

A new world of learning for the Junior Years



A 'green' five star future for ELTHAM

Get into training with ECTS in 2009

Foundation investigates expansion opportunity

Coffey tradition in the pool continues

Connections

bringing together the ELTHAM College of Education community

12 december 2008



A NEW WORLD OF LEARNING FOR THE JUNIOR YEARS

Junior Years students and staff will start 2009 by stepping into an exciting space designed for flexible personalised and group learning. The remodeling of the Years 1-4 building will take place over the summer break following extensive planning. Interior Designer Mary Featherston was appointed earlier this year to undertake the redevelopment of the facility based on her many years of experience designing interactive exhibitions and learning environments in early childhood centres, schools, and cultural venues in Australia and internationally.

Mary has a strong interest in the use of design to provoke and support learning. The theory and practice of the educational project of Reggio Emilia, from Northern Italy, has been a constant source of inspiration to her work. The Reggio approach has been influential in ELTHAM's ELC program and emphasises that the physical environment has a vital role in children's social and learning experiences and can be a 'teacher' in itself.

The remodeling project began with a charette – a discussion about the design process with teachers, students, and College leaders. A brief was then developed to create a space that would support ELTHAM's long held values of nurturing strong personal relationships, individuality, collaboration between students and staff to exchange skills and ideas, self management, teacher led and self-directed experiences, and community involvement.

The resulting design will see the Years 1-4 building transformed to create two 'Neighbourhoods' – each to be home to a community of learners and their team of Learning Advocates. The flowing and dynamic spaces will be organised to create a wide diversity of 'settings' to support a range of social and learning experiences. In addition to the familiar classroom settings, new places will be created for reading, writing, beginning sciences, construction and robotics, mathematics, digital production including animation, visual arts, role-

play, food preparation and dining, and game play.

The new spaces will encourage connection between Learning Advocates and students. The physical environment will encourage children to be active learners who can work independently and with others in long-term investigative projects. 'Specialist' spaces will enable students to develop technical, creative and expressive skills without the need for separate scheduled facilities. Engagement in the realms of reality, fantasy and the virtual realm will also be nurtured by the new environment.

Functional improvements will include greater access to resources and equipment to encourage the students' growing independence and self-management, new display areas, lockers and storage.

We're all looking forward to experiencing this busy community in its new world of learning in 2009.



Prep students Jack Banning, Pearson Woodman and Bianca So (also on the cover) look forward to discovering the remodeled Years 1-4 building in 2009



Interior Designer Mary Featherston has a passion for education spaces

GET INTO TRAINING WITH ECTS IN 2009

ELTHAM College Training Services (ECTS) will launch three nationally accredited post secondary courses from Research in 2009 with the introduction of a Certificate IV in Permaculture, a Diploma in Permaculture and a Certificate IV in Training And Assessment. The courses increase the ECTS total offering to more than 40 qualifications and courses ranging from Certificate I to Advanced Diploma and a wide selection of short courses for adults and children.

ECTS Manager, Julie Bowry-Needham, says: 'The permaculture courses will appeal to those who are passionate about creating positive change and caring for the world. Training in permaculture leads to an exciting range of career opportunities in the rapidly growing field of sustainability. This specialised field of study is fast gaining recognition for its educational, environmental and social significance with its emphasis on caring for the planet and all people, and the sharing of resources and energy.'

The permaculture courses will be delivered by Virginia Solomon, an experienced trainer who presented at the Australian Association for Environmental Educators' Conference: 'Environmental Education up the track - Hot tips for our community' in Darwin in 2008.

The ECTS Training And Assessment course differs in presentation from the delivery of many other providers' courses which are more traditionally presented. The ECTS course is delivered in a format that involves fun interactive learning methods, creative facilitation and group activities.

Julie says, 'The Certificate IV in Training And Assessment is essential training for anyone wishing to work as a trainer or assessor in the Vocational Education & Training sector. It's ideally suited to those working in creative, customer service, community, hospitality, teaching, tourism, or sustainability industries.'

The Certificate IV in Training And Assessment will also be delivered by Virginia who uses a creative and interactive training approach and Robin Clayfield, who is well known for her Dynamic Groups Workshops.

The next Certificate IV in Training And Assessment will take place on January 14-23 with Permaculture training commencing in February 2009.

If you'd like more information about ECTS post secondary and short courses for adults and kids visit www.ects.vic.edu.au or contact Julie Bowry-Needham, Manager, ECTS on 9437 1421.



ELTHAM College Training Services Manager Julie Bowry-Needham (right) and Administrator Suzanne Antonello manage ELTHAM's Registered Training Organisation

WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?

