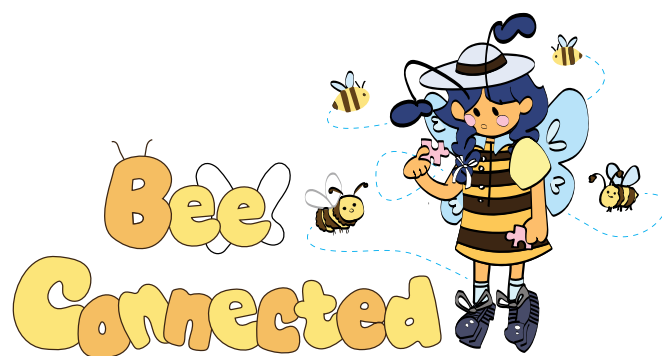


# The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



## 'Bee Connected' with our hearts – Our Abbotsleigh community is making a real difference in the lives of others

Mrs Megan Krimmer  
Headmistress

Throughout its 140-year history, Abbotsleigh girls, and indeed our whole Abbotsleigh community, have been committed to serving others who are less fortunate. That strong historical thread in Abbotsleigh's rich historical tapestry is continuing to be fostered strongly in our new Strategic Plan: Present Focused – Future Ready, through the key focus area of **Empowered to hope and serve**.

Indeed, our girls and staff are empowered to work towards our key aims: to 'Share the joy and hope of the Christian Faith' and 'Put our faith into action ... to make a difference – locally, nationally and internationally'.

In her final speech to the girls last year, our 2023-2024 Vice-Head Prefect – Service Sarah Hooper-Mitchell said: 'Serving is one of the most influential actions one can take to kindle hope, for it is a testament to compassion and unity, showing others that their burdens are shared, they are seen and they are valued. Whether in small gestures or grand efforts, the act of serving reignites a sense of hope in those who may have lost faith in their circumstances or themselves. It is through service that we remind one another of the enduring strength of the human spirit and the powerful bonds of community.'

This year, led beautifully by our Vice Head Prefect – Service Davina Chan and inspired by our Prefect theme 'Bee Connected', our girls, Pre K-12, have really put these words into action.

As part of the Junior School Chapel series, our Junior School Chaplain, Mrs Alison Soper, showed us that just as God treats His people with kindness, we need to treat all people, even those we don't know, with kindness. Mrs Soper skilfully pointed the girls towards all those they 'look after', even though they don't really know these people, or don't know them well. This includes our World Vision girls, supported by each year group student with 50 cents each week; the children at St Lucy's School;



people with insufficient electricity being supported by our girls making and providing solar lights; people who we support through Anglicare's Toys'n'Tucker program; and the elderly residents in nursing homes – just to name a few. It was wonderful to see the girls' enthusiasm and, in particular, their knowledge of the World Vision girls, even without having met them.

In a recent Senior School Assembly, Davina Chan interviewed Imaya Geevasinga (Year 10) about the incredible service opportunity she undertook in the Philippines earlier this year, as a result of an email Davina had sent about service opportunities for high school students in the field of medicine. Davina also spoke about Senior School service projects, especially our ongoing connection with Bunda Girls High School, where all our Years 7-9 girls are sponsoring Tanzanian girls so they may receive a secondary education.

I commend to you Davina's excellent speech, which incorporates her interview with Imaya and concludes with an inspirational call to action.



# Service: Connecting to others with our hands and our hearts

Davina Chan, Vice Head Prefect – Service

## Clap \*pause, clap \*pause

'Let's admit it, we have all clapped before without knowing exactly what we're clapping for ... we sometimes do things without even understanding why. But that's not the service we want to live out.

Service isn't just about action – the bake sales, fundraisers and initiatives we run (though these are all fantastic and you should definitely get involved). True service happens when we connect the doing with the heart.

Otherwise, it would just be like clapping because some random person on stage started to. But when we bring together our hands and our hearts, that's when change happens – not only in other people's lives but also our own.

Well, I'm here with Imaya today. Recently, you visited the Philippines with Projects Abroad for the High School Specials in medicine and healthcare.

1. Can you tell us briefly what a typical day looked like?

*I had a really broad experience in the Philippines. In the first week, we were placed at a hospital where we learnt how to take vital signs as well as watch some surgical procedures, including the birth of a child via caesarean section. During the second week, we spent our time at a physiotherapy facility tending to patients, attending home visits and helping patients with their stretches. During these two weeks, we also joined outreach missions in more remote areas, providing resources and support.*

2. What have you learned from this experience – not only with head knowledge, but what you felt and truly understood?

*My experience in the Philippines gave me a different perspective on what healthcare is like abroad, with the contrast in facilities and resources available to both doctors and patients compared to what we have here. It made me realise the importance of addressing medical needs globally and how service, even in small ways, can make a real difference. By volunteering, even as a high school student, I was able to contribute and leave a lasting impact. For example, helping doctors by taking vital signs of patients so they could focus their attention on patients with more urgent needs, and sharing knowledge about hygiene and basic medical care with children in rural communities, showed me how meaningful these efforts can be.*

If you would like to get involved in similar service activities, I will be sending another email with upcoming opportunities. Thank you, Imaya!

