

MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE

Alumni Newsletter Term 3

September 2026

WELCOME

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

We are excited to announce that the Alumni Program is now on Instagram! Follow [@mwsc_alumni_official](https://www.instagram.com/mwsc_alumni_official) and stay connected with our growing Alumni community.

In this edition, we reconnect with the Class of 2016, who recently returned to Mount Waverley for our School Reunion Tour. It was wonderful to welcome them back, hear their stories, reminisce about their school days and discover where life has taken them since graduating.

We also celebrate the ways our Alumni continue to give back to the College, including with our Year 10 students at our annual Tertiary Expo and with the College Production.

Take a trip down memory lane as we revisit cherished memories, and photographs from years gone by.

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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Future Options Day and Alumni

In the month of July the college held its annual Tertiary Expo for our Year 10's. It was a fantastic success, and one of the highlights was welcoming back several of our alumni who represented their current industries while sharing their own journey from Mount Waverley Secondary College to where they are today.

Students had the opportunity to hear from Peter (Class of 2016) from the Australian Defence Force (ADF), Jessica (Class of 2006) and Juliana (Class of 2012) from the RSPCA, Kavi from Monash University, Jarm and Lisa (Class of 1991) from the Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC), and Helena (Class of 2018) from AG Coombs. While each represented a different organisation and career pathway, what made the day even more special was that they are all proud MWSC alumni.

We are incredibly grateful that our alumni continue to give back to the College by sharing their knowledge and experiences. Read more about their career journeys on the following pages.





Updates on our Alumni

Juliana Xue

After graduating from MWSC in 2012, Juliana continued her studies at university and is now making a meaningful difference as a Behaviour, Prevention and Outreach Veterinarian at the RSPCA.

One of her biggest challenges was moving to Australia at the age of 13 and learning to navigate a new country while developing her English skills. With the support of her family, friends, and her English teacher at MWSC, Juliana was able to overcome these challenges and achieve an ATAR that allowed her to study a Bachelor of Science at University of Melbourne. After securing a Commonwealth Supported Place, Juliana worked hard to maintain the high academic results required while gaining practical experience with animals to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian. She went on to complete the accelerated pathway into the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and is now working towards accreditation as a shelter medicine specialist through the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners pathway.

Juliana describes veterinary medicine as a career that has given her a future, while shelter medicine has shaped her purpose. She now works alongside passionate and compassionate people to support animals, families, and communities. A key part of her role is helping remove barriers for pet owners who may face challenges accessing information, support, or veterinary care, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

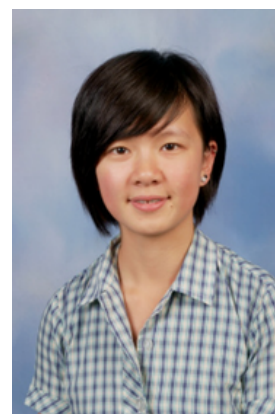
She credits much of her success to the support she received at MWSC, especially from Ms Nicolazzo, who helped her build confidence in English and supported her through the challenges of preparing for her ESL exam. Juliana fondly remembers the encouragement she received throughout her schooling, as well as the friendships she made, many of which she still maintains today.

One of her favourite memories was the Year 10 Gold Coast school trip, where she created lasting friendships and unforgettable experiences.

Juliana's story is a wonderful reminder of how perseverance, support, and believing in your goals can help turn challenges into opportunities.



Juliana Xue
Class of 2012





Updates on our Alumni

Peter von Hauser

After graduating from MWSC, Peter began his university journey studying a double Bachelor of Commerce and Science at La Trobe University, while living on campus. During this time, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unexpected changes, leading him to defer his studies and explore new opportunities. With reduced work hours during lockdowns, he started his own landscaping business, developing valuable skills in business, leadership, and problem-solving.

In 2022, Peter made the decision to join the Australian Army, commencing Officer Training at Royal Military College, Duntroon. Following his graduation, he moved to Brisbane to join the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, an armoured cavalry unit. He currently works as a Defence Interviewer in the Gold Coast, which involves assessing candidates looking to join the ADF, hosting various public ceremonies and presenting at local schools and universities. He is currently completing a Master's in Business Administration and will be relocating back to Brisbane on promotion to Captain for his next role.

Throughout his time in the Army, Peter has enjoyed many unique experiences, including overseas service in Tonga, participating in training exercises across Southeast Queensland, and leading soldiers from a wide range of trades and backgrounds.

Some of Peter's favourite memories from MWSC come from the many sporting opportunities available, including interschool athletics and soccer. He also fondly remembers classes in Politics with Mr Sheehan and Legal Studies with Mrs Irwin.

