In this issue

Headmistress
Chaplain
Junior School
Senior School
Featured articles
Events

Upcoming events

Monday 20 March
Year 11 parent afternoon tea and parent teacher interviews

Tuesday 21 March
K, 3 and 5 Grandparents’ Day

Wednesday 22 March
Tildesley Shield tournament (until Friday 24 March)
ELC parent teacher evening

Thursday 23 March
JS Interschool Chess Challenge
Year 8 Geography excursion
Royal Australian Navy Band music incursion

Friday 24 March
Year 7 Father Daughter Breakfast

From the Headmistress

Reverend Ian Millican announces his retirement as Council Chair
Mrs Megan Krimmer | Headmistress

As you are aware, Reverend Ian Millican announced his retirement as Chair of Council in a letter to the school community on Monday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian most sincerely for the tremendous job that he has done for Abbotsleigh over the last 15 years. During his time on Council, Ian has served on a number of committees and has been Chair of Council from 2010-2017.

Ian is a man of faith, humility, integrity and ability, and he has overseen and guided Abbotsleigh in its quest to remain at the ‘cutting edge’ and in its position as ‘the best girls’ school in Australia’ (Ian Millican). I know that Judith Poole appreciated immensely Ian’s hard work and the marvellous support he gave her as Headmistress. I am equally grateful to Ian.

During Ian’s time on the Council, the School has been well governed and has undertaken a number of building projects, the most recent being the magnificent expansion of Abbotsleigh’s Sports Precinct and building of the highly acclaimed Judith Poole Sports Hall. Abbotsleigh has grown in size and stature and is seen as the premier girls’ school in terms of quality teaching and learning, and in the provision of a well rounded and holistic education for girls whereby girls are encouraged to develop as confident and articulate young women of integrity and strong character who ‘can do and be anything’.

As we thank and farewell Ian, I would also like to congratulate Mr Paul Fontanot who will become the new Chair of Council in May. Paul, a current Abbotsleigh parent, is also a man of faith, humility, integrity and ability and will bring to the role his expertise in finance, governance and strategic planning, as well as his depth of experience as a member of Council since 2012.

The Abbotsleigh Council has prepared well for this change, and Paul has been Chair-Elect since 2016. Upon my appointment as Headmistress, I have had the privilege of working with both Ian and Paul. Although members of the School Council, the School community and I will miss Ian immensely, I believe that the transition to Paul as Chair of Council will be seamless, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with Paul and all members of the Abbotsleigh Council very much indeed.

Reverend Ian Millican has been an exceptional Chair of Council and mere words are insufficient to express our gratitude to him for his wisdom, guidance, and dedication to, and great work for, Abbotsleigh. We thank Ian for all that he has done and we wish him God’s richest blessing in his retirement from Council at the end of next month.

Congratulations to Abbotsleigh parent, Associate Professor Catherine Birman – NSW Woman of the Year for 2017

We were delighted to hear the news that Catherine Birman has been given the well-deserved honour of being named NSW Woman of the Year. As stated on the NSW Health website:

Catherine is one of the most experienced cochlear implant surgeons in the world and has performed over 1000 cochlear implant procedures, helping close to 1000 NSW residents. A pioneer in the field of cochlear implants for children with complex medical conditions, Catherine currently practices at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead, Royal Prince Alfred, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, Macquarie University and the Sydney Adventist Hospitals.
In addition to conducting life-changing surgeries, Catherine is also the Medical Director of the SCIC Cochlear Implant Program, a charity providing all aspects of care for patients requiring cochlear implants and implantable hearing devices.

Catherine is also Clinical Associate Professor with the University of Sydney, and Conjoint Professor with Macquarie University. As the third female Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon to qualify in New South Wales, Catherine's career and charitable works have made her a trailblazer and inspiring role model for all women.

Read more about Catherine's award [here].

Associate Professor Catherine Birman’s achievements are most impressive and we warmly congratulate her on receiving this very prestigious award.

