

AROUND ABBOTSLEIGH





5



11



22



26



32



44

Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 From the Headmistress | 28 Island Investigations |
| 4 From the Chair of Council | 30 Year 4 Convict Camp |
| 5 Inspiring Greatness | 31 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Social Media |
| 6 Year 12 Valedictory Day | 32 Young Curators at Abbotsleigh |
| 8 European Music Tour | 34 Matchbox Poetry |
| 10 Interschool Drone Challenge | 36 2019 Sports Lunch |
| 11 Joy Day | 39 Grace Cossington Smith Gallery Exhibition Calendar |
| 12 Understanding Drought | 41 2021/22 Scholarships and Weekly Boarding |
| 13 The Wonder of Empathy – A Year 5 Novel Studies Project | 42 From the President of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union |
| 14 Words of Wisdom from Beyond the Gates | 43 AOGU News |
| 18 Year 1 in the Kitchen | 48 AOGU Events |
| 19 Year 3 Book Café | 50 AOGU Reunions |
| 20 The Year 6 Mobile Community Pantry Project | 58 Births and Marriages |
| 21 Inspiring Women Shed Light | 59 Valette |
| 22 Flying High | 63 Thank you to our donors of 2019 |
| 24 Research on the Reef | |
| 25 The Junior School's War on Waste | |
| 26 Miss Dorothea Poole and Abbotsleigh's Christian Journey | |



The annual Year 6 AbbKart Rally is the culmination of a collaborative STEAM project that fully embraces the five STEAM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. It's also a whole lot of fun!



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Time Flies Faster than a Weaver's Shuttle

Abbotsleigh: The opportunity to do more, so our amazing girls have the ability to *be* more.

What an incredible year 2019 has been. This year has simply 'flown' by, and our amazing girls and staff have achieved so much in the myriad pursuits in which they have engaged. It seems that our 'weaver's shuttle' has become faster and faster, weaving an increasingly complex and exquisite pattern, all the while remaining anchored beautifully in the strong traditions and values that are treasured and that have ensured our school has 'stood the test of time'.

This edition of *Around Abbotsleigh* honours our past through the wonderful account of Miss Dorothea Poole, our third Headmistress. Miss Poole was a devout Christian who believed firmly in intellectual rigour and the pursuit of education; she also believed in 'Christian citizenship' and that life should be 'lived worthily in the service of others'. Miss Poole's great legacy has left the importance of both service and learning woven indelibly in our increasingly rich and sophisticated tapestry which has been created over the last 134 years of Abbotsleigh's history.

Around Abbotsleigh Semester 2, 2019, also honours the enriched and varied learning experiences of our girls, Pre-K to 12. From 'Joy Day' in T-2, to robotics, a drone challenge in Year 5, travelling through Europe on the music tour or snorkelling with turtles at Heron Island for some of our senior girls, to name but a few, you will, I'm sure, be amazed and excited by the fantastic learning experiences and the celebration of learning that our 21st century Abbotsleigh girls enjoy.

Our teachers also relish learning and, as a result, Abbotsleigh has hosted a number of educators' conferences this year. The Inspire Greatness Conference highlighted in this journal, was especially exciting as it was here that the SMART technologies

group decided to launch Catalyst, the world's first global community for education change agents. Following its launch at Abbotsleigh, Catalyst was subsequently released in Johannesburg, Washington DC and London.

It was certainly a great honour for Abbotsleigh to have been chosen as the first place that this online platform went 'live'. Demonstrating the innovation, intellectual rigour and collaboration that characterises learning at Abbotsleigh, Catalyst is a joint initiative of SMART, the Harvard Initiative for Learning and Teaching, Learnit, heppell.net and Kenneth Shelton. The possibilities that this platform will bring during a time when there is phenomenal change and disruption to society, seem endless.

The above is but a taste of some of the great experiences that occurred during Semester 2 2019. I hope this edition of *Around Abbotsleigh* and the stories of our amazing girls and staff who have the opportunity to **do** more, so that they have the ability to **be** more, inspire you as much as they have inspired me.

Megan Krimmer
Headmistress



Our School. Our Girls. Today and Tomorrow.

Abbotsleigh is a vibrant and innovative independent girls' school, well placed to meet the future learning needs of the 21st century and beyond and remains at the forefront of girls' education in Australia.

Our school's 2025 Strategic Plan is geared to deliver deeper learning that educates and empowers the 'whole girl', so she can unleash her potential within and way beyond the classroom.

The Abbotsleigh Council, along with Mrs Krimmer and her members of staff, recognises that enhanced learning outcomes are inherently tied to the quality of the environment in which girls learn. In October 2019, I was pleased to announce that Council adopted the Abbotsleigh Masterplan, which creates an extraordinary and connected environment that inspires curiosity, innovation and empowerment.

Creating a sense of pride, identity and belonging, the Junior and Senior campus will both be:

- A place to feel safe, nourished, welcome and comfortable
- A place to prepare for life beyond the gates and deliver each girl confidently towards the rapidly changing global economy and her future

- A place for each girl to be herself
- A place that is accessible for all
- A place that provides the opportunity to do more, and the ability to be more

Overlaying all of this will be the digital campus, future-proofing learning for students, teachers and the community.

Embracing and consolidating Abbotsleigh's wide-ranging group of unique buildings, the new key priority projects include the Senior School Innovation Hub, a community gathering space, the Arts and Science (STEAM) precinct, as well as the Junior School's new Library and Learning Hub, to recreate the heart and hub of each campus and bring each community together in an open and collaborative way which is unprecedented.

I was delighted to present information about these exciting key priority projects at Speech Day 2019.

Together, Abbotsleigh can be the launchpad for each girl to flourish today and tomorrow.

Paul Fontanot
Chair of Abbotsleigh Council



Inspiring Greatness

In the October school holidays and for the second year running, Abbotsleigh hosted SMART Technologies' Inspire Greatness Conference, writes **Donna Moffatt**, Director of Learning Innovation

With 2030 only 10 years away, researchers and academics alike are grappling with the future of school curriculum. Predictions are that technology will cause major disruptions to the workplace and that the fastest growing occupations will require higher level cognitive skills in areas such as problem solving, critical thinking and creativity. So it is that developing learning dispositions and digital technology skills are fast becoming the focus of education systems around the world.



The importance of developing thinking skills in dealing with rapid global change and technological development now and into the future is fast becoming the focus of education systems across the world. What were once regarded as soft skills are now becoming core skills.

Our focus at Abbotsleigh has also been in this area and this year's Inspire Greatness Conference focused on how to enable students with the tools they need to thrive in a digital future. Keynote speaker James Curran, Associate Professor Computer Science, University of Sydney and Academic Director of the Australian Computing Academy emphasised the need for students to develop computational thinking as well as an agile mindset. Another keynote speaker, Giancarlo Brotto, a global education strategist and director of C21Canada, an organisation promoting STEM and 21st century skills learning, led educators through an analysis of the learning children need for the future.

