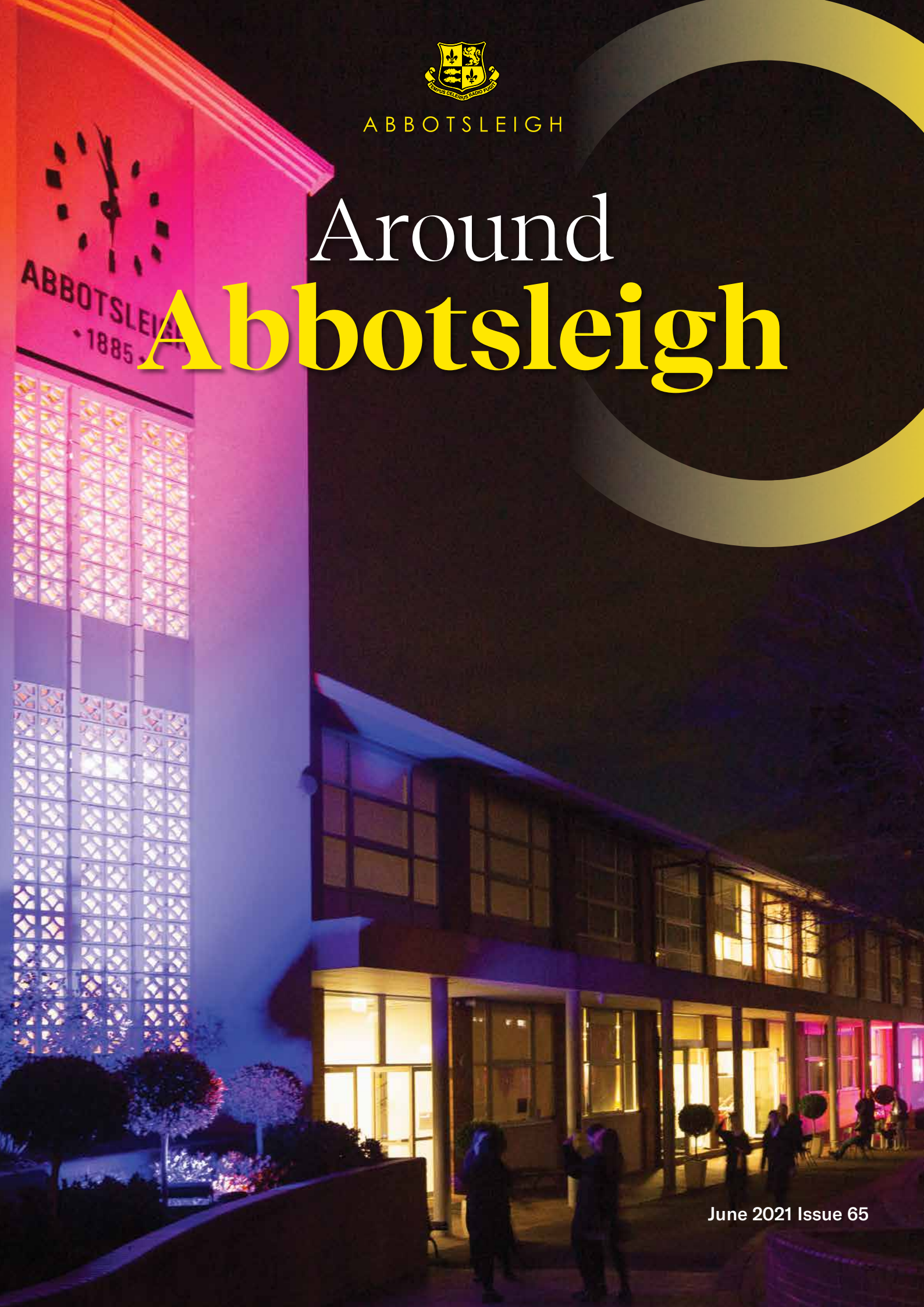




ABBOTSLEIGH

# Around Abbotsleigh



June 2021 Issue 65

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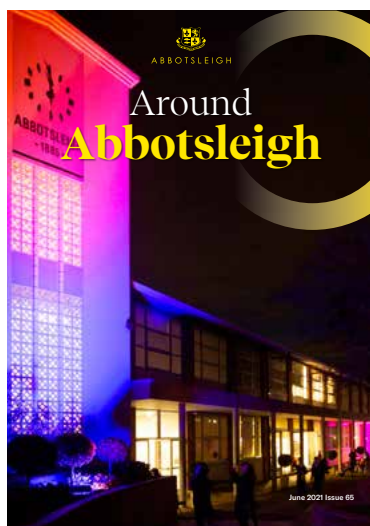
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This year's Glow festival was a pared back event. A Glimmer of Glow – a celebration of life, light and learning, was held on Wednesday 16 June 2021 and showcased student projects and performance pieces developed this semester through our Senior School programs. Service clubs dished up some wonderful treats at our Chapel Walk food stalls, our musical ensembles performed for enthusiastic crowds and there were light-up games and activities for all.



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**Page 16** At this year's TEDxYouth conference, Abbotsleigh students Sienna Shirvington (Year 9) and Jessica Wu (Year 11) acted as official TEDxYouth sketch artists brought the event to life capturing the big ideas and memorable moments.



# 2021 – Our Year of Connection

‘I am so excited for school!’

‘I am so excited to see my friends!’

**E**ncapsulated by the delighted statements above, 2021 began with sunshine, vitality and great enthusiasm. From our littlest girls and boys in the ELC, to our girls in Year 12, all were incredibly excited about being back at school in a new year that was full of promise and possibilities for discovery, creativity and participation in so many activities that they had missed out on in 2020.

2021 has been deemed our ‘Year of Connection’ and every group throughout the School has embraced this wholeheartedly. With their theme ‘Heart to Heart – Courageous Connections’, our Prefects have led the girls in reconnecting through having fun, and with so many activities organised across the whole school, these exceptional leaders have done a very good job indeed.

During Term 1, the girls enthusiastically participated in camps, excursions, incursions, sporting carnivals and co-curricular activities, and they were absolutely delighted when they were finally allowed to sing again in assembly and chapel at the end of the term. Although these are ordinarily quite everyday activities at Abbotsleigh, they have taken on a new meaning and the girls cheered when they joined together in assembly for the first time; and they cheered and danced when they were finally allowed to sing together!

Term 1 concluded with the extremely successful Senior School cross-curricular and cross year group TedX Youth event led by the girls. It was fantastic to be able to host this innovative day where guest speakers, a number of whom were Abbotsleigh Old Girls, inspired our girls as well as other students from schools all over Sydney.

By the time Term 2 dawned, life at Abbotsleigh was in full swing and we were able to stage drama productions and music concerts on site. Our Year 7 and 8 girls hosted a morning tea with residents from Anglicare Retirement Villages whom they had originally met online as part of

the Prefects’ Service Learning initiative. This was a very special event indeed.

The term culminated with a spectacular mini Glow Festival, and the Year 12 Formal – an event that had to be changed radically in 2020, but was able to go ahead in its traditional fashion in 2021. This was a wonderful way for the girls to end Semester 1 of their final year of school.

In the same way that the girls have reconnected with each other, so too, have our parents. This was a little more challenging in Term 1 as, except for Saturday sport, parents were not allowed on site. However, in typical Abbotsleigh style, our parents and staff were innovative, creative and flexible, and, as a result, many successful events ‘with a difference’ were held. The Year 12 Mother/Daughter Breakfast, the Year 4 Father/Daughter Dinner and the ABPA Boarder Round-Up, which morphed into a fantastic Harbour Cruise, went ahead off site. Connections were enhanced in the Junior School through the hosting of morning teas for parents, and in the Senior School, the new initiative of Tutor and House Breakfasts for Year 7 and 8 parents, most of which were held in the Headmistress’s garden, proved to be so successful in establishing and re-establishing connections that they may well become a tradition.

Term 2 saw many parent events held on site, including the incredibly successful APA Trivia Night. These events saw more parents attend than ever before; everyone has been just so happy to get together.

Semester 1 2021 at Abbotsleigh has been a time of rich and deep learning, but also a time of excitement, gratitude and wonderful connection. This edition of Around Abbotsleigh certainly captures this enthusiasm in spades. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

**Megan Krimmer**



# Sustainable foundations built together



**T**he Abbotsleigh Masterplan, adopted in 2019, aims to create an extraordinary and connected environment that inspires curiosity, innovation and empowerment. In 2021, this vision is fast becoming a reality with major building works commencing on both campuses at the end of last year. Identified as key priority projects, these new, state of the art buildings form the foundation of our Masterplan, which will create a sense of pride, identity and belonging for all Abbotsleigh girls, both now and well into the future.



In the Junior School, our budding architects and engineers cannot help but be fascinated as they watch their new Centre for Information, Research and Innovation (CIRI) grow right before their eyes in the heart of their campus. In the Senior School, while the building works are a little removed from the girls' daily view, the new science and art complex, designed to echo the original blue gum forest around it, is rapidly taking shape.



Following their extended period of AOCL this term, we are excited for our girls to return and discover their evolving campuses. With opening expected in the first half of 2022, the new facilities will soon play their role in supporting each girl with their exciting pursuit to be her best self; a place to prepare for life beyond the gates and deliver each girl confidently towards the rapidly changing global economy and her future.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of parents, past parents and Old Girls, we truly are giving every girl the opportunity to do more, so that she has the ability to be more.

Paul Fontanot  
**Chair of Abbotsleigh Council**

# Cinema Under the Stars

With the easing of restrictions, the Junior School wasted no time in again holding a much-loved community tradition

Sally Ruston, Head of Junior School

One of the valuable lessons of COVID-19 has been our renewed appreciation of the importance of coming together. This was never more evident than on the final Saturday of Term 1 when the Junior School oval came alive with stalls, girls and parents and a giant inflatable screen!

Our Cinema Under the Stars event is a biennial one, and in spite of COVID restrictions, we were determined to find a safe, compliant and fun way to hold this community event again in 2021. From the first announcement to the girls as Term 1 commenced, the excitement steadily grew. Our Student Representative Council gathered feedback from each class to select the movie and make stall recommendations.

The day finally arrived. The girls set up their blankets, chairs and pillows on the grass before racing off to spend their tokens. Hugely popular were the lucky dips, fairy floss on a stick, slime making, succulent garden planting, snapshots of friends in the photo booth, Easter egg guessing competition and arm and hand painting by our Year 12 girls.

As the girls settled to eat dinner before the movie, with parents who wished to attend seated socially distanced on the bleachers, around came ice-creams and popcorn, for what is a movie without such delights! As the sun set, the movie began and we all sat back to enjoy the remarkable tale of the magic of Mary Poppins.

We are truly grateful to our enthusiastic parents for assisting so willingly in pulling this event together and are equally indebted to the Junior School staff for their supervision and support on the night.

Such events are testament to our desire to celebrate as a community. Just 12 months ago none of this was possible. How we now so dearly cherish such an opportunity, recognising the essential nature of sharing such joy, optimism and fun!



# Meet our new Head of Boarding

Faced with a list of questions compiled by the curious boarders when she arrived at the commencement of 2021, Mrs Chemane Fairleigh bravely supplied the following answers



## 1. Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in a large town called Watford in Hertfordshire, which sits just outside the Greater London circle.

## 2. What schools have you worked at previously?

I have been very lucky to work at some amazing schools! My first job was at a girls' independent boarding school called St Helen's in Middlesex, Greater London.

I have worked in two schools in Hong Kong, The South Island School and Harrow International School of Hong Kong and most recently I worked at the SCOTS PGC College in Warwick, Queensland.

## 3. Other than Australia, what country was your favourite to work in?

I have spent 11 years in Hong Kong so I would have to say it was my favourite place to live and work.

## 4. What attracted you to a career in boarding?

In my first job, the boarding community was made up just of international students and there really wasn't much of a social program for them in those days. I remember spending time with the girls and being amazed by their bravery to be educated overseas away from their families. I enjoyed supporting them and the joy I was able to get from being a part of their world. That experience inspired me to one day run my own house and I was able to achieve that when I worked in Hong Kong.

## 5. What are you most passionate about?

I am most passionate about my family and ensuring that they are happy and grow up to be people of great character. I guess you can say that it the same when I think of my role here in Abbotsleigh boarding.

## 6. What is your favourite sport to play?

Once upon a time I was a useful netballer. I still love to watch it and support the GWS Giants.

## 7. Who do you live with?

I live with my husband and our three children, Samuel (9), and Ashley and Ben (5).

## 8. Do you have family in Sydney?

My husband was born and raised on the NSW Central Coast and his family are mainly based there. I have family in Sydney also, so it is great to be living in such a central place to visit them.

## 9. What drew you to Abbotsleigh?

It had been a long time since I worked in a girls' school and when I reflected on that time, I remembered how amazing and special that experience was. When I saw the opportunity at Abbotsleigh and read about the



School, I was drawn to the Abbotsleigh's commitment to empower each individual and encourage every girl to achieve her personal best. Black and gold are also my favourite colours, so it was meant to be!

**10. What's your favourite food/what is your signature dish that you make at home?**

I absolutely love Italian food – pasta dishes are my favourite and I make a mean spaghetti carbonara. However, I also love the tastes of Asia and will eat Thai food all day long if I could. My kids really love my spaghetti bolognaise and lasagne.

**11. What's your favourite place?**

My favourite place in the whole world..... hmm. I love the beach and the ocean so would have to say Thailand or Bali or the Caribbean, where my parents are from. For me, standing on the sand looking out to the waves brings me inner peace.

**12. What inspires you?**

People inspire me!

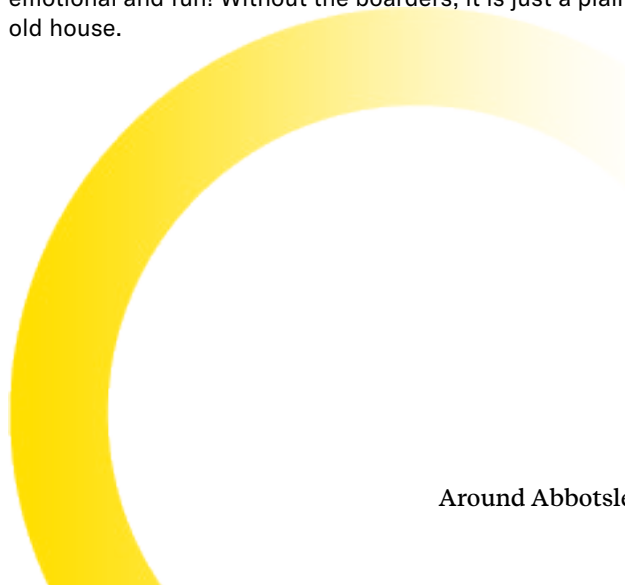
**13. What are your goals for boarding?**

This is a great question! I have some ideas and goals, but ultimately, I want to collaborate with boarding staff and the boarders to set out our plan for this year.

Our goal will be to have happy, confident, healthy girls of great character leave us in Year 12 and make a positive impact on the world beyond the Abbotsleigh gates.

**14. What is your favourite thing about boarding?**

I love the noise, laughter and drama that a boarding house brings. It comes to life during term time. It is exciting and vibrant and challenging and busy and emotional and fun! Without the boarders, it is just a plain old house.



