

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Abbotsleigh boarders brave the waves as they celebrate National Boarding Week at Abbotsleigh

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress



Abbotsleigh boarders form a very special part of our Abbotsleigh community, and National Boarding Week this year has provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all things boarding at Abbotsleigh.

In typical Abbotsleigh style, our celebrations have not been limited to one week; in fact, the boarding community has been running National Boarding Week activities over the past two weeks! Events have included fiercely contested day girl vs boarders sporting matches; wonderful community events, including a fantastic dinner last Friday evening where boarding families shared their produce with us; a great Old Girl, past, present and prospective parent community dinner at Dubbo on Saturday evening as a culmination of the Dubbo Boarding Expo; tours and afternoon tea in the boarding houses for the day girls; boarder games; fundraisers for the Royal



Flying Doctor Service, our boarders' nominated charity; cross-school boarder leadership events and a superb Senior School assembly run entirely by our boarders.

As explained at the assembly, our boarders come from near and far. Most come from regional NSW and other parts of Australia, and some come from overseas from places such as Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China and Europe. Others however, don't live very far away at all – they are our weekly boarders, who really enjoy being at school during the week without having to do the daily commute.

To provide a glimpse of all things boarding from the boarding assembly on Tuesday, I commend to you the speech below given by our Head Boarder Prefect, Nanetta Washaya; the information about the importance of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, delivered by Vice-Head Boarder Prefect, Sophia Darney, and an extract from interviews about the highly valued Big Sister/Little Sister program at Abbotsleigh.

I would like to thank and congratulate our girls, our staff and our parents, for the wonderful events that they have organised over the last two weeks and for the great insights that they have provided to us all about what it is like to be a boarder at Abbotsleigh.

Boarding at Abbotsleigh: Nanetta Washaya

Welcome to National Boarding Week!

We are all so excited to celebrate this special week ... and give you all an insight into why boarding is so important to us.



ABBOTSLEIGH

Visit the [Parent Portal](#) to edit your profile, view the calendar and view parent notices.

As we all gather here today in assembly to celebrate, we are reminded of the unique spirit and camaraderie that defines boarding within our school. This week is not only about recognising the physical structures of the boarding school, it's about celebrating the vibrant community that thrives within boarding and extends to the whole Abbotsleigh community as well.

Boarding at Abbotsleigh is not only an extension of the day school, it also provides an immersive environment where strong friendships are formed, diversity is embraced and personal growth throughout Years 7-12 is nurtured. Each of us sitting here, whether student or staff, contributes to the rich experiences that makes our boarding life so special. As a whole boarding community, we continue to embrace and make our boarding school not only a place of learning, but also a home away from home for all who walk through its many doors.

This year's National Boarding Week theme is 'What Makes Boarding Tick', which invites every one of us to think about the various elements and effort that contributes to making boarding so special and work so well throughout Australia, and especially for us here at Abbotsleigh.



The Royal Flying Doctor Service: Sophia Darney

I would like to speak on behalf of the Abbotsleigh boarding community about our continuing official and long-standing affiliation with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The organisation aims to provide lifesaving emergency health care services across rural Australia.

Many people in remote Australia live on stations, some are hours away from any major town. Isolation means that it is difficult to access medical treatment, so they rely on the RFDS to help when they are faced with an illness or even a life-threatening emergency.

Many of our boarders come from rural and remote areas, so it is important as a school to help a foundation that has personal meaning to several individuals across our broader community.

We aim to support this through awareness and fundraising events within Abbotsleigh. The money that will be raised through these events will be donated to the RFDS, in a combined display of support for such a remarkable cause.

The funds raised go such a long way, from pop up clinics within communities lacking these facilities, to aeromedical retrieval in critical emergency situations where there is limited to no access to local hospitals, and

mental health services that are crucial in our most remote parts of Australia.

We would love our school community to become conscious of the importance of the RFDS and contribute to fundraising events in the near future.

Big Sister/Little Sister interviews excerpts

'As many of us come from smaller towns, a big high school like Abbotsleigh, being so far away from home with so many strange faces, can be really scary for a new boarder. The Big Sister/Little Sister program in Abbotsleigh boarding is one of the best parts of our schooling career.' Lorissa Wood (Year 11)

'A new Year 7 boarder is paired up with a Year 11 boarder, and the Year 11s guide the younger girls through the first two years of high school. Before Year 7, the Big Sisters write letters to their buddies to get to know them, then stay with them until they graduate.' Abby Corderoy (Year 11)

Three Big Sisters and Little Sisters introduce themselves

Charlotte Pullen – I'm Charlie, I'm from Avalon and I'm in Year 12.

