

COLUMBA

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Summer 2019

The ARTS

PAGE 4

Our vibrant co-curricular programs
developing learning beyond the classroom

2019 *Graduates*

PAGE 8

Celebrating the journey of our
Year 12 students

PRINCIPAL'S *note*



WELCOME

To our Summer edition of Columba.

Our Winter inaugural edition was a resounding success, receiving a great deal of positive feedback, and we are pleased to once again showcase the vibrant, energetic and forward-looking community that is St Columba's College. As a College community of the 21st Century, we have to ensure that our programs, both classroom and co-curricular, speak to a broad and diverse range of student need, interest and talent. With flourishing and burgeoning pathways for students, our aim is to support and encourage exploration and curiosity, ensuring our girls are exposed to the breadth of possibilities and opportunities that are available to them, while they are at secondary school and beyond.

You may have heard the adage, "you can't be what you can't see", and this is true to a point. We also want to inspire the aspiration, courage and determination for our girls to forge new fields and pathways, in the steps of the many Sisters of Charity who have gone before us. The Sisters didn't wait for role models – they became them! The hope for our girls is that they are inflamed with the passion to strive for and be the creators, architects and visionaries that will support thriving 21st century communities where every member has a place and is recognised for their worth.

Rita Grima Principal

FROM THE *Archives*



(L-R) A student performs at the 2003 Rock Eisteddfod, highlighting the plight of asylum seekers; Students in costume for the 2001 Rock Eisteddfod, 'The American Dream?'.

“

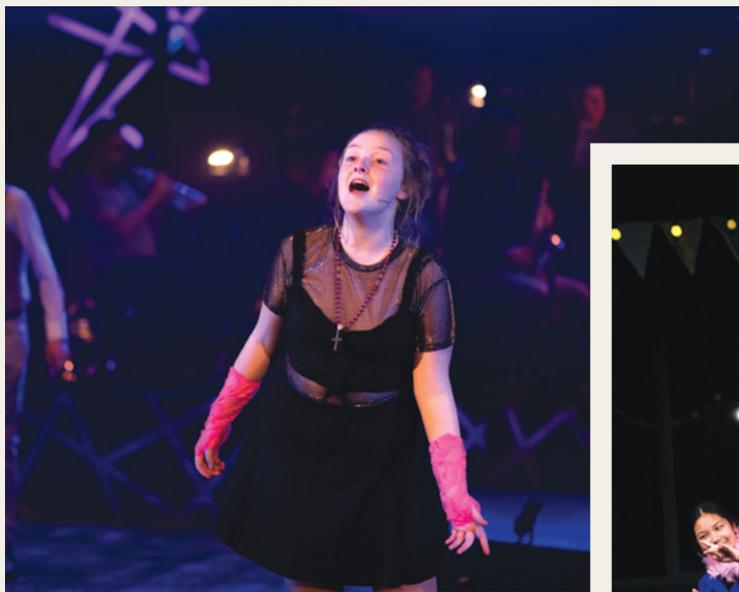
May we all make our journeys
and changes so as to render them
so many steps towards the right road
for the Eternal Kingdom.

”

VENERABLE MARY AIKENHEAD

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A student sings a solo in *The Wedding Singer*.



Students perform at the Spring Music Concert.



A scene from 'R+J'.

THE ARTS

Performing ARTS

The second half of 2019 was a very busy time in the Performing Arts domain! Across the different subjects, students have had the chance to showcase their talents in singing, dancing, acting and playing instruments.



Students perform The Wedding Singer.

THE WEDDING SINGER

In August, St Columba's and St Bernard's once again came together to host the annual musical production. This year, students performed the musical *The Wedding Singer*, based on the popular rom-com movie of the same name. Students from both Colleges showed off their acting, singing and dancing skills to hit songs from the 80s, performing for several sold-out performances. In one review of the performance, the students were congratulated on their 'obvious delight' at performing on the stage for their audiences. Congratulations to the cast, crew and supportive staff who made this year's performance a memorable one!



Students perform at the Spring Music Concert.

