



Bluestone



Issue No.2 - December 2025





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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Welcome to the second edition of Bluestone, where we reflect on achievements and initiatives that have shone throughout the latter part of 2025.

One of the highlights of the Parade College calendar this semester was our Community Action Christmas Party, where we welcomed residents from local aged care home Vasey House. The joy shared between our students and the residents reminds us of what is at the heart of a Parade College education: acting with compassion, building meaningful connections, and living out our values of faith, service and justice.

We also celebrate the hard work and perseverance shown by this year's graduating class of 2025. Our students have demonstrated great resilience and determination, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. The success of our students is a testament to the ongoing support and guidance they have received from our staff, family, peers and friends, throughout their time at Parade. We wish them every success in the many varied pathways that lie ahead.

We endeavour to provide opportunities for our students to participate in many and varied activities that allow them the chance to grow and succeed. Our drama production, in partnership with Mercy College Coburg, was another highlight in Term 3. And, of course, we can't forget the excitement of seeing our senior football team secure a Herald Sun Shield three-peat. This is only the second time in the College's long history where this has been achieved, and the result speaks to the dedication and teamwork of both our athletes and coaches.

A special acknowledgment must go to our 2025 College Captain, Matthew Thomas, along with our Vice Captains, Prefect team and our student leaders across every year level. They have demonstrated generosity and integrity in their leadership throughout the year and have set a wonderful example for our incoming 2026 student leaders.

As we bring Semester Two to a close, I want to extend my sincere thanks to every member of our Parade College community for another successful year. I wish all families a safe and restful break and we look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Mark Aiello
Principal

The College is excited to announce Jacob Greco will be the 2026 College Captain. This will be the first time that a College Captain will be based at Preston Campus. Read below to get to know Jacob and what his plans and goals are for 2026.

What have you enjoyed the most about your time at Parade College over the last 5 years?

Parade has provided me with a lot of opportunities that I will forever be grateful for. There is no single event that I've enjoyed more than others, but ACC in general has been at the centre of all my favourite memories. Although we tend to dominate and bring home trophies, that's not why ACC is so enjoyable. ACC allowed me to bond with friends, strengthen relationships and build new ones. I can't see this changing any time soon. Old Paradians would answer in a similar way to me and I'm certain that future generations will too.

What are you looking forward to the most about 2026?

There are a few things that I'm looking forward to in 2026. I'm excited about being the first College Captain based at Preston Campus. No doubt, it's going to teach me a few things along the way, but I am ready to lead our College. Another thing to look forward to is returning to play soccer after a long rehabilitation journey, recovering from my ACL injury. I hope to use the lessons of resilience and patience I learnt while recovering to help my leadership in 2026. I am also looking forward to graduation. I'm certainly not wishing the time away, but I'm looking forward to taking on the world outside of Parade.

As a Prefect group, what are you hoping to achieve in 2026?

We plan to tackle a few areas across both Campuses. We want to focus on inclusivity, relationships and goal setting. As the year progresses, the steps in which we attack these goals will reveal themselves.

How would you describe the Parade College community?

The Parade College community is one to be thankful for. Both the students and staff here are incredible. Parade's community continuously grows and evolves over time, always striving for progression and forward thinking. It's never skipped or fallen behind by a beat. Parade's community enables people to push themselves, reach for the stars and really take advantage of the world of opportunities here at Parade College.

What advice would you give to our Year 7 2026 cohort?

The best piece of advice I ever received came from my buddy and I would recommend this mentality to the new Year 7 cohort: get involved in anything you can. At Parade, there are so many opportunities to find your passion, whether it be sport, music, arts or joining in one of the many clubs in the Nash Learning Centre. 9 times out of 10 there is always someone to help you through whatever it is you choose to do. If you are ever unsure about joining something, just do it. When you move without knowing how it could end, you teach yourself what you are truly capable of. Uncertainty often blocks people's path to greatness, but it's only by pushing through that you will realise how high you can fly.



2026 College Captain



Herald Sun Shield

“This three-peat is a testament to Parade’s exceptional talent, preparation, and unwavering spirit..”

*-Ricky Dyson
Senior Football Coach*



Parade College has solidified its reputation as a powerhouse in school football as the First XVIII claimed the 2025 Herald Sun Shield.

In a display of high-pressure effort around the contest, the team overpowered Catherine McAuley College, running out 49-point victors and claiming its third consecutive Shield victory, repeating the efforts of the dominant Parade team of the late 1990s.

