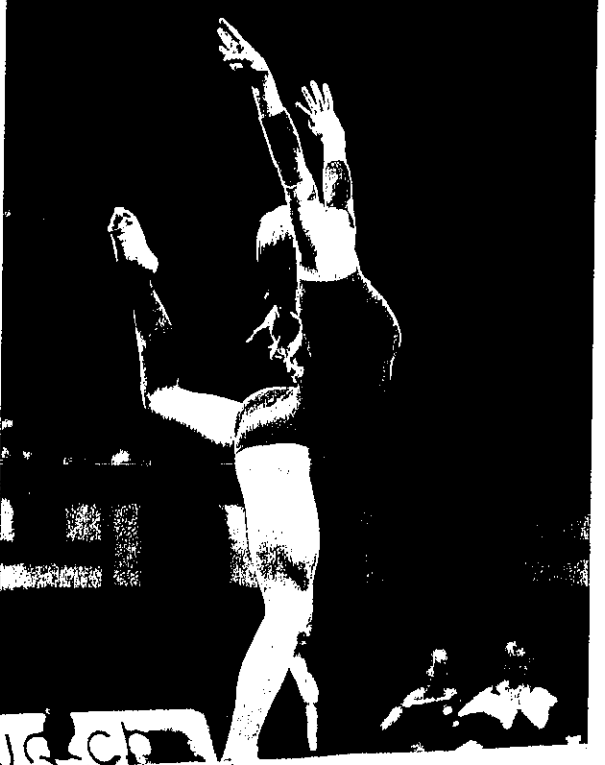
Tiffany Pritchard







Melinda Cleland - Floor Routine



Brooke Walker - Floor Routine

one of the best swimmers we have in our school. Casey will be racing in many events at the Paralympics. 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, and the 200m individual medley. As well as extensive training Casey has to prepare herself for her year 12 exams that she will have to sit when she returns from Sydney. This is a great honour for Casey to be able to represent her country in a sport that she loves. We wish you lots of luck Casey.

Tiffany Pritchard 10F

Photos: Courtesy Australian Gymnastics Foundation



Trudy McIntosh - Beam Routine

### Olympic Stars From Our School

Imagine your life without being able to eat McDonalds, chocolate or any junk food! That is what our Olympic hopefuls have been going through for most of their lives. Finally all their years of hard work and determination is going to pay off at the 2000 Olympics.

At the time of printing our magazine, Trudy McIntosh, Melinda Cleland and Brooke Walker will be representing our country in the Australian Gymnastic team. The girls have been training extensively each week for 33 hours, being on strict diets and still must keep up to date with their school work! The girls have been training at the Victorian Institute of Sport in Canberra where they are all on a scholarship and where they will remain until the Olympics begin. These girls have great potential and are destined to do well at the Olympics. **GOOD LUCK!**

Casey Redford will also be wearing the green and gold at the Paralympics. Casey is an arm amputee and has had enormous success despite her disability. Casey is



Casey Redford

### Olympic Marching Band

The 25<sup>th</sup> of October is a date that I will never forget! It was an e-mail I had received. It read something like this:

"Dear Heather, "Thank-you for your application. Congratulations...

We welcome you into the band. Our next rehearsal is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November at Melbourne High. We hope to see you there..."

And so on. Well, I was so shocked from this that it took a while for it to sink in. but I was so happy I could've cried!

I was going to ring my mum from school and tell her, but I decided that I'd like to see her reaction when I told her, so I went to my after-school band rehearsal bubbling with excitement.

When I finally got home, I rang the doorbell. Mum opened it, and because I had forgotten my key, she stood there and wouldn't let me in.

I said to her, "Mum, I've got the best news!"

"What?" she replied.

"I got into the band!"

At first she didn't believe me,

"But you haven't even had an audition."

I couldn't believe her! Here I was, about to burst, and she wouldn't believe me or let me into the house.

I finally said,

"Fine, I'll prove it to you!"

So I pulled the e-mail out of my bag and held it up to the wire door. She couldn't read it so she opened the door and I gave it to her.

I watched her reading it and saw her face light up.

"You're in. you're in!" she screamed.

The next few days I couldn't stop smiling. On the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>, I woke up with my stomach full of butterflies. My first rehearsal went well and I couldn't wait for the next weekend.

For the past 10 months, I have been practicing with the Victorian Youth Marching Band every weekend. In the Christmas holidays, we went on a trip to Brisbane so we could rehearse with 1000 people from around Australia.

We will be leaving for Sydney on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, where we will rehearse with 2000 people from around the world for two weeks before the Opening Ceremony.

Heather Cunningham, 10F

### Olympic Volunteer

I have been lucky enough to be chosen as one of 30 St John Ambulance Volunteer Members from Victoria to attend the Sydney Olympics this year. At the Games I will be providing first aid to people attending the events. I am working at a range of events including the Tennis, Softball and Cycling. I am also very lucky to be able to attend the Opening Ceremony which will be very exciting!

I have been a St John member for about 5 years and have attended many public duties over the years, but nothing as big and exciting as the Olympics. I am looking forward to being part of such a big event for Australia.

We are being provided with free accommodation, meals and transport so that we can get to our events easily.

Jessica Forti 12A

### Olympic Torch Bearer



The night before I was feeling extremely nervous, yet very excited. The rest of the family was really excited, as I was, but I wasn't showing it!

As my mum and I left the house in the dark I felt as though I didn't want to run with the torch at all because I was so scared, as if I would drop the torch or something bad would happen.

All the torchbearers and the escort runners met at the Shell service station at Mentone.

I remember getting out of the car crying and emotional. I met Freya, my escort runner. She was sixteen and very talkative! I was introduced to the other torchbearers, older and taller than me. Then I got my torch as a Herald Sun reporter took a photo. The whole group of torch bearers and escort runners told stories of why we had the privilege of running with the torch.

We all jumped excitedly on to the bus going to Lower Dandenong road. We dropped the people off at their running points and cheered them on.

We ate lollies on the bus and I no longer felt sick - just excitement. When I was dropped off I was surrounded by crowds of people and flashing lights and cameras. Adults and children were begging to hold the torch and I allowed them to, but kept a close eye on it - I wasn't going to let it go too far!

My jaw was getting sore from the amount of smiling I was doing. As I looked down the hill I could see the torch travelling closer. When it arrived I gave Neil, the man who had just run, a huge hug.

As I turned around to face the crowd and run I was running for Australia and for me - nothing else mattered!

Running with the Olympic Torch was a dream - an experience that I will never forget.

Taryn Chapman 9D



Bhey Orwin 8B



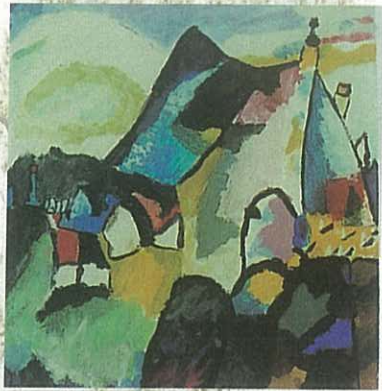
Nicole Macdonald 8B



Jessica Naughton 8A



Penny Wei 10B



Simone Muir 8A



Sally Naim 8A



Zoe Booth VCE Year 12



Rebecca Warren VCE Art Year 11



Amy Limpyer VCE Art Year 12



Zoe Booth VCE Art Year 12



Zoe Booth VCE Art Year 12



Felicia Loh 10F



Lucy Spencer VCE Art Year 12



Laura Collins 10E



Tess Humphries 10C



Cara Walker Year 11 Studio Arts



Jessica Middleton Year 11 Studio Arts



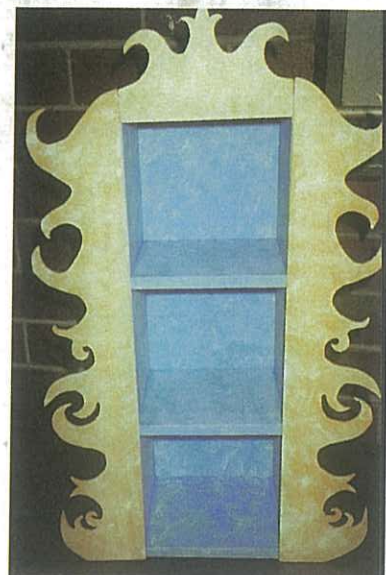
Melina Papagiannopoulos VCE Media Year 12



Sophie Goldsworthy Year 11 Studio Arts



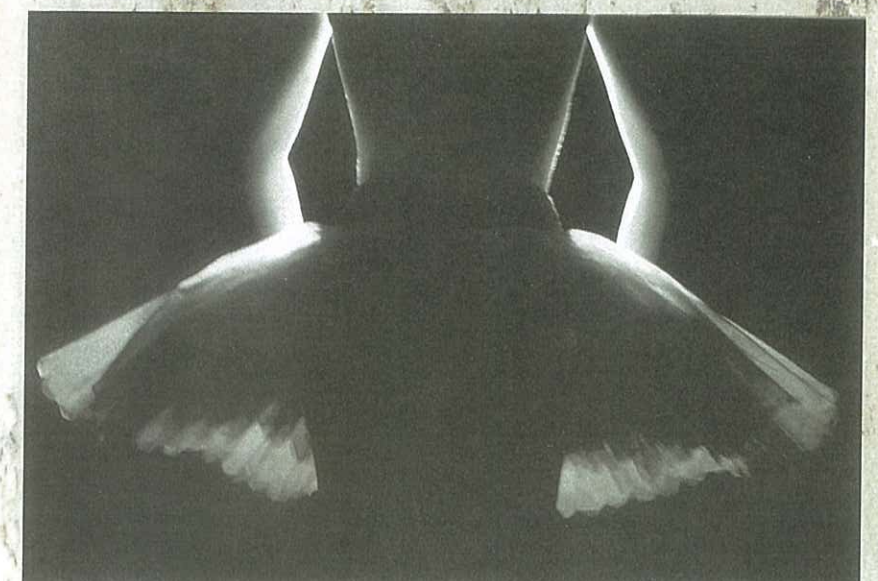
Nicole Doudoulos 10C



Emily Ryan 10F



Joanne Higgins Year 11 Studio Arts



Kim Wippell VCE Media Year 12



On Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, after many months of preparation and anticipation, the Year 2000 VCE Ball finally arrived. As the clock approached 7pm gorgeous girls and their handsome partners completed the final touches to their hair, make-up and outfits before heading off to the venue for the Ball. Limousines crowded the elegant steps of "The International of Brighton", while others arrived by train, party buses or cars. Girls and their partners flooded inside where teachers were introduced to the guests.



