

Mount
Erin

CORWELL

Issue 2
2022



Editorial

Congratulations! As you read this, we’ve (hopefully) reached the end of another school year. For me however, as I write this in early November in sickness, I feel dread towards the passing of time. It’s fair to say this has been a very busy year for a lot of us. One would expect as such, with the world climbing out of a ditch formed by COVID, that while still very present is a hole we’d rather ignore. Personally, I’ve been doing a lot of things this year, from the sudden workload given by Year 11 and 12 VCE study, to starting work, to even establishing this very magazine! And now, a couple of days after my year 12 exam, I’ve gotten sick. I think I’m ready for a break, but whether I’ll let myself enjoy it is another question entirely.

For this issue, we really tried to give it a smaller scale, however I think our contributors have gone above the level of quality seen last issue! In the news, we’ll look at the impressive Art Extravaganza hosted by our school’s art team, as well as talking to the new college captains. Then in non-fiction, Joshua Duncan looks at the educational benefits of video games, while Shae Preece discusses the possibility of bringing the extinct back to existence. Finally in creative, Caitlin Davis takes us to a dystopia set in quartz, as Jennifer Kreyts investigates a crime scene of dubious loyalties.

As always, on behalf of all of us at Cartwheel Magazine, we hope you enjoy this issue, and we wish you all a safe and merry holiday season.

- Tom Weir-Alarcon, editor and founder.

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January - March 2023

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI SAT

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

29	30 Term 1 Start Year 7+12 Return	31 All students return	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14 School Photos	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	01	02 Parent Teacher Interviews	03 Catch-Up Photos	04

As the 2022 school year comes to an end, senior students (such as myself) have diligently prepared for the end-of-year exams. Many Year 10 students worked towards practicing their exams skills in preparation for future exams, with others sitting VCE exams alongside our talented Year 11 students.

With the exam period over and results being handed back to students, I would like to remind my fellow students of their efforts, successes and improvements throughout the year, and regardless of the outcomes of these exams there will be plenty of future opportunities to grow and demonstrate the very best of their abilities.

I would also like to thank all the teachers for their support during this new, and somewhat challenging period of time, as well as all the time, dedication and assistance throughout the year, preparing us for the future. Throughout every high and low of this year, you have stood by us all as we adapted once again to face-to-face learning and experienced the challenges of embracing the senior school lifestyle.

A very big congratulations to all students and an even bigger good luck with everything you all wish to achieve moving forward into our final senior years of high school.

Written by Shae Preece

Art Extravaganza

Art students have been working tirelessly over the year, and the products of their effort have been put on display for all students and families! The Arts Extravaganza had an amazing turnout, with food, music, and an art display in the DATS. Music and drama students got their time in the limelight as well, as the crowd moved to the auditorium after the gallery display. This event was extra special, as the last ones had been cancelled over COVID. Whether you are a fan of visual, audio, or performance art, we hope to see even more students join the fun next year.

Written by Caitlin Davis

At the very end of the year, we are delighted to be joined by the Year 6s, who will become Year 7s at the start of next year! These guests will be learning all about the ins and outs of highschool at Mount Erin, and we hope that they feel welcomed by students (meaning don't be too mean). I encourage you to look back on your own first day at highschool! As they enter the next part of their education journey, be sure to invite them over to play, offer to help them to class, and make sure they don't get lost. I am sure that many current students will be joined by siblings and family, but it is extra important that during this time of transition that they feel safe and included at our wonderful school.

Written by Caitlin Davis

ESCAPE TO CAMP

Year 7s Take to Alexandra

NEWS



After months of delays, the Year 7 cohort finally took a trip to the Alexandra Adventure Resort, from the 28th to the 30th of November. Planning for this excursion was quite unique, not only due to being held later in the year than previous camps, but also due to a dramatic shift in scenery from the previous camp excursions at Phillip Island. With even teachers out of their depth, it was sure to be an interesting trip.



Upon arriving in the small town of Alexandra, the students were greeted by the staff at the resort, before setting up in their dorms and starting a rotation of activities. Unfortunately, the weather had a counterpoint: rain. While the unending torrent of hail and water interrupted the students' day, their activities would continue over the course of their stay. These activities included climbing the high ropes, building and sailing rafts, stacking tall crate towers, and even attaching themselves to the daunting giant swing!

In between their activities, students were also able to take advantage of the resort's numerous facilities; including basketball courts, a swimming pool and, of course, the canteen. Some of the meals that attendees devoured included pasta, parmigiana and the classic breakfast buffet. Each night was also bookended by a special activity, with a disco party on the first, and a movie night on the second.

But soon enough, the kids had reached the end of their trip. So, by noon of the third day, they had packed up their things and got on a bus back home. While I can't make a definitive comment on this as an outside reporter, I'm sure the group made many great (if a bit rainy) memories of their time in Alexandra.



"[My favourite part of the trip] was probably the giant swing."

-Georgia Miller, 9C

"Yeah, and the extravagant showers!"

-Nelly McClen, 9C

"I loved the potatoes, the potatoes were so good!"

-Annie Boyd, 9C

"For me too, it was great just talking with students while playing card games and basketball. Camp gave me the opportunity to chat with the kids in a way that you don't have time while in the classroom."

-Mr. Flint, supervisor



Written by Tom Weir-Alarcon, with testimony provided by year 7 students and photos from Alexandra Adventure Resort's website (<https://www.alexandraadventureresort.com.au/photo-gallery.html>)

ReSUMING DeVeLOPMeNTS?

Potential Renovations at Mount Erin College

On the 24th of October, the school received a visit from members of the Victorian Labor government, most notably Frankston MP Paul Edbrooke and State Premier Daniel Andrews, to discuss potential redevelopment plans for the school ahead of the next state election on November 26th.

Upon arriving at the school, the pair were greeted by the principal team and representatives from our student leadership team, before moving into a tour of the facilities. The A and C Block buildings were highlighted during the inspection as being some of the oldest buildings within the school. That, combined with the shift in house structure and the damage caused by interior flooding earlier in the year, has made renovations in these areas a high priority.



Mt Erin Secondary College
\$5 MILLION TO UPGRADE THE CAMPUS

Mrs. Hodgins also discussed her potential ideas with the premier; which included expanding and moving the locker bays outdoors, implementing house community spaces, and improving the existing hallway and classroom space. She stated that the aim of these changes would be to create facilities with a stronger educational focus.

In the staff lounge towards the end of his visit (in front of an accidental audience of enthusiastic students), Andrews took a moment to clarify his plans for the education industry if his party was re-elected, as prior to this he had announced a "\$1.6 billion pledge to upgrade schools across Victoria" while at Seaford North Primary. As part of this pledge, he's promised \$5.2 million will go towards renovating Mount Erin's facilities. As of writing, time will tell what will become of these plans, however we're optimistic that such improvements can be made to our school one way or another.

We'd like to thank the Premier and his team for taking the time to visit the school, as well as his publicity team for providing us with photos of the day.

Written by Tom Weir-Alarcon, with photos provided by Labor's publicity team.

SWPBS at Mount Erin

SWPBS, standing for School Wide Positive Behaviour Support, is the way in which appropriate behaviours are taught, reinforced and managed at Mount Erin.

SWPBS is largely based on our values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. Here is a reminder of what these values mean...

Respect

To feel or show an understanding for your own or other’s beliefs / rights / religions or environment.

Resilience

The ability to recover from setbacks, adapt to change, and persist in the face of adversity.

Responsibility

Being dependable, making good choices, and taking ownership and accountability for your actions.

So, how can we show these values in different parts of the school?
You can be respectful, responsible and resilient in all spaces during the school day.

