

Silver GULLS



The official newsletter of Silver Gulls, Alumni of Geelong High School Inc. (A0059004M)

No. 59, June, 2024

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The **ANNUAL INVESTITURE AND ANZAC DAY CEREMONY** was held in front of a full school assembly. Student leaders were presented with their leadership badges and signed a pledge in the School Leaders book.

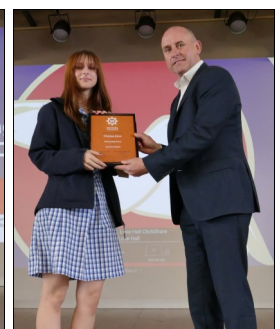


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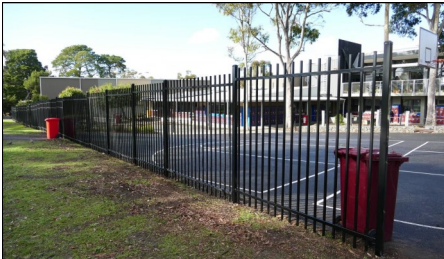
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All enquiries, story suggestions, etc., to
Jenn Colquhoun
5278 3844
or the above email.

A SPECIAL FULL HOUSE ASSEMBLY for the presentation of swimming and athletics medals and other certificates was run entirely by the student body.



Second TERM



▲ **FACILITIES UPGRADE**
New shade sails and fencing out the back.



▲ **YEAR 12 ART MAKING AND EXHIBITING STUDENTS** presented folios and emerging artworks to their fellow students. Staff, students and parents will get the opportunity to see the final artworks when the Art Show returns to Geelong High in October this year.

TOP ARTS 2024

The Years 11 & 12 Art students visited The Ian Potter: National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). This excursion enabled students to moderate the work of their peers in Victoria. Top Arts 2024 showcases extraordinary works of art and folios that achieved outstanding results in VCE Art or VCE Studio Arts 2023. Our students left feeling inspired by the creative processes, imaginative ideas, and skilful use of materials.



▲ A group of Year 9 students showcased their creative problem-solving skills at the Social Innovators forum, presenting their ideas to community partners and peers from various schools. These projects will come to fruition in Term 3, promising innovative solutions. Stay tuned for what they have in store!



The VCE (Years 11 & 12) Art Making and Exhibiting students went to see the *Cutting Through Time* Exhibition at Geelong Gallery. The exhibition showcased Margaret Preston's work alongside Cressida Campbell pieces examining the influence of Japanese woodblock prints on both artists. Students were given an introductory talk at the commencement of the session from the Learning & Audience Engagement Manager Elishia Furet who was able to provide them further insightful information on the exhibition that is a key requirement for students through Unit 3 and 4. Students left feeling inspired to continue to engage in their artworks they are currently working through.

VCE MEDIA students travelled to the ABC Studios in Southbank to participate in the audience and experience a live broadcast of Q&A. A huge thanks to the ABC for providing the bus and this excellent opportunity to see a television studio in action.





YEAR 7 CAMP

131 Year 7 students headed to Alexandra Adventure Resort for a two night camp. The students' limits were pushed with activities such as the flying fox, high ropes course, canoeing and the leap of faith to name a few.

The staff who attended were very impressed by the sense of adventure the students had, the way they stepped out of their comfort zone and tried something new which was at times even a little bit scary.

Well done to all of the Year 7 students who attended for their respect, effort, positivity and teamwork, all of which encompass our school's core values.



THE PUSH UP CHALLENGE

From the 5th-28th of June, Geelong High School students and staff participated and represented their House in the Australia-wide Push-Up Challenge. This year all money raised will go towards Lifeline which exists to ensure no person in Australia has to face their darkest moments alone. Each House is completing as many push-ups as possible during lunch time each day, with the winning House being the one with the most combined push-ups by the end of the term. All students are encouraged to take part and add to total for their House.