Visit our new ECTS web site at: www.ects.vic.edu.au to discover a range of opportunities for pathways into further studies or chosen careers, skill enhancement, mandatory workplace training and the pursuit of new interests and passions



SEE ELTHAM IN ACTION

If it's been a while since you visited us, an ELTHAM in Action Tour is a great way to get to know your school again. Come and take a look at our Early Learning Centre and our new Junior Years and Middle Years programs in action in 2009.

Join an ELTHAM in Action 2009 Tour at our Research Campus. Tours for the Junior Years, Middle Years and Senior Years commence at 9.15am. **Term 1** Friday 20 February, Tuesday 3 March, Thursday 12 March and Friday 27 March. **Term 2** Friday 1 May, Thursday 21 May, Tuesday 2 June and Friday 19 June.

For more info please visit www.elthamcollege.vic.edu.au, contact the Enrolment Office on 9437 1421 or email us at registrar@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au

2008 CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS EVENTS

ECCA Year 7 Welcome BBQ
Sunday 1 February, 4.00pm
Research Campus

ECCA New Parents Party
Friday 13 February, 7.30pm
ELTHAM Hospitality Centre

Class of 1984 - 25 Year Reunion
Saturday 14 March, 7.30pm
ELTHAM Hospitality Centre

Class of 1999 - 10 Year Reunion
Saturday 2 May, 7.30pm
ELTHAM Hospitality Centre

Class of 1978/79 - 30 Year Reunion
Saturday 13 June, 7.30pm
ELTHAM Hospitality Centre

ELTHAM College 35 Year Anniversary Dinner Dance
Saturday 1 August
Heidelberg Golf Course, Lower Plenty

Years 5-12 Information Night
Thursday 7 May, 7pm

ELC & Junior Years Open Morning
Saturday 30 May, 10am - 2pm

Visit www.elthamcollege.vic.edu.au for more event information

Please notify us of any change to your email address details to ensure you receive our event invitations.

GET CONNECTED! Get Connected with ELTHAM's associations and find out more about events and activities featured in this edition of *Connections*.

ECCA
Helen Woodman President
woodmanh@oztraia.com

EJLA
Ruth Bailey President
ruth@learningdegrees.com.au

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Greening ELTHAM
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ELTHAM College Training Services
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Friends of Football
Richard Day President
richard@richardday.com.au

Friends of Music
Heather Green President
hgreen@optusnet.com.au

A 'GREEN' FIVE STAR FUTURE FOR ELTHAM

2008 has seen a strengthening of ELTHAM's commitment to become 'greener' with the appointment of Middle Years teacher Nick Nicholls as Sustainability Officer and a 'Sustainability Task Force' in place to advise the College on sustainability in its operations and curriculum offerings.

Nick hopes to use his teaching background and continuing role as a Middle Years teacher to advantage to help promote sustainability teachings throughout the College's curriculum. He says: 'Embracing 'sustainability' as a mantra ensures a bright future for the College and we hope to take a leadership role in this area. Our aim is for our students to see themselves as optimistic and capable change agents in whatever endeavour they select for themselves during and after their experience at ELTHAM.'

ELTHAM is also excited to announce that it has been accepted into the Resource Smart Schools Program for 2009 (formerly known as the Sustainable Schools Program). This will provide ELTHAM with the structure to head towards being a five star sustainable school.

Many schools and the majority of industries see 'sustainability' as an environmental term but, at ELTHAM, we have a broader definition which encompasses personal, community, cultural, financial and environmental sustainability. However, caring for the environment is still a College wide goal and is being ably led by the rapidly growing and proactive Environment Committee comprising students supported by staff as needed. This group is headed by current Year 10 student and 2009 Environment Captain, Brittany Green.

On 26 November, the Environment Committee hosted a special Environment Awareness Day for Junior Years students in the Forum. Over ten classes of students rotated through eight stations with an environment focus ranging from making Christmas decoration from old light bulbs to working out where to put a compost bin, chook shed and fruit trees! The very successful event was run entirely by the Committee with logistic support from Gil Girardi, Jim Powell and Virginia Solomon.

In 2008 David Colwell and the Building & Grounds Team have implemented a number of initiatives to collect and recycle water more effectively and reduce our power usage. They will continue to do even more in the future including proceeding with a grant application for solar panels. With more students and staff across the whole College taking an interest and contributing their thoughts, plans and ideas to make ELTHAM more sustainable, we are looking forward to an even 'greener' 2009.



