

### **President's Report Naomi Taranto (Class of 2016)**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way in which each of us relates to and navigates the world. For the Alumni Association, the 2020-2021 financial year posed many challenges for the delivery of our reoccurring events. However, this also gave the committee time to reflect on new and innovative ways that we could continue to deliver our mission. The ELTHAM College Alumni Association has always strived to reach, connect and support our Alumni by offering a diverse range of exciting events that underpin the essence of community. In 2020, the Alumni Association continued to support our past students, parents and staff from afar, but as we settle into 2021 our vibrant calendar of events has quickly taken shape. We have been busy reconnecting with our members, providing many opportunities to build upon the lifelong connection that support our community.

Our activities have included the combining reunions missed from 2020, with our 2021 cohorts, which has so far provided a great sense of cross year level interaction and community reconnection. Throughout 2020, we were able to continue supporting our Year 12 students as they undertook the transition from high-school students to new graduates. This included online workshops, career activities, sponsorship of their Year 12 dinner, and attending their Valedictory to officially welcome them to the Association. In 2021, we have begun to develop this relationship with the new Year 12 cohort, attending their orientation day, Year 12 dinner and funding a workshop day run by alumni, Tyson Day.

ECAMP has continued to flourish, connecting our alumni through music and performing arts. They have been working on new performance opportunities, musical tour reunions, and the idea of an alumni musical to be developed over the next year. The new year has also brought our Association the opportunity to renew partnerships with the Research-Eltham Collegians Cricket Club and the Turtles Football Club, providing a fantastic platform for re-engagement in community sport after a year of background development. We also have some exciting developments in the pipeline to connect our alumni through business in collaboration with our partners and members.

Our Alumni E-News and College Connections has continued to keep our members informed on our activities, and as a key platform for our connection and engagement with stories, news and events among our community.

I would particularly like to thank Cherry, our former President, for her tireless, enthusiastic and dedicated contributions. Cherry continues to be an invaluable asset, and fantastic leader for our hallmark ECAMP program. I would also like to thank Emily Cavanaugh and Nikola Shearer for their tireless efforts in organising, orientating and guiding our committee through all our ideas, helping to see them into reality. A further thanks extends to David Nicholson for his management of our funding and budgets and Simon Le Plastrier for his support of our activities.

On a personal note, It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as the President of the ELTHAM College Alumni for this financial year. The committees' efforts continue to amaze me; their ability to enthusiastically create opportunities that reach further than any of us could achieve alone is astounding. As our young committee continues to grow, I am very excited for our year ahead and I look forward to seeing our strength grow, and initiatives nourish our commitment to our community.