



**MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE**

# **Alumni Newsletter Term 1**

**April 2026**

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the first issue of the Mount Waverley Secondary College Alumni Newsletter for 2026.

In this edition, we are excited to share an update on our 2025 graduates as they begin the next stage of their journeys beyond school.

We also celebrate the success of our alumni in the music industry.

A special feature shines on our Class of 1986 alumni, who recently joined us for the School Reunion Tour in March. It was a fantastic day filled with stories, laughter, and the opportunity to reconnect and reflect on their time at the school. Their visit was a wonderful reminder of the lasting connections and shared experiences that continue well beyond graduation.

Discover updates about the upcoming events and delight in revisiting cherished memories and nostalgic photographs from years gone by.

Your contributions and insights (stories, memories and photos) has enhanced this newsletter. Keep them coming.

If you have any updates or news to share or any suggestions as to what you would like to see in future newsletters, please email me at [alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au).

## **Community. Choice. Engagement.**

### **Featured in this issue**

Congratulations to our Alumni - Class of 2025 .....	2
Celebrating Alumni Success - Music .....	3
Class of 1986 School Tour Reunion .....	4-9
Alumni News - School Tour Reunions 2026 .....	10
Best Memories .....	11
Fresh from the archives .....	12-13
Stay connected .....	14



## Congratulations to our Alumni - Class of 2025



Congratulations to our Dux Jadon Tu who received an ATAR score of: 99.85.

Jadon has enrolled into a graduate degree package - Science / Dental Surgery at the University of Melbourne.



Congratulations to Zern who is enrolled into a double degree Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Psychology at Monash University Clayton Campus.

Congratulations to Audrey who has been accepted in the Royal Australian Air Force and has begun her training.



Time to start a new chapter



Congratulations to Hrithik who is enrolled into Diploma of Design at Swinburne University.



Congratulations to Ben who is enrolled into the Bachelor of Laws at RMIT University.

*We wish all our Alumni the very best in their studies.*



## Celebrating Alumni Success - Music

With such a strong and deeply connected community of music alumni at MWSC, it is always a privilege to share the ongoing successes of our past students. Today, we are incredibly proud to highlight two outstanding achievements from our former Music Captains.

*Mrs Tijtje Keatley*  
*Music Director*

### **Christopher Rozakeas (2021 Music Captain)**

Chris has been selected for the prestigious ANJO (Australian National Jazz Orchestra) Youth Big Band. This ensemble brings together Australia's absolute best young jazz musicians aged 18 to 25. Entry is fiercely competitive and determined through an anonymous 'blindfold' audition system. Remarkably, Chris is one of only two Victorian representatives selected.

The ANJO Youth Big Band will be opening the Friday night concert at Generations in Jazz this May, which will be a fantastic opportunity for our current students to cheer Chris on from the crowd.



### **Ananya Hariharan (2025 Music Captain)**

Ananya has been selected to perform in VCAA's Top Class Music as part of the VCE Season of Excellence. This is an honour that highlights the absolute top-performing VCE and VET music students from 2025. Ananya will be taking the stage at the renowned Melbourne Recital Centre in a showcase of exceptional solo and group performances across classical, contemporary, and VET genres.





## Photos from School Tour Reunion 1986

We were delighted to welcome back students from the Class of 1986 for a special School Tour Reunion and morning tea in March. The day was filled with fond memories as our alumni walked through the school grounds. Many were impressed at the transformations and upgrades that have taken place since their time here.

After the tour, everyone enjoyed morning tea and the opportunity to reconnect. It was wonderful to hear about the journeys our alumni have embarked on since graduating, their stories are shared on the following pages.



