

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

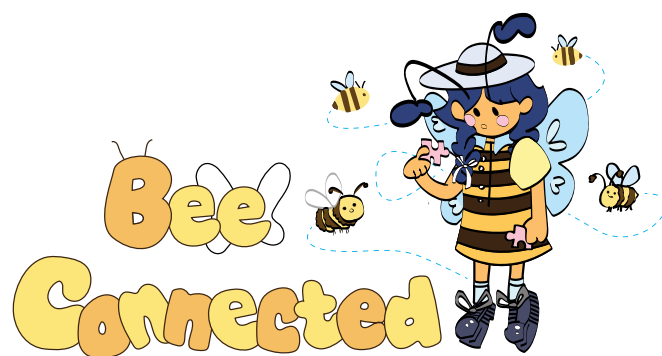
Bee Connected in gratitude

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of our community who has supported the many events celebrating Abbotsleigh's rich history — a tapestry beautifully woven over the past 140 years.

Our term began with marvellous birthday celebrations, starting with the Birthday Assembly and continuing through an action-packed weekend of activities for Old Girls and former members of Abbotsleigh staff. At our assembly, the AOGU (Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union) demonstrated incredible generosity by awarding the Centenary Scholarship. Likewise, FAbbS (Former Abbotsleigh Staff) donated the funds they had raised for Bunda Girls High School.

Last weekend, we witnessed further extraordinary generosity at the Foundation Gala Dinner. Even those unable to attend contributed through online donations or by bidding on prizes. Together, we raised over \$290,000 – a phenomenal achievement that will enable a number of girls, who might never have dreamed it possible, to come to Abbotsleigh and experience a brilliant education. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all. It is a privilege to lead this wonderful community.



NAIDOC Week: Equally rewarding is the opportunity to see the mutual respect amongst our girls and the delight they show in celebrating culture, particularly the culture of our First Nations girls.

At Abbotsleigh, we place great importance on commemorating NAIDOC Week. As it falls during the school holidays, our Senior School students select an alternate week that best suits everyone to mark this important event, and this year, Week 5 was chosen.

Our Deputy Headmistress and Head of Senior School, Mrs Victoria Rennie, has written a superb article about our NAIDOC celebrations. I commend Mrs Rennie's article to you:

Celebrating NAIDOC Week: Honouring culture, inspiring the next generation

Each year, our school community comes together to celebrate NAIDOC Week – an event of deep significance that honours the histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year marked a particularly special milestone: 50 years of NAIDOC Week celebrations across the country.

Our NAIDOC Assembly was a powerful and inspiring event, led entirely by our First Nations students. Their leadership, creativity and pride in culture were evident throughout the assembly, reflecting the vital role First Nations culture plays at Abbotsleigh.

The 2025 NAIDOC theme 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy', celebrates the youth who are emerging as cultural leaders, drawing strength from their ancestors and elders. It highlights the importance of First Nations youth as visionaries and custodians of future legacies.

We were honoured to welcome First Nations families from across the region to our assembly, and thrilled to host guest speaker Dr Kirsten Banks, a proud Wiradjuri woman, astrophysicist and



science communicator. Dr Banks shared her journey in STEM, blending scientific knowledge with cultural insight. Her message – about the power of dreaming big, the importance of female First Nations role models in science and the legacy of vision – resonated deeply with our students.

Year 10 students also had the privilege of attending a special workshop with Dr Banks, where she shared her passion for the universe and her inspiring personal story.

Following the assembly, our Mana Allawah lunchtime club hosted a vibrant workshop led by Brett Tyrell, father of Year 8 student Rita, who showcased Torres Strait Islander culture, offering students a hands-on experience that was both educational and deeply engaging.

As part of our celebrations, Gamiliaray artist and parent Hayden Wood held an exhibition in the Grace

Cossington Smith Gallery. Through his work, *Bokara Dreaming*, Hayden focuses on empowering the next generation to practice and preserve traditional cultural practices. Hayden also ran artist-in-residence workshops with Senior School art students, sharing his story and techniques in a way that was both personal and profound.