	Using Learning Spaces	In the College Grounds	Out in the Community	When Using ICT	At All Times
Respect	Allow for Learning Listen to others	Effective communication Care for my surroundings	Interact Positively with Others Represent the College with Pride	Follow the College ICT agreement Be Cybersafe	Be in the right place at the right time Listen Attentively Respect personal space, privacy and property
Responsibility	Be Ready to Learn Strive for Individual Excellence Seek Assistance	Participate Positively Contribute to a clean and tidy Environment	Be a Positive Role Model	Use Internet & Devices Appropriately Check Compass and Emails Daily	Follow instructions, first time everytime, Use good manners Encourage and support others
Resilience	Persevere with Work Learn from Mistakes	Take responsibility for actions Try my best	Take on Challenges	Appropriate Online Communication	Wear School Uniform Correctly Be My Best

Don’t forget, Mount Erin staff are always here to make school a more successful learning space. Here’s how teachers contribute to SWPBS:

Teaching positive behaviours:

Our teachers will demonstrate the school values in class and will teach us more about these values through ASPIRE classes, etc. You will always know what behaviours your teachers expect from you.

Reinforcing positive behaviours:

Staff will always remind you in class about showing positive behaviours. This might be shown by congratulating students who are displaying the school values or by awarding students with ASPIRE points on Compass.

Managing challenging behaviours:

We all have our bad days sometimes. Following SWPBS, teachers will handle challenging behaviours by first reminding you of what their expectations are. Teachers will then give some options of more positive behaviours and help you re-engage in your learning. If a challenging behaviour continues, staff will issue you with an appropriate consequence but will always follow up with a restorative chat to make sure you are still engaged in class, even after a hard day.

Written by Kirsten Harkness, adpated from information on the Mount Erin website.

AWARDS NIGHT 2022

Written by Kirsten Harkness

On Wednesday 30 November, Mount Erin College held their annual awards night in celebration of the outstanding efforts from students from Year 7 to Year 11. It was a wonderful night giving recognition to our high achieving students of 2022.

The awards presented included Excellence and Endeavour awards for students from each year level, in recognition of their academic excellence and continued display of the school values, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

The dux of each year level was also recognised - this was awarded to one student from each year level who achieved the highest aggregate score across subjects. Other notable awards included domain area awards celebrating students' achievements in fields such as Sports, Music Performance and LOTE.

A number of community awards were also presented including the Louisa Dunkley Shield as well as the Long Tan and Future Innovator awards which were sponsored by the Australian Defence Force.



The awards presentation was interspersed with marvellous musical performances from those involved in the college music program. These included performances from the vocal group as well as a solo performance by David Damman on the piano. It was fantastic to showcase the efforts of our very talented music students.



Congratulations once again to the 2022 awards recipients for your supreme efforts over the course of this year.

Please find below a complete list of 2022 awardees:

Louisa Dunkley Shield - In Recognition of Louisa Dunkley and her commitment to fairness, equality, and community
Tom Weir-Alarcon

The ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership + Teamwork Awards

Year 12 James Webbers

Year 10 Amelia Kean

ADF Future Innovators Award - In recognition of recipients' scientific and mathematical abilities

Year 12 Ruby Weir-Alarcon (for her study in extension

university maths + being awarded as an

Ambassador of the Graham Clarke Oration)

Year 10 Kirsten Harkness (demonstrated exemplary skill across all STEM areas)

Ampol Best All-Rounder

Kaitlyn Fuller

The Village Baxter Community Development Awards

Year 7 Emma Ebert (demonstrating college values)

Year 8 Ryan Latham (active member of college community)

Year 9 Liana Hill (for College Board rep)

Year 10 Tahleah Fisher (instrumental in college's Koorie community)

Kwong Lee Dow - University of Melbourne's academic enrichment program

Shae Preece

Tahleah Fisher

Skyline Educational Scholarship Award

Joshua Duncan

Tahleah Fisher

Insight Year 11 English Award - sponsorship recognising effort/commitment to VCE English studies

Tom Weir-Alarcon

NAPLAN Awards

Nikolaos Avrillionis

Ayla Johnston

Ashton Lever

Blake Lovell

Alexander Bird

Aiden Pierrepont

Matthew Roder

Year 7 Endeavour Awards

Gabriel Turley

Ryder Keays

Jennifer Kreys

Jesse Dean

Eli Abbott

Harpa Cargill

Year 7 Excellence Awards

Paylen Cargill

Charlie Eckhardt

Jack Lawton

Emma Ebert

Alex Locke

Spencer Johnson

Year 8 Endeavour Awards

Caeleb Abbott

Benjamin Sampson

Lilli Owen

Mia Thurbon

Sujin Campbell

Jake Breen

Brock Argue

Abuk Wak

Year 8 Excellence Awards

Caeleb Abbott

Benjamin Sampson

Lilli Owen

Mia Thurbon

Sujin Campbell

Jake Breen

Brock Argue

Abuk Wak

Year 9 Endeavour Awards

Chloe Amad

Jai Pesic

Zak Wiseman

Brock Keays

Jaelen Kade

Ava Boyd

Faithful Asogwa

Year 9 Excellence Awards

Nikita Harris

Aiden Bradley

Nicholas Avrillionas

Ashlin Cattanaach

Kayla Dowling

Emily Cooper

Jacob Kreys

Nicholas Avrillionas

Year 10 Endeavour Awards

Lochlan Absalom

Crystal-Jade Phillips

Joshua Duncan

Summer Lawton

Zoe Whitehead

Ryan Nolan

Abi Bam

Year 10 Excellence Awards

Logan Wilkie

Kirsten Harkness

Ollie Quillerat

Shae Preece

Year 11 Subject Awards

Art Lauren Ralph

Biology Shae Preece

Business Management Tom Weir-Alarcon

Chemistry David Damman

Music Performance David Damman

English Thitiwat Barrett

Food Studies Brooklyn Sharkey

Health & Human Development James O'Meara

History Caitlin Davis

Legal Studies Bailey Morgan

Sociology Bailey Morgan

Maths - Foundation Phoebe Huntingford

Maths - General Carmen Grenness

Maths - Methods Lewis Painter

Physics Lewis Painter

Media Sierra Bader-Leon

Physical Education Joslin Kitson

Product Design & Technology Egzona Drenica

Psychology Brayden Gage

Systems Engineering Liam Galbraith

VCAL Foundation English Corey Barker

VCAL PDS Corey Barker

VCAL WRS Lachlan Hill

VET Building and Const Cert II (1st year)

Kaden Reymont

2022 Service to Music Commendation

Gabriel Turley

Penelope Norris

Idan Freidman

Samantha Mackinnon

Ethan Paul

Matilda Richardson

Ayla Johnston

Elizabeth Turnock

Shayla Roberts

Crystal-Jade Phillips

Laylah Cook

Isabelle Hampson

Mia Farrington

Brodie Tallon

Alyssa Peiper

Hayley Webbers

Freya Cullen

Ryan Nolan

David Damman

Australian Maths Competition Awards

Proficiency Awards

Kayla Ralph

Charlie Eckhardt

Gabriel Turley

Aiden Bradley

Shae Preece

Credit Awards

Spencer Johnson

Nikolaos Avrillionis

Jasmine Jackson-Day

Distinction Award

Thomas Owen

High Distinction Award

Caeleb Abbott

LOTE Award

Paylen Cargill

Ethan Paul

Outstanding Achievement

Design Tech

Clodagh Patten of Year 7

Benjamin Robertson of Year 8

Jai Pesic of Year 9

Isaac Longstaff of Year 10

Food Tech

Imogen O'Connor-Byrne

Ella Pesic

Thomas Simmons

Indianna Amoruso

Art and Visual Communication Design

Riley Hogan

Ebony Charlesworth

Ayla Johnston

Summer Lawton

Drama

Harpa Cargill

Alannah Fraser-Whitely

ICT/Robotics

Caeleb Abbot

Jacob Kreys

Humanities

Spencer Johnson

Thomas Owen

Ashlin Cattanaach

Abigael Bam

Health and PE

Harmony Constable

Ashley Mullen

Nikita Harris

Indianna Amoruso

Vocational Education and Training

Kaden Reymont (Building and

Construction certificate)