Inside the Ballroom was a sea of silks, chiffons, satins, feathers and jewellery of all colours and forms, giving the room a glamorous atmosphere. The night proceeded with the mandatory professional photos- to make sure the night was remembered. Before long everyone, teachers and students alike, was up and dancing to the lively music. Meals were served and the very long awaited prizes were awarded:



- Best Dress: Female- Simone Frisina
- Male- Dave Van Pelt
- Most Original Dress: Kate Drougas
- Best Hair: Megan Atkinson
- Biggest Flirt: Female- Stacey Smith
- Male- Dave Jowett
- Teachers: Mrs Gillett
- Mr Dunkley
- Marriage Material: Stacey Hendrix and Dan
- Prince: Ben Furzer
- Queen: Bree Neville



Special thanks to the VCE Ball Committee and Mrs Salomon for their efforts in making this year's Ball a night to remember which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Leonie Beck 12A and Sarah Timms 12G





**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 10F -2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

JENNA BLOWHAM	VIBHASHA CHAND	BRYTANY CORR	GEORGIA DAVIS	LAUREN DISHER	BREE EVERETT	LAUREN GALAS	EMILY HALL
MICHELLE GARDNER	ALISON GEEVES	BRITANY GIBSON	HEATHER CUNNINGHAM	GEORGIA DAVIS	LAUREN DISHER	BREE EVERETT	JOANNE GILMOUR
CARA HANFIELD	SYLVIA JEFFRIES	FELICIA LOH	STEPHANIE LOPICCOLO	JESSICA MACFARLANE	SARAH NEWBERRY	HELEN PETROPOULOS	ELVISE WALLER
STACEY PHELS	TIFFANY PRITCHARD	ASHLEIGH RAYMOND	KRISTEN ROYCE	YANA SLATTER	LOUISA TATTON	LOUISA TATTON	LOUISA TATTON

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 10E -2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

CONNELLY BARCLAY	LORELLE BUCHANAN	PHILIPPA CADMAN	LAURA COLLINS	MAHAYA CROFTS	EMILY HANSTEIN	BELENDA HOGAN	JADE HOLMES
AMNI TU	RENEE KENNEDY	JENNA MDRECFORT	MARIKA NOWILL	JENNA OOSTHUIZEN	TRACEY PANG	EMMA PEARCE	LAUREN POWER
CATHERINE SHAND	SHARMA THEOBALD	TESS THOMSON	CLAIRE TUDOR	SARAH VERNON	AMY LAWOTT	EMMA KNIGHT	AMANDA REED

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 10G -2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

SANDRA BATNICA	REBECCA BEACALL	LARINE BRIBRANUN	STACEY BISHOP	EBONIE BLAKE	KATE BOYLE	KRISTEL BRUHN	YOLANDA BRYCE
MELISSA SIREY	CATHERINE HIBBERD	BRIDGETTE NELLY	PIA MCGEECH	JACQUELINE PANOZZO	AMANDA RAIFE	MEEMAKSHI RAWAT	JENNA EVANS
WILLIAM ROBINSON	EMMI ROWLEY	NADIM SHIBAKKA	AUCIA STOCK	SHARINI TAITT	ELIZABETH THEOBALD	MEGAW VOSS	JENNA EVANS

### Monash University Model Solar Vehicle Challenge

Last year some of us heard about a car race with a difference: The Model Solar Vehicle Challenge, run annually by Monash University, and held at Science Works.

The challenge involves building an electric / solar model car that will race around a figure-eight track 100 meters long in the fastest possible time. This sounded like something that would be a fun challenge, so we formed a team, joining the list of hundreds of students from around Australia and the world who compete in the challenge every year.

The team is made up of seven Year 10 girls – Georgina Rallis, Nicole Doudoulis, Jessica Nisselle, Natasha Brooks, Im Tran, Katie Bannister, and Georgina Seddon – and are guided by Mr. Seddon.

In term one, we started to familiarise ourselves with the technicalities of how solar panels actually work, and how we could utilize the electricity we generated. We studied what sort of materials and components we would need to build the body, and created an aerodynamic design to work from. All these decisions, and a thousand others, have to be made and acted upon, as the clock is ticking, and the race day is looming!



Nicole Doudoulis, Georgina Seddon and Georgina Rallis

One of the problems we encountered was cost, as the hardware for this project is very expensive. We are most grateful to C.A.M. Associated Wholesalers, Syndal, for sponsoring and supporting us.

After almost a whole year of working during our lunchtimes, of course we hope to do well on the day. However, the project has been a great learning experience, and just being there will be a huge thrill.

Georgina Seddon 10B

### Middle School Outdoor Ed



On Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May our Year 9 and 10 Outdoor Ed class left for the Grampians. It was roughly a 3-hr bus ride. Once we arrived we set up our tents on a flat

surface. Before it started to get dark we needed to start cooking so that we could see what we were doing. We used these little stove things to cook. We had to eat things like rice, noodles, pasta and canned food because they were the easiest things to cook. Cooking our meals was fun, but cleaning up after eating wasn't.

The next morning we got straight into the activities. Our class split up into two groups and one group went rock climbing and abseiling and the other went on a walk up to the top of the pinnacle. The first activity I did was rock climbing and abseiling. We started off on a small practice rock, learning how to do it properly. We had an instructor to teach us how to do it without killing ourselves. Once we'd all had enough practice we then went on to the big rock. This rock was a lot bigger than the practice one. Most people had a go of climbing it, and making it to the top although there were few people who didn't even try! Once we were at the top it was the best view. Then we had to abseil down (that was the scariest part). It was a lot of fun doing this activity.



After a great day we met up with the other group and returned back to the campsite, where we cooked our next meal. After dark we all went for a walk around the campsite to explore.

The next day my group went on the walk to the pinnacle. It was our last day so we had to get up extra early to pack up our tents and make the camping ground as clean as it had been when we arrived. Once we had done that we left to go on the hike to the top of the pinnacle which took us roughly about five hours. It was really hot on our way up to the top but once we got there it was freezing and all the layers of clothing that we had shed quickly came back on. The view from the top was unbelievable - it was even better than on top of the big rock. It was hard work getting up there but it was worth it. After the walk we met up with the others and got on the bus to go home.

After three days without a shower and doing rock climbing and a long walk you can imagine how beautiful we all smelt! It was a great camp but it would have had less hassle if there had been toilets. All up it was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to get to know the people in my class a lot better.

Louise Comerford 9F

## Significant Event

It's funny how people come together at a funeral. People I didn't even know, had never seen before, suddenly became one. All of us in one tiny, cold church, huddled together in our grief, each one understanding the other's sorrows. The priests wail their haunting hymns, on and on in Serbian which the majority of us don't understand. But we don't need to, for the message is all in that lamenting song, so disturbing to my ears. It is like the sound of a wolf's howl bouncing off the empty walls with its mournful cry.

My sister's steady arm holds me as we walk to the coffin to "pay our last respects to grandpa." I stiffen as I see that the coffin is open. I feel my skin crawl with some unknown fear, an unsettling waft of emotion ripping through me. Only now do I smell the pungent scent of incense that the priest sways back and forth on a long golden chain. So strong, it almost makes my eyes swell up and my nostrils sting.

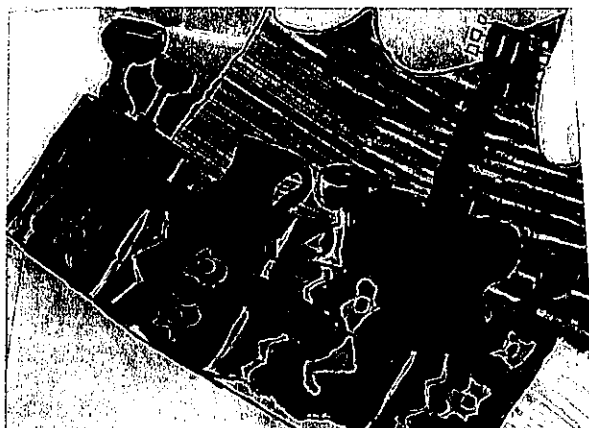
Now is the time that I want to run, to escape this disconcerting atmosphere that stakes out my fear and relishes it.

But my sister grips my hand and guides me to the body. The corpse's face is yellow and shiny in the wan light of the candles. His face is smooth and has hardly any lines creasing it, which I find surprising for a seventy-nine year old man. My sister whispers to me that I am to walk up and kiss the cross that lies on his chest; she will come with me. Like a robot I involuntarily step to the side of that long, narrow box while my mind screams "please let this be over, I am not doing this," but somehow I do it. I make the sign of the cross across my shoulders and try not to cringe as I touch the body's face. It is waxy and smooth, but the thing I notice most is how cold it is. It isn't a normal cold, like a biting wind or a glassy frost; it is such a deep cold, a raw cold that seems to threaten to suck the warmth out of me, to my very soul, if I touch it for too long.