In a very exciting demonstration of the respect with which Abbotsleigh and its teachers are held, Abbotsleigh was the venue chosen for the launch of Catalyst – the world's first global community for education change agents. Catalyst, a joint initiative of SMART, the Harvard Initiative for Learning and Teaching, Learnit, heppell.net and Kenneth Shelton, is an online platform where educators can meet to discuss effective learning strategies, address problems, share actionable ideas and collaborate on topics such as social and emotional skills, equity, the use of technology in education and the design of learning spaces. A platform such as this is incredibly valuable in its ability to bring together the experience of leaders across the globe at a time when there is phenomenal change and disruption to society; a time where ideas that once seemed impossible may be reality in a few short years. Following its launch at Abbotsleigh, Catalyst was released in Johannesburg, Washington DC and London.



Year 12 Valedictory Day

The way we celebrate Valedictory Day has changed over the years with families now invited to join in this range of very special events, writes **Emily Liddell**, Year 12 Coordinator 2019

The Class of 2019 graduated with a bang and the Year 12 Valedictory Day celebrations were marked in a number of ways.

Parents, grandparents and siblings were invited to the Valedictory Chapel and Assembly followed by a simply delicious morning tea to celebrate this momentous occasion. As the guests arrived at the Chapel, they were treated to some words of advice from the Year 12s who had reflected on life in their final Christian Studies class, including:

‘You don’t just wake up and become the beautiful butterfly – growth is a process.’

‘Talk to people you would not normally talk to.’

‘Being kind is more important than being right.’

In her address, Abbotsleigh Chaplain, Rev Jenni Stoddart, encouraged those present to think about what it means to be blessed. To see that being truly blessed belongs to every day; to the beginnings and middles, as much as it belongs to the ends. She shared that Jesus offers a more radical blessing than success, investment portfolios, ATARS and status. His invitation of blessing is to live each day belonging to God, through Jesus, in every beginning, every middle and with the guaranteed end of eternity with him.

At the Valedictory Assembly, Headmistress Megan Krimmer shared the experience of a small Canadian town called Gander in Newfoundland, which, 18 years ago, took in nearly 6,700 people – almost doubling its population – when the September 11, 2001 events occurred in New York, forcing 38 planes to land there. This community shared the same values as the Abbotsleigh community; generosity, going over and above the call of friendship, and choosing kindness in a time of pressure and uncertainty.

Kindergarten put on the traditional, gorgeous song and dance, but this year, they honoured the Year 12 House Choir choice, ABBA, singing Dancing Queen and creating space for the whole audience to dance along with them.



The special memories continued at the Valedictory Dinner at Miramare Gardens. AOG Claire Offord, Head Prefect in 2014 when the Year 12 girls were in Year 7, spoke of finding meaning in her work as a Speech Pathologist where she helps children with difficulties in communicating to speak with ease and confidence.

Dancing was a must on the night and each girl was presented by their tutor to Mrs Krimmer with a gift from the School.

The Head Prefect of 2019, Caitlin Oschadleus, articulated a thought shared by many others on the night,

'This has been the best day, and the best night of my life!'

Class of 2019, congratulations on making it through this far in your education! God bless you in your future and we look forward to welcoming you back here at Abbotsleigh soon.



European Music Tour

Louise Keller, Senior School Music Teacher, takes us along on the Senior School's European Music Tour

In October, a group of Abbotsleigh students and staff embarked on an exciting music tour of Europe. The choir and string ensemble performed in magnificent and significant venues, including the Church of St Nicholas in Prague, St Michael's Church in Budapest and the stunning Orangerie in Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace. This latter setting is steeped in history and it was not lost on the Abbotsleigh students that both Mozart and Salieri also performed in this concert venue.

Highlights on the tour included masterclasses with eminent European performers and conductors; the beauty of cities such as Vienna, Prague, Budapest and Dresden; an afternoon

spent in the Prater amusement park; tasting the traditional food of each region; visiting museums and historical sites and forging strong friendships along the way.

The tour concluded with a performance of Australian music in the Embassy in Berlin, where the appreciative audience of expatriates, Abbotsleigh families and Her Excellency Ms Lynette Wood, the Australian Ambassador to Germany, were all impressed and moved by the Abbotsleigh girls and their talent.

But, let's hear it from the girls themselves...



'The Abbotsleigh Europe Tour was an incredible experience that I will always remember.'

Amy Gottschalk (Year 9)





“

The Music Tour was an unforgettable journey which allowed me to travel through Europe with amazing staff and students while sharing my musical passion in various stunning locations.’

Yasmin Lin (Year 10)



“

‘The Europe Tour definitely broadened my music horizons. The standard of performance was amazing and the activities were so much fun. I would highly recommend it... I had the best time!’

Ella Booker (Year 8)



“

‘Europe Tour was a great opportunity to play in some of the best venues and make memories that will last a lifetime.’

Elisha Khannah (Year 10)



“

‘The Music Tour was a once in a lifetime experience, full of opportunities that I could only dream of.’

Jessica Tam (Year 11)

“

‘The 2019 Europe Tour was an enriching experience. I will remember and will grow from this amazing opportunity and cherish all the moments I had with my friends and teachers.’

Trinity Teh (Year 8)





Interschool Drone Challenge

Year 5 students took to the air to complete a series of tasks that required innovation and collaboration, writes **Jeanine Kobylinski**, ICT Integrator

In September, Abbotsleigh hosted the inaugural Interschool Drone Challenge, where students from Barker College, Knox Grammar School and Ravenswood worked collaboratively with our girls in mixed school teams to solve real world problems focusing on the United Nations Sustainability Goal Number 9:

- build resilient infrastructure;
- promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation; and
- foster innovation.

The students were given scenarios that promoted the development of a sustainable community. They had four key challenges in their community that had to be solved using drones. Testing possible design solutions based on computational thinking meant that constant iterations, failures and successes all featured in the students' collaborative solutions.

The day formed the conclusion to an Abbotsleigh Year 5 unit of work on Geography and topographical scaling. The girls had investigated a variety of contemporary geographical land use or planning projects within Sydney. Some of these major projects included NorthConnex, Sydney Metro and Barangaroo. They investigated the use of drones in real-world scenarios and came up with a solution to an identified problem in our local area. Using Tello Drone Blocks, the girls coded their drones to complete specific challenges.

One of our key focus areas during the project was the way in which the girls developed their interpersonal skills. Working effectively in teams is one of our key learning dispositions at Abbotsleigh; a skill which will last the girls a lifetime.



