



## **2024 President's Report**

This has been a significant year for The Geelong College and the Foundation. It has been a fantastic coincidence that we have been able to celebrate the opening of Belerren and the first 50 years of co-education in the same year. While we at the Foundation were quick to join with College Council to ensure that a new Sports and Wellbeing Centre could be built, it gives us so much pleasure to walk through it now and happily say “it exceeds all of our dreams” and will stand its place for many generations to come amongst the other buildings at Senior School. The addition of girls to The Geelong College in 1974 should equally never be underestimated. The years have proven how much coeducation has enriched the total learning experience for every student at Geelong College.

At the 2024 AGM we said goodbye to Andrew Cameron who has spent 12 years as a Board member and several years as a Vice President of the Foundation. Andrew’s wisdom will continue to be accessed on the sub-committee managing the Foundation’s property at Fyansford and in other areas. We thank him for his generosity over the years and look forward to his continued contributions in the future.

It was a pleasure to host School Prefects and Foundation members to the Foundation Lunch in April 2024. Our speaker was Dr. Pauline Turner, the first female Principal of the College, to talk on her experiences as Principal and the importance of gender balance in both our school and wider society. Our School Co-Captains Zephyr Seignior and Annabelle Hutchings both spoke of their time at school and a few of the highlights during that time. Their eloquence and enthusiasm along with their cohort of Prefects spread across all tables made the day memorable for all who attended.

Other Foundation events throughout the year included:

- ❖ The Foundation Community Golf Day which was held on 3 May at Barwon Heads Golf Club – over 70 members of the College community attended.
- ❖ Morongo Old Collegian’s Lunch held in the TGC Dining Hall on 26 October – over 60 attended to hear our guest speaker, MOC Janet Park, talk about her association with VIEW Club supporting The Smith Family, focusing on the education and wellbeing of

children experiencing disadvantage. We also heard from our 2023 Morongo Recipient, Eliza Hannagan.

- ❖ The Morrison Society and Patron Lunch on 29 October was held in the courtyard of the Austin Gray Centre after a tour of the VCE Arts & Design Exhibition.

In August we welcomed College parent, former School Captain and notable Geelong surgeon, Ben Miller (OGC 1993), to the Board as a Director. Ben has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the school and will give a considered opinion to many Foundation decisions.

We introduced a Foundation Concert Art Competition for the student's in early 2024 with the winner's work to be used in the Foundation Concert program and marketing material. Congratulations to Aisling Talbot (Year 6) for winning the inaugural Art Competition and to the runners' up Jack Bull (Year 8) and Sinchan Bhaskaracharya (Year 5). The students wowed us again this year in the 32nd Foundation Concert. Costa Hall was a buzz on Friday 9 August with a very packed Concert program which started with the 50 Years of Co-education Stories of Change video playing on the big screen closely followed by the Senior String Quartet playing Pure Imagination. What a wonderful way to start the Concert. All of the students performing on the night and the dedicated and diligent music staff, including our Director of Music Scott Templeton, deserve congratulations – they always make sure we are thoroughly entertained. The Foundation are very proud to be a supporter of this very special event on the College calendar for over 30 years.

It is a pleasure to report that the recipients of the Foundation Staff Fellowship for 2024 are Kate Sculley, Rebekah McColl and Terry Coburn who will be embarking on a Neurodivergent research, exploration and collaboration Study Tour to Prague in May 2025, which will include attending the 10th annual World Congress of ADHD Conference. As neurodiversity is becoming more prevalent within our community, it is important for the school to understand this and offer support options to the impacted students, their peers, our staff and the parents. We are pleased to support our 2024 Fellows in this Study Tour and look forward to hearing more on this very important subject.

A Fyansford Sub Committee has been formed, consisting of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Chair of the College Council Planning Committee, College Director of Business Operations, and two representatives from the Foundation. I chair the Sub Committee, with the College's Project Manager Brad Carr serving as the Executive. After gathering expressions of interest from several potential development partners, we decided to move forward with investigating the placement of the College's future needs and starting the planning phase to achieve the best possible outcomes. The Fyansford property is currently being used for farming as we explore all available options. We are being assisted by Sharps Track, a company specializing in planning, engineering, environmental, and innovative urban design. Nigel Sharp and his team quickly recognized the unique potential of the location while being mindful of The Geelong College's important role in the community.

We continue to provide significant scholarship support to the school through our Foundation Scholarship, Indigenous Scholarship, Morongo Award and John Kenny Bursary. In 2024 we provided over \$100,000 in scholarship support which we look to increase in 2026 with the introduction of our first Brebner Boarding Scholarship recipient. The Brebner Boarding Scholarship was created after the Foundation received a generous bequest in 2022 from the Estate of Alastair Gordon Brebner (OGC 1952).

Finally, to look back rather than forward for a moment, it has been the Foundation's pleasure to restore the grave of one of the founders of The Geelong College, Rev. Dr Alexander James Campbell. Rev Campbell was a Scottish born Presbyterian Minister who, like many of his peers, considered the education of current and future generations to be of the utmost importance. The Foundation installed a plaque on the restored gravesite, with the family's permission, which reads:

***Rev Dr Alexander James Campbell 1815-1909***

*The Geelong College acknowledges Rev Dr Alexander James Campbell, Scottish born Presbyterian Minister, as one of the founders of the school in 1861. His dedication to education and active involvement in the establishment of the College places him firmly in its history. His contribution will never be forgotten.*

*Placed in memory of Rev Dr Alexander James Campbell by The Geelong College Foundation, 8 July 2023.*

*"And now I pray that God may bless Geelong College...and make it an instrument of lasting good to generations yet to come." (A J Campbell, 1906)*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board of The Geelong College Foundation, including members of the Sub-Committees, for all of their support and guidance throughout 2024. These are volunteer positions and your time and dedication to the College is appreciated.

**Scott Chirnside**  
**President, The Geelong College Foundation**