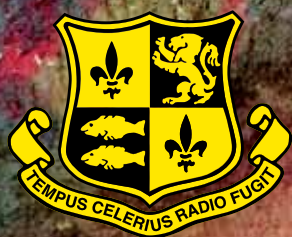


# AROUND ABBOTSLEIGH



DECEMBER 2018 Issue 61

M. CLARKE





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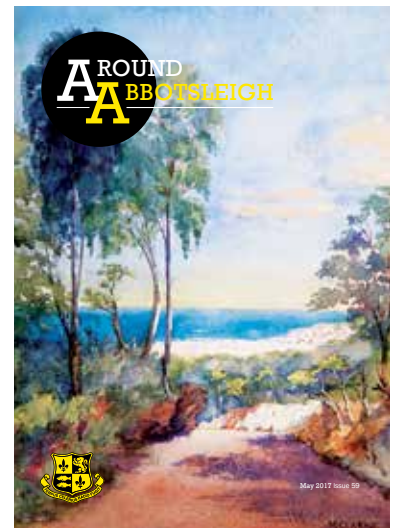
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Looking down on Narrabeen NSW 2  
By Marian Clarke  
Abbotsleigh's founding Headmistress (1885-1913)  
and founder of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union



Around Abbotsleigh is a publication for the Abbotsleigh school community.

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# Our School. Our Girls. Today and Tomorrow

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*'If we teach today, the way we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow'* **John Dewey**

**A**bbotsleigh has always been a forward-thinking school that was, and continues to be, 'ahead of its time'. Miss Marian Clarke, the School's founder, featured in this edition of *Around Abbotsleigh*, was a visionary educator who believed passionately in the importance of girls' education. This was 'way ahead of her time' and, since then, Abbotsleigh has been educating and empowering young women so that they may make a positive difference in the world of today and tomorrow.

All those who have followed in Miss Clarke's footsteps have believed in, and honoured, her great vision. It is just so important for our girls and our society that our girls receive the best education possible, and it is in this vein that the School Council has worked closely with staff and focus groups of girls and parents to develop our new Strategic Plan: *Our School. Our Girls. Today and Tomorrow*.

Informing the direction of the School over the next several years, the strategic drivers: Educational Innovation, Christian Enrichment, Individual Empowerment, Organisational Strength and Social Impact, as well as the refreshed School values: Integrity, Respect, Compassion, Courage and Perseverance, can be seen richly woven throughout the pages of this edition of *Around Abbotsleigh*.

As you read about our girls, their parents, our old girls, our staff, and programs and productions, such as the *opening of STEM Street in the Junior School*, *GLOW*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Jack and*

*the Giant Peach*, *the Literary Festival* and *Abbotsleigh's very own, student driven and led TedX Conference*, it is very clear that Abbotsleigh girls love to learn. They enjoy grappling with problems and difficult concepts; they revel in thinking deeply, critically and creatively, and they thrive when connecting, collaborating and communicating. Our girls are very well-rounded, and they love being involved in myriad activities from sport, to drama to music, to debating, robotics, chess, STE(A)M projects, environmental and agricultural activities, art and service learning, just to name a few.

Our Old Girls are just the same. They are passionate about lifelong learning and they continue to thrive and make a positive difference in myriad ways all around the world. The Abbotsleigh Old Girl Union is arguably one of the strongest old girls networks in Australia, and this year has seen wonderful celebrations in Sydney, Australia and overseas in recognition of the AOGU's 110th anniversary.

Every day at Abbotsleigh, I am inspired by our caring, confident and articulate girls and young women who have the opportunity to do more, so that they have the ability to be more, today and tomorrow.

Providing but a small glimpse of life at Abbotsleigh, 2018, I commend to you this edition of *Around Abbotsleigh*. I really hope you gain as much pleasure from reading it as I have done.



# From the Chair of Council

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to share with the Abbotsleigh community the focus for Abbotsleigh's Council over the next 6-12 months, and to impart a little something about my family and me.

For those new to the School, I have been Chair of the Council of Abbotsleigh for just over a year. My wife Gaby and I have two children, Emma (13) and James (11). Emma enrolled in Abbotsleigh's inaugural Transition class in 2010 and embarked on her learning journey 'across the bridge' as a Year 7 student at the beginning of this year. As a Christian family, we worship at St James, Turramurra, where we are actively involved. Family and family time are very important to me, and I seek every opportunity to spend time with my family, whether it is camping, participating in sports (especially equestrian events with Emma), leisure, or just providing for them in the kitchen.

Professionally, I have had experience as a Chartered Accountant and licensed forensic investigator. In March last year, I commenced in the role as Partner and National Practice Group Leader for Forensic and Technology Services at Clayton Utz. Prior to this, I was a Partner at EY for 11 years.

I joined Abbotsleigh Council as the Honorary Treasurer in October 2012 and have been a director on the Abbotsleigh Foundation since then. I was appointed the Deputy Chair of Abbotsleigh's Council in 2015 and was appointed to the role as Chair in May 2017.

During 2017, the Abbotsleigh School Council worked closely with staff and the community to develop Abbotsleigh's new Strategic Plan: **Our School. Our Girls. Today and Tomorrow**, which was launched amidst much fanfare at Junior and Senior School Speech Day celebrations in 2017.

This year, Council has been very busy developing a new Master Plan, which aims to provide state of the art facilities and infrastructure for both the Junior and Senior School campuses in the near future. Informed by our Strategic Plan

“  
***You are Abbotsleigh, the Abbotsleigh of your day, and you will hand it on to others, a heritage of which they in their turn will be proud...***  
”

Miss Margaret Murray  
(the 2nd Headmistress  
1913-1924)

as well as national and international research and directions in education, the Master Plan is a very exciting project in which to be involved. Abbotsleigh's Vision and Purpose have been carefully considered and are well established – but more importantly, they are fit for the future for our girls – today and tomorrow.

We are on track to share the Master Plan with the School community soon, revealing a roadmap that creates the opportunities for our girls to do more so that they have the ability to be more, today and tomorrow.

*"From the moment she arrives, each girl begins the exciting pursuit to be her best self."* Megan Krimmer

I am looking forward to continuing to serve and enlarge my acquaintance of the Abbotsleigh community, today and tomorrow.

Paul Fontanot  
**Chair of Abbotsleigh Council**





# Dazzle and Dine Ball

Hearing life-changing stories from scholarship recipients made this truly dazzling evening a night to remember, writes **Danielle Cotter**, Development Manager

The inaugural Dazzle and Dine Ball was held on Saturday 4 August in the Crystal Ballroom at Luna Park. This highly anticipated event attracted more than 260 guests, who were in for 'a night at the Oscars'. Entering via the red carpet and greeted by awaiting paparazzi and a live 'Oscar', guests definitely knew it was going to be a fun night. Excited guests queued to get their picture in front of the Oscars media wall to create lasting memories of the evening ahead and ensured that they had their dancing shoes on to boogie the night away with the sizzling Martini Club band. The evening was hosted by Edwina Bartholomew, one of the most prominent figures of Australian news and presenting and also an Abbotsleigh Old Girl. It was fitting Edwina spoke about her time at Abbotsleigh and encouraged guests to be generous throughout the night.

The event raised more than \$150,000 profit to support the means-tested Kathleen McCredie Scholarship and Indigenous Scholarships. Guests heard first-hand from one of Abbotsleigh's first Indigenous scholars, **Hannah Hilton (Ranby, 2013)**, who grew up in Moree. Hannah applied for her scholarship so she could change the future for herself and her children. To hear more about what Hannah's scholarship has meant for her, please turn to page 57.

***You have helped me to have an amazing Abbotsleigh education that has opened so many doors and opportunities, allowing me to dream big and set goals for my future. Thank you for supporting and believing in me. Hannah***

**Rani West**, a 2016 Kathleen McCredie Scholarship graduate also shared her gratitude.

*'This scholarship changed my life. It is probably not as apparent to you, but you give young women like me the opportunity to succeed at the highest possible level and to become empowered. It has honestly encouraged me to also dream big and given me the confidence to achieve anything that I put my mind to.*

*Not only would my life be different, but I would be different as a person. I am immensely grateful for Abbotsleigh's support and belief in me. Without people like you who have the generosity and willingness to give, I would not have been where I am or who I am today.'*

***Your contribution is significant in the way it changes people's lives. Rani***

We are so grateful to the volunteer organising committee who gave so many hours to make the event a reality; Jen Kitching, Camilla Love, Jensen Mak, Nelly Maroon-Yacoub, Kelly McLoughlin, Mai-Tran Nguyen, Ambereen Qureshi, Harinder Randhawa and Kathy Campbell.

It was a truly wonderful evening bringing together the Abbotsleigh community. Thank you to those who donated items, bid and bought items and gave generous gifts towards our scholarships.



# Early Learning Conference 2018

This year's conference was an opportunity for Early Learning Educators to reflect on their practice and for some, perhaps an exciting new way of being, writes **Shelley Laycock**, Abbotsleigh Early Learning Centre Director



Early Learning hosted a very successful two-day conference on 19 to 20 June which was live streamed to our broader Abbotsleigh community. The conference was opened by the Headmistress, Mrs Megan Krimmer, and a Welcome to Country was conducted by Darug elder, Mr Chris Tobin, who set the tone for the delegates to be open and reflective about the changing face of education in the 21st century. More than 80 delegates attended from as far afield as Canberra in the ACT, the Illawarra region in the south and The Hunter Valley in the north.

We were fortunate to bring together leading national and international thinkers who provoked and inspired conversation around the major forces shaping teaching and learning. Keynote speaker, Alise Shafer Ivey, questioned the intersection of curriculum and teaching and suggested that finding the balance is difficult and often elusive, sometimes dangerous and ever subjective. She questioned how schools can foster thinking that recognises and embraces the great complexities of life. She advocated that we need to create citizens who can look at things from different perspectives, thereby creating a culture of doubting and believing, and asked the delegates, 'Could perspective be the most essential tool of education?'

Dr Alma Fleet challenged us to think and collaborate about good teaching. She spoke about recognising the rights of children as active participants within the teaching and learning community and the implications for decision making.

Dr Kristy Goodwin provided research-based information about how technology is changing the ways children learn and

develop (including their sleep, attention spans, play, language skills, physical development, relationships and even their nutrition). Her research supports the notion that technology is changing the way that children's brains are developing, and that rather than being alarmist, she advocated moderation. Kristy acknowledged that while technology is here to stay, adults need to assist children in creating a balanced relationship with it. She said that adults need to consider good role modelling of technology and likened parents and early childhood educators as being 'brain architects' as 90% of neural pathways are made in the first five years.

Dr Cathie Harrison shared ways of engaging with young children that enable their spirits to flourish and nurture a deep respect for the natural world. She co-constructed with the participants a discourse centred on our local context, focusing on the wellbeing of children, relationships of care and compassion and the sustainability of the planet. Cathie believes that for children to be the creative thinkers of the future they need to have the opportunity to engage in 'mind wandering mode'.

'Through our patterns of behaviour, thinking, and interaction, we show what we are made of as thinkers and learners ... [I]ntelligent performance is not just an exercise of ability. It is more dispositional in nature in that we must activate our abilities and set them into motion (Ritchhart, 2002, p 7).'

# Kindergarten gets serious about gravity

Toy cars and skateboards were repurposed in the Kindergarten classrooms, leading to a number of scientific discoveries, writes **Jacqui Blowes**, Kindergarten Teacher

**K**indergarten has been exploring how things work. The girls have made toy cars, looked at 'pull and push' and explored this further with parachutes. A highlight of the unit involved an incursion that allowed the girls to pose questions and explore the answers through a series of experiments.

## Here are a few things the girls discovered:

Asha sat on the skateboard. The class decided that the skateboard would only move with a force. She used her hands to make the skateboard stop and start. The force used was called pushing. She used her hands differently to make the board go forwards and backwards. The way she used her hands was opposite to the direction she wanted to go. For example fire goes down on a rocket to make the rocket go up.

Georgia also sat on the skateboard. They used the rope to pull Georgia. They discovered that it was easy to move a light

thing. The girls realised that they needed a strong pull to move a heavy thing. To pull a heavy object they needed a stopping force to move it. The stopping force is called friction or grip.

A ball can move by just dropping it. The name of the force that pulls things down to the ground is gravity. We cannot switch off gravity, but you can use other forces to lift things up. Spinning can keep things staying up. How can a bucket go upside down without letting a ball drop out? When Zoya spun the bucket over her head, the ball stayed in the bucket.

The girls enjoyed questioning, discovering and concluding. They now have a better understanding of how things work. They have also learnt to ask questions to discover more.





# Fun at Featherdale

After an exciting day out meeting everything from tiny birds to huge crocodiles, our **Year 3 students** got together to write about their adventures at Featherdale Wildlife Park

**R**ecently, Year 3 experienced an enjoyable and educational Science excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park to extend our knowledge on animal classification.

On arrival, each student was involved in a lucky dip, where we were given one animal name that we had to research for the day.

A fabulous part of the day was being able to interact with animals outside of their enclosures, because some animals were allowed to roam free. We found it extraordinarily exciting to pat wallabies and koalas.

We visited the Learning Burrow where we learnt many interesting facts including the life-cycle, habitat, diet, behaviour and defence mechanisms of a range of animals.

We also patted a Tawny Frogmouth, Shingleback Lizard and a Children's Python. A fascinating fact about the Tawny Frogmouth is that it can camouflage itself effectively by sitting motionless in trees and closing its eyes.

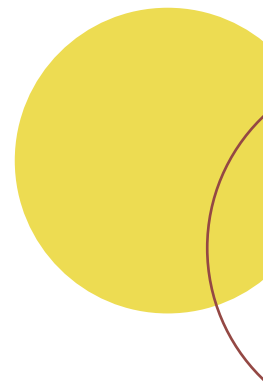
Another intriguing highlight of the day was the dingo exhibit. We were amazed to see four energetic dingo cubs rolling around, playing in the rocky, sandy desert-like enclosure.

Some girls were even fortunate enough to spy a joey popping its head out from its mother's pouch!





# For the love of STEM



With the opening of the Junior School's STEM Street, our Year 6 girls have thoroughly embraced myriad Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics maker and enquiry-based projects, write **Kylie George**, **Megan Gorringe**, **Susanna Matters** and **Cassandra McKie**, Year 6 Teachers



## **Maker-based project: Electronic board games**

An understanding of electricity and light was the foundation of a project to design and make electronic board games. After being issued with an exciting design brief, the girls sketched diagrams of electrical circuits and brainstormed the rules and target markets for their proposed games.

Unleashing their creativity in the Maker Space, they collaborated to develop and test prototypes, and provided peer feedback before unveiling their original, scientifically accurate, entertaining and educational final products, which were displayed as part of the GLOW festival.

## **Enquiry-based project: The origins of mathematics**

Year 6 had been learning about ancient civilisations, and as discussions deepened, the girls generated a range of 'I wonder' questions based on the origins of mathematics. They then selected a mathematical system or strategy from one of these civilisations and applied it to a range of problems.

In their exploration, some girls discovered ancient strategies for undertaking multiplication, such as the Incas' *quipu* 'talking knot' strings and Chinese stick multiplication, explored systems based on numbers other than 10, and researched the Greek Pythagorean theorem.

The girls then created their own mathematical problems and solved them, before exchanging them with others to see which systems could solve the problems more efficiently.

While doing this, some students identified deficits in their chosen civilisation's mathematical system and found merit in combining two or more systems.

While vastly different in purpose and outcome, both projects shared common elements of enquiry, collaboration and experiential learning, and both projects enabled our girls to develop their STEM skills in preparation for the highly anticipated AbbKart billycart project later in the year.

# IPSHA Performing Arts Festival

Sydney's impressive Town Hall was the perfect venue for a concert of equally impressive proportions, writes **Stephan Kooper**, Head of Junior School Music

The Performing Arts Festival is an annual event hosted by the Independent Primary Schools Heads of Australia (IPSHA) and held at the Sydney Town Hall. Abbotsleigh Junior School contributes a variety of musical items to the festival every second year. This year our Clarinet and Saxophone Ensemble, Brass Belles, Concert Band, Clocktower Strings and Everett Choir shared the event with musicians from Amity College, Prestons; Barker College; Coogee Preparatory School; Lakes Grammar; Santa Sabina College and St Luke's Grammar School. Our girls performed in both combined school ensembles, which included a band and massed choir.

Everett Choir sang a work by the highly acclaimed and celebrated Australian

female composer, Elena Kats-Chernin. 'Butterflying' was enhanced by a scarf routine performed by some of our Junior School's most accomplished rhythmic gymnasts. It is quite an achievement for such a young, non-auditioned choir to attempt such a complex work and even more remarkable that this year the choir boasts its largest numbers – 104 voices strong.

The Clocktower Strings performed 'Rondo in A Major for solo violin and string ensemble' by Schubert, with soloist Anica Wong. Anica played beautifully, clearly demonstrating why she was awarded an Associate in Music, Australia (AMusa) diploma last year when she was in Year 5.

*Congratulations to all our Junior School musicians – you did yourselves and your school proud.*







# Jump Rope for Heart 2018

Junior School girls have been jumping for more than just joy lately, explains **Paul Guirrerri**, JS PDHPE Coordinator

**T**his year, the Junior School took on a whole school approach to the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart program. All girls from Transition to Year 6 participated in the program which encourages children to become active, learn new skills and raise vital funds for cardiovascular research and community health programs. The program ran for the first five weeks of Term 3.