Nick Nicholls, Sustainability Officer and Brittany Green, 2009 Environment Captain join forces to create a 'greener' ELTHAM

Get on board with 'greening' ELTHAM by contacting Nick Nicholls at nicholls@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION



FOUNDATION INVESTIGATES EXPANSION OPPORTUNITY

Extensive media coverage could leave few unaware that thousands of Australian working families have been affected by the child care industry's main player, ABC Learning, moving into receivership. Recent media releases indicate that while some centres will continue trading in 2009, the future of a significant number of centres is under a cloud and subject to further review.

In the last 12 months, ELTHAM College Foundation has been planning to expand its ELTHAM College Kids Child Care & Kindergarten operation. The Foundation currently owns and manages centres at Eltham North, Laurimar and Wallan and has plans to increase its operation to five centres by 2011. Foundation Secretary, Iain Cowan says: 'The current situation with ABC Learning presents a potential opportunity for the continued expansion of ELTHAM College Kids which we are in the process of investigating very carefully.'

In the meantime, ELTHAM College Kids centres have been experiencing strong enquiry rates as parents seek certainty about their provision of child care in 2009. The growing reputation of ELTHAM College Kids rests on its commitment to personalised care with a learning philosophy inspired by the Early Learning Centre at ELTHAM College of Education.



Your child care taken care of.

ELTHAM College Kids is supported by a leading not-for-profit education provider.

Eltham North • Laurimar • Wallan
www.elthamcollegekids.com.au

ELTHAMkids
College
child care & kindergarten





REUNITING FRIENDSHIPS

Class of 1988 20 Year Reunion

A great night was had by all at the latest 20 year reunion on October 11, 2008. In a relaxed atmosphere with great food, people got on like Year 12 was only a short time ago, as loudly and enthusiastically as ever. So loudly in fact, that the music could not be heard no matter how much it was turned up! There were many shared stories and experiences, (Rebecca Stamm has eight kids!), smiles and laughter. There were a number of ex-staff present too, which was great to see.

When Swipers Gully Restaurant closed for the evening, Mark Rayson kindly offered his house for the after party which 30 or so people cruised onto with many not leaving until the early hours of the morning. Unfortunately, due to a 'Seniors' moment by Keckers Snr, photo evidence of the evening has disappeared. So you'll have to wait until the next reunion to catch those happy faces. If this night was any indication, the next five years will go by in a flash!

Class of 1993 15 Year Reunion

Around 40 students from the class of 1993 gathered at Swipers Gully Restaurant on August 30, 2008 to celebrate 15 years of life after school. As only five years had passed since our last reunion many thought that there would be very little to catch up on, but it seems that most of us did more in the past five years than we did in the first ten! Marriages, babies, child care, schools and the fast pace of life were common topics although many of us were still regaled with tales of overseas postings and holidays to exotic locations. Four hours came and went in a blink of an eye with us hardly noticing the time as we reminisced about old times before we all disappeared back into the night. Special thanks to Ann Plush for making the night a great success and we all look forward to the 20 year reunion!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CLASS OF 1988 David Cox

After four and a half years working in tourism for the Northern Territory, I now head up global marketing for a company with a suite of education and training facilities across Asia Pacific. I'm now living in Surry Hills NSW; a recent addition to my family of wife and 3 kids has been Alfie, a miniature wire haired sausage dog. Massive mistake!

Julie Gray

I studied Chiropractic for five years at RMIT and worked as a Chiro for a couple of years in Australia before going overseas for four years, working and backpacking. Now back in Australia and, after marrying Mark, set up a Chiropractic Practice in Mornington. We now have three children, ages 7, 5 and 2, and live in Mornington.

Nadine Kemp

Since leaving EC, I have completed a BSc in Optometry. After working in Echuca I returned to Melbourne and married Matthew Kemp (Class of '81) in 1995. We have four terrific boys. Between work and family I try to find time for my passion for Permaculture, cooking and music.

Amanda Leonard

Currently looking after my two very active boys, aged 4 and 7, and like all mums in this stage of our lives, driving to and from school, parties and sports events. I work three days a week as a Forensic Investigator and Consultant, which means a lot of report writing. Spare time, with my husband Grant, is spent entertaining and meeting friends.

Nicholas Macauley

I studied Podiatry, and then travelled extensively through Australia. Eventually, decided that my feet were too 'smelly' and preferred to 'smell' the roses, so I started a landscape gardening business. My first client offered me a job managing his rural property, which I did for many years. I then needed a sea change so returned to study and became an Architectural Building Designer, and moved to St Andrews Beach. Now I run my own Architectural Design business. Along the way I married Mieta and have two wonderful children, Minka and Riley.