Eventually my sister tugs gently at my hand and I move away slowly, through the door to wait for the coffin to be carried out.

As we bow our heads and listen to the priest's prayer, all I hear is the dull, heavy, relentless clanging of the church bell, and I am trapped in its void, the emptiness of loss that it heralds. I cry silent tears for the deceased; may he rest peacefully, wherever he is.

Sharni Brazier 10C



Amanda Little 10C

## The Mysterious Woman

I approached the woman with great caution and as I moved in closer I saw her face. It was grazed from exposure to the harsh desert winds and her hands were tough and calloused from the hard, slave-like labour she had endured. Her hair was thin and fell lifeless at her shoulders. The tattered rags she wore concealed her body but not the language it spoke. Even she could not hide that. Her wrinkled face told her age and showed that time had stolen her youth. Exhausted, I sat next to her but she did not acknowledge my presence. As she stared out at the open expanse covered in fine red sand, her eyes did not really see. Her unseeing eyes did not discover the beauty that could be seen. I could see only the pain in them. So much pain for one person to bear. It sickened me. How could I remove the burden and lessen the pain? I could not; it was a personal journey.

Cara Bradley 10C

## Everybody's gone

There's no one left

They must've gotten lost,

I don't know where.

They've never really been around.

Only in my head.

There's no one left

I know I'm alone

Anon, 10C

## Togetherhness

The door was shut,

I was there all alone.

He was there, but

I was there all alone.

His voice sweet and pure,

I was there all alone.

Even though he was there with me

There I was and I felt all alone.

Mel, 10C

## Age

When I see his face, I see mine

A face grown old, but not wise.

He lives his life day by day

With a ton of guilt only I can see.

He knows I'm there but he hides.

I should be his life, not his burden.

He'll grow old and so will I,

But I'll grow more and learn to love.

He doesn't know love.

Only criticism of what he doesn't know.

Anon, 10C

## 1999 Great Victorian Bike Ride

Early on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, eight students ranging from Years 8- 12, met Ms Earls at MGSC along with Ron Olson (who took time to help to supervise us), ready to take part in the 1999 Great Victorian Bike Ride from Echuca to Melbourne. We arrived in Echuca thanks to Mr DeMunk who gave up his Saturday to drive us there on the school bus. After collecting our cycling passports and eating our lunch, we set off full speed ahead. We arrived in Rochester after cycling 62kms, where we set up our tents and relaxed for the remainder of the afternoon. We also somehow managed to find a team from St. Bede's that evening. The next morning we had the "pleasure" of Ms Earls shaking our tents at 5:30 a.m. telling us that it was time to get up. This became an annoying daily routine, except on the rest day, when we woke "her" up at 9:00 a.m. with a fresh cup of coffee. Our longest day of 105kms was also one of the hottest but with plenty of water and energy to burn, we all made it to St. Arnaud by bicycle. Day five was our rest day in Maryborough and was most relaxing. We spent the day either at the pool, chatting to locals, playing games or relaxing in the hammock.



That evening was the very popular Talent Quest, which included singing and a variety of acts, both serious and comic. Our last night was in Riddell's Creek where a street festival was held in our honour. There was a lot of singing and dancing, different stalls and even fireworks. The following day, we arrived in Melbourne, crossing the finish line as a team, with Frank Daly (who joined us for two days of cycling as well as on many of our training rides) setting the pace. We couldn't believe how fast the nine days went by; however, we were looking forward to sleeping in our nice warm beds at home. Thanks goes to O'Mara Cycles in Cheltenham for being our sponsors by giving us our T-shirts, a tool kit and several snacks.

Erin Daly 9B



Back Row: Ms Earls, Mr Frank Daly, Mr Ron Olson  
Middle Row: Erin Daly, Suzie Raffie, Katie Campbell, Lauren Maurray, Lara Olson  
Front Row: Amy Hickman, Cally Armstrong

## Community Support

The College continually strives to provide our students with the opportunity to experience the very best, whether it be academic, sporting or culturally.

Our steps along the way are being generously supported by our college community, which includes the Parents & Friends Association, led in 2000 by the energetic Dianne Mossenton-Brown. Our appreciation goes to her committee for their support of the College. We should also acknowledge the tremendous growth of our 'Past Students Association' which now after five years has grown to 800 members.

Parents are also fantastic supports; we achieve so much because of their generosity and hard work and they deserve our warmest thanks and appreciation.

Many parents support the College through their businesses or alternatively local companies respond to our needs. We would like to acknowledge the following for their generous support:

Bay Travel Mentone, Micro Pro Oakleigh, Ampol Mentone & Cheltenham, The Bicycle Superstore, Aviatour, Sheedy's

of Black Rock, Kmart, both RL Malcolm Real Estate and Hodges Real Estate, Village Roadshow, Wallers Cakes, Bunnings, Clean Away, Sportsco, Mordialloc Rotary, Cooper Tools Electronic Products, Victoria Golf Club, Renoma Printery, Kingston Physiotherapy Group, Mountain Books, Nic Nac's, Clayton's Secretary, Commonwealth Bank and finally Murray Thompson, one of our local Members of Parliament.

The announcement that the College's Master Plan project has been included in the DEET Capital Works Planning program is an indication that the face of the college will change dramatically once the Science and Visual Arts areas are completed. 2001 will also see the completion of the Nina Carr Hall. This is surely an exciting time in our schools' history.

Finally, thank you to our teachers, administration staff and students for their part in developing the schools' respected reputation amongst our local community. Its value cannot be underestimated.

Dale Collins  
Development Officer

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 11A -2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

EMILY ALLEN	ALEXANDRA ANYONJEVIC	EUGENIA APOSTOLIDIS	EMMA APREA	RINA ARAMIAN	BROWNYN AULT-CONNELL	EMMA AVERY	COURTNEY BEESON
STEPHANIE BROWNSIEA	KATHRYN BENDER	BROOKE BLEES	CAMILLA BLOMBERG	EMILY BODEN	LAUREN BOGIE	DARUNEE BOWE	JONI CARMEDIE
JESSICA BURN	JESSICA BUTLER	RACHEL BYRNE	ASHLEE CANT	JACKELINE CARDONA	ASHLEE GORDEN	NOT FEATURED	LAURA GOLDEN
SELEVA BAIRD	SUZANNIE BASS	ELIZA BECK	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 11C -2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

JESSICA FIELD	DANIELLE FLACK	BONNIE FOGARTY	HAYLEY FRANCIS	MEGAN FRASER	KATE FREYER	ALYSIA GADSBY	SOPHIE GOLDSWORTHY
JANE GORDON	KYLIE GOY	MEGHAN GRAHAM	KIMBERLEY GREENWELL	EMMA GROSE	CAROLINA GUERRERO	KAREN GUNE	BROOKE HEBARD
CHLOE GUNN	EMMA GUNN	GEORGINA HALL	RAQUEL HARGRAVE	ALICE HARVEY	JESSICA HERRINGTON	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED
SKAYE GEEVES	ESTELLE GRANTZOGLOU	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 11B -2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

DAPHNE CAUCHI	LAXSHAMA CHAND	SULEFEN CHEONG	BEYLAINDA COHEN	MICHELLE COLLINS	LAUREN COOPER	ELSA CORP	BRONWEN CREBBIN
JESSICA DESPARD	SONIA DIMMAN	CARLY DICKENSON	CELESTE DIMAROS	LISA DOUDJULIS	MEGAN DOUTCH	ANNA DREHER	JESSICA FERGUSON
AMA-CLARA DURAN	REBECCA DZESA	KELLY EGAN	VICTORIA ELY	NADINE ERAM	SARAH FENNESSY	NOT FEATURED	NATALIE CHEETHAM
PAULINE CZARNECKI	LETISHA DALL	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Year 11D -2000**  
Principal: Ms Deborah Lehner

SANDRA HERNANDEZ	AMY HICKMAN	JOANNE HIGGINS	ASHLEA HILL	CINDY HOGAN	KATHERINE HOLLAND	LORETTA HOLLINS	LAURA HORTON
SARAH JAMES	LAUREN JONES	LISA JONES	ALICIA JUDD	TULAY KAYA	REBECCA KIESSEKER	ELIZA KNIGHT	ILANA KRAMAROV
MICHELLE KRAUSE	EVE LAVIN	SOKIM LAY	JULIA LEES	SARAH LEVINGSTON	MICHELLE LILJA	BIANCA MICHAEL	NOT FEATURED
HANNA HOSKING	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED	NOT FEATURED



The Shakespearian play from the Elizabethan era, "Taming of the Shrew", was chosen by the Year 11 Theatre Studies class for their first production of the year. Directed by their drama teacher, Ms Engblom, the play was based around the mad man, Petrucio, who takes Kate, (a shrew) to be his wife and teaches her to obey him. Meantime, the love struck Licentio fights to win the sweet Bianca's love. The Theatre Studies class was divided into two groups and there were fantastic performances by both casts. Their great acting skills were complemented by a sensational crew who created a terrific set, clever lighting, entertaining sound and unbelievable costumes. Over the months of rehearsals and the four days of performance the cast and crew had their fair share of minor hiccups, from the set falling down on the final performance night, to a fake leg of lamb being thrown into the audience and landing on somebody's grandmother!