---

**Chaplain**

**A 19th birthday with the Taliban**

Rev Jenni Stoddart | Chaplain

I wonder where you were on your 19th birthday? In 1996 Amy Orr-Ewing spent her holidays in Afghanistan where she met Taliban leaders and shared with them books she carried in her bag. What were those books? Bibles. Today Amy is the Director of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics and travels the globe sharing her understanding of the Bible's veracity and its continuing value in society. She holds a First class Degree in Theology from Oxford University and a Master degree in Theology from King's College London. It is a huge privilege to host her on 29 March at Abbotsleigh.

Amy will present to our Year 11 and 12 students a seminar considering how we make sense of suffering. She will speak to our whole school on the topic of Easter, 'fact or fantasy', and deliver a public lecture aimed at adults and senior students in the evening. Can I extend my invitation to you to join us that night? It is a night for believers, sceptics and wonderers. It is for believers who want to connect their faith with the lives of their teenagers. It is for sceptics who have tasted some of the goodness of Christian faith at Abbotsleigh and want to hear more. It is for wonderers who keep sensing there is something more to life than the everyday. [Click here to book.]

Amy is the woman I needed to hear speak when I was 16. She is generous, reasoned, convicted, compassionate with a touch of the hero thrown in. I certainly did not brave Afghanistan in 1996. See Amy in action [here].

---

**Junior School**

**The value of parent engagement**

Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

Research is clear in documenting that parent involvement in their children's education from an early age has a significant effect on educational achievement. Such benefits are seen well beyond junior school and on into secondary school, university and adulthood.

Research from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in the UK noted the following findings:

- The quality and content of fathers’ involvement matters more for children's outcomes than the quantity of time fathers spend with their children.
- Family learning can also provide a range of benefits for parents and children including improvements in reading, writing and numeracy as well as greater parent confidence in helping their child at home.
- The attitudes and aspirations of parents and of children themselves predict later educational achievement. International evidence suggests that parents with high aspirations are also more involved in their children's education.

Thus it has been most affirming to see our parents taking up the numerous opportunities to come to know each other and staff and to hear of the exciting programs being experienced by the girls.
From the Headmistress’s welcome at the start of the year to our year group morning teas that concluded with our Year 2 morning tea today, and the well attended parent information sessions this term, we truly appreciate your willingness to be connected with the school community and involved in your daughter’s education. These events have been well attended and I thank our Year Representatives for their great organisation and welcoming spreads that have provided great opportunities for community to be built.

Parent support at the Swimming Carnival and we anticipate again at the Cross Country Carnival is so very much appreciated by the girls and staff. This coming week we are looking forward to our grandparents of girls in Kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 5 joining us for Senior Citizens Week.

Easter Services
As Easter approaches we would very much like parents and grandparents to join us in the Chapel in the Senior School for our Easter Services that will be held on Tuesday 4 April at the following times:

- 8.30-9.15 am Parents and girls in Years 4-6
- 9.30-10.15 am Parents and girls in Kindergarten-Year 3

I also warmly commend to you the following parent information sessions planned for this year:

- 21 March: Supporting your Infant daughter in becoming literate and numerate
- 4 May Dana Kerford from Girl Power – The language of friendship
- 13 June: Junior School Report Information Night – How to interpret your daughter’s report
- 27 July: Dr Kristy Goodwin – Raising your child in a digital world
- 15 August: Dr Justin Coulson – What your child needs from you

Meet your daughter’s teacher
Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

Parent and teacher interviews were held this week and provided an ideal time for parents to gain a clear insight into the progress their daughter has made thus far this year and to have explained samples of her work in the portfolio. We use ongoing assessment, across the year tests and external competitions and testing to develop a very detailed and comprehensive picture of your daughter’s performance. While formal reports will be sent home at the conclusion of Term 2, please feel free to contact your daughter’s class or specialist teacher with your queries. A note in the diary, email or a phone call to the Junior School Reception is all that is needed to secure such a meeting.