Joy Day

The culmination of a T-2 staff action research project was a day that could only be described as exciting, happy and joyous, explains **Nicole Hunt**, Year 2 Coordinator

With an aim to understand better the learning that brings delight amongst the students, the teachers in Transition to Year 2 at Abbotsleigh have been investigating what is joy; where we witness it in learning and students' perceptions of this feeling. Through this examination we can look for what similarities and differences we find between grades and stages and unpack this to better understand how we can provoke this sense of enjoyment in our everyday interactions with the students.

Pekrun, Goetz, Titz & Perry (2002) suggest that there is a correlation between feelings of joy and academic effort and achievement. If this is the case, then as educators we should be striving to look for opportunities to provoke joy and an appreciation of this feeling within students to maximise learning outcomes.

What we discovered through collecting photos, observations and students' thoughts is that key themes arose. Students found joy as they worked hard and struggled before finding a solution, when they worked with others, through gratitude and kindness and in endeavours that involved creativity.

As a result of this we decided to plan a Joy Day where we celebrated all the things that we noticed brought joy to our students. With a range of rotating sessions with mixed-age grouping across Transition to Year 2, the students enjoyed STEAM and problem solving challenges, outdoor games involving teamwork, creativity with a range of art and craft activities, dramatic play using iPads and an exploration of gratitude and how we can play a role in bringing joy to others. The younger students were encouraged and taught by the older students and the Year 2 girls found joy in teaching the younger girls.

We hope that by completing this project as a team we have demonstrated to the girls that there is 'nothing without joy!'



Understanding Drought

Two of our Year 11 boarders came to visit Year 5 and gave first hand accounts of living with drought, writes **Amber Thomson**, Year 5 Coordinator

As part of the Year 5 cross curriculum unit on Droughts, Annabelle Campbell and Phoebe Harris, two Year 11 boarders, came to share their experience of the ongoing drought in their rural communities with the Year 5 girls. They shared the more obvious, direct effects of the drought, such as water shortages, lack of food and water for livestock and crops dying, but then went on to explain indirect effects on the farmers, local communities, shops owners and us in urban areas as well.

Annabelle and Phoebe posed thought provoking information which encouraged the girls to take some action of their own. With a deeper understanding of the financial, social and psychological impact on farming communities, Year 5 thought about ways we can all support farmers by buying Australian made products and being water wise. Annabelle and Phoebe also facilitated an opportunity for the girls to enact their understanding by creating posters to stick around the Junior School to generate awareness among all students.

We were all grateful for this lovely example of our Abbotsleigh community sharing in knowledge and understanding and extend our sincerest thanks to Phoebe and Annabelle for this valuable experience.



The Wonder of Empathy – A Year 5 Novel Studies Project

Year 5 learnt that there is more to a good book than just a great story, writes **Carrie Alker**, Year 5 Teacher



- **In what ways does your character show empathy? Or do they instil a feeling of empathy in others?**
- **What is your character's heart song? What makes them feel 'alive' or, in what ways have they grown and developed in terms of their compassion and understanding?**

Throughout Term 3, girls in Year 5 were asked to consider these questions, amongst others, with reference to the main characters from novels they were reading and studying. Through the careful analysis of characters' thoughts, feelings, actions and interactions with others, girls were able to 'step into the shoes' of characters such as Auggie from *Wonder* by RJ Palacio and Sophie from Katherine Rundell's *Rooftoppers*. This helped them to understand not only the empathy shown

throughout the novel by or towards their character, but also assisted them in terms of their personal development of empathy towards others.

In order to demonstrate their deep knowledge, girls were challenged with the task of producing an interactive model that enabled viewers to learn about their character. The girls worked collaboratively in small groups and chose a variety of creative techniques that they felt best communicated their understanding. These included the use of interactive QR codes, lift the flap designs and even baked goods! Overall, the project enabled girls to grow in their understanding of empathy, collaborate effectively and think creatively, while embedding the key literacy skills of comprehension and inference.



Words of Wisdom from Beyond the Gates

It was our great pleasure to welcome back **Stephanie Borys**, Head Prefect 2006, as our guest speaker at Abbotsleigh's 134th birthday assembly. Stephanie is a political reporter in the ABC's Parliament House bureau in Canberra, where she reports for the network's radio current affairs programs AM, The World Today and PM.

Prior to joining the ABC, Stephanie was a federal political reporter for Macquarie Radio. She also worked at 2GB as a reporter and was a producer for the Ray Hadley Morning Show. Stephanie won the Brian White Memorial Award in 2010 and was a finalist the following year. She has also been nominated for a NSW Kennedy Award for outstanding radio reporting.

Stephanie was also an outstanding Head Prefect and inspired every girl, Old Girl and member of staff with the stories of her life since leaving Abbotsleigh. We commend her birthday assembly speech to you.

I began at Abbotsleigh when I was in Year 5. It was 1999. I've done the maths and terrifyingly, not one student here in this room was alive. I feel so old! It was so long ago that we had a different uniform. Our summer dresses were green and we wore brown shoes.

I've been invited to speak to you about my time at school, my life after Abbotsleigh and offer a piece of advice or two in line with your theme 'Look up, Reach out.' I was thinking about what advice I could offer you all, especially considering I've been out of school for so long.

One of the things that came to mind was the time I skipped class when I was in Year 7. I have two pieces of advice on that front. The first – don't do it because you'll get in trouble, and

the second – if you do, don't hide in the school car park. That sums up the first and last time I ever attempted to skip class.

I was upset because one of my friends had been mean to me, so another friend and I decided to miss class and hide next to the Headmistress's car. We sat there having a good old chat when Mrs Wheeldon, who was the Headmistress at the time, came around the corner to get into her car. I vividly remember my friend turning to me and saying 'quick, cry!' That was pretty easy to do, as I was scared we were going to get into trouble.

Mrs Wheeldon was known for wearing large colourful, dangly earrings and when she went to hug me, my hair became tangled in her earrings. It meant I couldn't get away from her. So not only had Mrs Wheeldon caught me skipping class, but



I was now literally attached to her. Luckily there was another teacher on hand to pull us apart.

After that ordeal Mrs Wheeldon suggested I talk through my concerns with a trusted friend, teacher or my parents. So, the lesson from that story is twofold. Number one, do not skip class because it's not worth it. And number two, if you're feeling upset, talk to someone you trust, reach out; whether that's to a friend, a teacher, a parent, a grandparent or a family friend. They say a problem shared is a problem halved and there is a great deal of truth in that. I can guarantee you that on most occasions if you talk something through with someone else you will feel at least a tiny bit better.

Sometimes there are situations or issues that we find overwhelming, but when we talk them through it can put things in perspective. Take buying a vacuum cleaner for example. Yes, I said a vacuum cleaner. Before you stop listening and thinking 'this woman is super old and super boring' hear me out, because one day this will be you. I never thought I would be in this position, getting excited about buying a vacuum cleaner, but here I am at the age of 30, talking about vacuums. Being an adult is really fun.

