



MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE

Alumni Newsletter Term 2

June 2026

WELCOME

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

In this edition, we are excited to share updates from across our Alumni community, including a special walk down memory lane with our Class of 1996, who returned to campus in June for our School Reunion Tour.

We are also proud to launch our new mentoring program and extend a heartfelt thank you to all our Alumni who continue to support and give back to the school.

Discover the latest updates on upcoming events, and enjoy revisiting cherished memories through nostalgic photographs from years gone by.

Your contributions, stories, memories, and photos, have greatly enriched this newsletter. Please 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.

Community. Choice. Engagement.

Featured in this issue

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Alumni Placements



Johanna Lindsay

Class of 2022



After graduating as part of the Class of 2022, Johanna has returned to MWSC to complete her final-year teaching placement while studying a Bachelor of Health & Physical Education at Deakin University.

She is completing a 40-day placement at the school, with 20 days undertaken in May and a further 20 scheduled for August. Her return highlights the strength of ongoing connections through our Alumni community.

Johanna fondly recalls spending many recess and lunchtime breaks in the library playing board games with friends. Those shared moments have since been commemorated with a dedicated plaque in the library, recognising the space where many lasting friendships were formed.

Careers Week and Alumni

During Careers Week, we were excited to welcome back our Alumni, Helena Ly-Lu, Class of 2018 to inspire students interested in STEM and Engineering pathways.

Students in Years 9 and 10 participated in a Girls in STEM incursion designed to encourage young women to explore future careers in engineering.

Helena Ly-Lu completed a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering at RMIT University and began her graduate role with A.G. Coombs.

Also joining the audience were two of our Class of 2024 Alumni, Matt Taylor and Erica Teoh who are currently in the 2nd year of their Engineering degree at Monash University.



Helena Ly-Lu

Class of 2018





Updates on our Alumni



Currently studying a double degree in Electrical Engineering and Commerce (Finance), Matthew is undertaking a five-year Monash University journey. One his recent return to school, he reflected on the strong friendships formed during school and even earlier at Mount Waverley North Primary School. Some of the favorite memories from school included the Year 10 Camp and the Year 12 Camp mud race, which brought students together and created lasting connections. We look forward to following and sharing more of Matthew's journey through our Alumni community.



Matthew Taylor
Class of 2024



After graduating as part of the Class of 2024, Erica is now in her second year studying Mechanical Engineering at Monash University, with aspirations to continue into a Masters degree in the future. One of her favorite memories from school was the Year 12 Camp, which created lasting friendships and unforgettable experiences. We look forward to following her engineering journey through our Alumni community.



Erica Teoh
Class of 2024

We wish all our Alumni the very best



Lauching our new Mentoring Program

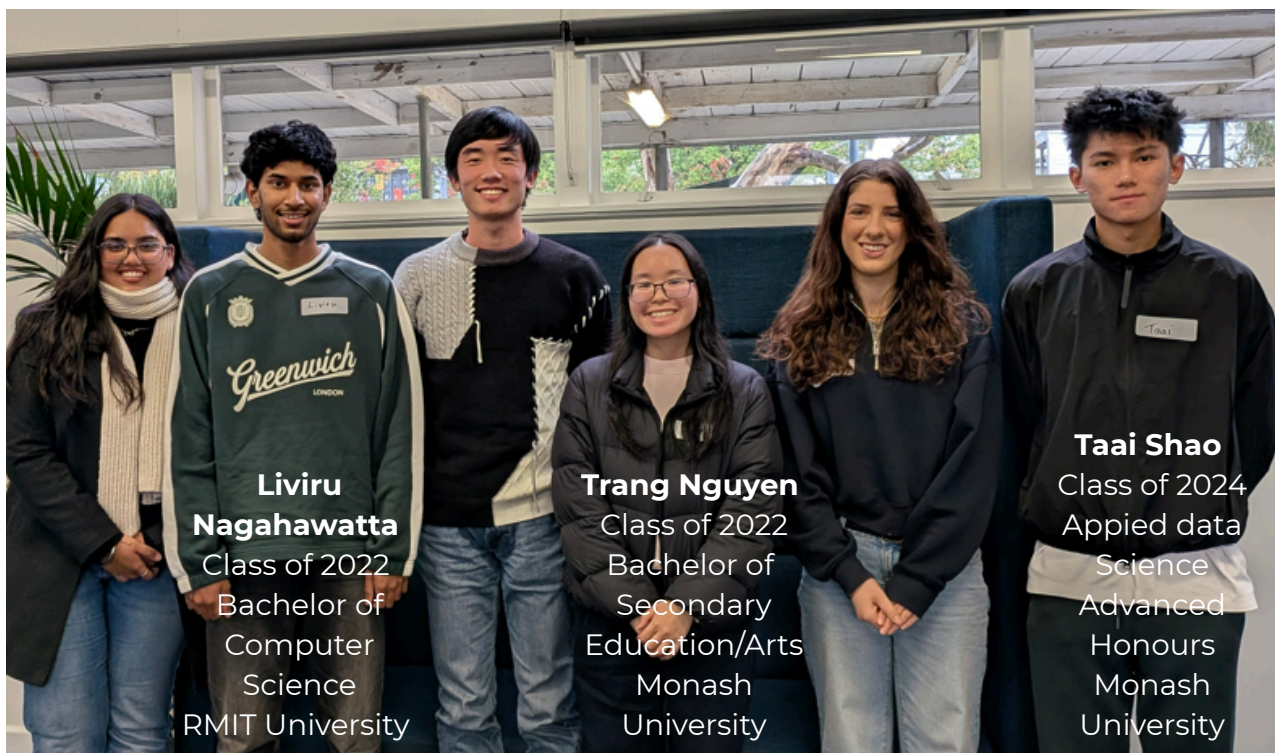
Alumni, Careers and Wellbeing teams hosted an Orientation Session in May to launch our new Alumni Mentoring Program.