As we can see, it's important not only to notice the needs in our own immediate world, but also to lift our eyes to the world beyond. With the amazing education and privileges we have at Abbotsleigh, we are called to adopt a global mindset, learning what life is like for others.

Most of us would have interacted with Crossroads in some way or another this term. Cast your minds back to these powerful simulations or talks from DJ Begbie. DJ didn't just give us facts about poverty or resource shortages – he helped us actually feel what life is like for the vulnerable.

In the same way, as we learn about the needs in Tanzania, our partnership only becomes meaningful when we connect what we know in our heads with our hands and hearts.

It's important to know that one in three girls is forced into an arranged marriage before the age of 18. It's important to know that one in four has a child before 18. It's important to know that only one in four girls completes secondary schooling.

But even more than just knowing the statistics, it's important that we step into the shoes of others, seeking to understand what life is truly like for them. It's important that we connect these global needs with a willingness to act – with empathy and from the heart.

Recently, Helen Hoskins went to Tanzania and delivered our gifts and letters to our sponsored students at Bunda – Yvona, Mary and Agnes. These girls have since written back, letting us know just how grateful they are.

As we near the end of Term 3, let's keep looking outward, choosing service over self.

Mark 10:45 reminds us: *'For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'* If even the King of Kings gave His life for us, we can look to Jesus as the ultimate model of servant-hearted living – placing the needs of others before His own.

Through our partnership with Bunda Girls High School and the many fundraisers and initiatives still to come, we have real opportunities to put this into practice.

**So let me leave you with one final thing: the needs you see – both locally and globally – don't let those just stay in your head. Let them be connected with action and let that action be connected with your heart.'**



# Chaplain

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and ‘bee’ glad in it

Rev Sarah Hobba  
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Our ‘Bee Connected’ Prefect theme has meant we have been emphasising the word ‘be’ a lot this year. In her role as Head Prefect 2024-2025, Jazarah Tambyrajah has closed each term assembly recapping the events and giving thanks for the opportunities and experiences we have shared. In her final term address, Jazarah quoted the well-loved verse from Psalm 118:24, ‘This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.’ Each day is a gift of life, of learning, of opportunity, of experiences. Each day is also a call to be connected, be courageous, be present and be grateful.

The Psalm 118:24 verses remind us that our gratitude is not just for each other, but for God, the giver of each new day and the source of our salvation. Jesus’ disciple Peter later quotes verse 22 in a letter to people facing

great hardship and persecution, pointing to Jesus as ‘the stone that the builders rejected.’ Jesus was rejected, despised, suffered and put on the cross, yet he is the foundation stone of Christian faith. Even on hard days, we can rejoice and be glad for them, because faith in Jesus gives us hope and a firm foundation.

**Psalm 118:21-24**

- <sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
- <sup>23</sup> the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

# 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	<a href="#">Click here</a> to watch
Last day of Term 3	Thursday 25 September	
Boarder travel day	Friday 26 September	

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

<b>30 St Lucy's visit</b>	Tuesday 23 September 9.10-10.45 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga
<b>ELC Special Friend Day</b>	Tuesday 23 September 10-11 am	ELC
<b>30 St Lucy's visit</b>	Thursday 18 September 9.10-11.20 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga

## SENIOR SCHOOL

<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 20 September	<a href="#">Click here</a> for times and venues
<b>Year 12 Tutor Breakfast</b>	Monday 22 September 7.15-9 am	Year 12 Common Room
<b>Year 12 vs Staff handball competition</b>	Monday 22 September 1.15-2 pm	Chapel Walk
<b>Boarders farewell to Year 12</b>	Monday 22 September 6-9 pm	Dining Room
<b>CIS Athletics Championships</b>	Tuesday 23 September	SOPAC
<b>Year 12 Crufts @ Abbotsleigh</b>	Tuesday 23 September 8.20-9.40 am	Top Oval
<b>Year 12 picnic excursion</b>	Tuesday 23 September 9.45 am-3 pm	Balmoral Beach
<b>Year 11 Aboriginal Studies excursion</b>	Tuesday 23 September 1-4 pm	Art Gallery of NSW
<b>Year 12 Wheeldon House Dinner</b>	Tuesday 23 September 6-8 pm	Wheeldon House
<b>Year 12 Valedictory Chapel</b>	Wednesday 24 September 8.30-9.30 am	Senior School Chapel
<b>Year 12 Valedictory Assembly</b>	Wednesday 24 September 9.45-10.45 am	Assembly Hall
<b>Year 12 Valedictory Morning Tea</b>	Wednesday 24 September 10.45 am-12 noon	Marian Clarke Plaza
<b>Year 12 Valedictory Dinner</b>	Wednesday 24 September 7-11 pm	Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills
<b>Year 11 VA/DT Ideation Day</b>	Thursday 25 September	iHub

