

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

International Women's Day 2024



Abbotsleigh honours all who have Braved the Waves championing women's equality

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

Our signature statement: 'Empowering Young Women Since 1885', demonstrates the commitment Abbotsleigh has had, from its very first day, to the equality of girls and women. As Mrs Georgia Black (Head of English and AOG Wotherspoon, 2002) told our Senior School girls at assembly on Tuesday, Miss Marian Clarke, our first Headmistress, 'was a woman who had advanced ideas on girls' education, including design, languages, gymnastics, carpentry, charitable work and geometry.' Opening Abbotsleigh so that young women could have the opportunity to study at university, before women actually had the right to vote in Australia, Miss Clarke was an innovative and courageous trailblazer who was determined that girls should have the same opportunities as boys of that time had.

This year, the UN theme for International Women's Day, 'Count her in: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress.', emphasises the importance of women's economic empowerment, which is central to a gender equal world. When women are given equal opportunities to earn, learn and lead – entire communities thrive. Miss Clarke certainly believed this and, as such, was a woman way ahead of her time. Visit the [Australian International Women's Day](#) website to read more.

Mrs Black and our Year 12 leaders powerfully expressed Abbotsleigh's commitment to the equality of girls and women in our International Women's Day assembly. Focusing especially on the power of education to foster economic inclusion and change the trajectory of women's lives, the girls contrasted the incredible opportunities that they have through receiving an education at Abbotsleigh, with the horrendous situation that has developed in Afghanistan where decree after decree has systematically reduced girls' opportunities to study university courses and then banned university and high school study for girls altogether. As Mrs Black said, 'in 2024, Abbotsleigh girls are equipped through the best opportunities to become informed, engaged global citizens who lead with courage, competence and empathy. Research has proven girls' school graduates display stronger community involvement, greater cultural competency, and increased political and social engagement.'



The critical importance of gaining a high-quality education in fostering economic inclusion and changing the trajectory of young girls' and women's lives was emphasised also at our very successful International Women's Day Breakfast today. Here Rev Helen Hoskins (AOG, 1969), founder of Bunda Girls' Secondary School in Tanzania, spoke about the transformative impact of education on the lives of young Bunda girls. In a country where girls are relied upon to look after the home and the education of girls is not seen as a priority, Bunda is an extraordinary institution that lays the foundation for girls to pursue careers in nursing, medicine, engineering, IT, humanities, teaching and so on. Bunda also aims for their girls to become leaders in their fields and contribute in a meaningful and powerful way to the development of their nation, Tanzania. (From: **Bunda Girls Secondary School – Anglican Aid**)

Going to a girls' school and living in Australia in 2024, it is often hard for our girls to comprehend the significance of the many gains that have been made in the quest for equality for women in many areas; it is perhaps also

difficult for them to see that there is more to be done for every woman across the whole world to take a completely 'equal seat' at any table.

As AOG and former Abbotsleigh parent, Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz (Lloyd, 1984) wrote in *The Australian* this week. 'I would like to live in a world in which we celebrate Gender Equality Day.' (**International Women's Day highlights Australia's gender pay gap** | *The Australian*).

Much progress has been made, but we are not there yet; however, I am very confident that our girls will ensure that gains continue to be made, not only in Australia, but throughout the world.

Happy International Women's Day



"With education, women can do, or be, anything."

- Miss Betty Archdale, Headmistress 1958-70

Chaplain

Jesus and different Marys

*Rev Sarah Hobba
Chaplain*

Throughout the term in Senior School CRU groups, girls have been looking at the different Marys that Jesus interacts with throughout the Gospels. Some include his mother Mary, Mary Magdalene and Mary who is the sister of Lazarus and Martha. Jesus upheld that Mary listening to his words (i.e. being taught) was a 'better' thing than being busy with food preparations. On the cross, despite his suffering, Jesus compassionately makes provision for his mother to be cared for by the disciple John.

Women are the first to spread the good news that Jesus is risen, as they were the first witnesses to his resurrection. On International Women's Day, we are thankful for the example of Jesus and his interactions with women in his life, death and resurrection.

Luke 10:40-42 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

ART NORTH exhibition HSC Visual Arts from schools in the Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby district	2 to 23 March	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Senior School
K-12 Ski Team Parent Information Evening	Tuesday 12 March 7-8 pm	Junior School Library Auditorium
APA Book Club with Jessica Kirkness	Wednesday 20 March From 6.45 pm	Junior School Library Auditorium

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 Parent Morning Tea	Monday 11 March 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
Year 6 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Monday 11 March 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School

IPSHA Cross Country training	Tuesday 12 March 7.15-8 am	Junior School
Years 3 and 4 author visit – Belinda Murrell	Wednesday 13 March 11.20 am-12.20 pm	Auditorium
Year 5 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Wednesday 13 March 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
IPSHA Cross Country training	Thursday 14 March 7.15-8 am	Junior School
Years 3 and 4 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Thursday 14 March 3.20-4.20 pm	Junior School
Year 6 Webpage Design Bootcamp	Friday 15 March 10.50-11.50 am	Year 6 Classrooms
JS Production auditions	Friday 15 March 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ISDA Debating	Friday 15 March 4-9 pm	Abbotsleigh vs Tangara (Home)
IPSHA football, water polo and flippa ball	Saturday 16 March 8 am-12 noon	Various locations – see Abbotsleigh parent app for team sheets
JS Production auditions	Saturday 16 March 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall
Year 6 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Monday 18 March 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
IPSHA Cross Country training	Tuesday 19 March 7.15-8 am	Junior School
ELC Excursion to ACEE	Tuesday 19 March 8.30 am-2.30 pm	Abbotsleigh Centre for Environmental Education (ACEE)
Years 4 and 6 Backflips Against Bullying	Wednesday 20 March	Judith Poole Sports Hall, Senior School
Year 5 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Wednesday 20 March 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
IPSHA Cross Country training	Thursday 21 March 7.15-8 am	Junior School
Years 3 and 4 football, water polo and flippa ball training	Thursday 21 March 3.20-4.20 pm	Junior School
Year 4 Father Daughter Dinner	Thursday 21 March 6-8.30 pm	Junior School
Ride 2 School Day	Friday 22 March	Dining Hall, Senior School
ISDA Debating	Friday 22 March 4-9 pm	Abbotsleigh vs Pymble (Away)
JS Production auditions	Friday 22 March 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall

IPSHA football, water polo and flippa ball	Saturday 23 March 8 am-12 noon	Various locations – see Abbotsleigh parent app for team sheets
JS Production auditions	Saturday 23 March 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall

SENIOR SCHOOL

Sporting fixtures	Saturday 9 March	Click here for venues and times
Year 8 Challenge Week	Monday 11 to Thursday 14 March	
Year 7 DigiEd Claymation workshop	Monday 11 March	
Year 10 Morrisby Testing	Monday 11 March	
Year 11 Car Maintenance program	Monday 11 March	
Year 7 DigiEd Claymation workshop	Tuesday 12 March	
Year 9 Mandatory Geography excursion	Tuesday 12 March	
Year 11 RYDA	Tuesday 12 March	
Year 10 Canberra excursion	Wednesday 13 to Friday 15 March	
Year 11 Urban Challenge	Wednesday 13 to Friday 15 March	
FIRST Robotics Competition – Southern Cross Regional	Friday 15 March	PCYC Hawkesbury
Year 12 History incursion with David Marr	Thursday 21 March 7-8.15 am	
Year 11 Agriculture excursion	Thursday 21 March 9 am-12 noon	Leppington Pastoral Company