We launched our program at House Cup at the end of Term 2, in what I'm sure will be remembered as an absolute highlight for many of our girls. The launch presentation from Jump Rope's Field Officer Emma Howlett was interrupted by a flash mob – the 'Junior School staff jump rope display team', who took to the court to dazzle the girls with an expertly choreographed routine – in fancy retro dress and all! The morning concluded with national skipping champion, Saskia Beletich in Year 5, showcasing some of her impressive skipping tricks.

With evidence showing clear links between physical activity and academic performance, this year's program included two DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read) sessions a week being replaced with DEAJ time (Drop Everything And Jump). The girls delighted in practising their new tricks to music in preparation for the jump off, which concluded the program.

In addition to fabulous skills and fitness benefits, our girls raised just on \$10,000 for the Heart Foundation. As part of our Service Learning work in 2018, all prizes accrued by our girls were donated to Anglicare Toys 'n' Tucker – a most worthy cause for children who are in much greater need of those prizes at Christmas time than our own.

We look forward to embracing all things Jump Rope when we again take part in this wonderful program in 2020.



# Junior School China Study Tour 2018

The Junior School's biennial China Study Tour delivered yet again this year, write two of the accompanying teachers, **Amber Hartwig** and **Sally Eriksen**



Over the July holidays a group of students and parents from Year 5 and 6 had the exciting opportunity to go to China on the Junior School's biennial study tour. It was a jammed packed 10 days of immersion in culture and history, sightseeing and of course, the most significant part of the study tour – attending our sister school Yu Cai in Beijing. Our girls spent some time billeted with a local Chinese family, which allowed them to expand upon their Mandarin skills, understand the culture and experience home life in China.

Other big ticket items were of course walking on The Great Wall of China. Grasping that the wall is more than 2,300 years old was incredible, and with a view for hundreds of kilometres, it was spectacular.

Visiting the Forbidden City and learning about China's rich history was enlightening and educational for all. Did you know the Forbidden City was a former Chinese imperial palace from the Ming dynasty?

Coming face to face with the hundreds of infamous Terracotta Warriors on the outskirts of Xian was also a highlight where we learnt about how China's first emperor was buried with the terracotta army in 210–209 BC.

The girls and parents enjoyed taking a bicycle ride on the oldest intact city wall in Xian.

The cuddly pandas put a show on for us as they played roly-poly in the trees and amused us having a bath in a tub of water.

To top the trip off, we had an exciting trip to Disneyland where the thrill-seekers went on amusement park rides and explored this amazing place.

Among all the incredible experiences and opportunities, the group, including the parents, enjoyed practising their Mandarin and bargaining skills in the local markets.





***'My favourite part of the tour was going to school and doing billeting! I also really enjoyed Disneyland and the acrobatics show.'*** Veronica Wade

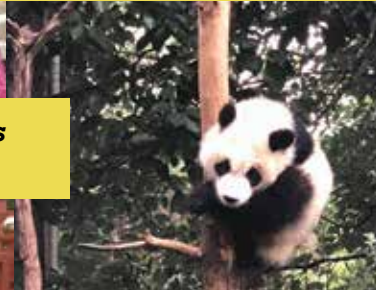
***'Disneyland was definitely my favourite. I loved every second of that!'*** Chloe Pearce



***'I absolutely loved the billeting and I had the time of my life.'*** Meera Nirmalendran



***'The original city wall in Xian was my favourite.'*** Phoebe Peng



***'My favourite part was definitely the billeting experience because it was really fun to experience what they do in a day and because we got together well.'*** Evelyn Liu



***'I loved learning about the pandas and watching how they behave.'*** Emily McLaren



***'Billeting was one of the best experiences because it was a once in a lifetime chance.'*** Serena Lee

***'I thought my stand out memory was Disneyland and the billeting because they live very differently and it was very interesting and fascinating to find out what they do and how they live. I also enjoyed The Pearl Tower as I found it fun to stand on top of Shanghai and going on the glass floor with my friends.'*** Elin Wood



***'I also loved Disneyland because it was just so fun.'*** Harriet Chang



***'I loved visiting Yu Cai and billeting with our sisters.'*** Shalisa Wijewardena



**And a final word from a couple of the parents who attended...**

***'The tour was a fantastic, memory making experience. We thoroughly enjoyed it and it exceeded our expectations every day. The organisation was excellent and we always felt well looked after and safe. I would definitely recommend this tour to any parents considering attending in future years.'*** Kuhalya Tharumarajah

***'[We] learnt a great deal about Chinese history and life. The tour guides were all very good. The billeting experience was fantastic and the families hosted the girls so generously. I would encourage anyone considering it to most definitely go ahead. It is worth every cent and a once in a lifetime experience.'*** Ambeeren Qureshi





# James and the Giant Peach

This adventurous, colourful story of unusual friendships by Roald Dahl took to Everett stage in June, writes AbbSchool Speech and Drama Coordinator and Director, **Darcy-Lee Tindale**



The play started with a bang – or maybe a roar – as Mr and Mrs Trotter dodged and weaved an escaped rhinoceros. The audience followed James’s journey from the gloomy and miserable home of Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker, to the discovery of ‘magical things’ living inside a giant peach.

James and his insect friends, with the help of a giant peach, floated across the ocean, outwitted a hungry shark, were lifted into the sky by a flock of seagulls, only to return to the depths of the ocean and outsmart a pirate ship full of skeleton crew. With a compass and direction, and the support of his insect friends, James took on the angry cloudmen as he tried to make his way to New York City – the top of the world! More than 60 girls participated in the production,



and like all Junior School plays, it was full of spectacular costumes, colour, dancing and great acting, along with physical theatre, creative umbrella imagery, strobe lights, smoke machines and a little AV trickery.

The Stage Crew took passionately to the task of painting sets, glittering backdrops, creating peaches of all sizes, constructing a giant sequence New York City and a highlight of the show, the depths of the ocean. On performance night they changed sets, worked props, coordinated the music and AV screens, and effortlessly made each scene come to life.

This wonderful, collaborative effort enabled the girls to put together a show that thrilled and delighted audiences.





# Marian Clarke and her vision for Abbotsleigh

A true champion of women and girl's education, Abbotsleigh was blessed to have been founded by such a visionary educator, whose influence and spirit lives on after 133 years, writes **Julie Daly**, School Archivist



Marian Clarke died on 02 July 1933 – a bronze tablet was unveiled on 28 October 1933 in the library (later moved to the Dining Room and placed beneath her portrait): *In remembrance of Marian Clarke...this tablet was placed in reverent love and gratitude by her Old Girls.*



Portrait of Marian Clarke by Tom Roberts. Commissioned by Marian Clarke, and presented to the School in 1920, it hangs in the School's Dining Room.

Everyone needs a champion; and Abbotsleigh's first champion was Marian Clarke, our founding Headmistress.

Born on 27 March 1853 at Banbury Mill, in Oxfordshire, England, Marian was the fourth of Dr Thomas and Elizabeth Clarke's 13 children.

Education was actively encouraged in the Clarke family, and after school Marian attended lectures at University College, Bristol, where in 1880 she passed the Cambridge Local Examination with honours in political Economy, History and Logic. This was a certificate, not a full degree – Oxford University didn't award women degrees until 1921; Cambridge University followed only in 1947. Sydney University was an early champion of women's education, conferring the first women with degrees in 1885. Marian Clarke's influence can be seen here, for the first woman to graduate with an honours degree in Science from Sydney University was Agnes Bennett – a foundation student at Abbotsleigh.

Marian was proud of her academic achievements, which she highlighted in early advertisements in the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

**ABBOTTSLEIGH, MOUNT-STREET, NORTH SYDNEY.**—HIGH-CLASS SCHOOL for GIRLS, to be opened JULY 20th, 1885. Head Mistress, Miss MARIAN CLARKE. First-class Honour Certificate, Cambridge. High testimonials and references. Gymnastics under able superintendence.

Original 1885 advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Marian's sister, Ellen Clarke, had arrived in Sydney in 1882, and opened her own school for girls, Normanhurst at Ashfield, on 17 July 1882. Both sisters, armed with their own early rigorous academic educations, founded schools with strong academic bases, their success being their ability to see a place for genuine academic education for girls. A third sister, Emily, also became a teacher, and worked at Normanhurst and Abbotsleigh.

Ellen and Marian both seem to have followed in the path of Emily Davies, who set up Cambridge University's women-only Girton College, and who had observed that "the best schools are precisely those in which the 'masculine' subjects have been introduced."<sup>1</sup> These subjects included Mathematics and Latin – both offered at the Clarke sisters' schools – and a belief that girls can excel in all subjects. Here lies the basis of Abbotsleigh's unofficial original mission statement.

Marian left her teaching position at Manchester Girls' High School – where she had been teaching since 1880 – and arrived in Australia in December 1884, answering a call from an ill Ellen to assist with her school. She remained at Normanhurst for six months, at which point Ellen's return to health saw an opportunity for Marian to open a school of her own. Thus Abbotsleigh was born.

So as not to be in direct competition with her sister, Marian opened Abbotsleigh in a small terrace house in North Sydney.



Our earliest photographs show Marian with her young students, several with books in their arms, highlighting the importance of their studies.

Abbotsleigh's champion fought for the right to teach girls those masculine subjects. Marian wrote, "Parents were most kind and sympathetic, but they were inclined to interfere in the curriculum and though then, and twice later, I arranged for geometry to be taught in every class, having no Council behind me, I had to give way and 'the unnecessary subject' was taught to the few only."<sup>2</sup>

Abbotsleigh was not at this stage a Church school – that didn't happen until 1924 – and so Marian had to stand strong in her beliefs by herself.

As can be seen in these early photographs, boys were a part of the Abbotsleigh landscape. Marian saw a business opportunity; the private boys' schools didn't teach prep classes, and so she opened her school to the younger brothers of her girls. Marian's genius was in seeing education as a gift for all. Abbotsleigh educated young boys for our first 13 years, through our move from North Sydney to Parramatta, until the boys' schools opened classes to these young boys, and then Marian's focus turned exclusively to educating girls.

Marian's championing of girls' education continued past their school days. The idea of founding an association of ex-pupils was encouraged by Marian, influenced by other schools' 'Old Girls' associations. Ascham's Union was founded in 1899 and

MLC Burwood's in 1903 – and so, with Marian as President, the first meeting of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union was held on 23 May 1908.

The aims of the Union were set out as such: to carry on the traditions of the School, to unite as far as possible the Old Girls with each other, and to co-operate in work for others. By the time Marian left Abbotsleigh, the Union's membership had grown to nearly 200 Old Girls.

Marian sold Abbotsleigh in June 1913 to Margaret Murray. Returning to live in England, she undertook Red Cross work during the First World War, travelled extensively, studied painting in Paris and had her work exhibited. She remained in close contact with the School and with her Old Girls, and when in Sydney she stayed at "52 Macleay Street and took etching lessons from Alfred Coffey (an artist she had contracted to teach art at Abbotsleigh), and some [Old Girls] possess etchings she made of St Mary's [Cathedral] as seen from 52 looking down Orwell Street."<sup>3</sup>

She died on 2 July 1933. Shortly before she died she said, "I have seen all the things I wished to see and accomplished what I set out to do. I have led a long, happy and interesting life and now I am quite prepared and ready to go."<sup>4</sup>

1 <https://herstoria.com/womens-access-to-higher-education-an-overview-1860-1948/>

2,3,4 In Memory of Marian Clarke: foundress of Abbotsleigh



Photograph of Miss Clarke, given to all Abbotsleigh girls upon the occasion of her retirement in June 1913.



*In the Sultan's Garden*, a watercolour by Marian Clarke and exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1931.



An etching of St Mary's Cathedral as viewed from Marian's window.



Documents from the opening meeting of the newly-formed AOGU.



Abbotsleigh's earliest photographs, 1886.

# Abbotsleigh Literary Festival 2018

'The Story Within' was the theme for this year's Literary Festival – a mammoth event that engaged students and visitors of all ages, writes **Bronwyn Foxall**, Library Head of Department



## Aims of the Abbotsleigh Literary Festivals

- To provide opportunities to explore the written word
- To foster a love of reading in all its forms
- To spark curiosity, creativity and wonder
- To imagine other places, other worlds, other ways of being
- To build connections:
  - i. With experts in the literary world
  - ii. Within our community
  - iii. Beyond our community

“  
*I had a lovely time at  
Abbotsleigh, the girls were  
fantastic. Thank you for  
including me.*

**Judith Rossell**

**T**his was the biggest Literary Festival we have held in terms of the number of speakers and the number of sessions our girls were offered. The quality of the speakers was exceptional. Staff and students commented on the excellent presentations they heard. Indeed, many Senior School girls have said that their only regret was that they could not attend more sessions.

Quite a number of workshops were held for both writing and illustrating, with JC Burke conducting a full day writing workshop, and Darcy-Lee Tindale offering a three hour historical writing workshop to adults, both of which were highly successful sessions.

This email from one of our Senior School girls says it all: 'Thank you for organising this year's literary festival and getting so many authors, illustrators and animators. It was really wonderful to meet them and I loved gathering new writing tips and assessment tips. I particularly liked the Shakespeare performance, it was very engaging and exciting.'

The impression the School made on visitors was incredibly positive. Several speakers commented on our wonderful girls. The grounds looked spectacular, the professional IT assistance enabled a multitude of different speakers to present simultaneously, the parents welcomed visitors and assisted speakers graciously, and the professional graphic designs from the Development office created an important and distinctive branding for the event.

### Speakers

This year featured 39 outstanding authors, poets and illustrators including Sarah Davis, Tristan Bancks, Mick Elliott, Fleur Ferris, Phil Wilcox, Andrew Cranna, JC Burke, Andrew Cranna, Erin Gough, Will Kostakis, John Larkin, Jacqueline Harvey, Belinda Murrell, Matt Stanton and Deborah Abella.

### An Evening with Stan Grant

Stan Grant's talk at the dinner was exceptional earning him a standing ovation and much applause. We were fortunate to be joined by our Indigenous scholars along with many



from surrounding schools. He spoke directly to them encouraging them to think for themselves and challenging them to make the most of their opportunities. He also spoke about his life from difficult times through to a successful and rewarding career.

### **ANZAC Illustrated Exhibition in the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery**

Mary Faith arranged for an exhibition of artwork on war and conflict entitled: *ANZAC Illustrated* to be showing in the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery during the Literary Festival. Mark Wilson, Craig Smith and Michael Camilleri, whose work was included in the exhibition, were among the speakers at the Festival.

### **A Community Function**

Abbotsleigh Literary Festivals involve, and rely on, the whole community from girls to staff to parents. The assistance from every part of the School made it a truly community event and presented Abbotsleigh so well to visiting schools.

So many people need to be thanked:

- Lynda Palmer, who provided amazing assistance to us all
- Library staff on both campuses
- Alex Norton and Deb Smith for their work on programs, name tags, banners, and much more
- Heidi Grout who helped in so many ways
- Rob Willis who reorganised classes, rooms and timetables to accommodate our speakers
- Kimberly Groat who organised all the parents
- The many parents who accompanied or drove speakers, manned welcome desks and provided morning teas for speakers
- IT staff, in particular Aaron Lee, Carlos Barroeta Moreno, Lyndon Franks and Michelle Cameron on the Senior School campus and Sean Vidal on the Junior School campus
- Property and grounds staff who moved and set up furniture
- George Czako and his team for a delicious dinner and for being incredibly flexible when we could not confirm numbers
- Kimberly Harding and her team for providing musical items during lunchtimes
- Scholastic Australia for providing prize book packs for the Spelling Bee



# Let there be light

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**Donna Moffat**, Director of Learning Innovation, and **Terri Moore**, Head of Design and Maker Education, discuss the origins and development of GLOW – Abbotsleigh's own festival of light

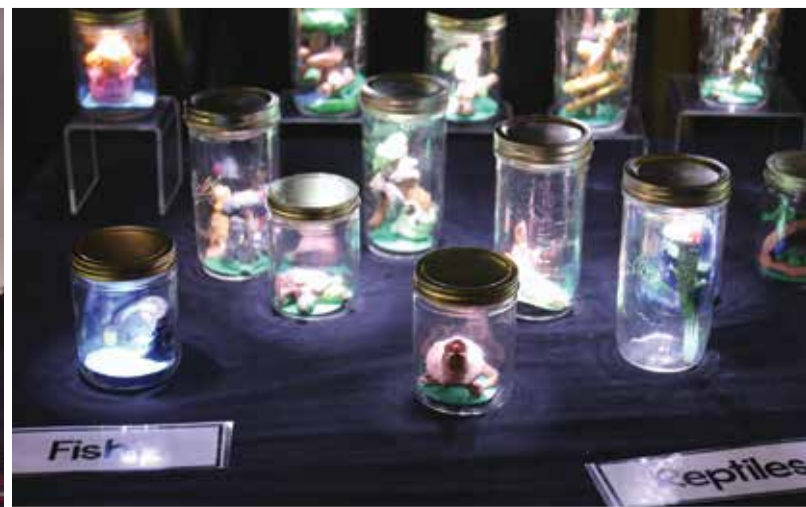
For the past four years, Abbotsleigh has held an annual festival of light – GLOW. This year's event, held on 27 June, was the largest ever, with a showcase of student work from Early Learning Centre, Junior School and Senior School students.