DAY FIVE TOTALS



LEIGH - TOTAL 9363



MOORABOOL - TOTAL 8959



BARWON - TOTAL 8505



CORIO - TOTAL 6024

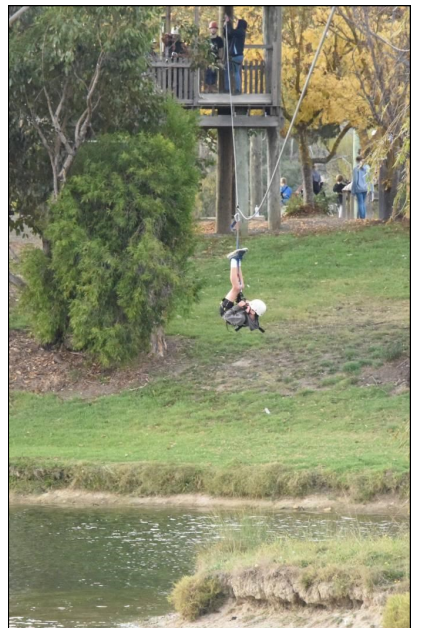
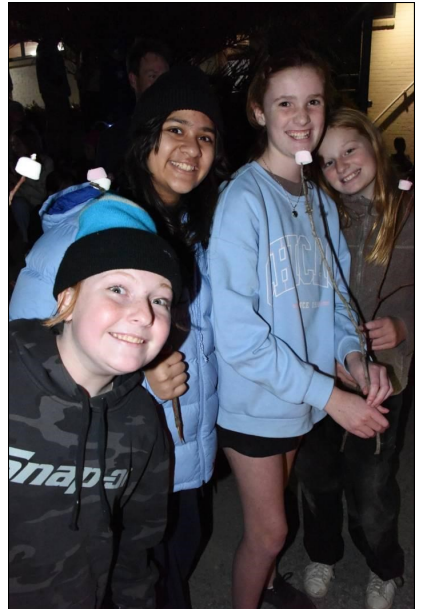
BE BOLD BE HEARD GROUP #1

The Lazarus Community Centre, Myers Street, Geelong, is somewhere all people can take a shower, wash and dry their clothes, have a light lunch, meet volunteers and receive support from specialist homelessness staff.

The BBBH Group visited and helped sort out clothes, prepared food and hot drinks for about 30 people.



MORE YEAR 7 CAMP



ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

The Accelerated Learning Program is for Grade 6 students who are looking for extra challenges in Years 7-9 and who are motivated and engaged learners who wish to be part of a program for like-minded students.

Acceleration means progressing through curriculum and learning faster, having more challenging opportunities and more emphasis on leadership and higher order thinking skills. Students in the ALP will accelerate in English, Science, Maths and Humanities from Year 7-9 together as a class. There will be less repetition of content, opportunities for acceleration into the Senior Years, a wide range of extracurricular extension opportunities. And a focus on deep learning and academic enrichment.

From Year 10 students will continue to be able to accelerate as part of our wider acceleration program across all subjects and open to all students. Students will be able to take part in debating, Model United Nations, the entirely student run newspaper, World Scholars Cup, our peripatetic music tuition program, bands, our orchestra, the school production, a myriad of sporting teams and experiences, student leadership training and opportunities, ICAS assessment competitions, a wide range of lunchtime clubs, the Australian Mathematics Competition, The University of Melbourne Micro-Mathematicians Incursion and Maths Competition, Maths Games Day (Victorian Challenge and Enrichment) and activities such as chess club, manga anime club and more.

Students are expected to be self-motivated and independent learners. Two key parts of the program are increased workload and faster curriculum coverage. The program is suited to students who are engaged by academic challenge, enjoy problem solving, are mature and committed to their learning, are motivated to achieve excellence, enjoy working alongside like-minded peers, thrive in independent and collaborative learning.

THE TROJAN WAR

by **A Slightly Isolated Dog**, Geelong Arts Centre

Year 9 and 10 Drama students saw the performance of *The Trojan War*, directed by Leo Gene Peters.

When Paris is born, it is prophesied that he will bring the destruction of the city.

To avoid this fate, he is sent away to be sacrificed. But this starts a series of events that will inevitably lead to the destiny his parents were so desperately trying to avoid. *THE TROJAN WAR* tells the story of the tragic fall of Troy.

The final instalment of the successful works from *A Slightly Isolated Dog*, *THE TROJAN WAR* is a raucous celebration of our ridiculous lives: combining theatrical magic, wicked pop songs and fierce wit to playfully explore questions around the current chaos of our times.