Cathy Mulder (Health Services)

Team Sport Award

Junior

Annie Boyd Year 7

Oliver Southwell Year 8

Senior

Nikita Harris Year 9

Indianna Amoruso Year 10

Commitment and Service to College Sport

Paylen Cargill

Jesse Dean

Marco Pappetas

Jasmine Millar

Nikita Harris

Buster Williams

Haylee Parker

Aaron Phal

Kayden Reymont

College Music Award

Crystal-Jade Phillips

College Performing Arts Award

Breeana Ellis

College Art Award

Dakota Lacco

Recognition of State Level Athletics

Jasmine Millar

Nikita Harris

Mason Morris

Number One in Australia in the Mens Open Recurve in

Archery

Jai Crawley

Dux of Year 7

Jack Lawton

Dux of Year 8

Thomas Owen

Dux of Year 9

Nicholas Avrillionas

Dux of Year 10

Shae Preece

Dux of Year 11

Thitiwat (Aiden) Barrett

College Dux 2022

Eddie Sampson

YEAR 10 FOOD AND CULTURE INTERNATIONAL COOK-OFF

Written by Shae Preece

Students have been cooking up a storm in Year 10 Food and Culture this term with the International Cook Off once again being held in the MEC kitchens!

Students were required to demonstrate their skills and prepare a tasty lunch meal from around the world and present it with their display about their chosen country. Students chose foods from right across the world and worked hard to prepare their food to present to the toughest judges since Masterchef... the Mount Erin Teachers!

Below are all of the teams and their dishes:

Country	Dish
Japan	Vegetable Gyoza
Vietnam	Rice Paper Rolls
USA	Fried Chicken Wings
France	Cheesecake
USA	Chocolate Brownies
Italy	Pizza
Mexico	Mini Burritos
USA	Beef Sliders
Czechoslovakia	Pigs in Blankets



While it was clear that all students cooked up absolute masterpieces, there could only be one winner.

Congratulations to TEAM ITALY with their amazing pizzas!



Meet The School Captains



Isabel Cundy

Hi! My name is Isabel and I am one of your 2023 College Captains.

A little bit to know about me is that I study English, Maths, Art, Legal Studies and Business Management, and completed the Unit 3/4 Psychology class this year. I like to hang out with friends and family, get out of the house to socialise, and I am always up to chat about my dog!

As a school captain, I really want to hear all of your thoughts and opinions on how you think we can better the school. I would love to be able to actually explore options on how to make these changes available to the school. As a student, I know as well as you that there are definitely things that can be done to create a more positive environment for us all.

It should be pretty easy to find me around the schoolyard if anyone would like to talk; whether that be about feedback/suggestions you would like to be heard or just for a chat. If not, shoot me an email and I will get back to you as soon as possible!



Freya Cullen

Hey, I'm Freya, one of your school captains for 2023!

In my role as a school captain, I would love to make Mount Erin a positive space for students and staff, where everyone feels safe and is happy to be at school. I hope to achieve a sense of community around the school and lift our school spirit around Mount Erin.

Some of my interests include reading, music/performing and horse riding. Currently my favourite subjects at Mount Erin would be Art, Psychology and English, after high school I would also love to study at university.

I would also like to say thank you for choosing me as one of the school captains for 2023.

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

In Week 6 of Term 4, Mount Erin learnt more about recycling for National Recycling Week. I spoke to the Queen of Green herself, Ms Townsend, about the importance of recycling and what we can all do to make a difference.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RECYCLE?

Recycling helps us all reduce our carbon footprint, and can stop the amount of waste that is ending up in our landfills every week. Recycling gives us the opportunity to provide things that would otherwise be thrown away and damage our environment, another opportunity to be turned into something new for us to use which is an amazing way to help our environment!

WHAT IS MOUNT ERIN DOING TO HELP WITH RECYCLING?

We currently have collection sites for bottle tops and bread tags as well as the introduction of some more recycling bins for not only paper and cardboard but bottles and cans and everything else that can be recycled. The food tech rooms also are using the scraps from classes and turning it into compost which can be used for the gardens outside the food tech rooms. We also have started a very exciting project where we are repurposing old kitchen equipment to turn it into garden art which is a very cool way to recycle things that would otherwise be thrown away!

WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THE BOTTLE TOPS AND BREAD TAGS THAT WE COLLECT?

The bottle tops are sent to an organisation called 'Lids4Kids' which recycles the bottles tops and turns them into play equipment and other necessities for kids at schools. That way we are helping not only the environment but the future generations too! The bread tags are collected for 'Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs' which collects plastic bread tags to raise funds to purchase wheelchairs for those in disadvantaged countries.

IF STUDENTS WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT RECYCLING OR NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK WHERE SHOULD THEY GO?

There are plenty of organisations online that can tell you more about recycling, National Recycling Week or even helping out the environment like Planet Ark, Cleanaway or Council sites. Also be sure to head down to the food tech rooms if you would like to know more about what you can do to help do your bit in recycling or helping the environment!

All about...

CITY WEEK 2022

In the Year 9 Centre, students spent Term 3 developing an idea for their own business that would succeed in the Melbourne CBD. Students worked in groups to complete some background research online, before planning fieldwork that could be completed when in Melbourne for City Week. During that week they checked out the opposition, got ideas from other stores and started creating their own business ideas. Back at school, students developed detailed business plans covering layouts, logos, advertising, staffing and costings.

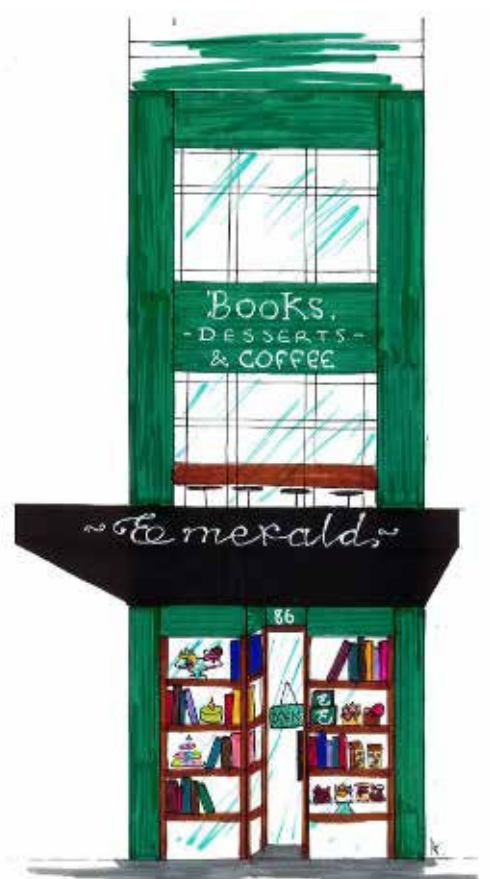
Below is some of the Year 9's students fantastic work!

EMERALD CAFE AND BOOKSTORE

"Our intention with this library cafe was to be able to serve people food and drink while they read books, although, you don't have to read to eat at the cafe, and you don't have to eat to read in the library. It is supposed to be a place where you can relax and read while eating delicious pâtisserie food"

Autumn, Amelia, Beth, Ava, Ahnna and Holly 9A

Here are some of the final products including the Emerald Cafe menu, logo and store design:



POOCHIE PARADISE

"Our business was called Poochie Paradise. We created a business that we believed was going to fill a gap in the market for customised and stylish dog accessories. We launched our business with bandanas and bow ties but have every intention of expanding this range as we grow. We offer our products in numerous designs and sizes to ensure all of our customers are satisfied."

Sophie, Shelby and Natalie 9G

Take a look to the right to see their amazing set up on presentation day!