The students created 25 installations (including eight programs for active participation as well as creative workshops) as part of their work in a range of interdisciplinary projects including STEAM and Maker Education. The focus of this enquiry-based approach was the development of skills such as problem solving, creative thinking and the development of interpersonal skills.

The opening event at the festival was the 'Abbotsleigh Marker'. Past parent, Professor Barry Webb AM, worked with girls from the school's stage and lighting crew on site and at industry locations to engineer beams that created a circle of light extending 1000 ft into the air. The School sought permission from CASA to project them, and a NOTAMS (notice to airmen) message was issued to prevent aircraft flying in the northern flight zone during the event.

The project had its genesis in Abbotsleigh's Year 9 TAS class. Originally, it was the showcase for Year 9 work with light in rigid and non-rigid materials. In 2016 we included Year 1 work on light and sound to show parents the way in which our programs develop and build upon each other for the children's learning. Here they are in Year 1, learning about light and sound, and creating wearable art and musical instruments and other exciting inventions, and then, eight years later, this is what they can do in Year 9.





VIVID Sydney was one source of inspiration for the GLOW projects. We take the Year 9 girls on an excursion to VIVID Sydney, which inspires them to incorporate light through e-textiles in their costume and accessory design and LED lighting in the installations, as we are always looking at ways to incorporate emerging technologies within projects.

GLOW is a celebration of learning done in an interdisciplinary way so that the learning crosses the boundaries that separate subjects and replicates our real world. It is about tinkering, creating and making. Such learning fosters design thinking, creative thinking, learning to persist with challenging problems and sometimes failure of a design, plus collaborative skills. We can't wait for next year!

# Lollipops and the shape of numbers

A geometry topic about perimeter, area and volume was child's play for the students in 7M1, writes Mathematics Teacher, **Kim Allan**



# M

Mathematicians have been trying for millennia to find a bridge between the two ancient disciplines of arithmetic and geometry.

Diving into geometry, Year 7 students investigated the properties of shapes in one, two and three dimensions. They learned how to convert units and the relationships between measures of volume using cubic centimetres and millilitres.

The girls estimated the amount of air space that they take up, measuring themselves as though they were a combination of rectangular prisms. This led to some interesting discoveries about the variation in proportions from one person to another.

In addition to measurement activities, students used colourful paper to make origami creations. These ranged from individual flowers to complex pieces including an eagle perched to devour its prey and a whole class project to create a large triakis.

Students were challenged to combine their engineering and design skills to come up with a creative way of summarising their learning in three dimensions. Summaries are a useful tool for reinforcing learning in the classroom. They enable students to review work that they have been learning in class, helping deepen their understanding and build strong neural connections.

Throughout the topic, the girls built their summaries, writing each new concept on its own 'lollipop', which was then inserted into a specially designed box. This box can be flattened and glued into a book. The girls used their creative flair to decorate their finished product.

We've recently been playing with prime numbers. One of the Millennium Problems is the Riemann Hypothesis, which is all about primes. Any mathematician who can tame it stands to win \$1 million. Who knows? One of our girls may be the person who figures out the shape of numbers.







# Touching history in Christian Studies

When Christian Studies Teacher **Ann Lim** invited **Julie Daly**, Abbotsleigh Archivist, to talk to her Year 9 classes, the girls were inspired by a glimpse of the School's past

Every year the girls in Year 9 do a research project about a Christian woman who had a profound impact on the world around her. These women were non-conformists. They were women who were anchored firmly in their faith and who stood against the tide of their time and spoke up for those who were marginalised and oppressed.

While the girls write about what they have learned, they also produce an artefact to represent the women they have explored. But what is an artefact? What are some examples? I invited Julie Daly, the Abbotsleigh Archivist, to continue the discussion with six Year 9 Christian Studies classes.

*'As the Archivist, and therefore a non-teacher, it is a privilege to be invited into the world of teaching and learning. To share my passion for Abbotsleigh's history with current students is a pleasure, and so I search for precious and insightful artefacts that can bring history alive in the classroom.'*

*I like to share items with a tangible attachment to Abbotsleigh's history: a confirmation veil hand-embroidered by our second Headmistress, Margaret Murray; a child's*

*spoon and fork set, inlaid with jade, a symbol of respect and friendship between a post-war student and our fourth Headmistress, G Gordon Everett. The smallest of items can tell the largest of stories.*

*I also shared two pieces of priceless history – a hunger strike medal and Votes for Women enamel badge belonging to the mother of our sixth Headmistress, Betty Archdale. These valuable artefacts have played a role on the world political stage and their amazing provenance renders these items even more powerful.'*

What a gift to work with someone who knows so much about the history of our school. The seminar taught the girls more about Abbotsleigh, the feminist movement and the value of memories and story. The result of this cross-disciplinary teaching, where theory was made tangible, inspired the girls to create wonderful artefacts, which spoke to the importance of their chosen subject.

Thank you, Julie!



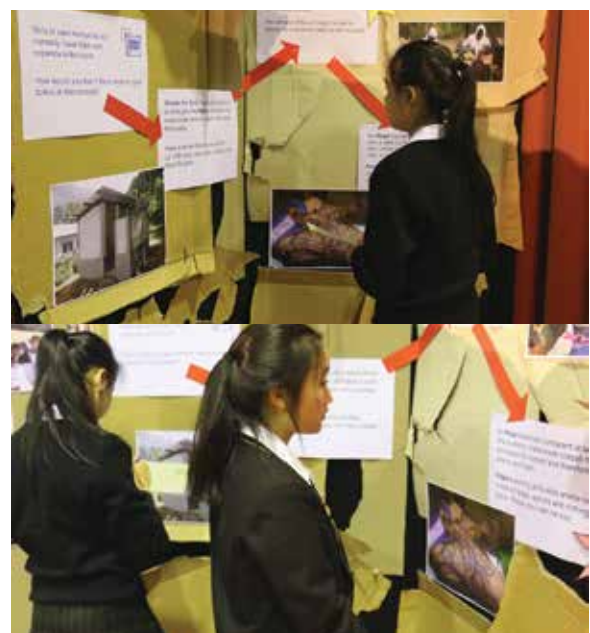
# Educate to empower

Vice Head Prefect, **Nicola Humphries**, created a total immersion installation to demonstrate the plight of girls in rural Kenya

In Term 2, more than 1,000 Abbotsleigh students were invited to step into the shoes of some Kenyan schoolgirls and walk a mile in their lives. They did this by engaging in an installation constructed by senior students led by Vice Head Prefect, Nicola Humphries, who based her project on a real village called Muhaka.

The aim of the installation was to give students a taste of what it is like to be a teenage girl in rural Kenya who desperately wants to be educated, but for whom education is often an elusive dream. From the moment the girls crossed the threshold into the installation, they became immersed in the lives of one of five actual Muhakan girls.

Nicola is keenly aware that access to education for many teenage girls throughout the world is hindered by a lack of female sanitary products, and a safe and dignified way of managing this aspect of personal care. This leads many girls to spend one week in every four at home rather than at school.





Coupled with this awareness, Nicola is conscious that education is the key that will empower these young women, enabling them to realise their hopes and dreams of a brighter future. This was the motivation for the service project she led, aptly named 'Educate to Empower'.

"Abbotsleigh girls receive an education that far exceeds global standards," says Nicola, who wanted to help other students to feel what it is like to be unable to access education through no fault of their own. "We need to use our position and opportunities as Abbotsleigh students to serve others as empathetic global citizens."

As one Year 9 participant in the immersion installation said, "As I stepped into the shoes of a girl named Hope, my heart soared. I realised the difference that the charity Goods for Girls was making to me and my family. By learning to sew washable sanitary pads, I was empowered. The problem and its solution were now in my hands."

More information about Goods for Girls can be found at [www.goodsforgirls.org](http://www.goodsforgirls.org)



## About Goods for Girls

Goods for Girls is a not for profit organisation that acknowledges the connection between a healthy lifestyle and encouraging young women to stay in school.

Established in 2012 by Susanna Matters, Goods for Girls is committed to improving the school performance and attendance of girls in rural, developing communities through the provision of feminine hygiene products and services. Goods for Girls trains young women to sew reusable sanitary pads and distribute them to schools, using local materials and partners.

Goods for Girls' first project was based in Muhaka, on the Kenyan Coast where Susanna had spent time as a volunteer teacher at the local schools. She formed a friendship with local teacher Rachael who had been concerned about maintaining the school attendance of her female students. Together, they worked on setting up a sewing program to assist these girls.

Goods for Girls currently works in Nanyuki, Kenya in partnership with the Usawa Foundation. Here Goods for Girls supports the production of reusable sanitary pads, the building of girls' toilets in schools and the provision of accessible health education.

### About Susanna Matters

With a background in advocacy and international development, Susanna specialises in the rights of the girl-child and non-formal education. Susanna was the Australian delegate for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts to the 54th United Nations Commission into the Status of Women and is also a former UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador.

In 2013, Susanna was named as the Australian Women's Weekly's inaugural Woman of the Future for her work with Goods for Girls. She served as a board member of Girl Guides NSW & ACT from 2014-2016. In 2017, Susanna was named as the Australian College of Educators' NSW Young Professional of the Year.

We are proud and indeed lucky to have Susanna Matters as one of our Junior School Teachers.

# Gratitude that works

When **Ann Lim**, Christian Studies Teacher, introduced gratitude journals into her classes, no one – least of all the girls – realised how far-reaching the benefits would be

**T**he girls in my classes have a section in their OneNote called *Learning Journey*. It is a separate section, different from their content sections. It contains activities designed to explore what it means to be a growing learner as well as strategies and strengths that students can use as we learn together.

One such strategy we use is the 'gratitude journal'. At the beginning of each lesson, I ask my students to write a gratitude journal entry. They write down or insert pictures of three things they have been thankful for that week. While it is a simple strategy, I hoped it would contribute to the girls' sense of wellbeing. Here is what some of them had to say...

*"The journal has inspired me to be thankful for many things because I was never thinking about being thankful. After each Christian Studies lesson, I try to remember each thing that I am thankful for and tell my parents how much I am grateful for everything they have done for me."* **Emily Nathan, Year 7**

*"Writing a gratitude journal every week has helped me to change the way I think about Christian Studies. I used to not like it very much and didn't think it was very useful for my life. The gratitude journal has helped me to become a better person and through it I realised what Christian Studies is all about."* **Julia Wedgwood-Oppenheim, Year 7**

*"Overall, throughout this semester we have been writing gratitude journals at the beginning of each lesson. At first, I didn't find this very helpful, but as the weeks went on I realised that this opportunity was helping me to see just how blessed I was. Pairing this with our recent visit to the 'walk a mile in my shoes' [Educate to empower installation], I have come to really appreciate how much God has done for me."*

*The gratitude journal has also helped me to navigate my way through tough situations by putting my problems in perspective. The writing of my gratitude journal has forced me to look at the bigger picture and this has therefore helped me."* **Kathryn Waugh, Year 8**

*"Gratitude in itself is helping me see more good in the world rather than just the bad things there and what we need to change, so it has made me see things in a better light as a whole. The gratitude journal has made me think about how lucky and fortunate we all are to have what we have when there are people in the world who have much less."* **Riana Somaiya, Year 9**

*"Writing a gratitude journal is something I enjoy doing as it gives me an opportunity to get out of my own head and really think about my life and my friends. I often find myself reconsidering decisions I have made or am planning on making."*

*Thanks for the great idea. I hope you continue to do this in all of your classes."* **Diana Baynie, Year 10**

Scientific research says that giving thanks is good for wellbeing.<sup>1</sup>

The Bible says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever." 1 Chronicles 16:34

My students and I would agree that giving thanks works.

<sup>1</sup>Morin, A. (2014, November 23). Seven scientifically proven benefits of gratitude that will motivate you to give thanks year-round. Forbes Magazine. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/amymorin/2014/11/23/7-scientifically-proven-benefits-of-gratitude-that-will-motivate-you-to-give-thanks-year-round/#4726eefe183c>







# Oxford Royale Summer School

A group of lucky Year 10 girls embraced so much more than just campus life while attending a very different summer school in the UK, writes **Sheri Upasiri**, History Teacher

*'I had the privilege of attending Oxford Summer School during the school holidays. My highlight was doing a course that enabled me to learn new subjects that I am not familiar with at school.'*

*'I gained more knowledge about these subjects, which further enriched my learning and overall confidence.'* – Suhana Salhotra

On Saturday 30 June, accompanied by Ms Luke and Ms Upasiri, 15 Year 10 students set off to the UK to take part in the Oxford Royale Summer School program. The program consisted of students undertaking courses based on interest, from a wide array of topics from human biology to creative writing, providing students with the opportunity to work with experts in their respective fields.

The two-week long course allowed students to delve into their chosen areas, as well as make connections with other students from 80 countries around the world. Living in residential accommodation attached to the University of Oxford, our girls were also afforded a taste of campus life in prestigious colleges such as Queen's and Balliol. Part of the immersive experience was to be involved in life in the UK, with students taking part in activities such as punting as well as sightseeing in iconic areas such as Hampton Court Palace.

The program ended with a formal graduation ceremony on the final evening, with Eleanor Watson and Claudia Elbourne receiving certificates in recognition of their efforts. The tour finished with a few days of sightseeing in London, exploring areas such as the Tower of London, Shakespeare's Globe and Westminster Abbey before returning to Sydney.

*'Two weeks spent with ORA has been the best days of my life and it was truly memorable. My favourite part about it was that we got an early taste of what university life is like and I really enjoyed a great combination of interesting courses and fun activities. During my stay at Oxford, it was amazing studying with people who are from different countries and backgrounds and I also made lots of friends with whom I will definitely stay in contact. Overall, ORA was an unforgettable experience.'* – Bianca Yang

*'I was lucky enough to be a part of the Oxford tour this year and I would say my favourite part of this experience would be meeting friends from all parts of the globe. I feel like it has really encouraged me to be proud of my own culture and be happy to express it to others.'* – Gigi Tsai



# Ever been inspired by a TED talk?

Amazing things can happen when you dare to take a chance, writes **Donna Moffatt**, Director of Learning Innovation

**A**re you one of the billions of people worldwide who have watched a free online viewing of a TED talk? Devoted to ideas worth spreading, TED is a nonpartisan, nonprofit which began in 1984 and today covers almost all topics – from science to business to global issues – in more than 110 languages.

While many of us may have watched a TED talk, not many of us can claim to have run a TED conference. In fact, only a few free TEDx licenses are granted each year under strict guidelines. So, imagine our trepidation when Year 11 student, Natasha Huang came to us just over a year ago with the intention of running her own TEDx event at Abbotsleigh. Then imagine our delight when Natasha's application was successful!

Natasha's dream came to fruition when Abbotsleigh hosted its first ever TEDx event on Monday 20 August. Natasha, along with her committee of Clementine Hobill Cole, Charlotte Deng, Elizabeth Flaherty, Ann Guo, Winona Lu, Emily Ong, Nikita Sethi, Anna Verheul and Rebecca Whittle, brought together an exciting day of seven inspirational

speakers, three performances and two films, followed by a special school assembly.

The theme was DARE and throughout the day we heard from journalists, lawyers, photographers, medical professionals and founders of not for profit organisations. Each of our speakers had embraced the challenge to do something unconventional, to follow a path that questioned the expectations of others. Some dared to achieve, some dared to fail, and some did both.

With the Service theme for the year being 'Dare to Grow', DARE seemed a natural choice. In the words of our student committee:

*At Abbotsleigh, being bold is a concept that we strive for every day and our first ever TEDxYouth@Abbotsleigh will bring the true essence of the word to the stage; from speakers who've dared in their careers, dared to follow a passion or dared to succeed against the odds. Being largely student-driven and supported by teachers, this event will also feature performances from within our school community and be live-streamed.*

*Daring is applicable in every facet of life, and so we want our audience to come away from the experience having been inspired by our speakers, stimulating discussion and reflection on how they*

*themselves may have challenged assumptions or pushed themselves into the unfamiliar.*

*We believe that there are infinite ways in which one can dare to break boundaries. It's time to embrace your quirks and do the things that scare you. After all, only those who dare, truly live.*

For our Year 11 committee, and the three guiding teachers, running this project has been an immense learning experience – generating and synthesising ideas, teamwork, communication, collaboration, technology and audio-visual skills, staging, marketing, set design, patience, grit, and sheer courage. The courage to hold a TEDx event!

Of course, all these skills are ones which we encourage every day in the classroom: thinking skills, development of character and connectedness. When the opportunity arises to apply these skills beyond the classroom, it is one which we seize. Deep learning that sticks comes from such experiences; experiences where the risk is high and our girls must tolerate ambiguity, where our girls are unafraid to be awesome.

**Abbotsleigh girls dare to take risks. What do you dare to do?**

To view our video and read about our event, go to [www.tedx youthabbotsleigh.com](http://www.tedx youthabbotsleigh.com)







# From Russia, with love

After initial recognition in Hong Kong, Year 9 student **Alicia Chiu** is really going places with her art



A twenty-hour flight carried me from Sydney to one of the world's most beautiful capitals – Moscow. The first time I went there was for a competition prize art tour near the beginning of the year, so the entire place was painted with snow. As much as I missed the winter wonderland, my most recent trip revealed a completely different environment. The architecture in Red Square was illuminated by the summer sunlight, so I was finally able to experience the vibrant colours of St Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin.