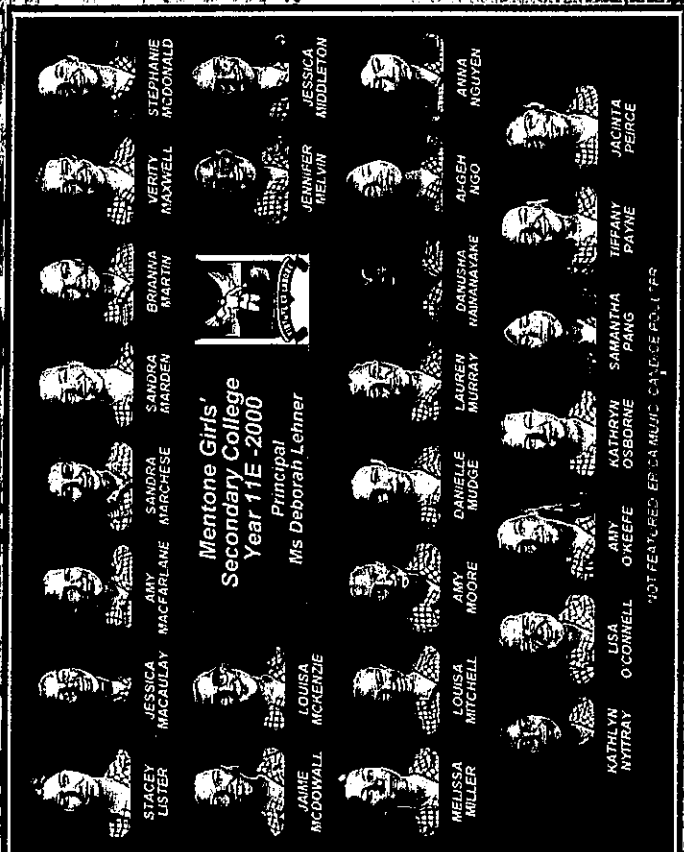
Overall the Year 11 Theatre Studies performance of "Taming of the Shrew" was an outstanding production - one not to have been missed and one we will always remember!

Eliza Beck

11A



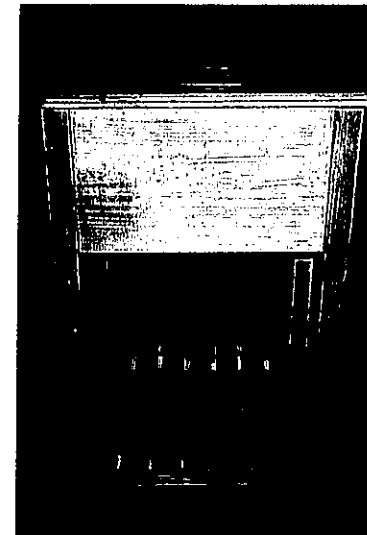
Year 11 Theatre Studies



### VCE Woodwork Class

In Ms Brown's VCE Woodwork class all the girls were asked to design and produce a table of their choice. There were some creative and imaginative ideas which we had to come up with and many different tools and equipment we had to learn to use, including sanders, sanded hand tools router, drills, biscuit jointer and lathe.

This machine (lathe) I found was the hardest to use because my table consisted of four legs which I had to turn and sand. This meant that I had to produce one leg and be sure that the other three were the same. I found some difficulty in doing this because it had to be done judging by eye.



Kathryn Bender Year 11 Wood Technology



Ms Brown helped me through this process and the other girls who were having difficulty in using this and other tools. It was sometimes difficult to catch Mrs Brown because she was always so busy helping other students but the effort was greatly appreciated.

All the girls are very proud of the work that they produced, in fact our works of art are so good that they were displayed at the front of the General Office! We were delighted that the rest of the school could see the magnificent tables which we Year 11 Woodwork students made.

Joni Carnegie  
Jacinta Peirce

### Supportive Friends

The VCE Supportive Friends group was created to give VCE students an opportunity to support fellow students through difficulties and problems. Sharing concerns with a friend can make a big difference! Where a student is feeling a bit uncertain and shy about approaching others, this program offers understanding and encouragement from fellow students who are likely to know just how they feel. The Supportive Friends have a day of training so they can be prepared to deal with problems, while still remaining a friend and maintaining confidentiality. There are fifty Supportive Friends in both Years 11 and 12, who are recognisable by their smiley-face badges.

To become a Supportive Friend, interested Year 11's place their applications with the Senior School Office at the beginning of the year. Twenty-five students are selected from a range of friendship groups so that everyone has someone they can turn to. The Year 11's attend a training day in February where they are taught the basics of body language, the sorts of questions that will draw out information and the definitions of a few psychological terms. They are given information about suicide, bullying and phone numbers to refer students to if their problems are too big for them to handle alone.

The training and the booklet given on the training day help improve communication skills. The training is interesting as well as informative – and, not to give too much away, there's a training exercise with toy monkeys!

Julia Lees





### Waiting

I push open the door and a little bell rings to let the receptionist know that a patient has arrived. I tell the young receptionist who is probably the same age as me, my name. She informs me that the doctor is running a little late and that it will be a bit of a wait, so I make my way to the waiting room and sit next to an old lady and a pile of magazines. Having to wait for my results is making me extremely nervous and worried. I thought I would walk in and find out straight away whether my cancer was deadly, but instead they were making me wait for something that could dramatically change my life.

I have to keep my mind off what lies ahead so I pick up a magazine and flick through it. My mind starts to wander back to when I was a teenager. I was always running around in the hot sun without a hat or sunscreen, ignoring my Mum's advice and lying in the sun for hours. I can remember smoothing tanning oil on my body, just trying to get that perfect olive coloured skin I so desperately wanted. But as I sit here now I wonder if it was really worth it.

I can't help but look down at my arm. This is my spot. The spot that could potentially be fatal, the spot that I have had with me since I was young. I wouldn't have noticed how much it had changed, if my friends hadn't picked it up whilst we were looking at old photos. When we looked at the freckle in the photo, taken about ten years ago, we could see that it had become very different in shape, size and colour. I didn't think that it was anything to worry about, but I thought I should still get it checked.

So I had the doctor look at it and he said it was cancer and that I had to have a biopsy to find out if it is malignant or benign. After the biopsy there was a wait of two weeks to find out the results. I made the appointment and now here I am, waiting. I realise that I haven't been reading the magazine. I look down and notice the add in big letters - it reads "SLIP, SLOP, SLAP!" If only I had listened to the warnings, then I wouldn't be in this position. But as a teenager I thought I was invincible and never thought it would happen to me.

When I heard the word cancer I always associated it with old people. I am still finding it hard to believe that cancer could be an issue for me while I am still so young. Ever since I found out that I have cancer, I have been loaded with brochures, advice and stories. It has somehow just gone in one ear and out the other as I am in another world at the moment and I am trying not to think about it. At twenty-four who really wants to think about dying and what I should have done ten years ago to prevent this? I certainly didn't until just recently but depending on the results I may really start thinking about it.

I come out of my daze and look at my watch, then I hear the doctor's door open and a patient walks out. My doctor then steps out and calls my name. I put down the magazine and walk slowly to his door. As I take a seat the doctor turns to me with a piece of paper in his hand and tells me the results. He then starts to explain what happens next. It takes a seconds to register and I block out his voice. My spot is malignant cancer.

Jessica Field 11C



Sophie Goldsworthy Year 11 Studio Arts



Emmly Allen Year 11 Studio Arts



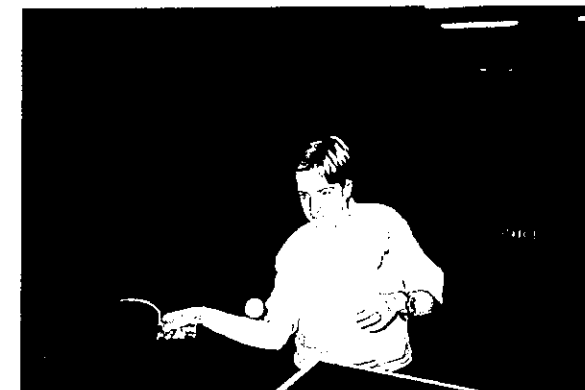
Elsa Corp Year 11 Studio Arts

### School Sport Award

The annual School Sport Awards were held at the Hilton on the Park Hotel this year on 17 March. The awards are presented to government school students who have dedicated themselves to achieving the highest possible standards in sportsmanship, achievement and commitment.

Chosen by a Sports Award Committee consisting of representatives from the Victorian Secondary School Sports Association, Aussie Sport, Vicsport and the Department of Education, I was honoured with the 1999 Sporting Blue Award for table tennis.

My achievements include winning gold for Victoria in under 18 Australian table tennis championships and Silver in the Australian Junior table tennis championships. Representing MGSC I captained the school team to 4 VSSSA State Championships while in 1999 winning the Victorian School Singles Championships.



Joined by our Principal, Ms. Lehner, I was presented with a certificate, medal and Kea sponsored jumper. I was fortunate enough to meet former table tennis Olympian Kerri Tepper and athlete Steve Moneghetti.

Rachael Moore

### Senior Cricket

In April this year, the Year 12 cricket team went from winning the local zone finals to winning the Southern Zone Final. They defeated Lyndale, 160-52 in the Metro quarterfinal, Berwick, 101- 89 in the Metro semi final and Patterson River, 106-31 in the Metro final. A big thank you to their coach Mr. Shillabeer and congratulations to the team.



Back row: Kirsti Macnich, Megan Atkinson, Mel Shanley, Vanessa Toms, Rachel Moore, Stephanie Hall, Brianna Martin, Emma Aprea  
Front row: Kate Hamer (captain), Jo Hogan, Amy Moore, Jenny Torgersen

### Senior Football

Last year we had a great year - but unfortunately, not so this year! We have had problems from the start. It was hard enough that some of our best team members were not able to attend training sessions, but even more difficult was the fact that our focus was not up to scratch. Mr Ferguson nearly tore his hair out ( which might be seen as a good thing!) because we were not concentrating, not listening, not running hard, not catching balls, not kicking well, etc., etc. As well, a mass of injuries and academic commitments swamped us! So the culmination was our determination to play as well as last year was stifled by the above factors. Despite this we defeated Berwick in front of a huge crowd at their home ground. Ultimately, however, in the State Semi Final our lack of training ethic and poor performance resulted in a loss and consequently, we failed to make the Grand Final. Still, we did put up a pretty good fight in the first three-quarters. Well done to the girls and good luck to the young ones next year! Go Mentone - Bring the flag back home!!