MUSIC

Throughout the year, many of our students take part in musical ensembles and choirs, performing at assemblies, special events and concerts. In September, these ensembles and choirs had the chance to showcase their skills to the wider community as part of the Spring Music Concert. Held at the Clocktower Centre in Moonee Ponds, the polished performances of our talented students were testament to the hard work and many hours they spent rehearsing and learning. Congratulations to all the students and staff who made the night so special, and once again highlighted the exemplary skills found in the Performing Arts Domain.



Penultimate scene in 'R+J'.

DRAMA

In early September, the College hosted the Junior Production '*R + J*', a 'Seussified' version of the classic play, *Romeo and Juliet*. After selling-out the original two performances, additional sessions were added to meet the demand. After seeing the performance, it was not hard to see why it was so popular, with the bright colours and fun dialogue, performed by engaging students, breathing new life into the story. Congratulations to Ms Catherine Ohlsen, Director, and the students who both starred and supported the show!



Students in costume for Cabaret 2019.

DANCE

This year's dance production, *Cabaret*, was held in late Term Three and starred students undertaking Private Dance as a co-curricular activity. The performance showcased the use of movement, space and music, which came together to create a spectacular show. The ongoing passion and commitment of students - combined with Miss Linda's expert instruction and leadership of the program - results in a consistently inspiring display and an event not to be missed on the College calendar!

Visual ARTS

Throughout the year, students undertaking units in the Visual Arts Domain have the chance to experience different forms of artwork, including photography, sculpture, drawing, painting and textiles. This semester, there have been some exciting events and opportunities in the Visual Arts Domain that highlighted the high quality work of our students and provided new learning experiences.

One of the works on show at the Annual Art Exhibition. Textile Artwork by Adele Adams, Class of 2019.





Guests viewing student work at the exhibition.

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

Towards the end of October, the Annual Art Exhibition was held in Gayip-Biik. This year, the Exhibition included a STEM showcase, highlighting the inventive ways students can create through STEM units. After a welcome from the 2020 Arts Captain, Lauren Galtieri, guests were invited to explore the extensive artworks on display, including beautiful outfits created in the textiles units, sculptures and drawings, photographs and short media projects. All artworks were created under the watchful eyes and expertise of our talented Visual Arts Domain staff, including Ms Michelle Grant, Mr Scott Wiseman, Ms Hilary Breman and Mr Seth Seiderman. A special thank you to Ms Emma Ferguson (Visual Arts Technician), and Ms Sandra Boicos (Visual Arts Domain Leader), who spent countless hours setting up, promoting and highlighting the work of our students.

This semester, the Visual Arts Domain welcomed a new member to the department - a specialised textile printer! The Dye Sublimation Printer and Heat Press will revolutionise several units in the Domain, with students having the opportunity to design, print and use their own textile designs in their work. The printer will also assist in our VCE classes, as students will have greater control over their final product, and will be able to produce one-of-a-kind, unique prints that negate any authentication issues with VCAA. Students will have the chance to use the printer from Term One, 2020.

TEXTILE PRINTER



The new printer in action.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



Keira working with students in the classroom.

In Term Three, the College welcomed Keira Hudson, a photographer, as an Artist-in-Residence. Keira worked with students from Year 9 - 12 in their photography classes, producing works that were physically printed onto glass plates and teaching students photographic tricks, such as setting up the best lighting for the best photo. The unique opportunity of having an artist work alongside students in their classes allows them to gain inside knowledge about what a working artist does, as well as learning new techniques and tools to produce individual and exciting works of art. We thank Keira for taking the time to share her knowledge and expertise with the students. To see more of Keira's work, visit [@keirahudsonartist](https://www.instagram.com/keirahudsonartist) on Instagram.

Farewell CLASS OF 2019



On Monday 21 October we farewelled the Class of 2019 with a special Graduation Mass and Dinner. Students dressed in their best for the special occasion, with many parents and staff remarking how 'grown-up' our students looked.

The ceremony marked the end of a week of celebrations that saw students enjoy a farewell breakfast with their House Leaders and teachers and a final whole-College assembly. These events provided time for students to celebrate and reminisce with their cohort, as well as the chance to reflect on their experiences and hard work as students at the College.

As a special surprise, family and friends were treated to a 'then-and-now' presentation during the entry procession, showcasing the students in Year 7 and now in Year 12 - completing their journey as students at St Columba's College.