Anyway, I was in the market for a vacuum cleaner and looked at the different designs, brands and costs. I became totally overwhelmed by the prospect. I didn't know which one to choose. It was really stressing me out. I reached out for help by sending a text to my parents asking for their advice. Dad wrote back with once sentence: 'You've been to Afghanistan, I'm sure you can choose a vacuum cleaner on your own.'

He was referring to a trip I had made to the Middle East and was trying to remind me that I was a capable young woman. I travelled to Afghanistan as part of an Australian Defence Force trip, to learn more about Australia's role and to report on Anzac Day. There were obvious risks involved in the trip, but during my time there I didn't feel overwhelmed or stressed. Yet here I was back in Australia, having a total





meltdown over what vacuum cleaner to buy. Dad put things in perspective and made me laugh. And I managed to choose a vacuum cleaner.

Now I'm not saying that your experiences with feeling overwhelmed will relate to vacuum cleaners and your experiences of feeling overwhelmed are likely to be more serious. But I wanted to use that example as a light-hearted way of saying we all experience moments of feeling stressed and overwhelmed. Once again, share your concerns with someone else.

If you haven't guessed already, I love to talk. And that's one of the reasons I ended up in the world of journalism. It's a fast paced and at times brutal industry, but I love it. It's taken a lot of hard work and long hours to get to where I am today.

After school I took a Gap year, which involved working at a school in England and travelling during the school holidays. I had an incredible time. If you're tossing up whether to take a year off and travel or work overseas, or even just work in a country town or different city, do it. You won't regret it. I learnt so much more about the world, myself and others because I was outside my comfort zone. I have many friends who didn't take a Gap year who tell me they regret it. I'm yet to meet a person upset that they took a year off.

I came back to Australia and began studying at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, about three hours west of Sydney. I had so much fun and met incredible people who I now call my close friends.

It was there where I turned a negative into a positive, and I hope you can all do the same in the future if anyone ever doubts your ability. I went to my first lecture knowing no one and having no idea about the town I was living in. The lecturer waltzed into the room and declared we were idiots for studying journalism. He claimed there were hardly any jobs in the industry because too many people wanted to be journalists and most of us would never secure our dream jobs. At this stage I could have felt defeated, but instead I was determined to prove him wrong. I marched into the local radio station in Bathurst and asked if I could do some work experience. Within a year I was presenting my own radio show and getting paid. That proved him wrong.

After university I got a call from Sydney talkback station 2GB, asking if I was interested in working for the company. My new boss was an Abbotsleigh Old Girl – Erin Maher. It was shift work, including reading news bulletins from 11 pm through till 5 am. It meant I often missed going out with my friends on weekends, but without doing the hard yards I wouldn't be where I am today. I ended up reading news bulletins during the day (yay!) and then took up a role as a producer for the Ray Hadley Morning Show.

Over the years I've had the great privilege of meeting some incredible people. From everyday Australians in the community that have achieved great things, to celebrities and various politicians including Prime Ministers (there have been a few in recent years). I have spoken to royals when they've visited Australia and attended events with President Barack Obama when he travelled to Brisbane a few years ago.

I find politics fascinating (I know I'm in the minority with that) and as a result I found my way to Canberra to work as a political reporter at Parliament House. I now work for the ABC, and while you'll mainly hear me on the radio, I also write stories for online and I'm occasionally on TV. I get to ask questions for a living and have the great honour of telling people's stories.

While I had an idea of what I wanted to do when I finished school, not everyone does and that is TOTALLY fine. A number of my friends weren't sure what they wanted to do and took their time trying out different options before finding something that suited them. Don't think that you need to have your life mapped out when you walk out of Abbotsleigh after your HSC exams. Please remember that if you don't get the ATAR you need to get into the degree you want there are always other ways of achieving your goal. You may not get to enter through the front door but there are plenty of side door options too.

Before coming here today I asked my Abbotsleigh friends, and friends from other schools, about their time as a teenager. Some of them told me they didn't really enjoy school; that they found it hard. I was saddened to hear they didn't like school because I loved it. I had fantastic teachers, great opportunities and a lovely group of friends. I look at some of the most impressive women in my office who say they didn't always enjoy school, they didn't have many friends, that they were the quieter ones. I find it hard to believe considering



how confident and successful they now are, but it shows that sometimes it just takes some people longer than others to find their place, and that's okay.

I'm going to change direction now and talk a little about relationships.

When I was at school we used to have an event called the Black and Blue, which was a dance night at Knox in their school hall. I still remember the first one I ever went to; I wore a blue and white top and it was one of the first times I put make up on. This boy came up and asked me if I wanted to dance. I freaked out and I said no. He proceeded to walk away and my friend told me that was so mean to turn him down. So then I freaked out again and spent the whole night looking for him. I never found him and I didn't dance with any boys that night. The whole experience scarred me so much that I never went to another dance again.

I didn't really do the whole dating thing during my school years because as I've just demonstrated I was pretty awkward about it all. I was more interested in hanging out with my friends, playing sport and taking part in drama productions. Obviously, my dating abilities improved because earlier this year I married Tom. We met many years ago and finally tied the knot in March. I learnt a few lessons before meeting him and promise me this – when you start dating – don't stay with someone who doesn't treat you right.

You are worth so much more than that and if you are going out with someone who doesn't respect you, your friends or your family, think again. You deserve nothing less than the best. Sometimes we doubt that we are good enough and let our standards drop. Don't do that. But also, if you are expecting

only the best, you must give that same level of respect and care back.

The same thing goes for friendships. You need to work at friendships. Be kind and thoughtful. I still have some wonderful friends from my school years. Even though we don't live in the same cities anymore, we can catch up thanks to the likes of Instagram, Facebook and the trusty text message.

I understand the unofficial school motto 'Abbotsleigh girls can do anything' is still used to this day. Back when I was a teenager, my friends and I would sometimes laugh at this because we didn't understand the importance of those words. I now realise it's one of the most significant sentences ever drummed into me. The unofficial school motto is a reminder you need to back yourself, have confidence in yourself, and surround yourself with supportive people; whether that's family, friends or colleagues. Don't let people talk down to you, work hard, and respect everyone around you. You never know who will be your boss one day. And don't forget your manners, because many people don't seem to have them. It's amazing where a 'please' or 'thank you' can get you.

Enjoy your time while you're at school and make the most of the opportunities that you have here at Abbotsleigh. Life after school is fun too, I promise. The world is such a big place to explore! There is more to it than just buying vacuum cleaners.