The students were fantastic on the day and spent time analysing and evaluating the performance upon returning to class in preparation for their assessment.

SENIOR GIRLS' FOOTBALL

25 Year 9 - 12 students competed in the senior girls football competition at Winters reserve. The girls came away with two wins, against Bellarine and Oberon, before falling just short in a semi final against Belmont.



MATHS

Year 7-10 students participated in the Victoria Rocks Timetables Competition. The students competed against other students, displaying their timetable knowledge. Overall, Geelong High School came 31st, with the students answering 47,147 questions. We came third out of the participating secondary schools.

World of Maths - Year 7 Incursion

Year 7 students participated in the World of Maths incursion. They worked in teams to solve a range of engaging problem solving tasks with a real life applications.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Orchestra has 30 students studying a huge program of pieces this year in readiness for their Spring Concert.

The program includes works from *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, *Palladio* by Karl Jenkins, *Game of Thrones* by Ramin Djawadi, *Jupiter Rising* by Gustav Holst, *Seven Nation Army* by White Stripes and *Bitter Sweet Symphony* by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, just to name a few. It is a very exciting program but a very challenging one.



CAREERS

All Year 9 students participated in the Careers week which involved students completing TAFE modules, finishing their RESUME and Career Action Plan as well participating in practical activities. Each student has increased their knowledge on workplace communication and being safe in the workplace through OHS units. The student's enthusiasm and willingness to learn while on site at The Gordon was brilliant.



ATHLETICS

Two of our students competed at the recent National Athletics Championships in Adelaide. Angus Baker made the final for the 800m and came 7th. Leo Strzadala made the final for both the 200m and the 400m. He came 5th in the 400m and also ran a PB and then came 7th in the 200m.



THE VICTORIAN PREMIERS' READING CHALLENGE

Students are required to read 15 books by Friday, 6 September and will receive a certificate from the Victorian Premier.



STRINGS ENSEMBLE

Suzuki Strings is our new beginner strings ensemble at Geelong High School this year. It is so exciting to see new young string players starting their ensemble journey with the goal to join our Chamber Orchestra later in the year.



HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

This was a whole school event where students from Years 7-12 and staff competed, running or walking around the Botanical Gardens.



BBBH #2

Half of our girls' forum group attended the second Be Bold Be Heard forum for the year, hosted by Belmont High School. We had another productive, empowering and inspiring day.

The students were involved in a range of activities from yoga, taster activities at Biolab, bracelet making with students from other schools and hearing from another amazing panel of successful women in their own fields. Our group had time to reflect on their goals and work on their action plan moving forward.

We are excited to progress with our goal of creating stronger community links, through supporting Lazarus Community centre.

VCAA TOP CLASS CONCERT

Congratulations to **Alex Aidt** who graduated Geelong High School in 2023 and presented his A+ Theatre Studies monologue performance in VCAA's Top Class concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre in April.

VCE Theatre Studies students travelled to Melbourne for this event to celebrate Alex's achievements and gain inspiration for their upcoming monologue performances.

Top Class Dance, Drama, Theatre Studies, and Music are part of the Top Class series of concerts that celebrate outstanding performances by VCE and VCE VET performing arts students from the class of 2023.

Alex Aidt received a perfect score of 50 for Theatre Studies in 2023 and Geelong High is very proud of his achievements. Alex is currently studying at Monash University. ▼



FUTURE ME

Year 10 students recently participated in the FUTURE ME program supported by Deakin University. The students were challenged to develop their Employability Skills, especially communication. The students focused on body language, tone and verbal communication. In teams, the students developed interview questions to interview eight adults. ▼



FOOTBALL

The Senior Boys Football team played in the Geelong schools round robin against North Geelong in the first game, playing very well, winning at the final siren. They then came up against Belmont High, who had been beaten by North Geelong earlier in the day. We just missed the win, which would have seen them then play in the finals.

The Intermediate Boys played some great footy, however the shorter 12 minute halves did not really suit them in the end with the result being two wins and one loss. The winner of the four team pool played Western Heights in the final, with them later being the winners on the day.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ATHLETICS TEAMS ON THEIR WIN!