Mia Perrin – I'm Mia, I'm from Bondi and I'm in Year 8.

Myffy Wilson – I'm Myffy, I'm from Moree and I'm in Year 11.

Rita Tyrrel – I'm Rita, I'm from Cairns and I'm in Year 7.

Nell Owen – I'm Nell, I'm from the Snowy Mountains and I'm in Year 11.

Annie Knight – I'm Annie, I'm from Cootamundra and I'm in Year 7.

Mia, can you share a time when you felt disconnected or homesick from your family while boarding and how did you overcome those feelings? (Willa McKay, Year 11)

Mia – At the end of my first term at Abbotsleigh, my mum moved to New York and it was a big change for me. I really missed my family, and Charlie was really supportive of me. She's always been very approachable and has really made me feel at home every single day of school.

Annie, what has your Big Sister done to support you through your first chapters of high school and boarding school? (Willa McKay, Year 11)

Annie – Nell has taken me down the street, and she's very kind to me. She always asks if I need anything and offers to help me whether it be with schoolwork or adjusting to being away from my family.

Rita, what's your favourite memory of an experience with your big sister? (Willa McKay)

Rita – On the way back from Raging Waters, Myffy made sure I was fitting in well to Abbotsleigh being a boarder. She told me things I would need to know before coming to school and told me some of her favourite parts of boarding.

Charlie, how has being a Big Sister impacted your senior years? (Demelza Lee, Year 11)

Charlie – Being a Big Sister to Mia since the start of last year has made me feel more a part of the boarding

community and I feel like I have really helped her adjust to boarding life.

Nell, what are the benefits of being a Big Sister?
(Demelza Lee)

Nell – Being Annie’s Big Sister, I get to be a part of her life. I love just going and talking to her, taking her to the village and helping her with anything she needs. I’m so excited to get to spend the next year and a half spending time with Annie.

Myffy, what are some activities you do as a Big Sister?
(Demelza Lee)

Myffy – To start off our year we are put in groups with our buddies for the boarder fun day, and then we have dinners with our Little Sisters throughout the year. We play games and celebrate different holidays like Valentine’s Day and Christmas. We make each other presents and write notes to each other. We also go visit the Year 7 boarding house and hang out with everyone there.



Chaplain

Doing life together

Rev Sarah Hobba

Senior Chaplain and SS Christian Studies Teacher

National Boarding Week has reminded us of the joys of boarding and living together in a community. No matter which environment we find ourselves in, we don’t get along with others 100% of the time, but there is a very real preciousness of ‘doing life together’ for the time we share. The way that the very first Christians ‘lived together’ after Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension to heaven is described in Acts 2:44-47. It speaks of sharing things in common, eating together and giving to anyone in need, with glad and sincere hearts. Sometimes in ‘doing life together’ we only remember the things that annoy us and our grievances towards each other. Yet in the Lord’s Prayer, with which our boarders finish their Monday chapels each week, we should remember that we ask God to ‘forgive us our sins as we forgive those that sin against us.’ Another description of life together is written by the Apostle Paul to early church members in Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Process and Practice: A Sculptor's Eye exhibition	Until Thursday 25 May	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Cyber safety parent information evening with Susan McLean	Wednesday 22 May 6-7.30 pm	Peter Duly Concert Hall
APA Book Club	Wednesday 29 May 7-8.30 pm	JS Library Auditorium
Knox Abbotsleigh Print Exchange exhibition	Thursday 30 May to Wednesday 12 June	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
AOGU Speakers Morning Tea	Friday 31 May 10-11.30 am	Dining Room and Zoom Click here to book

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 netball and minkey hockey training	Monday 20 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
CIS cross country training	Tuesday 21 May 7-8.15 am	Junior School
Transition to ACEE	Tuesday 21 May 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
Years 5 and 6 Judith Krause Parent Information Evening	Tuesday 21 May 7-8.30 pm	Auditorium
Year 1 Vaucluse House excursion	Wednesday 22 May 8.30 am-3 pm	Vaucluse House
Years 5 and 6 Cyber Safety with Susan McLean	Wednesday 22 May 1.30-3 pm	Everett Hall
Year 5 netball and minkey training	Wednesday 22 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
CIS cross country training	Thursday 23 May 7-8.15 am	Junior School
Years 3 and 4 netball and minkey training	Thursday 23 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 2 LEGO WeDo incursion	Friday 24 May 8.30-10.30 am	Year 2 Classrooms
JS Production rehearsal	Friday 24 May 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ISDA Debating quarter finals	Friday 24 May 5-8 pm	Venue TBC

