

Camberwell High alumni archive a showcase of high achievers

In its 70-year history, Camberwell High's high-profile former students have included Kylie and Dannii Minogue. But did you know one of Melbourne's best newsreaders and a popular author were also among its alumni? Here are 12 of its top graduates.

1. KYLIE MINOGUE, CLASS OF 1985



Kylie Minogue performs on the Pyramid stage at the Glastonbury Festival at Worthy Farm, Pilton on June 30, 2019. Picture: Ian Gavan/Getty Images

Kylie Minogue is Australia's most successful female recording artist. Minogue has sold 70 million records worldwide and has earned multiple awards and accolades, including a Grammy Award and ARIA Music Awards. She attended Camberwell High School from 1980 to 1985.

After school, Minogue starred as Charlene Robinson in the iconic Australian soap opera *Neighbours*, before leaving to become one of the world's biggest recording artists in the late 1980s. Her best-selling album to date is *Fever* (2001) with its lead single, *Can't Get You Out of My Head* selling more than five million units. Minogue has appeared in several films including *Moulin Rouge!* (2001). In 2014, she was a judge on *The Voice UK* and *The Voice Australia*.

Her other ventures include product endorsements, children's books and fashion. In 2008, Minogue was appointed an Officer of the Order the British Empire (OBE) for services to music by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 2011, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Health Science by Anglia Ruskin University for her work in raising awareness for breast cancer, and was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame by the Australian Recording Industry Association.

In December last year, Minogue was signed by Tourism Australia to front a new campaign that rolled out on British TV on Christmas Day.

Minogue said at the time she had felt like an unofficial ambassador promoting Australia in the UK since the days of *Neighbours* in the '80s.

"I've been doing it anyway; I think now I've just got the badge," Minogue told News Corp. "It feels like the right fit. I think some Brits still think I live in Australia. I feel like a part of me will always live in Australia, but I think it's come at the right time. I am a very proud Australian."

2. DANIELLE MINOGUE, CLASS OF 1987



Dannii Minogue at the Ham Yard Hotel in London announced as one of the judges in the 2016 BBC reality talent contest Let It Shine. Picture: Ella Pellegrini

Since leaving school in 1987 Danielle, or Dannii, Minogue has thrived in the entertainment industry for four decades. The successful Australian singer has sold seven million records worldwide. She has also achieved acclaim as a songwriter, actor, model, television personality and author. She attended Camberwell High School 1984-1987.

From the age of seven, Minogue appeared in several TV soap operas, including *Skyways* and *The Sullivans*. She gained recognition for her roles in *Young Talent Time* (1982-1988) and *Home and Away* (1989-1990), before launching into her career as a pop singer in the early 1990s.

Minogue has achieved multiple No 1 dance singles, becoming the best-performing artist on the UK Dance Chart. Minogue has been on the cover of numerous magazines. Since 2007, Minogue has worked as a talent show judge on *Australia's Got Talent*, *The X Factor* series in Australia and the UK, *Let It Shine* (2017) and *The Masked Singer Australia* (2019-present). She published her autobiography *My Story* in 2010.

In a 2018 News Corp interview Minogue had this advice for others:

"Choose the project that sets you on fire and absolutely go for it," Minogue said.

"And then whatever will be, will be. It's very much instinct; if you've done your best, you can sleep at night. If it's a success or a failure you know you gave it everything."

3. MIC CONWAY CLASS OF 1969



Mic Conway in performance mode.

Mic Conway is an ARIA Award-winning actor, singer, musician, screen composer/songwriter, fire-eater, magician, tap dancer, juggler, props builder and one-man-band.

Mic was born into a family of vaudeville theatre and opera performers. While a student at CHS, Mic and his brother Jim formed the Jelly Bean Jug Band just for a laugh, and they annihilated the competition in the school's annual talent contest.

In the 1970s, together with his brother Jim, Mic founded the Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band and, to their surprise, the band became a cult phenomenon, making a total of seven records, two of which achieved gold status. It was also in the 1970s that Mic joined the legendary Pram Factory Theatre (APG) in Melbourne, creating Soapbox Circus with Matchbox, where he was ringmaster, musician, juggler and acrobat.

In 1978, Soapbox became the now world-famous Circus Oz, of which Mic was a founding member. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Mic toured across Australia, Britain, USA, New Zealand and Asia, delighting audiences of all ages with his unique and entertainment-packed shows. He recorded several more albums and worked across the board in theatre, music, cabaret, TV and film.