He also fondly remembers participating in the World Vision trips offered through the school, including a month-long trip to Costa Rica and Nicaragua after graduation.

Peter's journey highlights the value of embracing opportunities, stepping outside your comfort zone, and being open to unexpected pathways after school.



Peter von Hauser
Class of 2016



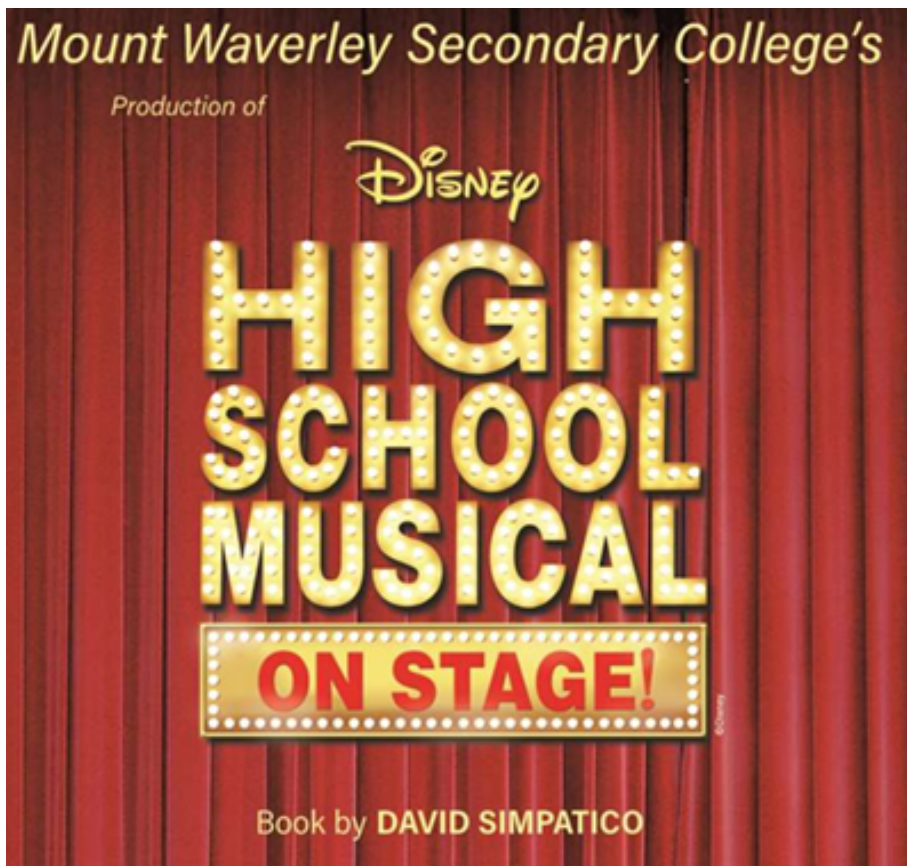


Alumni Thanks

Congratulations to the incredible cast and crew of our 2026 production, Disney's High School Musical on Stage!

Our students shone both on stage and behind the scenes, sharing a wonderful story about following your own path - whether in the arts, science, sport, or a combination of them all.

A huge congratulations to everyone who helped make this show such a success and thank you for the Alumni Support Class of 2025.



Alumni Support

Evelyn Charlton, Jacob Gould, Madi Harwood,
Alistair McNish, Michael Solly, Sebastian Viglione



School Tour Reunion - Class of 2016

Mr Ian MacLeod, Acting College Principal, and I had the pleasure of welcoming four members of the Class of 2016 back on 20th August.

Thankfully, the weather was kind to us, and we managed to avoid the rain, making it the perfect day to walk around the College and reminisce about their school days.

I loved hearing their stories, remembering their time at Mount Waverley and finding out where life has taken them since graduating. Their stories and journeys have been captured in the following pages, and I hope you enjoy reading about where their paths have taken them since leaving the college.



One of the lovely highlights was seeing them meet up again with their Year 12 Coordinator from 2016, Mr Wayne Griffin and of course, we had to capture the moment in a photo!



Year 12 Formal - **2016**



Today - **2026**

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



Photos from School Tour Reunion - Class of 2016



Irene Alevizos and Jasmine Leddick - Vocational Education Training - 2016

10 YEARS ON

Today, Irene is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Lyras Laboratory at Monash University.

Jasmine works as a Dental Assistant.





