



Bluestone



Issue No.1 - July 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Parade College acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land where we live, learn and work.



Principal's Message

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I am delighted to welcome you to the inaugural edition of Bluestone. Published biannually, Bluestone will showcase how the College continues to provide a world of opportunities for our students from Years 7-12, across both of our campuses at Bundoora and Preston. Parade has a rich history, and we are committed to the three values of faith, service and justice. Our College Theme, Walking Together – Relationships, Respect, Resilience, highlights the importance of working in partnership with our students, staff and families to ensure we can provide an extremely supportive environment where our students and staff can thrive, and ultimately have a positive impact on our wider community. The College has a strong sense of community connection, and this publication celebrates more than 150 years of that connection, and the tradition of helping others. We look forward to sharing these inspiring stories with you.

The beginning of a new school year often brings much excitement for our new students and also a range of nerves, particularly for our new Year 7 students. It has been heartening to see these initial worries quickly replaced with the excitement of new friendships, fresh opportunities, and memorable experiences. Assisting our new Year 7s as they settle into life at Parade College, the Failte program pairs our Year 7 students with a Year 12 buddy to guide and mentor our newest Paradians through the first year of secondary school. Our College Theme, noted above, shines through in this program and it is always a joy to see the connections and team building activities that occur within the Failte program.

Our Year 7s are embracing the 'house spirit' at Parade, receiving a warm welcome to their House communities. They were also able to further consolidate their relationships and make new friends at the Year 7 House camps in March, where they challenged themselves to try new things. I wish all our new Year 7 students well and I am looking forward to observing their growth as respectful young people who can make significant contributions to the College over the next six years.

The beginning of 2025 marks a historical milestone in the College's history with the commencement of our first group of female students at our Preston Campus. We were proud to welcome these nine female students, to our dedicated VCE Vocational Major campus in both our Sport Academy and trade pathway programs alongside their male peers. While Bundoora Campus continues to operate as a boy's campus, we are excited about the educational opportunities these programs bring to our female students and the contributions they can make to our College community.

Our female students are already representing the College proudly, taking part in a number of sport carnivals in the Catholic Girls Sports Association Victoria (CGSAV). It has been fantastic to hear about the teamwork and friendships being formed through their involvement in these inter-school competitions.

We hope you enjoy reading through this and future editions of Bluestone, as we acknowledge the amazing contributions of our students, both present and past.

Tenete Traditiones,
Mark Aiello
Principal



Above: Year 7 students enjoying camp in Term One and making new friends

Below: Our female students have started wonderfully at our Preston Campus in 2025

College Musical

This year, Parade College and Santa Maria College were proud to co-present *The Wedding Singer*. In the second year of the partnership between the schools, Parade hosted the musical at its Rivergum Theatre for five spectacular shows throughout Term Two.

Based on the 1998 film, the musical follows the story of wedding singer Robbie Hart who is heartbroken when his fiancée leaves him at the altar. Robbie then struggles to perform at other weddings until he meets Julia Sullivan, who is about to marry a Wall Street shark unless Robbie can put together one last performance to convince her otherwise.

Since the beginning of Term One, students from both schools rehearsed tirelessly, perfecting every move and line of the show. The performance was led by Parade College Year 10 student Luca Caporale L07, playing Robbie, and Santa Maria student Maya, playing Julia. Luca says it was nothing short of amazing to play the lead in the musical.

“What I enjoyed most about being the lead in the musical was constantly having something to work on, and having the pleasure of developing my theatre skills with all the talented people involved from Santa Maria and Parade College. It was a one-of-a-kind experience.”

It was a true team effort, with over 150 students and staff involved in all aspects of the production ensuring everything ran smoothly.

We look forward to our continued musical partnership with Santa Maria and announcing the musical for 2026. Parade College students will return to the stage in Term Three with Puffs, this year’s Drama Production with Mercy College.

“Music and the performing arts give our students a voice beyond the classroom — a chance to express who they are, work as a team, and collaborate in new and exciting ways.”

*-Dean Flanagan
Director of Music*



“What made me audition for the lead was Ms Calia, I made her a promise last year that I would do the musical at least once before I graduate. Then I saw this year it was The Wedding Singer so it could not have been a better time to audition.”