The program aims to connect recent graduates with current students through meaningful mentoring relationships. By sharing their experiences and insights, alumni mentors can provide encouragement, guidance, and a trusted support person for students as they explore their future pathways.

As the program begins, the Alumni, Careers and Wellbeing teams will work closely with the subschools and staff to identify students who may particularly benefit from the opportunity.

A special thank you to the alumni who participated in this session. Our alumni are currently studying across a range of fields and are all at different stages of their university journeys. Their willingness to share their experiences and support current students is greatly appreciated.

We are excited to see the positive impact this program will have on both our students and alumni community.



Ananvi Jindal
Class of 2025
Bachelor of Arts
(Psychology)
Monash
University

Bowen Chen
Class of 2022
Bachelor of
Psychology
(Honours)
Monash
University

Georgia Kaminis
Class of 2024
Bachelor of
Law/Arts
Monash
University

**Liviru
Nagahawatta**
Class of 2022
Bachelor of
Computer
Science
RMIT University

Trang Nguyen
Class of 2022
Bachelor of
Secondary
Education/Arts
Monash
University

Taii Shao
Class of 2024
Appied data
Science
Advanced
Honours
Monash
University



Photos from School Tour Reunion 1996

We were delighted to welcome back students from the Class of 1996 for a special School Tour Reunion and morning tea in June. The day was filled with fond memories as our alumni walked through the school grounds. They were impressed at the transformations and upgrades that have taken place since their time here. 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 1996 Reunion Tour

Emily Taylor (nee Lang)

After graduating in 1996, Emily followed her passion for music by enrolling at Box Hill TAFE, where she completed a three-year Advanced Diploma of Music. She then moved to Sydney, where she spent the next 14 years working at a school campsite, helping to run horse riding activities and a range of outdoor education programs.

Emily later combined her love of music and education by teaching saxophone and clarinet at an independent Christian school. Today, she has taken her career in a different direction and works as a Department Manager in Fruit and Vegetables at Woolworths, where she enjoys leading a team and serving her local community.

Music was a major part of Emily's school life. She was heavily involved in school productions, performing in the orchestra on both the saxophone and clarinet, and was an active member of the school band. Through these experiences, she had the opportunity to perform at a variety of venues and events, including the Antipodes Festival, Chadstone Shopping Centre, and in front of notable figures such as Jeff Kennett.

One of Emily's fondest memories is of her music teacher, Elizabeth Exintaris, whose encouragement and leadership helped shape her love of music. She also remembers her Work Experience placements, spending one week at a local primary school in East Oakleigh and another at a music store in Richmond, both of which gave her valuable insights into future career possibilities.



"Was great to see the school and all the changes.".....Emily 11th June 2026



Meet our Alumni from the 1996 Reunion Tour

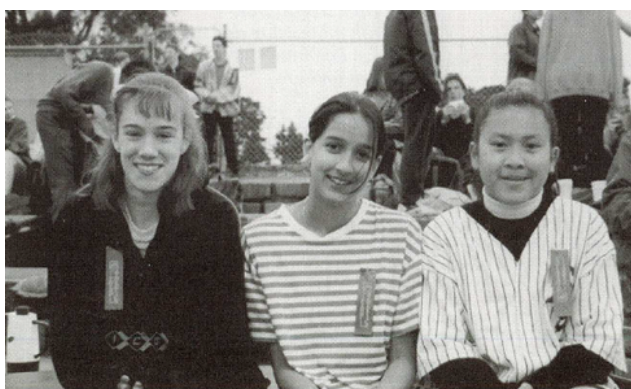
Sarah McGilvery (nee Malouf)

After graduating in 1996, Sarah enrolled at RMIT University, completing a Bachelor of Business (Accounting). Her first professional role was at Hertz Head Office in Melbourne, where she worked as an Accounts Clerk in the General Accounts Department. She later joined Adaptalift, spending an impressive 17 years in the Finance Department.