More recently, Mic launched the Mic Conway's National Junk Band, successfully touring and recording unique music and entertainment. Film and television productions include *Coca Cola Kid*, *Molly*, *Vietnam*, *Play School*, *Mr Squiggle*, *House of Fun*, *Vaudeville*, *Come in Spinner*, *The Wiggles Movie*, the *Humphrey Bear* TV series, *Long Way To The Top* and writing the music for the ABC series *Bad Cop*.

Theatre appearances include *The Threepenny Opera* for the Sydney Theatre Company and *Blossoms and Wrinkles* for the One Extra Company. Mic was awarded an ARIA for his ABC album *Whoopee*, and has recorded and co-written several CDs, radio shows, TV scripts and various children's theatre productions.

4. JIM CONWAY CLASS OF 1968



Jim Conway is an accomplished harmonica player.

Jim Conway is an accomplished harmonica player whose distinctive style is renowned among blues, jazz and country music enthusiasts. Jim was a member of the Conway Brothers Hiccups Orchestra from 1984–1988 and toured the UK in 1986, appearing at the Edinburgh Festival, the Capitol Music Festival and the Newcastle Festival.

In 1988, the Conway Brothers appeared at the Houston International Festival, World Expo 88 and the Perth festival. Jim joined the Backsliders in 1989, touring nationally at festivals which include the Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne festivals, Womad, the East Coast Blues Festival, the Port Fairy Folk Festival, and the Gold Coast International Jazz and Blues Festival. He has twice been a judge at the Hohner Australian Harmonica Championships at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Apart from four successful recordings, including two gold records with Captain Matchbox, and an album with The Conway Brothers, Jim co-produced two of the Backsliders albums: *Sitting On a Million* and *Hellhound*.

Jim is a sought-after session musician and has recorded with numerous artists including Shane Howard (Goanna Band), Colin Hay (Men at Work), Jon Lord (Deep Purple), Bob Brozman, Slim Dusty, Jan Preston, Tim Gaze, Dutch Tilders, Anne Kirkpatrick and Pat Drummond. His extensive career includes national tours with American bluesman Brownie McGhee, The Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band (with brother Mic), Circus Oz and The Backsliders.

Jim has also composed, produced and recorded music for film and radio projects, including the Kennedy Miller telemovie *The Riddle of the Stinson* and the comedy feature *The Honourable Wally Norman*.

A documentary celebrating Jim's contribution to Australian music was screened on SBS television in July 2000. The film won a silver medal for Best Independently Produced Documentary at the Chicago International Film Festival.

In 2003, Jim was awarded the prestigious Centenary Medal in recognition of his contribution to the Arts.

In 2006, he started to focus on his own band, Jim Conway's Big Wheel, which had already achieved a high level of success within the Australian music scene since its

inception in 2002. Big Wheel's first CD Little Story was nominated in the Blues & Roots category for the 2004 ARIA awards. Since then, Big Wheel has toured extensively, playing at the Port Fairy, Wangaratta, Bellingen and the Narooma music festivals.

5. ELLIOT GOBLET CLASS OF 1968



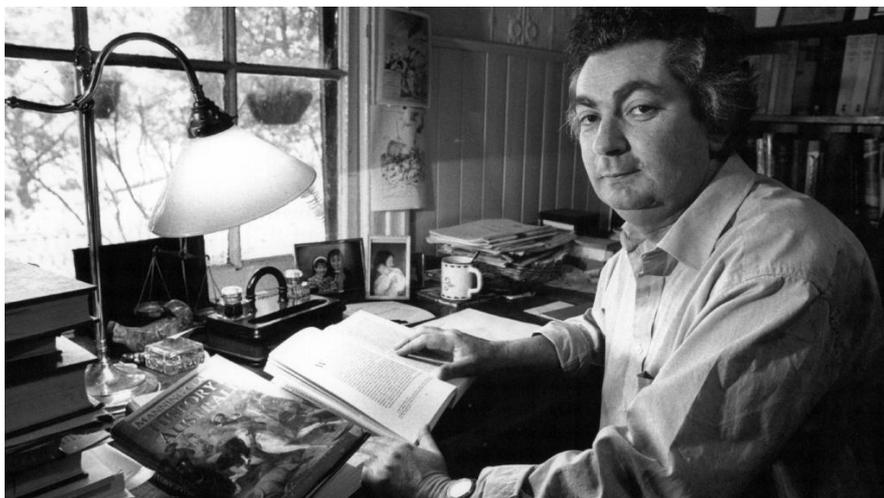
Elliot Goblet, one of Australia's most original and best-loved comedians.

Known as Jack Levi while a student of Camberwell High School, Elliot Goblet is one of Australia's most original and best-loved comedians. Over the years, the comedian has performed all over Australia and overseas in America, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. His audiences have ranged from comedy club patrons through to sophisticated corporate executives.