After a few awards in The Small Montmartre of Bitola art competition in Macedonia, I, along with some others, had been invited to Moscow to display our Macedonia paintings in an exhibition (and later also in the Moscow State Library). Russian TV filmed us doing onsite Chinese ink paintings of a charming street called The Old Arbat. It was there that I discovered how much the Russians treasure art and music. There were street portrait/caricature artists, people who sold their paintings and musicians everywhere.

After visiting the exhibition as well as chatting with art curators and important Russian people (such as the foreign affairs official), I realised that I still had so much to learn. The curators are deeply interested in art and I learnt a lot from them. For example, the exhibition owner's daughter was so passionate about art that she visited a prison to paint a huge canvas series on the harsh realities of prison life in Russia.

Everyone was very curious about our Chinese ink paintings. Many of the other students were experienced with Chinese ink; however, I'd only painted with it a few times, so I was really out of my comfort zone with this medium. I was incredibly blessed to have this opportunity and I couldn't be more grateful. This trip has encouraged me to continue pursuing arts, to never stop learning and appreciating it, knowing that so many people share the same love.

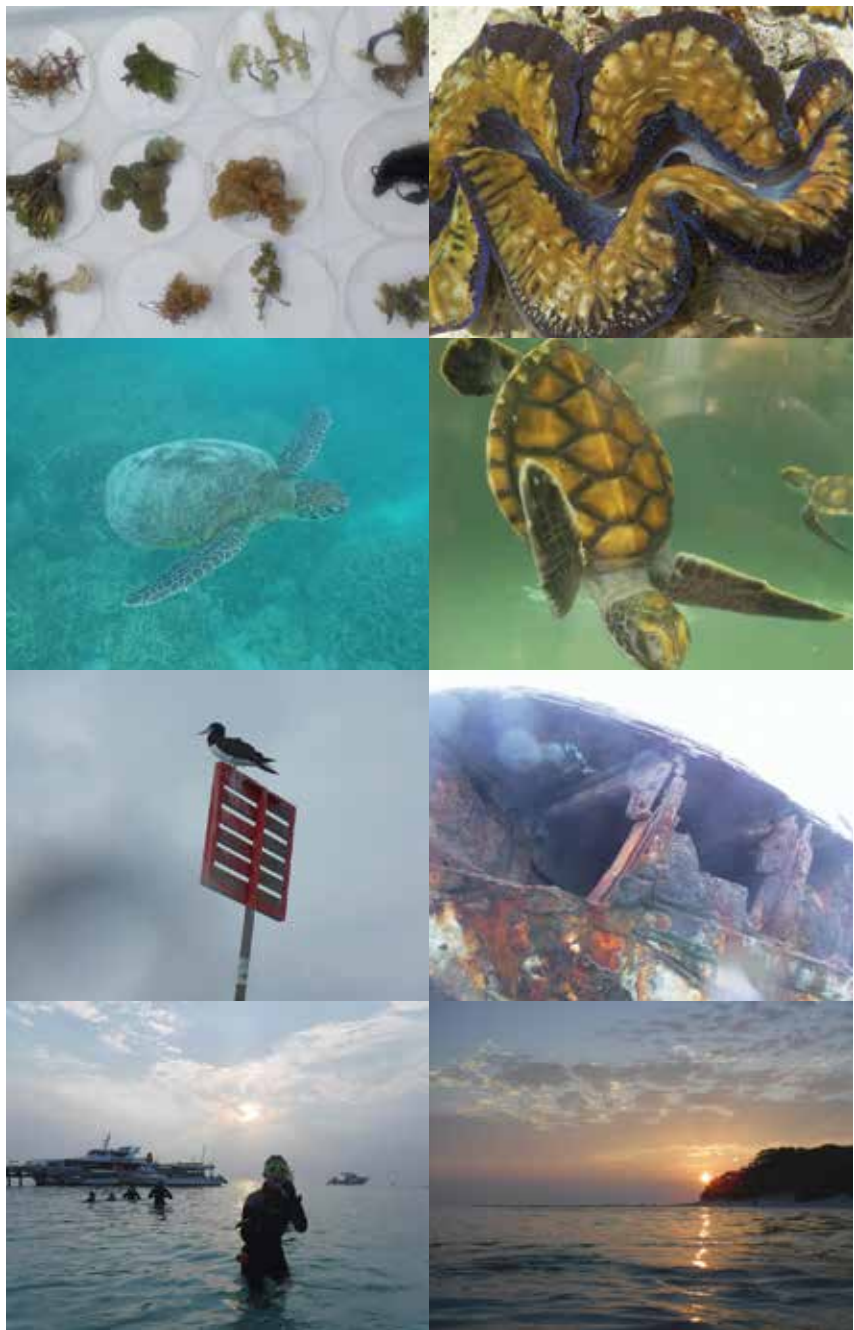


# Nice work if you can get it

In October 2017, 21 girls from Years 10 and 11 along with four Science teachers, set off on an excursion to Heron Island. Science Teacher **Elizabeth Russell** takes us along on this biennial favourite

Heron Island is a coral cay located near the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern Great Barrier Reef, 80 km north-east of Gladstone. The island is a World Heritage-listed Marine National Park, meaning that all flora and fauna is protected, so the island is a nature lover's paradise with the emphasis on enjoying natural beauty. It is a truly amazing location to spend six days carrying out scientific field work.

While on the island, we stayed at the University of Queensland Heron Island Research Station. The girls were divided into four groups to carry out field work, lab work and kitchen duties. Each group had an Abbotsleigh teacher as well as a scientific researcher to help them complete the activities. The field work is amazing. During the week we were out on the reef every day. The girls examined 5 x 5 m quadrats of the reef and then in the lab drew up detailed colour maps of their section. We walked from the shore to the edge of the rampart counting *Tridacna* and holothurians (sea cucumbers) along a 4 m wide transect. Each 20 m we stopped to examine a 1 x 1 m quadrat. The girls became experts at identifying the coral and algae species and noticed the changes in both as we moved further from the shore. Back in the lab following on from completing the transect, the girls calculated population estimates of the *Tridacna* (around 600,000) and holothurians (more than six million) on the 10 square kilometres that make up that part of the reef. A favourite activity was the coral fish association exercise where we simply floated in the water over a patch of branching coral to watch the fish and observe their behaviours; were they playing, being territorial, looking after young or feeding?





Heron Island is home to several species of birds, such as the Eastern Reef Egret and White-Bellied Sea Eagle, as well as a breeding place for other species such as the Black Noddy and Wedge-Tailed Shearwater. One of our activities was to count burrows in 5 x 5 m quadrats to estimate the population of shearwaters. Our answer, about 30,000.

We snorkelled in the harbour most days and saw huge rays lying on the sand, turtles and a truly phenomenal variety of tropical fish. There were two snorkel trips from a boat. These deep water snorkels provide exceptional opportunities to view huge plate corals, coral bommies and simply drift watching the fish dart in and around. We were lucky to encounter turtles swimming up to see what we were up to!

There were opportunities to paddle in the warm water, photograph the sunrise and sunset, simply walk on the sand, go out at high tide in the evening to watch for turtles coming up to lay eggs and what I suspect was a highlight, seeing 240 six-month-old turtles in a giant tank prior to their release into the ocean.

Each day there was a presentation from one of the researchers accompanying us. James, Luke, Sarah and Marissa work in universities in Australia and the USA. We appreciate that they gave up their time to accompany us and for the help they provided. The talks, on topics including 'Reef Formation, Types and Inhabitants', 'Reefs Through Time', 'Human Impacts on Reefs' and 'Dusty Roads, Snowy Hilltops, Dinky Basements and ... Camels?' were an informative and entertaining part of each day. The groups, under the guidance of general supervisor Brett, took responsibility for preparing the fantastic food that we ate.

Thank you to Dr Fuchs for all her work organising the trip, to Mrs Filan, Dr Oppenheim and Mrs Taylor for coming along and spending the week on Heron Island.

Finally, thank you to the 21 girls who travelled in the holiday to see the wonders of the Barrier Reef up close. We hope you enjoyed yourself and have many wonderful memories.







Twilight on the Plaza



APA ArtsFest



AbbTen Father Daughter Tennis

Year 7 Father Daughter Breakfast

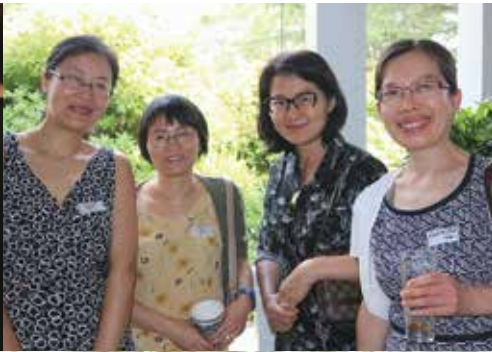
Boarder Parents Roundup



# Around Abbotsleigh



Kindergarten and Year 3 Father Daughter Breakfast



Luna Calendar Morning Tea



Year 4 Father Daughter Dinner

Year 9 Father Daughter Dinner

T, 2, 4 and 6 Mother's Day Breakfast



...the imagination embraces the entire world  
...there ever will be to know and understand.  
Albert Einstein



# 110 years of the AOGU

**Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)**, AOGU President, reflects on a year of celebration

110 years ago, Abbotsleigh's founding Headmistress, Miss Marian Clarke, had the foresight and initiative to establish an alumni association for girls at a time when this was not common practice. Over the years, groups of dedicated women have volunteered their valuable time and skills to nurture and grow the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union (AOGU) to become a 9000+ network of members spread worldwide.

To celebrate *110 years of building connections*, the AOGU has been selling souvenir tea towels, aprons and portable chargers and hosted two special events: a Back to Junior School Day and a Gala Evening.

The Back to Junior School Day was a fun afternoon where guests joined committee members, staff and Junior School girls for high tea, an opportunity to tinker with circuits and new technology in the newly-opened Maker Education and Science Spaces and tour the Junior School. The activities and tours were led by current Year 5 and 6 daughters of Old Girls and the sharing of experiences between the generations captured the essence of what the AOGU seeks to achieve.

At our Gala Evening, we also celebrated the 90th birthday of our beloved former Headmistress and Old Girl, Miss Kathleen McCredie (1944-45, Headmistress 1970-1987). To honour Miss McCredie, the AOGU commissioned an oral history to record some of her achievements. The resulting video was created with the support and expertise of Melissa Slattery

(Walsh, 1977) and Rebecca Baillie (1989). In addition, a highlights video was put together and we were pleased to share a short extract at the School's Birthday Assembly and the full version at the Gala Evening as well as at the Central and Western Districts Reunion.

The Gala Evening, where 130 attendees joined us for afternoon tea and 80 enjoyed dinner together in the Dining Room, again saw the enthusiastic sharing of experiences, highlighting what it means to be an Abbotsleigh Girl, no matter your age.

Last, but certainly not least, the AOGU has established a 110th Anniversary Grants program to support Old Girls to pursue their dreams. Grant(s) valued from \$1,000-\$5,000 will be awarded to Old Girls undertaking an activity that aims to benefit to the community or have a positive social impact. This may include, but is not limited to, undertaking extraordinary postgraduate academic studies; contributing to national or international service work; significant creative and performing arts projects; or representation through national or international excellence in sport. Applications are now open and full details are available on the AOGU website. Read more about the grants on the facing page.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this 110th anniversary year a special one.





# AOGU 110th Anniversary Grants

For those who dare to dream and have hopes of improving our future, the AOGU is awarding grants to Old Girls to help them pursue worthwhile endeavours across a range of activities, writes **Belinda Burton**, AOGU President



One of the best things about our ever connected world is that we get to hear more from our wonderful Old Girl community; to see triumphs and achievements and hear about their plans. In our 110th year of building meaningful connections we felt it was the perfect time to launch the AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant program.

Grants are awarded to Old Girls who have demonstrated themselves to be contributory members of the community engendering a positive influence by their involvement through qualities such as integrity, respect, courage, compassion and perseverance.

We were delighted by the number of high calibre applications received and the Grants Sub-committee enjoyed learning how Old Girls are giving back to the community and taking steps to improve the world. While they could not award a grant to all the applicants, the AOGU will be discussing with each applicant possibilities to help promote their cause or support their project in alternate ways.

The three winners of the AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant for 2018 are:

**Rachel Scott (1990)** This grant will assist Rachel to extend a primary school music and teacher training program in Hillston Central School, north-west of Griffith. This program will provide immediate and lasting benefits to a large group of primary students and the extended local community through wide involvement.

**Hannah Goodwin (2010)** This grant will help with the set and production of *A Girl in School Uniform*, a play that Hannah will direct and produce. It is a piece of theatre for social change in response to the worsening statistics on gendered violence, hoping to build a community of survivors and activists and helping to turn conversation into meaningful action.

**Fiona Riley (1999)** This grant will assist Fiona to participate in a Projects Abroad program in Madagascar. She will be using her environmental qualifications and experience to help

protect local indigenous flora and fauna, and promote preservation through education to improve and secure biodiversity locally and globally.

The AOGU Committee warmly congratulates our inaugural grant recipients and wishes all our applicants the very best with their varied activities supporting communities around the world.

For more information on how to apply, please visit the website: [www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/old-girls/old-girl-news/aogu-110th-anniversary-grant](http://www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/old-girls/old-girl-news/aogu-110th-anniversary-grant)

## 110th Year Anniversary Goodies

Celebrate the 110 year anniversary of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union and add a dash of panache to the kitchen by sporting our stylish Old Girl apron or wielding our snazzy tea towel.

**Apron:** \$25 for one or \$40 for two

**Tea towel:** \$15 for one or \$30 for three

To order, contact Mrs Heleen Fourie, Old Girls Relations Manager or call Heleen on 02 9473 7740.



# Where are they now

## Liz Christmas (Elizabeth Johnstone, 1959)

I still live in York, Western Australia, and am heavily involved in the life and people of the town and its farming surrounds. I have three offspring who live with their families one to two hours away.

I am in two singing groups – they are a social lifeline to some people who need the company and an outlet that is good for the soul – as well as a local ukulele group. I am also a member of the Wheatbelt Women's Health Hub (not medical but more social in nature). I am on the committee of The York Society (built around history research, heritage conservation etc) and on the subcommittee responsible for Photographic and Art & Craft Awards events. I am also on the local shire's Access and Inclusivity Committee responsible for reviewing and improving disability policy. I have been on a committee run by Alzheimer's WA for a special project to raise awareness and advocate for the infrastructure needs and sensitive responses by businesses and services to people with dementia living in the community. York has the highest per capita number of people over 65 in the state and it continues to be a favoured retirement destination for tree-changers and a grey nomads' stopping point, so we cannot avoid these social issues.

I avoid travelling to or into Perth in my tiny but efficient soft-lavender-coloured 2004 Daihatsu Charade as Perth has changed a lot road and building-wise lately, so I avoid the hazard.

I still have my 3/4-acre garden which is bush in front of the house, a bush/Japanese bit behind and fruit trees further back. It keeps me moving to hand water it as needed, which is a lot in this usually dry place with high summer temperatures. So largely, except for family gatherings, I basically stick to York and the things here that I can enjoy and contribute to.



## Sheena Swain (Perrett, 1960)

After 38 years of living in New Zealand teaching at a kindergarten junior primary (and for five very rewarding years at Barnardos family day care where I was tutoring children with a specific learning disability), I retired aged 64. We moved to Palmerston North, a university city, as our daughter Caitlin lived there. It had an excellent U3A group which was stimulating. As children do, Caitlin and her family moved to Melbourne and as Peter had been living in Sydney for some years, I decided to move back to Australia. It was a huge step, but felt it was time. New Zealand is such a beautiful country, but the cold was debilitating and I was declining physically. It was difficult to leave Justin and his beautiful family, but I travel back to visit and last year we all got together in Melbourne. It has been a big change, but I am now settled on the Central Coast in a retirement village with my cat. My brother and sister live in Orange and we keep in regular contact. In April Caitlin and Freya flew up for a couple of days. I am enjoying gardening with lots of pots on my front and back patios, but it has been quite a learning curve as the plants that are successful here are different from New Zealand's. I am still doing patchwork and cross-stitch and of course reading, which has always been important, and I love watching the tennis and cricket.

## Philippa Hudson (1960)

After retiring I am no longer active in much overseas volunteer work. I have been commuting between Tasmania and NSW, selling my NSW place and downsizing nearby, and going overseas with my cycling-fanatic, 72-year-old husband who still crosses mountains of 5,000 metres on his bike with luggage, but he is not from Abbotsleigh! My cycling days are over after 15 years of pushing the pedals with him around various parts of the world. My interest in community development work following my year of volunteer work in Nepal in 2011 continues and I am part of a quarterly hub for TEAR Australia where we read and recommend development projects for funding.



## Penny Bailey (Reilly, 1962)

Earle and I still live in Noosa Heads on a golf course, which suits us as we are fortunate enough to both have good health and love to travel. Our travelling preferences are more on land rather than the ships. We are coming up to our 53rd wedding anniversary which is pretty unique. I think our generation seems to survive marriage better than our children! Our son, Nick, and his family live in Buderim. He makes unique pieces of furniture. One of his pieces, a lectern, is in the Royal Collection in the Tower of London. We see quite a bit of them and also travel with them. Pip and her husband and son live happily in Sydney. I see quite a bit of old school friends from Frenchman [sic] and Abbotsleigh ...old friends are forever. Abbotsleigh days were really happy ones for me and I know all the girls continue to thrive in this wonderfully successful school.