Meet our Alumni from the Class of 2016 Reunion Tour

Irene Alevizos

After graduating from Mount Waverley Secondary College, Irene pursued a passion for science at Monash University, completing a Bachelor of Science majoring in Microbiology, followed by an Honours degree and a PhD in Microbiology.

Today, Irene is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Lyras Laboratory at Monash University, where she is researching novel treatments and preventions for bacterial infections caused by *Clostridioides difficile*.

A standout career highlight was presenting her research as an oral presentation at the American Society for Microbiology ASM Microbe Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. As one of the world's largest microbiology conferences, it was an incredible opportunity to share her work with an international community of researchers. Presenting her research on such a large platform not only strengthened her confidence as a scientist, but also solidified for her the importance and impact of her research.

Her time at Mount Waverley also sparked an unexpected passion. Mr Soutar's philosophy classes left a lasting impression and inspired Irene to continue studying philosophy at university, where she completed a minor in the subject. The interest sparked in those classroom discussions has stayed with Irene throughout her academic journey.

From a Mount Waverley classroom to presenting cutting-edge microbiology research on the international stage, Irene's journey is a wonderful example of where curiosity, dedication and a passion for learning can lead.



Irene Alevizos
Class of 2016





Meet our Alumni from the Class of 2016 Reunion Tour

Jasmine Leddick

After graduating from Mount Waverley Secondary College in 2016, Jasmine went on to study a Bachelor of Science at Deakin University

Today, Jasmine works as a Dental Assistant, a role she has worked hard to build towards. Her transition from university into the workforce was not without its challenges. Jasmine graduated just weeks before the COVID-19 lockdowns began, making an already uncertain time even more difficult. Rather than letting this setback stop her, she used the time to develop her skills, researching further study opportunities and learning how to write a strong resume and approach job interviews with confidence. Her persistence eventually paid off, and she secured a full-time position in late 2021.

Looking back on her time at Mount Waverley, Jasmine particularly remembers her Drama classes. She enjoyed the opportunity to work with others, listen to their ideas and contribute her own to different prompts and activities.

Although she was often nervous about performing, she loved the experience of bringing scenes to life and the creativity and collaboration that came with it.

Jasmine's journey is a great reminder that career paths don't always follow a straight line. With persistence, a willingness to learn and the confidence to keep trying, new opportunities can emerge even when the path ahead is uncertain.



Jasmine Leddick
Class of 2016





Meet our Alumni from the Class of 2016 Reunion Tour

Charlotte Schmid

After leaving Mount Waverley Secondary College in 2016, Charlotte took a gap year to travel through Denmark and Switzerland, reconnecting with family and enjoying the opportunity to experience life overseas before beginning her university studies.

On returning to Australia, Charlotte enrolled at Deakin University, where she began a double degree in Arts and Psychology. As her studies progressed, she realised she was interested in exploring psychology beyond the areas of behaviour, and decided to follow a pathway that better aligned with her interests. She transferred to RMIT University, completing a double degree in Social Work and Psychology, graduating in 2023.

Since graduating, Charlotte has worked across a variety of settings. She has supported students in schools through both one-on-one and group work, and has also gained experience in clinical and family services, including working directly with families in the community. While these experiences have been valuable, Charlotte has discovered that working in schools is where she feels most rewarded and fulfilled.

Looking back on her time at Mount Waverley, Charlotte fondly remembers being involved in the school productions, which were a special part of her school experience. She also remembers Year 12 as a challenging and demanding time. However, with the benefit of hindsight, she now sees it as just one important stepping stone in the bigger picture of her journey.

Charlotte's story is a wonderful reminder that it is okay for your plans to change along the way. Sometimes exploring different pathways is exactly what helps you discover where you truly belong.



Charlotte Schmid
Class of 2016





Meet our Alumni from the Class of 2016 Reunion Tour

Tynan Saranaweera

Tynan left Mount Waverley Secondary College in 2016 knowing exactly what he wanted to pursue – engineering. He went on to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) at Swinburne University, where he gained valuable industry experience through an internship with Gippsland Line Railway.

As part of Swinburne's professional placement program, Tynan secured a position in the graduate program at Knox City Council, giving him the opportunity to put his university learning into practice. He has since continued to build his career in local government and is working as a Project Engineer at Bayside City Council. While engineering was always Tynan career goal, some of his favourite Mount Waverley memories came from an unexpected place – the stage. In Year 10, he auditioned for a role in the 2015 school production of FAME. Having never done anything like it before, Tynan initially saw it as something fun to do before settling down for his VCE years. Instead, he absolutely loved the experience. Looking back, his biggest regret is that he didn't get involved in the productions sooner!