*-Luca Caporale
Year 10 L07*



Teaching and Learning

“Attending my first Nano Nagle session, I went just looking for some guidance. I found not only help, but strong connections with likeminded students and peers. I am completing more work and improving in grades for my classes. Being a part of the program has allowed me to grow my capabilities and better understand my strong points, not only working towards my goals, but also realising who I wanted to be when I am older and the work involved in the varying degrees I need.”

*-Luke Gheno
Year 11 N01*

The Nano Nagle Tutoring Program is an initiative designed to support the learning of our senior students. Named after Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters and a passionate advocate for education and social justice, the program aims to embody her legacy by ensuring that no student is left behind.

Operating on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the VCE Study Centre, the Nano Nagle Tutoring Program provides one-on-one or small-group tutoring sessions outside of regular class time. The tutors are high achieving Old Paradians who excelled in their VCE course of the year prior. The sessions are overseen by our VCE teachers, offering another

opportunity for students to meet with their teachers for extra assistance outside of class.

The sessions appeal to a wide range of students. While many students attend to extend themselves and gain mastery of their VCE subjects, other students attend to build foundational skills and confidence, or to learn study habits from the ‘experts’ of yesteryear.

A key strength of the program is its holistic approach. It doesn’t just focus on academic improvement – it also aims to foster student wellbeing and personal growth. When asked about the program, tutor Julian Raic (OP 2024) said: “Arriving at Parade College every week is not solely a trip down

memory lane but also a transfer of knowledge. The Nano Nagle program is a place for VCE students to ask about their exams and university life outside of Parade. As a former student, it is amazing to see the dedication our current Year 12 cohort has towards their studies. Similarly, Year 12 students are ready to discover the opportunities awaiting them next year through questions directed at now ‘Old’ Paradians...I have never been more grateful to be supporting students in their final years of Parade.”

VCE student Thomas Gheno N01 said: “My first impressions were fantastic and I really enjoyed the support and respect that the past Year 12 students showed me. They were all really knowledgeable and

had an excellent understanding of each subject that they taught. Overall, the Nano Nagle Tutoring Program is a great initiative and I cannot recommend it highly enough to other students that are seeking guidance and support in their VCE classes.”

The Nano Nagle Tutoring Program is a powerful expression of our faith in action: supporting the academic journey of students while honouring the spirit of compassion, inclusion, and service that defines Nano Nagle’s enduring legacy. We are grateful for the work of our tutors in assisting the pursuit of academic excellence for our students.

Our Year 9 ExCEL program offers students a variety of Extended Learning programs on Wednesdays. A few of our Year 9 students have recounted what they have enjoyed the most this semester.

“During my ExCEL classes this year I have enjoyed the balance of practical work and theory work, and the excursions, such as going go karting in Co2 Dragsters or going to the city in Bridge Building.”

*-Dylan Williams
Year 9 L15*

ExCEL has been a fun experience, making my way around the city unlocked freedom and independence which I enjoyed a lot. I learnt skills that I can use throughout my life and it is a character building experience.

*-Tex Borg
Year 9 T17*

“This year, I’ve really enjoyed my ExCEL classes — Lights, Camera, Imagination was an exciting way to learn about camera angles and scene composition, and recreating a movie scene was a fun and creative challenge. Mechatronics was just as engaging, from coding a game and building a robotic arm to experiencing a VR escape room in the city — it was hands-on, high-tech, and unforgettable.”

*-Thimath Jayawardana
Year 9 T16*





VET

Parade College students are benefiting from the guidance of experienced industry professionals in the College's extensive Vocational Education and Training (VET) offerings. By recruiting staff who have successfully transitioned from their industries into teaching roles, the College provides students with valuable real-world knowled-

-ge, career insights and practical hands-on learning.

Leading the VET Cookery program is Gavin Hamilton, a seasoned chef whose extensive culinary career has prepared him to mentor students in the classroom and beyond. After beginning his career in local venues across Melbourne's

eastern suburbs, Mr Hamilton gained international experience across Canada and Europe, before returning to Victoria for a four-year stint at the helm of Novotel South Wharf as Head Chef.