The win further cements Parade's standing as one of the premier football programs in the state and highlights the depth of talent coming through the College.

In a tense first-quarter battle, the ball bounced from end to end. Both teams only broke through a couple of times to score, with Parade holding a one-point lead at the first change.

Another tight quarter followed, with Parade forming an early buffer before Catherine McAuley closed the gap to 11 points at the main break, keeping the contest well and truly alive.

After half time it was all Parade, as the team's pressure around the ball began to shine through. Capitalising on turnovers and beginning to move the ball efficiently, Parade started to strongly

hit the scoreboard and assert their dominance. Their relentless work rate and composure in front of goal proved decisive through the final term, where they piled on four goals in as many minutes to run out convincing victors.

Year 11 student Lewis Houndsome H07 was awarded best on ground, kicking two goals and standing out across the field with impactful stints in the ruck and a strong marking presence. First XVIII coach Ricky Dyson praised his team's effort and dedication to the football program at the College, highlighting the commitment shown by players throughout the season.

"This three-peat is a testament to Parade's exceptional talent, preparation, and unwavering spirit. For the players and coaches, it is a moment of pride and accomplishment, marking another chapter in the College's storied sporting history," he said.

The College now sets its sights on the 2026 ACC season, with pre-season training already underway as the First XVIII look to build on their success and continue Parade's proud football legacy.



Valete 2025

This year has been a privilege for me. Leading a cohort of young people that have such strong values of respect and dignity brought me so much joy and fulfilment, on top of life lessons that are invaluable to my own growth.

Year 12 has pushed me beyond what I knew possible. While some aspects clicked, others took hours of grinding to get down pat. Bottom line is that Year 12 is hard, absolutely no doubt about it. However, these challenges are what have given me the skills to assist me at university and the workplace. Discipline, diligence, and dedication have been the fuel that ignited the fire within me.

This year has flown. It feels like yesterday I was packing my bags to head to Phillip Island for my last camp of high school, then came my first Year 12 SAC of the year, now it is over. I feel like looking back on this year

warrants the quote from Ferris Bullers Day Off: "Life moves pretty fast, and if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you might miss it."

Easily the fondest memories of my final year at Parade were my involvement in ACC. There is something irreplaceable about playing school sport with your mates; the bus rides, games and inevitable study halls spent analysing the fixture and creating scenarios where we might just win it all, it truly is magical. In Term 3, I had the privilege of captaining the hockey team to the semifinals.

Being in a Leadership role this year gave me the opportunity to do what I so often preached; it gave me the opportunity to lift those around me, instilling the fundamental pillars of respect and growth into the Parade College community.

Leadership is so much more than what I did for others, it is equally about what others did for me. While I tried to impart my own ethos, I cannot dismiss the impact that my own peers have had on me. The work that Matthew and Joseph put in behind the scenes was incredible and the absolute care that the staff showed me is something I will forever be indebted for.

I cannot articulate how amazing this environment has been for me to flourish in, and it is all thanks to the students and staff that I was lucky enough to surround myself with.

Easily the most surreal part of leadership this year was the College Assemblies. If I told Year 7 Alessandro that he would eventually MC multiple assemblies in front of 2000 people, he might have lost his mind.

VALLETTE

“Parade College played a huge part in shaping me into who I am today. There are not enough words in the dictionary to articulate the gratitude that I feel.”

***-Alessandro Pezzimenti
Year 12 H05***

The endless hours that my teachers have spent responding to emails, the extra classes put on during online learning, I thank you for it all. Never in my life have I experienced such nurture from an institution that cares so deeply for its people.

No doubt Parade will hold a special place in my heart for the rest of my life.

Alessandro Pezzimenti
2025 College Vice Captain

It has been a privilege to serve as College Vice-Captain at Parade. Being a part of the planning and leadership behind our school's initiatives and fundraisers, such as push ups for mental health and gambling awareness programs, has helped my peers grow as people. Collaborating with such passionate students and staff to make a positive impact in our community has been both rewarding and inspiring. It is an experience I will always be proud of and grateful for.

During my time at Parade, I have said yes to every opportunity I have been offered. Through these opportunities I have made some great friends and learnt incredible life lessons I have been taught. Since Year 7, I have played music in the school bands and taken part in countless competitions and performances, including playing at Melbourne's premier concert venue, Hamer Hall, and attending the school's annual jazz band trip to Generations in Jazz in South Australia, where this year our band placed second in our division.

