

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

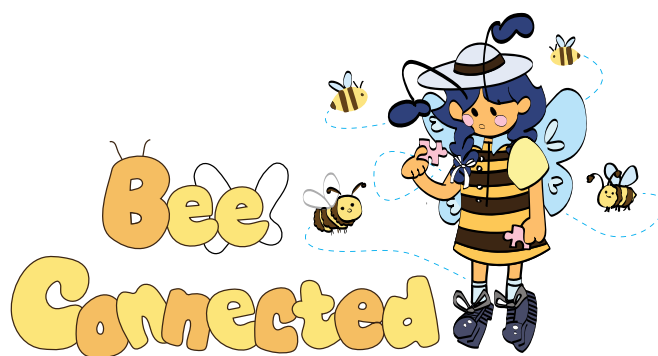
'Beeing Connected' with gratitude

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress



'Give thanks with a grateful heart' are the first words to a beautiful song that stems from Thessalonians 1 - 'Give thanks in all circumstances' - and we certainly did that in spades on Saturday when we celebrated Abbotsleigh's 140th Birthday at our magnificent Autumn Fair as well as the opening of our sensational Betty Archdale Library in the Senior School.

As the Hon Paul Fletcher MP said in his address at the Opening, "A library is the physical manifestation of civilisation. Every book on the shelves contains ideas. Somebody has laboured to express those ideas in a way that allows them to be communicated to you, the reader. And when you go into a library and see thousands, tens of thousands of books, you are seeing a physical representation of civilisation. The ideas that have been developed over decades, over centuries, over millennia, that underpin the advanced and prosperous civilisation that today we are all fortunate to live in. Of course, this library is rich with digital technology because the role of libraries evolves, and I know the girls will make good use of that digital technology. But I would make the point that books never reach the end of their battery life. Books never have a downloading problem, and so books retain some advantages which the digital technology cannot match."



These are wise words indeed and words I know that our girls, who are such avid readers, will remember and treasure.

They are also treasuring our new library - indeed they just love it, and we have so many people to thank 'with grateful hearts' for this magnificent building. Please see the article following. Indeed, as I said on Saturday, vision, drive, team work and exceptionally hard work - certainly made 'the dream work', and we could not be more grateful!

The main event on Saturday was of course, the sensational Autumn Fair - in the rain - and there was just SO much rain. However, in true Abbotsleigh style, everyone worked together to transform the Sports Hall into a magnificent marketplace, the lower car park into a great food hall and PDCH into an superb indoor concert venue. The Year 12 Common Room also was a fantastic venue to peruse books and sit down and experience a wonderful Devonshire tea. The iHub was transformed into a second-hand clothing market demonstrating our girls' commitment to the circular economy as well as a marvellous art gallery where we could see the exhibition of the exceptional artworks of our very talented mystery artists who donated all the proceeds from the sale of their works to the School.

As one member of staff said on Monday, The fair brought us all together and lifted us up. It was indeed a brilliant community event where every girl, Kindergarten to Year 12 and their parents, as well as our incredibly dedicated and hard working Junior and Senior School staff joined together for the good of the School, or as our artist in residence would say, 'For the good of the hive.'

We have SO many people to thank for what was truly a sensational community event - Thank you all so much, we are very grateful indeed.

Give thanks with a grateful heart



[Click here to see more photos](#)



Our Library – with gratitude to:

First and foremost, we must thank our School Council, so ably led by our current Chair, Ms Linda Ellis, and at the crucial 'dreaming' stage of the project, immediate past chair, Mr Paul Fontanot. The hard work and vision of our Council is second to none!

As a key part of Council, I would like to thank members of our Council Property and Development Committee (PDC), whose combined wisdom, hard work and expertise have been invaluable.

I would especially like to honour Ms Marianna Southwick – Chair of the PDC, and Mr Denis Pontin, past Chair of our Property committee, who also was instrumental in all of our recent projects, including our Library.

Further, we are very grateful indeed to:

- Our very creative architects AJ and C, Michael Heenan, Dua Green, Michelle Edens, Kris Ormuz
- Our builders: Lipman, Casey Twight, Mark Holliday, Jarrod Slocum
- Bloompark our project management group - Simon Byrne, Joel Tan

And from Abbotsleigh

- Ross Bowden, our Director of Finance and Business Services
- Simon Jarrett, former Director of Property and his hard working team – I would like also to honour Simon who retired at the end of last year – his selfless dedication and phenomenal 'can do' attitude and approach to everything was instrumental for all of our projects in the Junior and Senior Schools
- Warwick Noble, our Director of Information Technology and his skilful and dedicated team – they do all the things you often can't see – and in our technology rich school it is so important
- Our Head of Library and Learning Enhancement extraordinaire, Karen Seeneevassen and her fantastic library team – whose expertise, wisdom and hard work have been invaluable
- I also would like to thank Mrs Tori Rennie, my Deputy, who has worked equally as hard to ensure that the vision of providing such an exciting and innovative library was fulfilled.
- And a massive thanks must go to Greg Fisher, Director of Compliance, who has been pivotal in all of our priority projects – the Library is certainly a sensational building because of the work that Mr Fisher has done.