Laura Buckley Year 12



Back row: Georgia O'Connor, Laura Buckley, Megan Atkinson, Bonnie Fogarty, Jenny Tumiat, Sally Clark, Katie Campbell, Emily Hanstein, Amanda Dempster, Vanessa Toms, Sarah Preston, Ashlee Peterson.  
Middle row: Cara Dickson, Brianna Martin, Kirsty McNish, Sthanie Purs, Kim Hesse.  
Front row: Emily Hall, Melanie Andrews, Pia McGeogh, Sarah Turner, Melanie Shanely, Ashlee Cant, Tenielle Potter.  
In front: Emma Aprea.

### For me?

You say the spinning wheel is for me? There must be some mistake. I didn't ask anyone to send me a spinning wheel. I don't even like spinning wheels. All they do is spin around and around and make a noise that goes clib, clib, clib, clib.

No, I don't like spinning wheels. In fact, they bring back bad memories. Memories of something that happened when I was much younger. Something that I've never told anyone because....well, because it's just too scary, that's why. I'm the only one in the world who knows it. That's the truth. Oh, my mate Johnny used to know it, but he's sort of disappeared. No one knows where he is.

Anyway, maybe I should tell you what happened. It will probably be good for me to get it off my chest. Besides, you'll realise then why I wouldn't want this spinning wheel. You'll realise that there's been a mistake and you were probably meant to deliver it to someone else. Have you got a moment to spare from your deliveries while I tell you? You have? OK!

Let me go back to the beginning, back to when freckle-faced Johnny and I were skinny little twelve-year-old boys. We belonged to the same boy scout troop.

The worst thing about riding to scouts was not the dark loneliness of the streets, although that was bad enough, but the fact that Johnny and I had to pass a spooky house that belonged to an old widow called Mrs. Green-Dickinson. But to every kid in the town she was known as Mrs Grave-Digger. All Mrs Grave-Digger did was sit at her spinning wheel and spin great balls of yarn. At any hour of the day or night you could see her hunched over her spinning wheel in a large shed beside her house. My attention was always focused on the prisms of light that reflected across the room of the shed every Thursday night. The light was never turned off, day or night, and the curtains were never drawn. You couldn't help but notice her through the window.

The crazy thing about it all was she never did anything with the great balls of yarn she spun. She just tossed each completed ball aside and started another one. They were scattered all over the place, on the verandah, against the shed and even out in the garden where weeds grew all over them.

Oh, she was a weirdo, all right!

The rumour among the kids was that she didn't just spin wool into yarn either. Rumour had it that she could spin anything into yarn - bark, grass, leaves, paper, hair, you name it.

Now it was on a windy night in July that Johnny and I became involved in this story. When we approached Mrs Grave-Digger's place on our way to scouts we could see the light shining in her shed and Mrs Grave-Digger was hunched over her spinning wheel. "She's probably spinning the fur of some poor cat," muttered Johnny as we sped past her house.

Deserted streets become a thousand times worse when there's wind, which causes leaves to rustle and banging of unknown objects. You always think you can hear some creepy figure stalking you. Guess what? This very night we did see someone, 'Yellow Man'. He was a thin, sickly-looking man that lived on the streets. Everyone called him 'Yellow Man' because he really did look yellow. His skin seemed discoloured and he had long, blonde hair.

As usual he was wearing his dirty red tracksuit. It seemed to be the only clothes he ever wore. Some people said he was a thief, but I wasn't so sure. Maybe he was. When he got closer to Johnny and I, he just ignored us and walked past, to our relief.

We had fun at scouts, but it was soon time to ride back home past Mrs Grave-Digger's place. As we got closer to her place we saw 'Yellow Man' climbing over her fence and going into her garden. "What's he up to?" whispered Johnny.

"Don't know," I replied. "Come on!" I hissed, "let's get moving as quietly as we can."

We started cycling silently along the road. Our intention was once we got near Mrs Grave-Digger's house, to speed up and fly past like rockets. But just as we prepared to do that, we saw 'Yellow Man' open the shed door and enter.

"Why is he going in there?" questioned Johnny. I didn't reply. I just stared. I didn't know how long Johnny and I stood there staring, but it seemed like hours. I don't think we even realised we'd stopped cycling and were standing like dummies. Then we heard a strange cry that came from the shed. I don't know. Maybe it was just a possum or a cat or something in the garden.

When we heard that sound, well - that was the moment that Johnny and I should have bolted. But we didn't. Our curiosity overcame our fear. We had to know what happened to 'Yellow man'. Before we even knew, it was our own legs that propelled us towards the shed.

We peered cautiously through the window of the shed. There was no sign of old Mrs Grave-Digger and 'Yellow Man'. We then saw the spinning wheel. Johnny and I stared. The wheel was turning all by itself. We then saw a large ball of yellow yarn looking all fresh and newly spun on the bobbin. That is when Johnny and I could have died on the spot because just then Mrs Grave-Digger came out from the darkness and snarled, "Curiosity killed the cat."

That is when Johnny and I bolted. Fear was written all over our faces. We then heard Mrs Grave-Digger shouting in the distance, "You won't be forgotten... Ever!"

Now that's the story and what I have told you is the truth. From then on 'Yellow Man' was never seen in our town again. Maybe you've got some explanation as to where he went, but you won't be able to change my mind. No way! I don't care how stupid it sounds. I still believe he finished up as that large ball of yellow yarn.

Johnny and I never told a soul what happened. We quit scouts, so that we didn't have to go near Mrs Grave-Digger's house ever again.

Johnny and I never mentioned this incident to anyone even when we grew older. In fact, we sort of grew apart and lost contact with each other because our occupations took us to different towns. I tried to contact him, but with no luck. He had somehow disappeared.

I wonder what happened to him? He was a good mate and had lovable freckles that covered him from head to toe. Just like those specks on the yarn on that spinning wheel. They actually look like Johnny's freckles.....

Swatica Vikash 11G

### Where are they now?

Over the years students from Mentone Girls' Secondary College have made significant achievements during their time at the College and after they have graduated. Such past students include Linley Frame who went on to win a gold medal for Australia in the World Swimming Championships. More recent graduates of Mentone Girls' Secondary College include Rachael Silver and Leanne Burgess who, since leaving the College only a few years ago have become exceptionally successful in their specific areas.

#### Rachael Silver



Since leaving Mentone Girls' Secondary College at the end of Year 10, Rachael completed her VCE at the Victorian College of the Arts. She then did a further three years of study for a Bachelor of Music which she completed last year. Since then Rachael has been participating in an Advanced Performance program. Rachael has had further significant achievements such as playing with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, which

she humbly describes as "pretty good"; however, "sensational" seems more appropriate.

Having been a Mentone Girls' Secondary College student has affected Rachael's life after school in many positive ways, especially in initiating Rachael's interest in the horn. She said that the school's extensive music program is responsible to a large extent for her taking an interest in music, taking up the horn and encouraging her in her achievements, both at school and after.

Rachael was not only involved in music at the College; she was also a member of the Netball and Softball teams and values the friendships she made at the College.



Rachael Silver in 2000

#### Leanne Burgess

Leanne completed her six years at Mentone Girls' College in 1996. Leanne then went on to do a two year Automotive Drafting Traineeship with Holden and has become a skilled and fully qualified draftsman with the ability to draw plans of automotive vehicles which engineers use to build cars. Leanne is currently completing additional studies in an Advanced Diploma of Engineering so that she can "earn more money".

Having been a Mentone Girls' Secondary College student, Leanne said that she benefited most from the support of her teachers, especially throughout Years 11 and 12 and particularly remembers her graphics and art teachers staying back after school to help her build her art folio or complete CAT's.