# A place for everything

In Term 4 2020, Year 1 students engaged in a deep learning project where they worked together to create a miniature town in their classroom

Sarah Vincent and Kristen Pollock, Year 1 Classroom Teachers



**F**or this highly engaging project, the girls explored and identified the ways in which people interact and care for places and spaces. Importantly, the girls had to ensure that the town met the needs and wants of the small people living within it. The project aimed at developing students' geographical skills, tools and understanding through the lens of creativity.

The project was launched with the David Elliot book, *Henry's Map*. Teachers opened discussions with their students around the concept of place and positional language. Time was spent exploring concepts in the real-life context of the School, focusing on mapping, aerial views and identifying 3D objects. The project was enriched in the initial stages through literature and integrated digital technologies. The students were then introduced to their LEGO® Minifigure and the concept of designing and

building a home for them. The home the students created required them to demonstrate an understanding of scale.

Opportunities for learning partnerships were developed within the local community when students were visited by a local builder. COVID-19 forced teachers to think creatively too! When social distancing meant a visit to Wahroonga was impossible, they leveraged digital technology to deliver a virtual tour of the village.

One of the most exciting developments seen was the growth mindset shown by students during this project. They were able to stop and reflect on the progress of their creative thinking at milestone points in the project. Gallery walks and peer review meant that students were able to share with each other incidental problem-solving situations and ask for feedback and support from each other, and digital technologies allowed the girls to record



their thinking in a much deeper way than their written capabilities allowed.

A key impact on teaching practice was for teachers to embrace the role of facilitator for learning rather than that of the director. As the project deepened, teachers found that they were working as coaches with their students, posing problems in order to generate ideas.

As the town project developed, students regularly posed new questions related to what facilities their mini people might require. They were encouraged to consider the value of green spaces and the importance of light and sound on town life. The use of a time-lapse video enabled us to record the development of the town, and also provided a lasting visual representation of the developing creative thinking skills of our students.

**“We worked together to solve problems while we were building our house. My partner and I both had good ideas to try out.” – Imogen**



# Making sense of it all

Unlocking thinking skills is key to developing a lifelong learner

Angela Sparks, Senior School Teacher Librarian

**H**ere in the Abbotsleigh Research Centre (ARC) we are big fans of Project Zero's Visible Thinking Routines to promote a deeper understanding of content and help students understand how they think and learn. Once students can see and understand their thinking process, it helps them organise their thoughts more effectively.

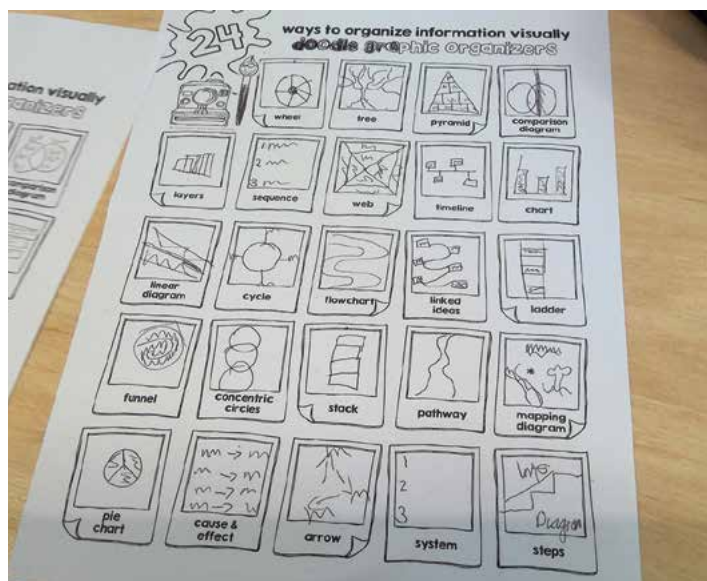
This all began as a collaboration between the History Department and the Library. The History staff asked us to help them activate their Year 7 students' thinking through a series of blended learning activities designed to develop information literacy skills with a particular emphasis on summarisation and information organisation.

The girls came armed with a text about the people of Ancient Egypt. We challenged them to use the 'Sentence-Phrase-Word' thinking routine – starting with singling out a sentence that they felt encapsulated the text, then refining that to a phrase, and finally finding just one word that they felt reflected the main idea of the text.

Following this we then investigated the homes and furnishings of Ancient Egypt while exploring a different method of distilling the main ideas of the text. Using a 'doodle graphic organiser', students conceptualised how information can be made meaningful through their own visual representation. They will be able to refer back to these diagrams and drawings to help them organise future information across all subjects in a way that makes sense to them.

One of the additional benefits to linking the development of visible thinking routines to course content is that it allows teachers to see learning through the eyes of their students – and the teacher can then put that information into practice to help their students synthesise the information in a way appropriate to them.

We look forward to revisiting these skills next term as we continue our research skills journey and delve into the world of database searching and bibliographic referencing. Keep an eye out for the results of other cross-departmental collaborations in future editions of *Around Abbotsleigh*.



## WHAT IS PROJECT ZERO?

Founded by philosopher Nelson Goodman at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1967, Project Zero began with a focus on understanding learning in and through the arts. Today, anchored in the arts and humanities, Project Zero is an intellectual wellspring, nourishing enquiry into the complexity of human potentials – intelligence, understanding, thinking, creativity, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural thinking and ethics.

Visit [www.pz.harvard.edu/thinking-routines](http://www.pz.harvard.edu/thinking-routines) to learn more.

# Hidden curiosities

“Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning” – William Arthur Ward

Carrie Alker, Junior School Literacy Specialist and Enrichment Coordinator



Prompted by the text, *Arthur and the Curiosity*, the girls were asked to consider what curiosity might look like if we could see it in physical form and were asked to design their own ‘curious creature’. This activity led to excited discussions about the possible physical attributes of curiosity as well as the intangible nature of this disposition.

“I chose a rainbow to symbolise my curiosity because a rainbow has lots of different colours. Curiosity can be different for different people. I gave my rainbow a big smile because curiosity makes me happy and it has a magic horn because curiosity is magical!” – Rhea

The girls felt that a main theme of *Arthur and the Curiosity* was that those who are curious might see things that others don’t. This led to the idea of the girls hiding their ‘curiosities’ around the Library in unexpected places – thereby instilling a sense of curiosity in others.

Using quality literature as a starting point and providing the opportunity to explore ideas, the disposition of curiosity was discussed, leading the girls to conclude that curiosity is playful, magical and everywhere.

According to educational guru Ken Robinson, “The most important thing a teacher can do for students is to keep their curiosity alive.” But what is curiosity and how do individuals demonstrate it? Throughout Term 1, the girls in Year 4 explored the disposition of curiosity and considered these questions and more in their Library lessons.

The girls were given the opportunity to appreciate and critically evaluate literature that explored the theme of curiosity, such as *The Hole Idea* by Beth and Paul Macdonald, *Arthur and the Curiosity* by Lucinda Gifford and *On a Beam of Light* by Jennifer Berne.

This shared reading of texts prompted meaningful philosophical discussions and acted as a springboard for engagement in creative and critical thinking tasks, deepening their knowledge of curiosity. Each week, the texts chosen and the discussions and activities that followed were connected to one of the focus questions below:

- What is curiosity?
- How am I curious?
- What does curiosity look like?
- What helps curiosity to grow and what stifles curiosity?
- Are humans the only curious creatures?
- Can curiosity get us into trouble?





Image 1

# It's a wonderful world in Year 7 Mathematics

Maths is everywhere you look, as Year 7 has been discovering

Kim Allan, Mathematics Teacher

**T**his is the year of kindness and curiosity for Year 7. We have been thinking particularly about curiosity and growth mindsets in our Mathematics class.

Our inspiration has been Diana, also known as Wonder Woman. She wonders about many things and uses her superpowers (such as powers of 10) to explore number relationships. She has her own garden in the classroom which is growing along with our class mindsets as we develop our knowledge and understanding of things mathematical.



Image 2



We have Canvas pages for students to upload their favourite jokes, fun facts and things that make them wonder about the world around them. There are some images for them to find which use mathematical concepts. On this page I have included one from school and one from the community. The curious challenge is for students to locate them and identify the mathematical concepts. Perhaps you know where they are... but do you know what they are about?

We have wondered how many prime numbers are between one and a hundred; how many number patterns we could find in Pascal's triangle; how we could use just four fours and mathematical operations to make the numbers from zero to ten.

In class we share fun trivia as we wonder about our world. We discovered Z wasn't the last letter to be added to the alphabet and were curious to find out everyone's favourite letter. You may be curious about what this has to do with Mathematics. A sample of the students' creative mathematical responses below may give you some ideas.

*A because it is at the top of the alphabet and I have six As in my name! – Azaa*

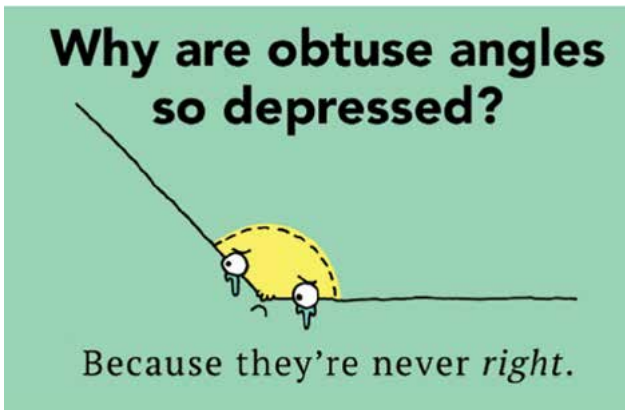
*E because my name starts with E and it looks a bit like a three, which is my birthday. – Estella*

*I love the letter P because it is the first letter of my name and if you add a circle it becomes an eight like 2008 the year I was born and if you turn it upside down and flip it, it becomes six like 16, my birthday. – Primrose*

*I like the letter P because it is the first letter of my name and you can decorate it easily. If you flip the P it becomes nine, and I was born in 2009. – Phoebe*

*S because it's fun to write especially in calligraphy and it's in the middle of my name. It's also the 24th letter and 24 is one of my lucky numbers. – Leisel*

The girls also contributed some jokes to the Canvas page. Jokes not only make us laugh (or groan) but heighten our curiosity about numbers and words.



**Image 1**

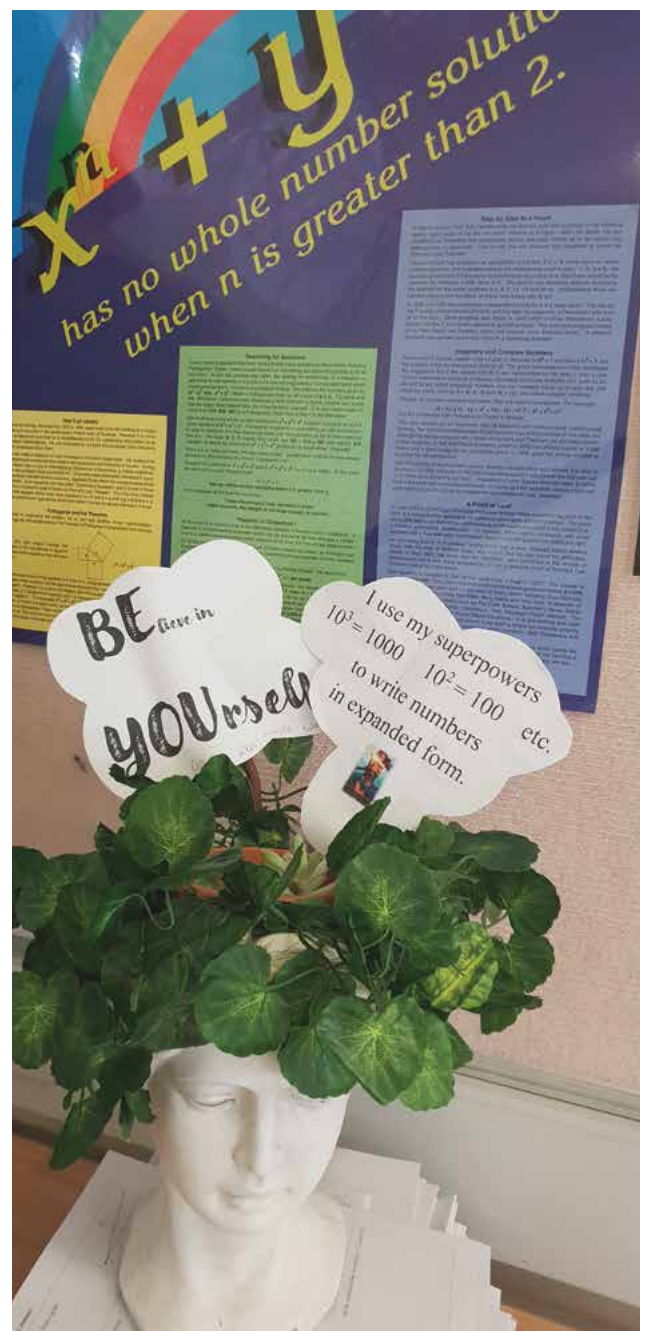
*Epic Love*, 2014 by Nike Savvas  
Painted, spun aluminium spheres  
Installation – Macquarie Shopping Centre

"...Suspended in space, the work creates infinite flares of parallel lines that immerse viewer into a carnival of colour and movement. ..."

**Image 2**

Fibonacci sequence windows – Abbotsleigh Research Centre, Senior School

In Mathematics, the Fibonacci numbers, commonly denoted  $F_n$ , form a sequence, called the Fibonacci sequence, such that each number is the sum of the two preceding ones, starting from 0 and 1.



# Keeping it green in the Junior School

We have two thriving clubs dedicated to environmental sustainability in the Junior School – the Environment Club and the Envirominis

Sally Eriksen, JS EAL/D teacher and Environment Clubs Coordinator

**T**he Environment Club, for girls in Years 3-6, meets once every week to discuss environmental initiatives that can be implemented across the Junior School.

We have been exploring ways to teach the girls about disposing of their waste in the correct recycling or landfill bin. Posters have been created, showing what goes in each bin and these are displayed across the campus.

We have also been tending our vegetable garden and fruit trees. In Term 2 we held our Harvest Celebration where we harvested beans, snow peas and oregano from the garden to make a delicious bean salad. We also harvested strawberries to make yummy strawberry

smoothies. It was highly satisfying to enjoy eating and drinking our own healthy, school-grown produce.

Environment Club coordinates the 'Nude Food Challenge'. The class with the most waste-free lunches each Monday receives a pot-plant prize called 'Lily' at the end of term.

Our worm farm is thriving and the girls enjoy feeding the worms with food scraps each week.

At Abbotsleigh, we believe that educating the next generation to become thoughtful citizens for the environment is very important, and hope that the girls share their sustainability knowledge and tips with family and friends.



# All abuzz over native bees

Did you know that there are 1,700 species of native bees in Australia?

Jacqueline McCarthy, Junior School Science Teacher

**I**n Science, Year 4 have been learning all about native bees. In Term 1, Dr Alexander Austin, the Environmental Programs Officer from Ku-ring-gai Council came and spoke to Year 4 about native bees and their impact on our environment, and conversely, our environment on native bees. He introduced them to 10 of the most common bees in our area and discussed with them the ideal specifications of a bee hotel.

In the following weeks, students designed and constructed their own bee hotel. They had to consider the needs of the bee and the types of materials needed to make a bee hotel, along with developing the skills needed to build a hotel, including hammering nails.

