

## The bell tolls for the old Tuckshop

### NEW DINING HALL HAS MANY GREAT ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

For 98 years, the lunchtime bell at Scotch would be the cue for a veritable stampede to one of the boys' favourite places on the campus – the Tuckshop. The queue outside would build as the hunger pangs gnawed.

Scotch's Tuckshop was completed in 1922. Boys moving from the School's former East Melbourne campus

to Hawthorn in the 1920s described it as 'a palace compared with that of the old School'.

Scotch grew and grew. Back in 1919 the Tuckshop had been designed to cater for a total school enrolment at that time of 971, but by 2019 the Senior School alone had 1458 boys. (continued on page 2)

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BOYS ENJOYING THE CAMARADERIE OF THE DINING HALL; LEFT TO RIGHT – WILL DIXON (2020 SCHOOL CAPTAIN), OSCAR ROBSON AND HUGO BOREHAM (ALL YEAR 12). ABOVE MIDDLE AND RIGHT: INTERIOR VIEWS

There was congestion, and simply no room for boys to relax and mingle. Finally, the Tuckshop served its last pie and muffin at the end of Term 1, 2020.

Taking its place was the magnificent Keon-Cohen Dining Hall, which opened on 15 April 2020. The dining hall, which in a former life was the original school gym, then the computer centre and finally a design and technology centre, is a revelation, and the boys are thrilled with it. For the first time, they have a beautifully-appointed dining facility and outdoor precinct, a space they can call their own where they can meet, eat and converse.

In a similar outcome to the transformed original gym, the former Tuckshop now has a new life – it has been reconfigured into classroom 19.

Scotch's architects, Cox Architecture, incorporated a number of significant ecologically sustainable development features in the design of the dining hall:

- The building's heritage patterned windows were retained, but most existing windows in the lower level of the dining hall were replaced with thermally-efficient frames and glazed with high-performing glass. This is similar to double glazing, and helps to minimise noise and reduce energy consumption.
- The roof tiles were replaced, allowing high-performing thermal insulation to be installed.
- Insulation was also installed beneath the new ironbark timber floors and the kitchen's concrete floors.

- The kitchen exhaust system was fitted with a sensor to reduce fan speeds, significantly reducing energy consumption. Exhaust from cooking is extensively treated to remove pollutants before it is released.

- Energy-efficient LED lighting was fitted throughout.
- The mechanical system supplying fresh air to the dining hall uses return air and reclaims heat through a heat exchanger, treating the air and significantly reducing energy consumption.

- Water tanks in the basement capture run-off water and retain it as part of the site drainage system.

In the kitchen, Chartwells, Scotch's caterer, has comprehensive waste management, energy use and water use plans. Scotch uses about 110,000 recyclable paper cups each year, which, together with food scraps, are diverted from landfill and composted. KeepCups are available to boys and staff in the dining hall. Recyclable packaging, such as brown paper bags and cardboard containers, is extensively used. Deliveries to the School are minimised.

In addition, Chartwells uses free range eggs, poultry from RSPCA-approved farms, and its first preference is always to source produce from Australian farms.

In 1955, Principal Richard Selby Smith described the old Tuckshop as 'far too small'. Now the boys have a dining hall that that can again be described as 'a palace compared with that of the old School'.

## Focusing on the health and amenity value of Scotch's trees



ABOVE LEFT: A VIEW FROM THE HILL, LOOKING TOWARDS THE MAIN OVAL. RIGHT: RIVER RED GUMS NEAR THE MONTGOMERY FIELD

### PRESERVING AMENITY AND MANAGING RISK

Scotch's 27 hectare campus is blessed with thousands of native and exotic trees and shrubs, from the majestic river red gums near Gardiners Creek and the Yarra River to the beautiful avenue of English elms along Monash Drive, leading to Glenferrie Road.

Many of Scotch's ancient red gums pre-date European settlement by hundreds of years, while individual trees of great character grace the campus and add immeasurably to the Scotch character and amenity.

Scotch's Curator, Michael Smith, says the School acknowledges the significant benefit the treescape provides, although as the trees are living and dynamic, they can present risks during various stages of their lives.

He told *Environs*: 'We have implemented a specialist tree risk management program – an Arbor Plan – that helps us manage these risks, while also sensibly balancing the issues of tree health, amenity, and environmental value. We aim to continually improve the health and amenity value of our trees, while reducing risk to our boys and staff.'

