



Warrnambool COLLEGE

# ALUMNI newsletter

EDITION ONE • 2024

Hi, I'm Madeleine and I've joined Warrnambool College this year as the alumni co-ordinator. I have a journalism background and have been working with and reporting on the College community for the past 17 years.



In my College role, I'm looking forward to growing the alumni data base and connecting with past students from various industries. I'm also keen to expose current students to the different careerpaths our alumni have taken, how their experiences can help current students make informed decisions and highlight possible future careers they can pursue.



## ALUMNI RETURN TO WC

In term 1 we welcomed back Jayda Page as part of the College's International Women's Day assembly. Jayda, who graduated in 2020, returned to share her journey as a female footballer and some of the challenges and gender barriers she has faced. Jayda spoke of her love of the game which began at the age of five and her progression from Auskick to playing for local teams and representing Victoria.

As a junior footballer competing in a boys' league at the age of 13, she recalled being sat on the bench, despite having equal skills and abilities as her male teammates. "In order for women to thrive, we also need men to stand up for us and to be a voice," she said. Jayda also shared how she struggled at school, especially in her junior years and with hard work and help from her teachers, she was able to improve her school results to get into the College's Sporting Pathway Program.

Jayda is now in her final year at Ballarat's Federation University, studying to become a health and PE teacher, inspiring young girls to play football and to be active. She urged students to "wholeheartedly never give up" on their passions, regardless of the challenges they faced.

"One day you'll look back and realise the impact you've had for the generations behind you," Jayda said. "Everything we do as young people today paves the path for women coming through to have less of those obstacles to jump over. Be kind be brave and ultimately be you."

Assistant principal Emma Vesey said Jayda was a strong and amazing young woman "who was a testament to what hard work can achieve, and how dreams can come true when you ask for help and that breaking down the gender barriers is easy when you have a tribe behind you".

As part of International Women's Day we also ran a series of profiles on the College alumni Facebook page showcasing inspiring females leading the way in sport. These included Hannah Van Zyl - class of 2022, Kate Lindsey - class of 2006, Sarah Milroy - class of 2000 and GP Dr Karoline Gunn - class of 1991.

## EMMA BURCHELL

Melbourne-based Lawyer Emma Burchell, class of 2004, joined the year 11 Legal Studies class via Webex on March 14 to share her career journey. The class has been studying criminal law this term and Emma shared details about her role as senior legal counsel at Forensicare, the statewide provider of specialist forensic mental health services in Victoria.

After leaving school Emma studied a five-year Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws double degree at Monash University. She said while it was an academic course she struggled with some university law subjects and had gained lots of knowledge while practicing in the field. She urged interested students to not be dissuaded by the high ATAR required to study law and said if it was something they were passionate about to go for it, highlighting there were different careerpaths they could follow.



She spoke about the difference between criminal and civil law, the long working hours required in some firms and lawyers and barristers earning potential while also highlighting the importance of work/life balance, something she's finally been able to achieve after 15 years of legal practice.

The class has also been studying how laws are created and Emma shared details about when she worked for the state government where she was one of many people involved in writing legislation, helping to draft the voluntary assisted dying bill in 2017. The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 provides a legal framework for people who are suffering and dying to choose the manner and timing of their death. The Act came into effect in June 2019 and Victoria was the first Australian state to pass voluntary assisted dying laws.

Emma's advice to students was: "Do what you want to do and what you're genuinely interested in. A legal career is fun but it's also hard. I don't have any regrets I would do it again." She said the hardest part of her job was the confrontation while working with lawyers with opposing views. "The thing about law is that by nature it's an adversarial area to be in. Everyone's there to get something sorted out. It's rarely smooth sailing, there's always two different opinions but it's a respectful arena of debate and there are lots of compromises that we reach every day."

## IZAAK AGNEW

Congratulations to our very talented alumni Izaak Agnew, class of 2023, who was selected to perform as part of Top Class Music at the Melbourne Recital Centre on Thursday, March 21. The event showcases VCE students from across the state who have achieved some of the highest results for their 2023 VCE music performance examinations. Izaak performed *Access Denied* by the Dave Weckl Band and *Groove Me* by New Orleans soul singer King Floyd.



Izaak was also selected to perform his own composition piece *Still Need Rhythm* at Top Class Sound at the Darebin Arts Centre on Wednesday, March 27. Top Class Sound is a dynamic concert featuring outstanding original works by students studying VCE Music, which Izaak completed via Virtual School Victoria in 2023. It's not the first time Izaak's composition of *Still Need Rhythm* has been performed with professional musicians bringing it to life at the Melbourne Recital Centre at the Making Waves Concert in 2023, alongside Warrnambool College music and band students.

**In 2024 Warrnambool College is continuing to build its alumni so we can connect with past students of Warrnambool College, Warrnambool High School and Warrnambool North Technical School. Here are some ways you can join in:**

### ALUMNI OPEN DAY

Warrnambool College will host an Alumni Open Day on Tuesday, April 30 which will provide a chance for past students to have a guided tour of our wonderful College and reminisce about their school days.

Registration is required via Eventbrite or contact the College on 5564 4444.

### CAREERS WEEK

We're excited to work with business and industry with connections to the College as part of Careers Week in May. If you are a College alumni and would like to share your study or career journey as part of the week's activities please get in touch to discuss this.

### REUNIONS

If you have an upcoming College reunion planned for 2024 please contact Madeleine at the College to arrange a guided tour of the school grounds as part of your reunion celebrations.

### HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH

To join the College alumni program scan the QR code below, go to the College website's alumni page or email [alumni@wblcoll.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumni@wblcoll.vic.edu.au) to join. If you would prefer a paper form please call the College office.



To stay up to date with the latest alumni news and information join the Warrnambool College Alumni Facebook page.

  
**Are you on LinkedIn?**

Make sure you update your education section to include Warrnambool College Education



**Warrnambool College**  
Year 12 & VCE certificate  
2011- 2016

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