The hotels will remain on the Junior School campus as native bees are mostly solitary and will be happy to move in if the conditions are right. It will be interesting to see who does!

## Un-bee-lievable facts

“The cuckoo bee lays its eggs in the blue-banded bees’ nests.” – Rhea

“Not all bees are black and yellow, and Australian native bees produce runnier honey than European bees.” – Annabel

“70% of native bees build their nests underground.” – Claudia

“We put bamboo and lantana in the hotels and the bees will live in the tubes. If the tube is small, just one bee will live in it, but if it’s a bigger tube, maybe two or three will move in.” – Maheen

“Bumblebees aren’t native to Australia.” – Annabelle

“Only female bees sting.” – Maggie

“Bees come in lots of different sizes and some look like flies.” – Yvonne



# Courage to connect

Connect. When was the last time you actually embraced the word, challenged yourself to step outside your comfort zone and connect with someone new? – Emma Thornthwaite, Head Prefect 2020/2021

Catherine Oliver, SS Teacher Librarian



**H**umans are inherently social creatures. We crave connection. With the coronavirus pandemic reminding us just how interdependent we are, there has never been a more important time to bring people together to share stories, inspire ideas and spark deep discussion around what it truly means to connect. On Friday 26 March, that's exactly what we did.

The essence of the event was to encourage people to embrace their vulnerability and was led by a passionate team of students from Years 11 and 12, who brought together an inspiring and thought-provoking line-up of speakers with exciting ideas to share. In accordance with the rigorous TEDx event rules, the student-led committee was responsible for all elements of delivering TEDxYouth@Abbotsleigh, including theme design, speaker curation and mentoring, logo design and event marketing.

After the success of our first event in 2018 and with the easing of social distancing requirements, we were able to expand the reach of TEDxYouth@Abbotsleigh in 2021 to a much larger live audience of around 300



*“Something all our speakers shared in common was their belief in the importance of connecting through being courageous and vulnerable. This tied in beautifully with our TEDx theme of ‘Connection’ and our 2021 Prefect theme, ‘Heart to Heart’. – Emma Thornthwaite, Head Prefect 2020/2021*





as well as streaming to the school community live on the Abbotsleigh YouTube channel.

Fourteen students from Years 9 to 11 worked behind the scenes providing audio visual support for the event, helping to deliver our amazing program of speakers and performers.

With the spirit of TED's overall mission to share ideas or personal stories that inspire curiosity, ignite new ideas and empower young leaders, we heard from nine brilliant speakers:

**Natasha Huang (AOG 2019)** – Ride the rollercoaster of connection

**Shannon Harvey** – My year of living mindfully

**Rhian Miller** – Imagining equality through partnerships in education

**Sarah Luke (former Abbotsleigh SS English Teacher)** – Authentic connections through historical research

**Jess Nichols (AOG 2006)** – Championing people through technology

**Lydia Burt (AOG 2013)** – Study history to connect to ourselves and the world around us

**Trent Knox and Todd Liubinskas** – 440 run club: Turn up to connect

**Kath Koschel** – Kindness is the key to connection

There were also performances from Yalari student dance group Waratah, Year 12 student vocalist Nia Kotwal, elite pre-professional dancer Phoebe Anderssen (AOG 2016) and singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Little Green, aka Amy Nelson (AOG 2017) to connect our audience through music and dance.

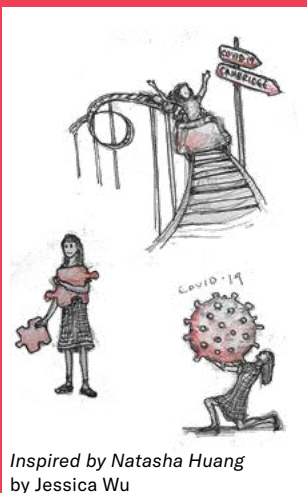
The committee commissioned two Abbotsleigh students Sienna Shirvington (Year 9) and Jessica Wu (Year 11) to act as official TEDxYouth sketch artists capturing big ideas, memorable moments and bringing the event to life through the unique graphic impressions they created on the day.

This year we also added the Fast Ideas segment – an open mic competition format featuring eight great thinkers from the Abbotsleigh community who shared their incredible ideas on a wide variety of topics, demonstrating original thinking and conveying them alone in 30 seconds.

This year's inaugural Fast Ideas segment was won by Anika Niles in Year 8, who turned the spotlight on the huge problem of tackling inequalities in today's rapidly changing world. Critical of the slow rate of change, Anika gave an impassioned call for acceptance and action at the individual level to address widespread inequity now: 'No delays. No more excuses.'

Audience members were invited to share their ideas on our theme 'Connect' and what it means to them by writing on the TEDxYouth@Abbotsleigh blackboard and puzzle pieces in the shape of the event logo.

*“Helping to run the TEDxYouth@Abbotsleigh event provided the perfect opportunity to not only engage with phenomenal content, but also to interact with speakers individually as they formulated and collated their ideas.” – Zara Vellani, Year 11*



Inspired by Natasha Huang  
by Jessica Wu



440 run club  
by Sienna Shirvington

*“It was a wonderful opportunity for both teachers and students to work as a team and create an event for so many Abbotsleigh girls to enjoy.” – Tameea Lock, Year 12*

The TEDxYouth Hub, held at lunchtime on the Top Oval, was jam packed with activities and games hosted by our amazing clubs and groups. Members of the audience had the opportunity to connect with our speakers, while welcoming the broader school community to join in the fun. It was a fitting finale to an incredible event.

**Student committee**

Deepti Bhanushali, Jasmine Burton, Ashley Chan, Antonia Faram, Katrina Gao, Tameea Lock, Braveena Maheswaran, Sophie Meldrum, Jennifer Riley, Emma Thornthwaite, Sophie Wines, Charlotte Wingfield Digby, Zara Vellani, Athena Zhang

**Stage crew**

Olivia Wu, Petra Chan, Riya Garg, Kathy Liu, Sophie Fox, Holly Collins, Shellby Adams, Amanda Zhang, Felicity Hu, Penelope Hu, Aneesa Reddy, Alexandra Gavagna, Aaruthi Gangeyan, Isabelle Pok

**Acknowledgements**

Mr Jon Adams, Mr Joel Ford, Ms Jeanine Kobylinski, Mrs Donna Moffatt, Ms Catherine Oliver, and the Abbotsleigh Development, IT, AV and Maintenance teams



# Farewell Rev

In Term 1 we bade farewell to our Chaplain, Rev Jenni Stoddart. At an afternoon tea with staff to wish her well as she returns to an Assistant Minister position in parish ministry, we were entertained by a musical number celebrating Jenni's creativity and sense of fun, bravely sung by Rev Polly Butterworth and Rev Sarah Hobba to the tune of 'Girls just wanna have fun'.

Lyrics by Rev Polly Butterworth, Assistant Chaplain



You came here, in 2015  
You've run chapel, taught and mentored and all that's  
in between  
Oh Jenni dear, we are the fortunate ones  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun  
The phone rings, in the middle of the night,  
Jenni's had another idea to dye her hair bright  
Dress up as Shrek and throw around paper planes,  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of...

And all we really want...  
Is to say thanks for all that you've done...  
When we've worked our days with you,  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun

Balloon fish and chips in the chapel,  
Confetti relays, tomato sauce and of course pass the parcel  
Oh Jenni dear, we are the fortunate ones  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun

And all we really want...  
Is to say thanks for all that you've done...  
When we've worked our days with you,  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun  
Oh Jenni, we've had lots of fun

# Celebrating well beings in Years 7 and 8

Years 7 and 8 girls had lots of fun engaging in a range of activities, learning skills to enhance their wellbeing, while celebrating and showing gratitude for all the wonderful things from 2020

Liz Cannon, Director of Wellbeing and Counselling

**A**t the end of 2020, our Year 7 and 8 girls 'connected and celebrated' at special Wellbeing Days. The girls were involved in presentations from Bully Zero, where the emphasis of the sessions was to help them to engage in safe and respectful relationships online and to raise awareness and reduce online bullying. The key message was to talk to an adult if they are aware of any online and offline bullying. They then took part in a variety of wellbeing sessions.

## LET'S HEAR IT FROM THE GIRLS

"Year 7 Wellbeing Day was an amazing opportunity to connect with others while focusing on yourself and being creative. This day helped me to learn more about others and how I can show my gratitude towards people. The activities done throughout the day were very enjoyable and gave us time to relax. Some activities included relaxation and mindfulness, team games, gratitude cards, learning about self-care and self-kindness as well as kindness to others, how to manage and report bullying and more. This Wellbeing Day was so much fun and I hope to do it again next year. Thank you for a wonderful day."

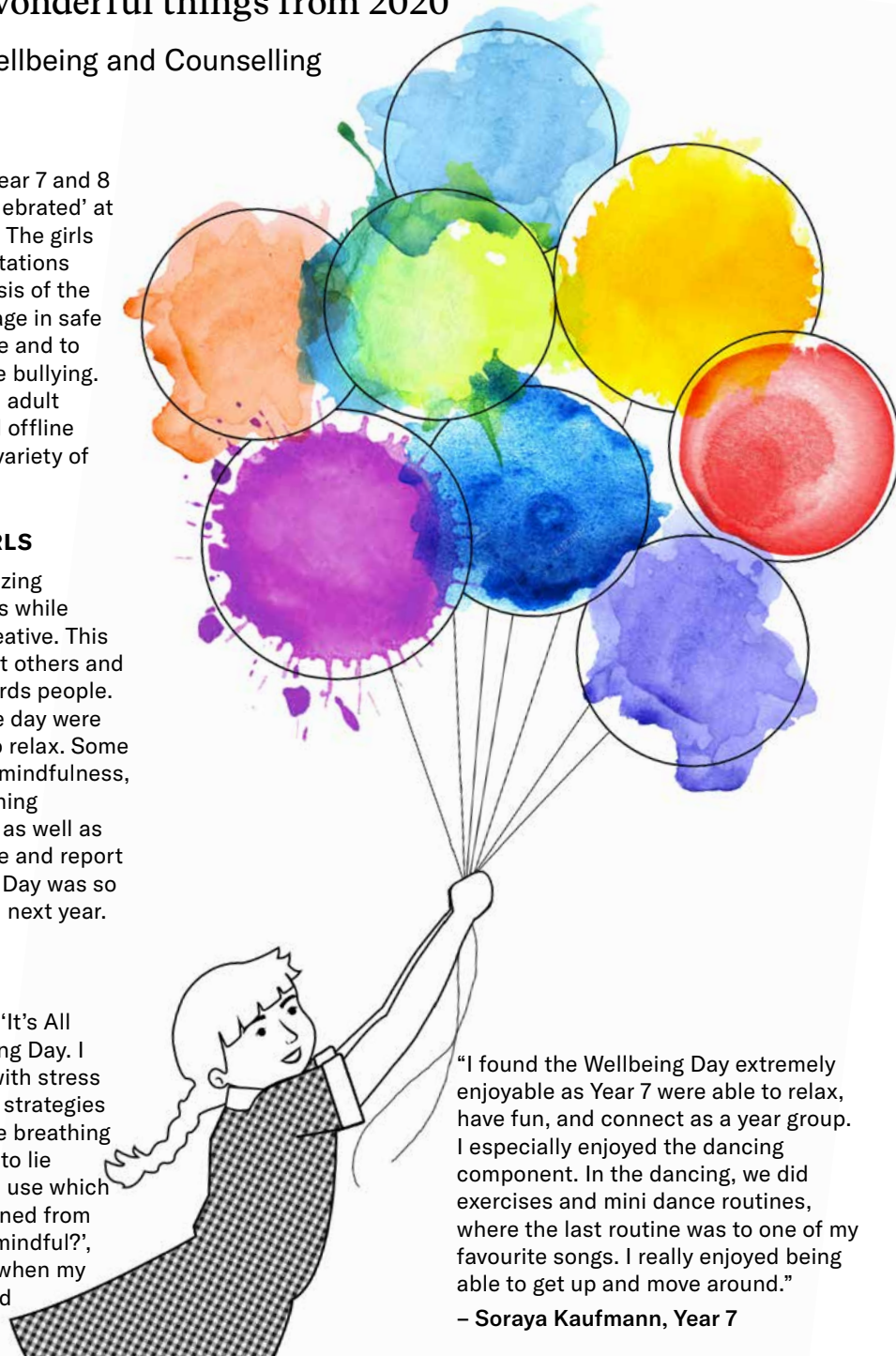
– Caitlyn Doe, Year 7.

"I had an amazing time during the 'It's All About You' activity on our Wellbeing Day. I was able to reflect on how I deal with stress and it allowed me to discover new strategies to deal with stress, including some breathing techniques. We also got a chance to lie down and put those techniques to use which was very relaxing! Something I gained from this was the phrase, 'Mind full or mindful?', something I can use to recognise when my thoughts are clouding my mind and strategies to clear my mind."

– Maya Nepal, Year 7

"I found the Wellbeing Day extremely enjoyable as Year 7 were able to relax, have fun, and connect as a year group. I especially enjoyed the dancing component. In the dancing, we did exercises and mini dance routines, where the last routine was to one of my favourite songs. I really enjoyed being able to get up and move around."

– Soraya Kaufmann, Year 7



## YEAR 8 WELLBEING DAY

“We started off the day with a bang, or more appropriately phrased a ‘bop’, as Mr Franks practically shredded the floor with his impressive moves. After being allocated into four different groups creatively named A, B, C and D, we split off to enjoy what would be an entertaining and relaxing day.

There were seven different sessions, each specialising in a certain area of wellbeing. We had an insightful visit from Petra, who worked with the anti-bullying organisation, Bully Zero, in which we learnt about cyber bullying and how it affects not only us, but others.

There were dynamic dance lessons where we were taught choreography to BTS’s *Dynamite*, and sessions where new and budding friendships ‘grew’. Mrs Cannon led us through a relaxing mindfulness exercise and taught us breathing techniques and self-talk to manage stress. Ms Butler taught us the importance of showing appreciation through creative ‘thank you’ card making.

At lunch, there were spontaneous foxtail games and animé charades as we ate our Zooper Doopers from our Year 12 Prefects.

In the teamwork activities with Ms Haymen we learnt the significance that a little cooperation makes as we hurled balls at each other, became human traffic lights and were ‘entangled’ within each other’s embrace, some more than others. We stretched our way through a Stretch and Relax session discovering the power of movement.

The Wellbeing Day was truly a day of wellbeing, for everybody and I hope it returns next year.”

– Sophia Chi, Year 8

“Give yourself the same care and attention that you give to others and watch yourself bloom. At the end of the day we can endure much more than we think we can.”

– Alisha Parker, Year 8



# Windows to our heart

The Junior School celebrated three very important wellbeing events during an afternoon of heartening creativity

Carmen Gaspersic, Deputy Head of Junior School

**O**n Friday 19 March, there was much excitement and creativity in each Junior School classroom with students and staff being involved in a combined wellbeing afternoon in recognition of three important wellbeing events in the calendar: National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, World Happiness Day and Harmony Week. Due to the important nature of these events, it was decided that all three would culminate into a Junior School wide celebration of love, inclusivity, joy and positivity.

News of these very special calendar events was shared with students during Infants and Primary assemblies where the 'Windows to our heart' activity was showcased. Alongside wonderful window display examples, the students were briefed on their challenge to work collaboratively as a class to design and create a window display that represented something near and dear to their hearts. They were encouraged to use a variety of materials to create a window display that was uplifting and truly special.

