SHARING PASSIONS IN LIFE

In this issue of the ‘Proteads Newsletter’ we are fortunate to be able to share an article from Sonny Tilders (Class of 1984). Sonny created the puppet “King Kong” and he speaks about his fascination of puppets combined with an interest in technology.

“...back in the eighties I had no real concept that a career could ever be made of such a thing...”

Whilst writing this article for us, in between many media commitments, Sonny said, “I thought it might inspire some kids to stick to their guns and be driven by their passions.”

Sonny certainly has made a career of it and there is also no doubting his passion and creativity.

You’ll find that our other featured writers also have a ‘passion’ for what they are doing and the directions that earlier choices have taken them. Summer DeRoche in her work ‘Archies’ at Mount Eliza with Conde who has such happy memories as an international student. We thank them all for sharing their stories with us.

It is always delightful to receive news about our current and ex-students and staff. Also pleasing that they are more than happy to share this with you too.

Cheers,
Lynn, Marcia, Ros
Editors

Junior ‘Archies’ at Mount Eliza

In our last issue we mentioned that former student Sarah Hendy (Class of 2000) was a finalist in the 2013 Archibald Prize. Sarah’s work is now on display at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, together with the winning works and that of other finalists, as a part of the ‘Archibalds.Prize.2013’ exhibition.

We are also delighted to hear that the works of two current students are also on display. Year 11 student Sam Brett is one of three finalists in the MPRG Archibald Prize competition in the years 11 and 12 category.

Annie Jeffreys is one of three finalists in the years 7-10 category.

There were 600 entries in the competition and the other two finalists in each of these categories are from private schools.

This is wonderful recognition for MESC and our staff, and for our fantastic students. We would like to congratulate Sam and Annie.

Winners will be announced on Monday 17th June.

www.mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au
A World of Creatures

With the phenomena of stage show ‘King Kong’ hitting Melbourne this month we are very fortunate to have an article from ex-student Sonny Tilders to share with you. Sonny has always been a huge supporter of the College and the Art Department, having spoken at our VCE Art Exhibition in the past. In many recent news articles about ‘King Kong’ (how could you miss them?) and “the world’s best puppet”. Enjoy this insight into Sonny’s world of creatures.

“Ron Barron and the Mount Eliza High School (MEHS) Art department are the ones to blame for my choice of career.

The ‘3D Studio Arts’ subject Ron developed in the 1980’s really was a dream concept for me and it paved the way for my professional career. It asked you to develop the desired creative outcomes and then to choose the materials, methodology and technologies to achieve them. This is pretty much what I do on a daily basis, although now with a great team of up to 50 collaborators and a workshop the size of 3 gymnasiums - it is the ultimate creative toy shop where ideas and experimentation can be supported and nurtured.

It is however also a business now and it comes with its stresses and strains. I didn’t plan to run a business, nor did I imagine I would ever be part of such a large international venture.

I went from MEHS to a degree in graphic design (it took me those 4 years to realise that I am not a very good graphic designer), to a props and effects making company in Melbourne and then to creature animatronics work on feature films in Sydney.

Then in 2006 I was approached to design and build life-size dinosaurs for ‘Walking with Dinosaurs: the Arena Spectacular’.

It was an amazing lucky break (these come along every now and then and when they do it’s all about making the most of it). A company was set up in its wake of which I am now the Creative Director and for the last 7 years we have been making stupidly complex and large puppets for live performances around the world, culminating in King Kong.
A World of Creatures continued...

It wasn’t all about art and design though. I had a wonderful English Lit teacher in Robert Hillman (who went on to become a successful author - and Robert if you’re out there, I still have your book on ‘Balthus’ - yes that’s a long lend!). In the early days I was enamoured by science classes - until the maths became far too hard and abstract for me. I do think however, it is this fascination with science and the natural world that I take into my professional career as much as anything else. When you are creating the illusion of life you need to understand what it is that makes something look alive. It’s an observational skill that stems from being fascinated by how the world works. I think it’s a healthy fascination for everyone to have in many ways and something that good schools instinctively and actively promote and nurture.

