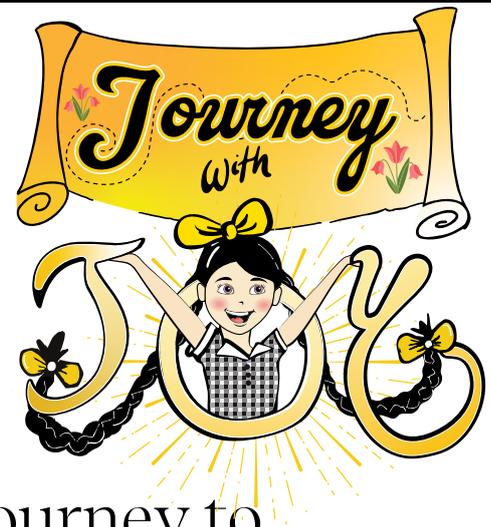


The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



Abbotsleigh continues on the journey to 'Balance the Scales' through the transformative power of education for women and girls

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

'Education is the key that opens the door of opportunity. It unlocks futures; it unlocks influence; it has an amazing ripple effect.'

Mrs Jann Robinson, OAM

We were privileged to welcome Mrs Jann Robinson, OAM, to our traditional International Women's Day Breakfast at Abbotsleigh last Friday morning. Mrs Robinson is an exceptional educator and educational leader who was Principal of St Luke's Grammar School for 15 years. Throughout her career, Mrs Robinson was renowned for encouraging students to learn with purpose, step outside their comfort zones and develop the resilience they need in a changing world. Currently, Mrs Robinson is a mentor for educational leaders and aspiring leaders, as well as being an educational consultant frequently called upon by many schools throughout Australia for her wisdom, knowledge and great expertise. At Abbotsleigh, we are most fortunate indeed that Mrs Robinson is a member of the Abbotsleigh School Council.

Mrs Robinson's inspirational talk clearly demonstrated just how impactful and transformational education can be. Without courageous and selfless women leaders like Leah in India or Angela in Pakistan, whose stories Mrs Robinson relayed, the girls and young women with whom they are working would very likely experience early marriage and pregnancy and be condemned to a life of abject poverty. Then, rather than having a life filled with hope and joy, they would instead face life with sheer and utter hopelessness.

Stories of girls in Pakistan living in Brick Kiln communities were particularly poignant. As Mrs Robinson noted, these girls and their families are the 'lowest of the low', permanently caught in inter-generational debt to the owners of the brick kilns, who pay extremely low wages

and lend money to their workers to buy sufficient food. The workers can never earn enough to repay this debt – hence the debt permanency.

Because of Angela, who established Miracle School Ministries in Pakistan for both permanent and mobile schools, girls in a number of Brick Kiln communities have been provided with an education. As a result, many have attained jobs away from the brick kilns, earning sufficient money to live on and clear their family's debt. This is education's ripple effect at its best – these girls' futures have been unlocked, their influence has been unlocked, and, as a result, whole communities are being transformed.



It is this same transformational ripple effect that we see year in, year out, as a result of AOG Rev Helen Hoskin's (1969) inspiring work at Bunda Girls Inclusive Secondary School, which she established a number of years ago. Together with Mrs Robinson, it was an absolute delight to welcome Rev Hoskins back to Abbotsleigh at our IWD Breakfast last Friday. You may have noticed the addition of the word 'Inclusive' in the Bunda Girls Secondary School title. An advocate for all young women, Helen has



ensured that Bunda is now also able to cater for girls living with disabilities.

After Mrs Robinson delivered her moving speech at the IWD Breakfast, Rev Hoskins gave an update on the girls at Bunda. She also spoke about Shalom Primary School and the wonderful women’s Sewing Centre she established many years ago.

The girls at Bunda are truly flourishing, and it was wonderful to hear about and see photos of the girls we are sponsoring. As you would be aware, our senior girls have a very strong partnership with Bunda, raising money and communicating directly with the girls for whom they are providing scholarships each year. Many Abbotsleigh Old Girls and members of our community, including FAbbS (Former Abbotsleigh Staff), also support girls at Bunda.

Only 39% of Tanzanian girls are able to attend secondary school, and even fewer graduate due to pressures to marry early and have children. Our senior girls’ sponsorship of Agnes and Elizabeth (Year 10), Happyness and Ntoji (Year 9), Mary and Yvona (Year 8), and Cathy and Catherine (Year 7), as well as support from our wider community means that these girls and others have the chance to receive a high school education and access future study and job opportunities – opportunities they would not have without our support:

The ripple effect that this has on the girls, their families and their communities is both transformative and profound.

As Mrs Robinson stated, the courageous women leaders she highlighted are motivated to do their work because of their strong Christian faith. Rev Helen Hoskins and her teams have the same motivation in carrying out their work. Each of these leaders has been compelled to share their love of God with ‘the lowest of the low’ and give them a future that is not only material (important though that is), but also spiritual – they want these girls to live life in all its fullness – a life of meaning, purpose and hope; a life where each girl will reach her potential and really flourish. This is what it truly means to work towards ‘balancing the scales’.

