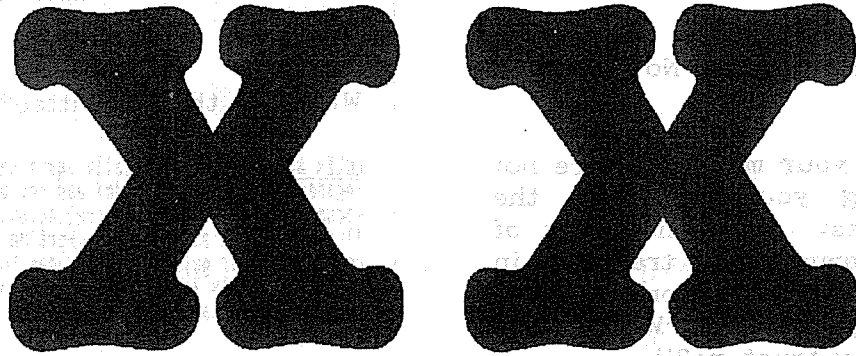


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## ex-eltham college students newsletter

### Welcome back, fellow EXECS!

Thought you'd been forgotten, didn't you?

*Well, EXECS is up and running again!*

No, we're not after your money! We don't want anything from you...  
*except your interest!*

After all, you did spend a fair proportion of your life at school for quite a few years so aren't you at least a little interested in what's happened to some of your school friends? Go on, admit it!

In case you hadn't noticed, EXECS has been a bit on the defunct side for the past two or three years and the last committee seems to have emigrated to Brazil or Queensland or somewhere equally obscure.

But now EXECS has reformed, in more ways than one! We have a new committee, new ideas, and we're off to a new start.

#### THE STORY BEGINS...

We had a very successful reunion at the College last August (which just happened to be 10 years after EC's first HSC year). Ex-students and ex-staff appeared from all directions, some of whom I remember couldn't wait to get away from the place! (And some of the students were just as keen to leave!) Those who were able to make it

to the reunion had a great time.

Firstly it was fun catching up with school friends, some not having seen each other for years.

And secondly it was quite an eye-opener for many people to see how much the school had changed since they had left.

If you were one of those who weren't able to make it up there that Sunday afternoon you missed a good day. We hope it won't be too long before you have another chance.



It was quite obvious from that reunion that ex-students and ex-staff wanted to keep in touch, in touch--

- \* with each other
- \* with the school

--the people and the place which formed such a big part of their lives, and of your life.

And so we set up a committee of volunteers to get the ball rolling.

#### THE AIM...

to re-establish EXECS!

Why?

Simple!

*To keep you in touch with other EXECS.*

*To keep you in touch with your old school.*

That's it!

No ulterior motives. No "hidden agenda"!

We're not after your money. We're not trying to drag you back into the school's clutches. We're not part of some devious campaign to trap you in some artificial organisation. (How negative can you get! What's the matter, don't you trust me?!)

Sure, you may have been glad to leave school (weren't we all?) but really, it was a big part of your life, wasn't it? Many of you spent six or more years of your life, and very important years at that, at Eltham College. You can't just chuck that under the carpet as though it never happened.

And admit it, you made some good friends there, didn't you? And had some good times. (Despite those bloody Academic Review Classes and Fred's sadistic orienteering in the rain and the slippery slimy sloppy mud, mud, mud in winter!)

*So EXECS has one basic aim--to keep YOU in touch.*

**WHO NEEDS A COMMITTEE?**

*You do.*

At least if you want to see EXECS moving again.

Yes, we all know the saying about a camel being a horse designed by a committee, but really, how else are we going to get things off the ground? As you can see from the past two or three years, things don't just happen out of thin air!

We're not worried about formality at this stage. We've formed a committee from a group of enthusiastic volunteers and we'd be very happy to hear from anyone else who'd like to join us on the committee.

We first met last October and we've been meeting monthly since. We've had a great time catching up with years of accumulated gossip but we've also done

## *Executive*

Who's on the committee?

**COLIN ANDERSON** ('83) actually survived four years Engineering at Melbourne Uni and now works as a Mechanical Engineer for Australian Synthetic Rubber in Altona. He shares a place in Port Melbourne with a couple of other guys and is engaged to be married sometime vaguely in the future. Another nuso from wayback, Colin has been involved with a number of bands.