Rebecca van Rensberg (nee Stamm)

I met Gavin, my other half, on the first day of uni in 1989, just three months after finishing VCE at EC. My uni studies got postponed indefinitely, I travelled overseas for

16 months, got married in December 1992 and got busy building the van Rensburg clan! We have eight amazing children, three boys and five girls. Whilst Gav continues secondary teaching, I am the appointed CEO of the home; project manager, budget analyst, cook, nurse, taxi driver, life coach and general whip cracker, on the whole loving the job. I will pursue studies at some point, but for now I enjoy training for and completing the odd triathlon. One day I will match Gav's Ironman!

Rachel Wallace (nee Alexander)

I qualified as a PhysEd/ Science teacher in 1992, worked at different secondary colleges and had some great holidays with the girls. Married in 1994, settled in Research and have four active, sporty boys; Mitchell 11, Riley 9, Tyler 7 and Jed 3. Still teaching PE part time and loving it. Involved in the local community; husband Grant and I run the local Auskick, we coach our boys' basketball and cricket and I also run fitness/exercise classes for the mums at school. I'm enjoying what life has to offer.

JOIN EXECS ON FACEBOOK

ExECS is now on Facebook! Both a Group and a Page have been created so join up to connect with other ExECS, chat, share photos and receive updates for events and news. Search ExECS and you'll find us.

GET CONNECTED WITH EMAIL

Due to the increasing cost of postage, many of our invitations and updates are sent via email only. To be certain you receive them, log on to the ExECS website and make sure we have your current email address!

IN MEMORIAM

Andrew Lancashire (Class of 2004)

In 2003/04 I had the pleasure of teaching Andrew Lancashire - he was one of those lovely students who you want to keep track of after they leave school and I followed his success as he went on to study at Swinburne. At his funeral, attended by a large number of former ELTHAM students, his friends talked about how much he loved life, his passion for music, computer games, multimedia and the fun times they had growing up together. He was a fun and funny guy, with a great (somewhat left of centre) sense of humour. He will be greatly missed by many.

Ana Tuckerman, ELTHAM Multimedia Teacher



Want to let other ExECS know how you are going? You can do this in a number of ways: 1. Log on to www.execs.org.au and leave a diary entry for other ExECS to view 2. Send us an email with a short biography to be published in the next edition of *Connections* or 3. Send us an email notification for the ExECS Announcements section on the website for Births, Deaths, Engagements and Marriages.

RECENT GRADUATE IN TOP ARTS

2007 graduate, Fiona Coath, won the Christopher Barnes Award while at ELTHAM and has since gone on to be selected for the prestigious Top Arts exhibition. The chosen pieces, from her Studio Arts folio, explored the relationship between traditional and digital art. Fiona produced six artworks that were placed on six computer monitors, connecting the manual or traditional techniques with a digital art environment. Fiona is now studying a double degree in Computer Science and Multimedia at Swinburne. Congratulations Fiona!



Top Arts Exhibitor, 2007 Graduate Fiona Coath

COFFEY TRADITION IN THE POOL CONTINUES

The 'Coffey tradition' started in the 1980s with a family of swimmers and water polo players and continues today with the Captain of EC Waves.

Melanie Coffey (Class of 1987) is the youngest of three ExECS who were all champion swimmers and water polo players. In 1991, her parents Peter and Jean, kindly donated the Coffey Swimming Trophy, (affectionately referred to as the Coffey Cup) still used to this day, awarded to the winner of the House Swimming Competition. Mel was Swimming Captain at ELTHAM in 1987, has played water polo for Victorian Women's Team 1984 - 1997, and represented Australia in 1989. She has coached the U/16 Victorian Girls Water Polo Team in 1991 and 2004, and played in the Inaugural National League Women's Competition in 2004 for Victorian Tigers. Mel is still playing water polo in the Footscray Women's State League Team.

As it turns out, yet another Coffey is making his mark on the swimming scene at ELTHAM, and yes, they are related! (Scott and Mel's grandfathers are cousins). Year 10 student Scott Coffey, voted Captain of the newly formed EC Waves Swimming Club, has represented the school at the last three ACS swimming carnivals and is keen to see ELTHAM College become a force in the pool.

He has achieved many successes at swimming competitions and

competes each year at the Victorian State Swimming Championships in freestyle and butterfly. He has recently completed his junior coaching course and is a member of the Australian Swimming Coaches & Teachers Association.

We wish them both luck in their watery endeavours and hope the connection will continue.



