



ELIZABETH
COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

APRIL

2021





FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our first term was certainly a time for celebration, as we returned to a school year that promised relative normalcy. I feel so grateful to live in our beautiful island state and to work with such professional and passionate staff. Every year, we have the privilege of teaching and supporting amazing young people at our college, and our annual Prize Night is not only a celebration of the diligence and excellence of our students; it also recognises how we are all inspired and resourceful learners.

This year Prize Night was held on 24 March at the Wrest Point Convention Centre, and it was wonderful to see our students shine and celebrate their achievements with their friends, family and the college. Due to attendance limitations, the event was live-streamed on the evening and a copy of the program can be seen on our website. Approximately 130 students received awards for their outstanding achievements in 2020, many of them winning multiple academic awards.

Prize Night is a major event on our calendar, and the evening could not go ahead without the support of many people. I would like to thank our student presenters, Will O'Neill and Renee Young, and our talented young musicians for outstanding musical performances. Our keynote speaker and EC alumni, Lila Landowski, was inspirational and is a wonderful role model for our students. Our Dux, Ruby-Questa Collis,



who achieved an exceptional ATAR score of 99.9, spoke highly of her time at Elizabeth College and attributed her success to her excellent teachers.

After extensive community consultation the model for the new Hobart City Partner schools has been determined and the three schools with their staff, students, parents and community members will continue their work on delivering a co-ed 7-12 school for Hobart City. More information on the model, FAQs and how you can continue to be involved in shaping the new school can be found at <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/hobart-city-partner-schools/>.

I wish all of our students, teachers and support staff a well-deserved and restful break, and I look forward to seeing everyone, refreshed and ready, next term.

Dr Dianne Purnell

OUR YEAR 12 DUX: RUBY-QUESTA COLLIS

Formerly a student at Taroona High School, Ruby-Questa studied Maths Methods 4, English Literature, Biology and Physical Sciences 3 in Year 11 at Elizabeth College. In Year 12, Ruby-Questa's chosen subjects were Maths Specialised, Economics, Chemistry and Physics, and she achieved an exceptional ATAR Score of 99.9.

Ruby-Questa thoroughly enjoyed her studies at Elizabeth College, as her subjects were incredibly well taught



and engaging. She was a member of ECAAD, which proved to be a wonderfully supportive environment that encourages personal development, academic excellence, and extracurricular activity. She found the talks from various scientists particularly exciting, as they provided insight into the wide range of careers available in STEM. Ruby-Questa would like to thank all the ECAAD teachers for their efforts in making ECAAD such a wonderful experience, as it made the transition from high school to college seamless.

Ruby-Questa attributes her enjoyment of, and success in, Years 11 and 12 to her fantastic teachers. She found them to be deeply knowledgeable about their subject areas and able to answer questions far outside the scope of the courses. She thanks them all for their hard work and encouragement throughout her time at Elizabeth College.

In 2021, Ruby-Questa is studying a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne, with a double major in Chemistry and Physics. She looks forward to applying the knowledge and skills from her time at Elizabeth College to her future studies.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

It is with great pleasure that we welcome and introduce our new teachers and support staff for 2021.

DANNICA BURROWS

Dannica is our new HaSS Learning Area Manager, and she teaches Innovation Enterprise as well as overseeing the School of Business. She was previously AST of the Year 11/12 Program at Jordan River Learning Federation Senior School, where she taught a range of VET courses including: Cert II Business, Cert II Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways, Cert I Retail and Cert II Community Services. She says that the staff at EC have been incredibly welcoming, accommodating and knowledgeable, and the students are eager and dedicated learners. 'I have really enjoyed my first term on campus and am looking forward to my future as an EC staff member.' Dannica enjoys travelling and has been to 25 different countries. She also participates in a lot of adventure sports, like kayaking, skiing and hiking, and walked the Kokoda Trail in 2016. What an achievement!

