



**MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE**

# **Alumni Newsletter Term 2**

**Term 2**

**May 2025**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to this issue of the Mount Waverley Secondary College Alumni Newsletter.

In this edition, we take a walk down memory lane with Alumni, Roger Redford and Suellen Whitebrook who returned to campus in March for our School Reunion Tour. It was a day filled with stories as they explored the grounds that once shaped their youth.

We are also proud to spotlight the incredible contributions of our Alumni in the world beyond MWSC. Helena Ly-Lu, an engineer from A.G. Coombs returning to run a session on STEM for our students.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their stories, memories, and photographs. Your contributions bring this newsletter to life, please keep them coming!

If you have news, photos, or suggestions for future editions, we would love to hear from you. Email us at: [alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au).

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**Community. Choice. Engagement.**





## Meet our 1975 Alumni

Roger Redford, Class of 1975, reflects on his time at Mount Waverley Secondary College and the remarkable journey he has taken since graduation:

*"I really enjoyed my time at MWSC with all the staff providing an environment that was conducive to good learning & building relationships with the other students, who I enjoyed mixing with through the 6 years. I especially enjoyed sport as well and there were many choices so that was a great way to feel part of the place. MWSC helped me get set up for the journey of life and I have to say I have been quite blessed since.*

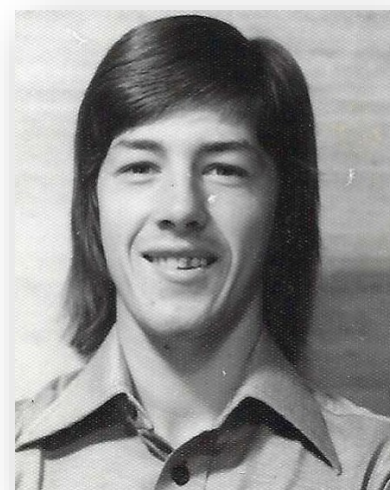
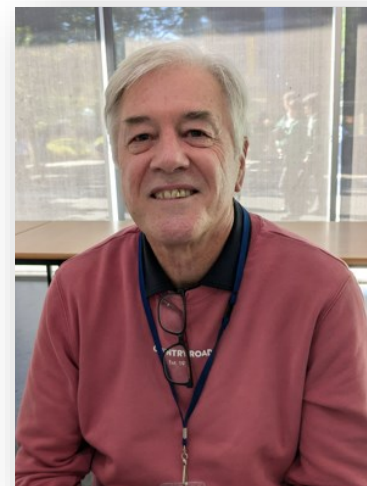
*After Year 12, I took a gap year to volunteer alongside my parents in Papua New Guinea, taking on various mission-related roles, including working at a sawmill in Kaupena. Just three weeks in Papua New Guinea, a medical emergency left me and another 18-year-old suddenly in charge of running a sawmill and managing a team of older local workers, communicating in Tok Pisin and learning to lead on the fly!*

*After returning to Melbourne to study Mathematics at RMIT, I realised it wasn't the right fit and, with career counselling, transitioned to a Certificate in Business Studies at Prahran College where I discovered a passion for practical maths and finance that has guided my career ever since.*

*I have enjoyed over 16 diverse roles from Assistant Accountant to Computer Programmer, Analyst Programmer, and including spending a memorable decade at Adidas Australia as an IT Manager. During this decade I married my wonderful wife Sharon in 1986 and we welcomed our three beautiful daughters. The vibrant culture at Adidas, filled with celebrity visits, made it a particularly special period. Later, I became Applications Manager across 27 divisions at Pacific Brands before moving into software consulting at Network 400, eventually leading teams that delivered solutions to clients like Laminex, Remington and Sigma. I also held the rewarding role of General Manager for two organisations, IBS Australia's Melbourne office and the not-for-profit Christian Books Melanesia in PNG. During our time in PNG, Sharon led an EU-funded project that brought water tanks and toilets to 17 remote villages, life-changing for the communities.*

*We're now back in Melbourne, where I've been managing the Applications Team at Laminex while enjoying the milestones of our daughters' weddings, welcoming sons-in-law, and the arrival of five grandchildren so far."*

Thanks so much for having me on site for the Tour and special thanks to everyone for the time they gave up and the morning tea provided (plus the newsletters & mementos). I felt rather special to be honest and you all made such effort for us visiting.



**Roger Redford**  
**Class of 1975**



## Meet our 1985 Alumni

Suellen Whitebrook, Class of 1985, reflects on her time at Mount Waverley Secondary College and the incredible journey she has embarked on since graduating."