Year 1 in the Kitchen

Valuable life skills and delicious meals were on the menu for **Year 1**

During Term 3, Year 1 showed off their culinary expertise in the Junior School's Outdoor Kitchen. This integrated hands on unit allowed the girls to explore capacity and procedural writing in a real life context. They quickly realised the need to follow instructions step by step and the importance in measuring accurately.

Wednesday mornings became a highlight of the week for both girls and parents as they discovered each new cooking adventure.

The girls delighted in making:

- Anzac biscuits
- Raspberry muffins
- Healthy wraps
- Individual pizzas
- Lemonade scones

They worked cooperatively, learning the need to share food and jobs out equitably.



“

I liked that we got to eat the food every week after we made it. It was yummy!

Samaya Randhawa, 10

I liked when we chose our own toppings to put on the pizza.

Ivy Han, 10



“

I liked the part when we were mixing the oats, syrup and sugar together to make Anzac biscuits.

Christina Lin, 10

I liked making the wraps because I like the mayonnaise.

Soma Cassar 1G



“

I like making the pizza because I could add the tomato.

Selena Groat 1G

I like making the Anzac biscuits because we could roll them and make our own shapes.

Maya Fernando 1G



Year 3 Book Café

Delicious hot chocolate provided food for thought at this novel approach to literacy, writes **Brittany Black**, Year 3 Coordinator

The Year 3 Book Café was a learning celebration of a new sort. It was a day underpinned by the theme of connection and punctuated by engaging, student-led discussions, deep reflection and a fascinating guest speaker.

After being inspired by the notion of a traditional book club, students were transported to their very own Book Café, complete with hot chocolate and charming decorations. The Book Café was officially opened by Madame Glen (a former Abbotsleigh teacher and reading enthusiast). Madame Glen shared her favourite childhood books before teaching girls about the joys of starting a book club.

Following Madame Glen's talk, students were assigned discussion groups. Within their groups, each girl was given a specific role, these roles included: 'manager'; 'synthesiser'; 'questioner' and 'summariser'. By taking on the specific responsibilities of their role, students responded to a series of questions

designed to promote critical and creative thinking as well as collaboration. The scaffolded discussions brought together a term's worth of rich learning.

The girls' conversations revealed their complex and multifaceted understanding of characters, storylines and major themes. In response to the question, 'How is connection represented around the world?', students commented that:

'Sign language can be a connection around the world.'

Elyse

'It can be represented around the world with music or even with art or statues.'

Sophia

The Year 3 Book Café was an opportunity to bring literacy lessons to life and provide students with a chance to apply and challenge their understanding and skills in an authentic context.





The Year 6 Mobile Community Pantry Project

This year, the girls in Year 6 experienced the joy to be found in serving others and making a real difference to the lives of refugees in our community, writes **Cassandra Oates**, Year 6 Classroom Teacher

“
*But all other pleasures
and possessions pale into
nothingness before service
which is rendered in a spirit
of joy.*

Ghandi

Throughout Term 3, Year 6 learnt about continuation and change within Australian society and explored the journeys of refugees. To complement this, the Year 6 Service Learning Project focused on assisting refugees in our local community through their support of Anglicare's Mobile Community Pantry. This program endeavours to assist refugees in their transition to life in a new country by providing grocery items at a significantly subsidised price.

To help make their start a little easier, the girls undertook a food drive to collect goods that would make a significant difference to these families in need. The girls worked with enthusiasm to calculate the cost of the items needed to be purchased and did jobs at home to earn the required amount of money. The girls were also fortunate in having the opportunity to spend time with Ashleigh Lee-Jo from Anglicare, who shared the stories of many people who have previously been assisted by the Mobile Community Pantry.

Inspiring Women Shed Light

Year 9 students were invited to share some very special research and artefacts with the school community at the 2019 GLOW Festival, explains **Ann Lim**, Christian Studies Teacher

Year 9 girls researched a Christian woman who made a significant impact in our world. These women risked their lives, shared their resources, fought to change laws and provided for those in need. They actively shared the love of Jesus with everyone around them, in word and deed. The girls wrote about how Christian faith had strengthened their chosen woman to persevere with kindness and integrity. Additionally, each girl made an artefact that represented the life of the woman they had researched, and this was what they displayed at GLOW.

The theme of 'light' was very fitting for our project, as Jesus said, 'Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' (John 8:12)

When reflecting on this project girls said:

'This was a really good project as it really helped me to understand the way Christianity can be a beautiful force that drives people to make change in the world, simply because they believe that everyone deserves to feel loved and to be treated with respect. There are definitely people in this world that use religion to justify doing the wrong thing, so I think it's really good to see that that's not the majority.'

'I think this project changed some of my perspectives on Christian women of the past and how the role of a Christian woman can be in the home and not necessarily always doing more 'important' jobs that everyone around them can see. These women inspired me to live my life as a Christian always trusting and putting my faith in God.'

'I can now see how people live their everyday lives through quotes from the Bible.'

'This project has made me realise that being a Christian means to have faith, trust and courage to do the right thing even when you are putting yourself in danger. I have become more aware of my surroundings and putting others first before myself. I have learnt to be more selfless and thoughtful.'

I felt very privileged to teach this unit and see the learning that had occurred as my students engaged with the lives of these amazing women.



Flying High

For students in Year 10, getting your Ls is a pretty big achievement, but **Gabby Plunkett's** sights were set a little higher

With a mother who is a former member of the Royal Australian Air Force, Gabby Plunkett had flying in her blood, so when she joined the Air Cadets 304 Squadron in Pymble, no one was terribly surprised.

Now a Corporal in the Air Cadets, Gabby received her 'wings' after achieving her dream of flying an aircraft solo and is well on her way to getting her official pilot's license. She was also required to pass the Civil Aviation Safety Authority exam as well as pass several Air Cadets leadership modules. She was the only female, the youngest, and one of only two cadets to go on their first solo flight on her course.

Her journey started in a glider at the age of 14, gliding around the skies over Bathurst (with an Air Force pilot instructor) learning flight theory, how to identify hot air streams and undertake radio calls. She was hooked from the first flight. Then she decided that powered flying would be more fun because it isn't affected by the weather or wind. Her first, six-day powered course at Bathurst involved attending lectures each night and passing exams. Each flight was critiqued and feedback briefings were held each day. She was then selected for promotion and attended Wagga Wagga Air Force Base for two weeks where she underwent leadership training, which included learning how to prepare and present lessons to junior cadets. She was promoted to Corporal in June 2019.

Gabby was then selected to attend a further powered flying course in the



September school holidays primarily based on her earlier flying progress. As a Corporal, her leadership duties increased and she was required to prepare and present lessons on the theory of flight as well as attend lectures herself. During the day she was flying with a variety of Air Force and civilian pilot instructors and getting daily feedback briefings. Six days into this course, she was doing circuits with her instructor who told her to land, added that she 'had this', and promptly jumped out of the plane!

