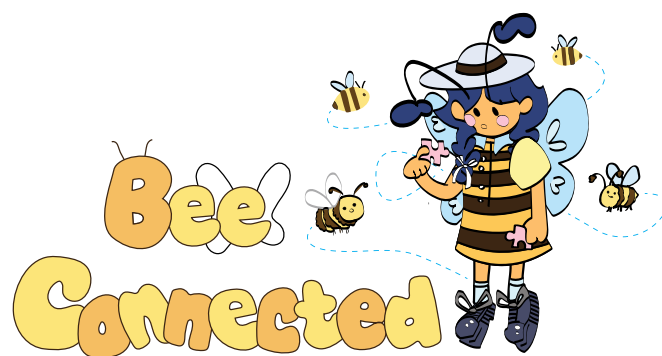


# The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



## Bee Connected: Abbotsleigh girls connect through a wonderful celebration of storytelling

Mrs Megan Krimmer  
Headmistress

- I wonder what your favourite story or poem was when you were growing up?
- I wonder who told you stories or read stories to you?
- I wonder if you can remember the wonderful connection between you and the storyteller, the feeling of warmth and perhaps excitement as your mum or dad, older sibling, aunty, uncle, teacher and so on, read to you? You may have been like me – trying to guess what was coming next, or saying the words and pretending to read them before you could actually read, because you knew the story/ies so well?

These were precious times for all of us who had the incredible fortune to grow up surrounded by people who loved books and literature. Indeed, as Junior School Chaplain Mrs Alison Soper told our Junior School girls on Tuesday, books can be windows, mirrors and doors – windows to worlds way beyond our imagination; mirrors that might reflect who we are; and doors of possibilities that we may never have thought about.

As I told our Senior School girls in Assembly this week, I LOVE to read, and I grew up in a family that LOVED to read. We would borrow armfuls of books from the library every week and simply devour those books. To be transported into other worlds by those who have the gift of storytelling is pure magic, magic that so many of our girls who are voracious readers experience every single day. What a gift that is!



Our Celebration of Storytelling week at Abbotsleigh has been sensational. Our Junior School girls connected with 'mystery readers' (including Mrs Rennie, Mrs Gaspersic, Mrs van Bussel, Mrs Haymen, Ms Humphries, Mrs Black, and me), and our Junior and Senior School girls met with brilliant authors at different times during the week. It is incredible how many of our Abbotsleigh Old Girls are successful authors, and it was an absolute privilege to be inspired in Senior School Assembly by two of these women, Belinda Murrell and Kate Forsyth, who are also sisters.

I warmly commend to you the excellent article celebrating our marvellous week of storytelling, written by our Head of Library, Ms Karen Seeneevassen:

### Books and Beeyond: A Celebration of Storytelling

The theme of this year's Celebration of Storytelling purposefully links with the 2025 Prefect theme of 'Bee Connected'. When Head Prefect Jazarah Tambyrajah introduced the theme at Assembly early this year, she explained that *'Our connections are the foundation of everything we do, from our personal relationships to our broader school community.'*

This statement is the throughline of the Celebration of Storytelling. This week, we have been connected through

books and reading, while being introduced to exceptional authors who took our students beyond their books and into their creative world and practice. Over the course of the event, we were entertained and enlightened by poets, fiction and non-fiction authors featuring Felicity Plunkett, Eileen Chong, Sara Mansour, Wai Chim, Linda Jaivin, Vivian Pham and Felicity Castagna.



We were privileged to host a morning tea for published Abbotsleigh Old Girl authors, including:

Kate Forsyth (Humphrey, 1984)  
 Belinda Murrell (Humphrey, 1981)  
 Greta Archbold (Brown, 1967)  
 Wendy Blaxland (1967)  
 Louise Fowler-Smith (1973)  
 Alexandra Joel (1971)  
 Elizabeth Lancaster (Carroll, 1977)  
 Meg Matthews (Giblin, 1960)

A highlight of the Celebration of Storytelling was our Senior School Assembly, with renowned authors Belinda Murrell and Kate Forsyth, in conversation with Jazarah Tambyrajah. Students and staff alike were captivated to hear about Belinda and Kate's passion for reading, writing and research, in particular their co-authored work of historical research and memoir, *Searching for Charlotte*. Their presentation underscored the importance of being connected to family and community.

