

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Service changes others' lives and our own

Mrs Annette Ware
Dean of Senior College

Service runs deep in the life of Abbotsleigh; it is part of our DNA. It has been a distinguishing feature of Abbotsleigh from its earliest days and remains one of our strategic drivers, equal to any other pursuits we undertake. Encapsulated in the term 'positive social impact', it is embedded in the Abbotsleigh Learning Framework and consequently threaded through our programs, teaching and learning.

Service opportunities abound at Abbotsleigh. Often, they are linked to curriculum such as the Year 1 'Light up Vanuatu' project and the Year 3 collaboration with students from St Lucy's School. 'Earth Angels' and 'Waste Warriors' are also good examples of our Junior School girls making a positive social impact. Service opportunities are also facilitated through co-curricular activities such as Amnesty, World Vision and Interact Clubs in the Senior School. Service is a key pillar of the Year 10 Immersion Week program and an integral part of the Duke of Edinburgh program. The Virtual Visiting program in the Senior School involves girls providing companionship for older Australians, and the 'Bega kwa Bega' partnership with Bunda Girls' Secondary School in Tanzania is providing rich opportunities for learning and service. This is a small sampling of service opportunities at Abbotsleigh.

As Abbotsleigh parents, you may be familiar with the term 'Service Learning'. This refers to a distinct pedagogy that was introduced at Abbotsleigh more than 20 years ago. Service Learning takes service to a new level with rich academic front loading that deepens the student experience, and guided reflection that helps students to identify the impact of the service and how it may have shaped their understanding of their capacity to effect positive change. Reflection also enhances empathy, encourages respect, enables beliefs and assumptions to be challenged and provides a quiet window for one to consider how the experience has made them feel.

By its very nature, service is outward focused and humble in posture; a helpful and healthy antidote to some of the forces at play in the lives of young people. The historic times and cultural setting in which we find ourselves can foster an unhealthy focus on self and at times, a sense of entitlement, if not recognised



and mitigated. Service can play a key role here. When it is at its most effective, service involves listening and learning about needs from those impacted most closely, rather than beginning with assumptions about what is needed. This inherently lifts the gaze from oneself to the people or communities in need. Sacrificial giving of time and resources are also integral to service; this also contributes to character development.

The health benefits of service, volunteering and indeed simple acts of kindness are well documented and widely acknowledged. They reduce stress and anxiety, contribute to meaning and purpose, combat feelings of despair and helplessness in the face of global turmoil, nurture connections and new relationships, and increase positive feelings by releasing dopamine. Service changes other people's lives and our own. Its contribution to wellbeing can be profound; a compelling reason for embedding it in the fabric of our everyday lives.

Many Abbotsleigh students benefit from the role modelling of parents who serve in their local communities or who offer their professional skills in service of others, often in a pro bono capacity. Student engagement in service in the context of school is good, but even better is when service is a way of life, normalised in family life. Serving together as a family can be a powerful experience. With Clean Up Australia Day coming up on Sunday 3 March, you might like to get involved as a family. There are myriad opportunities for families to nurture and develop a habit of service. Look online for opportunities like 'Kids Giving Back'. Think creatively about school holiday service focused activities. Consider working with your daughter to frame her next birthday celebration around a service activity. The possibilities are endless.

The words of Jesus shape much of our understanding of service here at Abbotsleigh. "I have come to serve, not to be served," said Jesus. Long may we continue to inspire and encourage a generation of young women to be outward focused and servant hearted, and equipped with the skills and confidence for making a positive social impact here, there and everywhere.



Chaplain

Eras

Rev Sarah Hobba
Chaplain

The big news is that Taylor Swift is in the country. Different generations are flocking to see her this weekend. People are making friendship bracelets, dressing up to 'shimmer' and singing her hits. Her Eras tour is based on her unfolding music career. God's revelation and faithfulness have been seen unfolding throughout the generations (eras) in the Old Testament scriptures, with Jesus in the Gospels described as 'God with us'. The different eras of Jesus' life, and particularly

this week, Jesus' miracle in John 2, have been the focus of Junior School Chapels.

