

**From The Acting Principal**



Welcome to the 2017 school year. As Acting Principal of VCASS I am committed to all of our passionate and hard working students and excited about 2017. Next weeks newsletter will see a more comprehensive welcome to 2017.

**COLIN SIMPSON**

This week we would like to honor the work and pay tribute to Colin Simpson who most of you will know has taken on a new Principal role this week.

In true VCASS form, rather than goodbye to Colin, it is farewell. He will be in and out of the school, catching up with staff and students over times, and attending some events. We will find a suitable time in term 2 to formally farewell Colin. The school will be celebrating its 40th Year this year and will welcome Colin's attendance at events to mark this significant time in VCASS history.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work Colin has done as a long serving, highly regarded and the much loved Principal of VCASS since 2004.

Colin has lead VCASS through numerous achievements, including the design and build of our current premises at Miles St, the complex and successful move from the VCA, and the introduction of both a Visual Arts and Theatre Arts stream, seeing the school to grow to over 400 students in 2017.

Most Significantly, for more than a decade Colin has worked tirelessly with the best interests of all students first and foremost in his decision making and actions. Colin has a wonderful relationship with students, staff and the community, he is passionate about Arts education and cares deeply for the people around him.

On a personal note I have worked alongside Colin since 2004 and am grateful to have had such an inspirational and thoughtful person to work with daily.

**Thank you Colin from the VCASS community for all that you have done. We will miss you, and we wish you well with your exciting new challenge.**

**HILARY BLAND,  
ACTING PRINCIPAL**



**Farewell Colin Simpson!**





### To our parents, alumni and students

Over summer I have been offered, and accepted, the Foundation Principal position at Richmond High School.

Hilary Bland will be Acting Principal from Monday 30 January until a new principal is appointed. I have absolute confidence in her. At this stage, we expect that school council

will commence this process at its February meeting and a new principal will be in place by the commencement of term 2, 2017.

I am very proud of our school and the nearly seventeen years I have been at VCASS has been a rich and rewarding experience – I have grown as a person and been offered much more than I have given. It is true to say I have put my heart and soul into the school, aimed to create the most wonderful opportunity for young talented people. A hard working but happy school.

Our school that has changed the conversation about arts in education, and is now one of the most highly regarded schools in the state. We have an amazing school and programs and created a consistently high performing school with an outstanding reputation. I am proud to have led our three heritage programs of Academic, Dance and Music and have added in the Theatre Arts and Visual Arts Program. To be so warmly welcomed by the dance and music communities has meant a lot to me and I have loved learning about those art forms.

The best part for me was the strong relationships I have had with so many students and their families. I have truly loved watching each generation of VCASS student grow up and do so many interesting things – and watch each journey with pride. My thanks for letting me witness and share in your journeys.

I know this news will be a surprise and unsettling, as are all big changes. I have absolute confidence in our community and in the continuity of the school's efforts and success. I will be around VCASS for some of term one. This will enable an effective transition and give me a chance to say appropriate goodbyes. Subject to the wishes of the new principal it is my intention to remain associated with the school and participate in the 40th Anniversary Celebrations. Certainly, I want to stay connected with the year 11 and 12 classes and enjoy their work this year.

I want to thank each of you for your friendship and support over these many years. It has meant the world to me and I feel deeply honoured to have been associated with you. To be the principal of VCASS for 12 1/2 years has been an absolute honour and privilege.

I will no longer be available on my VCASS email after this week. I am happy for you to contact me using [simpson.colin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:simpson.colin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**For several years, I have reminded graduation students that VCASS was not real and they now had to join the real world. It is now my time to follow them.**

Best wishes

**MR COLIN SIMPSON**

**PRINCIPAL VCASS 2004-2016**

## CECCHETTI @ VCASS

Welcome back to all our past students and a very special welcome to all our new students and families. I have asked two of our long standing Cecchetti students to act as Student Leaders this year. Isabelle Greenwood who is also one of the School Dance Captains and Amy Lim who is our current Maestro Cecchetti VCASS Scholarship recipient. Both these young women are recipients of the Advanced 2 and now studying for the Enrico Cecchetti Diploma – the highest Cecchetti accolade worldwide, once achieved and extremely difficult to attain. We wish them both well in their studies and thank them for being our student mentors this year.

This year 2017 – what a year it is going to be for CECCHETTI @ VCASS participants if you are all up for the challenge.