Careers don’t always present themselves on a plate. Sometimes they evolve out of an interest or passion that has no clear path for success. I have been very lucky to have had (and are still having) just one of those careers. And it all stemmed from a few inspirational teachers and a young school that was ready to try something new and different (oh and sorry - you too Mum and Wayne!)�

Sonny is Creative Director and Creature Designer at ‘The Creature Technology Company’ - www.creaturertechnology.com

Images:
Sydney Morning Herald http://bit.ly/12kxTPx
‘Ripple’ Magazines 1983, 1984

King Kong Melodies

Adrian Portell (Class of 2000 and College Dux 2000) is also making the news in his role as Assistant Musical Director of ‘King Kong’ and his marriage to Lisa Athans at Poet’s Lane, Sherbrooke late last year. This is not Adrian’s first time in musicals as he was also Assistant Musical Director for the Sydney production of ‘Mary Poppins’ and the Singapore season of ‘A Chorus Line’, together with his involvement in many, many more musical ventures both in Australia and overseas.

Adrian’s sister Callie (Class of 2005) won the ‘Ron Barron Acquisitive Prize’ during her time at the College and many of you will also remember parents Harold (Maths) and Monika (Library) who were both on staff.

Images: Herald Sun
**Summer DeRoche** (Class of 2002) shares memories of her time at MESC and delight at having her work showing on SBS.

“Being the youngest of six girls who all attended MESC, my school uniform was a hand-me-down that had originated in the 1980s while I was attending high school in the late 1990s to early 2000s. The holes in my elbows and lint-pilled skirts did no favours for the already questionable brown colour that the uniforms were back then. Thankfully, the uniforms changed during my VCE years.

My passion for film started in high school. This was before the days of iPhones and YouTube so filmmaking wasn’t so accessible. My first short film was made for my VCE media project, shot on my sister’s terrible ‘handy-cam’ which I think cost about $2000 at the time (and would now cost no more than a couple hundred dollars). It’s certainly no masterpiece, but I loved the process of making it.

There were only a handful of us who decided to do films as our major project for VCE Media, the majority choosing the more popular photography (which still involved processing using the dark room at the school).

We had to guide ourselves through using the post-production software, which from memory was Adobe Premier, as computer-based non-linear editing systems hadn’t been around for long and our teacher was a little in the dark as to how to use them.

My film was delivered on a VHS tape. I actually have it in no other format and the one and only copy sits in a cupboard in my parents’ lounge room, collecting dust with the other obsolescent videotapes.

Since graduating high school in 2002, I have pursued a career in film and television, focusing on editing and directing. After taking some time off to travel, I studied at Swinburne University, completing BA with Honours in Film and TV in 2010.

Recently, I’ve begun working with the Melbourne-based production company Oh Yeah Wow directing and editing music videos. I have had films play at the St Kilda Film Festival Opening Night over the last two years, and a short documentary I directed is currently playing on SOS (Shorts on Screen) on SBS which I am quite proud of, as I have fond memories of watching SOS (which was then called Eat Carpet) on Saturday nights during my high school years, dreaming of having a short film of mine play on there one day. “

You can view a selection of Summer’s work at [www.summerderoche.com](http://www.summerderoche.com)

Images: Summer DeRoche

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Summer’s family has a long connection with the College, from 1980—2002, and we shared news of sister Torre’s first published novel “Love with a Chance of Drowning” in our last newsletter. Who do you remember?

**Summer DeRoche—Class of 2002**

**Torre DeRoche - Class of 1997**

**Abra DeRoche - Class of 1994**

**Bree DeRoche - Class of 1989**

**Tassy DeRoche - Class of1988**

**Monique DeRoche - Class of 1986**
In the news....

Daniel Watt (Class of 1999) is currently a music journalist for Beat Magazine as well as hosting his own online TV show. Dan has also become known for his Community TV (Ch.31) show ‘Poncho’ and you can view some of Dan’s “Watt’s On” interviews at www.beattv.com.au He is well remembered for his sporting prowess and running skills whilst at MESC. He tells us that he is also a running coach and running laps of ‘The Tan’ each week himself! Dan’s sister Jennifer left MESC in Year 10 and is now Head of Marketing at Melbourne Football Club.