**LIAM CODY** ('86), that tall blond Celt, is of more recent vintage and he certainly shows how uni students enjoy their social life. After starting 1989 with two months idleness in Byron Bay, Liam will soon be settling back into his course in Law/Economics at Monash. Liam has recently moved to Ivanhoe with his family.

Breakfast in Adelaide, lunch in Sydney, baggage in Perth! That could well describe **SUE DOERFLER** ('83) who's an air hostess with Australian Airlines. Sue has actually completed her training as a primary teacher but the call of the skies got to her before the classroom. She lives in Eltham in a house which she is buying with Steve Sagar who's also in the flying game. Many of their long-time friends will be happy to hear that this pair have finally announced their engagement!

**LISA KOLBECK** (yet another '83!) has just bought herself a unit in North Ringwood and is currently in the processing of moving house. Her job has come in very handy in this venture--she's a legal secretary with a firm of solicitors in Prahran and has been there for a number of years.

After 9 years hard labour, **CHRIS LIVINGSTONE**, alias "Roc", "Pole", and sundry other less printable epithets, made his escape from the College at the end of 1985 and worked under contract as a computer consultant, programmer and instructor for the next 2 1/2 years. Since going freelance in the middle of 1988, he has been unable to decide whether he prefers to be free and impoverished or constrained and in the money. He shares a house in Eltham with one dog, 3 cats and (at least) one possum.

**PAM WANLESS**, known as "Ned" to her many fans, was Librarian at the College from 1975 to 1982. Despite an alternative residence at Anglesea, she has been unable to totally escape the clutches of the College and now serves as the school's archivist, working up at EC one day per week.

some pretty solid thinking.

Let me tell you what we've considered so far.

Getting off the ground...

We thought the most obvious way to reach you all is with

*A REGULAR NEWSLETTER.*

Four times a year.

This is the first edition.

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### GETTING OFF THE GROUND...

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#### A REGULAR NEWSLETTER.

Four times a year.

This is the first edition.

We thought about continuing *EXCERPT* as though 2 or 3 years between issues was normal (a typical Eltham circulation pattern?) but we decided to make a fresh start.

So we're sending this out to absolutely everyone who's done some part of his/her secondary schooling at EC.

*That's about 1300 of you!*

We're hoping that we'll reach most of you.

OK, that's the first step. Get information out to you.

#### *Step 2. Get information back from you.*

For a start, we need to know your current address. Otherwise how can we send *XX* to you?

But as well as this elementary information, we'd like you to share a bit more information about yourself with us. Provided you were willing, we'd like to pass on this news to your classmates.

To help us keep in contact with you, we want to establish a network of

#### CONTACT PEOPLE

--at least one person from each year level but preferably more.

Being a *CONTACT PERSON* won't be an arduous task and there must be a few of you who'd be interested. You'd need to do a bit of phoning round (we'll try to see you're not out of pocket), establishing contact with other people in your year and being a contact point

for them. If you're interested, if you can help us to help you, let us know.

That's where we're starting.

*But not where we're stopping!*

### GOING FURTHER...

That's not all we've thought of on the committee. We haven't been wasting our time, you know! Our monthly meetings have been humming with ideas. Where we go with these ideas depends on the response we get from you.

For instance...

We could organise the occasional

#### SOCIAL FUNCTION

for everyone, perhaps a bush dance, or a barbecue. Nothing too posh or expensive--after all, we don't all work for IBM!

We could set up

#### CLASS REUNIONS

for particular years, just every once in a while.

We could also act as a RESOURCE BANK perhaps for career choices. Only willing participants of course. To take an example from our own committee: Sue Doerfler's an air hostess with Australian Airlines--she'd be happy to chat with anyone contemplating a similar career.

We could even publish a directory of

#### EXECS TRADES & SERVICES.

Sound far fetched? Maybe, but some schools are already doing it with their ex-students. Think about it--you need a plumber, or a lawyer (they charge about the same, don't they?). You look up the directory and find Wilhemina Bloggs is now in the appropriate trade. You remember what she was like at school and are happy to use her services. You benefit, she benefits. And all because of EXECS. Again, only willing participants of course, but it's perhaps an idea for the future.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. *By letting us know your CURRENT name, address and phone number. This is best done*

2. *By filling in and sending off the form that goes with this newsletter.*

Groan!