MEGAN LENNON

Megan teaches Modern History 3, Philosophy 3, and Introduction to Sociology and Psychology 2. She briefly taught at Clarence High School in 2020, before filling her current position at EC at the end of Term 1 2020. Megan completed her Masters of Teaching at UTAS between 2017-2019, and took time off from work when she had her first child. Megan has found everyone to be very supportive whenever she needs guidance or has questions. In her spare time, she loves rock climbing, hiking and skateboarding. She also enjoys drawing and one day hopes to write a fantasy novel.

JUSTINE LATTON

Justine is our new laboratory technician in the science learning area. She graduated in Zoology at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, where she is originally from. Justine worked as an aquatic ecologist for some years and has had a lot of experience as an ecological technician, working with mostly freshwater-related lab and field work. Justine previously worked as a lab technician at a local marine ecology consultancy, identifying marine invertebrates for environmental monitoring and impact studies. Justine says she loves working as a lab technician in a school environment, as it's varied and the science team at EC are fantastic. When she's not working, Justine enjoys surfing, and she's recently developed an interest in the etymology of the English language and is expanding her knowledge through podcasts and reading.

JARED SHARP

Jared teaches Legal Studies 3 and Health Studies 3 and has a background in law. His last teaching position was at Darwin High School, teaching Legal Studies and English in the senior school. He says the students at EC are amazing and staff have been super friendly and welcoming. Jared enjoys running, and has done a few marathons (he admits, very slowly). He has also taken up trail running to see as much of Tasmania's beautiful landscape as possible. His first run was the Takayna/Tarkine Ultra Run to raise money for the Bob Brown Foundation.



From left to right: Madelena Andersen-Ward, Dannica Burrows, Jared Sharp and Megan Lennon (Justine Latton not pictured)

SCHOOL HEALTH NURSE: MADELIN REYNOLDS

In February, the Student Services team were joined by our new School Health Nurse, Madelin Reynolds. Madelin is a Registered Nurse and has only recently moved to Hobart from Western Australia, where she previously worked rurally in emergency nursing. Madelin has a passion for health promotion and thoroughly enjoys working with young people to increase health literacy and promote the importance of health and wellbeing.

Madelin is working alongside Jesse Blackaby, our other School Health Nurse, and together they aim to raise awareness and enhance health literacy associated with sexual health, mental health, drug and alcohol education and general wellbeing. They actively engage within the school community, presenting to students in Home Groups and classrooms, as well as being involved in whole school community events. Currently, Madelin is on campus on Thursdays and Fridays, Jesse's days are Mondays and Tuesdays, and they work together on Wednesdays.

Both nurses are based in the Student Services building (Nangaree) and students can contact either Madelin or Jesse through Student Services on 6235 6559. Alternatively, they can email Madelin at madelin.reynolds@education.tas.gov.au or Jesse at jesse.blackaby@education.tas.gov.au.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION WORKER: MADELENA ANDERSEN-WARD

At the start of this year, Madelena Andersen-Ward joined our Student Services team as our new Aboriginal Education Worker. Her role at EC includes supporting indigenous students, encouraging staff to include more indigenous content in their teachings, and facilitating an indigenous cultural presence on campus and within the college community.

Prior to joining EC, Madelena worked as a Youth Arts Project Officer with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency in Melbourne, and is currently studying sustainability and indigenous history. She is also a professional musician and singing tutor, and she won the Tasmanian Indigenous Young Achievers Award in 2018 in recognition of her musical achievements and performances, including her role in *A Tasmanian Requiem*.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP GROUP

Our Student Leadership Group (SLG) provides not only a great opportunity for students to actively engage in our College community and to represent their fellow students, but it gives them a chance to implement positive changes in their school environment. In previous years, the SLG has been responsible for establishing a bike rack shelter, organising and running a vibrant Wellbeing Day for the College and sales of the popular Elizabeth College hoodies.

In 2021, the SLG will be involved in running many of the activities during Harmony Day, Taster Day for our incoming Year 10 students and our annual Wellbeing Day. Other activities they will participate in include: reviewing the Student Wellbeing Survey data with our College leadership team, reporting to the Elizabeth College Parent Group, attending the Secondary Student Youth Forum, and implementing health and wellbeing initiatives across the College.