The Arbor Plan helps Scotch to identify and manage its trees by:

- providing an inventory of all trees on site;
- conducting annual assessments and compiling data on individual trees, including tree location, species, size, structure, age and health;



ABOVE: THE QUADRANGLE, WITH 'TOPSY' THE WEEPING ELM IN FULL LEAF. RIGHT AND BELOW RIGHT: THE FLOWERING PEACH NEAR THE OLD BOARD ROOM IN 1952 (TOP) AND IN 2020. BOTTOM LEFT: GARDENS SURROUNDING CATTANACH HOUSE, THE PRINCIPAL'S RESIDENCE ON THE HILL

- assigning a risk rating to trees based on the assessments, and taking corrective action where necessary;
- monitoring and documenting all tree works, removals and replantings, and continually upgrading the records and database to create a history and audit trail; and
- continually reassessing tree risk status after corrective action has been taken, having regard to tree age, environmental incidents or site developments.





ABOVE, LEFT: SCOTCH'S ARBOR PLAN IDENTIFIED THIS RIVER RED GUM AS REQUIRING CLOSE ATTENTION. RIGHT: THE TREE, REDUCED IN SIZE BY TWO-THIRDS, PROVIDES GOOD HABITAT FOR BIRDS AND ANIMALS.

Trees eventually reach the end of their lives, and this has been the case with one of Scotch's treasured river red gums, located close to the Montgomery Field and near Gardiners Creek.

Estimated to be more than 200 years old and predating the settlement of Melbourne, the tree was identified under Scotch's Arbor Plan as requiring close attention. The School received permission from Boroondara Council to remove the tree, but instead decided to leave it in the ground and remove about two-thirds of the trunk. The remaining portion of the tree provides good habitat for

native birds and animals. A river red gum seedling has been planted nearby.

Michael Smith says the Arbor Plan ensures that the Scotch treescape is in the best possible condition, while also efficiently managing risk. 'We want to make sure that our dynamic treescape will continue to add significant amenity value for all to enjoy for decades to come,' he says.



## A lighter shade of green

**SCOTCH'S OVALS TOOK ON A PALE GREEN HUE DURING WINTER**



ABOVE, RIGHT TOP: SCOTCH CURATOR MICHAEL SMITH TESTS THE SOIL TEMPERATURE ON THE MAIN OVAL. ABOVE: *POA ANNUA* GRASS – A CHALLENGE FOR THE TURF INDUSTRY

Scotch's beautiful ovals took on a different hue this winter – dull, light green instead of rich, bright green – and like so many changes in this unusual year of 2020, the cause can be linked (indirectly this time) to the coronavirus pandemic.

The reason is that once the pandemic caused the cancellation of the winter sports season, Scotch decided not to proceed with the usual over-sowing of rye grass – which in a normal season is why the bright green colour is maintained during the winter months.

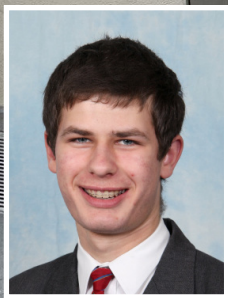
Scotch Curator Michael Smith said the decision not to over-sow had two benefits. 'As well as the obvious savings of seed and fertiliser costs, and the reduced running costs because of less frequent mowing of the ovals, this was a time that we could address problematic weed types such as *Poa annua*,' he said.

'*Poa annua* is one of the greatest challenges for the turf industry, particularly for sports fields that are over-

sown during winter. It's a naturally occurring grassy weed with a shallow, clumpy root system, which causes the turf to divot more readily. That gives the players less traction.

'An individual plant is capable of producing more than 360 viable seeds, so it's extremely important to target its control early in its life cycle before the seed heads appear. Once it goes to seed, they will be present again in the turf the following year and the cycle will continue.

'The unfortunate trade-off for not over-sowing the sports fields is that the existing warm season (couch) grass slowly shuts down for its winter dormancy during the cooler months, and becomes lighter in colour as it stores up its energy sources before beginning to wake during spring, ready to tackle the rigours of the hot Melbourne summer months.'