Written by Ms Scott, edited by Kirsten Harkness

UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIPS

Hansen Scholars Program at the University of Melbourne

Provides selected students with accommodation at Little Hall and extensive support in their studies.

20 students are chosen based on their resilience during hardships, as well as their commitment to academic success and being a supportive leader to others.

Further benefits include:

- Standard room living at no charge for the duration of an undergraduate degree
- Annual allowance of \$4000 for general living expenses for the duration of an undergraduate degree
- Access to Little Hall's mentorship, pastoral care, and development programs, including support tailored for Hansen Scholars.

Applications open February 3rd, close March 30th. For more information, visit:

<https://scholarships.unimelb.edu.au/awards/hansen-scholarship#full-benefit-details>

BGIS Women in Engineering Scholarship at RMIT

With one spot available, this scholarship is valued at \$5,000 per year for up to five years. This also includes 10 weeks of paid vacation/WIL work, and a mentorship program at Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions (BGIS) Melbourne.

This scholarship is open to CSP female students enrolling in their first year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) program at RMIT in one of the following disciplines:

- Civil and Infrastructure Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Applications will open in early August, close in October. For more information, visit:

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/students/careers-opportunities/scholarships/coursework/bgis>

Master Builders Victoria's Early Career Scholarship

Established by Master Builders Victoria, the Building & Construction Foundation aims to make working in the construction industry more accessible to those with limited educational support.

The Early Career Scholarship in particular is targeted towards students planning to undertake pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship or other construction-related training. The scholarship is valued at \$2,200, which includes:

- \$1,200 towards approved course fees
- \$1,000 to quality tools and equipment for your desired speciality.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.mbav.com.au/Building-and-Construction-Foundation>

Dafydd and Mary Jane Lewis Foundation

The Dafydd and Mary Jane Lewis Foundation offers financial scholarships to students disadvantaged economically or face trouble at home, and are looking to pursue study at university.

The Dafydd Lewis and Mary Jane Lewis scholarships, the former for men and the latter for women, are awarded to students based on merit and equity. Each provide \$10,000 annually over the course of 3 years.

For more information, visit

<https://maryjanelewis.com.au/> and <https://www.dafyddlewis.com.au/>



Photographed by Shae Preece

The Feasibility of De-extinction With The Paradise Parrot

By Shae Preece

Introduction

As new technology arises throughout the progression of the scientific community, and publicity is provided to conservation efforts throughout the community, questions of not only conserving existing species but also investigating potential ‘de-extinction projects’ have emerged throughout the academic world. To explore and determine the feasibility of ‘de-extinction’, this report will explore the resurrection of *Psephotus pulcherrimus* (Paradise Parrot), a native specie of South-eastern Queensland that is predicted to have become extinct between 1927 and 1928.

Reconstructing the Genome

The extinction of the Paradise Parrot is predicted to come from a multitude of elements, including “trapping for the aviary trade, predation by introduced mammals; the severe drought of 1902; land clearing; pastoralism; changed fire regimes, and the destruction of termite mounds (nesting sites).”¹ Many scientists feared that the Paradise Parrot’s extinction may have resulted in genetic erosion, resulting in the inability to extract the DNA from the preserved specimens. However, a recent study from 2019 by the Swedish Museum of Natural History’s Department of Bioinformatics and Genetics have explored the preserved Paradise Parrot specimen’s (see Figure. 1) DNA and found “no signs of genetic erosion.”¹ The Genomic DNA “extracted from a toepad sample from a Paradise Parrot study skin”¹ showed only small sections of the genomes had missing sequences. In order to effectively revive the Paradise Parrot, these absent sequences would have to be recreated. To bring back an extinct species, scientists would first be required to “sequence it’s genome, then edit the DNA of a close living relative to match it.”² To do so, scientists would have to reconstruct the genome using whole genome sequencing by extracting the DNA from the material of a preserved specimen.

Generating Intact Chromosomes

Whole genome sequencing was “only made available to the public in 2013”³ and since then scientists have been able to use this technology to “address the remaining 8% of genomes”⁴ that are missing from the species DNA. However, the DNA extracted from the preserved specimen would have to have been collected within it’s period of it’s half-life. DNA of an organism has “a half-life of perseveration of approximately 520 years”⁵, however, the breakdown of genome endings could “begin within less than 100 years”⁵ since it’s preservation. Therefore, for the DNA extracted to still be within a decent condition, the specimen would have to have been preserved less than 100 years ago for accurate whole genome sequencing to be produced. The specimen preserved at the Swedish Museum of Natural History has date of arrival of November 16, 1902. Upon further investigation of the Paradise Parrot DNA extracted, while the specimen contains high levels of genetic erosion compared to other preserved bird species (see Figure. 2) degradation was found “almost exclusively at the ends of DNA-fragments”¹.



Figure 1. Preserved Paradise Parrot, located at the Swedish Museum of Natural History (1)

	JX442416	JX442435	JX442413	JX442410	JX442414	JX442415	JX442436
<i>Lathamus discolor</i> JX442416							
<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i> JX442435	12.67%						
<i>Platycercus venustus</i> JX442413	11.99%	10.16%					
<i>Purpureicephalus spurius</i> JX442410	12.10%	10.96%	10.05%				
<i>Psephotellus varius</i> JX442414	10.62%	9.93%	8.11%	8.45%			
<i>Psephotellus dissimilis</i> JX442415	12.10%	10.39%	9.36%	9.59%	7.99%		
<i>Psephotellus chrysoterygius</i> JX442436	11.53%	11.19%	9.93%	9.02%	7.99%	6.85%	
<i>Psephotellus pulcherrimus</i> this study	11.31%	11.31%	11.09%	9.76%	7.76%	6.21%	1.77%

Figure 2. Recorded genetic erosion of Paradise Parrot and relatives in DNA sequences (1)

In 2021, a major breakthrough in sequencing vertebrate genomes was made, with now genome sequencing technology developed to complete for the first time, the entire DNA sequence of a human. Given that humans and birds “share 65% of the same genetic sequences”⁶, many scientists believe that this breakthrough in DNA sequencing “opened doors to pursue genetic sequencing of any organism.”³ Based on these new discoveries, scientists have explored how much DNA is available from the preserved Paradise Parrots for extraction to be sequenced. For a successful DNA sequencing, scientist would require “100 to 1000 nanograms of DNA for whole genome sequencing.”⁷ Genetic barcoding of Paradise Parrot specimens extracted “approximately 637 nanograms”⁸ which are suitable for sequencing.

Choosing a Surrogate Zygote and Mother

If the genomic sequencing of the Paradise Parrot was successful, the following stage would be to create “embryos with the revived genome and bringing them to term in a living surrogate mother.” 2 To do so, the zygote and surrogate mother used to hold the Paradise Parrot’s genetic information would have to be genetically compatible. This is most likely done by using a close, living relatives of the Paradise Parrot which are the Golden-shouldered Parrot (*Psephotellus chrysopterygius*) and the Hooded Parrot (*Psephotellus dissimilis*). However, “based on mtDNA sequence data... the Paradise Parrot and the Golden-shouldered were the two closest relative within this trio.” 1. For the de-extinction process, the DNA of a Golden-shouldered Parrot would have to be extracted from the nucleus of one of their cells and replaced with the sequenced DNA of the Paradise Parrot, this cell would then be incubated for a set period of time before being inserted into another Golden-shouldered Parrot who would act as the surrogate mother for this zygote. For this to be successful, both the DNA, surrogate cell and nucleus and surrogate mother would have to be genetically compatible. Incompatibility would reduce the success rates of the Paradise Parrot coming to full term to “a range between 1-6%.” 9



Figure 3. Paradise Parrot’s closest genetic relative, the Golden-shouldered Parrot (10)