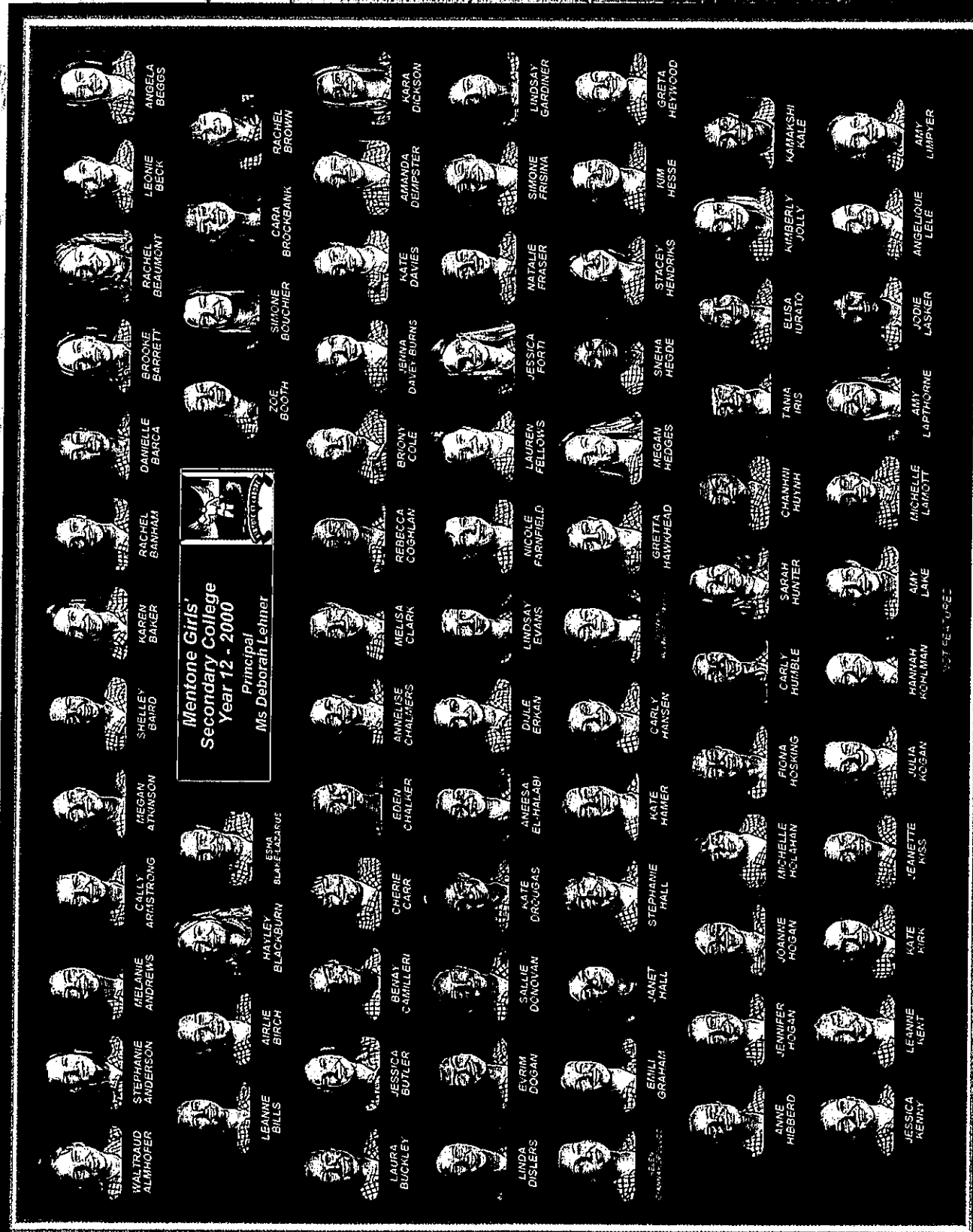
During her time at Mentone Girls' Secondary College Leanne made strong friendships with other students and is still best friends with other past students of the College. She values this most from her time at the College and particularly remembers celebrating her last days at the College with her classmates with the theme of "revenge of the killer nerds".

Leonie Beck 12A



Leanne Burgess in 2000. Leanne was the winner of the "R Malcolm" Art Award in 1996





Mr Williams and Mrs Morris at Smiths Beach, Phillip Island on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

After completing this fun activity we decided that we needed something more challenging and we most certainly got it from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of February when we went caving at Buchan, Victoria, approximately a four and a half hour bus ride from school. (It would have been fifteen minutes quicker if we hadn't hit a kangaroo!)

We had an extremely early rise on the first morning, which was a bit of a struggle for some, followed by a forty minute bus trip, through winding mountains and roads that didn't seem to exist! Before entering the caves we had to practice abseiling, which we did off a 30m high bridge. People were generally scared and withdrawn, though within the hour we had people abseiling off the bridge upside down and back to front.

As we were lining up in our attractive bright orange overalls, with harnesses and helmets making us a bit uncomfortable, the temperature reached about 30 degrees and we were told stories of colossal sized flies which entered your ears. This made a few people uneasy but the thought of a cooling temperature inside the caves was very enticing.

The only way to enter the cave was to abseil and I nearly broke my leg whilst doing so as I crashed into the wall! After recovering we headed off, exploring each little trail or hole on all fours, manoeuvring sideways when needed. Of course a mud fight was included, but the fun ended for some when sliding through the 'envelope' to enter the 'small intestine.' The 'small intestine' was as bad as it sounded with a few people getting stuck, including myself. By this point I had had enough and was not enjoying myself. Like a few others I could not wait to see daylight and to feel grass.

When finally exiting the cave I collapsed on the ground, joining a group of others and clutched the grass, staring thankfully at the beautiful blue sky. It was heaven.

This feeling of heaven soon turned dark after we realised that we had another cave to go that night. This cave was much more relaxing with one of our guides giving us an amazing rendition on his didgeridoo.

The feeling amongst the group the next morning wasn't a pleasant one for we had to explore two more caves that day and many people were bruised and battered. The first cave we entered, a 'honeycomb' cave, was magnificent as it contained many astonishing crystal and honeycomb-like formations.

I was not at all up to exploring the second cave, so after entering I found myself a comfortable position amongst the rocks with a few bats and amazingly fell asleep while the rest of the group continued on.

An extremely long bus ride home was just what the doctor ordered....it allowed everyone to regain some energy and to catch up on sleep lost.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August no one could contain their excitement for we would all be leaving for Mt Buller the next afternoon. We arrived in Mansfield, a short trip from Buller late on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August at our home for the next two nights, the 'Back Packer Inn'.

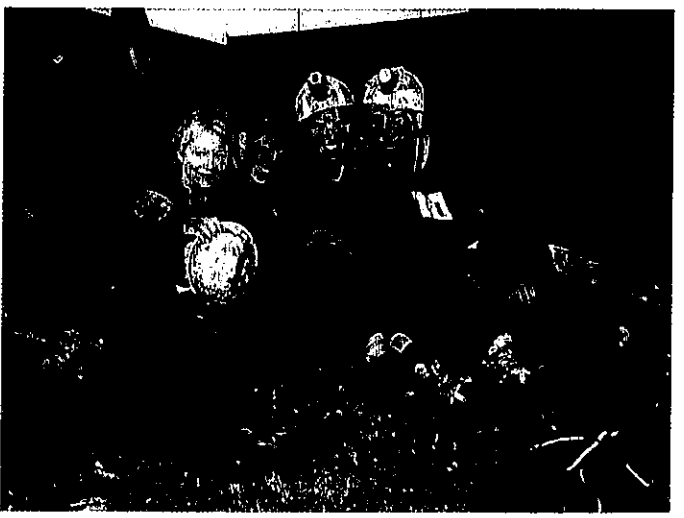
After a 6:00am wake up call and donning layers upon layers of clothing we were off. We arrived at the mountain at 8:00am, got fitted for our gear and headed up the mountain on the lifts. This created the first challenge of the day, for getting off the lift proved to be a bit difficult. I stacked. I had had no experience in this! I thought this was good in the beginning but after realising that I didn't actually know how to snowboard and then realising that many others did, I found myself sitting alone in the snow at the top of the 'Bourke Street' run. After some assistance from our teachers I began to get the hang of it. It took me approximately an hour to get from the top of the run to the bottom, in which time the majority of others had completed the run three or even four times.

We stayed at Buller till 5:30 that night with the majority of people bowing out from skiing around 3:00pm and sitting in the ski hire shop, while some others built snowmen. That night we went out for a 'nice' counter meal at the local pub. This didn't last long for there was a more interesting attraction back at the motel.....boys!!

The next day we went cross country skiing at Mt Stirling which is adjacent to Mt Buller. This was popular with everyone and we had lots of laughs! There were many stacks throughout the day, but none worse than those of Vanessa's, who actually managed to take out a few others at the same time.

Overall the trips have been a great experience and a lot of fun!!

Megan Atkinson 12A



Rachel Beaumont, Hannah Kohlman, Megan Atkinson and Leila Rourke

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College**  
Year 12 - 2000  
Principal  
Ms Deborah Lehner

PETRA LOGAN	CARRIE MORRIS	SANDRA LOPICCOLO	GABRIELLE LUNE	KIRSTI MACNISH	IRISTI MACNISH	REBEKAH MALONE	BELODA MARKS	MONIQUE MCLAMNEY	EMMA MCCAIN	EMMA MCLAREN	QUYNH NGUYEN	KATIE MCLEAN	KELLIE MONGER	RACHAEL MOORE	CASEY MORECROFT					
AMY O'NEILL	SARAH OSMAN	HARSHA OZA	INDIAH NANDAKUMAR	YASANTHI NAINANAYAKE	CARRIE MORRIS	SANDRA LOPICCOLO	GABRIELLE LUNE	KIRSTI MACNISH	IRISTI MACNISH	REBEKAH MALONE	BELODA MARKS	MONIQUE MCLAMNEY	EMMA MCCAIN	EMMA MCLAREN	QUYNH NGUYEN	KATIE MCLEAN	KELLIE MONGER	RACHAEL MOORE	CASEY MORECROFT	
HANNAH PITTS	TEWELLE POTTER	NICOLA ROBINSON	MARY ROJAS	REBECCA ROTHWELL	LEILA ROURKE	LEONIE VAN RYN	ROSA SAMNANG	MELANIE SHANLEY	AMBER SHEAD	BREE THOMPSON	SARAH TIMMS	VANESSA TOMS	ATHEMA TOSIANS	ROBYN SWINNER	SHARNA SLOSS	BIANCA RIXON	CASEY REDFORD	CANDICE PERRY	LAURA PETRALIA	OLIVIA PITROPAKIS
ANNA ROBINSON	ELISE SOUTHWELL	JENNY TURATI	SARAH TURNER	AIAY UREN	CARLA VINCENT	IDA WONG	MATALIE WALLER	BETH WEIR	AMY WHITE	EMMA WILSON	JESSICA WILSON	KIMBERLEY WIPPELL	EMMA WILSON	AMY WHITE	EMMA WILSON	JESSICA WILSON	KIMBERLEY WIPPELL	EMMA WILSON	AMY WHITE	EMMA WILSON

On the morning of the 9th of February an excited Year 12 class of 2000 assembled at the College to embark on a three-day introduction to Year 12 at Monash University.