## Cathy Hewett (Johnstone, 1964)

We moved to Kew, London, in 2012 for family reasons. We love taking short breaks around the British countryside in the summer months. I run a Sunday School class, lead a Bible study home group and occasionally preach at a local church. I organise my husband's free magic shows for the elderly and for less privileged children, I do grandparent duties and enjoy being part of a community choir. We did a pop-up performance at St Pancras Station recently. God has been our Good Shepherd all our lives.



## Professor Emeritus Andrea Hull AO (1965)

Since retiring as the CEO of the Victorian College of the Arts, I have had a diverse array of appointments. These include Deputy Chair of the National Museum Australia, Deputy Chair of Breast Cancer Network of Australia, Chair of the ABC Advisory Council and Chair of Melbourne Forum. Other appointments include Member of the Council for Australian Honours, Member of the Board of the Florey Neuroscience Institute and Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria.

## Elise Julien (1968)



I live in Melbourne and I am a survivor of breast cancer, now five years on, and continue to be grateful for every day. I have worked as a Clinical and Counselling Psychologist since 1977. I love the work as every person I meet is unique and has his/her own particular circumstances. It is never boring and it is a privilege to hear and be part of a person's private life as together we explore and create strategies for change.

Last June my mother, Elva Julien, died at age 102 years. Many of you would have known her as an English teacher at Abbotsleigh and then Vice-Principal. She lived an incredible life, still being a presenter at USA Creative Writing in the Byron Shire until the age of 101. She was much loved by our large, extended family.

One of my passions is travel and the stimulation it provides on so many levels. I have been fortunate to be part of a group of psychologists from all over Australia who love travel and who also need to maintain annual professional development. We have travelled widely, either to conferences or by attending ongoing daily seminars. We often add a private element to make the most of the long haul to northern countries.

I still have a love of all the arts and attend the theatre, exhibitions and live concerts/gigs. Melbourne is a great place to live! I also follow/attend sport, especially hockey and The Australian Open. I attribute this wide love of life partly to the attitudes of my own parents as well as to the wide variety of experiences I was involved in at Abbotsleigh. The adage that you can do whatever you set your mind to, imparted by the inspirational Betty Archdale, has stayed with me. She was way ahead of her time in terms of feminism and inspired many female students to go on and be educated/play sport or do anything chosen at a higher level, regardless of gender.



## Robyn Wabitsch (Easter, 1968)

These days I've slowed down a bit. As I live on Sydney's Northern Beaches, I swim most days in the ocean rock pools to try and keep slightly fit. Like so many other people I meet in the pool, we find swimming invigorating. I'm always creative and have been all my life. I still paint and draw and my surroundings are always inspiring, but I guess anywhere I chose to live would have its own special beauty.

I have one daughter living close by who has three children and another in Melbourne with one child. I see the odd acquaintance from my school days and often become reminded of the past, for example I made a resurgence with swimming when I moved to this area roughly 16 years ago. As a girl at Abbotsleigh, I suppose most of my days were swimming, swimming, swimming – both before and after school for so many years. Now as I age, swimming is something to save me. I am fortunate to have my husband who suffered a stroke three years ago. My life is basically simple nowadays, but I always endeavour to make some sort of achievement each day. It was something that was encouraged in our lives from a young age.

## Maintaining connections

Life by the book

### Kathy Alexander ('Kank' Wood, 1972)

To be perfectly honest, it was probably never going to be entirely about the literature. But, in 1994, when Kathy Alexander (Kank Wood) returned to Sydney after living in Western Australia with her young family, she decided to reconnect with some old friends – and a book club seemed the ideal way to do so. Deb Maddison, Sally Manning (Ewen) and Carrie Puflett were roped in as starters and it just grew from there. Twenty-four years – and a great many books later – that book club is still meeting regularly. There are 12 members: 11 Old Girls from the Year of 1972 (Kank, Deb, Sally, Carrie, Rachel Dawson, Lesley McCusker (Snedden), Kathy Lynar (McDonald), Penny Bone (Wynn), Susie Allerton (Creer), Anne Cahill (Carroll), Georgina (Bitcon) and one dear (and very patient) friend, Anne Strange, whom we have come

to think of as an honorary Abbotsleigh girl, despite the fact she actually attended SCEGGS Redlands!

Every six weeks or so, we meet at the home of one or other of us, nominally to discuss a chosen book, but mostly to talk non-stop, laugh uproariously and share our lives over cheese, wine and cake. We also spend a weekend away in the country once a year, where we cook together, eat too much and giggle like boarders after 'lights out' in the dorm.

During the past 24 years, we have read and discussed some cracking novels, and some pretty forgettable ones too. We weren't all close friends at school and, like any group, we all have our little idiosyncrasies, but having known one another almost our entire lives, we have also supported each other through the ups and downs of child-rearing, family illness, work-related stress, home renovation, marriage breakdown, the dilemma of ageing parents, the death of spouses, parents and beloved pets – and shared the happiness of remarriage – even an elopement (at our age, really!) – anniversaries, retirement, travel, our children's weddings and, lately, the joyous arrival of grandchildren.

At times of need, there have been flowers, food, loving arms, tissues and understanding; on happy occasions, the joy and laughter are shared and a glass is raised. Each of us feels privileged to be part of this extraordinary group of women and sustained by such abiding friendship. If it were a book, it might not be a best seller (needs a good edit!) – but nonetheless, we're all eagerly looking forward to the next 24-year instalment!

### Georgina Bitcon

Photo: Standing (L to R): Kathy Lynar (McDonald), Sally Manning (Ewen), Lesley McCusker (Snedden), Deb Maddison, Georgina Bitcon, Anne Cahill (Carroll), Susie Allerton (Creer), Penny Bone (Wynn), Anne Strange (honorary AOG);

(Front): Rachel Dawson, Carrie Puflett, Kank Alexander (Wood)







## Jane Etienne (Clark, 1977)

Just after Alexandra's HSC at Abbotsleigh in 2009, my husband, Francis Etienne, was appointed French Ambassador to New Zealand and directly afterwards to Kazakhstan, based in Astana where I accompanied him. Two very different postings but equally exciting in almost opposite ways. We are now back home in Paris again at the Quai d'Orsay Headquarters for three years before another final position abroad.

## Melinda Parker (Pickrell, 1977)



I went to India when I was 24, met my Aussie husband there when I was 30 and adopted two children. I feel so privileged to have spent half my life in such an amazing country. We came home for various reasons five years ago, but I have continued in my role leading primarily educational projects for underprivileged kids in India. It is a real joy to do that.

I am the Honorary Director of Gyanankur School. The central project is a school serving eight villages on the outskirts of Pune in India. We have 780 students from Nursery to Year 10 and have just received results for our third cohort

of students passing out of the equivalent of Year 10. There was a lot of rejoicing over this as many of these kids would not have passed this year and especially not in English. This opens up all sorts of opportunities to them and it is what keeps me motivated.

One of the most exciting things is to support girls who often have parents not interested in their continuing education. One girl recently came back to visit us who had chosen to walk 5 km each way to school due to her parents' lack of interest. She had gone to the Headmistress and asked her, 'Why should I study when my parents will marry me off as soon as I turn 18?' Shilpa encouraged her that she had other options in life. She got a good result in Year 10 with us and went onto complete 11 and 12 in science and just now told us she is applying for medicine. For a girl from a village whose mother tongue is Marathi, this is wonderful. Her parents have completely changed to being supportive of her education.

We recently had a small group of four Australian teachers who worked alongside our teachers in developing an understanding of learning outcomes and a more student centred approach. We would love more teachers to come and model this different approach as our Indian teachers have not experienced it themselves. The school would not be there if it were not for our incredible Indian team.

I am also blessed with the support and encouragement of Anne Weeks (Willis, 1977) who is a wonderful listener and helps with Facebook, Mailchimp, newsletters and our child sponsorship program (amongst other things) and who has travelled with me twice since our return from living in India.

We do have tax benefits if you would like to contribute in any way and you can see more at [www.gyanankur.com](http://www.gyanankur.com)

## Fiona Hobill Col (Armstrong, 1981)



In many ways it feels like I have come full circle, living back on the North Shore with two girls attending Abbotsleigh while designing and creating gardens in my practice [fionacoledesign](http://fionacoledesign.com).

However, quite a lot has occurred between leaving school in 1981 and today. At school I enjoyed art and science and an interest in the natural environment led me

to study Landscape Architecture at UNSW with good friends from my year, Anna Pizzey (Stokes) and Tempe Beaven (Bagot) and Amanda Neville (Kelso) (now an Art Teacher and Year Coordinator at Abbotsleigh). We shared the trek into Randwick each day, all the new experiences university offered and the discovery of a very different Sydney beyond the North Shore. It culminated with all of us working in landscape architecture practices in London in the 1980s. It was an exciting time living in London, working on large scale projects and exploring Europe as backpackers.

On return to Sydney, I found my dream job working with a wonderful landscape architect and mentor, Tempe MacGowan, on the redevelopment of Hyde Park South. It was such an honour to work on this dearly loved historic park in the centre of Sydney. This led to a growing interest in

public projects and completion of a Master of Urban Design at Sydney University.

I was lucky to meet my husband Timothy Hobill Cole in my twenties and we shared many adventures like travelling abroad before marrying in 1993 and living in Darlinghurst. Once children came along (Lachlan now 22, Olivia 20 and Clementine 16) we moved back to the North Shore near family. Very close actually, next door to my sister Narelle Fay (Armstrong, 1983) and her husband Andrew and their three children, Adelaide, James and Edward. I enjoyed creating my own garden and adapting it to suit the children's changing needs. Sand pits, cubbies, bike paths and lawn gave way to a trampoline and lap pool. Then the teenage years and the HSC brought on the 'meditation garden' and fire pit area which Tim now uses more than anyone.

[fionacoledesign](http://fionacoledesign.com) began when the children were little as I started designing friend's gardens and supervising their construction. Now my clients come from further afield, but almost all from personal recommendation. I love creating beautiful gardens that people can use and enjoy and take advantage of the wonderful environment of the area with its established trees, bird life and nearby swathes of native bush. The creative process is rewarding and challenging with lots of problem solving and occasional moments of inspiration. Watching a project built and mature brings a mix of exhilaration, trepidation and satisfaction, much like watching the children grow up.

## Sonia Garrett (Jackman, 1982)

In May 2018, Sonia Garrett published her first middle grade reader, *Maddie Makes a Movie*. Here's what's being said about the novel:

*'[M]addie is a great character...she is the right mix of winning and flawed...she is cheeky, and adventurous...and determined...and vulnerable. [I] loved it.'*

**Hugh Jackman, Actor**

*'Maddie...is a heart stealer. Readers will love her enthusiasm and commitment to her big ideas.'*

**Eileen Cook, Author**

Sonia left school in 1982, inspired by her Years 11 and 12 English teacher, Robin Williams, participation in school plays and her love of dance. She gained a BA(Hons) in Drama and English at University of East Anglia (UK), a Post Graduate Certificate of Education at University of London's, Goldsmith's College and a Diploma of Montessori Pedagogy at the Montessori Centre International, London, England. She has worked as a dancer, clown, actor, drama teacher and franchise owner for Gymboree Play and Music. Now she seems to have settled down to being a mum, Montessori teacher, storyteller and writer. She lives in the gentle chaos of books, film and outdoor paraphernalia, cooking ingredients and gardening equipment in Vancouver,



Canada – a life she shares happily with her stunt performer/coordinator husband, Rich, and their daughter, Jacquie.

*Maddie Makes a Movie* is the first in a series. It's available in print and eBook formats from [amazon.com.au](http://amazon.com.au), Kobo, and iBooks. Sonia's working on the second book, *Maddie Makes Money*. You can follow her progress:

Website/blog: <https://www.soniagarrett.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sonia-Garrett-1707580072863107>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheSoniaGarrett>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/soniagarrett1025>



## Selina Spowart (Vickery, 1984)



Following a familiar path from school to university, I graduated with a BA in Arts (English Literature) and embarked on my Honours year with a view to a PhD. I then discovered I was pregnant with our first child and our lives were turned upside down. Our child was born with a severe and lifelong neurological disorder called Tuberous Sclerosis (see this link to the Tuberous Sclerosis Australia webpage for more information on the condition. [www.tsa.org.au](http://www.tsa.org.au))

Liam's disability is quite complex. He has epilepsy, autism and severe developmental delay. He also has TAND (TSC Associated Neuropsychiatric Disorders) which caused aggressive and violent behaviours in his adolescence. Following neurosurgery to remove a highly active growth on his frontal lobe in 2013, he has settled into a gentle, friendly and energetic young man. He lives in an 'intentional community' to the south of Hobart and is very happy and active. He was in the first tranche of young people to receive NDIS funding, so his life has changed dramatically now he can access the services he needs.

I have spent my career working in tourism, travel and hospitality, and now with my two elder sons out of home, I work actively in disability advocacy. I'm involved with the University of Tasmania and RMIT in projects studying AVITH (Adolescent Violence in the Home) and its effect on families and carers. As I have experienced this first hand and have written about it in my blog and for disability journals, I really want to help others who find themselves in this very painful situation. I also speak at events, forums and meetings in the disability and legal/justice sector.

I started writing about parenting children with special needs (our youngest son is also autistic) because I couldn't find anything in the mainstream media that really represented the challenges families face. I now write regularly for journals, magazines and special needs websites and write a blog that is mostly humorous, but occasionally serious. [www.happychinblog.wordpress.com](http://www.happychinblog.wordpress.com)

I also work full time, love to read, run, play tennis and piano, knit, cook and indulge in the beautiful food and wine lovely Tasmania has to offer!

Do come visit soon and please feel free to reach out if you or someone you love is struggling with issues related to disability. I'm not an expert, but I'm a pretty good listener.

## Nancy Cauduro (Carpenter, 1985)

I am married with four adult sons. I am happily farming with my husband and one of my sons. We mainly grow rice and prime lambs. Our other three boys are at university. I am also a wool classer practising in the Griffith/Leeton/Barellan area and have been teaching Wool Classing at TAFE for the last seven years.



## Jane Standen (1987)

I returned to study and completed a second fellowship, graduating at the newly renovated International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. My primary fellowship is in anaesthesia, so my qualifications are now Dr Jane Standen, MBBS, FANZCA, FFPANZCA. I am practising as a Specialist Pain Medicine Physician at the Sydney Adventist Hospital and I am a Consultant Anaesthetist at Royal North Shore Hospital. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by friends and family.



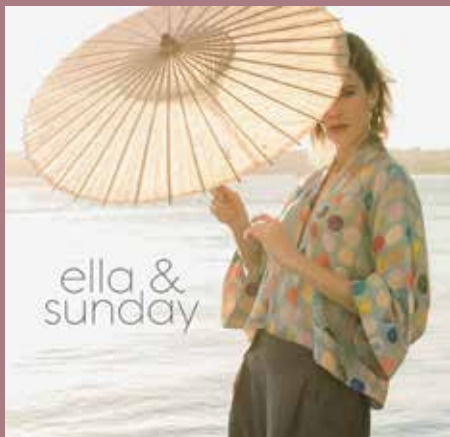
## Simone Askew (1989)

I am currently working in a call centre for the ATO and loving it. I know this is not quite what an Abbotsleigh girl aspires to; however, at this point in my life, it is great. I am actually referred to as a 'Super Agent' at work, which I find amusing, as my team and I are specifically trained in Superannuation. The majority of my calls are from Tax Agents.

I have done many things since leaving Abbotsleigh, including running hotels, working as a Youth Justice Officer with the Aboriginal Mardu people in the remote Pilbara of Western Australia, working for a funeral home and in banks just to name a few. I have recently returned to my home on the Gold Coast after travelling Australia for the past two years in a motorhome I built. I have paid off my house and am enjoying life, bush walking on the weekends and swimming in summer in the surf.

This year has been good regarding the ability to now marry my partner of 18 years; however, at this point, I'm still not sure if I want to settle down with her – the invitation list for the wedding was too daunting for us, so we said we could wait!

I have not changed the world with my intellect or enthusiasm (as after leaving Abbotsleigh I thought I could) but each day I simply aspire to help people through the work I am doing at the time and attempting to stay fit and happy. I have found I am enjoying food a bit too much the last few years!



## Rani Wilkinson (Francis, 1989)

Abbotsleigh Old Girl Rani Wilkinson is a fashion designer based in Noosa, producing the label **ella & sunday** and promoting her love for natural fibres. Rani moved to the Sunshine Coast more than fifteen years ago and built a family home with her husband, Jerome. Settling into the Noosa hinterland with a family of four children, they have been involved in the local community through schooling, sports, the building industry and the fashion business.

Rani began her career in the clothing industry in the early 90s at East Sydney Technical College studying Fashion Production in Custom Clothing. Over the years she worked in both haute couture and mass production companies in wholesale fashion and online sales. After working for several designers, Rani finally made the leap and began her own label in 2015. Her experience in made to measure pattern making and sewing are behind the quality and success of ella & sunday.

'As a mum of four I was always looking for fashion that was affordable and stylish, yet versatile as well. I wanted outfits suitable for work, that could convert from day to night, and keep up with my busy life as a working mum,' says Rani.

The playful name is a combination of Rani's daughter, Ella, joined with Sunday, the name of her good friend and colleague's daughter. Both were little girls when the label first started, they are now teenagers, growing with the business.