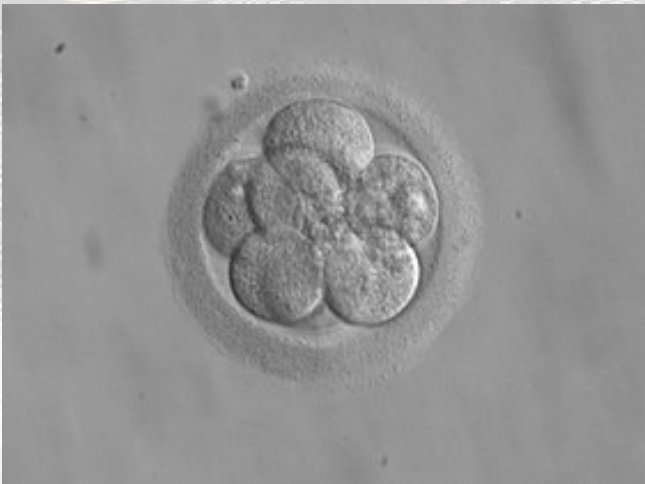


Figure 4. Imaging of embryo created through DNA transfer and cell surrogacy

Verdict on Evidence Obtained

The evidence collated and analysed throughout this investigation all leads to the general conclusion that while de-extinction is viable, it would require significant time and investment into the project. As scientists have identified and preserved intact DNA that shows little-to-no genetic erosion, as well as a strong genetic compatibility between the Paradise Parrot and Golden-shouldered Parrot, it can be concluded that reviving the Paradise Parrot is achievable. However, there would be a substantial amount of technology required to successfully complete this project and even then would only have low success rates of a Paradise Parrot being brought to term.

Reliability of Resources

There is a strong conclusion that the resources used are reliable as they all are published in distinguished scientific papers and online data collection sites, most of which are published recently within the last 5 years. They are also accredited and endorsed by multiple scientists, with the majority of papers all concluding with the same evidence and interpretations.



Image of preserved Paradise Parrots - obtained from Birds Life Australia: <https://www.birdlife.org.au/australian-birdlife/detail/paradise-lost>



LEARNING FROM BUTTON MASHING

NON-FICTION

97% of adolescents in America in 2013 played video games for at least one hour per day, resulting in slightly over 40 million players. Whilst video games have generally been viewed by the media in a negative light, there are far more positives to playing video games than there are negatives. This has often been classified into three main categories of being beneficial: cognitive, emotional, and social. This is because video games drive us to think faster, can help to manage our emotions, and even connect us over the vast and ever-growing internet, in a time where it can feel hard to relate.

Video games can be crucial when it comes to good cognitive skills. A 2013 American Psychological Association journal details how people who play shooter games such as Call of Duty or Halo “show faster and more accurate attention allocation, higher spatial resolution in visual processing, and enhanced mental rotation abilities”. In other words, those who play such shooters can focus on more of their surroundings without focusing on one thing too much and that they can take more visual information in than those who do not play shooters. By extension, it refers to how the need to quickly take in the stimuli from the game can translate into real life, and increase our real-world cognitive abilities. A study conducted by the University of Vermont found that “children who played video games for three [...] hours per day showed higher brain activity in regions of the brain associated with attention and memory than did those who never played.” It can be drawn from this that the action of playing video games can help to influence a child’s attention and memory, due to needing to remember certain things that had come before a specific moment. William Collis presents a TedTalk, breaking cognitive skills down even further into three categories: mechanical, strategic and leadership/instinctual. He describes the mechanical skill set to be “activating and aiming in-game abilities with pixel perfect accuracy”, comparing the required skill to playing piano. Strategic is the “larger tactical choices gamers make”. This can be comparable to playing chess, needing to think three steps ahead of the challenge. Finally, leadership/instinctual is “the ability to seize opportunity, clearly and decisively communicate decisions and inspire others to follow your lead”. This skill requires you to be able to see an opportunity in front of you and be able to make the decision on the fly to take that shot. Thereby, the cognitive skills that video games help to develop can allow people to think ahead, to be able to adapt to situations on the fly, and keeping track of what is happening in the moment.



Screenshot from Lost Words: Beyond the Page

Video games help tremendously with motivation and positive emotional states. Often in gaming, players will have to learn new skills and strategies to be able to progress through a portion of the game, as mentioned in the previous paragraph. Sometimes a player will lose and receive a ‘Game Over’ screen, forcing them to restart at their most recent save. However, quite often, this will not deter a player from continuing and completing the game but will instead motivate them further. The American Psychological Association, in the journal mentioned earlier, describes how “failure is used as motivational tools and provide only intermittent chances for large-scale success”.

In unpacking this, it is clear that the APA is describing the push the failure gives players to propel them towards their original goal and to not give up. Thereby, when the player finally beats the section they are trying to complete, a release of dopamine will trigger in the brain due to finally surpassing the challenge presented. A study conducted by EmotivaMente found that “it is possible to increase emotional competences [in teenage students], especially with reference to the basic ability of recognizing one’s own emotions”. In other words, video games not only provide an emotional stimulus to lead to a positive emotional state, but they can also help us to manage our own emotions by learning how to deal with them. There are even video games that core themes relate to emotion, such as Life Is Strange: True Colours and Lost Words: Beyond The Page. Both games deal with the general theme of loss, and provide a compelling story as to how to deal with that, and help others as well. In essence, video games are a great tool to explore the concept behind emotions, why we feel them, how to manage them, and to even improve our own emotional well-being.

The social aspects of video games can be incredibly helpful to those who do not have connections. Many video games released today encourage, or require, some form of social connection. There are many examples of this, such as Fortnite requiring a lot of people in order to play a match, and encouraging people to play together with friends. Or such as Pokemon, where it is encouraged that you “Gotta catch ‘em all,” with the only way to do that is connecting your game with a friend’s copy. Esports are a



Stock image taken from <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/moscow-russia-14th-september-2019-esports-1511929808>

major player in connecting people over a game that they love. William Collis mentions in his TedTalk that “[some esports competitions] can reach over 100 million viewers online[, meaning that there are] more [viewers] than some Super Bowls”. This statistic shows how fans of video games can come together to bond over a special activity that they love, with the communities spanning the globe. It gives them something to discuss, and as the APA puts it, “the average gamer is not a socially isolated, inept nerd who spends most of [their] time alone loafing on the couch”, showing that “70% of gamers play their games with a friend”. So not only are video games allowing for new people to connect and meet, but they provide an excellent opportunity for pre-existing relationships to deepen even further.

All of this isn’t to say that you should be staying inside playing video games 24/7. Far from it, in fact. Like most things, even good things such as exercising and education, video games need to be played in moderation. But if monitored right, and kept under control, video games can provide an excellent tool to develop cognitive, emotional and social skills that can translate to real life.

Written by Joshua Duncan

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Photographed by Shae Preece

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

Clive Donner's classic 1982 film adaptation of the novels *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (1905) and *Eldorado* (1913), titled *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, is a masterpiece of film. The film stars Anthony Andrews as our dashing hero, Sir Ian McKellen as our dastardly villain, and Jane Seymour as the love interest that these men are both desperate to impress.



This film is absolutely flawless, from the performance from the actors and actresses, to the use of sound and other film codes such as camera techniques and lighting. The way that it disperses the score throughout the film is amazing. At times when the score is not present, it is very tough to notice as the diegetic sound within the scene is usually enough to distract you from the missing score. Such as with a scene near the end of the film with soldiers riding horses up a hill, the sounds of the hooves stomping against the dirt path is enough to keep you engaged.

This cannot have been done without the guidance of Clive Donner, the film's director who masterfully weaved the film together, giving it that immaculate sense of cohesion.

The entire story pulled me in completely. The complex social dynamics between the new French Republic and the French aristocrats, alongside the love story that slowly sees a man switch between despair and utmost love, and the ongoing long distance feud between Chauvelin and the league of the Scarlet Pimpernel. These separate plot threads weave together to tell a delicately intricate story of love, social status, and perfect symmetry that wraps up in a satisfying conclusion. It has that sense of grandeur and chaoticness, betrayal and heartbreak. What's more, all of these characters feel real, or at least a hyper realised version of people that could actually exist.