The ceremony also provided the College the opportunity to recognise specific students for their contribution to the College over the years. Congratulations to Madeline Sammut, winner of the Sisters of Charity Award for Service; Victoria Rizzardo, winner of the Sisters of Charity Award for Learning; Kristalleni Lymbouris, winner of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Social Justice Award; and Faye Shee-Durnion, winner of the inaugural Board of Directors Award for a Young Woman of Influence.

We wish all of our graduating students the best of luck in their future years, and look forward to welcoming them back for many years to come!

Above: Year 12 students celebrating Graduation; Year 12 Award Winners.



VCAL Journey



Above: VCAL students celebrating their VCAL journey; Award winner Kayla Saico with VCAL Coordinator, Ms Mariya Saric.

On Thursday 31 October, the VCAL class held a celebration to mark the end of the Year 12 students' VCAL journey. During the celebration, Year 11 students had the chance to introduce and recognise the work of a Year 12 counterpart. This was a special moment that highlighted the close-knit nature of the class, and the long-lasting friendships that have been made.

Students were presented with certificates to acknowledge the completion of VCAL. During this presentation, the recipient of the 2019 Most Outstanding VCAL Student Award was announced. Congratulations to Kayla Saico, who was recognised for her work both in and outside the classroom.

After the presentations, students and their families had the chance to enjoy a shared lunch and celebrate their achievements in the VCAL program. Congratulations to our Year 12 VCAL students - we wish them the best in their future careers!

HOUSE NEWS

2020 COLLEGE CO-CAPTAINS



HANNAH ERES



PAIGE SAMUEL

In Term Three, students had the chance to hear from and vote for our 2020 College Co-Captain candidates. In their speeches, four candidates showcased their energetic and creative ideas for 2020 and beyond, reflecting the innovation, confidence and empowerment for which St Columba's students are known. We are pleased to announce that **Hannah Eres** (DLYS2) and **Paige Samuel** (WMSS2) will be leading our Student Executive next year, ready to launch new ideas and initiatives for our College community!

House celebrations continued this semester, with **Feast Days** for Cater, Cunningham, de Lacy and O'Brien held in Term Three. The celebrations - honouring House Patron namesakes such as Sister Mary Baptist de Lacy - are an important part of the House System at the College, as they provide an opportunity for students to gather as a House. Celebrating the life and work of their House Patron, as well as the achievements of students and staff, are key elements of the Feast Day, which includes a special lunch and liturgy.

O'Brien Feast Day, held on Wednesday 28 August, celebrated with a special liturgy and shared lunch. Pictured right: O'Brien Student Representatives; Mrs Kathy Hicks (House Leader) and Niamh Vahland (House Captain).

HOUSE FEAST DAYS



Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 House of the Year: Cahill House!

HOUSE OF THE YEAR

Each year, a House is awarded the 'House of the Year' trophy, recognising the efforts of students and staff in areas which include the Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, co-curricular programs such as Book Club and Debating, and community-based activities such as the Edmund Rice tutoring program. The results are in:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st - Cahill | 5th - Cunningham |
| 2nd - Williams | 6th - Cater |
| 3rd - Bruton | 7th - de Lacy |
| 4th - O'Brien | |

Congratulations to all the students in Cahill House.

Right: de Lacy House Representatives with Shaun and Bernadette from Briar Terrace, Shaun and Bernadette sharing the stories of Briar Terrace visitors.



HOUSE CHARITY: DE LACY

As part of the de Lacy Feast Day celebrations, representatives from the de Lacy House Charity, **Briar Terrace**, were invited to the College to speak about the difference our students' work and donations have made in the lives of those supported by Briar Terrace. Briar Terrace was established by the Sisters of Charity in 1997 as a gathering place for those experiencing social isolation, offering a safe, welcoming space with friendly faces and a hot cuppa. Shaun and Bernadette spoke to the students about how simple acts of kindness can change someone's life, leaving students with the quote that "God doesn't make junk", and as such, everyone deserves dignity and kindness. Thank you to Shaun and Bernadette for their visit and inspiring words!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



On Thursday 17 October, the College held the **Commissioning Ceremony** for our 2020 Student Leaders. Passing the torch from this year to next, the ceremony gave students and staff the opportunity to reflect on the extensive work the Student Executive did in 2019, including student run assemblies, hosting Feast Days with their House Representatives, organising St Columba's Day and coordinating specialist events such as Kick Arts and the 'BONDbardment' sport tournament. We thank the 2019 Executive for all their hard work, and wish them the best in 2020. Congratulations and good luck to our incoming 2020 Executive!