## A Scotch campaign: reducing waste going to landfill

THE AIM – INCREASING  
STUDENT AWARENESS OF  
WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES  
by ALEXANDER WOOD – YEAR 12

At the end of last year, leading into the start of 2020, a Scotch environment group was set up to go about alleviating some of the current issues around the School concerning sustainability and environmental impact.

At the start of the year the clear goals of the Sustainability Committee were to decrease general waste from the Tuckshop, and to lead a campaign against general waste by introducing multiple bin types around the School, thereby reducing the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

Although the members of the group are mostly staff and Year 12 students, it was pleasing to see a lot of discussion, especially about ways in which education on waste could be implemented around the School.

With the support of the Dean of Students, Mr David Brown, and the great help of the Maintenance team and the Facilities Manager, Mr Elliot Green, we were able to introduce bins specifically for paper and cardboard in every Quadrangle classroom, as well as colour-coding the bins in the square outside the Keon-Cohen Dining Hall

to make the different waste streams more immediately recognisable.

It was also pleasing to see the new dining hall adopt so much recyclable packaging (in the form of brown paper bags and cardboard containers, as opposed to the previous plastic alternatives) and even though we can't take credit for that, it is a sign of a growing awareness around the School of our effect on the environment.

Unfortunately the lockdowns halted some ideas, such as a plan to reduce waste on Family Day by exchanging the single-use plastic eating utensils and plates for reusable and recyclable ones.

We have endeavoured to spread greater awareness on the issues around the School in an effort to create a longer-lasting impact for years to come. There are many ideas for the environment we have passed on to next year's Prefects, when the situation will hopefully be less adverse to their efforts.



## The prime consideration: the health of boys and staff

A SET OF PROVISIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



While the School was in the two COVID-19 lockdown periods this year, comprehensive preparations were made to ensure that once boys and staff returned to Scotch, their health and safety would be the prime consideration.

During the lockdowns, the School created a set of provisions which were implemented in readiness for the boys' return to school.

The key provisions were:

- installing sanitisers at every building entrance;
- distributing cleaning product kits and hand sanitisers to every classroom and teaching space;
- installing sneeze guards at all reception desks;
- regularly disinfecting touch points, such as door handles and stair handrails, throughout the day in the Senior School and Junior School and the boarding house;
- placing social distancing signage around the School;
- measuring room capacities and installing signs to ensure boys and staff were abiding by the four square

metre social distancing requirement;

- amending the Senior School class timetable to make best use of the larger classrooms on campus, to assist with social distancing;
- staggering recess and tutor groups to manage the amount of traffic flow around the School;
- installing temperature checking stations in the Junior School, the Memorial Hall, the Language and Culture Centre and the Lithgow Centre to check staff and student temperatures each day;
- distributing cloth face masks made by Scotch Family members to all staff; and
- expanding the drop off/pick-up zones along Morrison Street to expedite traffic flow.

The provisions are being constantly reviewed and enhanced, as circumstances change.

Following the second lockdown, the boys returned to school progressively from the start of Term 4.





## Great Scot's lighter carbon footprint

### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF A REDUCED PRINT RUN



*Great Scot*, the Scotch Family magazine, provides the School community with a vivid picture of Scotch life in its many facets.

A review this year of the mailing list for *Great Scot* resulted in a significant reduction in the magazine's print run, with consequent savings in carbon emissions and postage costs.

Most Australian-based readers of *Great Scot* now have a choice between receiving a print copy of the magazine, or accessing a link to an online version. Scotch Family members living overseas are now sent a link to enable them to access the online version.

The review has enabled the print run to be reduced by 35 per cent. This is estimated to result in a saving of



ABOVE: COVER OF *GREAT SCOT*'S SEPTEMBER 2020 ISSUE

31 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions compared with earlier editions. In addition, beginning with the September 2020 issue *Great Scot* is now printed on carbon-neutral paper stock.

At the same time, postage costs have been reduced by 39 per cent.

*Great Scot* is distributed to Old Scotch Collegians, current parents, current staff, past staff and Scotch College Foundation members. In either print form or via a website link, the magazine is still readily available to all Scotch Family members.

Readers currently receiving *Great Scot* in printed form who wish to receive a regular website link instead, are invited to email their request to [greatscot@greatscot.com.au](mailto:greatscot@greatscot.com.au).