Any student can contribute their ideas to the SLG through the suggestion boxes in the H Block student common room and the College canteen. Alternatively, students can approach one of our friendly SLG members, or participate in surveys in Home Group during the year.

Membership in the SLG is open to all students and it's never too late to join. They meet every Wednesday at lunchtime in Café Tang and new faces are always welcome.



STUDENT SERVICES

Our Student Services team offers specialised services to support the health and wellbeing of our students. The friendly and experienced team of qualified counsellors, along with our psychologist, youth and social workers, nurses, chaplain, aboriginal education worker and security officer, provide students with guidance and support in areas such as course counselling, mental health, disability and additional needs support, and temporary accommodation. Our manager of Student Services, Sandy Verrier, invites students, who would like or need additional support, to visit Nangaree, the Student Services building on Elizabeth Street. Alternatively, students can

ask their teacher to send Student Services a referral on their behalf.

Student Services can also support students seeking Reasonable Adjustments for TASC externally-assessed exams. Students need to provide specific and current evidence (in relation to their condition) from their medical or other relevant professional.

Students wishing to apply should contact Sarah Newcombe in EC Student Services on 6235 6559, or email sarah.newcombe@education.tas.gov.au to arrange an appointment with a member of the Student Services staff. This should be no later than 17 May to allow for the applications to be processed and submitted.



ECAAD EXCURSIONS

On Friday 19 February, 70 ECAAD students and staff, including Marty Goss, Jason Hoare, Megan Lennon, Jennie MacDonald, Lisa Schmalfluss and Will Walker, travelled to Port Arthur and Stewart's Bay on the Tasman Peninsula.

It was a single day event, as COVID restrictions did not allow for an overnight camp. While the Year 12 students went on the Pennicott Tour, the Year 11s were given a guided tour of the Port Arthur Historic Site, followed by the opportunity to explore the site at their own pace. The Pennicott Tour visited Remarkable Cave, Crescent Bay, Cape Pillar and Tasman Island, where students were able to see wildlife, such as, dolphins, shearwaters, and albatrosses.

Both groups then came together at Stewart's Bay for lunch, which was kindly delivered by Shane Fuller and Dianne Purnell. Students spent the afternoon at the beach, swimming, paddling and enjoying various group activities.

The excursion aims to connect students with their teacher mentors outside of the classroom, to foster a supportive environment and give the students an opportunity to form strong friendships with each other outside of the school environment. ECAAD promotes the idea that a team that works together, has the greatest chance of success.

EC MUSICAL: COME TO THE CABARET!

We are excited to announce that rehearsals are well underway for this year's college musical, *Cabaret*. The band have started rehearsing under the guidance of Les Johnston and are sounding fantastic. Cast members are collaborating with the costume designer to design clothing that reflects their character and the era. Staff and students have also been working tirelessly on the opening number of the show, *Willkommen*, which promises to be an absolute showstopper!

Cabaret tells the story of the vivacious Sally Bowles, an English cabaret singer living in Berlin in the early 1930s and working at The Kit Kat Klub. As the musical progresses, the audience sees the darker side of Berlin, with the rise of Hitler's regime and the serious implications this has for the characters.

Featuring well-known songs such as *Willkommen*, *If You Could See Her* and *Don't Tell Mama*, *Cabaret* promises to be a memorable experience for our students. Information on ticket sales will be available early in Term 2. Please visit the Elizabeth College Performing Arts Facebook page for more information.



MUSIC STUDENTS: AIMING HIGH

Elizabeth College's music students are truly masters of their craft, and we are so proud of their achievements. Several of our students have recently been recognised at a professional, industry-standard level through scholarships, selection in the Australian Youth Orchestra and working with renowned musicians in a highly sought after masterclass.