He's also enjoyed lots of big occasion nights, including two shows at the Sydney Entertainment Centre and half a dozen at Melbourne's Concert Hall. Goblet is best known for more than 50 appearances as a guest stand-up comedian on television shows like Hey, Hey, It's Saturday, Tonight Live, The Midday Show and The Big Gig.

He has also done guest appearances on celebrity TV game shows, Burke's Backyard, Neighbours and The Footy Show, as well as starring in corporate videos and TV commercials. Goblet's significant other achievements include a best-selling book: — *B* usiness According to Goblet — and his debut CD, Internally Berserk.

6. ROBERT MANNE, CLASS OF 1965



Robert Manne, writer and former editor of Quadrant.

Robert Manne is an Emeritus Professor of politics and vice-chancellor's fellow at La Trobe University.

A leading public intellectual and social critic, he has been a newspaper columnist, commentator on ABC Radio and written or edited 20 books, including *The Petrov affair: Politics and Espionage*; *Left, Right, Left*; *Political Essays-1977-2005*; and more recently, *The Mind of the Islamic State* and *On Borrowed Time*.

Born on October 31, 1947, Robert Manne attended Camberwell High from 1960-1965. He was active in school life, particularly during 1964 and 1965. He campaigned vigorously for an extension of extra-curricular activities at Camberwell High beyond the already well-established music and sporting traditions.

Robert and his friends wanted a students' representative council (SRC) formed to centralise student opinion and to channel suggestions to the staff, but not to replace the prefect system. He was responsible for an extensive questionnaire survey of Form 6 opinions in Term 2 of 1965 in which he concluded, ruefully, "the statistics reflect predictably the attitudes of middle class suburban Camberwell". In *Obituary to an Idea* (Prospice, 1965), he admitted defeat confessing that the SRC idea had "died a rather pathetic death".

He achieved his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne with First-Class Honours in History, and in 1969 was awarded a Shell Scholarship that enabled him to complete a doctorate in international relations at Oxford in 1972.

In 1975, he was appointed lecturer in politics at Latrobe University. In 1985, Robert was awarded the George Watson Prize for the best political essay of the year for *The Life and Times of Wilfred Burchett*, and published in *Quadrant*.

Although Robert was left-wing in his student days, he became one of Australia's leading conservative social thinkers.

7. HAZEL EDWARDS OAM, CLASS OF 1961



Blackburn author Hazel Edwards and grandson Henry.

Award-winning author Hazel Edwards believes writers are in the business of creativity and that their intellectual property should be valued.

She started the first belly-dancing class in Antarctica when stuck in polar ice during an Australian Antarctic Division expedition as a writer.

Best known for her book *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*, which celebrated its 33rd anniversary with a short film shown at the Sydney Opera House, Hazel writes across media for children and adults.

She also runs Non-Boring Writing workshops for genealogists, and mentors on web-chats.

A 2012 National Year of Reading Ambassador and director on the Australian Society of Authors' board, her 200 books have been translated into many languages.

An app of her picture book *Feymouse (Blue Quoll)*, about a large and clumsy cat born into a family of highly talented mice, is her latest digital experience.

Formerly an Australia-China electronic writer-in-residence with Nanjing Youfu West Street International School, Hazel mentored their bilingual *School Turtle* book.

In 2010, Hazel achieved an international first with transgender co-author Ryan Kennedy with the YA novel *f2m; the boy within* about transitioning from female to male.

A resident of Blackburn, Hazel is a frequent keynote speaker and gives web chats for remote writers.

In 2013, she received an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) for services to Literature and in 2017 she was awarded the Graham Davey Citation by YABBA for mentoring young readers and writers. In 2018, she became Patron of the Society of Women Writers (Vic).



AFL executive chairman Alan Schwab announcing a new junior football program in 1991.

VFL/AFL pioneer and sport administrator Alan Schwab (1940–1993) was an excellent student and dedicated cricketer and footballer, being a member of both the First XI cricket and the First XVIII football teams from 1955 to 1957.

Soon after leaving Camberwell High, Alan joined the Victorian Football League (VFL) as a junior clerk and stayed with its administration team until 1965 when he moved to the St Kilda Football Club as assistant secretary. St Kilda had transferred its headquarters to Moorabbin that year and was only one year away from its first VFL premiership. Alan was part of it all, involved in the running of the club and the recruiting of players.

By 1969, the year he moved to the Richmond Football Club, Alan was hailed as one of football's best-equipped young administrators. He replaced Graeme Richmond, regarded at the time as the most dynamic of all football secretaries and a man from whom Alan learnt a great deal.