She said it was peaceful and empowering knowing that she was doing something that she had worked really hard for and loved how confident she felt – her landing was near perfect and her fellow cadets and all instructors applauded her as she jumped out of the plane at the hangar.

Gabby said that she now knows what can happen when you dream big and work hard. She has her sights set on going to ADFA. She has some work to do over the next couple of years but she's now more motivated than ever. Oh, and she's still yet to get her Ls!



4776
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Research on the Reef

Katie Abel, Siena Bolger, Amelia Rigby and Kirsty Waugh joined 36 other Year 11 students, plus five teachers and boarded a plane for Far North Queensland to study ecosystems at risk in preparation for Year 12 Geography

We flew into tropical Cairns where the weather was balmy and the sun was shining. After spending the afternoon by Cairns Lagoon, we met a marine biologist who gave us an introduction to the Great Barrier Reef. After dinner, it was early to bed and early to rise to catch the ferry to Fitzroy Island. We were quite literally in awe when we arrived on Fitzroy Island; the water was so blue and the beautiful coral reefs and rainforests created a postcard view. We set up our tents in a five-star location just a few metres from the beach, and in the afternoon we participated in 'eye on the reef' activities which included snorkelling just off the island among the rainbow parrot fish and turtles while recording coral health and species density.



To top off an already perfect day we walked to the other end of the island where we relaxed on Nudie Beach before heading back to watch the sunset and prepare our barbecue dinner. After a restless night on very thin sleeping mats, we were up at 6 am to embark on a hike to the lighthouse, and spent the rest of the day snorkelling on the reef, testing water quality and visiting the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, which deepened our understanding of the reef's ecosystem.

Back in Cairns for our final day, we set off in buses through the rainforest to enjoy tea and scones at the Nerada tea plantation in the Atherton Tablelands where we learnt about their sustainable, pesticide-free practices, visited the incredible Curtain Fig Tree and took a dip in Lake Eacham. When it was time to head home we were positively exhausted, but certainly feel well prepared to take on Year 12 Geography!

The Junior School's War on Waste

A simple 'waste audit' in the Junior School has led to sweeping changes across the School, writes **Sally Eriksen** EAL/D Teacher and Environment Club Coordinator



Year 3 and the Environment Club joined forces in Term 1 2019 to conduct a waste audit. We discovered that Year 3 generated 109 pieces of plastic wrap and plastic bags at lunchtime alone in just five days. We then calculated that this would equate to all girls K-6 using 727 pieces of plastic wrap and plastic bags in one week, only at lunchtime. Now that's a lot of plastic!

As a result, the Environment Club introduced 'Nude Food Mondays' to encourage families to pack lunchboxes without any landfill waste like plastic or foil. As well as having healthier lunches, the girls are proud of their contribution to lowering plastic waste at school.

In addition, we now recycle 10 cent recyclable drink containers through the 'Earn and Return' program, plus plastic bottle tops and lids for upcycling into prosthetic hands through the 'Envision' program.

Now the Environment Club has taken its crusade to reduce waste at school one step further with the introduction of colour-coded recycling bins. Year 3 integrated this initiative into their Geography unit focused on sustainability. Year 3 'Waste Warriors' educated others about what goes in each bin in the hope that Abbotsleigh girls will become better and more mindful of correctly recycling their waste. We are delighted that this new system of recycling will be rolled out to the whole school in 2020.

Abbotsleigh girls are eco-conscious learners. We respect our planet and understand the importance of caring for our environment now. Recycling is a great way for all Abbotsleigh girls and their families to be involved in helping reduce waste and ensure a healthier planet for future generations.





Miss Dorothea Poole and Abbotsleigh's Christian Journey

In 1924, Abbotsleigh entered a new phase of life: becoming an Anglican school run by a School Council, writes **Julie Daly**, Abbotsleigh Archivist



Our first two Headmistresses, Marian Clarke and Margaret Murray, were church-going women who followed the tenets of the Anglican Church, beginning each school day with prayers and a morning hymn. Margaret Murray, who had purchased Abbotsleigh from Marian Clarke, ran the school as if it were already a church school; girls studied Divinity, were confirmed by the Archbishop and all boarders attended regular Sunday church.

Margaret suffered from debilitating arthritis, and there was soon a need for her to retire and sell her school. She had already had experience of a private school becoming a church school, having been the first Headmistress of the newly-Anglican New England Girls' School and earning high praise for the ease of this transition. Knowing her history, a group of prominent local churchmen came to her with a proposal to sell to the Church of England. This group of men, who subsequently were part of the first School Council, had previously been involved in successfully shepherding Barker College into the fold of the Church and had a proven record in the governance of Barker, which would have given Margaret hope for the future of her school.

On 4 June 1924, the sale of the school was finalised for the sum of £12,500, and the school became a church school under a new name: Abbotsleigh Church of England School for Girls.

Dorothea Landon Poole, the daughter of a Canon of St Peter's Cathedral in Adelaide, was the perfect choice to be the first School Council-appointed Headmistress. She held a BA from Adelaide University, and in 1903 went to Newnham College at Cambridge where she read Mediaeval and Modern Languages, graduating in 1906. She was granted an MA from Adelaide University on the basis of this Cambridge qualification.

Dorothea returned to Australia and started teaching in Adelaide. Wanting to further her qualifications, she returned to England

where she gained her Teachers' Certificate from Bedford College, followed with a Diploma of Pedagogy from the University of London. Upon her return to Australia she held various teaching positions prior to her 1919 appointment as foundation Headmistress of Ballarat Church of England Girls' Grammar School, a position she held until her Abbotsleigh appointment in 1924.

Dorothea's intellectual craving and abilities, coupled with her deep Christian values, made her the perfect person to be appointed at Abbotsleigh. Following in the footsteps of our first two Headmistresses, who both held strong beliefs in intellectual rigour and pursuit of education, Dorothea would find her new school the perfect place to pursue her teaching passion and Christian beliefs.

Dorothea aimed to continue Abbotsleigh's goodly tradition and precious heritage, and she is described as having very high ideals and of being a devout Christian with a great interest with religion in education and of Christian citizenship. She believed that life was to be lived worthily in the service of others.

At her first School assembly on 23 September 1924, Dorothea spoke of her hope for the future of her new school, and these words were printed in the December 1924 issue of *The Weaver*:

I can never hope, nor do I wish, to take Miss Murray's place in your hearts; but I hope that in time you will come to grant me a place of my own. The welfare of the School rests no less in your hands than in mine. We must all work together to uphold its splendid traditions, to preserve its unblemished name, and to make it an instrument for good throughout the land.

In light of her academic love of language, one of the first changes Dorothea made at Abbotsleigh was to alter the school's motto to

its proper grammatical form, from *tempus fugit radio celerit* to *tempus celerius radio fugit* – time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle, a [grammatically correct] motto which is known to thousands of Abbotsleigh girls.