As a school community we are indeed fortunate to have your support. Almost 100% of families demonstrated their keen interest in their daughter’s learning by attending meetings this week.

Daughters dining with dads
Ms Sally Ruston | Head of Junior School

The Year 4 Father and Daughter Dinner was held last Thursday night. It was a true delight to see the joy of both the girls and dads as they shared a special evening in the impressive School Dining Room. Congratulations to Beatrice Chung, Charlee Lightfoot and Riya Jayakanthan who spoke most appropriately and all girls made their dads very proud as they sang I am a small part of the World and I’ve Lost My Homework. Alina Ramanathan’s cello solo and the Little Brown Jug played by Kiera Finnerty, Jessica Ma, Paisley Motum and Tasha Wong were certainly highlights of the night. Thanks also to the mums, led by Shehama Niles and Ambereen Qureshi, for their meticulous and creative organisation of this event. The toast to the girls was presented by Dushko Bajic who shared the collective pride of all dads in their daughter’s growth and achievements. I took time to point out some of the history associated with this wonderful space that includes the portraits of Miss Marian Clarke painted by her friend and renowned artist, Tom Roberts and the recent addition of our 10th Headmistress, Mrs Judith Poole.
Year 2 visit to Senior School Chapel and Archives

Mrs Heather McWhannell | T-2 Coordinator

As a component of the Year 2 History unit, 'The Past in the Present', the students in Year 2 have been learning about significant people, events, places and sites in the Abbotsleigh community. On Monday 13 March, the girls met with our Senior School Archivist, Ms Julie Daly and School Chaplain, Rev Jenni Stoddart.

During this incursion, the girls explored significant mementos that have shaped Abbotsleigh's rich history. They learnt about the Senior School Chapel and its significance in bringing a community together. Following this visit, the girls will develop a narrative on a chosen person, event or place within Abbotsleigh to showcase their understanding of how aspects from the past help to shape the present.

Thank you, volunteer parents

Ms Kathy Campbell | APA President

I am writing with great appreciation on behalf of the Abbotsleigh Parents’ Association. Sincere thanks to the many parents who have already signed up to be part of the large volunteer team for Cinema Under the Stars. Your enthusiastic response is so pleasing for the team of three mums who are organising this event.

Cinema Under the Stars is going to be an exciting afternoon and evening, with market stalls, games and fun for the girls and parents, and a large barbecue – all followed by the feature film Cinderella. Many hours of planning have already gone into this event, with many more yet to come over the next two weeks.

Saturday 1 April at the Junior School

4.30-7 pm: Market stalls and barbecue
7 pm: Cinderella

The use of tokens for stalls will be in place on the day, and pre-orders for food is preferred. You will receive an email with all the information you need to place your order.

Junior School parents: If you are able to volunteer for a short time on the day, please search your emails from Jacqui Everett to your year group. The email will have an attached letter, containing a link for you to sign up to a stall.

All parents: I encourage you to be part of the fun by planning to attend this event with your daughter. A reminder that there will be stalls available that will be of interest to Senior School girls and parents.

For those of you who have been able to volunteer your time, thank you again.

Year 4 camp at Myuna Bay

Laura Bodganovic | 4L

In week 5, Year 4 went to Myuna Bay for camp. The Myuna Bay Recreational Centre had lots of fun activities to do and everybody enjoyed it.

First we went to have a swim, mainly to test if you could go in the shallow end or the deep end. After that, we got split up into day groups and cabin groups for the nights ahead. Next, we had lunch. It was burgers and they were delicious.

Then, we went rock climbing. Rock climbing was lots of fun because at the top of each wall, there is a bell and everybody who got to the top, loved to ring it as loudly as they could. The next activity was free time. In free time, we got to play volleyball, soccer and just run around and have fun.

After that, we had dinner, which was chicken schnitzel, chips and ice cream for dessert. When dinner was over, we had a trivia quiz. When the trivia quiz was over, we all got ready for bed.