Recipients of the 2021 Clarence Jazz Festival Scholarships, Sacha Flores and Erin Sherlock (a student in 2020) gave rousing performances to a receptive audience in February this year as participants in the festival program. Both students received lessons and were mentored by UTAS staff as part of the scholarship package. EC has been represented in this annual event since its commencement 25 years ago and has had at least one recipient of the scholarship every year for the past decade.

Rio Kawaguchi has been named Principal Bass for the 2021 Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO). Rio will travel to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne and will lead the double bass section of the orchestra. Selection for the AYO is recognition of excellence as a musician at a national level.

2020 EC music alumni, Billie Raffety and Kieran Mulvany, recently participated in a masterclass with singer songwriter Kate Miller Heidke, and singer and teacher Allison Bell. Kieran and Billie were fortunate to secure two of only six available places for what was an amazing experience.



OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) has four priority areas: Student Engagement, Improving Teachers' Pedagogical Practices, Student Wellbeing and our work as a member of the Hobart City Partner Schools.

As a school, we believe it is important to strive to continually improve, and a part of that process involves receiving feedback from an External School Review. All Tasmanian Government Schools are externally reviewed and our next review will occur in May this year.

The review will inform us about what we are doing well, as well as areas that require development to help us shape our improvement agenda.

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) can be found at <https://elizabethcollege.tas.edu.au> under the 'About Us' tab. If as a parent/carer you would like more information or to be involved in a panel discussion, please contact Shane Fuller (Assistant Principal) on 6235 6555.



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: DARE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

With an ever-changing world of work and the importance that is placed on transferable enterprise skills, our School of Business program is providing students with opportunities to harness those skills and use them in a real-world setting.

On 2 March, the Innovation Enterprise and Certificate I in Workplace Skills classes participated in the Dare to Change the World program run by Gen Z. Students were placed into groups and had to use their creative thinking caps to tackle some of the biggest issues facing youth across the globe, by creating a social enterprise

business that could contribute to a solution and then presenting their ideas to a panel of judges. The students felt this experience was invaluable, eye-opening and provided them with an opportunity to focus on their passions and then turn them into a successful business that benefitted many. Students were enthusiastic and energised by their achievements on the day and were grateful for the experience.



TOURISM: PENNICOTT WILDERNESS JOURNEY TOUR

Providing our students with real world experiences is a priority at Elizabeth College, so on 23 February the Innovation Enterprise and Certificate II in Tourism classes got to experience the Pennicott Wilderness Journey. With a focus on Tasmanian tourism and what makes a successful business, students had the privilege of listening to owner Robert Pennicott and son Noah talk about how their 1999 single-boat operation has flourished into an organic and highly acclaimed award-winning environmental tourism venture, before setting sail on their new million-dollar catamaran.

The group made their way to Bruny Island to see some of southern Tasmania's most beautiful sites, including Bruny Island, the Iron Pot, and the Blackman's Bay Blowhole before returning to Franklin Wharf, and enjoyed some insightful and humorous anecdotes along the way. The students agreed that Robert and his family's knowledge and their focus on the customer is what makes them so successful.



LIBRARY LEARNING HUB: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

This year the Elizabeth College Library has a new name – the Library Learning Hub. The change reflects a renewed focus on the ways our library engages students with their learning. Over the year, we'll be looking to improve how we reach out to our learners, both students and staff, to provide engaging workshops and resources. In the meantime, we continue to be at the heart of the EC community: a place for discovery, time-out, reflection and study.

Our message to students is: If you need something, just ask! We have an excellent collection of fiction and non-fiction books, DVDs, cameras and magazines, as well as a wide range of online resources to help with your research and writing. Our highly skilled team of teachers and technicians are also keen to help in any way they can. If you need help printing your



assignment, support with referencing, or advice about how to start answering that tricky essay question, we can help. If we don't know the answer, we can certainly point you in the right direction. If you haven't visited yet, pop in, say hello and have a browse.



LANGUAGES: PASSENGERS, PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS

International travel might be an impossible dream for now, but there's plenty of opportunity to sample the language and culture of six famous destinations right here in Hobart. Students from Elizabeth College, and Ogilvie and New Town High Schools took a virtual tour around the world this term as part of our weekly Languages Club.

