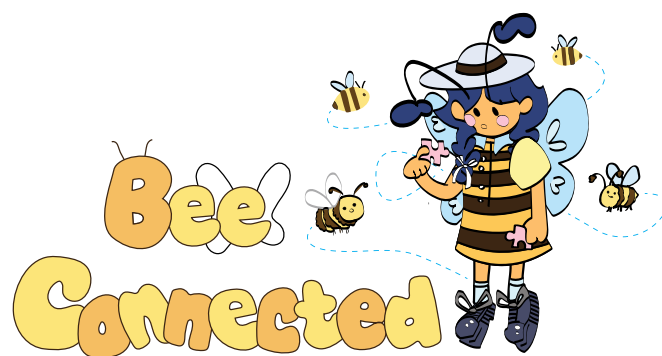


# The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



## Our boarders weave the 'Threads of Connection' to 'Bee Connected' and celebrate National Boarding Week at Abbotsleigh

Mrs Megan Krimmer  
Headmistress



It is National Boarding Week this week, and serendipitously, the 2025 theme for the Australian National Boarding Week, 'Threads of Connection' and Abbotsleigh's inspirational theme, 'Bee Connected' are beautifully aligned. In typical Abbotsleigh boarders' style, the girls have celebrated National Boarding Week and the wonderful connections within and beyond boarding, with energy, verve and great aplomb!

On Monday morning, the Senior School girls and staff arrived to a sea of boarder blue! Indeed, almost everything that could have been decorated with balloons and posters had been, and the plasma screens showed images of boarding and how fantastic boarding at Abbotsleigh really is. Throughout the week, Years 7-11 boarders have worn their blue boarder hoodies and our Year 12s were delighted to receive their new Year 12 boarder jerseys which they, too, have proudly worn. During the week, the girls and staff organised some excellent events including fiercely contested Day Girl vs Boarders sporting matches, a wonderful 'gratitude

breakfast' for teachers hosted by the boarders, tours and afternoon tea in the boarding houses for day girls; boarder games; fundraisers for our boarders' nominated charity, the Royal Flying Doctor Service; and a superb Senior School assembly run entirely by our boarders.

As explained in the boarders' 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, Seoul, New Zealand, Dubai and Paris. Others 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.\*

Our National Boarding Week celebrations will culminate tomorrow in a marvellous Abbotsleigh Old Girl and parent (past, present and prospective) community event being held in Dubbo at the conclusion of this year's Dubbo Boarding Expo.





I would like to thank and congratulate our girls and our staff for the wonderful events they have organised over the last week and for the great insights they have provided to us all about what it is like to be a boarder at Abbotsleigh. I commend to you the speech given by

our Head Boarder Prefect, Nell Owen at our Boarders' assembly on Tuesday following.

\*If Day School girls and parents are interested in this option, **please contact our Registrar, Mrs Colleen Fenn.**



### Abbotsleigh's 'Bee Connected' 140th Birthday Mother Daughter Dinner – an outstanding success

What an absolute delight it was to be at our inaugural Mother/Daughter Dinner last Friday night! With more than 900 people at Miramare Gardens, the 'buzz' in the room from the first minute to the last, literally radiated with phenomenal excitement, happiness and sheer joy!

Our guest speaker, Dr Rebecca Overton (AOG 1991 and past parent) spoke from her heart about connections – those she had made during her epic adventure (pilgrimage) walking the Camino de Santiago with her husband, and of course the very important connections girls have with their mothers and that our girls have with each other. Rebecca's heartfelt message about the way the walk led her to realise how important her mother is to her, and how grateful she is for all that her mother means to, and has done for her, was incredibly moving. We are very grateful to Dr Overton for giving up her time and for delivering such an inspiring and poignant presentation which will be remembered and treasured by all.

After Dr Overton's presentation, it was time for the girls and their mums to kick up their heels and DANCE! The dance floor was absolutely packed with all the girls and their mums having the time of their lives. The hero of the hour was none other than our very own Mr Lyndon Franks (IT/AV), who was our guest DJ, breakdancer and saxophonist for the night; Lyndon certainly wowed everyone with his great talent.

I would like to thank Mrs Victoria Rennie, Mrs Alex Lightfoot, Ms Mahta Rahimi, Mr Kris Egan and all members of our Development team, Mr Lyndon Franks and all members of staff who worked so hard in preparation for, and during the night.