While the planning and designing component of the activity was done in classrooms throughout the week, Friday afternoon was dedicated to uninterrupted time across the Junior School to work in harmony creating the displays. Although some classes continued to work on their displays the following week, the result was the delivery of the most delightful windows showcasing student agency and uniqueness.

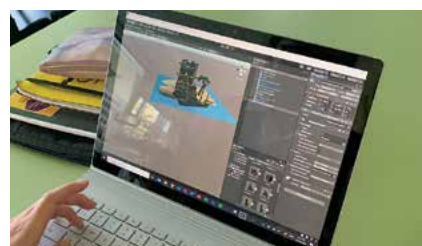
Students spent their lunchtimes inspecting and appreciating each other's window displays and a short video clip was created, with photos of each window, celebrating the outstanding work done by every class. This video was shared with the girls during assembly, much to everyone's delight.



# Games for good

In a project where unlearning was part of the learning, Year 8 girls developed their computer programming skills to create games with a strong focus on empathy and education

Donna Moffatt, Director of Learning Innovation and Jon Adams, Digital Learning Innovator



**Y**ear 8 engaged in a 12-week project using advanced gaming software and computer programming language to design a game with a positive social impact. This project was launched with an immersion day where we initiated partnerships with industry professionals including female software engineers from KPMG and leading game developer, Wargaming. These partnerships grew and continued throughout the project. This day also saw the girls unlearn what they thought they knew about the gaming industry and the possibilities for employment in this area.

There was an explicit focus on the development of critical thinking skills throughout the project and the students were required to reflect at regular intervals. Posting occurred every four weeks and after a key skill was taught.

There was also a strong focus on developing empathy. Using a design thinking approach and the library facilities to explore specific profiles, the girls collaborated and curated game options that met the specific needs of the user groups highlighted in their research. The students created a company with a mission statement and logo and incorporated the target market as well as the social issue the company was addressing.

The task was scaffolded in such a way that the girls' specific skill development in Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) had an equal focus. They learnt the foundational skills of a complex coding language (C#) before creating an early build of their game. We removed the necessity for the girls to build the entire game in C# as our intention was to focus on the global competencies and in particular, critical thinking.

“My game builds empathy for homeless people. It brings understanding and help from the community as well as promoting considerate and respectful actions from the community. It also reduces the stigma around homeless people...in turn, they do not feel as invisible or isolated.”

“The mission of this company is to educate children and teens about problems facing the environment. There is no ‘Planet B’. We all inherit this planet and need to be proactive about solving the many problems facing it. By helping the next generation of leaders to understand these issues and by raising awareness, we can preserve and marvel at the wonders of Earth for years to come.”

“Essentially, the player will make their way through a series of levels where they are required to dodge unhealthy food and select healthy produce. As they walk through the world, they will discover healthy eating facts and much more. To level up and move to harder tasks you must answer the questions correctly in a quiz.”

GREEN PLANET GAMES  
Business Information



# ART NORTH

## ART NORTH

ART NORTH celebrates the artistic strength and creativity of students from Sydney's North Shore

Mary Faith, GCS Gallery Director and SS Leader of Learning – Creative Arts, Design and Innovation

**T**he The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery delivers an annual, dynamic exhibition program that is accessible to our local and broader community and contributes to teaching and learning for Abbotsleigh and the region. The ART NORTH exhibition is a key community event in the gallery calendar, celebrating a collaborative approach to sharing the learning and creative output of local schools and providing great impetus for future art students.

This annual exhibition was launched in 2018 and schools across the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai region were invited to nominate their outstanding HSC Visual Arts students for inclusion. The exhibition was opened by Alister Henskens SC MP, Member for Ku-ring-gai and attended by the Mayor and Councillors from Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Council.

ART NORTH comprises works by young artists who have worked throughout their HSC year to achieve outstanding and thought provoking works of art in a vast array of media and materials. In the HSC Body of Work, students develop an independent approach to their artmaking, responding to issues of personal interest or concern and developing expertise in a chosen art media.







Megan Krimmer stated in the 2021 catalogue: “The heroic and inspirational efforts of Visual Arts students during 2020 are quite exceptional and it is a great pleasure for us to be able to showcase the positive successes of the ‘year like no other’ where students faced significant and unforeseen challenges in the form of drought, bushfires, floods and, of course, COVID-19. What we see in this exhibition is testament to the resilience, spirit and strength of the HSC students of 2020 as they rose to meet these momentous challenges.”



### Participating schools

Abbotsleigh, Asquith Boys High School, Asquith Girls High School, Barker College, Brigidine College St Ives, Cheltenham Girls' High School, Cherrybrook Technology High School, Hornsby Girls High School, Killara High School, Knox Grammar School, Ku-ring-gai High School, Loreto Normanhurst, Masada College, Mt St Benedict College, Normanhurst Boys High School, Northholm Grammar School, Pymble Ladies' College, Ravenswood School for Girls, St Ives High School, St Leo's Catholic College and Turramurra High School.

# Building a strong foundation

You're heading out on camp for three nights. What skills do you really need?

Donna Moffatt, Director of Learning Innovation and Jon Adams, Digital Learning Innovator

**N**o matter your age or level of camping experience, collaboration is the one skill you are going to draw on time and time again. So, it was with this in mind that we set out to help the Year 7 girls prepare for their first ever Challenge Week in the Senior School.

Our intention was to facilitate teamwork and immerse the girls in a day of focusing on interpersonal skills. We began by having them explore the different levels of collaboration and reflect upon where they think they sit on a progression of skill development. This learning progression for interpersonal skills is part of Abbotsleigh's Learning Framework, which focuses on those learning dispositions which are essential for our students to thrive in an increasingly complex global society.

As the day progressed, the students were repeatedly provided with opportunities to reflect on their understanding of interpersonal skills by recording video

blogs and submitting them via our Learning Management System, Canvas.

The highlight of the day was the LEGO Challenge. Continuing in their teams and using their interpersonal skills, the girls had to design and build a superhero LEGO totem that exhibited the character strengths they believed were necessary to survive and thrive on the Year 7 camp. The girls worked through the design process to decide on the particular character strengths they would like to include as well as how they could physically represent that character strength in a LEGO creation.

Working as a group, each team had to decide how to use the limited number of LEGO bricks they had been given to create the symbols they decided upon. The team also had to consider how to use colour as symbolism, how each team member would contribute to the totem and how to ensure that the totem had a cohesive design

In a fun day full of ideas, communication, design and problem solving, there were many budding LEGO Masters!



# Friends and plovers

## Collaboration in the classroom led to a surprising outcome in the playground

Brittany Black, Year 3 Classroom Teacher

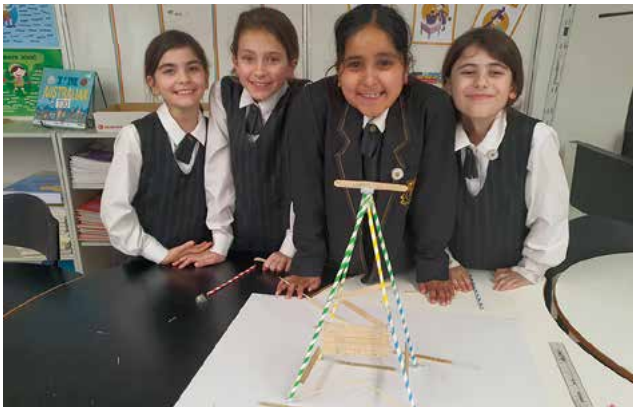
**S**tudents in Year 3 had been learning what it takes to collaborate effectively.

The Year 3 teaching team worked with the girls in class across a variety of subjects, creating challenging scenarios where collaboration was necessary to achieve an outcome. The girls were given opportunities to draw on their strengths, take risks and develop their tolerance for ambiguity. The common thread bringing each of the learning areas together was the concept of exploring and discovering.

An exciting but unexpected outcome was the transferral of collaboration to the girls' social play and interactions beyond the classroom. One example of this was when a group of Year 3 students

noticed an environmental problem involving local wildlife. Across all three classes, the girls united in their concern and desire to better care for our resident plover population. This initiative took the form of preliminary research and poster design, and culminated in a student-led assembly announcement to raise awareness of the issue.

We were delighted to witness spontaneous and genuine collaboration in action and in response to a real-world problem. What was most surprising was the combination of students and the preparedness of girls to work alongside peers who would usually be outside their friendship group. We were also thrilled to observe the individual development of students' interpersonal skills – a fact not missed by the girls themselves as noted in their own student reflections.



“[Group work is important because...] it leads to negotiating, cooperating and communicating clearly!” – Savannah



# STEAM Week

Abbotsleigh's STEAM culture has been growing over recent years, empowering determined young Abbotsleigh women to be the next generation of STEAM leaders

Anousheh Moonen and Abby Kidston, STEAM Prefects 2020/21 (The STEAMies)

**N**ow more than ever it is evident that problem solving, technology and innovation are the keys to addressing global crises.

STEAM Week in Term 1 was Abbotsleigh's first ever entire week dedicated to celebrating the marvels of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Activities throughout the week enabled everyone to get involved, and we certainly hope we inspired everyone to love STEAM as much as we do!

In an explosive assembly, everyone's minds were opened to the wonders that STEAM has to offer. The girls learnt about the STEAM-related clubs at Abbotsleigh that anyone can get involved in, such as Robotics, Chess Club, Coding Club and of course, STEAM Club. We also heard from some girls who took part in exciting science and maths summer schools – the prestigious Australian Science Olympiads Summer School, the National Computer Science School, the National Youth Science Forum and the National Mathematics Summer School. Technical difficulties led to impromptu acting for a fun Guess-The-STEAM-Icon game and the incredible Robotics robot showed off its skills as it pegged balls at the audience.

A scavenger hunt with a STEAMy twist also ran throughout the week. Clues were hidden across the Senior School campus, and teams competed to answer all the questions correctly, solving location riddles and answering quiz questions.

A movie lunch saw Professor Brian Cox enthral the audience as we explored the mysterious origins of the universe.

We finished up with a rocket-building activity. In groups, everyone tested out their engineering skills by constructing a rocket out of old bottles, cardboard and plenty of sticky tape. We then dodged some very explosive vinegar and bicarb soda reactions which forced the rockets into their – surprisingly lengthy – trajectories. We certainly ended STEAM Week with a bang!



# Girls in the garage

A visit from the dynamic Galmatic mechanics empowered our Year 11 girls in a whole new way

Mark Everingham, Sport Coordinator



As part of Challenge Week, Year 11 students participated in a workshop on car maintenance. Galmatic provided female mechanics to show our students how to check the engine to keep it running safely, covered what they can and can't touch in the engine bay and learnt a few tips for what to look for when buying a second-hand car. Year 11s also got some hands-on experience in changing a tyre and covered how to safely manage various situations they may find themselves in on the road.

*"The Year 11 car care workshop was an insightful experience which has boosted my confidence in both driving and looking after a car safely. The workshop was engaging in the sense that many different people were able to participate in fixing and handling parts of the car, allowing us all to understand the safest and easiest ways to check that our cars are safe to operate."* – Xanthe



*"The car care workshop ... was super engaging because it was extremely hands on, not only were we listening to what they were teaching but also actually doing tasks and watching others make mistakes and learn from them."* – Madison

*"The jokes and fascinating stories of the presenters throughout the session were very entertaining, and we were so appreciative of their liveliness while teaching such crucial life skills. Overall, it was a very fun, helpful and informative session, and a fabulous way to start off Challenge Week."* – Olivia



*"These life lessons coming from women who were experts in their field made it so much more of an engaging workshop. From checking coolant, oil and water, or as the mechanics referred to the process, 'COW', to how to safely take off and then replace a punctured tyre, each girl greatly increased their knowledge."* – Grace



# History's gatekeeper

Abbotsleigh Archivist, Julie Daly, has written many fascinating articles for *Around Abbotsleigh* over the years, so this year, as she celebrates 20 years working at Abbotsleigh, we turn our focus on her

## When did you start working at Abbotsleigh?

I started at Abbotsleigh in April 2001 – only the second archivist Abbotsleigh has ever had! The Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union had been collecting archives from the 1960s, but the excitement of the School's Centenary in 1985 saw the opening of an archives room, with the first archivist employed in 1986.

## What made you apply for the job here?

The position had been advertised when the archivist was retiring, and two school archivist friends let me know. I had been the Reference and Public Relations Archivist at Westpac for four years but was looking to work part time in a less corporate role, and the idea of being a school archivist appealed to me. I was offered the job on the spot in my interview, so it seems like it was meant to be!

## Does working in a school archives differ much from working in other places?

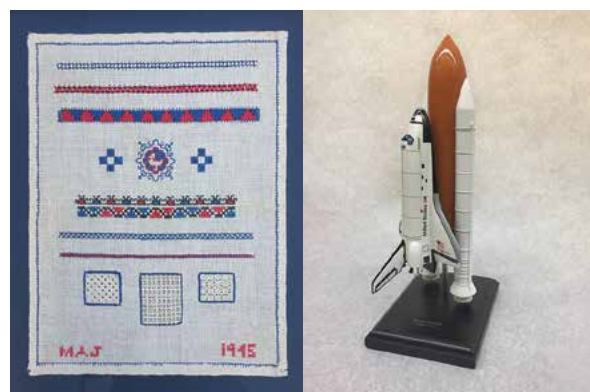
Absolutely. I have worked with several amazing collections such as Sydney University's Centre for Performance Studies, the National Trust (NSW) and the Australian Museum. Being a school archivist is really quite different. In larger corporate archives you work in a team and are usually responsible for just one part of the work – for example, at Westpac I was solely responsible for archival enquiries, archival displays and giving talks – but in a school, an archivist does everything and usually works alone, which is a unique aspect of this role. I do think I have the best job at Abbotsleigh.

## What does an average day look like for you?

My day is completely varied, and no two days are the same. Some of my recent requests include: researching the history of a school prize; writing articles and providing content for social media; assisting with information for eulogies or speeches; researching family history; creating displays for school reunions; ordering honour boards; and, preparing a lesson for a class. A large part of my job is accessioning donations – and these can take many forms, such as school uniforms, photographs or schoolbooks through to last year's student records. My biggest ongoing project currently is researching the history of our Old Girls who went to the two world wars.

## What have been some of the most interesting (Abbotsleigh-related) artefacts that you have been given?

I love the embroidered sampler given to me a couple of years ago by the sister of the Old Girl who made it, it is beautiful. It is an incredible privilege that people offer up to me their prized family possessions. I also love the postcards written by our first Headmistress Marian Clarke to some of her Old Girls. Last year I received a donation of fee invoices from the 1890s – the first I had ever seen from Miss Clarke's time! I was very excited. Items like this add so much to our knowledge of students and how the school worked. I also love the small model of a NASA space shuttle donated by students who went on the 2015 space camp – an odd donation, but so interesting.



**What have been some of the most interesting (Abbotsleigh-related) stories that you have been told?**

The ghost in the boarding house who used to sit on the ends of girls' beds at night – most probably used to scare new boarders – or the Abbotsleigh dogs we used to have in the 1930s who wandered around the grounds or the peacocks who used to live in the gardens! I love the fact that we had two air raid shelters in the grounds, and I enjoy taking classes on tours where I try to make the students really think about what it would have been like, sitting in the dark, eating lollies and worrying about family serving overseas. I try to elicit an emotional response to history as it makes the stories more relevant and relatable.

