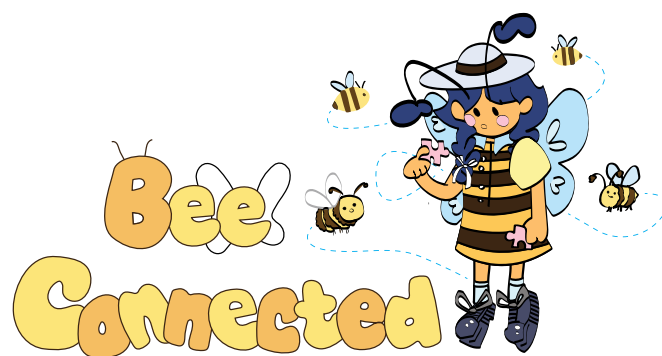


The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



'Beeing Connected' as a school community for 140 years!

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

140 years ago, on 20 July 1885, Miss Marian Clarke, a most courageous trailblazer, took the great risk of opening a new school. The school at that time was quite revolutionary, for Abbotsleigh was to be a school of academic excellence for girls who would not finish their education at the end of primary, or even at the end of high school, but would go on to study at university. For us in 2025, this is the 'norm' – of course, girls can go to university! However, back then, most girls were not educated beyond primary school, and some did not even receive a primary school education. Indeed, university was something beyond the wildest hopes and dreams for the vast majority of girls.

Miss Clarke was determined to change that. She believed that girls should and could receive an education equal to that of boys and they should then have the opportunity to go to university. What phenomenal vision; what a courageous trailblazer she was; and what an amazing school that has developed as a result of Miss Clarke's vision and great legacy!

Today has been a wonderful day of celebration as we have paid tribute to Miss Clarke and to all who have contributed to the magnificent history of Abbotsleigh over the last 140 years during our wonderful 140th Birthday Assembly.

The Assembly featured guest speaker Gabriella Pereira (AOGU 2012), who is the founder and creative director of Australian fashion label Beare Park, launched at Australian Fashion Week in 2021. Gabriella began her career as an Investment Banking Analyst before making a bold pivot to pursue her passion for design.

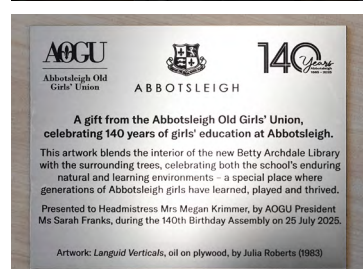
A wonderful role model as a courageous trailblazer, Gabriella inspired our girls as she spoke about the importance of 'beeing connected' as she developed her highly successful business, Beare Park, which has grown to be stocked globally in leading retailers such as Bergdorf Goodman in New York, Harrods, Liberty London and Net-a-Porter. Gabriella is now set to open Beare Park's first flagship store in Sydney in September this year.

In 2023, Beare Park was named the official formalwear partner of the Commbank Matildas ... and in 2024, Gabriella was named Emerging Designer of the Year at the Australian Fashion Laureate.

We are very grateful indeed for Gabriella's generosity in giving up her time to speak to us at our 140th Birthday Assembly.

Indeed, **generosity**, in the form of time, expertise and philanthropy, has been a feature of Abbotsleigh since its inception, and this was demonstrated time and time again during our Assembly.

We are most grateful for the generosity of our Abbotsleigh Old Girls who, represented by Honorary President Ms Sarah Franks, presented a most beautiful work of art, created by Abbotsleigh Old Girl Julia Roberts (1983), as a gift to the School on the occasion of its 140th birthday. The artwork has taken pride of place on the ground floor of the new Betty Archdale Library, with the wording on the plaque below capturing the essence of the artwork and the generosity of our Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union. Thank you so much to all our Abbotsleigh Old Girls. We are very grateful for your beautiful gift and for all that you do for your school.





We are also most grateful to our Former Abbotsleigh Staff group (FAbbS), who, represented by former Deputy Headmistress and current FAbbS President Mrs Rosemary Abrahams, presented a very generous donation for Bunda Girls High School on the occasion of FAbbS' 25th anniversary and Abbotsleigh's 140th birthday. Bunda Girls High School is the school established by AOG Rev Helen Hoskins (1969), which our Senior School girls have been supporting for a number of years. Thank you so much to FAbbS – Rev Helen Hoskins and the Bunda High School community are very grateful indeed for your generosity, as are we.

In addition to the above, another magnificent feature of our Assembly was when Mrs Robyn Claydon, former Deputy Headmistress and Acting Chaplain, delivered an updated poem that she originally wrote for Abbotsleigh's centenary in 1985. We are most grateful to Mrs Claydon

for taking the time to write this magnificent poem and for delivering it during our Assembly in her characteristic, vibrant and enthusiastic manner. Mrs Claydon's presentation was certainly adored by all – thank you, Mrs Claydon.