If you're able to watch *The Scarlet Pimpernel* for yourself, I strongly encourage you to watch it. It is a masterpiece of film that still holds up today. The score, acting and story will encapsulate you in a world that you will want to revisit again and again. I, myself, have become enraptured by the film and constantly want to revisit and rewatch it.

Taking place in 1792, during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror, Andrews plays Sir Percy Blakeney, a lovable fool to most of France, but a cunning hero behind closed doors, known as the Scarlet Pimpernel. His goal is to snatch French aristocrats from the jaws of death at the hands of the guillotine, without getting caught, nor his identity revealed. Desperate to catch the Scarlet Pimpernel is Citizen Paul Chauvelin played by McKellen, a patriotic, fanatical bureaucrat whose views were initially pure but were corrupted by the opportunity at gaining a seat of power. Caught between her loyalty to her country and her love for Percy is Marguerite Blakeney (formerly St. Just), played by Seymour. She wishes for no more deaths to occur, but still feels loyal to her country, until she learns that she has been played.

The Scarlet Pimpernel is a beautiful film about the loyalty you hold, a person's social class, living with pride and humility, and the struggles of a dual identity. All of these qualities are perfectly encapsulated within two scenes, the library meeting and the wedding reception scenes, respectively. Both scenes perfectly encapsulate Percy's loyalty and love for his wife but the pain and betrayal he feels as he realises that his wife may be in league with Chauvelin, and how his pain eases when she comes to warn him of Chauvelin's knowledge. These scenes expertly show him struggling to keep his dual identity secret from his wife, and how much it pains him to do so, as he wants nothing more than to be truthful to Marguerite.



**Review written by
Joshua Duncan**



JUNO RODER

Love, Elodie

*"Dearest Ophelia,
When the end of my world started, I thought that was it. I thought the joy had come and gone just as you did. As if your death had sucked all the life out of mine as it had with your own. I was right. I was so painfully right.
To try to describe how I feel would be like trying to describe the surface of the sun. Woefully I am still here, In our house, eating our food, feeding our cat, going to our places, everything all the same, just without you.
It almost feels like no one cares you are gone, I walk into a room and not one person seems to grieve for you. It's hard to believe the rest of the world effortlessly moved on, while I'm still stuck in the past.
I still see you in our favourite places, in our backyard, reading your favourite book, sitting in the garden, smiling, laughing, dancing, crying.
I never believed in supernatural beings, but a part of me hopes it's really you.
You don't do much, you consist of only memories. I've tried so hard to talk to you but it's as if you are just absent. But absolutely nothing can convince me you aren't there.
I am surviving, like you told me to, I promise.
I pray you can hear this,
Love, Elodie."*

From my sitting position I stand, pinning yet another letter to the wall. This one was a short one, there is not much to say to someone who will never reply. 134 days ago, Ophelia died. Her incandescent light sputtered out forever. Three months ago I saw her, but not as if she had come to haunt me, this was no poltergeist, she was sitting at her desk, delicately etching in her scrappy art book. I screamed at her, I wasn't afraid, how could I be. I screamed until my voice ran dry. I needed something, anything from her. A reaction or a glance in my direction. I felt so harrowingly incomplete. The missing piece of me was right there and I couldn't access her. So when called by solitary slumber, I slept. When I woke, she was gone. Since then I have seen her everywhere. Never was she hurt. Never was she sad. Never was she aware. But she was alive. Although an edge of her always seeming to flicker white, like cloth, almost hiding from direct eye contact.

*"Dearest Ophelia,
Why do you hate me?
Day by day, little by little I think I let go, until I see your stupid,
irresistible face.
Have you ever felt like your life is just a cacophony of ocean spirals, the
moment you swim out of one you're sucked into another, endlessly
spinning and drowning with the gushing of
water.
Ophelia, you were my ocean, now you are my spiral.
Love, Elodie."*

Lying in bed I see the spirals spinning on the roof, twirling effortlessly over my head.
I wish it would wrap around me and drag me into its icy water, twisting me into a bitter death. I roll out of bed, standing dizzily, and for the first time in months I grab a photo frame from the top of the tallest cupboard.
It was cast away up there in hopes to relinquish the pain that came with the very photo trapped in the frame. It was the last picture taken of Ophelia and I, Ophelia insisted it was printed while she was in the hospital. She gifted it to me before she died.
I carefully wriggle the photo out, holding it in the palm of my hand like a delicate artefact, for which it is. I stare at it for a while, possibly too long. In the photo I stand draped around her shoulders, melting into her while she holds me steady, beaming gleefully into the camera. I grip the photo tightly, thankful for the fleeting memory it conjures in my mind.
Lying back down the photo glints in the ceiling lights, the incandescent light shines through the plastic film like a ray of sunshine cast through clouds. Through the semi-translucent plastic, a scribbled shadow is visible on the opposite side.
Flipping it over in my fingers I see the unmistakable mesmerising swirls of Ophelia's handwriting.

*"Dearest Elodie
With all the many flowers in the world, I wish I had time to pick them all. But out of all the many flowers, I'm glad you picked me.
You astound me, my beautiful, incredible flower.
Love, Ophelia."*

I hold the picture close to my chest, and for a brief moment, I can feel her holding me back.



WRITTEN BY JENNIFER KREYTS

INFARCTION

CREATIVE

She had pewter-colored hair set in a ruthless bird's nest and large moist eyes with the sympathetic expression of wet stones. Wet stones that would look frantically left to right, as the young girl's shaking body took shelter behind a rusting sheet of metal.

Clanging of metal on metal echoed throughout the streets as ammunition fired repeatedly throughout the land. Dozens of colossal green machinery supported the figures as they fired bullet after bullet at each person in sight, rapidly destroying the population.

Her heart pounded in her heaving chest. Smashing against her ribcage. Inverting her ribcage. Breaking each and every bone in her ribcage. Mutilating her ribcage. Designing her ribcage into the various bullets that taunted her.

Twang..!

The metal the little girl hid behind was shot.

With her hairs on end her tiny legs bolted away from the area. her throat tightened due to asthmatic issues and her eyes teared with salty waterfalls that delicately caressed her cheeks. Metal scraping echoed throughout the streets as the men she once admired chased her endlessly.

A thump reverberated repeatedly suddenly and tragically. Shaking pupils looked up to see a tunnel.

The idiosyncrasy of the tunnel was the ichor of mankind - it clambered up the mouldy plaster walls that were once white, ravaged its way through the creaky oak wood floorboards, adorned the roof with drips that made the roof decay and peel like skin. The stench clinged around the room like a coating of grease laying gently on every atom. Mould spread up the bloody walls like an infestation, ready to wrap around ankles that came into the area.

And in that hallway of hell, there walked a single girl. A velvet river poured from its source around the girl's waist, meandering effortlessly as it carried away any hope of survival, staining all it touched with unthinkable pain. Her slender, pale hand that had lost all its nutrition shakily rose to the single oak door, fingers clasping around it as gently as a cloud.

Hand twitching, the door revealed its secrets.

..?

A brick wall?

Confusion stung the girl like a swarm of wasps, drenching every inch of her face with despair. The young girl's voices in her brain screamed bloodcurdling messages to herself, demanding her to do various things.

As a ten year old girl such thoughts horrified her to no end as she almost agreed with them. If only she had the choice.

Vivarium

Written by Caitlin Davis

CREATIVE

“Hello there? I would like access to the outside.”

“Name and card.”

“Oh... uh, its Min Isetcha. I want to speak with Igya. Same last name.”

“This is expired. You can renew your membership, but you’ll need to provide proper identity- “

“I have that here with me now. Could you put it through?”