Indeed our faculty will challenge you and take you on a wonderful journey to add to your dance training. All our teachers bring great experience and diverse talent, they include: Chris Ead( VCASS & WAAPA graduate, Australian Ballet Education Unit and former dancer Melbourne City Ballet); Ben Ho( former dancer Singapore Ballet and long loved qualified Cecchetti teacher at VCASS); Laura Kinross (former English National Ballet and Scottish Ballet – repertoire coaching); Carole Oliver OAM (Senior Cecchetti Examiner and prominent teacher who has produced many dancers worldwide); along with amazing guests who are Cecchetti graduates and currently performing. As Co-ordinator I lead this wonderful team. Being a Senior Cecchetti Examiner with a diverse career in both dance and administration, and humbled to be re-elected as one of the two Australian Representatives on Cecchetti Ballet International, I will also be teaching and coaching throughout all levels of the program.

Administrative wise, you all should have received enrolment forms with Cecchetti information. Enrolment forms need to be filled in and term fees paid before starting this course. Without the funds, this program can not exist. If there are extreme challenges, please consult the Business Manager and let me know.

There has been a timetable change due to studio availability. PLEASE NOTE INTERMEDIATE WEEKDAY CLASS HAS CHANGED TO MONDAYS AT 4.30PM. New Year 7s will not be involved in the program for Term 1 but we will let them know on how to participate at a later stage.

Our major excitement, which requires huge commitment, and of which I have discussed since the beginning of last year, is the **CECCHETTI INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION TO BE HELD IN FLORENCE, ITALY** from 31st July, 2017. Those committed and pro-active have planned and trained well. All entry forms should now have been submitted. All forms require my signature. If you are new or this has not been completed, you need to download forms from the Cecchetti Ballet Australia site and complete/discuss urgently on Saturday 4th Feb.

The Energetics Young Dancers Awards 2007 has also been on student notice board since last year.

Please research all :

Facebook.com/cecchettiballetaustralia

Instagram.com/cecchettiballetaustralia

[WWW.CECCHETTIBALLET.ORG](http://WWW.CECCHETTIBALLET.ORG)

<http://cicb.org>

<http://cecchettiballetcompetition2017.com>

ITALY

<http://cecchettiballetcompetition2017.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/cecchettiballetcompetition/>  
Students and parents must be pro-active in above.

As Organizer, I will also try to float in foyer after each class on Saturday to address any problems. Students will be sent home with details of Master classes, Medal awards etc, with first event being the Young Performers Award on Sunday 26 Feb. Information will also include my mobile phone no. If for any reason a student can not be in a scheduled class could you please text to let me know as the program does not run during normal school hours.

Look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 4th Feb – first day back for Term One Cecchetti. Advanced 1 and 2s commence at 9 am; Intermediate 10.30am and Diploma 12.30pm. Privates as per the notice board. Enjoy and work wisely.

ANNE BUTLER,

CECCHETTI@VCASS COORDINATOR

Email: [Butler.anne.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:Butler.anne.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMP

Hello everyone! The Junior School Camp at Lord Somers is fast approaching, only 5 weeks to go! **All camp forms and payment are due to be submitted to the front office by Friday the 10th of February (these can be submitted via email or in person).**

It is an expectation that all Year 7, 8 and 9 students attend the camp, as it is one of the few opportunities during the busy VCASS year that students can socialise across specialisms and year levels away from the pressures of study. In the coming weeks, I will be organising the cabin allocations, so stay tuned for cabin preference forms. Any general camp enquires can be directed to me. Looking forward to it!

NICK HEYNSBERGH,

CAMP COORDINATOR

## MUSIC

### We're Celebrating!

Parents and friends are invited to attend our first concerts of the year. We're celebrating our wonderful music students and some of our outstanding 2016 award winners. See below for some program details.

Book Now! These two concert are on sale via trybooking, and are expected to sell out with online sales. You can find all our trybooking events by searching under "VCASS".

### Celebration Concerts – Wednesday 15 February 2017

#### CONCERT 1, 6:00pm

- 2016 John Hopkins Award – winner: Jenna Choi - flute (Graduate)
- 2016 Robert Salzer Voice Award – winner: Eva Reyne - voice (Graduate)
- Year 7-12 Choir Director: Dermot Tutty

#### CONCERT 2, 7:00pm

- 2016 Austral Salon Chamber Ensemble Award – winner: Trio de Picardie: Nathania Camargo, Clare Juan, Sammi Wu (Year 12, 2017)
- 2016 Austral Salon Outstanding Soloist Award – winner, and 2016 Ian Harrison Composer's Award – winner, and 2016 VCASS Dux: Leo Mares - piano (Graduate)
- Year 7-12 Choir: same program as Concert 1

**KIM BEISSEL,**  
MUSIC ADMINISTRATION



### VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

A LEADING VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AND EDUCATOR AND TRAINER OF SECONDARY AGE GIFTED AND HARDWORKING THEATRE AND VISUAL ARTISTS, DANCERS AND MUSICIANS—THE ACADEMIC SCHOOL FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL, GYMNAS-TICS VICTORIA, AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CIRCUS ARTS—THANK YOU TO OUR FOLLOWING SPONSORS