

**MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE**

# Alumni Monthly Newsletter

Issue 5

October 2022

## Welcome

Welcome to October's issue of Mount Waverley Secondary College Alumni Newsletter.

In this issue, read about how the skills learnt in drama classes have been helpful in forging successful and fulfilling careers for our Alumni.

The 40-year reunion for the Class of '82 is almost here. Don't delay in registering for this event. Read the full details of the reunion in this newsletter and on our Facebook post.

Mount Waverley Secondary College is looking for an Alumni to do some filming and editing for several upcoming projects. This will be paid work. Read the full details in this newsletter.

If you have any updates or news to share or any suggestions as to what you'd like to see in future newsletters, please email me at [alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumni@mwsc.vic.edu.au).

## Community. Choice. Engagement.

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## Alumni of the Month

This month's Alumni Spotlight is on our former student Willow Croce, class of 2017.

A detailed description on this Spotlight can be seen on the next page of this newsletter or on our Alumni Facebook page. Click here to [view](#).

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone for a future Alumni Spotlight, I would love to hear from you.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# WILLOW CROCÉ

CLASS OF 2017



*When Willow was young she wanted to be doctor, artist, English teacher, hairdresser and more so choosing just one was impossible.*

## WHAT HAS SHE BEEN UP TO?

Graduating with an ATAR of 91.10 Willow began her Double Degree Bachelor of Medical Science and Bachelor of Arts (English Major and Visual Arts Practice Minor) at the ANU. She knew she wanted to pursue a career in medicine, but because she loves English Literature and Arts too, she wanted to gain the foundational knowledge she would need to eventually publish her own novels and hopefully find success with her own paintings one day.

## WHERE IS SHE NOW?

This year Willow has begun her first year of medical school at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome, Italy as an international student. She chose to complete her Doctor of Medicine in Italy so she could better learn Italian, reconnect with part of her family's culture and travel around Europe on University holidays. Università Cattolica is connected to Gemelli Hospital – the biggest hospital in Rome and one of the largest hospitals in Europe that also is known for treating the Pope.

In her spare time, she is a private VCE tutor and ANU-employed tutor helping students with their studies in biology, arts, science, and humanities.

## SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT HER

In 2016, while Willow was in Year 11, she was a part of the Mount Waverley Secondary College Exchange Program and lived in Osaka Japan for 3 months. She attended high school there and travelled around Tokyo and Kyoto with her host family. She was also Sustainability Captain in Year 12 and participated in leadership activities.





## Congratulations to our Alumni

### Drama teaches life. Drama teaches employability skills.

Head of The Arts, Jane Carter, created some excellent resources for Drama Victoria.

Jane interviewed 10 MWSC alumni who studied drama with her when they were in VCE.

The alumni discussed how the skills they learned in drama have been helpful in forging successful and fulfilling careers. Here in this newsletter is a few of them. To see more click on the link below.



<https://www.dramavictoria.vic.edu.au/why-study-drama/>



**Ben McNally**  
Class of 2010

### Drama teaches collaboration

After graduating from Mount Waverley, Ben completed a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Business (Marketing) at Monash University. During the double degree he spent six months in Malaysia studying at the Monash University Sunway Campus and interning for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ben studied at London School of Economics and Political Science and Warwick University the following year on another exchange program. After university he worked in market and social research for a consultancy, and federal and state government departments. Ben is currently a manager at the Department of Education and Training, Victoria. We wish Ben all the best.

*“Drama developed my collaborative skills. I learnt to share ideas in a team, listen to others, work through conflict and disagreement and negotiate a course of action.”*



**Stephanie Halamantaris**  
Class of 2007

### Drama teaches leadership

Stephanie enrolled into JMC Academy to study a Bachelor of Performance. She worked part time in Community/Radio TV. In 2014 she performed on X-Factor with a group she joined. She has joined many radio stations on her journey, Greek Community Radio, Joy FM and KISS. Stephanie is now on CW Remix. We wish Stephanie all the best with her career.