**Although all history is priceless, do you consider any particular artefacts the most precious? (ie what items would you try to save in a fire?)**

I would feel compelled to save our earliest photographs and our first enrolment register which dates from 1913. Our first headmistress allegedly burnt all her school documents in a bonfire upon selling the School so this earliest register is so important. If I had time I would save our first School Council Minute Book from 1924, our 1920s school uniform, our dolls in school uniform, Betty Archdale's mother's suffragette medals and Marian Clarke's paintings.

**Has the storage and collation of artefacts changed much since you've been here? In what way?**

When I first started I had an office upstairs in School House, with the collection divided over many varied, different and inappropriate storage spaces throughout the School – on the balcony of School House, cupboards in corridors and a compactus beneath the old Library. With the opening of the ARC in 2006, the archive has been brought together in one space, complete with my office, workroom and climate-controlled compactus room.

**Why is it important to have an archivist in a school?**

A school archivist has to love history, has to love talking about history and be inspired to share it with people of all ages. My role is important because not all families choose a school for the same reason: it could be because of family ties, school results or geographical convenience and all are legitimate reasons. History brings people together, enables community and then ties that community to a place. If we know and understand our past, we have more interest in the present, because we know how the present was formed. It enables respect for the past, and I love that as the school archivist I am the gatekeeper of this knowledge.



# Diving into the deep end

It's not what you say, but how you say it

Susanna Matters, Year 6 Coordinator



Storytelling has long been recognised as a powerful way to share ideas. In Term 1, Year 6 girls were asked to relate to an audience and hone their oratory skills by preparing a short speech in the style of a TED talk on the topic 'diving into the deep end'.

While accomplished speakers often make their delivery look effortless, Year 6 students recognised that practice and considered rhetorical choices are the foundation of an engaging presentation. Prior to crafting their speeches, the girls learnt how to tell a personal story in a way that highlights values and character strengths. They also observed speakers who used humour, audience interaction and digital technologies to connect effectively with an audience.

It was heart-warming to hear personal stories of courage and learning from all the Year 6 girls. On Monday 22 March, two finalists from every class presented their expressive speeches to a captive audience of Year 5 and 6 students, Mrs Krimmer, Ms Ruston and our distinguished adjudicator Ms Darcy Tindale.

Congratulations to all our Year 6 finalists: Olivia Lin, Scarlett Low, Felicity Luu, Danielle Nayager, Skye Pullen, Neomi Verma and Charlyne Wong.

Special congratulations to the 2021 winner of the Rebecca Thompson Cup for Public Speaking, Neomi Verma.



# Year 4 Father Daughter Dinner

While the dinner was sadly cancelled in 2020, Hornsby RSL came to the rescue this year allowing us to once again host this popular, annual event

Brittany Black, Year 4 Coordinator

With excitement in the air, Year 4 girls skipped into the festively decorated ballroom ready to enjoy a memorable evening with their fathers or special guests. The Year 4 Father Daughter Dinner was a certainly a night to remember. To begin the evening, Ms Ruston welcomed girls, guests and teachers by sharing stories about previous Headmistresses and their many accomplishments. Neve Peters took great pride in performing her flute solo to the audience. Between courses, students came together on stage to sing *I am a Small Part of the World* by S Albrecht and *I've Lost my Homework* by Marta Keen. Mr Andrew Marinovic spoke fondly of his experiences as a father of Abbotsleigh girls,

sharing many a dad joke, before thanking staff for their efforts. Before the evening concluded, fathers delighted in watching their daughters enthusiastically dance 'The Nutbush'.

The Year 4 Father Daughter Dinner was a spectacular event filled with heartfelt conversation, captivating performances and delicious desserts. Events such as this remind us how important it is to carve out time to gather as a community. For the Year 4 girls, sharing an evening with their fathers or special guests was not only fun-filled and memorable, but also an important opportunity to demonstrate their growing maturity and share in existing as well as new-found interests.



# A musical voyage of discovery

A little-known Australian composer led one of our piano accompanists down a fascinating path of Australia's musical history that eventuated in her PhD

Tonya Lemoh, Abbotsleigh Piano Accompanist



I have always been intrigued by the process of discovering music by a composer I haven't heard of before. While I love the music of the undisputed great composers such as Bach, Beethoven and Mozart, there is something fascinating about playing through the score of an unfamiliar work –

experiencing the surprises in harmonic choices, melodic lines and contours, and getting to know the unique musical terrain of that particular creative imagination.

I had not heard of Raymond Hanson until a few years ago, despite having played plenty of 20th century Australian music as well as the traditional concert pianist's repertoire. I had been turning over ideas for PhD research and found myself drawn to the world of Australian piano music, particularly that composed around World War 2. Browsing through the music of that period, I stumbled across a sonata by Raymond Hanson. I was struck by his unique musical language, and I felt I had to know more about him – whether he had written more works for piano and what it was like. Asking people who knew him, some of whom still teach and perform, I discovered he had been a greatly admired composer who had somehow been forgotten. He had become the leading lecturer in composition at the Sydney Conservatorium in his lifetime and had won many awards for his works. I decided to locate all his piano works, some of which were still unpublished and most of which had never been recorded. My research involved analysing and recording Hanson's piano works, and in the process, exploring how and why such a great composer had fallen into obscurity. This led me on a fascinating journey – I enjoyed learning Hanson's brilliant piano music, and I spent a lot of time working on interpretation and recording. I found the discipline of doctoral research both challenging and stimulating, and while at times the academic demands were stressful, there was something exhilarating about the relentless refinement of ideas and the deep absorption required to put it all together.

Some of Australia's greatest composers, including Larry Sitsky, Richard Meale and Nigel Butterley, studied with Hanson, so his

legacy is valuable in many ways. I was recently awarded my PhD, titled *The Piano Works of Raymond Hanson: Discovery, Exploration and Reflection*, and my recording of Hanson's piano works was released by the international record label Naxos in March 2021. I feel honoured to be able to present the complete piano music of this great Australian composer in its entirety for the first time.



# Co-curricular music in a pandemic

COVID-19 gathering and instrument related restrictions required some creative thinking and resilience from Abbotsleigh students

Lynette Clarke, Acting Head of Music

**A** pre-COVID-19 Abbotsleigh music calendar would usually be filled with concerts, workshops, festivals and masterclasses. The uncertainty that COVID-19 brought to music making demanded that the Music Department reassess traditional structures; to produce new ideas in order to continue student engagement and to ensure connectivity with one another as part of the school music community.

The lockdown at the beginning of the pandemic saw us explore virtual rehearsals and Zoom concerts. While rehearsals were mixed in their success due to latency issues, many laughs were had together in a virtual way and our sense of community was sustained.

The return to face-to-face schooling saw another shift for our ensemble program due to ever changing

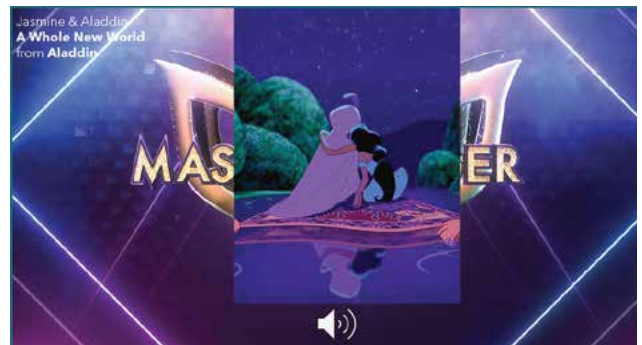


protocols. Singing with more than five people in a group was not allowed, brass and woodwind instruments were banned, instrumentalists had to maintain strict social distancing and the mixing of students from different year groups was avoided. Ensembles had to be restructured countless times. Band rehearsals were a sight to see as the distancing required meant that the entire Peter Duly Concert Hall stage and audience seats were filled with musicians during rehearsals.



Concerts went ahead as usual, but in the form of recordings. Music for assemblies, Speech Days and the Carol Service were pre-recorded and students enjoyed learning about the process of recording. In a time when much live music was inaccessible, we had to adopt different strategies in order to share performances and showcase work achieved during co-curricular rehearsals.

Most importantly, we focused on keeping the relationships within our music communities strong. We are so proud of the students for their positivity and for being so receptive to trying new ideas.



[The Abbotsleigh adapted Masked Singer competition in Choir] "...gave us a chance to continue music in a creative way through the pandemic and was a great way to experience joy with others in such difficult times."  
– Elinor

# T-2 Camp Week explorations

The excitement and challenges of Camp Week brought learning to life for our youngest students

Peita van Bussell, Transition to Year 2 Coordinator

**I**n Term 1, the girls in Transition to Year 2 participated in a range of day camps, with Year 2 also spending one night away for their first overnight camp experience

Transition began their camp experience with their first trip to the ACEE for the year. After walking to the Senior School, the girls dug up the vegetable patch to discover last year's potato crop, planted beans and hunted for worms in Mud Mountain. Together, the girls built stick fences to protect the tree seedlings that had naturally sprouted. It was lovely to see the girls showing such an appreciation for their natural surroundings. Transition will continue to visit the ACEE fortnightly throughout the year. On the Thursday, Transition enjoyed a Teddy Bear's Picnic themed day. They participated in a number of indoor and outdoor activities, culminating in the highlight of the day – a picnic with their teddy bears.

Kindergarten's first day was spent learning about light at the Museum of Contemporary Art, after travelling to Circular Quay by ferry. Their second day continued with the STEAM theme, as the girls spent the day at school exploring the world of colour. At Calmsley Hill City Farm, Kindergarten enjoyed a tractor ride, cow milking, sheep shearing and whip cracking as part of the delights of life on the farm.



Year 1 started camp week with a combined literature and STEAM day. Girls designed and built fairy tale castles, created artworks with Spiros, explored the school through orienteering activities and swam with their classmates in the afternoon. The girls visited the Australian Reptile Park on the Thursday as part of their Science explorations of living things. An extended day camp on the Friday began with a trip on a barge before embarking on a variety of activities at Broken Bay. These included beach engineering, bushwalking and Indigenous craft and storytelling.



Year 2 took a step back in time for their first day, visiting the NSW Schoolhouse Museum. Here the girls learnt to write with chalk on slate and dance the maypole as part of their History studies. Thursday brought much excitement as the girls headed off for their first overnight camp. At Yarramundi on the Hawksbury, we had a record number of girls conquer the rock climbing wall and other highlights included orienteering, bush cooking and archery. The girls revelled in the responsibility of setting the dining room tables, keeping track of their belongings and spending a night away from home.



After three very busy days, the girls arrived back at school on Friday afternoon exhilarated from all that they had achieved and thoroughly exhausted!



# The knock-on effect

Coming from a keen rugby family, it was inevitable that Caitlin would take to the field one way or another

Caitlin Winslade, Year 12



**I**n Year 7 I started playing rugby, but I liked the idea of refereeing so as soon as I turned 13 and was eligible to do so, I started down that path while continuing to play.

I gained my RKR accreditation (Refereeing Kids Rugby) and was refereeing minis (under 8-9s). A year later I started refereeing junior rugby (under 10-12s) and I am now in my 5th year of refereeing. When I was 15, I achieved my Level 1 refereeing accreditation. This accreditation can be achieved after the age of 15 and the referee has passed the laws exam and a field test. This accreditation allows referees to officiate under 13s and above.

Over the years I have refereed various levels and ages of rugby. I have refereed various 7s state championships, having the honour of refereeing the grand finals. I have refereed various XV's state championships, the U11s grand final and have been an assistant referee for multiple grand finals. I was also invited to referee the NSW junior rugby U12s girls PSSA tournament, and was appointed to the grand final. Additionally, I was an assistant referee at the World Rugby Deaf 7s tournaments in 2018 and was also the referee at an invitational Wahroonga Rugby Club against a SANDA rugby from Japan for an U11s game in 2018. I referee during the XV's and 7s seasons respectively. These games have been extremely beneficial in my development and pathway towards the School Student Scholarship (SSS).

SSS is for school students in Year 12 and recognises potential in rugby union match officials. The program aims

to enable a smooth transition for up-and-coming match officials between junior and senior rugby. The students in the program are also exposed to a higher level of rugby and coaching to improve performance.

In the 2021 SSS cohort, only 28 positions were given to referees around Australia. From New South Wales, there are 15 recipients of the scholarship; from Queensland there are 10; from Western Australia there is one and from the ACT there are two. Within the program there are only three female recipients – two being from Queensland and me (NSW), now an international referee.



# Making her mark

A steep trajectory has seen one of our Year 12 students excel in a sport that is swiftly gaining momentum at Abbotsleigh

Hannah Cerezo, Year 12

In 2019, I started playing AFL for Abbotsleigh in the Year 9/10 As. That same year I decided to join my local club at St Ives with a few other Abbotsleigh girls to continue to learn and play. We began in the U16 Division 2 league, but our team was improving so much we were promoted to the Division 1 league! We ended our season with an unfortunate loss in the grand finals, but what was more rewarding was our development as a team to be able to get there. Still loving my AFL, I tried out and was selected for the NSW North Academy at the end of 2019, which broadened my horizons to development opportunities in AFL. I was scouted from there to attend an ACT/NSW AFL camp which enabled me to get an invitation to trial for the U19 Top End Sydney Swans Academy in 2020.

2020 shook the AFL as it did most sports, however once restrictions eased, I was able to play a shortened club AFL season which we won! Due to funding issues, the NSW North Academy was discontinued, so instead I joined the PC (Performance Coaching) AFL Academy to further my skills. This is when I was selected for the Swans Academy team. We played against the GWS Academy in Canberra and the Geelong Academy in Melbourne, which was a great experience to play against some of the best players and learn from high-end coaches including Jared Crouch and Nick Davis.

This year I am currently playing my last year for St Ives as a Junior Club, and beginning to play on the Senior Women's side with Macquarie University.



# Delving into Abbotsleigh's past

Some special incursions introduced Year 2 to the history of Abbotsleigh: its people, its buildings and the importance of keeping records of it all

Peita van Bussel, Transition to Year 2 Coordinator



**O**n a very hot day early in March, the Year 2 girls met Rev Jenni Stoddart in the Senior School Library while the Chapel was being refurbished. 'Rev' brought a number of items from the Chapel, including Bibles, the numbering system for finding hymns, the register of marriages and banners used to mark important Sundays of the year like Easter. Great discussions followed and the girls discovered all kinds of things about the Chapel – including the fact that students brought their pocket money to help pay for the building, that one of their teacher's names is in the marriage register and that Miss Archdale made the Chapel a memorial to those who served in the Great Wars.

While in the Senior School, Year 2 also enjoyed an immersive experience on their visit to the Abbotsleigh Archives. Mrs Julie Daly, our Archivist, showed them artefacts from the Archives and introduced Abbotsleigh's long and impressive history. Starting with our founding Headmistress Marian Clarke, they looked at our earliest school photographs dating from 1886, uncovering why the students aren't smiling. They then moved







on to discovering our School's history through our Headmistresses, photographs, uniforms and other archival items, finishing with recent modern donations to the Archives such as Daisy Club squishy cows and the Year 6 Memory Book from 2020. They asked many questions and looked at all the items before choosing their three favourite artefacts to draw on their worksheet.