Yes, we know you hate filling in forms. They're a waste of time, an invasion of privacy, a contravention of international law, etc, but it just seems the easiest way of getting the information. If you'd prefer, or if you're not yet literate, you can phone up someone on the committee and get them to write down your answers.

Yes, we do know that some of you filled in a form last year and sent it off to the school. Those 10% of ex-students, we thank you. But could you just humour us a little further? As you will see, our all-new form asks a few more questions so we would be very grateful if you can fill this in and return it to us as soon as possible, preferably before the end of the decade and certainly before the end of the century.

*What about my PRIVACY?*

OK, we don't want to publish every little intimate detail about you and your past life. (We'll just have a good giggle at committee meetings!) No, seriously, give us some credit for a bit of sensitivity and common sense.

We've no intention of publishing your phone number. Or what street you live in (though we'd like to let others know what town or suburb you live in). But we'd like this information so that we can keep in contact with you.

We'd like to let others know if you are married. And if you've got any kids. Honestly, you'd be surprised! Some of the most unlikely EXECS are getting married and/or having kids--some are doing both! Unfortunately, (perhaps you may think otherwise), some of you are now divorced but that's not something we'd publish (unless you really want us to advertise your availability!).

We'd like to know what job you're doing now and who you're working for. Or if you're still studying and if so, what and where. We'd like to know what you've done since you left EC.

And travel. We're not terribly interested in your weekend trips down to Phillip Island but we'd be fascinated to hear of your trek through the Punjab on the back of a yak. (Don't laugh--have a look at Thom Cookes travels further on!) So tell us if you've travelled overseas or in Australia.

We'd like to publish an edited description of your job and travel news so that we can let others know.

And if there's any other information about yourself which you wouldn't mind sharing with us, then please do. For instance, quite a few of you have kept up your musical interests since leaving school, in bands, choirs or just by yourself. Let's know.

*But I haven't done anything interesting since leaving school!*

*Nobody would be interested in what I'm doing!*

What rot!

OK, so you're not a brain surgeon and you may not have skate-boarded across Antarctica but we still want to hear from you. All right then, you may be the most boring little twerp that ever walked this earth but nobody's totally immemorable. You can bet your bottom dollar (which is bottoming fast at the moment) that somewhere out there someone wants to know "Whatever happened to that boring little sod, so-and-so?"

We want to hear from EVERYBODY. That includes YOU!

So find a pen. Now!

And before you forget, fill in that form.

Now put it in an envelope. Address the envelope to one of the following:

- \* Chris Livingstone, 29 View Hill Cres, Eltham 3095
- \* Pam Wanless, 18 Thoona Gve, Greensborough 3088
- \* EXECS, Eltham College, PO Box 40, Eltham 3095

Put a stamp on it.

Post it.

That wasn't such a painful exercise, was it!

## *Xplorations*

You'd be surprised how many EXECS are overseas at the moment! And there's also quite a number who've just recently returned. Some have been working overseas, doing all sorts of jobs, others have spent their time travelling round, visiting some quite exotic places.

Matthew KEMP ('81), who enjoys the rather special distinction of being both an ex-student and an ex-staff member has been on the run since April last year. He spent some time travelling through North and Central America and then crossed the Atlantic to catch up with Norm RIDGWAY in Devon before touring Britain and the Continent. Matthew's last few postcards have been despatched from a succession of exotic ski resorts!

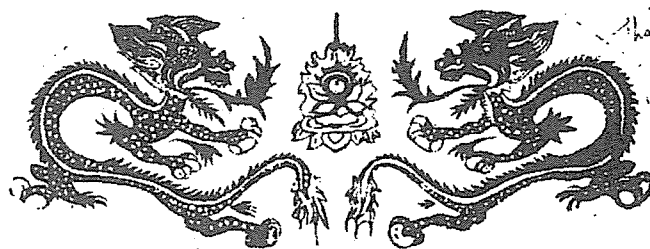
Also from the class of '81, we find Carolyn SMITH who's working for Arthur Andersen in Newcastle-on-Tyne, Paul McGRATH who's with a computer company somewhere in England, and Judy BAKER who's studying for her Ph.D. in Geography at Cambridge.

