

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

The Abbotsleigh community celebrates Christmas and Braving the Waves in 2024

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

What a wonderful year 2024 has been. We are very grateful for all the blessings we have received, and we look back in amazement at all that has been achieved by our girls, our staff, our parents and our Old Girls. Indeed, the whole Abbotsleigh community has participated in myriad events and activities with great enthusiasm and each member has powerfully contributed to the exciting and vibrant culture that makes Abbotsleigh, Abbotsleigh.

2024 has been a year of great festivities as we have celebrated 70 years of the Junior School on the Woonona Avenue site. The great vision and hard work of Miss Everett and the vision and hard work of Heads of Junior School have been celebrated through a colour run, the 70 Birthday Assembly, and 'Luminescence', the performing arts evening at the State Theatre.

Last night, the Junior School was blessed to have had Colin Buchanan, renowned Christian singer and entertainer, as special guest at the 70th Birthday Twilight Carol Service. What a brilliant night of wonder, celebration and FUN it was as the girls sang, read the Bible and prayed so beautifully, and then absolutely everybody joined in with the sensational action-accompanied singing led by Colin, who brought the message of Jesus and Christmas to life with such joy.



The 70 Birthday celebrations will culminate in both the Junior and Senior School Speech Days where we also will be farewelling our much-loved Head of Junior School, Ms Sally Ruston AM. As Ms Ruston told the girls and staff on Tuesday, her retirement is bittersweet. Bitter, because she is leaving the school she loves and has done so much to shape and grow over the last 25 years, but also sweet, as she will be able to continue studying neuroscience and psychology, further contribute to not-for-profit boards and organisations and travel the world with her husband without being tied to school holidays. We will miss Ms Ruston very much and we certainly wish Ms Ruston God's richest blessings as she embarks on her new adventures in her retirement.

Please know that going forward, the Junior School will continue to be well looked after, as Mrs Carmen Gaspersic (Acting Head of Junior School), Mrs Peita van Bussell (Acting Deputy Head of Junior School) and Mrs Kylie George (Acting T-2 Coordinator) will remain in these respective roles for Term 1, 2025.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank every member of staff for their dedication and very hard work. We are privileged indeed to have such talented teachers and support staff here at Abbotsleigh. I also would like to thank every member of our community for your incredible support.



ABBOTSLEIGH

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

And, to each girl – thank you for your enthusiasm and for your dedication to learning and to achieving your personal best. Thank you, too, for your compassion towards others, and for your determination to fulfil this year’s prefect theme, Brave the Waves! Year 12 has certainly shown us that ‘we can’t stop those waves, but we can sure learn to surf them’!

As it says in Ecclesiastes 3:1, ‘To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven’ (KJV). It is now the season to rest (well almost); it is also the season to celebrate the beautiful gift that God gave to the world, – his son.

‘For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor’ (Isaiah 9: 6-7)

I wish you God’s richest blessings for this Christmas and holiday season – may you be safe and healthy and have a wonderful time over the summer.

I look forward to seeing you in 2025 – a year of great hope; a year for our community to continue to press ahead; and a year for us all to flourish and celebrate Abbotsleigh’s 140th birthday!

Chaplain

Unexpected Christmas

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Christmas is filled with many unexpected elements. The arrival of the expected Messiah was foretold by the prophet Isaiah more than 600 years before the birth of Jesus, with surprising circumstances of his arrival (Isaiah 7:14). This prophecy was fulfilled in an unexpected manner when a young woman Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel and told she would conceive by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26-35). Furthermore, this expected king was not born in a grand palace but in a humble manger (Luke 2:7).

The unexpected nature of Christmas continues with the announcement of Jesus’ birth to lowly and unimportant shepherds in the fields (Luke 2:8-14). Just as we read later in Luke’s gospel where Jesus interacts with many of low status, this angelic proclamation is made to unexpecting shepherds, underscoring the upside down kingdom that Jesus brings. And is it an unexpected act that wise men journey from the East and pay homage with gifts, signifying the recognition of Jesus’ divine kingship by people from distant lands (Matthew 2:1-12).

These biblical accounts remind us that Christmas is a time of surprises and divine wonders, but the most clearly evident wonder is the unexpected love and grace that has been given to us. This unexpected love of God the Father is demonstrated to us in sending his son to us, to live amongst us and to die and rise again for us. This is an unexpected and undeserved gift of God’s grace and mercy to us, which we by faith can receive.

As we finish our year together, may we reflect on the wonder of this unexpected story and embrace the profound message it carries. May this season fill our



hearts with gratitude and hope, encouraging us to extend unexpected kindness and compassion to those around us. May all in our community have a Merry Christmas and a safe and restful summer.

Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Encounter exhibition	Friday 8 November to Saturday 7 December	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
ABPA meeting	Thursday 29 November 2-3.30 pm	Wheeldon House
Senior School Speech Day	Wednesday 4 December 9-11 am	Judith Poole Sports Hall
Senior School Speech Day morning tea	Wednesday 4 December 11 am-12.15 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza
Junior School Speech Day	Wednesday 4 December 2-3.30 pm	Judith Poole Sports Hall
Junior School Speech Day afternoon tea	Wednesday 4 December 3.30 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza
Term 4 2024 concludes	Wednesday 4 December	
Years 7 and 12 boarders arrive	Tuesday 28 January	
T, K and new students in Junior School orientation morning Year 7, Year 12 and new Senior School students commence Years 8-11 boarders arrive	Wednesday 29 January	
Term 1 2025 commences	Thursday 30 January	

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 2 sport training	Saturday 29 November 8-9.30 am	Junior School
IPSHA Saturday sport	Saturday 29 November 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
Speech Day rehearsal #2: Symphony Orchestra	Monday 2 December 7-8.30 am	Judith Poole Sports Hall
Speech Day rehearsal #3	Monday 2 December 8.30-10.30 am	Judith Poole Sports Hall
Transition ACEE excursion	Tuesday 3 December 10.15 am-2.30 pm	Abbotsleigh Centre for Environmental Education
Years K-3 Variety Concert	Tuesday 3 December 11-11.50 am	Everett Hall
Years 4-6 Variety Concert	Tuesday 3 December 12-12.50 pm	Everett Hall
House Cup 2024 final	Tuesday 3 December 1.30-2 pm	Infants Amphitheatre

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 30 November 8 am-12 noon	Click here for times and locations
Cricket Round 7	Saturday 30 November 1-5.30 pm	Various locations
Australian All School Athletics Championships	Sunday 1 December All day	
Carols Service	Sunday 1 December 7-8.30 pm	Chapel
Lipman Student Engagement Session	Monday 2 December 2.10-3.25 pm	
Boarders' Christmas Banquet	Monday 2 December 6-9 pm	Dining Hall
Boarder travel day	Wednesday 4 December	
Hisory Tour departs	Wednesday 4 December	