Natural fibres; linen, cotton, cotton/linen, silk and cotton/silk are used exclusively throughout the designs. The collections feature colourful prints and classic plains to create a look that is as individual as the owner. Fast growing a following Australia wide, **ella & sunday** is available in boutiques and online.

## Unfinished Business

Abbotsleigh Women Advancing Gender Equality in Asia Pacific  
Sarah McKensey (1994)



It's a funny thing serendipity. As I reflect on the careers of the four women standing side by side and what forces were at play that influenced us to be standing together for that photo<sup>1</sup>, it's fascinating to see the influence that Abbotsleigh has had on us, in different ways, ultimately bringing us together to address the continued advancement of women in our region.

Abbotsleigh was an easy decision for my parents, both determined to ensure the most progressive and highest quality academic education for their daughter. This was of particular importance to my mother, a Japanese woman who left the safety of Tokyo to study in New York, later married my Australian father, and continued to work after marriage (shock horror!) and returned to work full time (University lecturer and technical translator for steel industry) shortly after I was born. Throughout every turn, she contradicted significant social norms, although I didn't really appreciate this until many years later. Dad, was also brought up with strong female role models – my grandmother was one of a handful women who graduated from Medicine in 1941 at Sydney University and started her journey into pediatrics only to be told by family to suspend any aspirations until after her children finished school. Funnily enough however, even Dad's wish for a progressive education came with certain caveats.



I recall our Year 12 Science teacher, Mrs Balfe, pausing halfway through one of our last classes to encourage us not to forget that while careers were wonderful things, it would be family, love and children that would bring for many an even greater joy and not to lose sight of that and, that success can be defined in many ways. I can remember asking Dad about this shortly afterwards. He told me that yes, you could have it all, but not at the same time. Disappointed, I probed further. He explained in a very well-intended way, that women could choose careers or family, but usually one would come at the sacrifice of the other, and in the rare instance that you continued your career after children, a career break would have an impact, not necessarily in a positive way. I can remember my exasperated 18-year-old self asking why on earth he had decided to 'waste' all their money on sending me to a school like Abbotsleigh.

Having recently spent three years in Japan where still more than 40% of the population believe that women shouldn't work, but should stay at home<sup>2</sup>, where children are encouraged to follow the rules and not challenge the status quo, where 'the nail that sticks out must be hammered down'...I realised the impact of Abbotsleigh in shaping mindset. We were all encouraged to be the nail that sticks out, to be the tall poppies, to not shy away from having our own views but to be intellectually curious, to seek to understand different perspectives, to own our success and to celebrate the success of others. Abbotsleigh engrained in my subconscious a belief that women are equal to men intellectually, and with capabilities to lead in any domain, equal to that of men.

What I wasn't prepared for was the level of bias engrained in the system (be it corporate environments or other social ecosystems) built and dominated by men for years. If I were going to continue to build my career while creating my family, I would need to find an ecosystem (eg employer) and support networks (partner, mentor, manager, friends) that would support those aspirations. In discussions with many young, aspiring talents with ambitions for both family and career, I share with them that if they do 'want it all' ie career and family, then the most important career decision they will ever make is the lifelong partner they choose – are they prepared to swap roles? or take career breaks? I encourage employees to think about career potential over bonus potential and at a personal level, stay-at-home dad potential over social status potential. (As funny as that sounds, I learned in Japan that some women aspire to go to the top universities in order to attract 'the right kind of husband to improve their social position.')

Sharing personal career insights, coaching talent, developing strategies to support working women in Japan to advance into senior level positions, (Johnson & Johnson Japan recently achieved the 2018 Nikkei #1 ranking for Advancement of Women up from 54th in 2014) led me to the role I am in today, heading up Diversity & Inclusion for Asia Pacific.

Interestingly, last week wasn't the first time I've encountered like-minded Abbotsleigh women actively



shaping their environments – coincidentally for over the past eight years I worked closely with Kelly Swann<sup>3</sup> (class of '85) who headed up our Asia Pacific Employee Relations at Johnson & Johnson as we sought to ensure non-discriminatory policies and practices for diverse employees. Whether it be to advance gender equality, or empower refugees (Liz Begbie [Watson, 1994 – Crossroads.org.uk]) or develop acceptance of diverse regions and cultures (Cynthia Dearn [1994 – DearnAssociates.com]) in service of others, this seems to be a common thread that unites us. From lawyers, mothers, yoga teachers, business leaders, grief counsellors, engineers, coaches and medical professionals, I see Abbotsleigh women in all spheres seeking to help others, and raise others up on their shoulders. I'm reminded of that in a moment of serendipity when three school mates reconnect seeking to understand – in our respective industries, roles and spheres of influence, how we will continue the important work advancing gender equality, across Asia Pacific.

(1) Left to Right: Carli Yung '94 (Head of Litigation & Employment, Asia Pacific, and head of the Women in Nomura AP Network), Sarah McKenney '94 (Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Asia Pacific Johnson & Johnson) Baroness Virginia Bottomley (Former UK Member of Parliament from 1984-2005), Georgja Dawson '93 (Asia Managing Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer) following a presentation and panel discussion at Nomura on advancing women on boards. McKinsey's most recent report revealed that Asia Pacific could tap an additional \$4.5 Trillion USD in GDP by advancing gender equality in our region.

(2) <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2014/07/19/editorials/ingrained-ideas-gender-roles/#.WzBWF1UzblU>

(3) Kelly Swann '85 & Sarah McKenney '94 (with Sarah's 3 year old son Hugh) catching up in Singapore after eight years working together at Johnson & Johnson. Kelly has recently joined Bain & Co, as Employment Counsel for Asia Pacific. Sarah has recently relocated with her family to Singapore following three years in Japan.

## Susan Rockwell (Merewether, 1995)

I am currently living in Cape Town, South Africa as a missionary, and my husband lectures at the Bible College. I have four sons age three, six, eight and 11 and I home school them.

## Sofie Mason-Jones (Zivanovic, 1999)

Since leaving Abbotsleigh in 1999, Sofie has completed a Master of Environmental Science, established herself as a leader in the environment and planning sector and has become a mother of two. She is currently the NSW Practice Lead – Environment and Principal Environmental Planner at Advisian (part of the WorleyParsons Group). Her key professional achievements include advising the Federal Government on the Business Case for the new Western Sydney Airport, due diligence advisory work for State Government on the sale of the State-owned power stations and obtaining state significant infrastructure planning approval for WaterNSW for the augmentation of Chaffey Dam in Tamworth. Since 2015, she has been a member of the Centennial Parklands Community Consultative Committee, an advisory body to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. Sofie recently returned from visiting her sister, Sacha Zivanovic, in New York. Sacha has been working in America as an Advertising and Marketing Business Director for the past seven years.

## Emma Clemens (Thomas, 2004)



I have been working and studying in Primary Education since graduating from university. I worked as Curriculum Coordinator at Covenant Christian School (2009-2012). I moved to Newington College as Innovation Learning Leader (2012-2014) and then took the role of Deputy Head of Primary at Emanuel School (2014-2018). I also worked as university lecturer for Alphacrucis College and Excelsia College. I have completed two Masters of Education and Certificates of Gifted Education. I married in December 2008 and am currently on maternity leave after having a little girl, Brooke Evangeline Clemens, in January 2018. My husband, Tim Clemens, 'planted' an Anglican Church in Waterloo in 2015 which has grown to about 150 members.

## Tamara Davis (2006)

In the past year I was responsible for relaunching *Girlfriend* magazine (the number one teen magazine brand in Australia) as a quarterly edition with a new website and reimagined social platforms. The idea was to create a mobile-first media brand that engaged better with our audience where and when she was consuming information. This also provided a better, more integrated service for our clients.

With the more premium quarterly offering we saw magazine sales go up year-on-year for the first time ever, as well as readership, which is great news in terms of bucking the trend! It was proof that teens still want to read magazines they love that really understand them. *Girlfriend's* relaunch was shortlisted for Best Relaunch of the Year at the 2017 Mumbrella Awards, and the U-Turn award at the 2017 Australian Magazine Awards.

We also created an innovative commercial campaign, The Girlfriend Movement, in partnership with the Australian Government's Girls Make Your Move. We held a dance workshop and motivational night at Brent Street Studios in Sydney, open to teen girls in NSW, which was a great success.

In March this year I handed *Girlfriend* over to a new editor and moved to a dream new role at *InStyle* magazine, as Deputy Editor, where I also manage the lifestyle and culture sections.



## Clare Maxwell (2007)

In April this year two Abbotsleigh friends, Lily Strachan (1999) and Reyna Flynn (2002) and I walked the Camino de Santiago together. Three Abbotsleigh girls but not from the same year! It's an 800 km pilgrims' route that stretches across the north of Spain. We walked about 25 km a day for 33 days and along the way we met interesting people, saw lots of churches and villages and had many good yarns!

## Larissa Pasternatsky (2009)

Larissa Pasternatsky developed her passion for athletics when at the age of nine she was introduced to Little Athletics. At school, Larissa was involved in all areas of sport, including athletics, sport aerobics, swimming, tennis and touch football. AT IGSSA level, she represented Abbotsleigh in hockey, cross country and athletics, in which she also competed at CIS level. In 2008/2009 she was the Year 10/11 Prefect. Larissa's love for athletics never diminished and her first podium place was at the 2008 Pacific School Games, where she placed first in both the 100 m and 200 m. At the 2010 Australian Junior Championships she placed third in the 200 m. She again placed third (second Australian in the same event at the 2017 National Championships) and she joined the 2017 Australian team at the World University Games in Taipei. She qualified for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the 200 m with a personal best of 23.27. Here she placed 5th in the semi-final of the 200 m race.

Larissa has been sharing her skills with our Abbotsleigh athletes and she joined our staff as Sprint Coach in 2017.



## Elizabeth Wightman (2009)

As part of my PhD studies, I am editing the DNA of yeast to develop specialised synthetic strains. These strains are engineered for increased production of green energy from renewable sources. In 2017 I was given the opportunity to visit and work with my research collaborators at their laboratory in Helsinki, Finland. I was lucky enough to have my family and partner join me to go husky dog-sledding through the snowy forest of Rovaniemi. I hope to graduate in 2019 and become a research and development scientist.

## Gabriela Gautschi (2010)



I am currently overseas; however, following my graduation from a double degree in Psychology and Law last year, I decided to pursue a career in international development. I work under contract with Good Return, an Australian NGO providing economic and social development programs in the Asia-Pacific region, in their Cambodia programs. I am supporting their work as a Behavioural Research Field Support Officer in their regional office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We work primarily in adult financial literacy and improved access to formal financial services, responsible inclusive finance certification for local microfinance institutions, agribusiness and livelihood development programs.

## Lindsay Crump (Chappel, 2011)

I am currently Director of Marketing at Western Sydney University. I have created and am also running a new family business, Sydney Campdrafting, which provides a range of lessons and services to horse lovers wanting to learn or improve their horse campdrafting experience. Campdrafting is the fastest growing horse sport in Australia and we run the successful business from our property in South Maroota in the Hills/Hawkesbury basin using bison (American buffalo)!



## Anne Nelson (Cope, 2011)

I am working as a software engineer and graduated at the University of Sydney. I've recently moved to London and am now working at the biggest energy company not in the 'Big 6', that has an amazing focus on renewable technology and was recently said to be taking on Tesla in the ambition of its innovations. I'm working on technology that would allow the power grid to take electricity from electric vehicles in the evening to help balance the load on the power grid, and then charges your car in the middle of the night when the energy is cheapest. So, it not only helps the grid, but actually makes you money.



## Jillian Colebourn (2013)

I'm pursuing my passion for sport, aiming to compete at the 2022 Beijing Olympics in Biathlon (cross country skiing and target shooting). This winter season I qualified to compete at next year's World Championships, which is a huge step for my career as this is the highest level of competition and I will be up against only the best in the world. My competition performance really stepped up to the next level as I achieved the best time behind the winner (biathlon's measure for ranking athletes) for an Australian woman in more than 30 years. Biathlon in Australia is a small but dedicated and passionate group. We work every day so that the next generation of athletes can have opportunities equal to those of the European athletes from more 'traditional' winter sports countries.

During my time at Abbotsleigh I always loved participating in snow sports and cross country running. Biathlon was a natural progression for me, having experienced target shooting through my time as a scout. Since leaving school, I continued to train and compete in biathlon because I enjoyed the challenge. I was honestly never in pursuit of the Olympics, but rather loved the lifestyle sport had to offer. I have since realised that my passion for biathlon has a future, as I have a very real chance of representing Australia in the next Olympics. Throughout my journey, I took every opportunity that came my way and I am so thankful to everyone who supported me.

Although I have recently turned my focus towards my sporting goals, I am still committed to my studies. After graduating from high school, I was awarded the Muriel Anderson academic scholarship to study a double degree in Mechatronic Engineering and Commerce at the University of Sydney. I'm now in my fifth year of study and I will graduate after another two years as I studied some semesters part-time to better balance my sporting and academic commitments.

Image: gettyimages



# Abbotsleigh Commemorative pavers



ABBOTSLEIGH  
FOUNDATION



To celebrate Abbotsleigh's long years of educating women, in 2005 we inaugurated a program of commemorative pavers to record the thousands of links that Old Girls, past parents, former staff and past Council members collectively have with the School.

We invite you to commemorate your personal links with Abbotsleigh by ordering a brick engraved with your name and the years of your connection with the School.

Gifts of \$500 or more to the Abbotsleigh Foundation's Building, Scholarship or Library Fund can be recognised with a commemorative paver.

A tax deductible gift of \$500 will support the School's ongoing development.

For further information, please contact the Development Manager,  
Danielle Cotter on 9473 7738 or email [cotterd@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cotterd@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au)

## A Christmas gift that gives

The scarf, priced at \$100, is beautifully packaged in a quality black gift box and measures 180 x 50 cm.

To order, please email Development Manager Danielle Cotter at [cotterd@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cotterd@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au) or phone 02 9473 7738.

### *About the artwork and artist*

#### **Shedding Totem: Kamilaroi Bloodlines**

Artwork by Hannah Ranby

2013 Abbotsleigh Old Girl and Indigenous Scholarship recipient

This scarf is a reproduction of a lino print created by Hannah in 2013 as part of her HSC body of work. The design evokes the patterns found in bark and trees, revealing the natural habitat of the carpet snake, Hannah's totem.

### *Indigenous Scholarships at Abbotsleigh*

Abbotsleigh welcomed its first Indigenous Scholarship students in 2008 and since then, Abbotsleigh and the Abbotsleigh Foundation working in partnership with Yalari, have enabled 19 Indigenous girls to gain an Abbotsleigh education.

These scholarships are made possible by the ongoing generosity of the School's community – profits from the sale of these scarves will support Indigenous Scholarships at Abbotsleigh.

For more information visit [www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving](http://www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving).





**Valerie Chow (Tung, 2006)** wrote: In the last year I've achieved my GP Fellowship and had a baby! My son Liam was born on 15 September 2017.



**Fiona Boyages (2003)** and David Collison, welcomed sister Lily Grace Collison on 21 May 2018, a little sister to Jack and Anna.



**Samantha Thorndyke (Hubbard, 2000)** gave birth to Sasha Grace Thorndyke on 8 April 2017. A beautiful sister for Hayden.



On 16 December 2017, **Emily Koorey (2011)** married Patrick Codling at St Alban's Lindfield. The reception was held at Deckhouse, Woolwich and the wedding party included six Abbotsleigh girls. From left to right: **Bridie Codling (2012)**, **Lucy Koorey (2009)**, **Emily Codling (Koorey, 2011)**, **Ashleigh Rickard (2011)**, **Madeline Ferguson (2011)** and **Anna McClelland (Koorey, 2005)**.



**Emma Clemens (Thomas, 2004)** welcomed Brooke Evangeline Clemens on 8 January 2018 at the Royal Hospital for Women.



**Sofie Mason-Jones (Zivanovic, 1999)** became a mother for the first time in 2014 with the birth of her son Jude, and welcomed her daughter Phoebe into the family in late 2017.



**Nina Vanneck (1992)** and her husband Lee welcomed Albert William Stickings Vanneck on 29/9/2017. I've taken 12 months of maternity leave from my role as Head of Partnerships at Google. Here's a picture of the little Googlet in an oversized onesie!



**Colleen Lineweaver (2008)** and Shannon Jackson were married in October of 2017 in Warrenton, Virginia surrounded by their friends and family.

Two other Abbotsleigh old girls Rosanna and Rosetta Lee made the trip over for the wedding. It was so lovely.



# Betty Hanson (Ives, 1940)

## 1923-2017



Betty was born in Summer Hill on 8 December 1923. The family moved to Beecroft when she was seven years old. She was the second child of Norman and Gladys Ives, but sadly, her father died when she was only 10 years old. She had an older brother, John.

She enrolled at Abbotsleigh in 1935 and was there until 1940. She enjoyed her time at Abbotsleigh, winning the Sewing Prize in 1939, and continued her love of sewing, tapestry, embroidery and knitting.

In 1938 she successfully completed the Intermediate Certificate and in 1939 and 1940 she had two lovely school excursions to Mount Kosciuszko. Betty was very proud to be an Abbotsleigh Old Girl, enjoyed her reunions and kept in touch with many school friends.

During World War 2 she worked in various voluntary roles and married Tom Hanson in 1947. They had met at the Perpetual Trustee where they both worked. They had three children – Peter, Rodney and Janelle. Janelle also attended Abbotsleigh.