Warrick Brown (Class 1A—1975) was one of our founding students and is currently the owner/manager of iconic music store Greville Records in Prahran—looking back through the ‘Ripple’ archives Warrick listed his future occupation as a ‘strummer’ and we’re guessing that owning a record store is probably just as good!

Chad Timmermans (Class of 1997) was on TV recently (60 Minutes, 19/5/13) talking about his work as a psychologist and exercise physiotherapist treating children with cerebral palsy. Chad was a keen swimmer and participated in many swimming carnivals during his time at MESC.

“Team VCAL” (2012), under the guidance of teacher Susan Bollard, was recently recognised at the VCAL Achievement Awards evening in Melbourne. They received an award for ‘best team achievement at senior level’ from Education Minister, Martin Dixon.

Dora Crighton (Librarian 1977-1986) now lives in Euroa and is enjoying country life according to a “Why I Live Where I Live” report in the Herald Sun recently. “We lived on the Mornington Peninsula but it got too crowded... I love Euroa. The people are friendly and you’ll always see someone in the main street to talk to. The climate is good, the shops are wonderful and we’re right in the centre of Victoria, so it’s easy to get to anywhere.”

STUDENT REUNIONS 2013

Class of 2003

We’ve heard rumblings about a possible 10-year reunion for the Class of 2003, if you have any further details, or would even like to plan one yourself, please contact us.

We also have your VCE Certificates which were not available at the time of graduating — think what a great night you could have handing these out!

Class of 1993

A 20-year reunion for the Class of 1993 is being organized by

Sarah (Hill) Dickinson in October 2013

http://www.facebook.com/groups/279765625470016/
Carla Conde (Moraes) was an international Exchange Student from Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2004 and she shares her memories as a student at Mount Eliza Secondary College. It is wonderful that we have had so many students from all over the world participate within our International Program and that they have such fond memories of time spent at the College. Enjoy Carla’s memories.

“I was only 15 when I decided to do something different with my life. I had always imagined what it would be like living in another country, speaking another language. So I decided to talk to Rotary and find out what I had to do to be an exchange student. They had 2 options for me: Australia or South Africa—I decided on Australia and I am very happy with my decision. :)

I arrived in Melbourne on the 28th of January 2004. I didn’t speak English so I was a little bit worried. During my first month, I had my dictionary (and my camera) with me all the time. I didn’t want to miss anything. But my English improved very quickly to my surprise.

At first, I thought people at school wouldn’t talk to me, or be friends with me, because my English was very poor and they wouldn’t have time to find out what I was trying to say. But I made some friends pretty quickly, good friends…. friends that I am still in touch with and have seen again at other times after I came back from Australia in 2005.

Rotary was a dream! I stayed with 6 different families. You might be thinking “What??? 6 families?? It sucks”… Actually it was really good. I had the chance to meet 6 wonderful families that I had a different relationship with. It really was awesome. Of course it’s always hard to arrive at a new house and start all over again, but in the end worth it.

Things at school were a little bit different to Brazil. In Brazil school starts at 7:30am and goes until 1:00pm, so there’s no lunch time. We have to study all the subjects and in Australia I had to choose 5 or 6 (I don’t remember). Anyway, I decided to choose the subjects that would help me to make friends quicker. So I started by picking Outdoor Education (with Mr. Shone). It was so much fun—I could never have imagined going camping or hiking. I also picked Drama because it was different and we don’t have Drama classes at school in Brazil.

Within 2 months I was going to parties with people from school and having fun! I wasn’t worried about my English anymore and it didn’t take long for me to fall in love with an Australian. I fell in love a couple of times and I had 2 boyfriends during my year in Australia!
Carla Conde continued...

I remember there was this day at school that David, Leticia (another Brazilian exchange student) and I decided we were going to skip our maths class and we decided to climb the fence behind Mt Eliza Secondary. It was raining and cold as David jumped first and I went after him. I fell off the fence and had to have 5 stitches in my hand! The school called the President of my Rotary club and I was so worried. I thought they would send me home, or punish me somehow, but they just told me to be more careful! The club had such nice and young men.

