

# CEDAR COLLEGE ALUMNI BRANCHING OUT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CEDAR COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### CREATIVE LEARNING

The next exciting chapter in the growth of Cedar College is now well under-way, with work progressing on the new \$3.2M Creative Arts Centre, scheduled to open in 2016.

As Cedar College graduates, I'm sure that you have great memories of the drama and music performances that you either participated in, or attended. Performances of "The Glass Menagerie", "Pride and Prejudice", "The Cagedbirds" and "Between These Lines" are still vivid in our memories, and we look forward to this year's production of "Wonderland", as we continue to foster excellence in the Creative Arts at Cedar College.

While facilities like our new Creative Arts Centre did not exist when you, our graduates, were here in High School, many of you laid the foundation for Creative Arts at Cedar College.



Peter Thomson, Principal

The Ground Floor of the new building will provide three teaching spaces and seven instrumental practice rooms, for use by both High School and Primary School instrumental students.

The First Floor will feature separate drama and music facilities, designed to give students real-world experience in creative arts performance. The Music Suite will include a rehearsal and performance space, as well as a digital recording studio, and a video and audio editing suite. The Drama Suite will feature a rehearsal and performance space, with sound and lighting facilities to give students a taste of the theatre/film industry, as well as the opportunity to explore technical theatre training.

**We look forward to many exciting performances and memories, that you, our graduates, can continue to be a part of at Cedar College.**

Warm regards

**Peter Thomson**  
Cedar College Principal

## IN THE PICTURE

The new two-storey Creative Arts Centre, currently being constructed alongside the Cedar College Sports Centre, is due to open in 2016. Bringing together the two creative disciplines of music and drama within this new facility will allow for closer collaboration and community, and will help to draw out and enhance the creative culture at Cedar College.

Pictured are Cedar College music teacher, **Andrew Hill**, with Project Manager, Lou George, during a progress inspection.

## About the Alumni Association

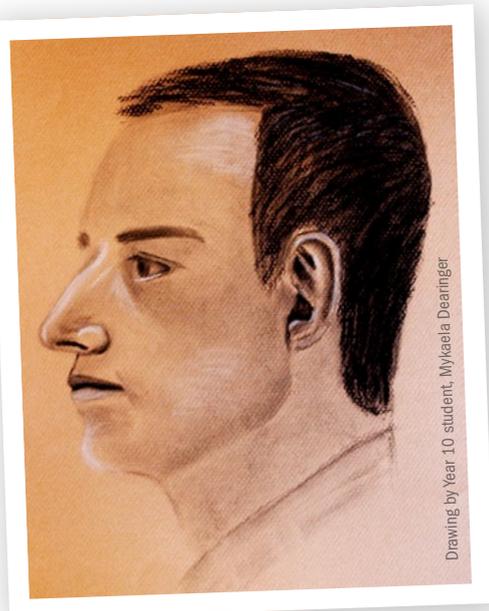
"Branching Out" is published annually, keeping graduates and old scholars of Cedar College up to date with news and events.



This newsletter is also available online at [cedarcollege.sa.edu.au/alumni](http://cedarcollege.sa.edu.au/alumni). Alumni members may submit news, change address details and choose how to receive Branching Out, by using our online form. You can email [alumni@cedarcollege.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@cedarcollege.sa.edu.au), follow us on Twitter [@CedarCollege](https://twitter.com/CedarCollege) or like us on Facebook [Facebook.com/CedarCollege](https://www.facebook.com/CedarCollege).

Reg, you've been involved with all of the Year 12 classes here at Cedar, since the first one in 2008. What do you enjoy the most about being a Year 12 teacher, and what keeps you going?

The thing which I most appreciate about teaching, and now also co-ordinating Year 12, is the depth of camaraderie between students, as well as between teachers and students. Sometimes I draw parallels in my mind between the collective challenges students face in this final tumultuous year and



Drawing by Year 10 student, Mykaela Dearfinger

at school (or he was a master of illusion... either way, he was very impressive).

■ **Last year brought about some big changes in your life - can you tell us how that came about, and how your life has changed?**

October the 4th last year was a very significant day for me, marrying my beautiful wife Ayu. Over the last six years, students have been inflicted with my stories and anecdotes about my girlfriend who was living and working in Indonesia. It was a long journey for us to now finally be together, but as I've told her many times - I'm worth it!

■ **You've kept in touch with many of the Year 12s over the years; don't teachers usually just move on after their class graduates? Why have you continued to stay connected with graduates?**

For me, it's one of the strangest things in our modern society, that you work alongside these young people, sharing their hopes and dreams, investing hundreds of hours into them as human beings (not to mention the fact that I learn so

don't get the thanks that they perhaps deserve, but my experience and belief is that you will get back from teaching what you put in. If your goal is simply to get paid, or get high results, you will probably get that. But if you are willing to invest yourself in the students, to share your successes and failures with them, to share with them your passion for learning and your walk with Jesus, then perhaps they will respect you as more than just an educator, and perhaps they will see you as someone worth emulating.