What a fabulous way to celebrate mums and their daughters during Abbotsleigh's 140th Birthday year!



# Weaving the threads of connection: National Boarders' Week 2025

Nell Owen

*Head Boarder Prefect, 2025*

Welcome to this year's National Boarding Week assembly. National Boarding Week is celebrated at the more than 200 boarding schools in Australia. This week we celebrate all our amazing boarders here at Abbotsleigh and share with you all why boarding is so special to us.

This year's theme is 'Threads of Connection' as boarding allows us to create bonds which hold our boarding community together like threads hold a tapestry. These bonds and connections help create boarding as not only a place to live but also a place that can feel like home.

Boarding at Abbotsleigh is really special for all of us because it gives us so many opportunities that otherwise might feel impossible. Because of boarding we have access to not only great education, but also the opportunity to try countless co-curriculars, and make connections with people from Sydney, Australia and the world.

Boarding is something that I am so grateful for every day because of each amazing girl that sits before me. As a boarding community we all stand together as sisters to support each other and guide each other through life which helps create our home away from home here at Abbotsleigh.

... To finish I would like to give a massive thank you to our incredible boarding staff – Mrs White, Mrs Small, Ms Burasiddhi, Ms Rogers, Ms Sharman and Mrs Rodden, and to all of our amazing residents. Thank you for all of the work that you do for all of us and for helping us create threads of connection with one another.



## Chaplain

### 'Beeing connected' through hospitality

Rev Sarah Hobba

*Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies*

Hospitality sparks connection, fostering empathy and a sense of togetherness. While we often think of it in terms of the hospitality industry, it refers to the deeper human experience of making others feel welcome. Whether it's a warm smile at the door or joining another in a hot beverage, hospitality is about creating moments of inclusion.

In Old Testament times, it was instructed that hospitality was to be extended to the vulnerable – strangers, widows, orphans and the poor – providing them with food, shelter and protection. Later, hospitality became a hallmark of early Christian communities, who shared resources and cared for the vulnerable. This radical generosity even drew the

attention of Roman Emperor Julian, who lamented that Christians outshone Romans in caring for the needy.

Jesus exemplified hospitality by sharing meals with outcasts, breaking social norms to foster unity and inclusion. His ultimate act of hospitality was on the cross, symbolised by open arms welcoming all into God's love. Theologian Miroslav Volf describes this as an invitation into divine community.

This week, as we have celebrated hospitality with the Mother's Day Dinner and the National Boarding Week activities of breakfast and open house invitations, may we all be reminded of the importance of hospitality so that we model Jesus' love and can 'Bee Connected'.



Mark 2:15

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’

Romans 12:12-13

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

# Upcoming events

## WHOLE SCHOOL

Hornsby Local Artists exhibition	Thursday 1 to Saturday 17 May Opening 1 May, 6-7.30 pm	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Community Event – Dubbo	Saturday 17 May 3-5.30 pm	Private home, Dubbo
140th Birthday Concert (matinée performance)	Tuesday 20 May 3-5.20 pm	Sydney Opera House
140th Birthday Concert (evening performance)	Tuesday 20 May 7.30-9.50 pm	Sydney Opera House
GLOW Festival	Monday 16 June	Senior School campus
Ku-ring-gai Local Artists exhibition	Thursday 22 May to Wednesday 11 June	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Abbotsleigh Christian Fellowship prayer meeting	Tuesday 27 May 7.45-8.30 pm	Via Zoom
APA Social Event – Trivia Night	Saturday 31 May 7-11 pm	Gymnasium, Senior School
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resouces	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	<a href="#">Click here</a> to watch

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

IPSHA Saturday sport	Saturday 17 May 8 am-12 noon	See team sheets for times and venues
JS Production Rehearsal	Saturday 17 May 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall
ELC and T-3 Life Education	Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 May	Life Education Van, Junior School