"Having real industry experience in the classroom is hugely beneficial in helping students to connect their

Above: Our 2025 ACC Culinary Competition champions

learning with actual career paths," said Mr Hamilton.

Now in his second year at the College and with a passion for mentoring, his expertise helped guide Parade College's culinary team to victory at the 2025 ACC Culinary Competition in Term Two, highlighting their talent and teamwork

"It's rewarding to see students develop practical skills that will support them long after school."

*-Gavin Hamilton
VET Cookery Teacher*

with the College's fifth consecutive win.

"We have students currently planning their further studies in Cookery and Hospitality after secondary school and hopefully going on to successful careers in Melbourne's amazing food industry."

Outside of VET Cookery, the College's numerous offerings in trade pathways are also supported by staff with practical and operational experience in many fields.

Electrotechnology teacher Matthew Pritchard draws on his background as a both a domestic and commercial electrician. His multifaceted experience gives students a strong foundation in the industry, equipping students with essential skills and confidence to smoothly transition into apprenticeships and employment.

"Knowing what employers expect, I focus on preparing students to not only succeed in their studies but also excel in the workforce: from gaining an apprenticeship or traineeship, to honing their craft, and possibly even running their own business. It's great to be involved in training the next generation," said Mr Pritchard.

By integrating professionals with hands-on industry experience, Parade College continues to enrich its VET curriculum, offering students a meaningful education that bridges theory with practical application.





Sport

Parade College is renowned for its rich sporting heritage and commitment to developing student athletes. This is particularly evident in the 2025 AFL season, where a number of recent graduates turned professional athletes are highlighting the outstanding success of the College’s Sport Academy program. A quartet of Parade College students have taken to the field for Essendon Football Club in recent years, with 2024 graduating classmates Isaac Kako and Zak Johnson joining Nate Caddy (OP 2023) and Jade Gresham (OP 2015) on the current playing list. Parade’s Sport Academy Coordinator Ricky Dyson (OP 2003) was tasked with presenting Zak

Johnson his AFL guernsey and is helping the new AFL recruits to retain a strong connection to the College. Mr Dyson, a former Essendon player and current Assistant Coach of the VFL Team, is enjoying seeing the success of both the students and the flourishing Sport Academy program. Following his AFL career, Mr Dyson transitioned into education and coaching, with his extensive experience in both fields uniquely positioning him to head the Sport Academy. Launched in 2019, the program offers a blend of academic rigour and elite sporting pathways, preparing students for futures in both further education and professional sports. “Sport has the power to shape young people not just physically, but mentally and socially,” said Mr Dyson. “Our goal at the Sport Academy is to develop the whole person—helping students excel in

sport, academics, and life beyond school.” Joining the Essendon recruits in the 2025 season is fellow Old Paradian Tom Sims (OP 2024), who has been selected by Richmond Football Club. He is supported by Sport Academy teacher, trainer and assessor Ben Shelton (OP 2000), who also joined Richmond at the VFL team as an Assistant Coach. Mr Shelton previously working at the Northern Knights, whose training facility is based at Parade College. “To have watched Tom’s progression through Parade and the Sport Academy, including his contribution to the school’s Herald Sun Shield premiership win, his efforts in the Northern Knights, and now his career at Richmond is really exciting,” said Mr Shelton. The Sport Academy caters to students in Years 10 to 12, offering a curriculum that integrates the Victorian Certificate of Education

(VCE) with vocational training in sports and recreation, as well as the honing of skills and knowledge required for careers in sports coaching, management and development. Importantly, students who complete the Sport Academy program may be eligible for direct entry into related courses at La Trobe University, offering a clear pathway to further education. The College has closely followed the careers of many Alumni who have gone on to careers involving professional sport, including past Richmond Captain Trent Cotchin (OP 2007), new Matildas Head Coach Joe Montemurro (OP 1987), and Yaya Dukuly (OP 2020), an early graduate of the Sport Academy program who has gone on to enjoy A-League success. Parade College’s commitment to excellence in both education and sport continues to shape the future of its students. For more information about the Sport Academy and enrolment opportunities, including the VCE VM Scholarship offered at Preston Campus, prospective students and their families are encouraged to visit the Parade College website.