The person behind the desk had a frown. Not the sort of ‘I’m disappointed’ frown, but rather the ‘I don’t even get paid enough to get a membership myself’ frown. The outside was a commodity, and so memberships were required to talk to someone. The city isn’t a prison or anything; it’s just very secretive. Igya was a... criminal. If that even applies. They had led several attacks in their time, and had raised Min to do the same. Igya was a terrorist, but they were outside the city. And that’s all that Min needed. When Igya left, Min had to fend for themself. At the ripe old age of 14, Min also left their home, and moved to the bustling streets of Kiyan. With no money to support themself, they were left for dead. Until the city shut down. They cut off all access. Maybe that’s why the advertising for it had been so strong. Everywhere you looked, you saw something about Kiyan, and the endless opportunities. If it wasn’t about Kiyan, it was heavily endorsed by it. That’s why they moved. And when the city locked itself up, Min was given a house. A small apartment flat. But they weren’t given work. Just a room with a bathroom and kitchen, though even those were a stretch.

“You can only do that online. You would know how it works though, of course. I can’t renew it unless its less than a week old. Should have come in earlier.”

They were getting suspicious now. Despite being one of the most lenient workers Min had encountered, they didn’t look like the sort of person you’d scam.

“Unless... you don’t have the money to get online.”

That’s it. The accusation. No matter how accurate it was, it still stung like nothing else.

“No- No, that’s fine, thank you.”

Min left, defeated, and sighed as they got to the street. Filled with crystal scraps, and lined with what looked like glitter, but was actually finely powdered quartz, the streets glistened. They adjusted their mask as they left the border, a practice they had learnt from the deaths of many neighbours in the past. No one wants to have their insides scraped away by quartz, or some other crystal-like substance. But that’s why everyone here is pretty thin. Weight loss is common after inhaling quartz dust, so the children are always skinny. Only those who have the money to ventilate are able to gain weight in a healthy way, but they usually have the money to leave. General rule of thumb, if your kids skinny, get them a better fitting mask. If they’re fat, they’re probably malnourished, so feed them extra.

“Any luck Min?”

There she was, the most beautiful woman in the world, waiting for her beloved street rat. 6, the army-trained barista, leaning against the wall of a rundown apartment complex. Long story.

“I couldn’t get to Igya. We’ll have no way of moving our plans forward without tying someone else into this. We need someone with a membership.”

Membership was a silly word for it. It’s a viewing ticket, like a ticket to a cinema. But Kiyan couldn’t possibly call it that. Sounds too dark and sinister. Sounds evil. So instead, the glorious government advertised it as a membership. A ticket to view the outside world. Not go out there, just see people from the outside.

“I guess we’ll just wait then. Scope out a target and slowly get them in on the plan.”

“You’re talking like an officer. They won’t be a target, just a new friend.”

“That we want to risk the life of Great way to introduce ourselves. Do you want to die in the hopes of liberating the city? You don’t? Oh, well that’s a shame then.”

Her sarcasm didn’t stop the fact that she was right. If they were going to set up an attack and release the city, they needed more than a minimum wage worker and someone with enough connections to terrorists. They needed someone they could trust. They needed someone with enough money they could get a membership, but who still wanted to escape. Those things typically didn’t go together, the rich are quite happy getting access to their outside bank accounts and imports while not paying taxes or rent. They were asking the impossible. But still, it had to be done.



Illustrated by Caitlin Davis

A dip into madness

by Joshua Duncan

Henry and Morgan stand in the middle of Captain Catri's office, a high ranking officer in the Kyros. After a few minutes, the door at the back of the room slams open, Captain Catri purposefully striding through. She walks over to her desk, her imposing figure towering over Henry and Morgan.

"Well done, soldiers. You've done a good job in your most recent assignment out in the field," applauds Captain Catri as she begins to pace behind her desk, her chin up high. "It truly outshines all your previous stealth operations."

Henry and Morgan exchange glances, unsure as to what she's referring to.

"What are you talking about, Captain? We've had no assignments for months, I mean the most we've done is patrol the Mi--"

Henry is cut off when Captain Catri slams her hands down onto her desk, the thud echoing throughout the room.

"Kilo, nire, intel, group, hatred, theta." Catri's voice is calm and collected, but even more so cold and fierce, her stare burning straight through Henry.

Henry's eyes fly open, his back straightening into the uniform stance of a soldier. His glare is pure and icy, eyes wide with rage, ready to march on command.

Morgan steps backward in surprise, while his heels sink further into the carpet. His dark brow furrows and he looks deep into Henry's eyes, unable to recognise his friend.

"Uhhh, Captain, what did you just say?" Morgan asks with concern.

"Henry is a sleeper agent sent by the Nightingale Army to infiltrate our ranks, and somehow he managed to slip through," Captain Catri replies, voice no less stern than Henry's stare. "Those six words were his activation code. It's hard to know whether his forefront personality is even aware of this backseat alter. He may genuinely believe he joined us of his own free will."

Captain Catri walks around her desk, stopping in front of Henry, meeting his gaze. Slowly, she starts to tilt her head, keeping her eyes locked on his, attempting to determine who's still in there.

"Mission report, two weeks, five days ago."

Henry's eyes shoot around his skull before landing right back into Catri's gaze.

"Mission report already received by commanding officer, Lomira Belova two weeks, four days, seventeen hours ago. Orders were to not repeat reports to anyone located more than 25 kilometres outside the main Nightingale compound."

Catri's face fills with fury, her eyes sharpening and back straightening.

"Override that order, authorization code sierra, lima, alpha, yankee. Mission report, two weeks, five days ago."

The room goes silent, as an air of uneasiness settles over it, the tension ever present, and ever growing. Nothing is said for an uncomfortable amount of time, until finally, Morgan breaks the silence.

"How do you know all these codes? I mean, if they're codes from the Nightingale then shouldn't--"

Morgan is cut off when Catri slams a hand over his mouth, silencing him. She turns to him, lowering herself to come eye to eye with him. Her eyes are calm and collected whilst Morgan's begin to shake, the corners beginning to moisten as tears form in his eyes. Catri's usually domineering figure is now far more gentle and serene.

"I used to be one of them. I may have left them, but it hasn't left me. Unfortunately, once you dip into madness, you stay there forever."

Catri's voice in this instance is calm and soft, a rather stark contrast from the usually angry tones that fill her day-to-day life.

"Now get that head of yours in check, I've already got two of ours making poor decisions, I don't want another to fall into madness."

Catri stands up and turns back to Henry, removing her hand from Morgan's mouth. Her back straightens as she glares down at Henry.

Byron slowly trots his way through the main floor of the primary Nightingale compound, his feet dragging as though slowed by a ball and chain.

He looks around, feeling as though the world is staring back at him, eyes watching him from all over. He tilts his head back down, staring at the data pack held in his trembling hands. He lets go with one hand to wipe his forehead and proceeds to smack into the back of the person in front of him.

He lands on the floor and looks up, the data pack fallen to his side. The person he'd bumped into is a tall imposing woman, with brunette hair and fair skin with a domineering aura. After a few seconds, he realises that the person he bumped into is Commander Lomira Belova.



JUNO RODER

STARLIGHT FADING

CREATIVE

Watching my mother walking down the aisle is
like watching an angel fall from the heavens.

What a plot twist this came to be.

Watching her say her vows, love flaming in her
eyes conjures the image of a demon, rising
from the underworld.

The memories still seem to hurt.

Listening to her talk with the sound of a
thousand bells reminds me of the future.
She whispers to him fondly;
'I fell in love with your words.'

*Unfortunately he was a good liar.
And we all eat lies when our hearts are hungry.*

I drowned under the waves of the words that
weren't said.

Memories of the things he did swirl in his eyes
as he locks them with mine.
He smiles as if a thousand suns were smiling
back, gorgeously handsome.