As Mrs Claydon wrote in Abbotsleigh's centenary year:

'We have walked a long way since July 20, 1885, when 11 boarders, 22 day girls and a far-seeing headmistress started the Abbotsleigh journey. It is a journey which many thousands have undertaken and on which many more will embark. It is a journey characterised by constantly changing scenery and travelling companions and one which enriches the lives of those who undertake it.'

As seen in the beautiful book *Humans of Abbotsleigh*, also launched in our Assembly today, even more lives have been enriched and we have walked even further since Mrs Claydon wrote these inspiring words. I wonder what Miss Clarke would think of the incredible school she established and how it has grown, developed and flourished over the last 140 years? My guess is that she would be mightily and justifiably proud.

Happy Birthday Abbotsleigh – we certainly all believe Miss Betty Archdale's famous mantra:

'With education, women can do and be anything'

Chaplain

Compassion

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Term 3 always begins with our birthday celebrations, and this year marks a special milestone – our 140th. Birthdays and anniversaries invite us to reflect on memories and the stories that shape us. For me and 17 others, it is the anniversary of the tour to Bunda Girls School in Tanzania, which was a powerful encounter. We met our sponsor students, Ntoji, Happyness, Elizabeth, and Agness, and had some unforgettable moments in the Serengeti, including witnessing a pride of lions at breakfast, which stirred a reverent mix of fear and wonder.

People encounter Jesus in many ways – through Scripture, life, and story. This term in Senior Chapel, we will hear from individuals sharing how they have encountered Jesus personally. For me, it was through the lion Aslan, from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. As a young person, I encountered this story of Edmund's betrayal and Aslan's restorative sacrificial love through his death and resurrection. This mirrors the love of God, reaching out to

us in Jesus' death and showing compassion, like Father welcoming the Prodigal Son.

As we begin this new term, may we be challenged by the stories of those who have had encounters with Jesus and extend God's compassion to one another.

Luke 15:11-13, 17-20

¹¹ Jesus continued: There was a man who had two sons.

¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living ...

¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was **filled with compassion** for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.



Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Possibility as Reality exhibition	Saturday 19 July to Saturday 9 August	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
AOGU Back to School Day	Sunday 27 July	Junior and Senior School locations
Books and Beeyond: A Celebration of Storytelling	Monday 28 July to Wednesday 30 July	
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch
Gala Dinner - Bee Connected: An Evening of Celebration	Saturday 16 August 6.30-11 pm	Click here to purchase tickets

JUNIOR SCHOOL

IPSHA Saturday sport	Saturday 26 July and Saturday 2 August	See team sheets for times and venues
ELC and Transition Parent Information Evening	Monday 28 July 6 am-8.30 pm	Junior School Auditorium
3G visit to St Lucy's	Wednesday 30 July 9.10-11.30 am	
Year 2 bike education sessions	Wednesday 30 July	
Year 3 Gibberagong-Muogamarra excursion	Thursday 31 July 8.30 am-3 pm	
Kindergarten Field of Mars excursion	Thursday 31 July 8.30 am-2.30 pm	
Primary Music Concert rehearsal	Friday 1 August 8.30-11.30 am	Assembly Hall
Primary Music Concert	Friday 1 August 6.30-8 pm	Assembly Hall
Parent Teacher interviews	Monday 4 to Friday 8 August	
Kindergarten eye screening	Monday 4 August 9.30 am-12 noon	
Primary Athletics Carnival	Thursday 7 August	Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre
Years 1 and 2 Jam on Toast incursion	Friday 8 August 9.30-10.30 am	Upper Music Room
T and K Jam on Toast incursion	Friday 8 August 10.50-11.50 am	Upper Music Room



SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 26 July and Saturday 2 August	Click here for times and venues
Year 9 St Joseph's College dance	Thursday 31 July 6.30-8.30pm	Sports Hall
Year 11 Music 1 and 2 students - Aus Music Day excursion	Friday 1 August 8 am-3.25 pm	MLC
Year 9 Commerce Market Day	Friday 1 August 11 am-2.30 pm	
SDN Debating - Round 2	Friday 1 August 4-8 pm	
Year 12 HSC Trials	Monday 4 to Friday 15 August	
Middle School public speaking competition	Tuesday 5 August 12.45-1.15 pm	Assembly Hall
IGSA Archdale Debating	Tuesday 5 August 3.30-8 pm	
Year 11 Agriculture excursion	Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 August	Quirindi, NSW
Sport Aerobics State Championships	Friday 8 August 8.30 am-3.30 pm	Valentines Sports Park
SDN Debating - Round 3	Friday 8 August 4-8 pm	
Year 9 Elective Music soiree	Friday 8 August 6.30-8 pm	Peter Duly Concert Hall