Winners of:
 Junior BOYS
 Intermediate BOYS
 Senior BOYS
 Overall BOYS winner
 Senior GIRLS
 Overall GRAND AGGREGATE

GPEP

The GPEP class made 61 containers of fried rice and spaghetti bolognese that have been handed over to our contact at the Salvation Army Outreach Van. This van will roam the streets of Geelong feeding those who cannot prepare a warm dinner for themselves. A fantastic effort from our GPEP students ▼



NETBALL



▲ The Intermediate boys netball team One made it to the final against Western Heights where they were tied at the end of the game but lost in extra time. The team as a group were very impressive. The Intermediate number Two side came second in their pool whilst the junior team, many of who were playing in a netball competition for the first time, played well.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The first issue of *Friends of Geelong High School* was published in March, 1999.

That's 25 years ago. That's 50 issues of *Friends*. Plus over 50 issues of *Silver Gulls*, some of which have been as many as 16 pages.

There's been a huge amount of stories in those pages, many of which could bear to be repeated. I hope you will enjoy this one, END OF YEAR PRANKS. →

End of Year PRANKS

End-of-year pranks by Year 12 students have become traditional in recent years, some more amusing than others! Many schools find themselves daubed in toilet paper, shaving cream, eggs, etc. Placing a Property for Sale ad in the Geelong Advertiser is a bit passé these days, but advertising the Year 12 Co-ordinator's car for sale is still good for a laugh.

One year, the group dressed in combat gear and raced around the school and Eastern Park making horrendous threats and taking hostages (all in good fun, of course). Unfortunately, some civic-minded outsiders didn't view these goings-on in quite the same light and called the police!

Then, there was the year of the chickens. Probably the less said about that the better.

It is unfortunate that Muck-up Day (as it's come to be called) has become quite a destructive event with damage to school and property not unusual. There have even been deaths of students when pranks have gone wrong (*not at Geelong High School, I hasten to add—Ed.*)

So, the end of October saw the adult portion of our school community somewhat anxious about what might be in store for us and it was at the Farewell Assembly for the Class of '99 that the unthinkable became reality — *the Principal didn't have a lectern to lean on.*

The Great Lectern Heist

Questions were asked, concern expressed. Where had our beloved and indispensable lectern gone? Had it been stolen? Was it merely misplaced?

We didn't have to wait long to learn the awful truth. During the assembly, a ransom note was received, the presentation of which showed, in graphic detail, the dire straits into which our lectern had fallen.

We have your lectern, the note read. We demand sympathy and smiles or the lectern gets it ...

This dreadful epistle was accompanied by photographic evidence that, if the demands were not met, we might never see Hannibal (as the lectern is affectionately known) again.

The shocked audience demanded that the ransom be paid immediately and the Principal promised to discuss the matter with his colleagues as a matter of urgency.

Later that day, a response was formulated and multiple copies were distributed at an event at which it was felt the perpetrators might be present (the 1999 Valedictory Dinner at Aberdeen Chateau).

Unfortunately, neither the big cheesy grin (the smile) or the sheepish look (the sympathy) depicted by Principal Brebner in his response was considered quite good enough and negotiations broke down until, at the end of the evening, a resolution was reached and it was agreed that a ransom of \$100 towards the cost of the Year 12 Formal would be paid — and, until that was done, Hannibal Lectern would not be returned to its rightful place on the stage at Geelong High School.

And so, we waited.

The suspense was really quite dreadful. After all, generations of students had been lectured or amused from, even sent to sleep in front of, the Geelong High School lectern. Its absence was felt by all — but especially by those preparing for the all-important end-of-year Presentation Ceremony!

Then, a long two weeks later, a letter was received which, as well as reassuring us that all was well with our beloved piece of equipment, detailed its adventures since the dreadful kidnap ordeal took place.

Hannibal had travelled all around Geelong, including a visit to Belmont High School; to London, Athens, Washington—and there were the photos to prove it.

It appeared, too, that a certain prominent member of staff (APB) had known about the kidnapping—and done nothing about it!

The Aftermath

The ransom was paid and, with a collective sigh of relief, the Geelong High School community welcomed back the lectern after its almost unbelievable ordeal.

We were, actually, inclined to believe that it was all simply a practical joke in decidedly poor taste until, at a full hall assembly a few days later, Assistant Principal Best, suddenly and inexplicably, was unable to turn on the microphone, a fact which embarrassed him enormously!