My travels with Parade College, however, have not stopped there, with trips to Geelong for mock political conferences, and even to the Gold Coast for the National Australian School Championships for basketball in Year 10. I have played football, volleyball, and my true passion, basketball. I have enjoyed every second of stepping onto the court or field with my best mates and peers.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to my incredibly supportive teachers and caring friends, who have made Parade College a truly special and rewarding place to learn.

Joesph Stephens-Keane
2025 College Vice Captain



VCE RESULTS 2025



Alexander Larocca
College Dux
99.05



Tom Montgomery-Scobie
**2025 Outstanding VCE Vocational
Major Award Winner**



Elvin
Prince
98.80



Noah
Caiafa
98.40



Tejus
Pathak
98.20

33

students achieved a 90+ ATAR (17% of the cohort)

50

Perfect Study Scores of 50: Alexander Larocca in Systems Engineering; Tejus Pathak in Legal Studies; Jacob Brewster in Business Management (as a Year 11 in 2025)

Puffs

This year, Parade College and Mercy College were proud to present 'Puffs'- or *Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic!* Parade hosted three spectacular performances at its Rivergum Theatre.

Parade College Learning Area Leader- Drama and Visual Arts Ms Sasha Tukavkin praised all the students' efforts that rounded out a fantastic year of Drama at the College. "The production wasn't just a showcase of our students' talent, but a beautiful testament to the enduring positive relationship between Parade College and Mercy College, a collaboration that strengthens our community every time we step onto the stage together," Ms Tukavkin said.

Since the start of Term 2, students spent countless hours rehearsing and getting into character. Students who usually watch from the sidelines put their hand up to be involved this year, with many declaring it to be one of their favourite moments of the year! One of those students was Year 11 student Nicolas Fernandes N01.

"I had never worked with students from another school, so it was great to have the opportunity to do the drama production with students from Mercy College. I loved being a part of drama production for the first time because it was an opportunity for me to network and make new friendships."

For others like Year 11 student Zac Hildebrandt L02, it was a great way to get involved after missing out on participating in the College Musical this year.

"I wanted to be involved in *The Wedding Singer*, but I missed the cutoff. After being a part of the student orchestra in *Mary Poppins*, I auditioned. I loved getting to do *Puffs* with my mates," said Nicholas.

The Music and Performing Arts team will now move their attention to next year's musical production of *Beauty and the Beast* with Santa Maria College in May 2026.



"I've always wanted to be a part of a show at Parade, so, when I heard that this year's drama production was Puffs, I was so excited,"

*-Nicolas Fernandes
Year 11 N01*



Manchester City FS Tour



Over September, sixteen Year 9 and 10 students had the once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Manchester and London as part of the Manchester City Football School tour. This two-week adventure included spending time in one of the world's best football facilities and experiencing the life of a professional footballer at one of the most recognisable football teams in the world.

On the training pitch, our students were put through their paces, working with Manchester City Academy coaches, refining their skills and learning new tactics. Off the pitch, students worked with the media team, completing media training in the press room where the Manchester City coach and players do their post-match press conferences. Students were also able to test their skills against local schools in a couple of friendly games showcasing great teamwork.

The excitement of the trip was at its highest when staff and students experienced a European football match firsthand, attending five matches. This included front row seats the Manchester Derby, where students were in awe of Erling Haaland's goal and celebration right in front of them, as well as being seen in the broadcast across the world.

The trip continued into London with the chance to see some of the sites, including Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, and the London Eye. Back on the pitch, students were able to train at Chelsea and Tottenham. Students embraced the opportunity as they gained a deeper understanding of being involved in a professional football club environment.

The Manchester City program at Parade is a unique opportunity for our students that provides an authentic and creative football coaching program utilising the coaching philosophy and methodology of Manchester City.

We look forward to our continued partnership with Manchester City and the ability to provide our students with once in a lifetime trips and opportunities.

"It was great to compare how different professional teams train and to get an understanding of everything that the professionals do throughout the week in preparation for games."

*-Anthony Pantelidis
Year 10 B01*



**FOOTBALL
SCHOOL**



Waterford Garden



Above: Sustainability Advocate Andrew Walker feeding the chickens in the Waterford Garden

Named for the hometown of Blessed Edmund Rice, the award-winning Waterford Garden has transformed disused space on the southern boundary of Bundoora Campus into a thriving hub for sustainable living.