Later in the term, the Year 2 girls continued their exploration of historical perspectives and changes over time. As part of this program we were delighted to welcome back Mrs Margaret Duke to the Junior School campus. Mrs Duke was a long serving Abbotsleigh staff member and past Deputy Head of Junior School. She spoke to Year 2 about significant events and people in Abbotsleigh's history. The girls were enthralled to learn that there were not five houses when Mrs Duke first started teaching at Abbotsleigh as there are now. Mrs Duke's classroom was in the old Everett Rooms, which are currently a pile of bricks and rubble as the space is transformed into our new library and learning hub! Mrs Duke also shared with us some photos of the Centenary events, when the School celebrated its 100th birthday. The girls then took great delight in searching for the artefacts around the School of which Mrs Duke spoke.



# Grace Cossington Smith Gallery 2021 exhibition calendar

## **(re)arrangements September**

Artists Louise Allerton, Laura Badertscher, Sarah Edmondson, Ian Greig, Blake Griffiths, Kirtika Kain, Heidi Melamed, Rebecca Shanahan, Stuart Smith and Tom Yousif rearrange, repurpose, reuse, recycle and reinterpret photographic imagery, freely adapting the material and media available from myriad sources

September

## **Young Curators**

Presented by Abbotsleigh Young Curators and 3:33 Art Projects

October

## **Grace Cossington Smith art award**

Winners and finalist of the biennial award

6 November to 4 December

## Young Curators



### **Dates subject to change**

Please check our Facebook page and website for updates and planned events

[www.facebook.com/gcsgallery/](https://www.facebook.com/gcsgallery/)



ABBOTSLEIGH

Gallery hours Tues to Sat 10 am-5 pm FREE ENTRY | Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga 02 9473 7878 |

[gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au)

[www.gcsgallery.com.au](http://www.gcsgallery.com.au) | An Anglican Pre K-12 Day and Boarding School for Girls



ABBOTSLEIGH  
FOUNDATION

# Supporting academic excellence

Each year many generous members of our school community encourage excellence by endowing a Speech Day prize. Donors endow prizes for many reasons: celebrating achievement and inspiring students; acknowledging their daughter's/granddaughter's/mother's or perhaps their own experiences at Abbotsleigh; being passionate about an area of study; or simply taking the opportunity to give back to the School.

A gift of \$1,000 to the Abbotsleigh Foundation endows a prize for five years. A gift of \$5,000 to the Foundation will endow a prize in perpetuity with the option to name the prize.

Please note that prize endowment gifts are not tax deductible.

## Prizes available for endowment

### Junior School prizes

- Citizenship in Kindergarten
- Citizenship in Year 1

### Senior School prizes

- Academic Achievement in Year 8
- Ancient History in Year 12
- Business Studies in Year 12
- Chinese and Literature in Year 12
- Creative Writing in Middle School

- Creative Writing in Senior College
- Creative Writing in Senior College Archdale
- EAL/D in Year 12
- Extension History in Year 12
- Japanese in Year 12
- Music Composition
- Standard Mathematics in Year 12
- Technology and Applied Studies in Senior College
- Theology in Year 11

If you are interested in endowing a prize, please contact Sasha Carrel, Fundraising Manager on 02 9473 7738 or email [foundation@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:foundation@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au)

The full list of prizes available for endowment is also available on our website. Visit [www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving/prizes-for-endowment](http://www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving/prizes-for-endowment).

# From the President of the Abbotsleigh Parents' Association



Last year, when I wrote about all the events and activities that the APA and APR had to postpone or cancel, I wasn't sure what the situation would be today. I am, therefore, very pleased to say that so much has already happened and is being planned for 2021.

Dates are already in the diary for APR organised Year events, such as morning teas, playdates in the park and dinners. These activities, along with simple practical assistance, such as book covering or helping at Tuckshop, all form an integral part in bringing the Abbotsleigh community together.

In Term 2, the Junior School hosted the Cinema Under the Stars event at the Junior School. Thankfully, the torrential rain abated and a wonderful night was had watching *Mary Poppins Returns*. A huge thank you to all the APR and Abbotsleigh staff who worked tirelessly to make this a great success.

Term 2's event was a sold out Social Trivia Night held on 29 May. With a theme of 'A Night at the Movies', the room was filled with memorable characters from the silver screen. It was a fabulous and fun night enjoyed by all.

Despite the restrictions in place over the last 12 months, the APA has been actively supporting the School in

numerous activities. I hope that you have attended some of the APA sponsored parent seminars that have been broadcast online.

The APA has been working closely with Mrs Liz Cannon, School Psychologist and Director of Wellbeing and Counselling, in order to provide a range of expert speakers on a number of topical and important subject matters. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future seminars, please let us know.

We look forward to being able to hold our Gala at the Gallery event when we can, but there are other activities planned for later in the year to raise funds for our new buildings and Indigenous Scholarships.

The generosity of the parent community is beyond comparison. Every contribution of time, every donation, every effort is very much appreciated. You will find more information in *The Shuttle* or through the Abbotsleigh parent app as it comes to hand.

The primary role of the APA is to support the School and its activities. As the situation continues to change, please be mindful of any restrictions in place and please read *The Shuttle* for further news and updates.

If you would like more information about the APA or have any suggestions, please email me at president.abbotsleighapa@gmail.com.

I hope that 2021 is a year of peace and joy for you. In the words of C.S. Lewis, "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind."

**Ambereen Qureshi**



## FOLLOW US AND LIKE US ON

twitter

[www.twitter.com/abbotsleigh](http://www.twitter.com/abbotsleigh)

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[www.facebook.com/AbbotsleighOldGirlsandAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/AbbotsleighOldGirlsandAlumni)

Instagram

[www.instagram.com/abbotsleigh](http://www.instagram.com/abbotsleigh)

[www.instagram.com/abbotsleigh\\_oldgirls](http://www.instagram.com/abbotsleigh_oldgirls)





# APA Trivia Night



## Scholarships

Each year the Foundation supports means-tested scholarships for students. These scholarships give an opportunity to girls who, without this scholarship, would not be able to attend Abbotsleigh.

**\$228,000** | 12 

INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$180,940** | 6 

BETTY ARCHDALE SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$84,665** | 6 

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$32,850** | 1 

KATHLEEN McCREDIE  
SCHOLARSHIP

**\$17,060** | 1 

ROYLE SCHOLARSHIP

**\$64,880** | 2 

MOLLIE & NANCY DOUGLAS  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$16,425** | 1 

EVERETT SCHOLARSHIP

---

**\$624,820** | 29 

**TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS  
FUNDED**

## Additional Support

Donors to the Foundation can make a gift to the fund of their choice to support an area of the School about which they are passionate. Together as a community we can continue to build on our strong foundations and create greater opportunity in girls' education.

**\$233,000**  

TEMPORARY FEE  
RELIEF HARDSHIP FUND

So that no girl should leave Abbotsleigh due to drought or COVID-19

**\$5,000** 

SPORT, MUSIC AND  
ACADEMIC PRIZES

**\$133,854** 

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP  
SUPPORT

**\$996,674**

**TOTAL FUNDS  
DISTRIBUTED**

The Foundation could not have raised these funds without the very generous Abbotsleigh Community of current parents, past parents, Old Girls and staff. This support makes a very real difference to our students' learning every day. We look forward to working with our donors to grow the impact of the Foundation in 2021 and beyond.

# Abbotsleigh scholarship graduates



ABBOTSLEIGH  
FOUNDATION

## **Sophie Oakeshott (2017-present)**

### Indigenous Scholarship

*"Both Abbotsleigh and Yalari are playing an important role in breaking the intergenerational disadvantage that young indigenous people face.*

*My goals for the future are to: study medicine, and journalism, maybe go to the Olympics, and maybe become a big time Hollywood actor."*

**Sophie is a current Year 11 student at Abbotsleigh.**



## **Georgia Dennison (2015-2020)**

### Indigenous Scholarship

*"I am proud of who I have become and I am proud of my connection to my mob and community. Yalari and Abbotsleigh provided me with many opportunities I wouldn't have received if I didn't leave my hometown. Now that I have received a good education I am continuing my studies through University, I am able to go back to my community and make a difference in Aboriginal health care."*

**Georgia is currently completing a Bachelor of Midwifery at UTS.**

## **Carly Lomax (2017-2019)**

### Kathleen McCredie Scholarship

*"The Kathleen McCredie scholarship opened up a multitude of opportunities for me that I would not have received otherwise. It allowed me to attend the fabulous school that is Abbotsleigh where I was provided with the resources and support to excel in all areas. Since graduating, I still have lifelong friends, skills and a network of contacts thanks to my time at Abbotsleigh."*

**Carly is currently completing a Bachelor of Health and Rehabilitation at Charles Sturt University**



## **Vimbainashe Murambi (2016-2018)**

### Foundation Scholarship

*"Abbotsleigh challenged me in a way that allowed me to go into university strong willed and ready to face the different challenges thrown at me. Even since high school, the things I've learnt and the connections I've made have helped me in a way I never would have thought possible."*

**Vimbainashe is currently completing a Bachelor of Laws Social Sciences at Macquarie University.**

# A future worth supporting

On behalf of the thousands of girls who will benefit from our new state-of-the-art learning environments, thank you for believing in the importance of creating greater opportunities for girls' education. Your generosity will last generations.

Megan Krimmer

HEADMISTRESS

Every Abbotsleigh girl, past and present, has benefited from the generosity of parents, Old Girls and staff.

Without the generous donations from our Abbotsleigh community, we would not be able to fund our important Indigenous Scholarships, Foundation Scholarships and prizes, or improve our facilities.

In 2020, our generous community donated approximately \$728,00 to the Abbotsleigh Foundation for school programs, scholarships and facilities. With your help, this year we aim to raise \$1,000,000.



2021 Goal  
**\$1,000,000**



## State-of-the-art facilities

Extraordinary environments inspiring curiosity, innovation and empowerment.



Every dollar  
makes a difference.

Every dollar  
benefits our girls.

Every dollar  
is tax deductible.



**For more information visit**

[abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving](https://abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving)

Bequests to Abbotsleigh

# A woman's will is a powerful thing

It's why she chooses how she leaves her money;  
who it goes to and how it's best used.

A bequest to Abbotsleigh is an investment in independent  
young women.

## Your will, your way

You can speak confidentially to us about how you create a will, what  
kinds of gifts you can leave, and if you'd like them to go towards a specific  
cause such as Indigenous or needs-based scholarships, a prize, or  
school improvements.

No matter the size of your gift, Abbotsleigh is deeply appreciative of  
bequests from members of our school community.

Further information about gifts in  
wills can be found at  
[www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving/  
gifts-in-wills](http://www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving/gifts-in-wills)

Alternatively, you may contact  
the Director of Development and  
Community Relations, Alex Lightfoot,  
for a confidential chat by phone on  
02 9473 7737 or by email at  
[lightfoota@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:lightfoota@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au).



# Giving back

**Victoria Makin (Caelli, 1986) spoke with Rhonda Kaan, Old Girls Relations Assistant about the significant impact that an Abbotsleigh scholarship had on her life and her wish to see other girls benefit from the same opportunity**

**Rhonda Kaan (Turner, 1993), Old Girls Relations Assistant**



**A**s a young girl growing up on the Central Coast, living and working overseas was never on the radar for Victoria Makin (Caelli, 1986). However, a scholarship allowing her to attend Abbotsleigh for her final two years of high school as a boarder changed everything.

Victoria recently returned to Australia with her husband Ian (after a 14-day mandatory stay in quarantine courtesy of COVID-19 regulations) to take up her new role at Westpac as Head of Financial Crime Management, Business Controls and Monitoring for the Consumer Division. It follows nearly two decades of living and working between Australia, the United Kingdom and most recently, Hong Kong – with countless international work trips in between.

While Victoria has fond memories of her time at Abbotsleigh, she says she is always mindful that without the education she received there, her career might not have been quite so rewarding.

“Mine was a very working-class family: my mother was a nursing sister and my father was a fitter and turner working at the power station,” Victoria said. “My parents recognised I had intellectual potential and I think they wanted something better for me.”

Victoria said her parents always felt that if they could send their daughter to Abbotsleigh, it would give her a great start in life which could lead to other opportunities.

“I don’t think I would have gone to university or even thought about it being an option except I was surrounded by girls who were expecting to do that and suddenly, I thought ‘that’s something I could actually do!’”

Victoria went on to complete a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance Major) at University of NSW and has since worked in money laundering compliance at HSBC, Macquarie, Citi Bank and now Westpac.

While Victoria says her parents gave up a lot for her to attend Abbotsleigh, it would not have been possible without the help of the scholarship and it is for this reason she decided to give back.

“It is wonderful for me to now be in a position financially to be able to pay back some of the generosity I received,” she said.

Victoria has donated to scholarship programs at Abbotsleigh in the past and most recently she donated accommodation at her apartment in Terrigal as an auction item for the Celebration Zoom fundraising event held as part of the school’s 135th birthday celebrations during COVID-19 restrictions last year.

“Funnily enough I think Covid has somehow made me feel a little bit more connected to some people and events,” she said. “When I received the email to join the Zoom event during lockdown in Hong Kong I thought, ‘that’s something I can do!’ and when I saw the list of prizes people had donated, I decided that was something I could do too.”

Having discussed it with her husband and both agreeing, Victoria also plans to leave something in her will to Abbotsleigh.

“I certainly would not have been able to go to Abbotsleigh without the scholarship we got and again, it is a way of paying something back for future generations,” she said.

“I just felt it is the right thing: to give back so that someone else can get the same opportunities that I’ve had.”

*The Marian Clarke Society is an initiative of the Abbotsleigh Foundation that acknowledges and celebrates, during their lifetime, the generosity of those who have notified the School that they are leaving a gift in their will to Abbotsleigh.*

*For more information on gifts in wills or other gifts to the school, please contact Alex Lightfoot, Director of Development on 9473 7737.*

# Change to the Enrolment Policy affecting daughters of Abbotsleigh Old Girls

We are delighted to communicate a change to the Enrolment Policy affecting the daughter of an Abbotsleigh Old Girl.

It will no longer be necessary for the daughter of an Abbotsleigh Old Girl to attend entrance testing for her entry to Year 5 or Year 7. Accepted places are offered to daughters of AOG entering at ALL entry points on early application.

Abbotsleigh Old Girls are strongly encouraged to make application soon after the birth of their daughter to best ensure a place at Abbotsleigh. After 12 months of age, places are offered to those girls on the waiting list and while we will always try to assist with progressing enrolment for the daughter of an AOG, it will become more difficult to guarantee a place.

The entry points for Junior School are Transition, Kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 5. The entry point for Senior School is Year 7.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this process.

I look forward to welcoming your daughter to Abbotsleigh.

Colleen Fenn  
Registrar

02 9473 7744  
registrar@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au



## A future worth supporting

Abbotsleigh Celebration Giving Day: Friday 22 October

Celebration Zoom event: Saturday 23 October

We are excited to announce that we will launch our inaugural Abbotsleigh Celebration Giving Day in conjunction with our Foundation Celebration Zoom, back by popular demand!

We will be holding a huge, virtual community fundraising event, where the whole Abbotsleigh community can come together, have some fun and celebrate being part of this wonderful school while raising much needed funds for Indigenous scholarships and new building works.

Our MC will be the fabulous Laura Tunstall (AOG 1991), Channel 9 News reporter, who did a fantastic job for us last year.