After a week I was kind of happy that it happened and now it’s a mark that I have with me forever.:)

But of course I had some hard times too. I missed my family over here. I spent Christmas crying half of the day because everyone was together at my mum’s house and I wanted to be there with them. But then I thought my exchange was once in a life time experience and I couldn’t waste my time crying, right?

I remember walking on Frankston beach after school. This is one of the small moments that I’ll have with me for the rest of my life.

When October came I was already thinking of what I could do to stay forever and not go back in January. But there was not even chance of it because Rotary would not be responsible for me anymore and I was only 17. So I was already counting down the days, but not in a good way.

January came and I spent my last day laughing and talking with my friend David, in Mount Eliza. It was a wonderful sunset that day.

My host family was taking me to the airport at 5am on the 15th of January and I still hadn’t packed any of my stuff at 2am!

Some of my families came to the airport to say goodbye. I really, really, really didn’t want to go. It was hurting so much but I had no choice. I cried all the way from Australia to New Zealand! When I arrived back in Brazil, I went straight to Uni to study journalism and I’ve been working in marketing for over 5 years now.

Today I’m a Marketing Manager at an education website called Descomplica (www.descomplica.com.br).

I am from São Paulo, but I have been living in Rio de Janeiro almost a year now.

I returned to Australia in November 2011. A lot of things have changed in Mt Eliza, Frankston, Mornington and Mt Martha, but the important things haven’t. David came to pick me up from the airport and I spent 2 weeks at his place, having fun just like old times. My first night back in Australia I went to have dinner with my Rotary families and it was really good to feel welcome again.

So, to the best things about my time in Australia? Meeting nice people on the other side of the planet and feeling emotions I would never feel if I hadn’t left my country. “

**Curiosity:**

- Song at that moment: Shannon Noll - What about me
- Casey Donovan won Australian Idol (but I think Anthony Callea was better than her)
- There was a club in Frankston called Level 1
- Davey’s— is it still there? :)

2004 International Students

Images:
- Carla Conde
- ‘Ripple’ Magazine 2004
WANTED

MT ELIZA HIGH SCHOOL
H.S.C. CLASS OF
1983

Its time for the
THIRTY YEAR REUNION

Date: 8pm, August 10th, 2013
Venue: Canadian Bay Hotel - CB’s downstairs
Cost: Nil (just buy your own drinks/ bar food over the bar)
RSVP: ourschoolreunion2013@gmail.com

All welcome... Spread the word...

Remember all that brown... and those PE uniforms...
and Mack's day with the car in the quadrangle....
Get any photos? Send them to
ourschoolreunion2013@gmail.com
before July just so we can create an album to laugh (together) at.

We would love to see anyone who was in
Year 7 - 1978
Year 8 - 1979
Year 9 - 1980
Year 10 - 1981
Year 11 - 1982
Year 12 - 1983
ALL WELCOME!
PROTEADS
Past Students and Staff
Continuing the Association since 1995

Mount Eliza Secondary College
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Victoria Australia

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You can also follow current MESC news and connect with others via

Mount Eliza Secondary College Official Page—http://on.fb.me/MXqca9
Mount Eliza Secondary College (Proteads) Group—http://on.fb.me/ACZhUB
Mount Eliza Secondary College https://twitter.com/MtElizaSC

Please contact us if you would like to join Proteads and be added to our database in order to receive information about future events

proteads@mesc.vic.edu.au

A Trip Down Memory Lane (for some!)

The very first Mount Eliza High School ‘Debutante Ball’ was held on 25th July 1985 at the Chelsea Town Hall and involved 34 girls and their partners. As reported in the 1985 ‘Ripple Magazine’ “all those concerned were nervous with anticipation and excitement... a polished performance on the night... thoroughly enjoyed themselves... the flow of lemonade was never ending... We hope it becomes a tradition that Mt Eliza High carries on for many years.” Well it certainly has become a tradition with our 2013 students about to begin dance practice ready for their presentation in September. Can you name any of the ‘Debs’ in the above photo from 1985?