Whilst Dorothea made her mark at Abbotsleigh in many ways, some of her innovations are still with us today: Shakespeare Day, which she introduced in 1925; the Marian Clarke wing, which opened in 1929, and our entry into the Tildesley Tennis competition in 1928 (the competition having begun ten years earlier in 1918). In their first Tildesley adventure, the girls placed ninth out of nineteen schools.

With Abbotsleigh being a church school, and with a strong Christian woman leading, there was a desire to have our own chapel. The Chapel Fund was begun in 1928 – but it would take almost forty years for the War Memorial Chapel to open in 1965. Dorothea spoke on the need for this space: *...a place should be found apart from the bubbling life and stress of the school where its scholars should have an opportunity of renewing and deepening their Christian faith.* (The Lily and the Lion, p142).

Dorothea Poole wove her way into the fabric of the school, with the nickname “Pud” endowed on her by the girls (short for puddle as a pun on pool). She drove a small car which she named Peter, and she drove rather wildly by all accounts – but her girls thought she was quite wonderful.

Taking Abbotsleigh on its new journey as a church school, Dorothea holds a special place. Remembered in name through Poole House in the Junior School, the girls who shared their schooling with her took away so much more:

Those of us who were present on 23rd September 1924, Miss Poole's first day at Abbotsleigh, will recollect she expressed the wish that she would soon find a place of her own in our hearts. Today she must know that her wish has been fulfilled. No one could come under Miss Poole's influence and not reserve for her a very special place in her heart. (The Weaver, November 1930)

Like Margaret Murray before her, Dorothea left Abbotsleigh due to poor health, but soon took up the role of Headmistress at the smaller Marsden School in Bathurst. In 1937 she returned to Adelaide to become Headmistress of Girton School for Girls before retiring from teaching in 1940. During World War II she worked for the Censorship Department in both Adelaide and Melbourne.

Dorothea died in 1947, having lived a life resonating with passion, education and Christian values, a deep respect for those she worked with and love for her girls. As was written in her valet in the November 1930 Weaver when she was leaving Abbotsleigh: *Miss Poole may rest assured that wherever she goes we will be thinking of her and that there is a place in our hearts which only she can ever occupy.*

In 1924, Abbotsleigh embarked on the transition to a Church school where girls were able to study and enjoy fellowship with Christ; there was no better person than Dorothea to lead us on that journey. Today, in 2019, we honour and remember her clarity of vision, her love for Abbotsleigh and her strong Christian leadership.

Julie Daly
School Archivist

-
1. Miss Dorothea Poole looking out from the study window, School House, 2. Miss Dorothea Poole, 1925, 3. Miss Dorothea Poole, 1929,
 4. Miss Dorothea Poole, 1930, 5. Poole House, 1950s, 6. Miss Dorothea Poole with her beloved car, 7. The first Shakespeare Day, 1925,
 8. Bookplate, designed by Eirene Mort, showing the grammatically-correct motto, 9. Prize bookplate showing the incorrect logo,
 10. The 1925 Head Mistress's Report showing Abbotsleigh's new name





Island Investigations

Bruce Oppenheim, Science Teacher, gives us a glimpse into a fascinating Senior School research trip on Heron Island

In the October holidays, 18 students, accompanied by teachers and scientists, headed off for a week of research and fun at Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef. After a two-hour ferry journey from Gladstone over mirror-like, crystal-clear waters, we arrived at a stunningly beautiful coral cay at the southern end of the reef. From the moment we stepped off the boat, the girls were enthralled by the rays and sharks they could see swimming beneath the jetty; a great signal as to the biodiversity they were to discover over the days ahead.

We stayed at the island's world-renowned research station which provided us with teaching labs, a kitchen where we all pitched in to cook and our accommodation. On top of this we were very privileged to bring a group of scientists from around Australia who volunteered their time and expertise to run our investigations into reef ecology and to give talks on the reef's past, present and future, in addition to their own research journeys.

Each day included some field work on the reef flat doing activities such as transects to examine the distribution of species; some time back in the lab studying the organisms and of course some snorkelling to get up close and personal to all this amazing wildlife. An early morning or late afternoon snorkel



in the harbour meant stunning views of turtles, reef sharks and wide variety of rays. Our boat trips beyond 'the drop off' led to even more exciting sites – we found 'Nemo', were watched with curiosity by shoals of adult and baby cuttlefish and explored elaborate coral gardens.

While it was a busy week looking for microplastics (we were glad to discover there were hardly any), counting sea cucumbers and searching for gigantic clams, there was also time to watch the languid sea hares and hermit crabs in the touch tank and enjoy the stunning sunsets over the wreck from the jetty at the end of each day.

Huge thanks must go Mrs Filan for organising such a successful trip; to the other teachers: Mr Cameron, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Burke; to our amazing team of scientists James Valentine, Briony Mamo and Marissa Betts and to Brett Pymont for working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that everything ran smoothly and no one was left hungry!





Year 4 Convict Camp

According to American businesswoman Denise Morrison, innovation requires an experimental mindset. This was very much the case when the idea of a Year 4 Convict Camp was proposed, writes **Murray Keating**, Year 4 Coordinator

Over the years, many Year 4 students have attended The Rocks Walking Tour excursion when learning about the British Colonisation of Australia. To expand the learning possibilities, Year 4 staff then experimented with the introduction of a tall ship cruise on Sydney Harbour in 2017. This was done to help students experience conditions onboard an actual tall ship, like one that may have travelled in the First Fleet. This additional excursion proved highly successful and its positive impact on student learning exceeded expectations.

With an experimental mindset and a determination to further enhance learning for all students, Convict Camp was born. Convict Camp, now in its second year, provides a highly innovative, engaging and interactive experience for all participants. The addition of a guided tour and overnight stay on Cockatoo Island, a jet cat ride along the Parramatta River, an opportunity to explore St John's Cemetery and time spend working as convict children at Elizabeth Farm, has seen Convict Camp become a hallmark of the Year 4 History program and an example of educational innovation at Abbotsleigh.

Convict Camp Student Reflections

'Before Convict Camp I didn't know how I would feel if I travelled back in time, but on Convict Camp I 'was' a real convict. I felt a bubble of hope rise when I signed my ticket of leave but was rather nervous when we were asked to show our housekeeping skills in case I got a flogging.'

Neave Bailey

'Convict Camp was terrific! It was so much fun when we acted like convicts at Elizabeth Farm. It gave Year 4 a good understanding of what life was like in the 18th century.'

Matilda Mamo

'Convict Camp was a joy-filled experience packed with many extraordinary adventures. I especially enjoyed the amazing views at Cockatoo Island and watching my teachers, Mr Keating and Madam Jacobs climb the mast of the tall ship.'

