

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Our Boarders 'Journey With Joy' at Abbotsleigh

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

This week is National Boarding Week and, as such, it is fitting that the second article in our series by our Heads of Schools (Junior, Boarding, Middle and Senior College) will highlight the unique and fabulous character of boarding at Abbotsleigh.

In true Abbotsleigh Boarder style, our boarders have embraced with gusto the theme of this year's National Boarding Week, 'Echoes of Home'. They decked out the School in a sea of boarder blue and organised special activities every day. They also ran an excellent and very energetic Boarders' Senior School Assembly, which revolved around the 2026 theme and concluded with a very clever, rousing and hilarious Boarders' rendition of John Denver's *Take Me Home, Country Roads*. During the



assembly, the girls provided insights into the wonderful boarding community at Abbotsleigh, including how they have developed special and supportive relationships, how they have great fun together and how their boarding houses really feel like their second home, or as many of the girls stated, 'their home away from home'.

Mrs Katie White, our Head of Boarding, has written an excellent article about the special characteristics of boarding at Abbotsleigh. She also highlights flexible arrangements, including weekly or short-term boarding, that a number of families are finding to be a convenient and attractive proposition for their daughters. I warmly commend Mrs White's insightful article to you.

Boarding at Abbotsleigh

Mrs Katie White
Head of Boarding

Boarding has long been woven into the life of Abbotsleigh, reflecting our commitment to care, connection and the holistic development of each girl. Within our boarding houses, students are known well, supported by thoughtful routines and surrounded by a community that values learning, wellbeing and belonging in equal measure.

National Boarding Week

This week, we have celebrated National Boarding Week, recognising and honouring the unique spirit of our boarding community. On Monday, we welcomed 40 day girls for a 'Taste of Boarding' experience, showcasing the life and routine of a boarder at Abbotsleigh, including Chapel, our evening meal and Prep.

Throughout the week, the much-anticipated Day Girls vs Boarders lunchtime sporting competitions have



been a highlight, bringing energy, connection and a healthy sense of rivalry to the School. The boarders were very proud of their resounding victory in touch football, and the day girls were equally proud of their victories in hockey and football.

On Tuesday morning, the boarders hosted our staff for breakfast, taking the opportunity to thank the staff at Abbotsleigh for all they do to support and enrich their boarding experience. The girls then took over the Senior School assembly, showing the day girls the areas they come from and providing great insights into their fantastic experiences in boarding, including

exciting weekend activities organised for boarders each week.

To conclude National Boarding Week, the girls hosted a sausage sizzle on Friday, raising funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a charity close to the hearts of many of our boarders.

Experiences such as these capture what's at the heart of boarding at Abbotsleigh: a strong sense of community, shared routine and experiences, and meaningful connection. It is this same foundation that continues to guide how we consider the evolving needs of our families and the ways in which boarding can support them.

With growing day-to-day pressures on our boarding families, particularly those associated with travel and commuting, we remain focused on responding in practical and supportive ways. We are offering greater flexibility in the ways families might engage with boarding at different stages of their daughter's journey through the Senior School at Abbotsleigh.

Considering flexible boarding options

For some families, weekly boarding, where students remain on campus during the school week and return home on weekends, provides a welcome rhythm. It can

ease the demands of daily travel while offering girls the consistency, structure and friendships that are so central to the boarding experience.

We are also seeing growing interest in short-term or occasional boarding for day students. At times of increased family commitments or transition, such as parent travel, home renovations, busy sporting seasons or particularly demanding academic periods, we know that having girls settled on campus can bring a sense of calm and simplicity to the week.

Day students may access a minimum of four weeks of boarding on a short-term basis, with the opportunity to extend arrangements where appropriate. For some families, this offers a gentle way to trial boarding, while for others it provides timely support when it is most needed.

These flexible pathways sit alongside our full boarding program and are offered with the same focus on care, pastoral support and community that underpins all aspects of boarding at Abbotsleigh.