*We thank our Alumni for returning and look forward to welcoming many more past students in the future.*





## Meet our Alumni from the 1986 Reunion Tour

### Steven Quigg

After graduating from Mount Waverley in 1986, Steven pursued a Degree in Business (Accounting). Over the years, he has explored multiple career paths, ultimately discovering his passion and strengths in project management and people leadership. Steven reflects on a life rich with experiences, milestones, and challenges, including navigating different careers, as well as personal highs and lows such as marriage, divorce, and rediscovering his passion for sport. Today, he enjoys staying active through cycling and tennis, embracing the balance between professional growth and personal wellbeing. One of Steven's most valued connections from his time at Mount Waverley began on his very first day, meeting his lifelong friend Andrew Murdoch outside the Headmaster's office. Their friendship has spanned decades, with Steven proudly serving as Andrew's best man and supporting each other through life's many ups and downs.



### Andrew Murdoch

Andrew completed his studies at Mount Waverley in 1986, having transitioned from Clayton Technical School. He went on to pursue a double degree in Science and Law, setting the foundation for a long and established career in the legal profession. Admitted as a lawyer in 1997, Andrew has worked across a number of major law firms and now operates as a contractor specialising primarily in commercial law. Andrew's career journey has also been shaped by life beyond the profession. He spent 10 years living in Brisbane after relocating for his wife's work, and throughout this time built a family, raising four children. Like many, he has navigated both the rewards and challenges of life, including marriage and divorce, experiences that have contributed to his resilience and perspective. Andrew credits Mount Waverley with opening doors that may not have otherwise been available to him, particularly after coming from a technical school background. Reflecting on his time at Mount Waverley, Andrew's most memorable moments was his very first day—waiting outside the Headmaster's office to be escorted to class, where he met Steven Quigg. That chance meeting marked the beginning of a lifelong friendship that has continued since February 1985.





## Meet our Alumni from the 1986 Reunion Tour

### Frank Battaglia

After completing his studies at Mount Waverley in 1986, Frank went on to attend La Trobe University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Economics. He later became a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and established himself as a Public Accountant and Tax Agent.

Frank has built a dynamic career in the accounting field. He currently teaches tax and accounting at Victoria University, where he also leads a Tax Clinic in the city, supporting practical, real-world learning for students. Alongside his academic role, Frank manages his own accounting practice, Lancia & Co., demonstrating his ongoing commitment to both education and industry.

Throughout his journey, Frank highlights both professional and personal milestones. He describes marriage and raising two sons as both challenging and deeply rewarding experiences. More recently, he and his wife have entered a new chapter as empty nesters after 29 years of marriage. He also acknowledges the ongoing demands of lifelong learning in his field, noting the importance of staying up to date with evolving tax, accounting, and economic developments.

Reflecting on his time at Mount Waverley, Frank fondly remembers his senior years as a period where he found his rhythm and direction. While he admits to occasionally testing the patience of his teachers, he also recalls sharing plenty of laughter and gaining valuable insights from a wide range of educators along the way.



### Simon Goldsworthy

Simon Goldsworthy graduated from Mount Waverley in 1986 and went on to study a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) at Deakin University. He began his career through a traineeship with ACI, building a strong foundation in accounting before progressing through roles with well-known organisations including Henley Properties, Kenworth Trucks, and Yamaha Music. Simon has developed extensive experience across the finance and business sectors and now holds the position of General Manager of the Sales Division at Yamaha Music. His career reflects a steady progression built on practical experience, adaptability, and leadership.

Outside of work, Simon is married and a proud father of three children, each pursuing their own professional pathways as an electrician, a lawyer, and a secondary teacher.

Reflecting on his time at Mount Waverley, Simon recalls growing up locally and “coming of age” through school life. He fondly remembers school discos, camps to Canberra, and the Year 11 PE ski trip as standout experiences. He also values the practical life skills gained through subjects such as typing, sewing, and home economics—where, as the only boy in the class, he admits his motivation was simple: he got to eat everything he cooked.

Reconnecting at the reunion was a meaningful experience for Simon, describing it as a fantastic trip down memory lane and an opportunity to share stories from both school days and the journeys that followed.





## Meet our Alumni from the 1986 Reunion Tour

### Stela Matthews

(known as Stella Lionakis during her time at Mount Waverley)  
 After leaving Mount Waverley, Stela stepped straight into tertiary study at Advanced College of Education, pursuing a Bachelor of Education (Secondary – Science). Partway through her degree, the institution was incorporated into the University of Melbourne, an unexpected twist that saw her graduate with a University of Melbourne degree!