Virginia FITZWATER, (a member of the first HSC class of '78), returned home at the end of 1987 after two or three years abroad, part of that time as a Nanny. Lisa BURNELL also spent part of her 2½ years abroad "Nanny-ing".

David TAN (another '78) has been living abroad for years. After topping his course at La Trobe and winning a scholarship, he spent a month in Japan then a couple of years "screwing around" with IC design for GEC Research Labs. He moved to Oregon USA to work on CAD and at last report, David was living in Boston, working for an Artificial Intelligence company.

They're just a few that come readily to my mind. I'm sure you know others. I've published an excerpt from one of Thom Cookes' letters—I don't think he'd mind sharing his experiences with you—and we'd love to hear from others. There must be some fascinating tales out there!

*From Thom Cookes ('83), our intrepid correspondent in Nepal...*



"...Enough of the boring present—back to the glorious past. Before being marooned here I spent over a week above Namche (4000m) and visited the Hillary school at Khumjung, the New Zealand-staffed hospital at Kunda, the Thangboche monastery at the now-deserted Everest View Hotel, and the peaks surrounding the area—Taweche, Anna Dablam, Kantega. I got up to the ice-fall on Anna Dablam, courtesy of some gear borrowed from a couple of Danes left-over from an expedition there. The Thangboche monastery was incredible. It is certainly hard to argue with its reputation—"The Most Beautiful View In The World". I think if I lived there I'd become religious too! The monastery is constructed so that Everest, Nupste and Lhotse (the big three) can be seen through the main doors, and what must be the most hauntingly beautiful mountain in the world—Anna Dablam—pokes its head over the inner courtyard. The monk that showed us around was a scream—all the other monks were away at a funeral. He got up in the tower, blew the horn and banged the drum, spun the prayer wheels for us, showed us all the sacred texts, and then took off his robes, put on jeans and sunglasses and went skiing for the afternoon! (Try as I might, I just can't find the words to describe how beautiful it is up there—the landscape is so large, so magnificent that it defies any attempt to bring it into the world of people.)

"...sorry about my handwriting; some of this was written whilst curled up in a sleeping bag as the outside temps have ranged from -11° to 2°C. I haven't taken off my thermals for over 9 days and probably smell like a ripe gorgonzola!

"Whilst at Khumjung, above Namche, we had four days of brilliant sunshine, but because of the wind blowing off the glaciers the temperature was still only around 5°C. I came back down down to Namche sunburnt, unable to talk (due to the flu) but absolutely exhilarated. Everything I'd experienced in 22 years had been completely blown away. I won't try to sermonize about it—I think I wrote somewhere earlier that I'm having trouble trying to put some things about this place into words.

"...a helicopter from the rescue service has just landed at the airstrip with the Rimpoche (head lama) from Thangboche monastery. Apparently the whole main building has been burnt out due to an electrical short—most of the Nepalese here are in a state of shock as the monastery is one of the most significant in Buddhist Sherpa culture. This is an absolute tragedy and we feel it as keenly as anyone, being some of the last people to see it."

## Xploits

As we've said, one of our main aims is to keep you in touch with each other. It's not that you necessarily want to maintain a social relationship but most of you are interested to hear what's happened to people you knew at school.

So each issue we'll pass on the information that you share with us. From the reply slips we have so far, we can let you know about some of your old school friends but if we're going to keep this up, we need YOU to provide us with the information about yourself. (You are going to send us that biography sheet, aren't you?)

Just for the record, let me give you a breakdown of the replies we've received: 1978, 2; 1979, 4; 1980, 5; 1981, 7; 1982, 8; 1983, 10; 1984, 6; 1985, 13; 1986, 10; 1987, 9. There's some rather lean years there, aren't there?

Because we want to get this out to you before next Christmas, and also because we don't want Australia Post to make too much profit from our first issue, I've picked out just some of the replies for publication this issue. Please don't feel hurt or insulted if you missed out this issue—I'll see you get a mention next issue!

Tina MURRAY, now LUCAS, ('78) [*Diamond Creek*] has worked for a dermatologist, cardiologist, obstetrician/gynaecologist and a dietician as a private medical secretary. Her husband is with the Victoria Police and she has a 3 year old daughter, Emma.