The next morning came and our morning activity was fishing and bushwalking. We did our bushwalk on the way to fishing and saw lots of insects and animals. Fishing was a new activity this year to Myuna Bay and Year 4 found it fun and exciting. Some people caught rock fish and some people caught seaweed fish, but some girls even caught real fish!

The next thing we did was go kayaking and it was awesome. There were double kayaks and single kayaks. Both were really fun. We went out a bit further to play stuck in the mud and then went under the bridge onto the other side of Myuna Bay. Then, we had a race that included swimming, running and kayaking. We had to run two laps, swim in the lake around the teacher and back and then kayak around the teacher and back again. It was really fun but really tiring as well.

BMX bike riding was next and we went down rocky and muddy areas. The night activity was a mini Olympics. There were games like captain ball and hurdles. There was also music and the group with the best dance moves won extra points.

The next day arrived. We had breakfast and then got ready to do the challenge course, which was extra challenging because we were all tied together in groups in one big long line. We had to get through tyres without touching them and walk up and down seesaws without touching the ground. It was fun, exciting and nerve-racking at the same time.

We had to leave after swimming, but overall, the Myuna Bay camp was a great experience and all the Year 4 girls learnt something new. Whether it was learning how to cooperate well, or even just a new game. Everybody enjoyed it.

Student success

Miss Kate Grzanka | Deputy Head of Junior School

Congratulations to Charlotte Rayment (6G) who achieved her 7th level ski award and bronze star.

Congratulations to Sophia Rayment (2G) who achieved her 5th level ski award and second star.

The sisters attended a ski school in Les Arcs, France.
Pursuing challenge and its positive results
Mrs Victoria Rennie | Deputy Head and Head of Senior School

Last week I was blessed to be part of the Year 8 Outdoor Education program spending my week getting to know Year 8 girls as we camped at Crosslands. Challenge Week, a central part of our Academic Care program, involves all girls from Years 7-12. While Years 7-9 girls took part in Outdoor Education programs, our Year 10s travelled to Canberra and the Year 11 girls were involved in the Urban Challenge program. At the same time our Year 12s had their first HSC assessment week – a very different sort of challenge, but certainly one that saw them working hard together.

Engaging in Challenge Week activities, the girls learn about the importance of working collaboratively. It is a week when all the girls learn from the experience and gain an understanding of the needs of others and the role they can play in a team. Strongly promoting a stronger sense of self-efficacy, the positive outcomes for all students include developing confidence, integrity, respect for each other and interdependence. It also enables our girls to recognise their own strengths and how they can apply these to benefit themselves and others.

I was so proud of the girls and was struck by their positivity in the wetness of the week. Spirits remained high and the week saw so many girls working in teams supporting each other as they faced challenges together. And this is what Challenge Week is all about:

• Forming new connections, making new friends and ultimately learning about ourselves and others.

We have so much to be grateful for and the Years 7-9 Outdoor Education program could not be possible without the superb organisation of Mrs Belinda Robertson and of course the many, many teachers who spent their week with the girls. My thanks also must be extended to Ms Emms and Ms Neville and of course all the staff who participated in the Year 10 Canberra trip and the Year 11 Urban Challenge.

What a week it was pursuing challenges and reaping the positive results!

IGSSA swimming and diving camp and carnival
Annabelle Druce, Amy Nelson and Jocelyn Abbott | Swimming and Diving Captains

While most of the School was wandering through the wilderness, braving the Canberra chill or running through the city of Sydney last week, our swimmers and divers were training, bonding and relaxing together on a camp dedicated to the preparation for the IGSSA carnival.

The team set out with a goal to inspire each other and achieve their best. Little did they know how much their dedication and motivation would pay off. The camp started with an inspiring talk from Olympic swimmer Josh Beaver and ended with a motivational film about Lydia Lassila, Olympic aerial skier. This camp helped to develop a bond between the swim and dive squads, creating a true team – this may have been the key to their success.