Stela's career journey reflects both resilience and passion. Her first teaching role in a challenging secondary school setting tested her determination, but through persistence and a strong sense of purpose, she found her stride by her second year.

She took time away from the education area for 2 years however decided to go back as it's the most rewarding and fulfilling work she has found. She has worked in Secondary Schools for 10 years, ran her own business teaching the violin and piano for 12 years and now is in her 7th year of Primary School Specialist teaching. She LOVES everything about the Performing Arts. She has highlights in teaching every day. However, her greatest highlight is watching all her students shine as they dance, sing, act and play an instrument. Her hope for all her students is that they find one thing in the Performing Arts that they truly love and can enjoy for the rest of their lives!

Reflecting on her school years, Stela shares that while secondary school had its challenges, music and friendships were her anchor. She found joy in violin lessons, playing drums in the school band, and singing in the choir alongside her friends. These experiences, and the enduring friendships she built—particularly with Colleen, Helen, and Barbara—remain among her most treasured memories, continuing to shape her life more than 40 years on.



### Cathy Trudinger

Cathy went on to study a Bachelor of Science at Monash University, followed by a PhD in Applied Mathematics. Her strong academic foundation led her to a long and impactful career with CSIRO, where she has worked for over 35 years. Cathy is currently involved in computer modelling of greenhouse gases, contributing to important research that supports understanding of climate systems and environmental change. Her work reflects both technical expertise and a commitment to addressing global challenges through science.

Beyond her professional achievements, Cathy has maintained a strong connection to her personal interests. Since leaving school, she has been involved in clay target shooting and the dog sport flyball, and now enjoys supporting her 16-year-old son in his sailing pursuits. During her time at school, Cathy was actively involved in music, particularly enjoying her participation in the orchestra for several school musicals.

She also studied German, which she later put into practice during a six-month sabbatical in Germany in 2000. Reflecting on her time at Mount Waverley, Cathy fondly remembers the friendships she formed and her involvement in music, which were key highlights of her school experience. Reconnecting with her peers at the reunion provided a valuable opportunity to revisit those memories, and she greatly enjoyed seeing how the school has evolved over time.





## Meet our Alumni from the 1986 Reunion Tour

### Helen Oakey

After graduating from Mount Waverley in 1986, Helen took a gap year before commencing a Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) at La Trobe University, then known as the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences. She began her career working with children with speech and language challenges across regional New South Wales and the ACT, building a strong foundation in healthcare and community support. At the age of 31, Helen made a significant and purposeful career shift, completing a Masters of Environmental Law at Australian National University. This transition led her into environmental advocacy, where she has since built a highly impactful career. Highlights include contributing to Greenpeace's global oceans campaign while based in Amsterdam, attending international meetings in Chile and Italy, and gaining firsthand insight into global environmental policy and politics. She also led the ACT's peak environmental body for four years, further demonstrating her leadership in the sector.

Today, Helen manages a national not-for-profit organisation focused on home sustainability, including energy efficiency, electrification, and climate-resilient housing. Through this work, she also oversees the publication of two sustainability-focused magazines, *Renew* and *Sanctuary*, helping to educate and empower communities across Australia.

Reflecting on her time at Mount Waverley, Helen fondly recalls her Year 12 chemistry classes with Mr Craig as a standout experience. His high expectations and ability to motivate students left a lasting impression, encouraging a strong work ethic that has carried through her diverse and evolving career journey.



### Colleen McFarlane

After graduating from Mount Waverley in 1986, Colleen commenced her studies at the University of Melbourne, completing a Bachelor of Science Honors in Psychology. She then gained valuable life experience through work and travel before returning to further her education, ultimately completing a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology.

Colleen now works as a clinical psychologist in private practice and is also involved in delivering mental health training, supporting individuals and organisations in building resilience and wellbeing. Her career has been both impactful and meaningful, with highlights including working with refugee survivors of torture and trauma, as well as more recently supporting frontline emergency services workers.