■ **Your Year 12 speeches have achieved legendary status! What are some of the most memorable moments that you've had as a Year 12 teacher.**

I had a can of coke thrown at me (or to me, depending on what story you believe); eight stitches later and now I'm back to beautiful! There were some crazy journeys in the Tarago for SMB and Vetamorphus, and seeing the first lot of Year 12s graduate after being their homeroom teacher for three years, and sharing with students about how much Jesus loves them. Good times, good times!

# PORTRAIT OF A TEACHER

FROM HOMEROOM TO GRADUATION, THERE ISN'T A YEAR 12 CEDAR STUDENT WHO HASN'T BEEN IMPACTED BY REG THOMPSON. BRANCHING OUT CATCHES UP WITH "MR T", TO FIND OUT WHAT MOTIVATES HIM TO KEEP ON TEACHING.

those faced by the soldiers and citizens that we study in Modern History. For most students, Year 12 is the first time in their education that they are out of their depth, and need to develop new priorities, patterns and perspectives. It is really rewarding to play a part in shaping their characters in a positive way.

■ **Thinking back, have there been any teachers in your own life that impacted you as a student, and even as a teacher?**

I really enjoyed school, particularly Senior School. One of the teachers that I most appreciated was my Christian Living teacher, Mr Borry. It was not so much the content he taught, though this was really solid, as the friendly greeting that he would give you every time you walked past him in the yard, the way he allowed people with different or contrasting views to have a voice in his class and, significantly, his joy. You could just tell that he wanted to be there

ONE OF THE **GREATEST JOYS** IN MY LIFE IS HEARING FROM PAST STUDENTS...

much from them) and then suddenly they graduate and we have nothing more to do with them. I could jump on one of my hobby horses about the

Industrial Revolution and how it destroyed community and belonging, but I'll spare you that and just say that as Christians we should try to forge relationships that last. One of the greatest joys in my life is hearing from past

students. They are finding jobs, starting families, opening businesses; it's amazing.

■ **A number of students that you have taught are now studying to become teachers - what advice would you give them?**

When I was in Year 11, I was considering becoming a teacher. I approached one of the teachers that I really respected and said, "I think I will become a teacher". He replied, "Well it's a thankless job," and walked off. Now, maybe he was just having a bad day, and sometimes teachers

## GRADUATE NEWS

### Weddings

**Tiana Smith** (Class of 2010) married **Ben Green** on April 12, 2014 (pictured top, right).

**Stephanie McDowell** (Class of 2012), married **Guy Lord** (2008) on February 22, 2014 (pictured bottom, right).



### Sports News

Congratulations to **Jake Culkin** (Class of 2011) on his recent selection for the 2015 SA Senior State NRL Team.

Cedar College was deeply saddened this year by the loss of **Nicole Stroop** (Class of 2011). Nicole took part in the Thailand Service Trip in 2011, and will be greatly missed by staff and students of Cedar College.



THE CEDAR COLLEGE SENIOR DRAMA STUDENTS PRESENT  
**WONDERLAND**

Performances on **June 9 & 10** from 7pm at The Parks Theatre in Angle Vale. Tickets \$10 adults, \$6 students from [TryBooking.com/HTXP](http://TryBooking.com/HTXP).



# POSTCARDS FROM INDIA

You may recognise the faces of these Cedar College Graduates. Branching Out catches up with them, to find out what they've been up to, and why they were in India.



**RENÉE HURNI**  
CLASS OF 2013

I am now studying my second year in Agricultural Science. I have really been enjoying it, and Agriculture has been a great challenge for me.

I went to India for three weeks; it was not a holiday, but actually a mission trip. I went with Oakden Baptist Church as part of a young adults program called SonTeam.

For the first week we stayed in Delhi. Through church connections, we got to see different programs and homes that the church supports. This included places such as girls' homes and a school. This school (Anusaran) is a self-funded building that gives free English lessons (using sentences from the Bible) to the children who come from around the neighbourhood.

Our team was also blessed to go on a church camp with Middle School-aged children. We had so much fun with these children, studying from the Bible and encouraging them to grow in their faith. Finally, we went to Bihar. This is significant, as no one goes to Bihar unless they really have too. We got to go to extremely rural villages and speak to them about Jesus.



**ANGUS HILL**  
CLASS OF 2013

I have now decided to study Media Arts and Journalism, to aid me in the work that I am currently undertaking in Television.

I and 12-13 others were involved in a group within our church called SonTeam. Part of this course involved going on a mission trip to India, to help support some churches and families we have connections with here in Australia. For example, we would visit children's homes/orphanages, churches and go on regular family visits.