Left: The 2019 Student Leaders passing their role onto their 2020 counterparts; some of our 2020 Student Executive members.

SEMESTER *snapshot*



PBL WEEK

During the first week of September, students in Year 10 are given the opportunity to undertake a **Project-Based Learning** unit. Project-based learning challenges students to apply their learning to a real-life situation, using their 21st-century skills in communication, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. One of the student groups was the 'Carer Cluster', where students were given a design brief to work alongside Akorn Educational Services to create sustainable solutions to enable people with a disability to overcome daily challenges they face.

Above: Year 10 students Alex, Bianca and Alyssa with their literacy and writing tools.

“

We were given a design brief that explained what we needed to create for the students at Sunshine Special Developmental School. In short, we were asked by Akorn to build a device, play kit or some sort of equipment for the children to use; this was described as a 'Carer's Toolkit' that was an innovative and unique solution to a problem we observed while visiting the school. After observing teenage students aged from 15 to 17, my group decided we would make something that promoted and enhanced students' learning in literacy and handwriting skills.

The PBL week encouraged each student to utilise their unique character strengths to build upon teamwork skills and empathise with the community in a worthwhile and purposeful way.

”

ALEXANDRA HATZIEVANGELOU

SCIENCE WEEK

In August the College celebrated Science Week, hosted by Ms Jane Coyle, Science Domain Leader, and the Science Domain. Students were invited to take part in a number of fun and exciting activities, including a staff v. students trivia game and a wildlife encounter. During the **wildlife encounter**, students were able to learn more about Australian native life, including snakes and lizards, as well as having the chance to hold and touch the animals.

Pictured here are students with a friendly python!



GET LIT(ERARY)! WEEK



For this year's **Book Week**, the Sophia Library staff hosted a number of fun events that encouraged students to Get LIT(erary)! Included in the week-long event was the creation of a beautiful literacy-inspired skirt, created by students and library staff with the covers of books from our Library, as well as a fun experiment where students lined up their faces with book covers! Our Sophia Library is a great resource for all our students and is always welcoming them to participate in numerous activities that encourage girls to get reading!

Left: Students taking part in the book cover challenge; students with their beautiful creation.

Early in Term Three, the College welcomed students from our Japanese Sister School, **Shin-Ai**, to experience life in Australia. Shin-Ai students participated in homestay experiences with our students and staff, providing girls from both schools the chance to share their individual cultures, and learn more about the culture and languages they are studying. Our visitors were delighted to be able to attend this year's College musical, *The Wedding Singer*, as well as visit attractions such as Healesville Sanctuary. We thank the families who opened their doors to our visitors, with members from both communities ending the experience with new friends and memories!

Right: Students and staff from St Columba's and Shin-Ai celebrating the two-week experience with a shared lunch at the College; students having fun making origami!

JAPAN SISTER SCHOOL VISIT



SEMESTER *snapshot*



DEBATING

Eloise, Alisha and Alanna preparing for a debate.

This year a number of students participated in the Debaters Association of Victoria's school **debating season**, facilitated by our English Domain. Our D Grade team - made up of Year 9 students Eloise Sexton, Alisha Maslac and Alanna Haynes - have competed against other schools, debating on a range of social issues affecting Australia.

“

Through debating we have felt empowered by the expression of our views and learned to consider others' points of view. Debating has also helped us to improve our public speaking and communication skills. Apart from broadening our knowledge and understanding of various issues in Australia, our participation in the DAV debating has helped us to expand our vocabulary and our language skills to become more fluent in expressing our ideas. It has been an opportunity to expand our logical and critical thinking skills and helped us to develop our ability to use persuasive language to construct compelling arguments. It has been an amazing experience.