IPSHA Saturday Sport	Saturday 25 May 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
JS Production rehearsal	Saturday 25 May 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall
Year 6 netball and minkey hockey training	Monday 27 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
CIS cross country training	Tuesday 28 May 7-8.15 am	Junior School
ELC to ACEE	Tuesday 28 May 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
Years 4 and 6 Gateways workshop	Wednesday 29 May 8.30 am-3 pm	Corpus Christi Catholic School
Wear it Yellow cake stall	Wednesday 29 May 1-1.30 pm	Junior School
Year 5 netball and minkey training	Wednesday 29 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
CIS cross country training	Thursday 30 May 7-8.15 am	Junior School
Years K, 3 and 5 Grandparents' Day	Thursday 30 May 10.50 am-1.30 pm	Junior School
Years 3 and 4 netball and minkey training	Thursday 30 May 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 6 special guest speaker	Friday 31 May 9-9.30 am	Auditorium
Year 6 Fundraiser prep time	Friday 31 May 11.20-11.50 am	Year 6 Classrooms
JS Production rehearsal	Friday 31 May 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ISDA Debating semi finals	Friday 31 May 5-8 pm	Venue TBC
IPSHA Saturday Sport – Indigenous Reconciliation Round	Saturday 1 June 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
JS Production rehearsal	Saturday 1 June 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall

SENIOR SCHOOL

AMEB examination block	Monday 20 to Friday 24 May	Music Department venues
Year 12 PC Concert	Monday 20 May 12.45-1.15 pm	PDCH
Athletics 400 m and 1500 m finals	Monday 20 May 12.30-3.30 pm	SOPAC
Kerry Martin Ensemble Masterclass	Monday 20 May 1.15-2.10 pm	PDCH
Lunchtime Futures talk: CSU	Monday 20 May 1.15-2.05 pm	U5

Year 8 PTI	Monday 20 May 3.30-8.30 pm	
Athletics Carnival	Tuesday 21 May 8.20-3.30 pm	SOPAC
Archdale Debating Round 1	Tuesday 21 May 4-8 pm	
Years 7 and 8 Cyber Safety with Susan McLean	Wednesday 22 May 11.20 am-12.45 pm	Assembly Hall
Lunchtime Futures talk: Bond University	Wednesday 22 May 1.15-2 pm	U5
Symphonic Winds Workshop with guest conductor, Brad Lucas	Thursday 23 May 3.30-5 pm	PDCH
Year 7 ELES Study Skills	Thursday 23 May 6.30-8 pm	PDCH
Years 7, 9 and 11 Mother's Day Breakfast	Friday 24 May 7-8.15 am	Gymnasium
Year 11 EES field trip to The Glade	Friday 24 May 9.40 am-1.30 pm	The Glade, Wahroonga
ABPA meeting	Friday 24 May 2-3.30 pm	Wheeldon House
ISDA Debating	Friday 24 May 4-9 pm	
Sporting fixtures	Saturday 25 May 8 am-12 noon	Various venues and times
Hockey and netball trials	Saturday 25 May 1-5 pm	
APA Social Event	Saturday 25 May 7-11 pm	Gymnasium
Year 10 Work Experience Week	Monday 27 to Friday 31 May	
Year 11 YLead Program	Monday 27 May 8.20 am-3.25 pm	Sports Hall
Year 11 Parent Teacher meetings	Monday 27 May 3.30-8.30 pm	Zoom
Year 9 Visual arts incursion	Tuesday 28 May 8.20-3.25 pm	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Archdale Debating Round 2	Tuesday 28 May 4-8 pm	
Opening of Knox Abbotsleigh Print Exchange	Thursday 30 May 5-6.30 pm	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
North West Equestrian Expo	Friday 31 May to Tuesday 4 June	Coonabarabran
NSW All School Swimming/Diving Championships	Friday 31 May 8 am-4 pm	SOPAC
Year 7 STEAM Day 1	Friday 31 May 11.25 am-3.25 pm	iHub
Middle School Collaboration	Friday 31 May 1.30-3 pm	
North West Equestrian Expo	Saturday 1 June	Coonabarabran