<b>National Simultaneous Storytime (T-K)</b>	Wednesday 21 May	Junior School Library
<b>10 UR STRONG friendology session</b>	Wednesday 21 May 1.40-2 pm	
<b>da Vinci Decathlon State Championships (Years 5-6)</b>	Thursday 22 May	Knox Grammar School
<b>ELC and T-3 Life Education</b>	Thursday 22 and Friday 23 May	Life Education Van, Junior School
<b>Year 2 Creator Academy WeDo incursion</b>	Friday 23 May 8.30-10.30 am	Year 2 Classrooms
<b>1G UR STRONG friendology session</b>	Friday 23 May 1.40-2 pm	
<b>Competition chess</b>	Friday 23 May 3-4.30 pm	
<b>JS Production Rehearsal</b>	Friday 23 May 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
<b>ISDA Debating quarter finals</b>	Friday 23 May 4-9 pm	
<b>IPSHA Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 24 May 8 am-12 noon	See team sheets for times and venues
<b>JS Production Rehearsal</b>	Saturday 24 May 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall
<b>Transition excursion to Sydney Harbour Bridge</b>	Monday 26 May 8.30 am-2.30 pm	Sydney Harbour Bridge
<b>3O Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures incursion</b>	Monday 26 May 10-11 am	JS Auditorium
<b>3L Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures incursion</b>	Monday 26 May 11.30 am-12.30 pm	JS Auditorium
<b>10 UR STRONG friendology session</b>	Wednesday 28 May 1.40-2 pm	
<b>K, 3 and 5 Grandparents' Day</b>	Thursday 29 May 10.50 am-1.30 pm	Library Plaza
<b>Year 4 Reconciliation incursion</b>	Friday 30 May 9-10 am	JS Auditorium
<b>3G Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures incursion</b>	Friday 30 May 11.30 am-12.30 pm	JS Auditorium
<b>1G UR STRONG friendology session</b>	Friday 30 May 1.40-2 pm	
<b>Competition chess</b>	Friday 30 May 3-4.30 pm	
<b>JS Production Rehearsal</b>	Friday 30 May 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
<b>IPSHA Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 31 May 8 am-12 noon	See team sheets for times and venues
<b>JS Production Rehearsal</b>	Saturday 31 May 2-4.30 pm	Everett Hall

## SENIOR SCHOOL

<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 17 May 8 am-12 noon	<a href="#">Click here for times and venues</a>
<b>Lunchtime Futures: CSU</b>	Monday 19 May 1.20-2.10 pm	Careers Office (U5)
<b>da Vinci Decathlon State Championships (Years 7-8)</b>	Tuesday 20 May	Knox Grammar School
<b>da Vinci Decathlon State Championships (Years 9-11)</b>	Wednesday 21 May	Knox Grammar School
<b>Year 11 EES excursion to the Glade</b>	Wednesday 21 May 11 am-1.45 pm	The Glade, Wahroonga
<b>Rising Minds Academy launch</b>	Wednesday 21 May 12.45-2.05 pm	<i>PDCH</i>
<b>Dame Enid Lyons Oratory Finals</b>	Wednesday 21 May 6-8 pm	Sydney Opera House
<b>Year 11 Drama excursion – The Lover/ The Dumb Waiter</b>	Thursday 22 May 9.30 am-3.25 pm	The Ensemble Theatre, Kirribilli
<b>Senior Drama Production rehearsal</b>	Thursday 22 May 3.30-6 pm	Drama Studio
<b>ISDA Debating quarter finals</b>	Friday 23 May 4-9 pm	
<b>InterCRU</b>	Friday 23 May 4-5.30 pm	Ravenswood School for Girls
<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 24 May 8 am-12 noon	Times and venues TBC
<b>Year 10 Work Experience Week</b>	Monday 26 to Friday 30 May	
<b>Years 8 and 9 Challenge Week</b>	Monday 26 to Thursday 29 May	
<b>Lunchtime Futures: Monash University</b>	Monday 26 May 1.20-2.10 pm	Careers Office (U5)
<b>Senior Drama Production rehearsal</b>	Tuesday 27 May 3.30-6 pm	Drama Studio
<b>Senior Drama Production rehearsal</b>	Thursday 29 May 3.30-6 pm	Drama Studio
<b>Abbotsleigh Boarder Parents' Association (ABPA) Term 2 meeting</b>	Thursday 29 May 7-9 pm	Via Zoom
<b>NSW All School Swimming and Diving Championships</b>	Friday 30 May 8 am-4 pm	SOPAC
<b>NorthWest Equestrian Expo</b>	Friday 30 May to Tuesday 3 June	Coonabarabran
<b>ISDA Debating semi finals</b>	Friday 30 May 4-9 pm	
<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 31 May 8 am-12 noon	Times and venues TBC