We are deeply grateful to our First Nations parents and families for their generosity in sharing culture. Their contributions are vital to our journey of reconciliation and to building a school community that honours and celebrates First Nations heritage.

Thank you to all our families, girls, Miss Eliza Fitzgerald and Mrs Shane Hamilton for all the work and support with organising such wonderful celebrations.



Chaplain

Encounters with Jesus

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Francis Schaeffer wrote, ‘With God there are no little people. There are no little places.’ Two Abbotsleigh Old Girls (AOG) spoke at Senior Chapel this week, with Isobel O’Keeffe (Burchett, 2007) highlighting this quote and the story of Zacchaeus. Isobel and her husband Pat will be moving to Katherine, Northern Territory, to work with the Bush Church Aid organisation. Part of their guidance in following this direction is the conviction that every person matters deeply to God, and a desire to demonstrate God’s faithfulness in all places of our world. Isobel, a psychologist, will be working in school communities.

Our other guest was Mrs Charlotte Galea (Yeates, 2006), who has served as a Junior School Chaplain and Christian Studies teacher. Both AOGs shared how, during their time at Abbotsleigh, they encountered Jesus – an experience that has changed their lives in different ways. Mrs Galea is known to many girls across the school and has a new, exciting opportunity to work in Chaplaincy at Roseville College. We pray for Isobel and Mrs Galea that God may bless them as they serve Him faithfully in the places He has called them for His love and purpose.

The story of Zacchaeus shows someone who was seen as insignificant and rejected by others, yet Jesus welcomed him, even sharing a meal at his home. Jesus’ focus was ‘to seek and to save the lost’.

Luke 19:1-10

¹ "Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.
² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today. ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

⁹ Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Place of Anchors exhibition	Friday 5 to Saturday 27 September	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch

JUNIOR SCHOOL

ELC and Transition excursion to the ACEE	Tuesday 26 August 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE, Senior Campus
Year 5 CruFit Excursion (selected students)	Wednesday 27 August 11.45 am-3.30 pm	Roseville College
3L St Lucy's visit	Thursday 28 August 9.10-11.20 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga
Circle of Security parent sessions	Friday 29 August 8.30-10.30 am	
ELC Father's Day Breakfast	Tuesday 2 September 7.30-8.15 am	
30 St Lucy's visit	Tuesday 2 September 10.10-11.30 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga
Transition to Year 6 Father Daughter Breakfast	Wednesday 3 September 7.00-8.30 am	Library Plaza
ELC Father's Day Breakfast	Thursday 4 September 7.30-8.15 am	
3L St Lucy's visit	Thursday 4 September 9.10-11.20 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga
Year 5 Chinatown and Chinese Gardens excursion	Friday 5 September 8.30 am-3 pm	Chinatown, Sydney

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Tuesday 26 to Saturday 30 August	Click here for times and venues
HSC Showcase exhibition	Thursday 28 August 7-10.30 pm	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic rehearsal	Friday 29 August	PDCH
HSC Drama exams	Friday 29 August 12.45-2 pm	Drama Studio
SRC International Day Fair	Friday 29 August 3.30-5 pm	Top Oval
IGSA Chess competition	Friday 29 August 4-8 pm	iHub, Room i204
SDN Debating - Round 6	Friday 29 August 6.30-8 pm	
Catch a Rising Star Gala Concert	Monday 1 September	PDCH
Year 7 vaccinations	Monday 1 September 1.15-3.25 pm	GLC
Knox MS Collaboration	Tuesday 2 to Sunday 7 September	Senior School Dining Room
Australian Interschools Snowsport Championships	Tuesday 2 September 3.30-8 pm	Perisher
IGSA Archdale Debating Grand Final	Wednesday 3 September	Senior School
Year 8 Write a Book in a Day	Friday 5 September 7-8.15 am	Senior School Library, upper level

Year 12 Father Daughter Breakfast	Friday 5 September 3.30-5 pm	Year 12 Common Room
IGSA Chess competition	Friday 5 September 4-8 pm	iHub, Room i204
SDN Debating - Round 7		