'Books and Beeyond' has most definitely connected our students and school community, strengthening our foundation through a love of reading, literature and storytelling.



# Chaplain

## Celebrating Storytelling

Rev Sarah Hobba  
 Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Everyone loves a good story. As we celebrate storytelling this week, we can recognise that the Bible is full of great stories, but it is also telling us God's big love story. From epic journeys and unexpected heroes to moments of deep love and grace, the Bible tells the big story of God's relationship with us. At the heart of it all is Jesus, who is not only a great storyteller through his parables and everyday encounters, but also the main character and hero. The whole story pivots around him – his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection bring new life and hope. And even today, his words invite us to take our own place in God's ongoing story.

**Romans 15:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..



# Upcoming events

## WHOLE SCHOOL

<b>Possibility as Reality exhibition</b>	Saturday 19 July to Saturday 9 August	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
<b>Gala Dinner - Bee Connected: An Evening of Celebration</b>	Saturday 16 August 6.30-11 pm	<a href="#">Click here</a> to purchase tickets
<b>Hayden Wood exhibition</b>	Thursday 14 to 21 August	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
<b>SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources</b>	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	<a href="#">Click here</a> to watch

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

<b>IPSHA Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 2 and 9 August	See team sheets for times and venues
<b>Parent Teacher interviews</b>	Monday 4 to Friday 8 August	
<b>Kindergarten eye screening</b>	Monday 4 August 9.30 am-12 noon	
<b>Primary Athletics Carnival</b>	Thursday 7 August	Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre
<b>Years 1 and 2 Jam on Toast incursion</b>	Friday 8 August 9.30-10.30 am	Upper Music Room
<b>T and K Jam on Toast incursion</b>	Friday 8 August 10.50-11.50 am	Upper Music Room
<b>Junior School Environment Sustainability Week</b>	Monday 11 to Friday 15 August	
<b>3L St Lucy's visit</b>	Monday 11 August 10.40-11.50 am	
<b>100 Days of Kindergarten</b>	Tuesday 12 August 9.30 am-2.45 pm	Kindergarten classrooms
<b>Year 6 Designing for Change incursion</b>	Wednesday 13 August 8.30 am-12.45 pm	Year 6 classrooms
<b>Circle of Security parent sessions</b>	Friday 15 August 8.30-10.30 am	





# SENIOR SCHOOL

<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 2 August	<b>Click here</b> for times and venues
<b>Year 12 HSC Trials</b>	Monday 4 to Friday 15 August	
<b>Middle School public speaking competition</b>	Tuesday 5 August 12.45-1.15 pm	Assembly Hall
<b>IGSA Archdale Debating</b>	Tuesday 5 August 3.30-8 pm	
<b>Year 11 Agriculture excursion</b>	Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 August	Quirindi, NSW
<b>Sport Aerobics State Championships</b>	Friday 8 August 8.30 am-3.30 pm	Valentines Sports Park
<b>SDN Debating - Round 3</b>	Friday 8 August 4-8 pm	
<b>Year 9 Elective Music soiree</b>	Friday 8 August 6.30-8 pm	Peter Duly Concert Hall
<b>Rising Minds Academy online parent seminar</b>	Monday 11 August 7-8.00 pm	Online
<b>IGSA Archdale Debating tie-breakers</b>	Tuesday 5 August 3.30-8 pm	
<b>Year 9 Write a Book in a Day (WABIAD)</b>	Wednesday 13 August 8 am-6 pm	Senior School Library rooms
<b>Lunchtime Futures session: Canberra University</b>	Wednesday 13 August 1.20-2.10 pm	Careers Office (U5)
<b>FUSE Cup Sydney Beat Saber competition</b>	Thursday 14 August 9 am-3 pm	iHub
<b>NSW Chess Interschool Girls' Team Challenge</b>	Friday 15 August 8 am-3 pm	iHub, Room i204
<b>FUSE Cup Sydney Beat Saber competition</b>	Friday 15 August 9 am-3 pm	iHub
<b>Twilight Athletics</b>	Friday 15 August 4-8 pm	Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre
<b>IGSA Chess competition</b>	Friday 15 August 3.30-5 pm	iHub, Room i204