He remained at Richmond until 1976, by which time Richmond had won three premierships. Alan was elected a life member of the Richmond Football Club and served as its director at the VFL.

In 1977, Alan returned to the VFL as administration manager. He became the league representative on the Junior Football Council and was secretary of the Victorian Country Football League (VCFL) from 1978 to 1982. He was also the founder and the first Secretary of the Victorian Metropolitan Football League (VMFL).

Alan's great energy for football helped reshape the game in the modern era. In 1982, he was appointed assistant general manager of the VFL and was also made executive director of the Sydney Swans, formerly the South Melbourne Football Club. The VFL honoured Alan with its Outstanding Service Award for his work in both the VCFL and the VMFL.

In 1985, he became the executive director of the VFL and its delegate to the Australian National Football League. The VFL made sweeping changes to its decision-making machinery in 1985 with the introduction of an independent commission, which was given the charter to implement its plans for the long-term

welfare of Australian rules football. Alan was the Australian Football League's executive commissioner and Swans executive when he died in June 1993.

9. DOT BROWNE OAM, CLASS OF 1957



In 2011 Dot Browne was named as the Peninsula Dog Walkers Association's Dog Walker of the Year.

A proud ex-Camberwell High School student, Dot Browne (nee Green) loved her time at the school. She said: "I gained tremendous self-esteem and confidence through being given lots of responsibility in the five years I attended Camberwell High". Dot was Form Captain each year she attended CHS.

As a young married mother of four, she completed her HSC at Box Hill night school classes and then went on to gain her primary teaching diploma and later, at Monash University, an Arts degree.

She has taught at primary schools in the eastern suburbs, predominantly as an art/craft teacher. For several years, she has dropped back to part-time teaching and then retired completely in 2009.

As a retired art teacher, she found time to do her own art and loves doing mosaics for exhibitions and as treasurer of the Whitehorse Arts Association.

Dot had taken part in athletics at school and was a champion while at CHS, then later played a range of sports when her children were young. However, it wasn't until Dot turned 38 and joined the then Victorian Veterans' Athletic Club, for people over 35 years old, that she discovered she was a good distance runner.

She took part in some 10km races and fun runs and her first marathon was in the Melbourne Marathon in 1979, clocking up 3 hours and 35 minutes. After taking on a running coach in 1980, Dot improved her marathon times dramatically and represented Australia in marathon teams all over the world.

Her best marathon time was achieved in the London Marathon in 1983 with a time of 2 hours and 41 minutes. Dot then went on to compete in many running events, from 800m through to marathons. She set eight records between 1980 and 1986 for events ranging from 1500m to marathons. She has represented Australia as a marathon runner in international marathons in London, Auckland, San Francisco, Singapore and Jakarta.

Dot was awarded an OAM in the 1992 Australia Day Awards for contribution to athletics in Australia.

10. KWONG LEE DOW AO AM, CLASS OF 1954



Professor Kwong Lee Dow, elder statesman of higher education, was honoured in the 2012 Australia Day awards.

Professor Kwong Lee Dow is a former University Vice-Chancellor, a distinguished education scholar and active contributor to curriculum reforms.

He has held various Victorian government positions, including chair of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1984 and was made an Officer of the Order in 2012.

Kwong was a student at Camberwell High School from 1950 to 1954 and matriculated from Melbourne High School in 1955, as the final secondary year was not then available at Camberwell High.

He joined the University of Melbourne in 1966 and was appointed professor of education in 1973, dean of the faculty from 1978 to 1998, and deputy vice-chancellor to 2003 and vice-chancellor through 2004.

He held Victorian Government appointments as chair of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and at times, of its predecessor bodies, the Victorian Institute of Secondary Education and the Victorian Board of Studies.

He led a review of the Victorian Certificate of Education in 1997 and has had extensive input into Commonwealth Government education policy including chairing a Review of Teaching and Teacher Education (2002–2003).

Internationally, the professor has been active in Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia. He has been a long-serving member of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation and has had long involvements also with the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

He was a member of a review of the National Institute of Education, Singapore; an audit member for three New Zealand universities; and an accreditation panel member of King Saud University as well as adviser to the Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia.

chancellor of the University of Ballarat, and more recently has focused on connections between universities and TAFE institutes, particularly in regional communities.

He has a Gold Medal from the Australian Council for Education Leaders, the Sir James Darling Medal of the Australian College of Educators, and honorary doctorates from Melbourne and Ballarat universities and from the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

11. MARGARET COWIN, CLASS OF 1949



*Margaret Cowin with then-Education Minister Joan Kirner at the launch of the book *Preparing For School* in 1989.*

Psychologist Margaret Cowin (nee Boyd) attended Camberwell High School from 1946 to 1949 before going to McRobertson Girl's High School for her matriculation year. She was a keen student and an enthusiastic hockey player.