David BURNELL ('79) [*Briar Hill*] is now a project administrator with Hansen & Yuncken after completing a carpentry apprenticeship and working on a variety of building projects. He was married at the end of 1985 and spent his honeymoon flying through outback Australia in a light plane. He now has an 18-month old daughter Celia and he is shortly to become a father again.

Tracey GLADMAN, now BERIMAN, ('79) [*Preston*] completed an apprenticeship in cooking and also a diploma of hotel and catering operations. In her capacity as a regional manager for Spotless Catering, she is now responsible for a number of catering establishments ranging from industrial staff facilities to school canteens.

Dolly MACKINNON ('80) [*Collingwood*] completed a B.Mus. at Melbourne Uni in 1986 and worked on a prelim. year for her M.Mus in 1987. She now supports herself as a music teacher (instrumental) while working on an M.A. in history.

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### Xit Beryl Nichols

*During your time at EC, you saw many changes. Buildings went up, pink sheds came down, staff and students came and went. But there was one constant to you all: Beryl Nichols.*

*Although she was appointed School Registrar after Des Davey had been appointed Principal, Beryl was actually the first full-time staff member of the College, beginning work in the*

*latter part of 1973. She has seen the school grow from its birth, nay from its gestation even, through all its early years as it sought to establish itself, into the complex that it now is. A remarkable experience for anyone to be part of, and to take part in. (She still recalls Des's raised eyebrows when she typed out a memorandum about the new school uniform and omitted a vital letter when describing the shirts!)*

*Beryl retired at the end of last year though I cannot really imagine her sitting in a rocking chair watching the world go by as she knits bootees for her grandchildren! As our newest EXEC I'll be tackling her for some of her reminiscences for a future issue of XX.*

*We wish Beryl all the best for many long and happy years ahead.*

Bartho VAN OTTERDYK ('80) [*Nunawading*] completed a B.Business in Accountancy at RMIT in 1984 and since then seems to have spent much of his life travelling. He's visited much of Australia and has been to overseas destinations like Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, China, PNG, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Amman and Europe. He is now an accountant with BHP and spent 3 years working on Groote Eylandt for the company.

Matthew MAGILTON ('81) [*Warrandyte*] replied in beautiful calligraphy which I suppose is hardly unexpected from an artist. He majored in ceramics at RMIT and is now a self-employed potter and picture framer. But his pursuits go beyond the artistic—he is

a kayaker, a member of the MG car club and a volunteer CFA member.

Robyn BRADBURY, now SUTOMO, ('81) [*Arthurs Creek & East Java*], worked in a bank for three years after her HSC and studied Indonesian by correspondence. On one of her trips to Java, she met an Indonesian pastor whom she married in 1985. She has a one-year-old daughter and lives in Malang, though she is currently studying back in Australia.

Diana JANICKI ('82) [*St Kilda*] finished her B.A. in Graphic Design at RMIT and is now a publicity designer with Oxford University Press. She hopes to work for OUP in New York or Oxford during 1989 and use this as a base for further travels.

Helen TRODD ('82) [*Myrtleford*] teaches Home Economics/HDS at Myrtleford High School. She's ideally situated to follow her pursuits which she lists as skiing, 4-wheel driving, bushwalking, fishing and camping.

Glenn JONES ('83) [*Montmorency*] recently returned to Arnolds Swiss Cakes where he did his apprenticeship as a pastry cook. He worked in the Northern Territory for most of 1987 and was a pastry chef for Rockmans Regency Hotel for most of 1988.

Margarita VALIDZIC ('83) [*Doncaster*] completed a B.Science Education at Melbourne CAE and is now a maths/science teacher at Camberwell CEGGS.

Claire ARMSTRONG, now VOUMARD, ('83) [*Donvale*] became an accountant with the Commonwealth Bank after finishing a B.Ec. at La Trobe. She has just recently married.

Sally GRAY ('84) [*Montmorency/London*] is another exile. She studied Early Childhood Development at PIT and is currently teaching in a nursery school in Paddington, London. She has also worked as a nanny and has travelled with her "nannyng" family. Also living in London are her friends Sarah VALLANCE and Sara CURTAIN.

Lesley ANTONOFF ('84) [*Warrandyte*] is another EXEC who is self-employed.