Looking for a new challenge and a more people-focused career, Sarah began training to become a swim teacher. Although her plans were temporarily delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, she completed her qualifications once restrictions eased and has since been working at an independent swim school. The role has proven incredibly rewarding, particularly through supporting and teaching many neurodiverse students. Her financial expertise has also remained valuable, and she now combines her teaching role with responsibilities as the swim school's Finance Manager.



Sarah has many fond memories of her time at school. Her Work Experience placements included one week at a local primary school in Syndal South and another at Veterinary Clinic. While she had a strong passion for animals and once considered a veterinary career, she laughs that her chemistry results encouraged her to pursue a different path. She particularly enjoyed Years 11 and 12, describing them as some of her best school years because she was surrounded by like-minded friends and classmates. One of the most significant experiences of Sarah's school years was participating in the 1995 Student Exchange Summer Study Tour to Japan. Spending three months overseas was a life-changing experience that transformed her confidence and independence. Previously a quiet student, Sarah returned with a newfound sense of self-assurance, and many teachers commented on the positive change they saw in her. She credits the experience as a major influence on the person she has become today.



House Sports 1993



Japan Tour 1994



Meet our Alumni from the 1996 Reunion Tour

Natalie Beale

After graduating in 1996, Natalie pursued her passion for food and hospitality by enrolling at Box Hill TAFE, where she completed a three-year Advanced Diploma of Hospitality. Her studies led to a successful career as a chef, and over the next 22 years she worked in a range of prestigious kitchens, including the renowned Sofitel Melbourne on Collins. Along the way, she had the opportunity to work with well-known chefs such as Gary Mehigan and George Calombaris.

After more than two decades in the hospitality industry, Natalie decided it was time for a change. Having always enjoyed working with numbers, she transitioned into the finance sector, joining DuluxGroup in an accounts payable data entry role. Determined to build her skills, she returned to study in the evenings and completed her accounting qualifications within two years, establishing a new career path in finance.

Natalie traces her love of hospitality back to her school days. During her Work Experience placement, she spent two weeks in the kitchen at Sizzler Ferntree Gully, an experience that cemented her desire to become a chef. At school, her favourite subjects were Home Economics and Accounting Studies, which in many ways foreshadowed the two careers she would go on to enjoy. She was also involved in the school productions, contributing behind the scenes in backstage roles. Looking back, Natalie appreciates the opportunities school provided to explore her interests and discover the passions that would shape her future career journey.



Valedictory Dinner
1996

"It was nice to meet you & Matt for the 1996 reunion tour, plus your current principal Karen. It was great to see the school 30 years after leaving, still a lot is the same, but also some great upgrades & changes with the new buildings since the fire back in the early 2000's, the tour brought back so many memories, plus reconnecting with Sarah & Emily after 30 years, it was a great morning."Natalie 11th June 2026



Alumni Giving Back – THANK YOU!

Hampar Delice

A big thank you to Hampar for continuing to support our students by providing Work Experience opportunities. Support from Alumni like Hampar goes a long way in helping our students explore future career pathways. Hampar fondly remembers his own Work Experience placement, spending two weeks working for a photo developer in the city, collecting film from camera stores and delivering developed photos back to customers. The experience taught him valuable lessons about the workplace and the importance of trying new opportunities.



A true local success story, Hampar grew up in the local community, attended the school, and has spent his career building and supporting a local business. His journey is a wonderful example of the strong connections that exist between our school and the wider community. After graduating as part of the Class of 1982, Hampar was planning to study Accounting at RMIT. However, he and one of his teachers realised that a career sitting behind a desk probably wasn't the right fit for someone who enjoyed being active and working with his hands. Unsure of what path to take, Hampar tried a variety of jobs, including clothing design and sales, whilst working part-time at a local mechanic workshop as a petrol operator. When an opportunity arose to begin a motor mechanic apprenticeship, Hampar decided to give it a go. "How hard can it be?" he thought. He completed his apprenticeship at TAFE and quickly discovered a passion for the trade. What started as an unexpected opportunity became a lifelong career. Working with his hands, solving problems, and learning about cars felt like a natural fit. Along the way, he also met his wife, making the experience even more rewarding. Years later, when the workshop owners decided to sell, Hampar purchased the business. He has now proudly owned and operated the local workshop for more than 22 years. Today, the business remains a family affair. Hampar's son, who is also a qualified motor mechanic, works alongside him and is preparing to take over the business in the future, continuing the family's connection to the local community.