The IGSSA swimming carnival is one of the most anticipated days of the year for the entire Abbotsleigh swim squad. Each year, the team reaches a whole new level of spirit, perseverance and stamina, backed by the cheering Year 11 girls and the epic vibes from the competition. It was a culmination of these factors, as well as the selfless and team-oriented attitude of all girls who were swimming not for themselves, but for their school, that contributed to our success. Some highlights included our intermediate relay teams, who won the freestyle and medley events, and the senior freestyle relay who took out the gold in a close finish.

IGSSA always brings outstanding individual performances within the team. Abbotsleigh took the clean sweep in the 100 m freestyle events, where Holly Nelson (junior), Emily Ong (intermediate) and Natasha Ramsden (senior) all took out the gold. Natasha also broke two IGSSA records, in the 100 m freestyle (56.58) and 50 m butterfly (27.52). Individual championships were dominated by Abbotsleigh girls, with Holly Nelson and Rebecca St Vincent taking out the junior and intermediate championship trophies respectively. Of course the highlight of the day was the end result, where Abbotsleigh won the overall point score by half a point; the closest it has ever been in IGSSA swimming history!

While swimming and diving take place in the same venue, the sports are very different. If you’ve ever jumped off something tall into water, you’ll be familiar with the conflicting sensations of exhilaration and terror that go with making the leap. Each of the nine members of the diving team experienced this many times over at IGSSA as they somersaulted, twisted and flipped into the pool, having fun while achieving some exceptional results.

The Abbotsleigh diving team came an outstanding 3rd place overall, with five divers making it through to the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) carnival to be held early next term. Team spirit this year was particularly strong as the divers painted themselves in black and gold, shared lollies, told bad jokes, and cheered on their teammates – swimmers and divers alike.

This incredible week would not have been possible without our amazing coaches Amanda Isaac, Cameron Gledhill, Rebecca Manuel and staff Ms Hurll, Miss Bimson, Mrs Howitt, Mr Everingham and Mr Bultitude. The hard work and dedication contributed by the athletes, coaches and staff were vital to our achievement. We were of course beyond happy with our success, but the opportunity to bond as a team this week and enter the competition united was what made such good results possible.
Cello master gives masterclass
Ms Kimbali Harding | Director of Music

On Tuesday 14 March Abbotsleigh Music Department welcomed Mr Zoltán Szabó as a guest lecturer and for a masterclass with some selected cello students and senior Elective Music classes.

Mr Szabó is a world renown cellist who has performed with the Sydney, Melbourne, Tasmanian and West Australia Symphony Orchestras, Budapest Trio, Bergonzi String Quartet and in festivals across Europe, America and Australia. He has an extensive and varied discography of recordings and is a teacher at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, tutoring cello, chamber music and music history. He recently completed his PhD in musicology, studying the history and analysis of J.S. Bach’s solo cello suites. We were very privileged to have Mr Szabó come to Abbotsleigh to work with our students.

Mr Szabó spent time with the Year 11 Music class, discussing aspects of the Baroque period of music with a particular focus on J.S. Bach and his partitas for solo violin. In particular, he led the girls through an analysis of the Chaconne movement of Violin Partita no. 2 in D minor. Mr Szabó then worked with four of our cellists, Madison Ayton (12P), Amy Upton (12T), Lindsey Kim (7M) and Stephanie Tam (12F). The girls were very appreciative of the opportunity to have a masterclass with Mr Szabó. Their feedback included how much they learnt from him and enjoyed playing for him.

Humans of Abbotsleigh
Jocelyn Abbott | Head Prefect

As part of our Prefect Theme, ‘Together we are better’, the Prefects would like to showcase the diverse range of skills and experiences that the students bring to Abbotsleigh. Inspired by the ‘Humans of New York’ project, we’ve begun to talk to girls across the School and collate their stories. Each week, we will feature a different girl, a different picture and a different story.