**Buy your Celebration Zoom tickets now!**

<https://events.humanitix.com/foundation-celebration-zoom-2021>

Visit the Abbotsleigh Celebration Giving Day page.  
[www.charidy.com/abbotsleigh](http://www.charidy.com/abbotsleigh)



## From the President of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union



It was with great excitement that the AOGU hosted its first in-person event for more than a year with our Family Bowls Evening (with only hours to spare before two weeks of non-stop, torrential rain hit Sydney) and welcomed Old Girls with daughters starting at Abbotsleigh back to the School at our Mothers' Breakfast as well as our dedicated card players to Card Day. However, regardless of the inability to meet in person, the AOGU embraced technology

and hosted its Networking Breakfast via Zoom as well as launched its inaugural Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate via Zoom late last year. It was wonderful that the use of technology enabled attendance by a number of participants located locally, regionally and overseas, who for various reasons may not have been able to participate otherwise. We hope to continue to make a live-stream option available.

The AOGU was also able to support two very worthwhile projects through our 110th Anniversary Grant. Our winners for the Grant in 2020 were Linda Dalton (1979) and Nina Dunn (Tesoriero, 1995).

Please enjoy our feature story on Linda, who developed a community driven program supporting Bellingen's young people to be the safest drivers they can be.

In the next issue of *Around Abbotsleigh* later this year, we will feature a story on Nina's project, Lighthouse for the Community, which is an organisation that provides frontline support for those experiencing domestic and family violence.

We also launched the Old Girls Business Directory to help support Old Girls' businesses now and into the future.

I enjoyed seeing many of you join the AbbGirls Team for this year's Mother's Day Classic, which is a wonderful way to build community spirit while supporting breast cancer research.

If you are an Old Girl and are interested in representing Old Girls, reconnecting with the School or being involved in the School community in a different way, I strongly encourage you to join the AOGU Committee. With technology, it is easier than ever to be involved and there is no need to be located on the Sydney's North Shore. In particular, we are recruiting for a new Treasurer and Secretary for 2022, so if you have skills in these areas, please contact the Old Girls Office on [aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au).

Keep well and stay connected

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)

**President**

## 2021 AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant call for applications

As part of its 110th Anniversary celebrations, the AOGU launched its 110th Anniversary Grant program in 2018. The aim of this program is to support Old Girls in meaningful endeavors to benefit the community or have a positive social impact. The Grant recognises the value that Old Girls add by being contributory members to their local and/or worldwide communities through financial assistance and raising awareness of their activities. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, contributions to national or international service work, significant creative and performing arts projects and extraordinary sports or research project.

The AOGU is now calling for applications from eligible Old Girls for a limited number of grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

Full terms and conditions and application form are available on the AOGU website at [abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/old-girls/old-girl-news/aogu-110th-anniversary-grant](http://abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/old-girls/old-girl-news/aogu-110th-anniversary-grant). If you have any further questions, please contact the Grants Sub-committee at [aoguanniversarygrants@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:aoguanniversarygrants@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au).

Applications close on Monday 11 October 2021 and the winner(s) will be announced at the AOGU AGM on Wednesday 17 November 2021.

# AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant 2020 winner, Linda Dalton says the grant gives valuable rural community project “a whole new life.”

Rebecca Baillie (1989), AOGU Vice President



It's a rite of passage many 16 and 17-year-olds take for granted—learning to drive and getting their Ps.

But for some young people in and around Linda Dalton's (AOG 1979) hometown of Bellinghen, on the NSW Mid-North Coast, getting a driver's licence can be tougher than it seems.

“The Bellinghen Shire has a relatively low socio-economic index... many people are employed in part-time work, juggling childcare and work, and many rely in part or altogether on Centrelink benefits,” Linda Dalton explained.

“There are a significant number of single parent families who are only just getting by.”

In NSW, learner drivers need to log 120 hours of supervised driving before they can apply for their provisional licence.

“In Bellinghen, parents (can) struggle to scrape together money for even one driving lesson with a driving school, and working parents, particularly single parents... struggle to find the hours to supervise their children's driving themselves,” Linda said.

With limited public transport in the area, young people rely on getting their licence to get around.

“In a rural area, having a licence opens up enormous possibilities – education, social, part-time work,” Linda

said. “If you can't drive, you can't work. It's as simple as that.”

Linda Dalton, a solicitor in the town, saw the need and helped establish a project with Bello Youth Hub, called Two Way Street. The program pairs learner drivers with community volunteers, many of whom are retirees, to help the young drivers clock up the requisite training hours.

The Two Way Street project is staffed and organised by volunteers and runs entirely on donations and fundraising. It has two donated vehicles which cost \$3000 a year to operate – in petrol, registration, insurance and servicing.

“Our policy is not to charge anything. The second you introduce a fee you lose the ones who can't make the fee. The ones who can pay the fees are the better-off ones. So, by charging a fee you undercut the project in two ways- we lose the kids we want to engage with, and secondly that obligation to give back would be lost.”

Approximately 150 young people have earned their licences through the program since it began in 2014.

In lieu of payment, the young people give back in other ways. A number of teens who went through the project have become mechanics, and service the Two Way Street cars. Others help with car washing and fundraising.

While the program has the tangible, practical benefit of teaching young people to drive and be safe drivers, Linda says an intangible benefit is the creation of strong relationships between young people and their mentors. Young people turn to their older mentors for advice, and mentors enjoy an enhanced sense of purpose through



Second from left, Old Girl Linda Dalton (1979) was awarded an AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant which will help keep the Two Way Street project in Bellingen, NSW on the road for a year.



meaningful engagement with younger members of the community.

“That is where the magic is. It’s beautiful.”

In 2020, the AOGU awarded Linda Dalton a 110th Anniversary Grant of \$3,000, with the funds guaranteeing the project runs for another year, by covering the on-road costs of its two vehicles.

“I was incredibly grateful that we were able to keep going, that is where the money has been invaluable, it has given Two Way Street a whole new life.”

The other 2020 AOGU 2020 110th Anniversary Grant winner, Nina Dunn (Tesoriero, 1995), applied for the grant on behalf of Lighthouse for the Community, an organisation that provides frontline support for those experiencing domestic and family violence. We will feature the important work of this life-changing and life-saving organisation in the next edition of *Around Abbotsleigh*.

# Australia Day Honours 2021

Orthoptist Marion Rivers AM (Osborn, 1965) is honoured to have been made a member of the general division of the Order of Australia as part of this year's Australia Day honours



Orthoptist and former Orthoptics Australia president Marion Rivers AM (Osborn, 1965) has been made a member of the general division of the Order of Australia as part of this year's Australia Day honours for her significant service to eye care and to the community.

As someone who left Abbotsleigh with Betty Archdale as a mentor and great encourager of women and their careers, Marion said she had always managed to combine family and career.

"Leaving Abbotsleigh in 1965 with little idea of what to do, I stumbled into an Orthoptic course at Sydney Eye Hospital and found my niche," Marion said.

"As an orthoptist I have had a very varied career, working in many different settings from private practice to public hospitals, to a not-for-profit low vision agency," she said.

Marion said her working life had included time in WA, NSW, Victoria and the UK with a focus on paediatric eye care, eye movement disorders and low vision in children. According to Marion, the Orthoptics Association where she was president in 1981-1982 and again in 2017-2019 has not only grown over many years, but continues to be a valued part of eye care delivery in Australia.

"I have always been passionate about my professional association and spent many years battling bureaucracy so that Orthoptics could continue as a recognised allied health profession backed by a university degree."

Marion's community service has involved eye screening across Australia, teaching in a blind school in Vietnam, representing Australian orthoptists on the International Orthoptic Association and ensuring that orthoptists have a voice in Canberra through both the Allied Health Professional Association and Vision 2020, the peak body for Eye Health in Australia.

"It has been a great honour to receive a Member of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Awards," she said.

Marion lives in regional Victoria and continues to provide advocacy for eye health in Australia.





# Abbotsleigh Commemorative Pavers

## Steps of time...

When an Abbotsleigh girl walks out the front gates for the final time and takes her first step into her new journey as an Old Girl, she can't help but leave a little piece of herself behind.

The School has a special way to recognise these special 'steps of time'.

In recognition of donations of \$500 or more (tax deductible) to the Abbotsleigh Foundation, you will receive a commemorative paver and in doing so create a lasting legacy.

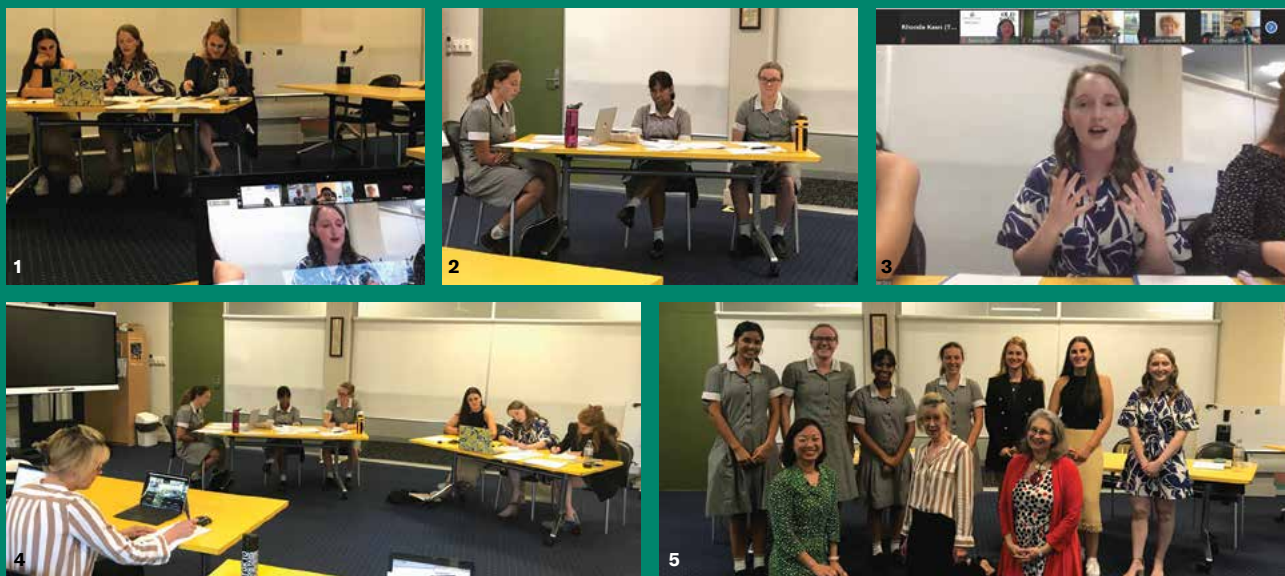
Our pavers are located just outside the Marian Clarke Building where current students, staff, Old Girls and guests stroll by them on a daily basis. These 'steps of time' tell a story of those who have been part of the School's history and at the same time create an opportunity where Old Girls and their families can enjoy seeking out their pavers amongst the collection. In addition, our current students also enjoy discovering familiar names and families during their school day.

If you would like to take up this opportunity, please contact Sasha Carrel, Fundraising Manager, at [foundation@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:foundation@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au) or phone 02 9473 7738.



# Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate

The inaugural Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate was held at the end of last year via Zoom where the Old Girls team successful argued against the topic 'That wisdom comes with age'.



1. Old Girls team Sarah Kelland (2016), Kendall Shepherd (2014) and Kaitlyn Crowe (2014) 2. Current girls Sophie Wines (Sport Prefect 2020/21), Satara Uthayakumaran (Vice Head Prefect-Service 2019/20) and Rosie Fordham (Debating and Public Speaking Prefect 2019/20) 3. Old Girls team member Kendall Shepherd (2014) in action 4. The battleground 5. AOGU President Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991), AOGU Secretary Sarah Franks (1991), Abbotsleigh Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator, Jennie Kelly, with the teams

## Two from two!

Old Girls are the 2021 Swimming and Athletics Champions after taking out both events at this year's Senior School Carnivals!

Arguably our strongest teams to ever take on the Day Girls and Boarders in the hotly contested relays, the Old Girls triumphed at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Tuesday 23 February and on a soggy track at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre on Wednesday 5 May.

The winning combination in the pool was a reunion of the Nationals Team that represented Abbotsleigh in 2018 including Becca St Vincent (2019), Holly Nelson (2020), Tash Ramsden (2018) and Emily Ong (2019).

Athletics team members included current Abbotsleigh athletics coaches Mia Hemsworth (2019) and Sarah Healey (2016), softball 1sts coach Ash Bruce (2012) and Charlotte Banks (2019) who coached Abbotsleigh netball last year and is a current athlete in training.

Congratulations Old Girls!



# Family Bowls Day

The AOGU Family Bowls Day was held on Saturday 13 March at Killara Bowling Club.



**1.** Old Girls Kathy Jennings (Hepburn, 1996) and Janelle Citer (Pegler, 1994) **2.** AOGU committee members Margaret Sachs (Coburn, 1965), Anne Mitchell (Macfarlane, 1964) and Fiona Hobill Cole (1981) **3.** The boys in action **4.** AOGU Secretary Sarah Franks (1991) and committee member Anne Mitchell (Macfarlane, 1964) **5.** Rosie Meares (2019), Fiona Hobill Cole (Armstrong, 1981) and Clementine Hobill Cole (2019) **6.** Back row: Tim Hobill Cole, Rosie Meares (2019), Middle row: Alice Citer (Year 6), Holly Jennings (Year 6), James Osman, Ed Magnussen, Front: Harry Doyle

# 1972 leavers 49 year reunion



A group of 1972 leavers recently enjoy a mini reunion at Goonoo Goonoo Station near Tamworth: Kerry (Crump) Martin (Abrams), Jan (Grub) Thompson (Griffin), Sally Toole (Ashe), Kirsty McCauley (Atkinson), Jay Dillon (Lamble), Sue Fleming (Bourne) and Fiona Russell (McIlrath)

# Old Girls Mothers' Breakfast

A group of close to 80 attendees, including current students and their mothers who are Old Girls along with Old Girls who are grandmothers of students new to Abbotsleigh, gathered in glorious sunshine on the Junior School tennis courts for the 2021 AOGU Old Girl Mothers' Breakfast on Friday 30 April.