The first day was crammed with lectures and speeches by our dedicated coordinators as well as invited guests from the Central Bayside Health Services. We discussed openly and freely issues concerning stress management, sex and relationship issues, as well as the new VCE system.



At 8.30 the next morning we met at the College again, this time with packed bags. We each received the keys to our own room, then got to explore our small though functional single rooms.

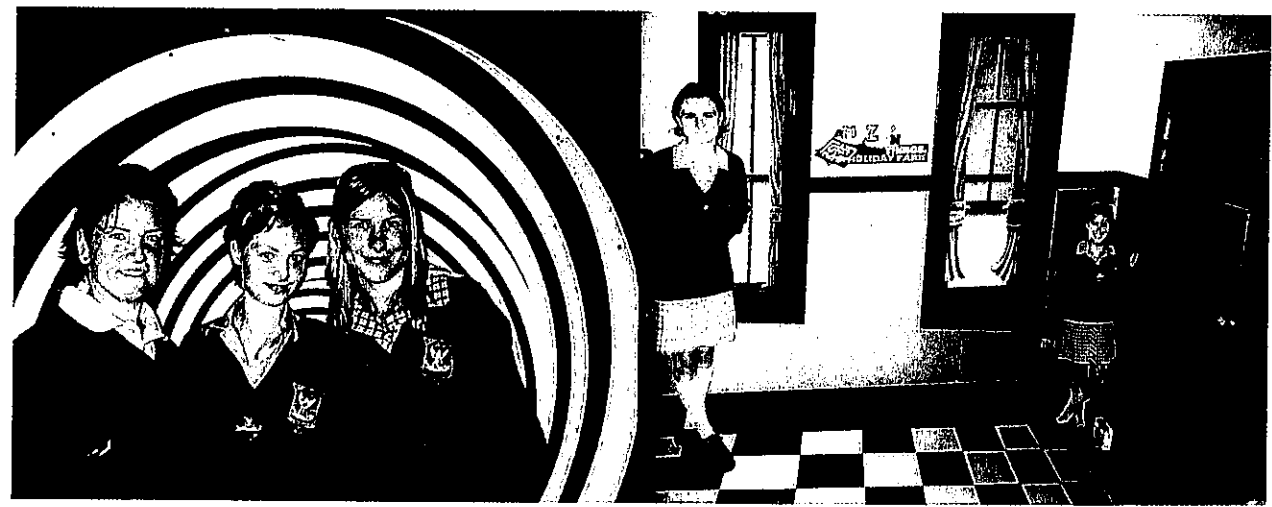
The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the extremely insightful lecture on Frontline by well known guest speaker John Schwartz who is a lecturer in Media Studies at Deakin University.

After a satisfying lunch we ventured over to the Monash swimming complex to cool off and have some fun. After a bit of persuasion we unwillingly got out of the pool and headed to our dorms to beautify ourselves for the formal dinner that night.

On Thursday, March 30 the two Year 12 Psychology classes accompanied by Mrs Smith, Mrs Gillett and Mrs Ray boarded the bus and headed for Phillip Island to test our sensory perception knowledge at the Amaze 'n' Things museum.

We arrived at Phillip Island at 10 o'clock and, armed with our cameras, eagerly entered the complex ready to test our knowledge and quiz our peers on the Unit Three Area of Study.

After being divided into three groups, we were left to explore and investigate the different areas of the centre. The first group tried their luck at the puzzle tables and we endlessly frustrated ourselves, trying to solve three-dimensional puzzles and mind games with little success. We then moved on to the Illusion room, which most would argue was their favourite area out of the three rooms.



Dinner was a formal though fun night with a number of teachers from school present to enjoy the occasion with us. The after dinner speaker was very informative and spoke about the transition from high school to university and gave us an overview of situations that may arise.

However the biggest "situations" lay ahead for the teachers, as "lights out" did not seem to be part of the Year 12 vocabulary. After some persistent nagging the teachers were able to settle us down and enjoy a reasonable night's sleep.

The seven o'clock wake up call the following morning was understandably not favoured among us Year 12's and after some time we packed our bags and headed down to breakfast where we were told our itinerary for the final day.

Our last few hours on campus consisted of final lectures before we boarded the bus back to school. Overall it was an informative and enjoyable camp.

Lindsay Evans 12B

These rooms confused our brains with mind-boggling illusions which caused us to lose our bearings and sense of perception as our minds tried to defy gravity.

It was then off to the maze where most of us became totally disorientated and frustrated. We seemed to be walking around in endless circles trying to find the four different coloured flags. Some of us overcame this barrier by illegally jumping over the fences, but most of us eventually managed to find the four coloured flags, and most importantly the way out.

Lunch was next on the agenda and our kind bus drivers had cooked up a generous B.B.Q of sausages and veggie burgers, which we all hungrily and hastily ate. The B.B.Q was warmly welcomed and the whole day greatly enjoyed.

Kellie Monger 12E

My grandmother was born in Austria in 1919. She was orphaned at three and then taken by her father's friend who brought her to live with his family in Russia. They provided a stable home, food on the table and clothed her. Boris, who had replaced her father, loved her as though she was his own, but she lacked the love and attention of a mother. Boris's wife Marina, loathed her and saw her as nothing more than an intrusion into their lives.

Through the loss and hardship my grandmother grew up to be a strong individual and I believe a lot of her characteristics have been passed on to me. She always provided me with love and security – mostly because I think we shared a special bond that was deeper than blood relations.

After the bereavement of her husband whilst big with child, my grandmother moved to a farm far from Central Russia to escape the madness. Although there lies a generation gap between us I can't help but wonder if it would be different for me to pack my bags and escape modern insanity.

The farm that she loved so much was my most heartfelt place. It bloomed with greens and blossomed with the most magnificent blooms that burst forth in the spring into beautiful, magically coloured patterns looking towards the sun, feeding on its glorious rays. It was almost as though they were absorbing all the light energy within themselves to produce the all the rainbow coloured petals ever conceivable. Sometimes I awake to the smell of Spring and it triggers my memories of being five, running across the vast landscape of the rich, dark soil, barefoot, feeling the enjoyable crumbling beneath my soles. The earth smelt so alive that it almost gave me electric waves of revitalising energy, leaving me gasping for breath in this bewildering atmosphere filled with nothing but nature.

It makes me almost sad to have grown up and left all that behind, but I will always be grateful to have had that as a part of my childhood because it has made me feel whole and at peace in this colossal and at times frightening world.

I spent all of my childhood on my grandmother's farm listening and learning all her thoughts and opinions whilst developing my own intellect. There wouldn't be a day where we didn't have our conversations and even though I was young all those thoughts and opinions made me the person I am today.

I would intensely watch her work the field with careful observation before joining her in the labour that I felt privileged to take on. I appreciated having to be part of such activities not only because it brought me and my grandmother closer together, nor even because I saw pride in my family's eyes for being such an amiably obedient child, but mostly because as the sun rose each morning I would awaken and dash outside into the refreshing Spring air and marvel at having been part of something so invigorating. I suppose that's why even today sleeping in is a prospect that doesn't excite me. My grandmother always said "every day counts, don't waste it away," and I guess it stuck.

The mornings always overflowed with free will chores, which involved collecting the eggs from the forever loud and scattering hens. I always thought of chickens as tedious birds and rather enjoyed their meat more willingly than their company although I revered their chicks that were so defenceless and feeble in the palm of my hand. I loved bantam creatures, which were contrived and blessed by God, for what seems our benefit. However, it was not something that crossed my mind as a child for the world seemed like a tranquil and safe place for all life forms. It seems so strange how my thoughts differ to the view of the world now and I wonder if my grandmother saw even half of the corruption that I do today.

Nevertheless, back then, my grandmother had a way of bringing a reality check into my young arrogance whilst still leading me to believe my naïve ways. I remember she always told me not to grow up too soon and miss all the blinding innocence. Even though I can't exactly call myself an adult yet I understand her perfectly. Maybe because she and I had a perfect comprehension of each other in both young and old mind, on a different level but on the same plane. I can't say that I'm not naïve because I truly believe every individual perceives an innocent image of the world in one way or another but I think it has a lot to do with wanting to believe.

My grandmother taught me a lot about life and its mysterious ways. Perhaps it was because she had had such a hard life going through a tragic childhood where her parents were killed in front of her and then living through World War 11; living through the Depression, the loss of a husband and devoting her all to to protect her infant child; but through the time we spent together she taught me a valuable lesson. It was to see past people's minuscule faults and to see past mine. She told me when something hard comes along to live through it because something good is on the way. Going through tough times makes you appreciate all the good things in life. I believe that's my motto in life. Coming from Russia to a foreign country, going through my parent's divorce, losing the better half of me, my grandmother, and coming close to losing my older sister have only made me stronger as a human being but I would not have made it if I didn't close my eyes and feel my grandmother's presence. Soothing and gentle she would stroke my hair and say everything will be alright, watch it all fall into place, God has a plan for you.

Julia Kogan Year 12

This year the Year 11 and 12 Japanese language students have been lucky enough to have Moe Uto, a 23 year old assistant teacher in our classes. My family was also lucky enough to host Moe.

*Why did you come to Australia?*

The first time that I came to Australia was about 6 years ago, on a school trip. I went to Melbourne, Sydney and Ayres Rock. It was fantastic. I did two days homestay at Geelong, and I taught some Japanese culture at their school...like origami. It was quite interesting for me and fun. So I thought teaching Japanese at overseas schools would be very interesting. And I thought that Australia was a very good place, so I thought..."I want to come back on a longer trip...like six months or one year." So I came back. I didn't expect to really come back.