Much like the garden itself, the project took off organically in 2016 and has evolved naturally over time. Originally located in the centre of the campus, the garden was relocated in 2019 to its current home on the previously disused grounds beside the trade training centres. The design and layout of the garden have been dictated by the gently sloping space it inhabits, and shaped by the sustainability principles of 'reuse, repurpose, and recycle'.

The project is truly collaborative. Initiated by the Convenor of Community Action Programs Anne-Marie Morello, with support from teacher Andrew Walker, the sheds have been built by staff and students in the Trade Training Centre, with members of the Old Paradians' Association contributing mulch from local businesses, along with irrigations systems created with materials sourced from donations and community collections.

A labour of love, the garden has never been directly connected to curriculum, but rather a place for staff and students with a shared interest in horticulture, animal husbandry and sustainable living to connect and create together. The garden is currently coordinated by classroom teacher and Sustainability Advocate Andrew Walker, who leads a passionate group of students before school, after class and even over the school holiday break.

"Waterford Garden gives some of our students a place where they feel they truly belong," Mr Walker explained. "It's a space for students to work with their hands, where they can directly see and enjoy the fruits of their labour. You see their confidence grow as they solve problems, take initiative, and even form new friendships across different year levels."

With a flock of chickens and a focus on seasonal produce, Waterford Garden embodies the principles of sustainable living, being both environmentally and socially conscious. Running as a small enterprise, sales of the organic fruits, vegetables and eggs are used to ensure the project remains financially self-sustaining.

This approach has seen the garden receive multiple Victorian Schools Garden Program Awards, with the most recent being Most Engaging Student Garden for Learning. The garden also supports the College's busy Food Technology program, with aspiring chefs assisting with regular harvesting, helping to maintain the garden, and enjoying using the produce in their lessons.

Mr Walker says the positive effects of the garden reach beyond the College gates, with students learning to engage more deeply and consciously with the world around them.

"Working in the garden teaches students to slow down and pay attention to the rhythms of nature. They learn where food really comes from, how to save seeds, and how a garden regenerates when you treat it with care. There's something powerful about seeing them discover that they are part of a much bigger natural cycle."

If you are interested in contributing to the growth of the College's sustainability programs, we invite you to contact Mr Andrew Walker directly via andrew.walker@parade.vic.edu.au.





Old Paradians

The Old Paradians' Hall of Fame award is one of the Associations' highest accolades.

The award recognises individuals who have brought honour to Parade College and who, by their contribution to society, serve as authentic role models for the present and future generations of the Parade community.

This year, the Association was proud to award Sean Willmore (OP 1990) this honour for his dedication and tireless work in animal and wildlife conservation.

Sean completed Year 12 at Parade in 1990 and was an active member of the cohort. One of four brothers schooled at the College, Sean loved sport and was a very dependable player in the 1st XV111, often given the job of tagging the best players in the opposition side. He undertook this task with great determination and relish.

John Nicholls, First XVIII coach in 1990, remembers Sean's dedication.

"He was my so-called tagger. I described his approach to the task as like a dog with a bone, no job too big, very determined, focussed. He would regularly get under the skin of the tag and win his own ball. Those same qualities have been put to good use in his professional life on leaving school," said John.

It is without question those qualities of determination and persistence have shone through in Sean's life beyond Parade College. Already a Distinguished Old Paradian, presented to the College Assembly in July 2013, Sean has been an inspiration in his work over the past 20 years.

Sean worked as a Park Ranger in Victoria for 10 years, often facing many dangerous and challenging situations. He was

awarded a Medal of Bravery from the Royal Humane Society for his courageous attempt to save a drowning man in waters off Wilsons Promontory in 1997.

Sean began his journey of awakening at an International Ranger Federation Conference in 2003, where he learned about the extreme and often life-threatening situations that his fellow rangers faced across the globe. Called to action, Sean put his life on hold and set off in the world to film inspiring stories across remote wilderness areas, visiting 23 countries in 14 months.

His efforts culminated in the inspiring premier of *The Thin Green Line* documentary. Screened in 50 different countries, the film highlighted the plight of wildlife rangers globally, drawing attention from high profile environmental activists, including acclaimed primatologist and anthropologist Dame Jane Goodall.



Capitalising on this support, Sean then founded the internationally recognised Thin Green Line Foundation, which has continued to provide a vital lifeline to the frontlines of conservation and critical advocacy for ranger's rights and protection. As a former President of the International Ranger Federation, Sean's tireless and courageous work to defend the work of rangers has sparked a global movement for change.