Meet Ria Batra, Year 7
‘Photography to me means you can express what you see in the world to other people and let them know how you feel by the lighting in the photo. It also helps me to see the beauty in the everyday when trying to find things to take photos of.’

Meet Ella Ryan, Year 11
‘It (the harp) is a difficult instrument to play as you need to coordinate both your feet and hands which are both doing different things... I like to play both classical and modern songs, although I'm not a fan of Handel.’

Robotic competition on Saturday at Olympic Park
Mrs Susan Filan | SS Science Teacher and FIRST Robotics Coordinator

For a fun family day out this Saturday, come to the South Pacific FIRST Robotics Competition at the State Sport Centre, Sydney Olympic Park. The Abbotsleigh team will be competing, dancing and generally enjoying themselves in this lovely, dry venue. The schedule is as follows:

8.30 am Opening ceremony
9 am Qualifying matches
12.15 pm Alliance selections
12.30 pm Lunch
1.30 pm Playoff matches
4.30 pm Awards ceremony
6 pm Close

The girls of ARTEMIS look forward to seeing you there!

More changes
Mrs Marg Selby | Careers Advisor

In recent weeks, a number of the metropolitan universities have announced major changes to the content of their courses and/or to the way they teach them. The changes at Sydney and UNSW were mentioned in the Careers column of The Shuttle a fortnight ago. Since then, UTS has announced they have formed a new faculty in order to be able to better concentrate on providing students with the generic skills they will need for future employment. This is called the Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation and will house the already established Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation course (BCII), which is currently in its fourth year. It will also now teach a second course called the Bachelor of Technology and Innovation (BTi). See the UTS website for more details.

UAC is also putting in place some major changes which are yet to hit the press. Year 12 students from now on will only be able to list five, rather than nine preferences. This should not make any real difference, as they will still be able to add, delete and rearrange their preferences after they receive their ATAR on December 15.

However, in response to many of the universities undercutting UAC and making early guaranteed offers of places to students before the main round, for the first time this year, UAC will be making a major round of offers on 17 December. Thus, the majority of students will have received their university offer before Christmas and a lot of the long wait to plan their tertiary studies will be foreshortened. There will still be a main round of offers made on 12 January (a week earlier than usual), if students want to apply for a course other than the one for which they have received an offer. The other later round offers will also still exist, but basically, the whole process of receiving and accepting offers can be settled by the end of the calendar year in which the student does their HSC.

For other careers news, please visit the Careers page on AbbNet.
Winter uniforms at the Uniform Shop

Mrs Lorraine Boothby | Abbotsleigh Uniform Shop Manager

Winter uniforms will be available for sale from Thursday 23 March.

Holiday trading hours

The Uniform Shop will be open at the following times during the April school holidays:

- Monday 10 to Thursday 13 April, 9.30 am-4 pm
- Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 April, 9.30 am-4 pm
- Wednesday 26 April, 9.30 am-4 pm

Please note that the shop will be closed on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 April. Normal trading hours will resume from Thursday 27 April.

New parents are advised to make an appointment with the Uniform Shop to ensure that your daughter is correctly fitted out.

Appointments for new students to be outfitted can be arranged by contacting the Uniform Shop directly on 9473 7832.

Senior School public speaking workshop

Ms Jennie Kelly | PDHPE Teacher and Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator

Public speaking teaches confidence, persuasive speaking skills and raises awareness of global issues.

Yesterday was the first session of the Senior School public speaking workshop which will run throughout the year on Thursday afternoons.

All Senior School girls are invited to join this fun and supportive group, learning and practising new skills and gaining confidence.

Our coaches are Kaity Crowe and Georgia Chahoud, both of whom are Abbotsleigh Old Girls who were Debating and Public Speaking Prefects in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Both Kaity and Georgia were highly successful public speakers throughout their school years and have continued their speaking careers now at university.

Kaity and Georgia look forward to seeing you there!