Thank you so much to all these people, our generous donors (parents and past parents, Old Girls and Foundation) and to so many others, who have worked so hard to ensure that our Abbotsleigh girls have a fantastic library – the centre of civilisation at Abbotsleigh.

The Autumn Fair – with gratitude to:

A **MASSIVE** thank you must go to everyone for the amazing organisation in the months, weeks and days leading up to this fabulous event. The success of the fair is solely down to all the meticulous preparation that was completed prior to the event and also, of course, to the enthusiasm (despite the rain!), the organisation, the incredible hard work and 'can do attitude' on the day. We sincerely thank Mr Paul Fletcher MP and The Rt Rev Chris Edwards for giving up their valuable time to officially open the Betty Archdale Library.

Thank you to:

- Our girls – for your enthusiasm and hard work – organising and manning stalls, playing music and being exceptional hosts
- Our parents – for your enthusiasm, good will and phenomenally hard work – organising and manning stalls and food trucks – we especially enjoyed the produce provided by our boarder parents – to all parents, represented by those listed below – thank you
- The APA, led by Liz Rayment
- The APR, led by Carmen Richards
- The ABPA, led by Kylie Wood and Katrina Cogan
- Our AOGU, led by Sarah Franks. Our Old Girls had been working for weeks to provide merchandise for their very successful stall – thank you for your hard work and great support of Abbotsleigh.
- Our staff. HUGE thanks go to every member of staff who worked so hard prior to and during the day – we are so blessed to have such talented, dedicated and superb staff who look after your daughters – the list below gives a little understanding of the involvement and commitment of every staff member at Abbotsleigh

Thank you also to our:

- Property team (Grounds and Maintenance) who worked so hard prior to and during the event – in the rain
- Finance team
- IT and AV teams
- Junior School teachers – manning stalls and assisting on the day
- Senior School teachers – especially our Year Coordinators, Tutors and Club Patrons, for organising stalls with the senior girls and manning these on the day
- GSCG team led by Mary Faith and the Art Department for the fantastic Mystery Masterpieces initiative

- Library team – the Library was ‘buzzing’ all day
- Junior and Senior School Music staff – led so beautifully by Lynette Clarke – your agility moving to the PDCH was amazing and the music was sublime
- MCs – Roy and GB (Isobel Royston and Georgia Black), whose jokes kept us entertained – ALL day!
- Development Team, who worked so hard in the lead up to and during the day

- And four people, especially, who were pivotal to the organisation, Alex Lightfoot, Mahta Rahimi, Jenni Beamont-Hunt and Tori Rennie, whose vision and organisation were exceptional.

Thank you all so much – I honestly could not be more grateful.

Chaplain

Thanks

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Even though the rain fell, it didn't dampen the spirits of the Autumn Fair on the weekend. It was a joyous occasion for our community to come together in celebration and fellowship. In all the areas that you could have popped into, one was also the Chapel where there was a space created to pray about change and a blackboard on which you could draw things to be thankful for. There are so many ways that we can be filled with gratitude for our lives. One image was of a ceiling fan for hot days. Another offered thanks for 'this life, the food we eat and the education I receive'. Another expressed gratitude to God for his grace and love.

There is much to be thankful for each day, as Psalm 118:24 reminds us, 'This is the day the Lord has made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.'

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Psalm 100:4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.



Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Good of the Hive art installation	Ongoing	Senior School campus
A Studio Community exhibition	Wednesday 27 March to Saturday 26 April	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Term 1 concludes	Thursday 10 April	
Term 2 commences	Tuesday 29 April	
Hornsby Local Artist exhibition	Thursday 1 to Saturday 17 May	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Vacation Care is now open for bookings		Click here to download the program and book
JS Production Rehearsal	Saturday 5 April 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ELC and Transition visit to the ACEE	Tuesday 8 April 8.30 am-2.30 pm	Abbotsleigh Centre for Environmental Education
Years 4-6 Easter Service	Tuesday 8 April 8.30-9.15 am	Chapel, Senior School
Years K-3 Easter Service	Tuesday 8 April 9.30-10.15 am	Chapel, Senior School
Year 6 Public Speaking Competition	Tuesday 8 April 2-3 pm	Everett Hall
T-2 Easter Egg Hunt	Wednesday 9 April 2.30-3 pm	Bundarra Court and Lawn
Year 5 Earthquake incursion	Thursday 10 April 11.50 am-12.45 pm	JS Auditorium



SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport and IGSA finals/playoffs	Saturday 5 April 8 am-2 pm	Click here for times and venues
Year 7 camp	Monday 7 to Thursday 10 April	Lake Macquarie
Year 12 SOR excursion	Monday 7 April 8.20 am-3.25 pm	Auburn
Year 11 Geography field trip	Monday 7 April 12.45-5 pm	Cabbage Tree Bay
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Lunchtime Futures talk: ACU	Wednesday 9 April 1.20-2.10 pm	Careers Office
Boarder travel day	Friday 11 April	
China Cultural Study tour departs	Friday 11 April	