Above: Our 2023 Herald Sun Shield winners, featuring Nate Caddy, Tom Sims, Isaac Kako, and Zak Johnson

Below: 2024 1st XVIII Captain Zak Johnson with his Herald Sun Shield Best on Ground Medal and Premiership Medal



MELBOURNE UNITED PARTNERSHIP

Our Melbourne United Basketball Club partnership continues to provide our junior year levels with an amazing opportunity to enhance their basketball skills, collaborating closely with former Australian Boomers. Our Year 7 Basketball Development class have been practising for the upcoming ACC season with Melbourne United’s Brad Newley. Brad has represented the Australian Boomers at two Olympic Games and had a dominant career in Europe. Now, Brad has joined the Melbourne United Front Office after finishing three seasons playing with the team. Brad will also be coaching our Year 8A and 9A basketball teams throughout the ACC season and students cannot wait to increase their basketball knowledge and discover new tactics. Through the partnership, students are have been able to visit Hoop City in Cheltenham, home of Melbourne United. Students worked on their skills with some specialised coaching and enjoyed a tour of the facility. In May, former Boomer Nathan Croswell visited the College for an incursion, running plays the team can use during the season.



Above: Former Boomer Nathan Croswell working with our Year 7 Basketball Development class



Community Action

“It’s inspiring to see how they’re using their skills and energy to make a positive impact in the community, all while learning valuable life lessons in the process.”

*-Anne-Marie Morello
Community Action Convenor*



This semester, some of our students took part in the *This Is Your Life* project. For this wonderful project, students connected with a member of Vasey House Aged Care in Bundoora with the goal of putting together a presentation of the resident’s life.

Across six weeks, this heartwarming and insightful project saw great discussions and moments of teaching from both sides. Students gained a strong understanding of the rich histories that shape their local community, while Vasey House residents enjoyed the opportunity to share their stories. Year 10 Aarav Thakur N03 said getting to know resident Laurie was fun and he learnt some great lessons.

“My experience with the *This is*



Your Life project has been insightful... I have learned a lot about how life was in older times and how personal experiences can shape an individual.”

As well as the students learning about the ‘good ol’ days’, the residents at Vasey House really appreciated the interaction with Parade College students.

Vasey House resident Coral Wilson said “The boys were interested in us and our lives. I thought it was a privilege. They were kind and courteous and I enjoyed their company.”

The purpose of this project was to highlight the diversity of experiences and the importance of intergenerational connection in fostering a sense of community.

The success of this initiative demonstrates the power of storytelling in bridging the gap between young and old, enriching the lives of everyone involved.

The project culminated in a red-carpet event, a fitting grand finale to the semester-long journey.

Parade College received a grant to support this project last year through a successful Rerum Novarum Social Justice Grant application through MACS. This is the second round of support the College has received.

Last year, the College received the major Rerum Novarum Social Justice Grant for our Eddy’s Backpack program, where students put together backpacks for foster children.

Old Paradians

The Old Paradians' Association awarded its first Distinguished Old Paradian Award in 2004. The Association aims to recognise Old Collegians who have made a significant and outstanding contribution to their community or profession, or have a story of interest and edification to our students. Recipients of the Award represent the College values in their personal life and are authentic role models for our students. At the Term 2 College Assembly, we had the pleasure of awarding the Distinguished Old Paradian Award to 2003 Dux Alessandro Antonello.

Alessandro has established a career in environmental history and tertiary teaching, which has seen him become a global citizen for much of his career. Alessandro is the current Associate Professor of Environmental History at the University of Tasmania, a role which he loves.

"The histories I work on, covering Antarctica, oceans, and more recently seagrass in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, are endlessly fascinating, and I get great pleasure writing about them." Alessandro has been a Research Fellow at Flinders University and Postdoctoral Fellow at both the University of Melbourne and the University of Oregon. He completed his PhD in 2014 at the

Australian National University. His area of expertise and research revolves around the environmental and international histories of Antarctica. In a world where there are grave threats from global climate change, Alessandro's work is of increasing relevance and has led to his first book, titled 'The Greening of Antarctica: Assembling an International Environment,' published in 2019. The book explores tensions between scientific, political, and environmental interests in managing Antarctica's resources amid growing global attention and environmental risks.