*“Drama teaches you to be true to who you are as a person - to find your authenticity. This understanding of self is an invaluable leadership skill.”*





# What are your best memories of Mount Waverley Secondary College?

"Friends, sport, learning in PE and Japanese"

**Kirsty-Lee Gallacher**  
Class of 2001

"Participating in numerous science & physics related competitions"

**Russell Brett**  
Class of 1992

"Year 12 activities, formals, gday USA trip and the people"

**Samantha Byass**  
Class of 2013

"Accounting Classes with Mr Canty"

**Kirsty-Lee Gallacher**  
Class of 2001

"The range of teachers and their pedagogical styles"

**Ashley Toth**  
Class of 2005

"The friends, the teachers, everything about it"

**Tammy Scalzo (née Schello)**  
Class of 1998

# Photos fresh from the Archives



School Life 1992



School Production - Fiddler on the Roof  
Choir 2001



School Life 1983



School Life 1973



Year 12 2000



# Photos fresh from the Archives



Form ID 1968



↕ Year 12 2003



Year 12 2019



Study Group 1994



## Help Wanted – Filmmaker

Is there any Filmmakers amongst our Alumni family?



We are seeking an Alumni who may be studying Media (or similar) to do some filming and editing on several upcoming projects. Whether you are fresh out of University, still completing your degree or have been working for a while, we would like to speak to you.

A great opportunity for field experience awaits you. This is paid position.

If you are interested or have any further questions, please contact Mr Matt Sheehan, Campus Principal - Junior School on 9887 9290 or email [she@mWSC.vic.edu.au](mailto:she@mWSC.vic.edu.au).

## Stay connected



Email [alumni@mWSC.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumni@mWSC.vic.edu.au)

## Leave your details

Click the button below to register your details and keep in touch.

**REGISTER NOW**  
CLICK HERE

## I wonder what they're doing now?

What are all the former students of Mount Waverley Secondary College doing nowadays? We still want to maintain recognition of your achievements big or small. Take advantage of our alumni network to connect with other alumni.

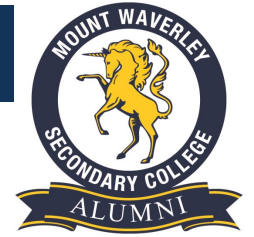
So how about it - to all of you ex-students out there - let's hear from you.

*Victoria Tortopidis*

Alumni Coordinator

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☎ 98036811



## Alumni events



When was the last time you saw your school friends from the early 1980s? "Last week?" "Last year?" "Last decade?" Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect. Click below for tickets.

[Buy Tickets Now!](#)

Less than one calendar month to go! Don't miss out!  
Mount Waverley High School Class of '82 - 40 Year Reunion  
(This event includes Alumni who attended Year 7 in '77, Year 8 in '78, Year 9 in '79, Year 10 in '80, Year 11 in '81 and Year 12 in '82)  
Saturday 5 November, 7:00 PM – Midnight  
Waverley RSL, 161 Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley VIC 3150  
Please register/purchase your reunion ticket(s) by 5pm Thursday 20 October, as the RSL's caterer requires numbers finalised at this time.  
Notes: Drinks are on a pay-as-you-go basis (the function room has a bar 🍷🍺).  
There is also a balcony to watch the sunset.

*This event is organised by  
Colin Elliott and John Cooney (Class of 82)*







## Alumni events



# Class of 2010 10 Year Reunion



After a slight pandemic-inspired delay, the MWSC Class of 2010 is planning their 10 (plus 2) year reunion.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite. Click below for tickets.

[Buy Tickets Now!](#)

Date: Friday 11 November

Time: 6.30pm to 11.30pm

Venue: One of Nine, Richmond (likely, TBC at 100 ticket sales)

Join the Class of 2010 Facebook group here for more details:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2792076787561096>

*This event is organised by  
Ben McNally and Co. (Class of 2010)*