”

ELOISE, ALISHA AND ALANNA



R U OK? DAY

As part of the wellbeing program at the College, our College Counsellors recently hosted a series of R U OK? Day initiatives to encourage our community to reach out to each other and check their mental wellbeing. Blessed with a spectacular spring day and splashes of the official yellow colour, students had fun at a **lunchtime disco**, taking photos with the College mascot, Lily the Lion, and starting conversations with their peers to ask if they are okay. Thank you to the Counsellors for organising such an important event and raising awareness of the importance of wellbeing in our lives.

Left: Students and one of our College Counsellors, with Lily the Lion for R U OK? Day.

CHARITY RUN

On September 13, students from St Columba's and St Bernard's joined forces to complete the annual **150 Charity Run at Maribyrnong River**. Starting at 4am and running for the whole day, students ran to raise money for a chosen charity (this year selected by St Bernard's), assisted by generous community sponsors. In the lead up to the run, students trained every Tuesday and Thursday morning before school, often in very cold conditions. Students in Year 12 were also given the opportunity to compete against their St Bernard's counterparts in a charity netball match, with funds raised going towards the chosen charity. This year St Bernard's were crowned the winners of the match, despite a strong game and loud support from St Columba's. Well done to all of our students and staff who participated in this year's event!



Students run around the Maribyrnong River to raise money for charity.



SCOSA BASKETBALL

Throughout the year many students have taken part in a large variety of **co-curricular SCOSA sports**, including basketball. This year, our Intermediate team performed exceptionally well, progressing through to the School Basketball Championships to compete against some of the state's best school teams. In August, the team progressed to the Elite 8 stage of the tournament, playing a number of amazing games. Unfortunately, the team did not make it through to the finals; however, at the end of the tournament the team was ranked 7th in the state. Congratulations to the students and coach, Mr Joshua Di Pietro, who represented our community at the highest level, demonstrating an exemplary level of effort, teamwork and commitment.



Our Intermediate Basketball team; students huddle for a strategy break.

VCAL 'FITTED FOR WORK'

This year our VCAL program partnered with 'Fitted For Work', an organisation that provides outfits, interview experience and mentoring to disadvantaged women joining the workforce. After receiving great donations from the College community - including generous donations from our Alumnae - VCAL students coordinated a special **fashion show**, showcasing the outfits and accessories that will change the lives of these women through 'Fitted For Work'. Thank you to all who donated, and to the VCAL students who put on a fantastic show!

Right: The VCAL Fitted For Work fashion show held on September 16 at the College.



Our COMMUNITY

REUNIONS

ONE YEAR ON CLASS OF 2018

A year on from their Year 12 graduation, the Class of 2018 returned to the College for a special reunion. Students enjoyed the chance to catch up with classmates, friends and teachers, sharing what they had been doing in the 12 months since they completed high school. Our students have had a very busy year with many travelling, starting their degrees and qualifications, and undertaking work in various industries - continuing on their learning journey beyond the College gates. We look forward to hearing about their experiences over the years when we welcome them back for their next reunion in 2028!

'9 REUNION CELEBRATING GRADUATES FROM '79, '89, '99

On November 9, the College welcomed back graduates from years ending in '9. Our second year hosting a group reunion, alumnae from the classes of '79, '89 and '99 came together in Gayip-Biik for a shared lunch. Alumnae were able to take a tour of the campus to see how it had changed from their time, view memorabilia and images from their graduating year, and for our more recent graduates, meet up with their former teachers.

The afternoon was enjoyed by all, with ex-students able to catch up with long lost friends and share their stories since graduating from the College.

We thank Mrs Joan Dillon OAM, Alumnae Coordinator, and the Alumnae Association for their passionate organisation and coordination of both Alumnae events. Visit our social media sites (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) to find out more about upcoming reunions and Alumnae news.

MEMORIAL GARDEN MASS

In November, the College held a special Mass to unveil a plaque commemorating the students and staff who have passed away whilst at the College. This plaque will now be a permanent reminder of the memory of the students and staff, who will forever be remembered as valued members of the College community.



Above top: Class of '18 catching up. Above bottom: College Alumnae attending the '9 reunion seeing how much has changed!