In 2013 I went on the Cedar Service Trip to Thailand. Both trips were life-changing, as you may imagine. Thailand changed my view on the world and the turmoil that people are faced with daily. In the year between these trips, I had grown a more profound spiritual understanding about God's character and this helped to prepare me for the India trip. The India trip was a time where I could put into practice the things I had learned, without the burden of being confronted with the hurt in Thailand, that showed me the effects of the sin which plagues our world.

Both trips were life-changing, as you may imagine.



**TIANA GREEN**  
CLASS OF 2010

I completed a Diploma in Graphic Arts, travelled Europe, am enjoying being a newlywed, and now work at OBC, serving our loving, merciful Saviour Jesus Christ.

I had the privilege of helping lead a mission trip to India for three weeks with my husband and a group of young adults from our church.

It was with a young adults' program called SonTeam, which exists to develop passionate young followers of Jesus by dedicating a year to becoming more like Him and discovering how to worship, serve and share the Gospel.

India was challenging, but it was extremely inspiring to meet people who dedicate their lives to sharing God's love in India full time.

One of my many highlights in India was staying with a family for a week and getting to know and love all of them. They live so sacrificially and care only about bringing glory to God through their lives.

Since returning, I often reflect on that family and think about how I can do the same in Australia.

# TELL US YOUR STORY

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH A GROWING COMMUNITY OF GRADUATES

**School finishes, life begins. At least that's what it feels like for 17 and 18 year old students who have spent 13 years in education. Then University starts.**

Whether your career path has involved Tertiary Education, an apprenticeship, running a business, or time in the workforce, we're always excited to hear from our graduates and past scholars.

If you've visited the Cedar website recently, you may have noticed some friendly faces featured on the front page of the site. We've really appreciated **Lauren, Jake and Matthew** letting us

know what they're up to, and allowing us to use their photos and quotes on the website. We believe that part of our role as a school is to prepare our graduates for their lives ahead. That's why we're so interested to find out where our graduates are, and what they're doing with their lives.

Perhaps, as a past Cedar student, you've got an interesting story to tell. It could be an achievement or career path that we haven't heard about, or

maybe you're just appreciative of your time spent at Cedar (we realise that it may take a few years of being out of school to appreciate it!). We'd love to hear from you, even if it's just to say, "Hi!". You can contact Cedar College via our website (Community > Old Scholars) or you can email us at [alumni@cedarcollege.sa.edu.au](mailto:alumni@cedarcollege.sa.edu.au) with your stories, news and photos.

**Cedar College will be celebrating its 20th year in 2016**, and we're planning some special events for our school community, Graduates and Old Scholars. If your contact details have changed, let us know via our website, and we'll be sure to keep you posted with all the news!

## NOW & THEN

A LOOK AT PHOTOS FROM THE ARCHIVES, TO SEE HOW WE'VE CHANGED!

**It doesn't take long for Cedar students to realise that they are a part of a growing school! Building a school from the ground up has meant major building projects almost every year.** The new Gazebo Gardens were designed by High School Design and Technology teacher, Nigel Watson, who is also a qualified horticulturist. A range of Australian native plants have been used, and the result is a beautiful outdoor area for students to enjoy. A further native plant teaching garden will be added soon.



Jarrad (right) at "Mondays Coffee Store"

*Branching Out speaks to **Jarrad Sharrock** (finished Cedar in 2007) and asks him...*

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Hi Jarrad, it must seem like a long time since you were at Cedar. What have you been doing in the years since you left school?

Since leaving Cedar I have travelled to Japan, studied and worked as an accountant for two years, and most recently I have started my own little coffee shop in the city.

I've heard about your coffee shop from some Cedar teachers (pictured above). How did "Mondays Coffee Store" come about?

After two years as a junior accountant, I wanted to further my career by studying at Uni, and I needed a job. Coffee seemed like an easy daytime job that wouldn't impact my social life too much. This led me to Melbourne to learn more about the specialty scene and soak up as much as I could about coffee and the agricultural practices in coffee-producing countries. Three years in Melbourne left me with a choice - travel for a few years, or start up my own project. Adelaide has always been home to me and, coming back, I could see it was a growing city. I wanted to be a part of that, so the choice was easy.

Cedar has changed a lot since you were here - what are some of your memories of school?

My memories of Cedar are of this tiny school, nestled between a half-built lifestyle village, and a home for the disabled (where my mum worked).

The one thing that always struck me about Cedar was the family vibe. The whole place seemed to be like one big family. Coming from one of the largest public schools in the State, this was quite a change.

Cedar taught me that learning went beyond the classroom and could only be limited by me.

What advice would you give to students at Cedar who might be considering opening their own business when they finish school?

This is only my fourth week, so I can only really give limited advice! The most important thing in any business, small or large, is not to let fear hold you back. It's scary doing anything that forces you beyond your comfort zone, but the rewards are far more than could be quantified by money.