A studentship then supported two years at Toorak Teachers' College followed by a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Psychology at Melbourne University. Margaret taught at Richmond Primary School before moving into the Education Department's Psychology Branch.

She was elected to the British (later Australian) Psychological Society and saw the advent of equal pay for men and women in the Education Department.

While rearing children, she put her professional skills to use in coaching and relieving preschool teachers. Margaret was elected to the Boronia West Primary School committee where she served as secretary and chairman.

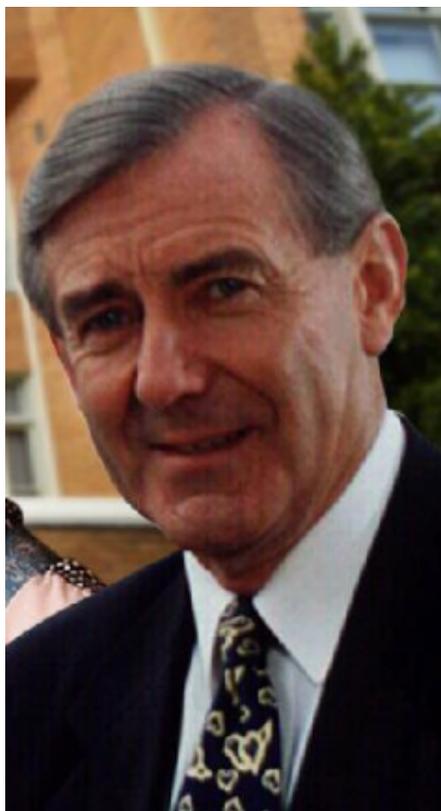
From 1970–1979, Margaret worked in Dandenong as a guidance officer, working with children who had learning difficulties and behaviour problems, as well as major projects such as the Ferntree Gully Inspectorate Prep Program.

During this time she wrote *Preparing for School*, which became the official departmental publication on the topic, and which went into five expanded editions over ensuing years. Working part-time gave Margaret the opportunity to do further study and she graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Education degree in 1978. In the same year she was admitted into the Australian College of Education. In 1981, she was appointed as a senior guidance officer with a statewide responsibility for liaison with the Primary Division of the Education Department, particularly with assisting schools to develop whole-school discipline policies to include approaches that did not rely on corporal punishment. As a result, Margaret, with five others, wrote *Positive School Discipline: A practical guide to developing policy*.

Later appointments included policy analyst in the area of integration of the disabled, and senior education officer and manager of the Frankston School Support Centre. Margaret set up her own consultancy business in 1992, and also became involved in her community through the local council's Australia Day and Economic Development Advisory Committees; the Board of the Angliss Hospital; and chaired the Board of Management of the Knox Community Health Service from its inception.

In 2003, she was awarded a Centenary Medal in recognition of her services to the community. In retirement she has become an active member of the Rotary Club of Knox.

12. BRIAN NAYLOR, CLASS OF 1946



Brian Naylor maintained a balanced view of the world as well as things closer to home in his long and successful career.

Considered the doyen of Melbourne newsreaders, Brian Naylor's catch phrase "May your news be good news" was part of National Nine News viewers' lives, weeknights for 20 years. His outstanding broadcasting career spanned 40 years, beginning in

1956 at radio station 3DB as host of a children's talent program, Swallows Juniors.

In 1958, he moved to HSV Channel 7, transferring Swallows Juniors to television, which became Brian and the Juniors. The program, which was nationally telecast on more than 20 stations, lasted 12 years.

In 1970, Naylor became HSV 7's chief newsreader and in a move that made headlines, switched to GTV Channel 9 in 1978.

On 10 occasions, Brian hosted the annual Carols By Candlelight spectacular from the Myer Music Bowl and in 1988, the father of five was voted Father of the Year by the Victorian Father's Day Council.

Brian loved the great outdoors and took viewers into his world with his series of documentaries, Brian Naylor's Australia, produced and filmed by his son, Greg. Brian was patron of the Variety Club in Victoria, the Dialysis and Transplant Association of Victoria, the Jack Brockhoff Reconstructive Plastic Surgery Research Unit of Royal Melbourne Hospital, and assisted with fundraising for the MacFarlane Burnet Appeal and Windana Society Drug Rehabilitation.

He retired from his role as chief newsreader of National Nine News on November 27, 1998. Brian and his wife Moiree lost their lives in the devastating Black Saturday bushfires in February 2009.

Details: camhigh.exstudents.org