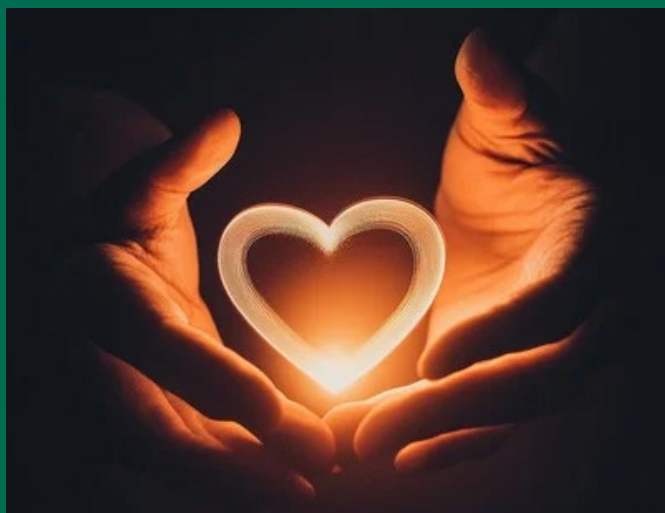
Families who would like to explore whether weekly or short-term boarding may suit their daughter are most welcome to contact me to continue the conversation.



Chaplain

Journey: God makes a way

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies



This week in Boarders' Chapel, as part of National Boarding Week, students paused to practise 'Thankfulness'. Just as we build strength in muscles through repeated physical exercise, thankfulness grows stronger the more we use it. Through simple activities like noticing everyday moments and writing notes, we can be thankful to God and to others in our lives. Boarder's Chapel strengthened this habit this week, with a rotation of thankfulness activities aimed at helping our hearts look for the good.

Thankfulness gently redirects us from what we lack to what we have been given, building hope and deepening our relationships with one another and with God. When directed to God, it reminds us of the many ways our lives are richly blessed, especially through Jesus' saving work on the cross, which gives us new life and hope. As we continue to 'exercise' this muscle, may it become part of who we are, as people marked by joy, appreciation and thankfulness in all seasons.

Psalm 100 – A psalm for giving grateful praise

- ¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*
- ² Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*
- ³ Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*
- ⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Parent Wellbeing Hive - parent wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to visit
Pacific Highway pedestrian overpass overnight closure	Tuesday 28 April to Friday 31 July 9 pm-5 am	15 temporary overnight closures to complete work on pedestrian overpass
Juno Games exhibition	Friday 8 May to Wednesday 3 June	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
AMEB Music Examination period	Monday 11 to Saturday 16 May	SS Music Department

Boarding Expo	Friday 15 to Saturday 16 May	Dubbo
K-12 Mother Daughter Dinner	Friday 15 May 6.30-9.30 pm	Miramare Gardens
APA Trivia Night	Saturday 23 May 7-11 pm	SS Gymnasium
National Reconciliation Week	Wednesday 27 May to Wednesday 3 June	Various activities and locations
Coonabarabran Equestrian Expo	Friday 29 May to Tuesday 2 June	Coonabarabran

JUNIOR SCHOOL

AOGU information morning and Junior School tour	Thursday 21 May 9.30-11 am	Junior School auditorium
K, Years 3 and 5 Grandparents' Day	Thursday 28 May 10.50 am-1.30 pm	Various JS locations

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 16 May	Click here for times and venues
Year 12 assessment block	Monday 18 to Tuesday 26 May	
Year 10 Work Experience	Monday 18 to Friday 22 May	
Years 8-9 Camp Somerset	Monday 18 to Thursday 21 May	Colo River
IGSA Archdale Debating round 2	Tuesday 19 May 4-8 pm	Various school locations
Years 8 and 9 camp rest day (no school)	Friday 22 May	
Year 9 Visual Arts incursion	Monday 25 May	
Year 9 Photography and Digital Media incursion	Tuesday 26 May	
IGSA Archdale Debating round 3	Tuesday 26 May 4-8 pm	Various school locations
Year 8 Parent Teacher night	Wednesday 27 May 3.30-8.30 pm	Online
Year 11 yLead	Thursday 28 May	Sports Hall
Year 7 Study Skills evening	Thursday 28 May 6.30-8 pm	PDCH
Years 7-12 Lyhra Music Incursion	Friday 29 May 1-4.30 pm	PDCH