Tynan also remembers the camaraderie of Year 12. Everyone going through the same struggles, SACS and the pressure of the final year together. Instead of a traditional school camp, his year group enjoyed a Night at the University of Melbourne, an experience Tynan remembers vividly. Walking around the university at night made him feel as though he had stepped into Harry Potter's Hogwarts!

Another treasured memory was playing downball on the courts in Year 12. Tynan had watched the older students playing when he was younger, and reaching Year 12 meant he had finally made it to the "big leagues" – a rite of passage!

Tynan also fondly remembers his teachers Ms Ness, his Mathematics teacher, and Mr Young, his Physics teacher, who he credits with providing valuable support and helping him throughout his senior years.

From discovering a love of performing in FAME to building a career in civil engineering, Tynan's journey shows that sometimes the experiences you least expect can become the memories you treasure most.



Tynan Saranaweera
Class of 2016





Meet our Alumni from the Class of 2016

Nicola Press

After leaving Mount Waverley, Nicola chose a practical pathway into nursing, heading straight to TAFE to complete a Diploma before progressing to university just six months later to undertake her Bachelor's degree in Nursing. Nicola is now a Registered Nurse and looks back on her pathway with real appreciation for the foundation her TAFE studies provided. She found the Diploma particularly valuable because of the strong hands-on component, which gave her practical experience and a solid foundation of knowledge before commencing her Bachelor's degree. She feels this preparation gave her greater confidence as she moved into university study.

Some of Nicola's fondest memories of Mount Waverley are the school camps, which remain a highlight of her time at the College. She also has particularly happy memories of Health and Human Development, taught by Mr Warwick Irwin, who was one of her favourite teachers. The subject was Nicola's favourite at school and her classes with Mr Irwin were always enjoyable.

Nicola's journey is a great example of how choosing a pathway that combines practical learning with further study can provide a strong foundation for a rewarding career.



Nicola Press
Class of 2016





Meet our Alumni from the Class of 2016

Felicity Jenkins (Flick)

After graduating from Mount Waverley Secondary College in 2016, Flick followed a passion for the arts and education. She began her university journey with a Bachelor of Arts, followed by an Honours in Creative Arts, before completing a Master of Primary and Secondary Education.

Today, Flick is a Primary School Teacher, a career she finds incredibly rewarding. One of her most significant career highlights came last year when she was honoured with the *Outstanding Early Career Teacher – Primary Award* at the Victorian Excellence in Education Awards. While this recognition was a wonderful achievement, she says the everyday highlights are the interactions with her students, they are what truly make the job special. Her passion for teaching can be traced back to her time at Mount Waverley. Flick fondly remembers being involved in the school productions, describing them as creating a wonderful sense of community. She also credits the English and Arts Faculties and several inspirational teachers, Miss Brighton, Mr Gil, Miss Abley, Mr Hall and Miss Carter with helping to shape her future. Their influence and encouragement played an important role in inspiring her to become a teacher herself.

From performing on the school stage to standing at the front of her own classroom, Flick's journey is a wonderful example of how the experiences and people we encounter at school can help shape the path we take long after graduation.



Felicity Jenkins
Class of 2016





What are your best memories of Mount Waverley Secondary College?

*"All the wonderful friends
I made"*

Sally Haisman
Class of 1993

*"The school, the teachers
and the environment"*

Rohan Srinivas
Class of 2018

"Friendships / Production"

Amy Di Giambattista
Class of 2007

*"Mount Waverley set me up for
a fantastic career after finishing
a tafe course in business"*

Jasmine Kakavas
Class of 1995

"Loved my EAL teacher Jo"

Tiankuo Cui
Class of 2017

*"Skipping math to play
basketball"*

Michael Jenkins
Class of 2021

*"The class of 2010 were an amazing group
collectively as well as a group of great
teachers. We all had fun each and every
day, looking back on my school years
always makes me smile"*

Charitha Jayasinghe
Class of 2010

Photos fresh from the Archives



Staff Photo **1974**



Year 10 Prom **2007**



Sports Day **2004**



School Life Year 7 **1992**



Photos fresh from the Archives

'Mount Waverley has excelled in the sporting arena this year'



Thank you!

We would like to thank all the staff that took the time to coach, manage and help out with sport throughout 2004. It is through their efforts that Mount Waverley has excelled in the sporting arena this year. Well done and thank you.

2004 MWSC Sport Coordinators
Mr Shaun Crotty – Middle/Senior Sports Coordinator
Mr Ian MacLeod – Junior Sports Coordinator



Mount Waverley Sports Stars **2004**



[Website](#)



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



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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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