A reprisal for turning a blind eye? Perhaps. We will never know for sure.

However, we hope that our lectern's travels are over and it will have a long and happy career at Geelong High School, in the company of, and supporting, a variety of esteemed speakers.

This event triggered a search through previous *Flotsams* to find evidence of similar skulduggery, but I can only assume that, either previous editors have shown enormous reticence in this department, or past valedictory students of Geelong High Schools were models of decorum, because I could only find two such events (and they were not necessarily perpetrated by a valedictory class).

Robbers Clean Out Quad

Such was the heading in the 1977 *Flotsam* ...

A daring band of robbers has broken into the internal quadrangle and stolen everything except the fountain.

When interviewed, the owner of the fountain, Mr. G. Goodwin, said, 'Thank goodness the fountain was tied to Room 9 by that hose or it would have gone, too.'

Hardest hit by the robbery was Mr. P. McQuillan, who lost his entire stock of spare pens, books and \$4 million in cash (stored in preparation for loans at 15% per day interest).

The robbery was first noticed when Audrey Davidson came into the quad at 7.00am on Monday morning, sat down on her favourite chair, and missed. Chris Katos noticed that his locker was missing when he arrived at 9.30am.

(continued overleaf)



Robbers Clean Out Quad (cont.)

Carolyn Krab is reported to have lost 8 tonnes of written notes, while David McTaggart was heard to say, 'I haven't written a thing this year because I thought something like this would happen.'

Nick Augerinos was particularly upset. 'I had a whole lot of Geography assignments just ready to hand in, and now they're all gone.'

'Notes and text books can be replaced,' said Jane Oldham. 'But what about my collection of pinup pictures of Mr. Henham?'

And this was followed by ...

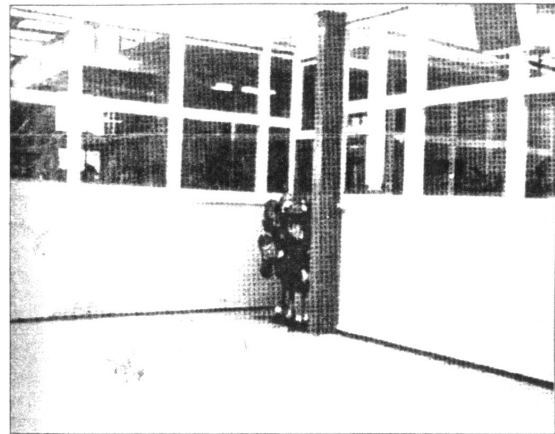
A ransom note demanding \$30,000 for the return of three students has been delivered to Geelong High School. A quick check of classrooms revealed a diabolical plot, as cardboard replicas of C. Rhodes (*Cecil? Surely not.*), L. White and G. Shepherd were found stuck, with chewing gum, to chairs in a Science Room.

When informed of these matters, the principal, Mr. C. A. Love, was amazed. 'I thought we'd completely gotten rid of chewing gum,' he said.

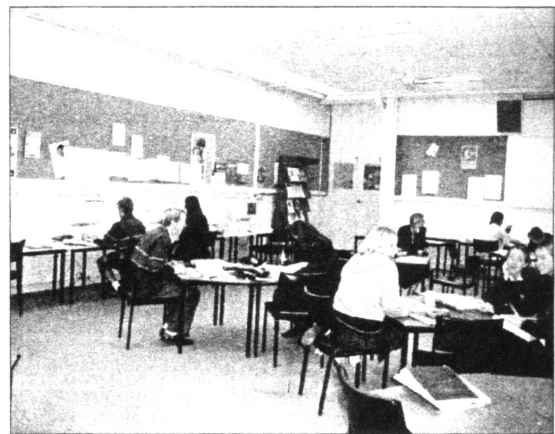
Legal expert Mr. J. Scanlon believes that the three students have hatched this fiendish plot themselves, in an effort to exploit a sympathetic and gullible public, and also to avoid the end of year exams. The evidence, he says, shows that the three suspects were seen during a Maths period, studying the building site for possible hiding places. Mr. A. Page and Mr. P. Henham, who have had many years of experience in deciphering unintelligible messages, are studying the ransom note for further clues.

Meanwhile, Chemistry teacher, Mr. M. Gifford, reports that the cardboard replicas are working quite well.