Reflecting on her time at Mount Waverley, Colleen fondly remembers the Year 12 end-of-year production and celebrations, as well as the academic encouragement she received.

Don Laird advocated for women in science and Colleen with others were placed in a progressive maths class and encouraged to pursue a science-based pathway. This may not have been her chosen pathway but it allowed her to explore many opportunities. Most importantly, she values the lasting friendships formed during her school years and connections that have truly stood the test of time.





## Meet our Alumni from the 1986 Reunion Tour

### Barbara McKinnon (Class of 1986, School Dux)

Barbara, Dux of the Class of 1986, exemplified academic excellence during her time at Mount Waverley and has continued to build an impressive and impactful career in education and science. Following her graduation, she completed a double degree Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science (Honors in Physics) at the University of Melbourne, before going on to earn a PhD in Physics and Diploma of Education at Monash University.

Barbara has dedicated her career to advancing science education and is currently working as a Physics Education Consultant. She is actively involved in the VicPhysics Teachers' Network and contributes to projects that support educators in effectively teaching physical science concepts, reflecting her passion for improving student learning outcomes and teacher practice.

Among her many highlights, Barbara recalls a life-changing scholarship that took her to Germany between Years 11 and 12. This experience not only allowed her to develop strong language skills but also opened the door to returning as an intern and forming lifelong international friendships. Additional opportunities to work overseas have continued to shape her personal and professional outlook. She is married and the proud mother of three young men.

Barbara's memories of Mount Waverley are filled with both academic and co-curricular achievements. She fondly recalls leading the school choir in 1985 and 1986, playing in the orchestra for school productions, and the memorable Year 10 camp hiking through Wilsons Promontory. Her journey reflects a strong foundation built on curiosity, leadership, and a lifelong commitment to learning.





## Alumni News - School Tour Reunions



## Book early for our upcoming Events

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### Alumni School Tour

Tours will start at 9am from the main reception of Senior Campus and conclude with a morning tea.

#### Class of 1996, 2006 Reunion

**June 11th 2026**

Click [here](#) to book your ticket!

#### Class of 2016 Reunion

**August 20th 2026**

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.

**Bookings essential.**





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

*"Making the best of all the opportunities offered"*

**Jennifer Clarke**  
**Class of 2020**

*"Year 7 and 8 when everyone was new to high school. Year 12 was great and also emotional as it was the last year in highschool"*

**Shubham Goel**  
**Class of 2015**

*"Lunch with friends"*

**Robert (Jun) Tian**  
**Class of 2020**

*"Being with friends and being part of the musicals in my later years"*

**Ken Jones**  
**Class of 1983**

*"The friends and the support system at MWSC"*

**Alex Yong**  
**Class of 2018**

*"Friends, sport, learning in PE and Japanese"*

**Jacqui Peters (new Shaw)**  
**Class of 1984**

*"Then Mount Waverley High, this was a school that prided itself in the academic and sporting success of the students. There were many stand-out teachers who were skilled and passionate, and who often displayed an endearing sense of humour. I am grateful to the staff and students who contributed positively to my formative years"*

**Marianne Robinson nee Hickman**  
**Class of 1973**



## Photos fresh from the Archives



Valedictory Dinner **2015**



Kate Eddy MWSC Hall of Fame **2019**



Hangin Rock Excursion **1970**



National Science Week **2006**



Music **1998**



College Life **1986**



### Photos fresh from the Archives



School Debating Team **2008**



Year 8 Disco **2022**



Senior Girls Cricket **1986**



VCE Fancy Dress Ball **2001**



## Stay connected

Website



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

Facebook



LinkedIn



## Leave your details

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



## I wonder what they're doing now?

What are all the former students of Mount Waverley Secondary College doing nowadays? We still want to maintain recognition of your achievements big or small. Take advantage of our alumni network to connect with other alumni.

So how about it - to all of you ex-students out there - let's hear from you.

*Victoria Tortopidis*

Alumni Coordinator

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