Sean was particularly touched to be recognised for his work at the Hall of Fame dinner and spoke heartfully as he recalled the endorsement that changed the trajectory of his organisation: the approval of the pioneering Dame Jane Goodall. Speaking to guests on the evening, only days after the sad passing of his friend Dame Jane, the impact of both her work on Sean's career path was clear.

Working in some of the most remote places in the world, Sean has found himself in some unique situations and recounted some of those stories with the room at the Hall of Fame dinner.

To the amusement of those in attendance, one memory that he reflected on was a tense encounter in the Congo where Sean's

vehicle was stopped and surrounded by a militia group. With a hundred armed militia around the car, Sean thought on his feet and blessed a rebel soldier that had approached the car, creating the illusion of being a priest.

"I turned to them as if I didn't know they had guns and blessed them. They looked at each other for a few seconds before they turned to us and said 'you can go'. My mate in the back of the car said he couldn't believe that his life depended on me being a priest," he chuckled.

Sean stressed, although a funny story, these are the type of situations that rangers in these areas have to go through on a daily basis.

The Old Paradians' Association is immensely proud of Sean and the work he has achieved in supporting animal and wildlife conservation. After more than 20 impactful years as the Founder and tireless Director of the Thin Green Line Foundation, Sean announced in November that he will be focusing on new challenges and opportunities outside of the Foundation. The Association wishes Sean all the best in his future endeavours and looks forward to hearing about his next adventure.

I described his approach to the task as like a dog with a bone, no job too big, very determined, focussed. He would regularly get under the skin of the tag and win his own ball. Those same qualities have been put to good use in his professional life on leaving school,"

-John Nicholls

1990 Senior Football Coach

2025 HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS

Sean Willmore 1990

Br Peter Dowling 1965

2025 TENETE AWARD RECIPIENT

Andy Kuppe 1983



Above: Sean Willmore receiving his Hall of Fame Award



OPA Golf Day

Above: L-R Patrick Sacco, Jonathon Cicutto, Anthony Seneca, Joseph Seneca enjoying the day on the course

Below: L-R Mark Di Pasquale, Michael Geary catching up

The Old Paradians' Association Golf Day is one of the favourite events on the Association's calendar. Reinstated in 2023, the numbers continue to grow with 88 Old Paradians in attendance on the day.

Spearheaded by Luke Thomas (OP 1988) and Steve Nailer (OP 1987), the day provides the opportunity for classmates to come together and catch up, or reconnect after years of not seeing each other.

The event brought together many decades of Old Paradians, along with previous Peter Walker Trophy winners, including veterans Vin Arthur (OP 1958), winner in 1998, and Chris Chamberlain (OP 1960), winner in 2001, who participated this year.

Braving the inclement weather, the participants took over Rosanna Golf Club, enjoying the 18 holes, playing for individual and group glory. There were also closest to the pin holes throughout the day, which

provided much enjoyment and competition among the group.

The evening was capped off with dinner at the Golf Club and awards being presented.

The support of the Qube team, Peter Reid and Asahi, Andrew Bennett and Veritas and the Rosanna Golf Club, ensured the day ran smoothly and provided some prizes for the event.

The Association looks forward to continuing to hold this event and immensely thanks the work of Luke Thomas, Steve Nailer, and the Rosanna Golf Club.



OLD BLUSTONE
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MAY LOYAL SERV
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Above: L-R Frank Ryan, Chris Chamberlain, Vin Arthur, Nick Ryan enjoying the celebrations after a day on the green

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 11 February – OPA Monthly Luncheon

Sunday 22 February – Giro D'Parade Community Bike Ride

MARCH

Wednesday 11 March – OPA Monthly Luncheon

Monday 23 March – OPA AGM

Friday 27 March – 50 Year Reunion (Class of 1976)

APRIL

Wednesday 8 April – OPA Monthly Luncheon

MAY

Friday 8 May – 20 Year Reunion (Class of 2006)

Monday 11 May – OPA Committee Meeting

Wednesday 13 May – OPA Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday 20 May – Bedford Madden Shield, Veterans Luncheon and 1996 Herald Shield Reunion

JUNE

Wednesday 10 June – OPA Monthly Luncheon

SCAN TO REGISTER
FOR THESE EVENTS





A WORLD OF
Opportunities