First stop, Europe: visiting Germany, Italy and France, with a side trip to Spain. Then on to Asia to sample the rich cultures of Japan and China, where they participated in a masterclass in making dumplings.

Languages Club is the first of a series of transition activities planned by the Language teachers of the Hobart Partnership Schools, thanks to a Department of Education grant that provides a clear pathway for pre-tertiary study at College and promotes the great benefits of studying a language to students at all levels. Languages Club will be touring again later in the year and we welcome new high school students to come on board.

MATHS: QUESTACON VISIT

In Term 1, students in Maths Methods and Maths Specialised participated in *Born or Built?*, a travelling exhibition by Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre based in Canberra. It gave students a fascinating insight into the advances in artificial intelligence and the technologies that are transforming our world. Students also engaged in robust discussions around the efficacy and ethics of some of these potential technologies. Exhibitions like this allow students to see the bigger picture of where science and maths can take them, and highlights the potential to work in some truly ground-breaking fields.



OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2021

Each year Elizabeth College offers a number of Year 11 and 12 scholarships to students from Cosgrove, New Town and Ogilvie High Schools, and what a great bunch we have for 2021. Our Principal, Dianne Purnell, and Assistant Principals were fortunate enough to meet with these inspiring young leaders earlier this term for a morning tea. The Year 12 recipients offered some valuable insights to the

Year 11s about balancing study with other commitments. As part of their responsibilities as school leaders, they will visit high schools over the coming months to talk about their experiences at Elizabeth College, as well as representing the College at various events and functions. We wish them all the best for the year ahead.



OUR FOCUS ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

After a challenging 2020, the wellbeing of staff and students is an important focus for our school priorities of resilience and engagement. This year, our Home Group program aims to promote social, physical and mental health, as well as learning about essential life skills that will support career pathways and further study. This term, Home Group classes focussed on social health by participating in our annual Home Group Activities Day and a whole-school bingo game designed to help students to get to know one another and their teachers. Students have also been visited by a member of our Student Services team, who explained all of the support available to them.

Wellbeing initiatives have also begun across the campus, including free fruit baskets to offer students a healthy snack, a weekly girls-only lunch hour in Chuggy's Gym to support inclusive access to equipment, and our twice-weekly Breakfast Club, providing students with a free breakfast, the chance to mingle with other students or chat to members of our Student Services team.

Later in the year, Home Groups will attend presentations on nutrition, body image and technology use, including inspirational guest speakers who will talk about mental health. Our Wellbeing Day will also encourage students and staff to engage in a range of health and wellbeing activities.





HOME GROUP ACTIVITY DAY

In March, students from every Home Group participated in our Home Group Activity Day. This annual event allows students to bond with each other and their Home Group teacher, whilst participating in fun and social activities. We were blessed with wonderful sunny weather on the day and activities took place both on and off campus. Students and staff enjoyed a range of off-campus activities including: tenpin bowling at AMF in Moonah; lawn bowls at

the Derwent City Bowls Club in North Hobart; beach volley ball and soccer; building sandcastles and treasure hunts at Kingston Beach; and bushwalks and a barbeque at the Waterworks Reserve. On-campus activities included: carpet bowls, board games, card games and mini golf.





HARMONY DAY

On Wednesday 31 March, our college came together to celebrate Harmony Day and acknowledge the wonderful cultural diversity that exists at both Elizabeth College and the broader community. Students and staff participated in a range of activities from around the world and were able to sample food from a variety of cultural backgrounds, such as, Japanese sushi, Indian curry, French crepes and an Afghani flatbread.

Some Australian favourites such as barbecued sausages and Vegemite sandwiches were also on offer. Everyone enjoyed the sunshine while listening to musical performances by students and our talented Aboriginal Education Worker, Madelena Andersen-Ward. It was wonderful to see so many staff and students dressed in orange, the designated colour for Harmony Day celebrations around Australia.







Elizabeth College
Celebrating 50 Years Strong

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