#### Is TURTLE TALK

- a. a primitive vocalisation of wet reptilian creatures or
- b. the newsletter of the Eltham Collegians Amateur Football Club?

The answer is of course (b)  
Or (a).  
Or both.



The Eltham Collegians Amateur Football Club, for the sake of brevity known as the Turtles because of their lightning reflexes, are in fact the only surviving legacy of the previous EXECS association. It may appear strange to some that the EC AFC includes many non-EXECS but it seems that this was perhaps the only way for the club to remain viable.

Despite their name, the Turtles are apparently quite an active group, both on and off the field, under the presidency of Damain Bishop (class of '81, '82, etc.).

They play in the Victorian Amateur Football Association and have recently moved from "H" to "F" grade (which remarkably parallels Damain's maths results in Year 11!). The Turtles have a new coach this year, Craig Bransgrove, and are suitably inspired by Damain's eloquent exhortation "Let's make it a big one!"

So if you're interested in playing footy with the Turtles, or if you'd like to do anything with the Turtles, I'm sure Damain and his team would be very happy to hear from you.

You can contact Damain at home on 712 0452 or at his place of employment on 680 7111.

### Calling 1988 VCE students...

Do you remember at the Valedictory Dinner last year we mentioned something about a **REUNION BARBECUE?**

This has now been rescheduled for later in the year.

Sorry to disappoint any of you who were looking forward to it in March. But we want to organise this thing properly. We also thought it'd be more interesting sometime later in the year when you were settled into your various courses.

So watch out for details in future issues.

She is currently running three businesses: *Classique Functions* which caters for film crews, *Home & Function Catering* which should be self-explanatory, and *The Shopping Connection* which runs shopping tours. Not content with being a businesswoman, Lesley also does part-time work as an extra and model for still photography, TV commercials, video productions and movies. Among her credits are "Evil Angels" and "The Flying Doctors". And as if that isn't enough, she has also toured China and visited Hong Kong and Bali. Phew!

Kylee WEBB ('85) [*Whittlesea*] has been majoring in legal studies and sociology at La Trobe. Another traveller, she has visited Indonesia, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Macau and China. She keeps herself occupied with voluntary work in community legal centres as well as studying Japanese and tutoring in legal studies.

David RITTER ('85) [*Kangaroo Ground*] is a management trainee with Tilling Timber and is a keen player for the EXECS footy team which is mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

Sally RODGERS ('86) [*Montmorency*] provided us with a complete run-down of the Rodgers clan. Jodi ('83) was married in December 1988 and now bears the surname CARTER. Tracey ('80) is now a fully qualified sister and mid-wife and is currently working at the Royal Women's Hospital. According

to Sally, she is still seeing the same guy she was going out with in HSC but there are no bells ringing yet! And as for Sally herself, she's been working for a computer maintenance company for the last year or so but intends to do a secretarial course in 1989. Sally also mentions that she has travelled around Australia with her boyfriend, Antony STRANGER ('83) who now has his own garden maintenance business.

Chris ENGLAND ('86) [*Warrandyte*] deferred from cartography to become an orchardist. He plans to undertake a farming apprenticeship this year.

Philip JONES ('87) [*Hurstbridge*] is studying music at La Trobe. He works with five other EXECS in a rock covers band called *Full Frontal* which no doubt some of you will have heard of, and perhaps heard (or even seen!).

\* \* \* \* \*

And that's about all we can fit in folks! Sorry if you missed out! But there'll be plenty more next issue—provided YOU keep US informed!

*Finally, folks, please put those biography sheets in the mail to us. And feel free to contact any of us on the committee. Pick up the phone and give us your suggestions. Or put your ideas down on paper and send it off to Pam Wanless or Chris Livingstone.*

Colin Anderson	646 1859 (H)
	369 2333 (W)
Liam Cody	49 2661 (H)
Sue Doerfler	439 5710 (H)
Lisa Kolbeck	
Chris Livingstone	439 1674 (H)
	29 View Hill Cres, Eltham 3095
Pam Wanless	435 2351 (H)
	18 Thoona Gve, Greensborough 3088

*Alternatively, you may send any correspondence to:  
EXECS committee, Eltham College,  
PO Box 40, Eltham 3095*

*or contact Alain Phillips at the school on 437 1421.*