*"Recently retired from Ford Motor Company my path to IT Strategy Manager certainly had some challenges along the road. Heading straight from year 12 to Uni I began a degree in Maths and Computer Science, I quickly learnt that the course wasn't the right fit for me. I choose to not complete my degree and started an entry level IT role. One of my first jobs was to install 10MB hard drives in PC's (before that finance teams would have 2 floppy drives, I with the DOS operating system and one with Lotus spreadsheets to do their work!!!) Over my years at Ford I had the opportunity to travel to the US, India, China and Thailand and really enjoyed working across cultures.*



*In my early years working in a STEM role for a manufacturing organisation I was one of very few women, I would walk into technical events with a female colleague and the 200+ men in the room would comment "the Ford girls are here". In the final years of my career, I saw many more women thriving in IT and Engineering roles and am proud of the award I achieved for promoting Diversity and Inclusion.*

*I often reflect on the skills I developed during my time at MWSC. Alongside the academic it was the extracurricular activities that provided me valuable experiences. School musicals gave me confidence to present to large audiences, sports such as netball and softball gave me fantastic teamwork skills and camps such as the Wilson prom hike in Year 11 taught me resilience.*

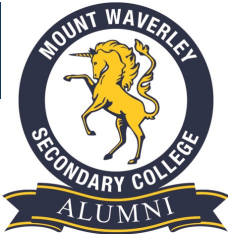
*During and end of year reflection Don Laird highlighted the strong connection we had as a year level and I am happy to say that 40 years on my closest friends remain those I made at MWSC."*



**Suellen Whitebrook**  
**Class of 1985**



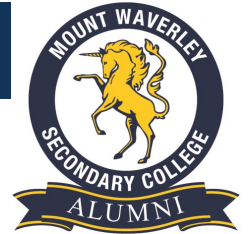




Photos from School Tour Reunion 1975 and 1985







## MWSC Alumni inspiring the next generation of girls in STEM

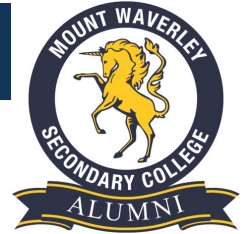
During Term 2 a group of curious and motivated Year 9 and 10 girls took part in a STEM workshop hosted by a team of female engineers from A.G. Coombs. Among the presenters was Helena Ly-Lu, an MWSC Alumni who has gone on to forge a career in engineering.

Helena graduated from Mount Waverley Secondary College with a passion for science and problem-solving. Returning to the college to speak proudly about her journey from high school student to working in the building services industry. Her story highlighted the importance of self-belief offering current students a powerful example of what's possible beyond the classroom.

The workshop provided students with an introduction to the diverse roles engineers play in designing, managing, and maintaining building systems. Helena and her colleagues shared personal insights into their career paths and the rewarding projects they have been involved in.

It was not only an opportunity for students to learn about the practical side of STEM careers but also a chance to connect with inspiring female role models, including someone who once walked the same school corridors as they do today.





## What are your best memories of Mount Waverley Secondary College?

"Friends and teachers"

**Brendan Cookson**  
Class of 1975

"Physics lessons with Mrs Raus, she was the best! She was so invested in us doing well, I'd love to get in touch with her!"

**Melissa Kindblad**  
Class of 2000

"Weekend job doing garden maintenance for the School"

**Michael Douglas**  
Class of 1984

"Having so many sports to choose from made high school exciting, whether it was playing for a team or just messing around with friends. No matter what we did, the best part was always hanging out afterward, joking around and making memories."

**Mary Negrepontis**  
(nee Panaghis)  
Class of 1988

"Cookery Class"

**Jean McInerney**  
Class of 1971

"Music department and playing in the bands"

**Nins Musumeci**  
Class of 1995

"Watching movies with Ms. Nicolazzo.  
Playing super smash bros with Mr. Newport  
Making Dr. Mullins mad.  
Getting lost in year 12 camp"

**Liviru Nagahawatta**  
Class of 2022





## Photos fresh from the Archives



School Life  
2003



Year 11 Fancy Dress 2021



Year 8 Tennis Team 2007



Year 7's 1985



College Captains 2017



Senior Softball 1974



## Photos fresh from the Archives



Library Committee 1968



Swimming Carnival 2020



Year 10 School Life 1991



School Life 1993



Year 11 Camp 2015





## Alumni News - School Tour Reunions

### Alumni School Tour

We are pleased to advise that our tours in 2025 will also include additional class years. Tours will start at 9am from the main reception of Senior Campus and conclude with a morning tea. **Bookings** essential.



### Class of 1995, 2005 Reunion Thursday 19 June 2025

We are also happy to include students from the following classes:

1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994

2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

Click [here](#) to book your ticket

### Class of 2015 Reunion Thursday 14 August 2025

We are also happy to include students from the following classes:

2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Click [here](#) to book your ticket

*If you have family or friends who went to Mount Waverley in the years listed please pass on the exciting news.*





## Stay connected

Website



Email [alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au)

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## Leave your details

Click the button below to register your details and keep in touch.

**REGISTER NOW**

CLICK HERE

## What are Mount Waverley Secondary College alumni up to these days?

We want to continue celebrating your achievements, big or small, and keep our community connected.

Whether you're studying, working, or travelling we would love to hear from you. Take advantage of our alumni network to reconnect, share your journey, and inspire others.

So, to all our former students—what have you been up to? Let's hear your story!

*Victoria Tortopidis*

Alumni Coordinator

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