Unfortunately, a resolution to neither of the above events was recorded.



The Quad on that fateful day in 1977



The Quad as it looks today.

From *Friends of Geelong High School, No. 5 Autumn, 2000*

Letters to the EDITOR

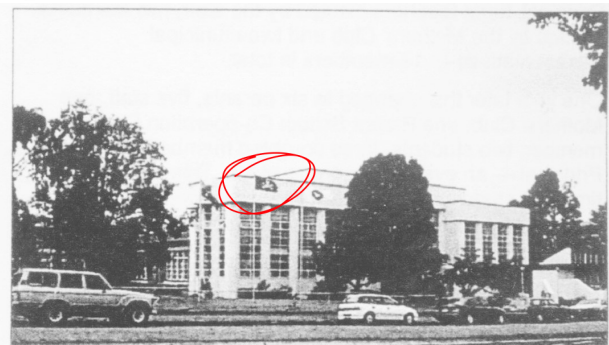
It was with some amusement that I read of the abduction of Hannibal Lectern last *Friends*. It brought to mind our previous year's (1998) prank which also involved a teacher who shall remain nameless. Obviously (Run a-)Muck up day had been planned from the outset of entering the school in 1993, and little planned was actually going to happen. Finally, in March, 1998, a group of us took the plunge, while in Aussie Disposals, of purchasing a skull and crossbones pirate flag for the sole purpose of running it up the main flagpole. Plans were made (which often were quite violent, like abducting the flag monitors, and taking the keys) and we were all set. Mr. Brebner had other ideas.

Day before (Run a-)Muck up day, we were told that we were not allowed to perform ANY pranks whatsoever. We were devastated ... but, of course, Geelong High students are resourceful, and Meg Sawyer obtained approval from the then Assistant Principal to run our flag up the pole. Except ... we couldn't do it in the morning as the flag poles were locked for security reasons. So, this unnamed AP unlocked the poles at the close of the day, for us to return later that night and run the flag up then. So in the end, Leighton Judd, Meg Sawyer, Kate Whitehand and myself returned later that night to raise the flag. We cammed (*camouflaged*) up, and headed out in Leighton's 1956 Morris (which sounded suitably like a tank - very military/commando), parked in Normanby Street, and jumped the fence. A conscientious citizen tooted their horn as a deterrent at that stage, and Leighton and I tied the flag to the pole while Kate and Meg kept watch. Over in five minutes, we decided to do a commando run through the school, after which we found the unnamed AP locking the flag poles back up. So ended the prank ... or so we thought.

After driving around town all day, tooting pedestrians and other Year 12 students, Leighton went back to claim the flag it couldn't be found. And so, dejected, we attended the Valedictory dinner that evening. Mr Brebner spoke eloquently as did the unnamed AP, who told an unrelated story of stationery. Seems the school had ordered hundreds of "Congratulations" cards which were to be photographs of the front of the school, and had agonised over the decision to spend a few thousand dollars obtaining these from a professional printer. Finally, the School Council acquiesced, and the photo was taken ... of the flagpoles, with our skull flag. The response from the student audience was predictable, and after the laughter died down, we got our flag back, which now resides in a place of honour at my house.

[It was later that we told the students that the "stationery" hadn't actually been ordered, but was a fine product of the one and only editor of this publication, Jennifer Colquhoun].

Andrew Ryan (Bell Post Hill)





Pictured above are Naomi Winstanley, Philip Gunn and Susan Threlfall.

Our Leaders of Tomorrow

As a finale to their years at Geelong High School — and in direct contrast to the very grown-up Valedictory Dinner the night before, the Class of '99 indulged in ... wait for it ... jelly wrestling! Well, it wasn't really jelly — it was a concoction made with cornflour and blue food colouring but, by all accounts, it was just as much fun to roll around in.

This was the brainchild of Julie Gunn (our First Aid/Attendance Officer whom many of you may remember as Julie Sleep, married to Wayne Gunn). Julie's expertise in such matters comes from many years in Scouting. Julie set up the pool(?) out in the park under the watchful gaze of Queen Victoria (whom, I'm sure, was not amused) and a large percentage of the Year 12 students indulged in this, apparently, quite tactile event.