Practical workshop for learner driver parents and supervisors

Ms Jacqui Everett | Community Development Officer

Ku-ring-gai Council and the RMS are running another FREE practical workshop for learner driver parents and supervisors on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

Thursday 25 May 2017
6.30 pm
Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers

Attendees receive a useful information kit including a Guide to the Driving Test booklet.

A light dinner, tea and coffee are provided. Road User Handbooks will also be on sale.

The workshop will provide information about:
- Completing the Learner Driver log book
- Recent changes to the GLS

NEW PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP

Thursday afternoons
3.45-4.45 pm (Years 7-9)
4.45-5.45 pm (Years 10-12)
In the MSR (Middle School Room)
Open to all girls who are interested in improving their public speaking skills

An inspiring exhibition

Mrs Mary Faith | Gallery Director

Landscape as Knowledge 25 February to 8 April

The GCS Gallery is currently exhibiting an extraordinary exhibition of landscape paintings and sculptures selected from the collection of philanthropic businessman Geoffrey Hassall by curator Adrian Gebers.

All the artists are significant in Australian art history, and indeed can all be found in our national and state galleries. The curator has selected both Indigenous and non-Indigenous works to reveal differing responses to our land. We can see in the works both a psychological interpretation and a more literal revealing of the contours of the land. This exhibition is providing inspiration for our students from the Early Learning Centre to Year 12.

A Year 7 English class recently visited the exhibition, and Anna Chua (7M) was inspired by Matt Huttlesone’s work.

Blackened stumps stand
Desolate and isolated
Mere reminders of their past
Everything is still
Not a soul stirs
Not a whisper of sound
Or flicker of movement
Except shrivelled leaves falling on a carpet of ash
That stretches for as far as the eye can see
Filling the air with dusty stillness
Not daring to breathe
Crumbled bones still lie
Beneath a mountain of ash
Once joyful and full of life
Now still
Clouds still linger
Telling forgotten tales
All covered in ash

Information is available on our website and via our Facebook page.

The gallery is open Monday to Friday 10 am-5 pm and Saturday 9 am-4 pm, and you are warmly invited to visit. Free entry.

Winter uniforms at the Uniform Shop

Mrs Lorraine Boothby | Abbotsleigh Uniform Shop Manager

Winter uniforms will be available for sale from Thursday 23 March.

Holiday trading hours

The Uniform Shop will be open at the following times during the April school holidays:

- Monday 10 to Thursday 13 April, 9.30 am-4 pm
- Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 April, 9.30 am-4 pm
- Wednesday 26 April, 9.30 am-4 pm

Please note that the shop will be closed on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 April. Normal trading hours will resume from Thursday 27 April.

New parents are advised to make an appointment with the Uniform Shop to ensure that your daughter is correctly fitted out.

Appointments for new students to be outfitted can be arranged by contacting the Uniform Shop directly on 9473 7832.

- The new RMS Safer Driver course
- The current laws and restrictions for L and P licence holders
- Supervising learner drivers and young driver road safety issues
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience

Early bookings are essential

Book online today at www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/learnerdriver (search under Roads and Traffic events) or call 9424 0798.
The pillars of health
Liz Cannon, Abbotsleigh’s Head of Educational Services shares the essential pillars of health and wellbeing for children and teenagers.

Read more

Evening seminar

Read more

Abbotsleigh Adult Swim Squad
Did you know...the Abbotsleigh Aquatic Centre offers adult swim training sessions and classes.

Read more

Save the date
Mark your calendars now for one of the most lively and fun events on the Abbotsleigh school calendar – the Leather and Laces Sports Lunch raising funds for the Abbotsleigh Foundation. Friday 25 August, 12 pm.

Read more

Year 7 Father Daughter breakfast
Fathers with girls in Year 7 are warmly invited to join their daughter at school for breakfast. Friday 24 March, 7 am.

Read more

Year 12 Mother Daughter breakfast
Mothers of our Year 12 students are warmly invited to join their girls for breakfast. Friday 31 March, 6.45 am.

Read more