*A thousand lies were hidden under a single
smile.*

ACCUSMUS

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER KREYTS

I viewed the woman before me, her hair reminded me of the topaz ring my father wore at his finger, a gleaming stone of brown, mellow facades. My trembling, wrinkly fist shook as I informed her of a new case.

"He struck again."

She's a woman but ok. Pewter coloured hair, wrinkly forehead, bent so far you can mistake him as a dead man - atrocious.

Her young skin shone like soy chicken. I felt my mouth salivate at the thought of it.

"The victim was murdered on the 24th street."

23rd actually. I'll cut him some slack on counting, he's old enough to be extinct anyway.

Orbs of snail-trail hue stared into mine.

"The victim was stabbed once in both kidneys."

And was given poison, in case the dagger ceased to do the job.

I recalled the events of the night, informing the Junoesque female before me of them.

"But he left footsteps, red to be exact."

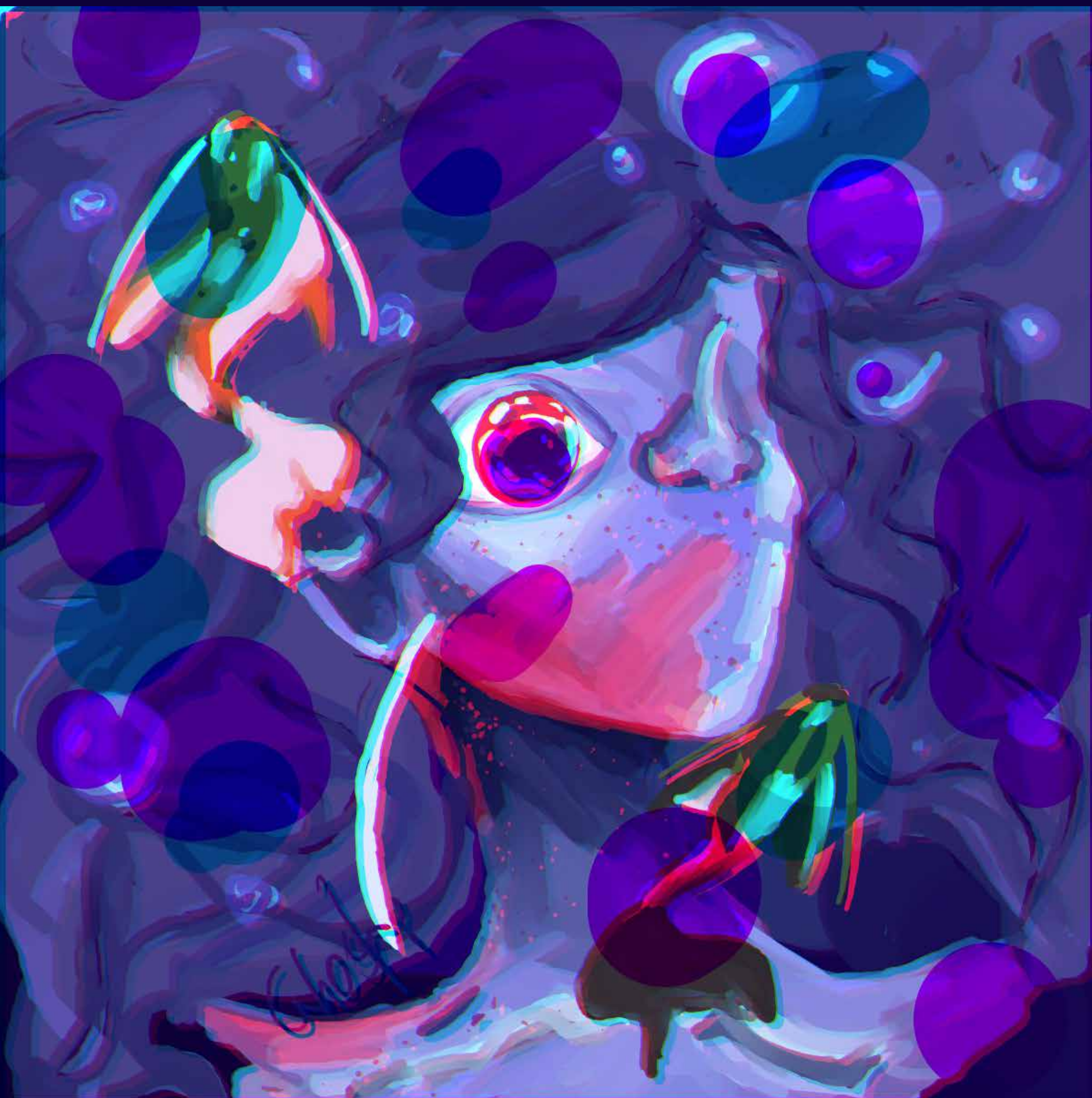
Strange, I don't remember it being that messy...

I asked her one last question.

"Are you up for the case detective?"

"Yes, sir."

Finding myself will be easy.



From the Principal's Desk

Written by Ms Jenni Hodgins



I feel truly privileged to have this opportunity to reflect over a what has been a fabulous term, the conclusion to an even greater year, and provide you an account from the principal's desk.

Term 4 has been filled with some sensational events. Our surprise visit from the Premier of Victoria, The Honourable Daniel Andrews was certainly exciting for all, as was the election promise of \$5 million dollars to provide a long-overdue upgrade to some of the college facilities. The students were thrilled to see the politicians and as expected treated the visitors with utmost respect.

It has certainly been the time to shine for our Year 12 students. They finished their final days before exams with a fun-filled breakfast to casually commemorate their time together at MEC. This was followed by the formal celebrations of the Valedictory where our students and families congratulated all graduating students. Their achievements of successfully completing 13 years of school including 6 years at secondary school were celebrated and their individual and collective growth recognised. Although these students no longer attend as students, they will forever be a part of the MEC community and are warmly welcomed as part of the Mount Erin College Alumni.

We had a large number of students achieve outstanding results this year in their VCE. As well as being extremely proud of all of our Year 12 students, I would like to formally recognise our 2022 College Dux, Eddie Sampson after achieving an ATAR of 95.05. We had 2 other students achieve ATARs above 90 and 6 records of Study Scores above 40. These were all incredible achievements and a reflection of their hard work, dedication and commitment.

Our Annual Awards Night celebrated a huge number of students across all year levels and a range of achievements. The awards recognised the community engagement of our students, their academic growth and excellence and their extra-curricular achievements. It was a hugely positive night which was very well attended by students and families. I am pleased to announce that in 2023 our Awards Night will be held at a new and larger venue so more attendees can enjoy the celebrations.

Following the cancellation of the year 7 camp earlier in the year due to COVID, we were delighted to be able to take our Year 7 students to a new and exciting camp at Alexandra. The students were challenged physically and mentally but by all accounts, thoroughly enjoyed the adventures and made the most of the opportunities. These camps don't happen without the hard work (and sleepless nights) of the staff who attended- huge thanks to those who helped to make it happen.

As our current Year 7s graduated into Year 8, this week we welcomed our 2023 Year 7 students to the college for their Orientation Day. Despite the damp weather, it was a bright and cheerful day where our new students of MEC could get to know each other and build new connections with their peers, teachers and surrounds. The image of seeing 125 students finishing the day with huge smiles after clearly having a positive day was very pleasing for all involved. I look forward to greeting them and their families on their first day of Year 7 next year.

Unfortunately, at the end of each year, we bid some of our staff farewell as they look towards the next chapter of their teaching journey. I wish all of our exiting staff all the very best for their future pursuits and thank them for their service to MEC. I look forward to introducing a number of new staff to the College at the beginning of 2023 and having them as part of the MEC family.

With 2023 on the horizon, I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support of MEC and wish you all a safe and happy summer break. I look forward to seeing everyone back on deck next year... as well as the next issue of The Cartwheel.



Photographed by Shae Preece