*What was your first impression of Mentone Girls' Secondary College?*

Before I came, I was receiving e-mails from Mr. Hibio (the previous assistant teacher). One of the teachers asked him to send e-mails to me, because they thought it would be better for me to know what the school was like before I left Japan. They also sent me the school magazine, with lots of small sticky notes on the cover. That impressed me...I thought, "That school will be so good...thoughtful and kind." Then when I came to Australia, I attended a Japanese Study Day for Year 12 students. There I met some students and Mr. Trigellis Smith. They are so nice and friendly, so I thought, "I've got the best school...I've got the best one." That day, Alan gave me a lift to my first host family in Mentone. I was amazed at Alan's Japanese. If he's on the phone, I definitely think he is a native Japanese. That makes me feel secure. I came to Mentone in the Easter holidays, and I was so nervous. My host mother was a Primary School teacher. So she told me not to worry, because every teacher is going to be nervous on the first day. She told me lots of nice things and it made me much more relaxed. I was worried because I definitely thought I look younger than the students, so they're going to be very naughty, and ignore me. But they're not...they're so nice and I love them. I really love them. I feel I have to do something for them. I have to help them. My expectation was totally right...people thought I looked younger. When I went to the Milk Bar across the road, the lady asked me, "Are you a senior student or junior student?" It's very embarrassing, and shocking. So one of the reasons that I had my hair straightened and wear lots of skirts and black, is that I want to look older. I know it sounds funny but it's true.

*What are some of the major cultural differences you have found in living with host families?*

One major thing, is that Australian food is so unhealthy-every Japanese girl is getting fat! When I rang Kaori Yoda, the former Japanese assistant at Mentone Girls', she told me that she gained 10kg! But I thought, "No way! It would never happen to me...10 kilos!" But now I gained 10 kg. So when I'm bending over or squatting, or turning sideways, or even when I smile, I can feel fat all over my body...even on my cheeks! I can see my eyes and nose and mouth being dragged into my fat. I was freaked out when I saw a 10kg meat at the butcher. I'm carrying around that big bunch of meat on my body every day! That freaked me out so badly, it made me decide to go on a strict diet. I have three other friends who have also put on weight. Not just me and Kaori!

*Are there any other differences?!*

And the colour...every colour outside looks so bright. The sky looks so blue and the grass looks so green. Everything is so beautiful. I love the Australian beach which is so friendly, even in winter there are lots of people there. In Japan I live only 10 minutes from the city, so the mountains are far, the beach is far and it is difficult to see the horizon, and buildings make it hard to see the sky. So I am enjoying Australian nature. In Japan, I live in an apartment, with twelve levels and about three hundred families living there. So I'm really enjoying the space, living in a house with a back yard. Another thing my friends and I found, is that our feet are getting smelly...even the sneakers! A couple of my friends told me the same thing, so I can confirm it. We don't know why, it could be wearing shoes much longer than we do in Japan, I suppose.

*What is it like living with host families?*

So far I've had six host families. I've been moving every month...it's pretty busy. Once I have finally unpacked all my things, I have to pack them all up again, just for maybe a 10 minute drive to the next family. I really enjoy seeing the different families, different styles of living, different houses and different places, so I don't mind too much. I have learnt a lot about different lifestyles and different language between families. It's interesting; every family has a word they use a lot. Like your family, Cara, uses the word "dodgy" a lot. You are a dodgy family! (laughing) I even thought about counting it. Maybe it's because it's a new, interesting word for me and I didn't know the meaning at first, so it sounds like they use it more than they do. So that's why "dodgy" is stronger for me than another family that said, "That's good," often. I'm sorry about that Cara!!

I really want to say thank-you to every family, and every pet (which I love). They are very, very nice to me. They supported me, so I actually didn't feel homesick. I am really thankful to them. They make me feel like one of the family, and that's a very happy thing for me because I'm an only child, and my father is usually away for his work. What they did for me, made me love Australia more. I can't explain how I feel about every host family...its like love. Yeah, I really love each of you from the bottom of my heart. Thank-you so much. I also want to say thanks to all the teachers, staff and students. Every member of staff is so nice to me and says, "Hi," to me. I especially want to say thanks to Alan Trigellis-Smith and Lorraine Frederikson. I join their classes, and they gave me a big chance to help students with their Japanese conversation skills. I feel so happy to be helpful, because of this opportunity. Thank-you to the students for listening to me and not being naughty. Seriously though, Year 12 students you make me so worried about your CATs, but I really love you anyway. You are very interesting people and you all have different, strong characters. Year 11 students, you have such initiative, and you are good students who study hard, and I love you too. I hope that you and the Year 12s do well in your CATs. I have really enjoyed my time at M.G.S.C. and I am sure that it will become one of the most important parts of my life. Thank-you very much.

Interview by Cara Brockbank 12A





It's a small country town in the late 1960's. The crows in the surrounding wheat fields are screeching and the heat of a summer's afternoon is overwhelming as I teach a class of farm kids Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. One boy is upset because I've just ordered Mark, the over-talkative star rover for the town's football team, to leave the room. Mark appears very pleased.

Two weeks later...and the school's principal has invited me into his office for a discussion. Apparently the local Book Club - consisting of ten elderly women aged in their eighties have complained that my Year Eleven English class is discussing a controversial topic: school uniforms.

So began my teaching career...

Looking back over the decades, I am able to state - in spite of that country town-that I would willingly relive all of my teaching experiences. I wonder how many people in the community, even those in more highly paid and allegedly more prestigious careers could say the same of their working lives?

Teaching allows one to meet thousands of people ranging from ages 12 to 65 and to make life-long friendships. I have taught the children of ex-students of mine and I have taught alongside ex-students, too. Like all teachers, I have even in a small way influenced people's lives.

Teaching has provided me with some strange recollections such as the school (not Mentone Girls) where an assistant principal organized a fire drill which ended with 800 students colliding in the school general office area; where a fellow teacher (not at Mentone Girls) rode his Harley Davidson motorbike into the school's staff car park only to be followed thirty seconds later by two police cars with sirens blaring; and where a class had, unknown to me, enterprisingly dressed a bulldog in school uniform, complete with a school cap, and seated him in a back desk. It was only after four minutes or so that I realised the class had a new, and very ugly, student!

...I have now been at Mentone Girls' Secondary College since 1983 and those years have been the most fulfilling of my teaching life. The school's buildings and curricula may change but one thing remains constant: the remarkable warmth of the staff - student relationships and the overall tolerance of the place. It is a school, which offers opportunities not available, I believe, in a co-educational setting.

Teaching has allowed me to have an interesting, fulfilled life and to realise that there is more to life than just money. To use an old Australian saying: "I wouldn't have missed it for quids!"

Jon McMillan



Mr Gary Hamilton,  
Mr Bill Longden,  
Mrs Marilyn  
Simmons and  
Mr Jon McMillan

I began my teacher training at the University of Melbourne in 1965 and went to "the bush" in 1970 (Timboon High School near the Great Ocean Road). Blackboards, film strips, projectors and coloured chalk (wow) were the technologies of the day. I met and married my wife at Timboon, then moved to schools at Alexandra, Hastings, Rosebud, Murrumbena (now a housing estate), Huntingdale and finally, at Mentone.

A fantastic career!! Lots of opportunities to move around the state, to teach new and different subjects and to undertake different roles in schools. Best of all have been the students - so much potential, such great young people (with relatively few exceptions). Some have become family friends.

Not too bad a way to earn a living and to feel that I have contributed to society along the way.

Gary Hamilton  
(35 years on)

Has teaching changed or what? My career started with year 12 classes of thirty plus students, blackboards and chalk, very little time at school to prepare and correct and most students leaving school at the end of the years 10 and 11. Your job was to teach a subject - pass rates were very important!

I remember being told by a senior teacher that I couldn't give a student 100% or anything like it. The first calculator I purchased was ten centimetres long and required four AA batteries so that you could add, subtract, multiply and divide. I still have it! Personal computers were still years away - girls were taught shorthand and typing with manual typewriters.

Technology has certainly changed for the better, as has teaching. We try now to teach students as individuals and not just subjects. We are doing things with computers that nobody in their wildest dreams could have imagined back then.

I now teach with some teachers who I taught as students - but what could be more scary? The possibility that in 2001 I will probably teach in Year 12 the daughter of a student that I taught in a Year 12 class of so long ago! What a way to finish!

Bill Longden

After completing four years at Larnook Domestic Arts Teaching College and now armed with a Diploma of Domestic Science, I began my teaching career at Hopeton High School. My second school was at Seaford Carrum High, which was a brand new school in 1970. During this time I was married. Between then and 1979 I had two sons and taught at Noble Park High, Huntingdale and Highett High, ending up at Mentone Girls' High School (later to become Mentone Girls' Secondary College.) The subjects that I taught included HDS (Year 12) (Human Development and Society), Home Economics, Meal Cookery, Cake Decorating and Textiles. I was also the Home Economics Co-ordinator and the Textiles Coordinator for some time...and I was always a strong supporter of KENNY HOUSE!

Mrs Marilyn Simmons

NOT FEATURED: PETER BLICH, MARIA FANTOGIOLIS, VALERIE FEISENTHAL, ROGER GILES, LEONID GRIGORYAN, BROWNA KOPERSZWIOT, HARRY LINNELL, JAN MANNIS, GALINA SHAHR, RACHEL SILVER, BLANKA WEST

**Mentone Girls' Secondary College Staff - 2000**  
Principal  
Ms Deborah Lehner

ANASTASSIOU NITA	AYERS JULIE	BAINBRIDGE FAYE	BARNES GOLIN	BARNETT JOAN	BELL SUE	BINGHAM CAROL	BROWN HEATHER	BROWN LINDA	BURGESS LESLEY	COATS CAROLYN	COHEN PAULA	COOK SUSAN	DEMUIK LUNE	DRAZENOVIC VANDA	DREHER SUE	DUNKLEY MICHAEL
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