Devoted to her family, Betty was absolutely thrilled when four grandchildren – three girls and a boy arrived. Her granddaughters Elisa Chivers (Cook, 2000), Bettina Tong (Cook, 2002) and Laura Hanson (2011) also all went to Abbotsleigh. She was even more proud to announce two great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

**Janelle Cook (Hanson, 1972)**

# Carolyn Fielden (Mackay, 1964)

## 1947-2017

Carolyn was born in Melbourne on 18 February 1947. Carolyn attended ten different primary schools in various Australian cities as her father worked in sales and marketing. The family moved often, eventually settling in Turramurra and Carolyn attended Abbotsleigh. She was a keen student with a great love of reading, drama and choir. She excelled at languages and when her three daughters attended a bilingual school she always knew what they were saying! On a church visit to an institution that housed intellectually and physically disabled children, Carolyn's horror at how the emotional needs of these children weren't being met led to her decision to work in this area. She trained at Balmain Teachers College and was employed in a school for 'subnormal children' in Goulburn and later at a similar institution in Sydney. This was a time when parents were encouraged to give up their disabled children so these organisations could care for them.

Carolyn married John Fielden. John was transferred to Canberra for a year in 1972 and they loved it so much that they never left. Carolyn worked at various clerical jobs before having children and didn't go back to work until the youngest started school. She loved being a parent; caring for, nurturing and watching her daughters grow as they developed into their individual selves. During this time she joined the YWCA where she did volunteer work and later became a Board member.

When Carolyn returned to the workforce she worked in admin and training at the National Safety Council and later at Air Services Australia where she stayed for 14 years.

Having children caused Carolyn to think about the world differently. She began to think about what kind of world she wanted her children to live in, and started becoming concerned about nuclear weapons. Her daughters have strong memories of attending protest marches for peace and nuclear disarmament. She was a committed environmentalist, checking labels of spray cans for chlorofluorocarbons before they were banned because she'd read about the effect they were having on the ozone layer. Over the years the issues changed, but Carolyn's desire for the world to be a better place did not. Until recently Carolyn was still attending marches highlighting the need to do something about climate change and writing letters to the Prime Minister and other members of parliament detailing her concern for asylum seekers.

An example of her selflessness in action was after the Canberra bushfires. She invited a woman she hardly knew, who had lost everything, to live rent free in a house she owned that was empty at the time.

We remember Carolyn for her kindness, her love, her non-judgemental attitude to those she met and her skill as an excellent listener.

**Christine Robey (James) 1964**

# Dr Mary Newlinds (Campbell, 1946) OAM

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## 1929-2018

Debate regarding an additional airport for the greater Sydney region is nothing new. As far back as 1953, a group of aviation enthusiasts had their eye on a possible site for a light airfield on the north side of the harbour. The place in question was 100 acres of state-owned Crown land amid the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, an area also bordered by the semi-rural and sparsely populated suburb of Duffys Forest.

Through the 1960s and into the 1970s, having initially gained council approval for the project, the pro-airport lobby seemed close to their goal. What they had not counted on was a group formed in mid-1971 called 'Stop the Duffys Forest Airport Committee', the driving force of which was Dr Mary Newlinds. The campaign to stop the airport and to preserve 'a million years of natural balance' ranged across Commonwealth, state and local council jurisdictions, was highly and tightly orchestrated and so effective that, in the end, the proponents had to reach for their parachutes.

The federal minister for civil aviation put an end to the airport proposal in December 1971, but a further battle, to ensure that the land in question was made part of the national park, continued until 1978.

Newlinds' approach to this cause was typical and illustrative of a life lived to high standards and of an intellect and spirit that was indefatigable. In 2002, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her dedication to conservation.

Mary Stewart Campbell was born on May 11, 1929, in Rose Bay to Evelyn (née Rennie) and David Campbell, a wool buyer with a wide interest in political and social questions. Mary's early memories of life in Rose Bay included watching flying boats

land on the harbour and rowing out to Shark Island with her father.

A family move to the upper north shore in 1940 gave her the space and scope to explore one of her life's longest and most abiding interests, a deep and profound love of horses. She shone academically at Abbotsleigh and enjoyed her role as a defender on the school hockey team. Her hero as a teenager was the first female Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie. She enrolled in veterinary science at Sydney University in 1947.

A setback with a first year physics exam, in part due to the subject not being taught in all girls' schools at the time, meant a change of course to medicine. At the Women's College, she thrived as head student. In her final year in 1953, her secretary was an up-and-coming medical student called Marie Bashir.

Mary ventured to Britain in 1956 and worked at Newcastle upon Tyne and then Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. On taking up the job of paediatric registrar at Crown St Hospital in Sydney in 1959, she met her husband, the then medical superintendent Dr John Newlinds.

Upon returning from England for a second time in 1964, the couple moved to a 5 acre block at Joalah Road, Duffys Forest and didn't move out of the postcode again.

Being the Duffys Forest GP in the 1960s involved working from a surgery at home (where patients would wait in turn on the front veranda) and, with a leather doctor's bag and stethoscope in hand, making house calls to her assorted patients; market gardeners, horse owners and other residents drawn to the quiet majesty of the area. She liked the medical profession but was never defined by it or her status as a doctor.

Mary was a high-minded person who saw the airport proposal as an affront to the tranquillity and beauty of Ku-ring-gai Chase, the preservation of which to her was non-negotiable. The anti-airport campaign involved bumper stickers and rowdy town hall meetings, but was more characterised by systematic letter writing and unrelenting arguments – one of which was the proposed development was a Trojan horse for a second domestic terminal. Try as it might, the pro-airport lobby simply couldn't match the energy, determination and intellect of her kitchen table committee.

She enjoyed routine and hard work but fully understood the benefits of down time and leisure. Aside from tending to her horse daily (there were many in her nearly 50 years in Duffys Forest), she cared for a range of distinctive and unlikely pets.

When her husband bought a sugar cane and cattle retreat at Shark Creek on the Clarence River in 1972, she took on the role of part-time country wife and host to numerous school holiday visitors. When the floods came or adventures went awry, she handled the problems with practical good humour and an ever-present sense of the ridiculous.

She lived the last five years of her life in the Terrey Hills nursing home, interred within sight of the forever pristine national park. As dementia took its toll, she moved in a diminished state along the same corridors that, in her prime as a doctor, she strode with such confidence distributing wisdom, logic, wit and compassion in equal measure.

Mary Newlinds is survived by her three children (Robert, Peter and Helen) and seven grandchildren. Her husband John died in 2015.

**Peter Newlinds**



# Jill Ker Conway AC (1951)

**1934-2018**



Abbotsleigh mourns the loss of Jill Ker Conway AC, a distinguished Old Girl, academic and author. Born on 9 October 1934, Jill Ker came to Abbotsleigh in 1945 as a boarder in the Junior School from her remote family farm in far-western NSW. Jill was a School Prefect, and left Abbotsleigh in 1951 armed with a Commonwealth Scholarship and a wealth of school accolades.

Jill attended the University of Sydney where she achieved an honours degree in history in 1958. Refused admission to the Department of Foreign Affairs on the basis of her gender, Jill left Australia in 1960 for graduate studies in the United States. While undertaking her PhD at Harvard University, she met and married John Conway.

In 1975 Jill became the first woman President of Smith College, Massachusetts, a position she held for a decade, after which she undertook the role of visiting professor in the sciences at MIT. She was also known for her corporate work on various company boards. Jill returned to Abbotsleigh in 2000 to help launch our history book, *The Lily and the Lion*.

Jill memorialised her early life in her 1989 memoir, *The Road from Coorain*, which was adapted for television in 2001; she wrote a follow-up, *True North*, in 1994. She is also renowned for her writings on feminism and history – and surprisingly wrote a children's book, *Felipe the Flamingo*, in 2006.

A US citizen, she was awarded a National Humanities Medal in 2013. Also in that year, Jill was awarded an honorary Companion of the Order of Australia for her eminent service to the community, particularly women, as an author, academic and through leadership roles with corporations, foundations, universities and philanthropic groups.

Jill typifies the Abbotsleigh achievement, and her memory will live long at Abbotsleigh, through both her support of a boarding scholarship and the story of a remarkable life well lived. Jill died at her home in Boston on Friday 1 June aged 83.

**Julie Daly (Abbotsleigh Archivist)**

## June Beale (Osborne, 1947)

**1930-2017**

June was born in Killara and grew up in a house that backed on to Killara Golf Club. She was a student at Abbotsleigh from 1938-1947, having spent her early years at the Audley School in Killara. She grew up in a household with two older brothers, and every morning the three of them would walk together to Killara station and she would get the train north to Abbotsleigh and the brothers would get the train south to Shore.

She was very fond of her time at Abbotsleigh, and passed the Leaving Certificate in 1947, although she used to admit that academic study was not her strong point and received plenty of order marks and detentions during her school years.

Her time at Abbotsleigh encompassed the start and end of World War 2, and she often spoke of the air raid drills and the trenches that the School constructed. Golf was a particular passion when she was young, and as a schoolgirl she was coached by Norman Von Nida at Killara Golf Club, who recommended she consider golf as a career; however, her father soon put a stop to such discussions.

After leaving Abbotsleigh she completed a degree in Occupational Therapy at the Sydney Occupational Therapy Training Centre with several Abbotsleigh colleagues, including her lifelong friend Rosemary Lindsay (Zweck).

After several years of work and several trips to Europe, she married David Beale in 1960 and they moved to Melbourne for his work. There they raised four children, and from time to time there was talk of returning to Sydney and her daughters attending Abbotsleigh. This; however, never eventuated and June remained in Melbourne for the rest of her life, attending many happy reunions with her friends from 1947.

June is one of many Osbornes to have been educated at Abbotsleigh, with two of her favourites being her aunt Nancy Osborne who was finished at Abbotsleigh in 1918, and cousin Mary Laurie (née Osborne) who was at Abbotsleigh 1942-50.

**Fiona Beale**

## Anne Pierson (Green, 1947)

1931-2017

Anne was at Abbotsleigh from 1941-1947 and often spoke of her time there. Her mother had died when she was four and her father brought her over at the beginning of the war. He too died unexpectedly when she was just 12 so she was looked after by guardians in Australia – all arranged by her father. She returned to England on leaving Abbotsleigh and married in 1954, with myself and my sister born in 1957 and 1959 respectively. She loved her time in Sydney and made lifelong friends from those days, many who have been over to stay, and whose children mirror myself and my sister’s ages, so we have contact to the next generations.

Anne passed away at her home in Fownhope, Herefordshire, England. We had a service of thanksgiving and interred her ashes alongside those of my father on 20 September 2017 in a little family grave in the Herefordshire countryside, which had become her home for the last 25 years or so. When I came to giving the address, it was perhaps noticeable how strong an influence Australia had on her – but particularly with the friends she made and the many happy memories of Sydney and the life there during the War away from the devastation in Europe.

**Hugh Pierson**

## Lucienne Van Schaack (Deck, 1961)

Lucienne, also known as de Mestre, died in September 2017 after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease. She lived in New York State and Charleston and did charity work for the Hope Foundation. Soon after leaving school she married a Turkish architect working on the Sydney Opera House and travelled the world. She later returned to Sydney to live where she became the first female CEO of a large advertising agency, George Patterson.

# Greta Marie Quan (Wong, 1951)



Greta Marie Quan passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer in April this year.

Greta was one of the first students at Abbotsleigh of Chinese heritage and completed the Leaving Certificate in 1951. She went on to marry Michael Quan with whom she had four children and helped to establish a graphic design company, Triple 888 Studios Pty Ltd.

Greta was devoted to helping out and giving back to the community. She volunteered with Meals on Wheels for more than 40 years as well as volunteering with English as a Second Language classes at her local church for more than 10 years.

Greta also enjoyed her tennis and captained a team in the Northern Suburbs Ladies Midweek Competition for many years. Her team won their division four times under her leadership and she also was awarded the competition’s sportsmanship award for best and fairest player.

Greta’s association with Abbotsleigh continued long after she completed her schooling. Her two daughters, Linda Fung (1984) and Patricia Quan (1992) also attended the School, as well as her eldest granddaughter, Melissa Fung (2010). Greta started volunteering at the Junior School Library in 1985, when her youngest daughter commenced and moved onto helping out at the Senior School Library in 1987. Greta continued to help at the Senior School Library right up until the end of last year, her specialty being repairing and restoring old books.

Greta was a devoted mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, and is survived by her four children, Michael, Linda, Richard and Patricia and seven grandchildren.

**Patricia Quan**

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## Margaret Garrett (Roper, 1960)

Margaret died after a brave fight against cancer. She finished her Intermediate in 1958.

**Julia Bale (Roper, 1968)**



# Helen Mainwaring Evans (Tait, 1945)

1928-2018



Helen was born in Pymble to Myrtle and Robert Tait and her childhood was spent in Braeside Street, Wahroonga. She started school at Wahroonga Preparatory School then in 1938 commenced at Abbotsleigh, which was the beginning of a lifelong association with the School. Helen's mother, Myrtle Atkinson, was a teacher at Abbotsleigh before she was married and was affectionately known to the girls as 'Attie'.

Helen's three daughters, Penny (1970), Carolyn (1973) and Virginia (1978) all attended Abbotsleigh and Helen was proud to say she had been an Abbotsleigh parent for 18 consecutive years. Helen's six granddaughters were also pupils: Amanda Davis (1999), Camilla Davis (2003), Lucinda Davis (2004), Georgina Murray (2008), Edwina Murray (2011) and Harriet Murray (2014).

Helen rode her bike to school with Judy Macpherson (Deffell) and Ann Coventry (Ball) and as it was wartime, there were no cars on the road so they rode three abreast. Helen especially loved hockey and athletics at school and was a conscientious student. Upon finishing school, Helen went to Sydney University attaining an Arts degree followed by a job as a librarian at Gordon Library.

Helen married George Evans in 1951 at St James Church, Turramurra. They lived happily in Burns Road, Wahroonga, for more than 50 years. George had four sisters who also attended Abbotsleigh and eight of their daughters were also Abbotsleigh girls.

Helen had many interests including her love of gardening, pets, ballet, symphony concerts and bridge. Helen often talked about Abbotsleigh and always looked forward to the reunions. She lived a long, happy and fulfilling life surrounded by many friends and a loving family.

**Penny Davis, Carolyn Davis, Virginia Murray**

## We remember the following Old Girls

**Jenny Anderson** (1957)

**Alison Armstrong** (1938)

**Geraldine Berkemeier**  
(Goodwin Hill 1969)

**Betty Boyce** (1941)

**Jane Carrodus** (1949)

**Amanda Cheadle** (1975)

**Heather Conolly** (1961)

**Rhonda Downing** (Radcliff, 1949)

**Pat Dugan** (1963)

**Diana Elderton** (1972)

**Margaret Garrett** (1959)

**Joan Gorman** (1941)

**Julie Hain** (Hewett, 1958)

**Margaret Joynton-Smith** (1939)

**Vikki Keen** (Hemingway, 1961)

**Eleanor MacDougall** (1946)

**Bridget Pierson** (1946)

**Coralie Peddie** (Armstrong 1961)

**Diana Rothfield** (1954)

**Sue Store** (1969)

**Anne-Marie Stuart** (1936)

**Wendy Symonds** (1961)



### **1978 leavers 40 year reunion**

Killara Golf Club was the perfect venue for the 1978 leavers reunion on Saturday 15 September. Although our small band of organisers were a little late in deciding on a date, 49 'nearly' 60-year-olds arrived to enjoy the outstanding balcony views and the mouth-watering lunch.

Since leaving Abbotsleigh all those years ago, it's interesting how one becomes more accepting in old age. It was so exciting to see those girls with whom you may not have spent much time during your school years, but now can't wait to sit and chat about their lives since leaving all those decades ago. I think this is one of the very memorable things about attending a school like Abbotsleigh. Friendships and acquaintances stay strong and undoubtedly last forever.

It all ended too soon, but the stayers decided to kick on at The Oaks in Neutral Bay. More stories, more laughs and a table of young girls next to us who said that when they reach our age they would like to look just like us! Maybe we didn't look so rough after 40 years!

All in all, a very happy and inclusive day and everyone is now looking forward to the 50th – although concerned that some of us may not make it, so the suggestion of a 45th reunion is definitely a thought!

Any 1978 Old Girl who has not updated her details lately, please do so. It's a shame to miss out on such an enjoyable catch-up.

**Adrienne Ranken (Bowman)**

### **1982 leavers 35 year reunion**

On Saturday 11 November 2017, the Class of 1982 met for our 35 year reunion at the home of Leela Cejnar (Underwood). Almost 60 girls turned up to share a relaxed and special afternoon of precious memories, laughter, friendship and FUN!

Girls travelled from across the state and from interstate for the afternoon. Excitingly, our Year 11 (1981) US exchange student, Jenny Oler, happened to be visiting Australia from Indianapolis, USA and so, Jen was able to catch up with so many of us again after all this time!

Just before the reunion, some of us met at Abbotsleigh did a tour of the School. For those of us who have not been back to Abbotsleigh for some time, we were blown away by the many changes...but we were also happy to see some of our old familiar hangouts – like our old common room area!

We all vowed to meet again for our 40th reunion in 2022, but some of us met up again at the AOGU's 110th anniversary celebration in August.

Huge thanks go to Kerry Skellern (Howell), Selena Sylvester (Graham) and Jenny Hart (Butchart) for their time and painstaking efforts in ensuring we were able to track down and invite as many 1982 AOGs as we could.