At last Friday’s breakfast, our Vice Head Prefect – Service, Annika Loel, said:

International Women’s Day is an occasion that invites us to celebrate the strength, leadership and dignity of women across the world. It also gives us a moment to reflect on how our Abbotsleigh community contributes to this story through meaningful, enduring service.

This was achieved in spades last week, and we are very grateful to Mrs Robinson, OAM, and AOG Rev Helen Hoskins for giving up their time and enthraling everyone at our breakfast with the stories of the very powerful role service and education are playing in transforming the lives of women and girls across the world.

‘Education is the key that opens the door of opportunity.’ It truly unlocks the futures of women and girls, and its provision is crucial in our endeavours to actively ‘Balance the Scales’.



AOG Rev Helen Hoskins (1969) with the Bunda girls sponsored by Abbotsleigh students



Bunda students sponsored by the broader Abbotsleigh community including staff and Old Girls

Chaplain

Finding Joy

Rev Polly Butterworth
Chaplain

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!' (Philippians 4:4). On face value, this is simply a wonderfully encouraging verse. But when we dig a little deeper, this phrase holds a lot more weight. When Paul writes to *'rejoice in the lord always'*, he's actually doing this from prison. As far as I'm aware, being in prison isn't a joyful experience in and of itself. Paul is not just saying 'don't worry, be happy' as someone who has never experienced hardship. No, he's saying that despite his current circumstances, he can still have joy, always.

Psychologists say that the reason people like online shopping is because they experience multiple dopamine hits – one when they click 'purchase', then there are little hits of enjoyment when they see it's been packed and shipped, when it's nearby, when they are told the delivery date – these moments of joy are just about what is coming. This is what it's like to live as someone with future, certain hope in Jesus.

When we trust in Jesus, we can have the hope of eternal life and assurance that the injustices in



this world will pass away. Hope in Jesus means we can rejoice in the Lord always, regardless of our circumstances.

Paul puts it a little differently in another of his letters to the Romans: *'I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us'* (Romans 8:18). Joy in the Bible is not about 'turning that frown upside down'. It's not about 'just thinking happy thoughts' or finding a silver lining. Rejoicing in the Bible is an informed choice based on the knowledge of what will happen in the future.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

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| Parent Wellbeing Hive – parent wellbeing resources | Available to all parents on the Parent Portal | Click here to visit |
| ART NORTH exhibition | Saturday 7 to Saturday 28 March | Grace Cossington Smith Gallery |
| NAPLAN testing | Wednesday 11 to Monday 16 March | Junior and Senior School locations |

JUNIOR SCHOOL

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|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Year 3 URSTRONG session | Wednesday 18 March 9.10-10.15 am | JS Auditorium |
| Year 5 URSTRONG session | Wednesday 18 March 11.15 am-12.30 pm | JS Auditorium |
| Year 3 Taronga Zoo excursion | Thursday 19 March | Taronga Zoo |

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| Cinema Under the Stars | Saturday 21 March 5-8 pm | Junior School campus |
| JS Parent Teacher interviews | Monday 23 to Friday 27 March | Junior School campus |
| Year 6 Halogen Young Leaders day | Tuesday 24 March | |
| Years 5 and 6 ySafe digital wellbeing education | Wednesday 25 March 8.30-9.30 am | |
| Year 3 ySafe digital wellbeing education | Wednesday 25 March 9.45-10.45 am | |
| Year 4 ySafe digital wellbeing education | Wednesday 25 March 11.15 am-12.15 pm | |

SENIOR SCHOOL

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|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday sport | Saturday 7 and Saturday 14 March | Click here for times and venues |
| Year 12 elective music workshop days | Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 March | PDCH |
| Year 7 ySafe digital wellbeing education | Tuesday 17 March 8.20-9.35 am | PDCH |
| Year 8 ySafe digital wellbeing education | Tuesday 17 March 9.40-10.55 am | PDCH |
| Year 9 ySafe digital wellbeing education | Tuesday 17 March 11.25 am-12.40 pm | PDCH |
| Year 10 Red Earth parent information session | Tuesday 17 March 6-7 pm | Online |
| Abbotsleigh Shakespeare Festival | Wednesday 18 March 6.30-8.30 pm | PDCH |
| Tildesley Tennis competition | Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 March | Pennant Hills Park |
| Year 12 Mother Daughter breakfast | Friday 20 March 7-9 am | Year 12 Common Room |
| Annual Boarder Parents round up | Friday 20 March 6-10 pm | |
| Year 11 assessment week | Monday 23 to Friday 27 March | |
| Year 10 vaccinations | Monday 23 March 8.20 am-1.30 pm | GLC |
| Years 9 and 10 Science and Engineering Challenge | Tuesday 24 March | SOPAC, Homebush |
| CIS Swimming and Diving Carnival | Wednesday 25 March | SOPAC, Homebush |
| Year 7 Parent Teacher interviews | Wednesday 25 March 3.30-8.30 pm | Online |
| Year 12 Geography fieldtrip | Wednesday 25 to Friday 27 March | Southern NSW |
| Harmony Day Festival | Friday 27 March 12.45-2.10 pm | Top Oval |
| Model United Nations conference | Saturday 28 March 8 am-5 pm | Senior School Library/iHub |