PARENTS' Association

2019 was another busy year for the Parents' Association, with a number of successful events held throughout the year. The Parents' Association hosted key College events including the Year 7 Cocktail Evening, Male Mentor/Daughter Games Night, 'Parents Night Out', the second-hand book sale, and of course, many delicious sausage sizzles!

This semester, the 'Parents' Night Out' was held in September at Riverside Golf Club Cafe. Parents enjoyed a fun night of dancing and good food, as well as the opportunity to get to know other members of the wider College community.

We would like to thank our fabulous parents in the association, as well as parents in the wider community who supported, organised and enjoyed these events this year. We look forward to celebrating more events in 2020!

FOR UPDATES, UPCOMING EVENTS AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION, VISIT THE 'OUR COMMUNITY' PAGE ON THE COLLEGE WEBSITE.



Alumnae SPOTLIGHT

WHO AM I?

Marie de Angelis CPA (nee Piperno) - Class of

1992

What do you do today? I am **Principal of MDA Accounting Services** - the founding partner of MDA Accounting Services with offices in Niddrie and Melbourne. I am a mother of 2 children and am still a local in the Essendon area.

Always having a passion for accounting and numbers, I completed my university studies at Victoria University, as well as completing the one-year work experience (co-operative education) year at Vic Super. I would highly recommend this option as it gives you experience in the field of accounting which helps you find a job after you complete your university degree.

I commenced work in public practice in 2000, which was a historical year where GST was introduced. In the years following, I became a qualified CPA, undertook the CPA Public Practice Certificate program, as well as being appointed the Chair of the CPA Women's Committee.

In 2006 I opened my own practice, MDA Accounting Services. I specialise in assisting women in business, small business and property investors; building relationships with my clients and assisting in the growth of their business.

Apart from running MDA Accounting Services, I am on the Board of St Therese's, Essendon and on the finance committee of St Columba's, Essendon.

How did St Columba's College impact you?

Completing Year 11 and Year 12 Accounting and Economics with dedicated teachers Miss Rametta and Ms Treloar, gave me the confidence and love for accounting and business. Miss Rametta is the reason I became an accountant. She was such a dedicated accounting teacher, always giving advice and going beyond her teaching duties for her students. I recall how she took us on an excursion to PWC in the city to see firsthand what it was like to work in a large accounting firm. I enjoyed my time at the College, so much so that I accepted the role on the finance committee to give back. Thank you to Miss Rametta and St Columba's for their dedication in helping me become the person I am today – business owner, accountant, mother and advisor.



Alumnae SPOTLIGHT

WHO AM I?

Sharon Gauci - Class of

1987

What do you do today? I moved to Michigan, USA in 2013. Currently I am the **Executive Director – Industrial Design at General Motors**, the largest automotive company. I am married and have one son.

In this role, I am responsible for supporting the visual expression of General Motors and its global brands through the design of - colour, material and finishes, product and component design, graphic design, experiential events, and many more. I graduated with a Bachelor of Design, Industrial Design, in 1993 from Swinburne University in Melbourne. I worked at both Ford and BMW before joining GM Holden in 2004. Throughout my design career, I have worked on many global production programs including trucks and performance vehicles.

How did St Columba's College impact you? St Columba's was instrumental in providing a foundation in which I could try anything – succeed and or fail safely. The school fostered a healthy platform for both academics and extracurricular activities. So while I was mostly a creative focused student who loved the pursuit of art, I also was able to enjoy and participate in athletics and dance. Growing from varied experiences, working hard, trying new things, resilience and learning to be independent are important attributes I hold true today.

To share your news with the community get in touch with us via email.

E alumnae@columba.vic.edu.au

We would love to hear from you.



STAY TUNED FOR
OUR NEXT ISSUE:



CARNIVALS

CLASS OF 2019 VCE RESULTS

OPENING MASS

CONTACT US

St Columba's College
2 Leslie Road (PO Box 89)
Essendon VIC 3040

T 03 9337 5311
columba.vic.edu.au

Enrolment Enquiries
General Enquiries
Community News

E registrar@columba.vic.edu.au
E principal@columba.vic.edu.au
E alumnae@columba.vic.edu.au

UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES
IN THE TRADITION OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY

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