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle, but some things remain constant...the love and affection that we have for each other and the beautiful memories we made together all those years ago will forever bind us as a cohort. When we meet up at these reunions, we look at each other and say...gosh it feels like 35 years could not possibly have passed us by! Until the next time, love to you all, Class of 1982.

**Leela Cejnar (Underwood)**





**1993 25 year reunion**

For the more than fifty 1993 leavers who gathered at the Royal Sydney Yacht Club on 15 September, it felt more like 25 days rather than 25 years since we all left Abbotsleigh! An 80s playlist helped set the scene and as conversations flowed easily, suddenly a quarter of a century didn't seem like a long time at all. In honour of those Old Girls we have sadly already lost – as well as those facing hardships of one sort or another right now – we invited our resident medical experts, General Practitioner Louisa Evans and Paediatrician Samantha Lade, to share their tips on what our focus should be now we are all in our 40s. We learned that prevention is the key with diet, exercise and weight management; all highly important given cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in women in Australia. Skin cancer awareness and regular skin checks, mammograms from 50 years (but they're free from 40!) every two years, cervical screenings (previous called pap smears) every five years, mental health and pelvic floor problems are now all on the hit list. We also took the opportunity to share our 'Soul Sister' concept whereby those present on the night find a friend and plan to make the necessary check-up appointments together and add a coffee or lunch at the same time. This way, instead of the check-ups being dreaded and as a result, often put off, it can be an excuse to catch up.

A huge thank you to Gretel Osman (Sachs) and Sarah Nicholas (Baxter) for organising the night. Special thanks also to Gretel's brother, Pete, for allowing us to be his guests at a very special venue and to 1993 leaver and two-time Archibald finalist Vanessa Stockard for creating an image especially for our sensational invitation. Thanks also to the many who sent sincere apologies in being unable to attend – we hope you can make the next one.

**Rhonda Kaan (Turner)**



**2008 10 year reunion**

On Saturday 15 September 2018, the class of 2008 gathered at The Winery in Surry Hills to toast 10 successful years since finishing school. The warm afternoon was spent catching up on the exciting milestones of each other's lives. While many were left wondering were the last 10 years had gone, we were all struck by how exceptionally youthful we looked! Special thanks to all those who travelled from interstate and outside Sydney, whose presence made for an extra special afternoon.

**Phoebe Codling (Thompson)**



# My scholarship changed my life

Gifts from previous generations and from the current parent and Old Girl community contribute significantly to what makes Abbotsleigh so special, writes **Danielle Cotter**, Development Manager



*I had the great honour of being awarded the inaugural Kathleen McCredie Scholarship. I firmly believe that any girl would have invaluable benefit from receiving an Abbotsleigh education. Each and every student goes on from here, empowered, fearless, ready to make her own unique contribution to the global community. I am so very grateful to everyone that made my time at Abbotsleigh possible.*

**Maryanne, 2005-2007**



*Abbotsleigh opened a whole new world for me, outside of my country town Wagga Wagga. It set the foundations for my future, instilled confidence in me, gave me strength, independence and taught me to believe in myself.*

**Kietah, 2008-2010**



*A donation to this scholarship could make a huge different to someone's life. For me it meant I was able to attend Abbotsleigh and had access to all the amazing facilities and opportunities throughout my final years at high school. I am truly thankful to all those who have donated and for the experience that this scholarship afforded me.*

**Cassandra, 2011-2013**



*No matter your gender, you can achieve amazing things; you just have to work hard and have goals. I wouldn't be who I am today without this incredible opportunity. My scholarship changed my life.*

**Rani, 2014-2016**

**T**

The Kathleen McCredie Scholarship was initiated by a generous gift from the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union. This means-tested scholarship is awarded to a student who shows all round involvement in spirituality, service, culture, sport and academia. Abbotsleigh currently awards one Kathleen McCredie Scholarship every three years, covering full tuition for Years 10 to 12, to a girl who would otherwise be unable to attend Abbotsleigh.

Earlier this year, The Abbotsleigh Foundation and the AOGU joined forces with the aim of raising enough funds to enable two girls to begin their scholarships from 2020 onwards. \$1.6 million in total was needed to perpetually endow two scholarships. With \$1,390,000 already in the bank, only a further \$210,000 was needed to make this a reality.

Over the following months, gifts of all sizes were received and we are delighted to announce that we have now reached the amount needed to perpetually endow two scholarships from 2020. A very warm thanks to all who have supported this scholarship since its inception.

***Thank you to everyone who has made this possible.***





# A bright future



**Hannah Hilton (Ranby, 2013)** received one of Abbotsleigh's first Indigenous Scholarships and shared her story at our recent Dazzle and Dine Ball

My name is Hannah Hilton and I grew up in Moree, in north-western NSW. I come from a large family and my mother is of Aboriginal descent from the Gamilaroi tribe and my father is from New Zealand. I am very proud of my mixed heritage and spent a lot of my time with my mother's family and was very in touch with my Indigenous culture from a young age. My Aboriginal family is large, with my mother's father being one of 14 children, so it is true when they say, 'everyone is your cousin'.

To me, Moree is my home and I will always cherish the memories I have as a child growing up in the country. But to be honest, living in a small town like Moree comes with its hardships – like gambling, and drug and alcohol abuse, which Indigenous communities unfortunately fall victim to due to the amount of free time and lack of opportunities.

I attended Moree West Primary School and I found out about the Yalari scholarship through one of my good friends. I clearly remember my interview with the then Headmistress, Judith Poole. Two other girls from Moree, Emma and Tegan were also interviewed, but to our dismay there were only two spots. Later we got the news that we were all accepted – I was filled with so much joy. I, Hannah Ranby, was to become the first person in my family to go to boarding school. I had achieved the unachievable.

Back home, school was a lot different, rather relaxed to say the least. Sure, we had a school uniform, but to say Abbotsleigh's standards were a little different is an understatement. I had to make sure that all of my homework was completed and learn that you DO need to go to every class and DO need to turn lights out when you were told lights out.

I really enjoyed boarding school. My first year went quite well but homesickness didn't hit me until Year 8, which honestly, was a terrible year. I started to miss home a lot and just the simple things like going to the river, playing out in the paddocks in big open spaces, going to bed when I wanted to and just being with family.

I found it difficult being away as I also felt I was losing my cultural identity being away from country and my Indigenous community. It was a huge cultural shock coming from a place where every second person you saw down the main street was an Aboriginal person. Thankfully I had a lot of support from my family at home who urged me to stay on at Abbotsleigh and I thank them every day for giving me that support and guidance.

I enjoyed playing touch football and being in the senior firsts from Years 10-12 where we won every final – not a bad record to leave school on. I also enjoyed my art and continue to do so till this day. I was lucky enough to attend a print making workshop with an

amazing artist who deepened my passion for lino printing. I was blessed to attend camps with Yalari such as the Year 9 outback camp to the Northern Territory where I was further exposed to my culture, slept underneath the stars in a swag and woke in the morning to dingoes.

After completing Year 12, I went on to study film for a year and then received my Certificate III in Early Childhood Education. I've been working at Abbotsleigh's Early Learning Centre for the past four years where I currently look after the 4-5 year olds.

I feel so proud to be able to support myself while living in Sydney and working full time. It is an achievement, and might sound simple, but I am now a young, independent woman – values that Abbotsleigh has thankfully instilled in me.

I will forever be grateful to the people who have supported me and made it possible for me to attend Abbotsleigh. I look at my brothers and sisters who are still at home, working, but have not thought about going to uni or getting an education and that could have easily been me, working as a check-out chick. I know deep down that life would not be as it is today.



***I often wonder how different my life would have been if I hadn't received a scholarship. Would I have completed Year 12? Where would I be working? Would I already have children? Would I still be living in Moree?***

I recently married my partner Adrian, and I feel blessed to have him by my side as we share our future journey together. And the future is bright. I plan on going back to university next year to study either sustainable building or interior design and I'm looking forward to this challenge.

People who give to Abbotsleigh's Indigenous Scholarships make an impact on individuals like me, as without your generosity and kindness, it would not be possible for Abbotsleigh and Yalari to offer these scholarships.

Thank you. You have helped me to have an amazing Abbotsleigh education that has opened so many doors and opportunities, allowing me to dream big and set goals for my future. Thank you for supporting and believing in me.

*The Abbotsleigh Foundation is committed to the goal of one day being able to perpetually fund each of these scholarships through gifts from donors. For further information or to make a tax deductible donation, contact Development Manager, Danielle Cotter 02 9473 7738.*

# A gift of art

A life changed by a Marian Clarke Scholarship led Old Girl **Dr Janet West (Conti, 1952)** to present the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery with a treasured family heirloom



In a letter to Grace Cossington Smith Gallery Director, Mary Faith, Old Girl Dr Janet West (Conti, 1952) wrote, *'...this extremely shy girl will be ever grateful for the confidence and fine education which Abbotsleigh gave me. ... I would like to donate a landscape by Neville Cayley to the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. It was bought by my in-laws many years ago and is a delightful delicate watercolour. ... My interest in Marian Clarke is personal, as I was awarded the Marian Clarke Scholarship to Sydney University in 1952 and this helped my parents put me through University over the following three years.'*

On 21 February Janet came for morning tea at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery where she presented gallery

Director, Mary Faith, with a Neville Cayley painting. Also celebrating the occasion were Stephanie Barnsdall (Summers, 1954); Heleen Fourie, Old Girls Relations Manager; Julie Daly, School Archivist, and former Director of Development and Community Relations, Yvette Vignando. Janet and Stephanie then enjoyed a tour of the School marvelling at what had changed and reminiscing over what remained the same.

In a card to Mary following the day, Janet wrote, *'... [I] emerged even prouder of our beautiful school and the sacrifices our parents made to send us there.'*

The painting now forms part of the gallery's collection and was included in an exhibition of Abbotsleigh's collection from 1-7 December 2018.

## Supporting the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

Did you know that supporting the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery assists in building capacity for learning, contributes to the health of our wider community and connects people to art and each other?

The gallery provides a changing public exhibition program and is building a collection of works available for student learning, with some of the collection items displayed in school buildings.

Financial donations or gifts of artwork support the gallery's activities and programs and ensure the continuing development of the collection. The gallery is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient and is part of the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program enabling tax deductible receipt of donated artworks.

Your philanthropic support is welcome and greatly appreciated. Please contact the gallery Director, Mary Faith on 9473 7878 to discuss your support.

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*Neville William Cayley (1886-1950), ornithologist and artist, was born on 7 January 1886 at Yamba, Clarence River, New South Wales, son of Neville Henry Penniston Cayley, bird-artist (What Bird is that) from Kent, England, and his native-born wife Lois Emmeline, née Gregory. Educated at local public schools, he moved with his family to Sydney about 1894. He later attended an art school and soon followed his father's example – painting mostly birds. He was a founder of the Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club and a member of the executive of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia and the Royal Life Saving Society.*



# Thank you to our donors of 2018

Warm thanks to all who supported the Foundation's work in 2018. Thank you also to those who have chosen to remember Abbotsleigh in their wills and to those who gave but asked to remain anonymous.

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Mrs A Whatmore  
Mr M and Mrs K Wheatley  
Mr P and Mrs M Whelan  
Mr A and Mrs C Whitehead  
Mr A and Mrs A Whyburn  
Mrs S Wicks  
Mr S and Mrs R Wijeyawardena  
Dr J Wilkinson OAM and  
Mrs K Loch-Wilkinson  
Mr A and Mrs K Williams  
Dr S Williams  
Mr C and Mrs A Williamson  
Dr A Wines and Dr L Pfitzner  
Dr P Wong and Dr E Chow  
Mr G Wong and Ms S Chu  
Mr C Wong and Mrs P Pontoh  
Mr W Wong and Ms S Yap  
Mr S Wong and Ms K Yum

Mr A and Mrs M Wong  
Dr M Wong  
Ms T Wong  
Mr C Woo and Ms M Wong  
Dr J Woo and Dr V Yang  
Mrs M Woodward  
Mr X Wu and Dr S Feng  
Mr Q Wu and Mrs H Fu  
Mr H Wu and Mrs S Liu  
Wye and James Travel Associates  
Mr Z Xiao and Mrs X Zhang  
Mr D Xie and Mrs J Chen  
Mr W Xing and Mrs X Shen  
Mr J Xu and Mrs D Tan  
Mrs R Yabsley  
Mr D and Mrs N Yan  
Dr J and Mrs J Yanco  
Mr Y Yang and Mrs Q Kang  
Mr H Yang and Ms H Liang  
Mr D Yang and Ms M Liu  
Dr D Yang and Mrs Y Qiu  
Mr P Yang and Ms J Zhu  
Dr A Yap and Dr M Tjeuw  
Mr K Yeap and Ms A Koo  
Mr B and Mrs A Yerbury  
Mr E Yeung and Ms H Wong  
Dr P Yoganathan and Mrs T Murray  
Mr X Yu and Ms M Chen  
Dr J Yuan and Ms Y Li  
Mr D Yuan and Ms L Mao  
Mr Z Yuan and Mrs Q Zhang  
Mr S and Mrs Q Yuan  
Dr L Yuen  
Dr M Zafar and Dr S Ambreen  
Mr J Zavaglia and Mrs H J Park  
Assoc Prof A Zekry  
Mr Q Zeng and Ms H Yan  
Mr C Zhan and Ms K Wah  
Mr Y Zhang and Ms M Han  
Mr Q Zhang and Mrs Y Li  
Mr J Zhang and Ms X Peng  
Mr B Zhang and Ms T Xu  
Mr X Zhang and Mrs S Yang  
Mr B Zhang and Mrs H Zhong  
Mr D Zheng and Mrs Y Wu  
Mr Z Zheng and Ms Y Zhang  
Mr H Zhu and Mrs L Zhang  
Mr Q Zhuang and Ms X Fu  
Mr X Zhuo and Ms D Wang  
Mr M and Mrs I Ziolkowski  
Mr J Zubrickas and Mrs J Moldovan





We invite you to be part of a challenge

## Philanthropy in action

Our current girls are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of the past generosity of parents and Old Girls and experience unparalleled educational facilities such as the Infants Wing and STEM Street in the Junior School, the Abbotsleigh Research Centre and the Judith Poole Sports Hall, just to name a few.



## Planning for the future

The Abbotsleigh School Council is passionately working on a Master Plan, which will lay the roadmap for the upgrading and development of targeted facilities across both the Junior and Senior Schools to ensure that we continue to provide our girls with the opportunity to do more, so they have the ability to be more, today and tomorrow.

**Your gift to the Building Fund will support the School's exciting ongoing development.**



## Your gift matters

This year, one of our Abbotsleigh families has generously offered to give \$25,000 if at least **300 members** of our school community **make a donation** in response to this year's request for support.





## Improvements galore across both campuses



- The Junior School swimming pool refurbishment, including a shade structure, is well under way
- All Years 4 to 6 classrooms have been recarpeted and repainted
- Junior School Reception has an upgraded façade



- The Centenary Building has had a makeover with lower level refurbishment including bathrooms
- The creation of a circular sandstone flower garden at the entrance to the Senior School
- A valuable additional classroom has been created in the Centenary Building by relocating the Print Room



- The McCredie boarding house study space has been upgraded
- Reverse cycle air conditioning has been installed in the Dining Room, all boarding house bedrooms and in Drama Space DR2



- The Chapel mezzanine balustrade will be upgraded by the end of Term 4



# ABBOTSLEIGH FOUNDATION

### We appreciate your donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt made out to \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my gift of:  \$1,000  \$500  \$250

\$100 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### To the following fund

**Building Fund:** To support the development and maintenance of school facilities

**Indigenous Scholarships:** To support the education of Indigenous girls; providing tuition and boarding at Abbotsleigh in partnership with Yalari

**Kathleen McCredie Scholarship:** A means-tested scholarship offering full tuition for a girl from Years 10-12

**Abbotsleigh Foundation Scholarships:** To support two new means-tested scholarships for students entering Year 10, to cover 50% tuition for remainder of schooling

**Library Fund:** To support the libraries' activities and resources

**Wherever the greatest need**

Please charge my credit card  MasterCard  Visa  Amex

Card holder's name \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ |

Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_

Card holder's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to Abbotsleigh Foundation

**OR** you may donate via Abbotsleigh's website [www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving](http://www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving)

Please send me information about how I can make a gift to Abbotsleigh in my will

I confirm that I have included Abbotsleigh in my will

Please send me information about Foundation membership (a gift of \$500 or more entitles you to apply)

Please do not publish my/our names in the annual published list of supporters of the Foundation (Donation amounts are not published)

Personal information is held in accordance with the Foundation's Privacy Policy published on the school's website.

**For any enquiries please contact: Danielle Cotter, Development Manager**

Abbotsleigh

1666 Pacific Highway, Cnr Ada Avenue

Wahroonga NSW 2076

02 9473 7738 or [cotterd@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cotterd@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au)

ABBOTSLEIGH

## Be part of the challenge

*Your gift combined with those  
of others can effect real change  
and enhance girls' education  
at Abbotsleigh*

**Megan Krimmer**  
**Headmistress**



**Junior School &  
Early Learning Centre**  
22 Woonona Avenue  
Wahroonga NSW 2076  
Telephone 02 9473 7700

**Senior School**  
1666 Pacific Highway  
(Cnr Ada Avenue)  
Wahroonga NSW 2076  
Telephone 02 9473 7777

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