Scott Coffey Year 10 and Melanie Coffey (Class of 1987) represent a family swimming tradition that spans more than 20 years



For more information about EC Waves Swimming Club contact Coach, Peter Kitney on 0430 311 367



KICKING OFF FRIENDS OF FOOTBALL

Early this year a group of interested and motivated parents from ELTHAM met to establish a Friends of Football Group specifically for students playing Australian Rules Football at the College. The group has defined a vision as a basis for their focus and involvement:

The 'ELTHAM College Friends of Footy Group (ECFOF)' is dedicated to improving the profile and sustaining the proud heritage of Australian Rules Football at ELTHAM College. We are also committed to providing extracurricular activities and opportunities for the students as well as providing them with quality equipment and facilities to enhance their participation and appreciation of the sport.

The committee behind Friends of Footy comprises the President - Richard Day, Vice President - Ian Johnston, Treasurer - Brent Flannagan, Secretary - Rosemary Henderson and general committee - Nancy Cummane, Chris Freeman, Murray Howell, Joanne Rockwell and Trevor Wilson.

In Term 3 we successfully hosted the Team of the Year Awards Night, which saw almost 200 people witnessing the announcement of the Team of the Year as well as the presentation of Coaches Awards and Team Awards for each year level. The event raised a significant amount of money that will go towards purchasing some equipment and building the profile of Australian Rules Football at ELTHAM.

If you are interested in becoming involved in any capacity or want to help with a donation or sponsorship, please contact Richard Day 0418177868 or richard@richardday.com.au. To join our mailing list for upcoming ECFOF events please contact Rosemary Henderson by email rosemary@protechconsulting.com.au or 0418366000

EJYA WELCOME PICNIC

Each year the Early and Junior Years Association (EJYA, formerly ELA) extend a warm welcome to new and existing families by inviting them to attend a 'Welcome Picnic'.

The picnic is held in February at the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway. This year the picnic was extended to include families from across ELC to Year 4. Families have the chance to re-connect with each other after the long break and also interact with the teaching staff in an informal setting. Children have the opportunity to touch base with new and old friends and meet each other's siblings.

The picnic is a wonderful way of starting off the new year and this year's picnic was no different as once again we were blessed with wonderful weather. The squeals of excitement from the children as each train approaches are just delightful and set the scene for a year full of fun, discovery and exploration. We look forward to seeing many of you at the picnic in 2009.



Martin and Denise Hughes enjoy the 2008 Welcome Picnic with daughters Georgia and Chelsea



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE SHARE THEIR TALENTS WITH ELTHAM'S MUSICIANS

We all recognise the vital role that arts education brings to the enrichment of students through creative, cognitive and emotional development. Since the early 1990s, the College's Friends of Music (FOM) support group has contributed much to the lives of young musicians, by providing opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. An important part of our work is the funding of professional artists who interact with the student community across all year levels. Classical and jazz musicians and composers work closely with students, assisting them to find their own creative voices and extend their musicianship. This program encourages students to take a greater role in experiencing arts activities, both as participants and as active observers.

In 2008, Friends of Music has sponsored visits to the College by three artists. Melbourne jazz saxophonist Paul Van Ross provided invaluable guidance in the art of improvisation to our three jazz bands. His relaxed and focused approach assisted some 30 musicians from Years 7 - 12 in exploring spontaneous music-making within a harmonic structure. Noted classical pianist and lecturer at the Victorian College of the Arts, Glenn Riddle, spent an evening with some of our advanced and intermediate level pianists, offering rich insights into their music under study. Glenn's experience as a performer and recording artist with the ABC enabled students to understand better the composer's intent behind each piano work. Vocal specialist and judge of Channel 7's TV series Battle of the Choirs, George Torbay, brought fun and focus to the singing endeavours of our Middle Years Chorale and the Years 3/4 choir.

Planning is underway for Friends of Music sponsorship in 2009 of other musicians, including a focus on Artists in Residence for our Junior Years students. Financial support for these events comes from FOM fundraising at House Music, book sales and raffles, resulting in many hundreds of students having richer experiences in the arts.



Vocal specialist and judge of Channel 7's TV series Battle of the Choirs, George Torbay, works with ELTHAM's Middle Years Chorale

MIDDLE YEARS WELCOME BBQ

The Year 7 Family BBQ has always been a great ice-breaker and opportunity for students, teachers and parents to get to know each other in a relaxed environment before the year gets underway.

The 2009 event, to be held at the end of January, will celebrate the launch of the Middle Years Communities. It will bring together students new to ELTHAM's Middle Years with existing students and their families.

The event will be hosted in the four community areas, providing comfortable surroundings in which to welcome new students and families to the school.

Building on the success of previous years, this event really is a great way for the students and families to get to know each other. It's also very gratifying to see the parents mixing so well at their first social event at ELTHAM. We look forward to the start of 2009 and another fantastic ECCA friend-raising event!