Outside of work, Hampar remains incredibly active. He has completed numerous marathons and, in 2022, proudly won a bronze medal in speed skating.



His story is a wonderful reminder that career pathways are rarely linear and that sometimes the best opportunities are the ones you never planned for.

You can find Hampar at J&S Service Centre in Mount Waverley.



Alumni News - School Tour Reunions



Book early for our upcoming Events

Alumni School Tour

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

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?

"Ms Dureau the awesome maths teacher"

Julia Paterson
Class of 2016

"Japan trip and school productions"
Michelle Lukaczynski
Class of 2000

"Art classes, English literature."

Natalie Ajay
Class of 2007

"Home Economics and the Hospitality Course"

Emma White
Class of 1999

"The friends and the support system at MWSC"

Alex Yong
Class of 2018

"Inter-school sport days and carnivals, enjoying participating together"

Emma Tiemens
Class of 2019

"Teachers who were passionate about delivering high quality education. Many great friendships and a supportive and united front from all students as we embarked on Year 12 together"

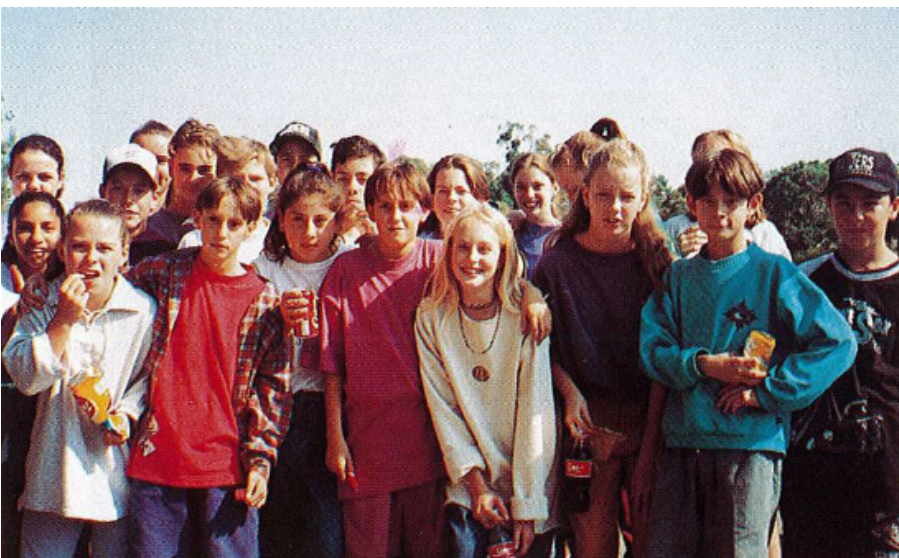
Matthew Burgess
Class of 1995



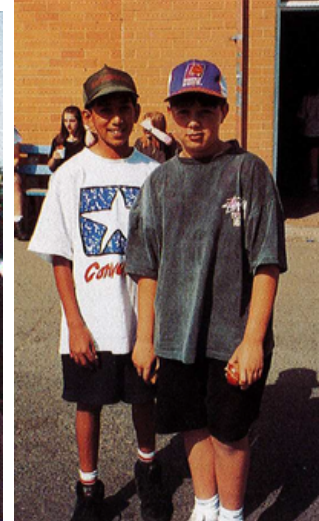
Photos fresh from the Archives



Form 4 D 1973



Casual Clothes Day - Fund Raising 1994

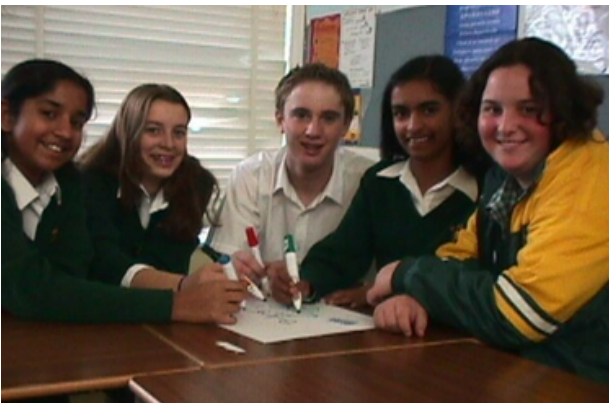




Photos fresh from the Archives



Year 8 Camp
2007



SCRAM team
2002



Doing things, going places
1993



Bake Sale
2018



Senior Baseballers
2004



Stay connected

Website



Email 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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