1. Grandmother Ingrid Wiseman (Prinsen, 1963) with daughter Philippa Loel (Wiseman, 1991) and granddaughters Laura (Year 9), Annika (Year 7), Mia (Year 5), Alison (Year 2) Loel and Kathy Bestic (Year 5) 2. Grandmother Sue Garland (North, 1958) with daughter Jenny Kemp (Garland, 1990) and granddaughter Emily Kemp (Year 7) 3. Year 12 girls and their Old Girl mothers Front: Karina Conn (Lorschy, 1986) and daughter Sophie, Karen Love (1987) and daughter Amelia Nichols Back: Carla Herbert (Knox, 1991) and daughter Sophie, Rachel Hargreaves (Logan, 1984) and daughter Kate, Rebecca Baillie (1989) and daughter Olivia Santow, Jennifer Matthews (1985) and daughter Mia Navratil, Kelly Swann (1985) and daughter Hannah Cerezo, Charlotte Wingfield Digby and her mother Megan (Baker, 1983) 4. Year 8 girls and their Old Girl mothers Amy Dawson (Whalan, 1993) and Zoe, Charlee-Robyn and Alex Lightfoot (Doherty, 1987), Morag and Victoria Rennie (Gosper, 1987), Harriet and Rhonda Kaan (Turner, 1993), Kate Walters and Erin Maher (1992) and Georgie O'Hara (Buchanan, 1999) and Annie 5. Old Girls who are mothers of current students Sally Smyth (Emptage, 1994) and Gretel Sachs (1993) 6. 1991 leavers and their daughters: Philippa Loel (Wiseman) and Laura (Year 9), Annika (Year 7), niece Kathy Bestic (Year 5), Alison (Year 2) and Mia (Year 5); Rebecca Overton and Emily (Year 9) and Charlotte (Year 9) Ellis; Carla Herbert (Knox, 1991) and daughter Sophie; AOGU Secretary Sarah Franks and Audrey Kennedy (Year 9); and AOGU President Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991) and Poppy (Year 9) 7. AOGU Executive team: Treasurer Margaret Jordan (Thiel, 1986), President Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991) and daughter Poppy (Year 9), Secretary Sarah Franks and daughter Audrey Kennedy (Year 9), and Vice President Rebecca Baillie (1989)

# Mother's Day Classic

**I**n its fourth year of entering the Mother's Day Classic, Team AbbGirls has smashed its target by raising over \$2,750 for vital breast cancer research.

Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union (AOGU) President Belinda Burton said she was thrilled with the team's fundraising result as well as the increased involvement from the Abbotsleigh community in the AOGU initiative. Head Prefect Emma Thornthwaite played a key role in encouraging participation in the event organising for a group to meet and walk together at Narrabeen Lake.

Belinda said she first signed up as an individual eight years ago as a personal challenge but mainly because, as a mother of two girls, she knew breast cancer would affect their lives in some way.

"I wanted to do my small part to help raise awareness and funds for research and treatment," she said. "It is also a meaningful way to share Mother's Day with my daughters."

Four years ago Belinda took the idea to the AOGU Committee that the Mother's Day Classic would be a wonderful event to bring the Abbotsleigh Community together while supporting a cause that is likely to affect us all in some way at some stage.

"Over the years, I've had two close friends battle breast cancer and only last month had a scare of my own," she said. "Sadly, I suspect many in our community have had or will have similar experiences."

With options to walk or run and several distances to choose from, the Mother's Day Classic is a very inclusive event. Due to changes resulting from Covid-19, it was even easier for anyone to get involved this year. Participants had the choice of joining smaller local events or choosing their own time and place to run or walk.

"Thank you to everyone who supported Team AbbGirls and breast cancer research through participation and donations."



1



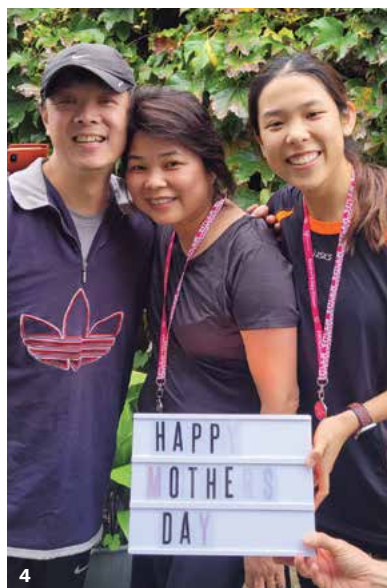
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3



4



5

1. One of the groups to taking part as members of Team AbbGirls in this year's Mother's Day Classic

2. Head Prefect Emma Thornthwaite played a key role in encouraging participation in the event organising for a group to meet and walk together at Narrabeen Lake

3. AOGU President Belinda Burton, husband Mark and daughters Jasmine (11) and Poppy (9) getting into the spirit of this year's Mother's Day Classic

4. AbbGirls Mother's Day Classic Team members Victor, Rebecca and Ashley Chan (11)

5. Congratulations to Poppy Burton (9) who won this year's NSW Best Dressed for her creative use of the official bandana as a sling!



# Card Day

A small but enthusiastic group of bridge players made up five tables at the Card Day on Thursday 13 May at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery



1. AOGU President Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991) welcomes the 2021 AOGU Card Day participants to the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery 2 and 3. Lunch in the sun on the gallery verandah 4. Headmistress Mrs Megan Krimmer, Old Girls Relations Assistant Rhonda Kaan (Turner, 1993) and AOGU President Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991) 5. AOGU Committee member Anne Mitchell (Macfarlane, 1964) blends in with the exhibition *Stopping by the Colour Wheel* on display at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery 6. Jill Auld (Cowper, 1961), Michele Cousins (Old, 1961), Elizabeth Tomlinson (Mills, 1960) and Julie McFadzean (Dillon, 1961) settle down to the business of playing bridge

# Congratulations



**Heidi Beesley (1993)** and John Donnellan were thrilled to welcome their baby daughter, Morocco (Coco) on 10 October, 2018. She has been an absolute bundle of joy since the day she was born and is now a joyous 2.5 year old who embraces every day with fun and enthusiasm.



**Dimity O'Brien (Norton, 2009)** and her husband Justin are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first child, Primrose Alexandra on 20 September 2020. Grandmother Alex Norton (Deane, 1983) and great grandmother Elizabeth Norton (Hobbs, 1953) are tickled pink.



Three (possibly four!) generations of Abbotsleigh girls! **Helen (Cook, 2004)** and Murray Parker are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Amelia, born during the COVID shutdowns of 2020. Marg Cook (Himmelhoch, 1974) is a very happy grandmother and Jean Himmelhoch (Andrew, 1943) is a very happy great grandmother to Amelia.



**Dani Potter (2004)** and Pat Thompson are delighted to share news of their family's latest addition, son Edison (Eddie) Thompson. Born on March 19, Eddie is a little brother to two-year-old very proud big sister Tilly.



**Sarah Robson (1994)** and Peter Jurd are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Maxwell Alexander Robson Jurd. Born on April 20, Maxwell weighed 3.3kgs and measured 50.5cm long.



**Emily Colless (2006)** from Come-by-Chance married Ryan Fahey of Dorrigo at the Colless's property at Narrabri on 18 September 2020. Emily's sister Ali Colless (2010) was a bridesmaid, and the celebration was also attended by Old Girls Jane Keir (Colless, 1969), Amy Remond (2006) and Sophie Neiberding (Brownhill, 2006).

# Judy Bidencepe (Kingsbury, 1949)



**J**udy was born in the home of her parents at 6 Winton Street, Warrabee on 24 May 1932. After attending a small local kindergarten in the Waitara/Hornsby area, she started 4th Class at Abbotsleigh in 1942.

She was always reading books, performed well academically and enjoyed sports such as swimming, hockey and tennis. She finished her Leaving Certificate in 1949 with grades allowing her entrance to university.

While at Abbotsleigh she made many friends, later travelling with some overseas and stayed in contact with them for the rest of her life.

She started Economics at Sydney University in 1950, hated it and wanted to change to Law but her father actively discouraged this and after much debate, she followed her sister Joan to train as a physiotherapist, starting in 1951 and graduating with distinction in 1954.

Later that year she decided to go on a working holiday to England, toured Europe with friends and worked in a hospital in London's East End.

Returning to Australia in 1956, she married Peter Bidencepe on 18 September 1959. They purchased a house in Warrimoo Avenue St Ives and spent the rest of their married life there.

After raising three sons, Judy completed a refresher course to requalify as a physiotherapist and continued working in the hospital system for a number of years, making many friends.

Following final retirement in early 1990s, she was able to enjoy some overseas travelling.

After her sons married, they produced nine grandchildren, which she greatly enjoyed.

Finally, after a brief period of ill health, Judy passed away aged 88 on 17 March 2021.



# (Nancy) Fay Nicholson (Woodcock, 1949)



**I**t is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Fay Nicholson on 6 April 2021. Born on 10 December 1932, Fay had fond memories of Abbotsleigh and considered that the School instilled the belief that education for girls was valuable and essential. Abbotsleigh started her

lifelong passion for learning; laying the foundation for her future career.

She performed well academically, in sport and music which assisted her move to Melbourne in her late secondary years. She formed long standing friendships at Abbotsleigh and enjoyed attending school reunions over the years. Fay's rich career was in tertiary

education and information management, including lecturing in Librarianship and Information Management at Melbourne College of Advanced Education (now Melbourne University), RMIT and Monash University. This was followed by a range of interesting consultancies relating to information management ranging from public libraries (local, interstate and overseas) through to large corporations such as Telstra.

She played an active role in various professional associations, authored papers and university texts and spoke at local and international conferences. A remarkable woman of great compassion, energy, warmth, generosity and intellectual curiosity and a wonderful sense of humour. She is survived by her son Robert and daughters, Diana and Fiona.

**By daughters Fiona Nicholson Stocker and Diana Nicholson**

## Marion Millicent Alford (Bryant, 1949)



Born on 1 January 1932, Marion grew up and lived in Craignairn, Wahroonga, until she married, then she moved overseas for a period of time where she began her family.

Upon returning from overseas, she and her family lived in Mosman. Marion had four children, Julie, Philippa, Peter and Helen (deceased). After supporting her children through their schooling, she took up her lifelong passion of the land.

Marion spent the last 40 years of her life in Queensland on a cattle property breeding and supporting Brahmin cattle through her volunteering and work on the land.

Marion also volunteered in the local district – with Agforce, an organisation representing Queensland's rural producers, the local bowling club, the tennis club, the garden club, supporting emergent readers at the local school, Boondooma Homestead and general involvement with the community and surrounds.

Marion continued her volunteering and passion for music (particularly with Musica Viva – encouraging visits by musicians to the local school) and art.

Marion died on 30 November 2020, and according to her son, "She passed gently (perhaps to those who knew her, beautifully stubbornly)."

**Philippa Alford**

# Dr Marie (Maree) Mildred Farley (1950)



A 75-year friendship that started on their first day together at Abbotsleigh. Pictured seated together in the front row of the 1950 Leaving Certificate photograph is Mary Tranter and the late Maree Farley.

**M**aree was an only child, born 21 December 1933 on her father's birthday. Her devotion to service started young as she attended St Alban's Lindfield Sunday School and was a member of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) Young People's Union where she knitted squares for rugs that were sent to Tanganyika.

Maree attended Abbotsleigh from 1946 to 1950 and in 1951 commenced a Science degree at Sydney University, however, moved to medicine a year later. From 1957-1959, Maree worked as a Medical Registrar at Rachel Forster Hospital in Redfern followed by six months each in Paediatrics and Obstetrics. She also trained as a Counsellor and was in the choir at the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade.

From 1960-1961, Maree worked as a locum General Practitioner in various practices, then went overseas

for further study and further experience in Paediatrics and Obstetrics. In 1964 she commenced as a GP in Chatswood until 1992, when Dr Louise Holliday (AOG 1971) took over her practice. Maree assisted part time until 2000 as well as giving two days a week in the CMS office looking after missionaries.

In 1980, Maree became the CMS NSW Branch Medical Registrar and later the CMS Federal Medical Registrar. Maree was elected as Vice President of CMS in 2002 and continued to attend General Committee meetings up until June 2018.

Maree had a keen interest in her family history, particularly researching her great, great grandfather, Dr Thomas Parmeter, who arrived in Sydney in 1816 and was the second private practitioner in the colony. She loved classical music and the opera, attending performances at the Opera House right up until it became physically too difficult. She loved travel and photography, visiting Israel and the Middle East a number of times. She regularly attended the Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship Congresses held every four years and was on the organising group for the conference held in Sydney in 2006.

From 1964, Maree was an active member of St Paul's Chatswood up until she had to leave her home in June 2018 and finally became a resident of Elizabeth Lodge in Willoughby, located just across the road from St Stephen's Willoughby. Old friends from St Paul's days who attended St Stephen's arranged for her to be wheelchair across the road on Sunday mornings. Maree passed into glory on Wednesday 8 April 2020.

## Memories from school friend Mary Tranter (1950)

Maree Farley attended Abbotsleigh from 1946-1950, just after the War. We have been friends for 75 years after Mrs Katie Watson sat us next to each other and we were amongst new girls not all of whom had school uniforms as the war had created a shortage.

At school, Maree was a conscientious and very able scholar and a prefect, and many years later served on the Abbotsleigh Council for a period of ten years.

She was a very busy and dedicated GP and strongly Christian. Even after her retirement she gave time as an official hospital visitor - a group of volunteers mostly with medical experience who monitored the wellbeing of patients in difficult circumstances - some even in Long Bay Correctional Complex.

# Mary Alison Finch (1961)



**M**ary Alison Finch was born on 20 January 1944 and lived at “Cherry Tree”, Tooraweenah until she started school at Abbotsleigh as a boarder in 1954.

She started the term late, as she had caught

the measles and upon arriving Mary felt as if everyone was staring at her. A kind older girl, Libby Barrett, came forward to welcome her and show her around. That seemed to be the way at Abbotsleigh for Mary with strong friendships formed and opportunities offered to become a confident young woman.

Mary’s great claim to fame was her athletic achievements. As soon as she arrived her abilities and name ‘Finchy’ spread through Abbotsleigh.

Finchy was an extraordinary athlete. She used her whole body and was all over the track. She would tell us that she didn’t breathe the whole race!

When picking teams, Finchy often chose a slower runner on her side to even it up. She enjoyed the game rather than the win. She could take anyone on in sprints, relays, long jump and team events.

Finchy was part of a relay representing Abbotsleigh at NSW State Championships with Sue Swinson, Jan Joseph and Judy Bettington and they proudly came second.



Finchy went on to travel the world. In England she worked at Courthouse Farm with an Arab horse stud, then “Cowdrey Park” with polo ponies where she was responsible for exercising and training them. Mary’s ability with horses shone through as she was fearless and intuitive. Best of all, she was friendly to all workmates.

In her late 20s Mary and her friend Gwen bought their own property and developed a fine Murray Grey herd. With Mary’s innate knowledge and love of the land, very little could defeat her and at one stage she was nominated for NSW Rural Woman of the Year.

Mary was diagnosed with uterine cancer in 2012 and bravely fought this until she passed away peacefully on 29 October 2018.

## **Marilyn Rollings (Maunder 1957-1961) and friends**

## We remember

**Pamela Annear** (Carr, 1948)

**Margaret Barry** (McDonald, 1960)

**Susan Briggs AM** (1968)

**Margaret Cantor** (McNiven, 1941)

**Joan Cooper** (Booth, 1945)

**June Copeland** (Mate, 1954)

**Harriette Cowper** (Stephenson, 1941)

**Muriel Crossing** (Brownlow, 1946)

**Elizabeth Fell** (1956)

**Carolyn (Carol) Finnerty** (Treatt, 1960)

**Margaret Fowler Smith** (1967)

**Naida Fowler Smith** (Dark, 1944)

**Joy Giblin** (Miles, 1941)

**Margaret Hill** (1951)

**Yvonne Hodgson** (Eastment, 1950)

**Mary Lewis** (Cameron, 1943)

**Sheila Murray** (1942)

**Flora O’Dea** (Taylor, 1937)

**Lucy Ralston** (Martin, 1946)

**Jocelyn Roseby**

**Wendy Sharpe** (Taubman, 1961)

**Barbara Stevenson** (Furner, 1944)

**Mary Thompson** (1953)

**Celia Tilbury** (Wileman, 1971)

**Margaret Tink** (Andrew, 1941)

**Nancy (Nan) Twomey** (Marshall, 1943)



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