During his time at Parade College, he was a member of the Prefect body as Academic and Debating

"I was really pleased to see a school keeping up with the times, big and confident, committed to diversity, and with a welcoming spirit under Principal Mark Aiello. The spirit of community service is still very strong, stronger than ever. I was pleasantly surprised to see that girls now make up part of the vocational class."

*-Alessandro Antonello
(OP 2003)*



DISTINGUISHED OLD PARADIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

Prefect and was an accomplished student, winning the subject awards for Legal Studies, Text and Traditions and History: Revolutions. At the Valette Graduation evening, Alessandro was awarded the prestigious G.D. Malouf Cup Trophy for General Excellence.

"Debating was a big part of my life at school. It is because I like to talk and argue points too much, but I have great memories of various debates, helping younger students learn debating skills, and taking on teams from other schools."

Alessandro was pleased to see the spirit of Parade College is still very strong and there is a deep commitment within the community to uphold the longstanding College values of faith, service and justice.

Alessandro is a wonderful role model for our students, embodying College values in his effort to educate future generations about environmental history and the constant threat of global warming.

Timothy McEvoy	1987
Frank Bongiorno AM	1986
Prof David Kissane AC	1968
Hon Andrew Robb AO	1968
Peter Bedford	1964
John Belleville	1984
Blake Caracella	1994
Andrew Tenni	1993
Sean Willmore	1990
Cpl Pablo Fuenzalida	1988
Daniel Harford	1994
Mark Monahan	1996
Dr John Tobin	1986
Michael Pratt	1972



Veteran's Lunch

Parade College and the Old Paradians' Association (OPA) acknowledge and pay respect to those who have served our country through the College's long history. Old Paradians have served in every major conflict, Australia has been involved in and are important symbols of dedication, courage, and honour.

On Wednesday 6 May, the OPA invited Old Paradians and Staff who have served our country to a Veterans Lunch prior to the Round 1 matches for the College's 1st XVIII and 1st XI.

The room heard from Anthony Lamers (OP 1995), who served in the Middle East and Afghanistan. He spoke about the values instilled

in him from his time at the College and how those values served him in his military career.

Vietnam Veteran and former Parade College Staff member John Joss tossed the coin prior to the 1st XVIII match. John spoke about the significance of the day saying, "It brings back memories of all Old Paradians who served their country in all conflict and having these lunches is an important way to remember them."

John was recognised as an Honorary Old Paradian in 2016 for his 30 years of teaching at the College and serving on a sub-committee of the Old Paradians' Association Committee.

The College is proud to host such



Above: Anthony Lamers (OP 1995) speaking at the Veteran's Lunch

events that connect people back to the College, providing an opportunity for them to visit and see how Parade College has developed over the years.

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Above: Honorary Old Paradian and former teacher John Joss tossing the coin prior to the 1st XVIII match

Upcoming Events

JULY

Wednesday 9 July – OPA Monthly Luncheon

Friday 25 July - 10 Year Reunion (Class of 2015)

AUGUST

Wednesday 13 August – OPA Monthly Luncheon

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 10 September – OPA Monthly Luncheon

OCTOBER

Wednesday 8 October – OPA Monthly Luncheon

Friday 10 October – Annual Hall of Fame Dinner

Thursday 16 October – Year 12 Farwell Liturgy and Luncheon

Friday 24 October – 30 Year Reunion (Class of 1995)

Friday 31 October – OPA Golf Day

NOVEMBER

Friday 7 November – 40 Year Reunion (Class of 1985)

Wednesday 12 November – OPA Monthly Luncheon

Friday 21 November – 1 Year Reunion (Class of 2024)

DECEMBER

Wednesday 10 December – OPA Monthly Luncheon

SCAN TO REGISTER
FOR THESE EVENTS





A WORLD OF
Opportunities