John 1:14 The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

**Grace Cossington Smith art award
Exhibition of finalists**

27 January to
24 February

GCS Gallery

JUNIOR SCHOOL

No JS AbbSchool, Co-curricular or Extended Tuition classes this week

**Year 6 Outdoor Education, Canberra and
Mt Kosciuszko**

Monday 26 February
6.30 am

Everett Hall

Year 1 Parent Morning Tea

Monday 26 February
8-9.30 am

Bundarra Lawn

**Transition to Year 2 author talk with
Jacqueline Harvey**

Monday 26 February
9-10 am

Auditorium

Transition ACEE visit

Wednesday 28 February

Senior School

Year 1 school-based activities

Wednesday 28 February

Junior School

Year 2 Chapel and Archives excursion	Wednesday 28 February	Senior School
Kindergarten Australian Museum excursion	Wednesday 28 February 8.20 am-2.50 pm normal dismissal	Depart from Kindergarten classrooms
Year 3 Outdoor Education, Milson Island	Wednesday 28 February 8.15 am	Depart from Everett Hall
Year 4 Outdoor Education, Point Wolstoncroft	Wednesday 28 February 8 am	Depart from Everett Hall
Year 5 Outdoor Education, Somerset Camp	Wednesday 28 February 7 am	Depart from Everett Hall
Transition Teddy Bears' Picnic	Thursday 29 February	Junior School
Kindergarten Colour Day	Thursday 29 February	Junior School
Year 1 Reptile Park excursion	Thursday 29 February 8.20 am-3 pm normal dismissal	Depart from Year 1 classrooms
Year 2 Outdoor Education, CCC Yarramundi	Thursday 29 February 7.30 am	Depart from Everett Hall
Kindergarten Calmsley Hill Farm excursion	Friday 1 March Normal school hours	
Year 1 Outdoor Education, Broken Bay	Friday 1 March 7 am	Hornsby Train Station George Street entry
Year 1 Outdoor Education, Broken Bay	Friday 1 March Pick up 4.30 pm	Bundarra Lawn
Year 2 Outdoor Education, CCC Hawkesbury	Friday 1 March Pick up 3 pm	Bundarra Lawn
Year 3 Outdoor Education, Milson Island	Friday 1 March Pick up 3.15 pm	Bundarra Lawn
Year 4 Outdoor Education, Point Wolstoncroft	Friday 1 March Pick up 4 pm	Bundarra Lawn
Year 5 Outdoor Education, Somerset Camp	Friday 1 March Pick up 3.30 pm	Bundarra Lawn
Year 6 Outdoor Education, Canberra and Mt Kosciuszko	Friday 1 March Pick up 6.30 pm	Bundarra Lawn
Please note that as pick for Years 2, 3 and 5 is at the end of a normal school day, your daughter can be collected from lower car line until 4 pm or Bundarra Lawn as above or they can go to After School Care.		
On Friday 1 March in the afternoon the following year groups will not be able to use the Abbotsleigh buses. Year 1, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.		
No IPSHA Saturday sport	Saturday 2 March	
Year 5 Parent Morning Tea	Monday 4 March 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn

Year 6 Halogen Leadership Day	Monday 4 March 8.30 am-3 pm	ICC, Sydney
Year 6 football, water polo and flipa ball training	Monday 4 March 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Years 2-6 cross country training	Tuesday 5 March 7.15-8 am	Junior School
IPSHA Swimming and Diving Carnival 2024	Tuesday 5 March 8 am-3 pm	SOPAC
K-2 Literacy and Numeracy Parent Information Evening	Tuesday 5 March 7-8 pm	Auditorium
Year 5 football, water polo and flipa ball training	Wednesday 6 March 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Years 2-6 cross country training	Thursday 7 March 7.15-8 am	Junior School
Year 3 History guest speaker presentations	Thursday 7 March 8.30-9.30 am	Year 3 classrooms
Primary Cross Country Carnival	Thursday 7 March 10.50 am-2 pm	Junior and Senior School campuses
Years 3 and 4 football, water polo and flipa ball training	Thursday 7 March 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 2 Parent Morning Tea	Friday 8 March 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
K-2 Literacy and Numeracy Parent Information Session	Friday 8 March 9.30-10.30 am	Auditorium
Year 1 History guest speaker	Friday 8 March 1.40-3 pm	Year 1 classrooms
ISDA Debating	Friday 8 March 4-9 pm	Abbotsleigh vs Brigidine (Home)
IPSHA football, water polo and flipa ball	Saturday 9 March 8 am-12 noon	Various locations – see Abbotsleigh parent app for team sheets

SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 10 Visual Arts incursion	Monday 26 February	
Bunda Tour Information Session	Monday 26 February	Via Zoom
Swimming Carnival	Tuesday 27 February	SOPAC
Year 11 Parent Information Session	Tuesday 27 February 6-7 pm	Via Zoom
Year 11 Drama excursion: RBG: Of Many, One	Wednesday 28 February	

Year 9 excursion 'Changing Places'	Thursday 29 February	Barangaroo
Year 12 Modern History Kenn Webb incursion	Thursday 29 February	
Year 12 Mother Daughter Breakfast	Friday 1 March	Gymnasium
Year 12 Ancient History Estelle Lazer incursion	Friday 1 March	
IGSA Badminton and Tennis Round 4	Saturday 2 March	
Softball Round 5	Saturday 2 March	
AFL Round 4	Saturday 2 March	
Year 9 English incursion	Monday 4 March	
Music Encore Concert excursion	Monday 4 March	
Year 7 Parent Information Evening	Monday 4 March	
IPSHA Swimming and Diving Carnival	Tuesday 5 March	
Year 10 Alwell Testing	Tuesday 5 March	
Tildesley Shield Tennis Tournament	Wednesday 6 March to Friday 8 March	Pennant Hills Park
IWD Bunda Breakfast	Friday 8 March	
Year 11 Ancient History excursion	Friday 8 March	
Term 2 sport trials Years 10-12 (football and basketball)	Friday 8 March	
ISDA Debating Round4	Friday 8 March	
ABPA Harbour Cruise	Friday 8 March	
IGSA Badminton and Tennis Round 5	Friday 9 March	
Softball Round 6	Friday 9 March	
AFL Round 5	Friday 9 March	