Most of the staff was unaware that this was going to happen and got quite a shock when they saw the goings-on. However, the students were in for a surprise too when, after a couple of hours, two fire trucks arrived and hosed the lot of them down!

Exies **NEWS**



CARLY HEADLAM

1991—1996

Carly was recently appointed to Continence at Conquip as a dedicated Continence Nurse Consultant. With wealth of experience in urology, colorectal, community and mental health, Carly brings a comprehensive approach to managing continence issues.

Carly's expertise lies in conducting thorough assessments, focusing on urinary and faecal incontinence, skin integrity, diet nutrition, physical and mental health and neurological factors. Carly can be contacted at carly@suttonhouse.com.au or (03) 9876 3374/



SARAH RUS

1996—2001

Sarah was a nuclear medicine technologist but has chosen to instead help single people build confidence as they navigate towards finding healthy love.

Sarah is a Mojo Mingle facilitator and dating coach.



JONATHAN SCHUSTER (2003)

Jon came back to Geelong High School in 2021 to visit the VCE Theatre Studies students and the students involved in the school production of *The Addams Family*. He reminisced about his memories of school and the realities of life as a comedy actor, set/prop designer and maker, as well as working full time to pay the bills.

Jon offered sage advice to the students: be funny on stage and always be an interested and nice person off stage. And connect with all the theatre people—roadies, prop makers, costumers, lighting, technicians. Living by these words has helped Jon be employed, happy and very interesting.

Jonathan created his first movie in Year 11, an action movie called *D is for Dead*. Jon was encouraged to pursue comedy by his Drama teacher, Doug Mann.

When he was 19, he won the Raw Comedy competition, Australia’s biggest open mic comedy competition, through the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Jon then performed in Edinburgh’s Fringe Festival.

As noted on this page, Jon got many small part roles in a variety of TV shows. *Sex and Death*, an SBS dramedy relationship series was Jon’s first step into a more serious role.

Jonathan has shifted focus from acting to writing and *The Emu War*, which is currently showing at the Pivotonian Theatre in Geelong, has been years in the making. Seven ten-minute episodes were made for Screen Australia which have subsequently been made into the movie.

The movie is based in the true story of the Great Emu War of 1932. Jon acts in the movie, as well as being the emu puppeteer.



As Warren in **LAKE BREEZE**, 2013.



ABOUT TONIGHT (Channel 31, 2015) 1 episode.



The Geelong Comedy Showcase 2017. The showcase was headlined by Dilruk Jayasinha and Fiona O’Loughlin, and featuring Geelong’s own Jonathan Schuster.



FANCY BOY (TV Series, 2014) Jonathan Schuster: As Douchey Co-Worker, Netball Playing Douchey Alien (2 episodes).

FRESH BLOOD (TV Series, 2015): (1 episode).

ALL YOU CAN BE (Short. Chris, 2017)

UTOPIA (TV series) ▼ As Lachlan, 2017), (1 episode).



163 COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD: Geelong.

... and more appearances in TV shows.



GOCSY’S CLASSICS: As Dennis (3 episodes), 2017.

ROSEHAVEN (TV series): As Tom (1 episode), 2020.

TRUE STORY WITH HAMISH & ANDY (TV series) As Mitch (1 episode), 2017.

WINE: A BOTTLE SHARED IS A PROBLEM HALVED: TV series): As The Greyhound (1 episode) , 2018.

SUPERWOG (TV series): As Easy Examiner (1 episode), 2021.

According to Jon, the film is ‘quite wild. It’s very silly and outrageous.’ *The Emu War* won the Best Film Award at Monster Fest last year, and featured at Hard Line International Film Festival in Germany.

Together with another fellow Geelongite, Lewis Mulholland, Jon is working on the creation on a short film inspired by Geelong.





From the Tony® and Grammy® award-winning creators of Spring Awakening, Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik, and co-written by Jessie Nelson (Waitress), Alice by Heart is a touching musical inspired by Alice’s madcap Adventures in Wonderland. In the rubble of the London Blitz of World War II, Alice Spencer’s budding teen life is turned upside down, and she and her dear friend Alfred are forced to take shelter in an underground tube station. When the ailing Alfred is quarantined, Alice encourages him to escape with her into their cherished book and journey down the rabbit hole to Wonderland. As they travel through the tale, Alice by Heart explores the poignancy of first love, coming to terms with loss, and finding the courage to move forward. This world premiere musical encourages us all to celebrate the transformational power of the imagination, even in the harshest of times.

**SHENTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
25th—28th July, 2024**

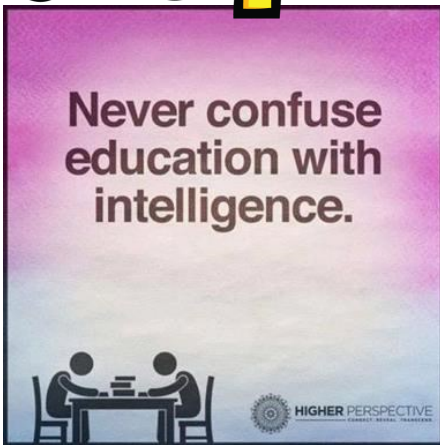


ALICE BY HEART CAMP

The production students headed to Warra Gnan Coastal Camp in Warrnambool for a two-day rehearsal intensive. After lunch, students dove straight into rehearsals learning vocal parts, polishing choreography and finalising blocking for the first half of the show. The second day was all about bringing the first half of our production to life. The collaborative spirit was palpable, as everyone contributed their talent and energy to our very first run through of the first half of the show. It was exciting to see our hard work pay off as we saw the scenes coming together. ►



Just 4 Fun



A CAUTIONARY TALE

Don't ever let your computer technician son loose in your computer until you have done a full backup.

It occurred to neither of us that there was any danger inherent in what he was planning to add to my hard drive.

But, my computer being fairly old and running on Windows 7, had different ideas. It crashed spectacularly and the move to Windows 10 (or more correctly, Windows 365) had to take place whether I liked it or not.

This, of course, meant I had to purchase new versions of Word, Publisher, Photoshop and an assortment of various programs which I randomly use (and probably never paid for in the first place, if I'm honest).

But that's not the worse thing. What's worst is that I've lost years of accumulated data—my address book, my favourite fonts, my colours, my brushes, my styles, my music. All gone. Thankfully, most of my data and client work was able to be salvaged. I only lost the most recent work.

I'm not comfortable with the new version of Publisher, the program I write this newsletter in. I'm slowly getting the hang of it but it throws a curve ball every now and then and invariably I haven't got a clue how to overcome it. For example, the scanner wants to save photos in a new format and I haven't quite figured out how to save simply, as before, in .jpg.

But I truly loathe Photoshop 24. And given what it costs (an annual fee of about \$350), I'm appalled that it doesn't seem to come with all the bells and whistles my old version did. It sort of looks half finished. I used to be able to say, without hesitation, *Yes, I can do that.* Now, it takes two or three times as long to do it because I don't know where anything is or how anything works.

Then, of course, there's email. We had to dismantle that twice (and pay for the program twice). You possibly got an email notification from me but we had to change that one. Something went wrong with Outlook and even an hour on the phone with Microsoft couldn't fix the problem. No refund either.

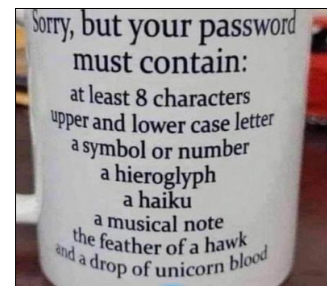
In the midst of all this, my bank account was hacked. I've only lost \$3,000 instead of what the bank managed to recover. But still, it's horrible.

And now my landline is not working and Telstra hasn't got a clue what's wrong.

I've never been very clever with the mobile phone and really can't be bothered having to make sure it's charged, or that I'm actually carrying it. I'm not interested in being contactable at all times.

So, one good thing is that my new landline handset can also answer the mobile phone regardless of where it is, and I can call out on it, too.

Having to get new programs means having to organise new passwords. And so many of the new programs require you to get a code via your mobile phone before you can put your password in. AND ...



Or, pretty close to it. I've got close to 100 passwords. They're all supposed to be different and I'm supposed to be able to remember them all.

So, one way and another, this issue is not its normal usual size and quality and has taken two or three times as long to produce. Hopefully, I'll be a bit more clever by next time.

Oh, and the Telstra man fixed my landline.