Katherine Gooden

'Convict Camp was extremely interesting, and it helped me to grow in knowledge of the First Fleet. It was a great opportunity to develop independence and friendships.'

Nimue Davidson

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Social Media

With children often outstripping their parents' abilities in our 'constantly connected' culture, it is important to help them navigate a safe path through the online world, writes **Jonathan Adams**, IT Integrator

Social media is the name given to all the applications and websites that allow us to communicate, create and share using images, text, audio and video. As parents and educators adapt to the changing methods of communication, it is important to maintain and provide an environment that is safe for the girls.

Children at increasingly younger and younger ages are pleading with their parents to allow them to set up a social media account. And often it's much earlier than the legal age of 13 years. Some studies have suggested that as many as three-quarters of children aged 10-12 years have social media accounts, despite being below the legal age limit.

Principals Australia Institute (PAI) CEO, Paul Geyer, said today's children live in a 'constantly connected culture' thanks to smartphones and social media.

'This can lead us to compare ourselves to others to a sometimes obsessive degree, and also means it's difficult to truly escape unhealthy interactions that could previously be left at the school gate.'

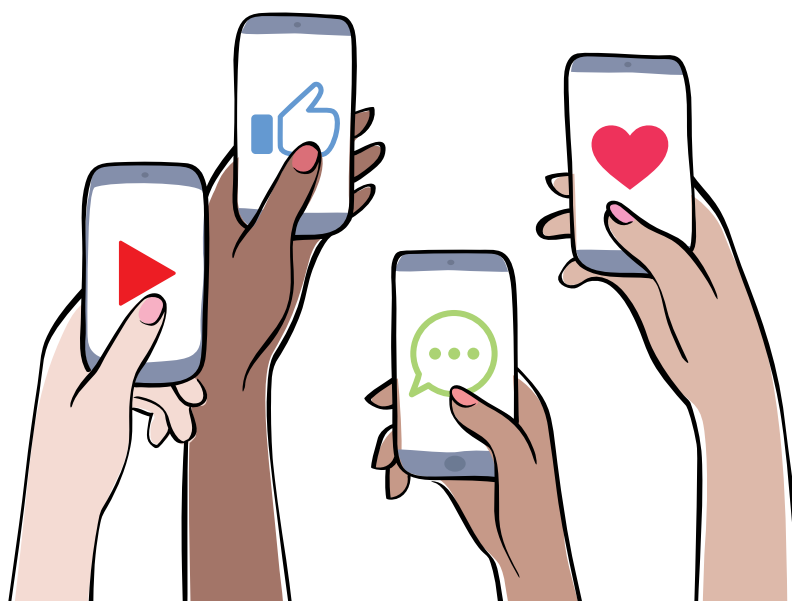
Dr Kristy Goodwin believes that if social media is introduced at the 'right' age, carefully monitored by parents and balanced with real, off-screen relationships, then it can be a meaningful communication tool for older children. Dr Goodwin is quite

clear in her belief that social media should not be used or introduced to primary school students.

Social media can be a wonderful way to cater to teenagers' need for social connection and can develop a sense of belonging. People from anywhere can connect with anyone. Regardless of the location. The beauty of social media is that you can connect with anyone to learn and share your thoughts. It is very easy to educate from others who are experts and professionals via social media. You can follow anyone to learn from him/her and enhance your knowledge about any field. Regardless of your location and education background you can educate yourself, without paying for it.

Like any technology, social media is merely a tool. It's neither good nor bad. It really depends on how it's used, with whom it's used, when it's used, where it's used and what's used. Dr Goodwin's concern with social media is that children are being dunked in the social media world prematurely before they're socially and emotionally ready.

It's important as parents to help your child understand what sort of digital footprint they're leaving on social media. To do this it is important to have clear guidelines and rules and ensuring to support your child by educating them in this fast changing world.





Young Curators at Abbotsleigh

Having an opportunity to immerse themselves in the Sydney art world has been a wonderful and enriching experience for eight of our passionate Year 11 Visual Arts students, writes **Amanda Neville**, Visual Arts Teacher

The Young Curators initiative is the brainchild of the enthusiastic and energetic Max Germanos, a businessman who is also a collector of both art and artists and a Director of 3.33 Art Projects. 3.33 Art Projects aims to support education in the arts, provide unique experiences for students and the school community and to work with some of Australia's leading contemporary visual artists. Through Max's networks, the students are introduced to real world curatorial experiences, visiting galleries and art fairs, and meeting artists. The program culminates in an exhibition of an artist's work which showcases both the artist's talent and the curatorial skills and vision of the Young Curators.



Abbotsleigh's Young Curators are very lucky to be working with Vanessa Stockard, a talented and successful former Abbotsleigh student (1993) and boarder from Wingham, who is now a leading Australian visual artist. She graduated from the College of Fine Arts (COFA) in 1998 and has been selected as a finalist in the Archibald Portrait Prize twice. The Abbotsleigh students are collaborating as a curatorial team to research, develop, select and stage an exhibition of Vanessa's paintings which will be displayed at Abbotsleigh's Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. This experience provides the students with valuable insights and experience into various perspectives and challenges of working in the creative arts industry. They have viewed Vanessa's work in a range of settings and become acquainted with the broad array of themes that she explores in her paintings, from introspective self-portraits to an imaginary character, Derek Milkwood, whom she uses as a muse to broach topics that she finds funny, absurd or unfair.

The Young Curators were first introduced to Vanessa's work at the offices of Clayton Utz, where the girls saw the value of placing art in a corporate setting. The girls were then generously welcomed by Vanessa into her stunning home and studio in Bowral. This was a highlight for the girls, as it involved an informative tour of Vanessa's painting studio, delicious cake and an opportunity to see the reality of one artist's life – a very different perspective from the classroom experience of seeing art in books and on screens. Vanessa, a prolific artist, showed the Young Curators a range of her past and current works in both her studio and on the walls of her home; all potential inspiration for ideas and themes for the exhibition that the Young Curators are developing.

Chalkhorse Gallery in Darlinghurst was the site of our latest visit, with works on show by Vanessa and Jasper Knight. The students reviewed and analysed the curatorial decisions made in the hanging of Vanessa's work and will apply this to the preparation for their own curated exhibition. The Young Curators were excited to be involved in a video for 3.33 Art Projects and will soon begin the exciting process of selecting and arranging works for Vanessa's show at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery in February 2020. It has been an inspirational journey into the art world and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Max Germanos and 3.33 Art Projects for generously presenting this valuable opportunity to our Abbotsleigh Young Curators.



Matchbox Poetry

Have you ever thought about what treasures would fit in a matchbox? Is there a special object that features in your childhood memories? How would you design a matchbox to reflect the secret it holds inside, asks **Susanna Matters**, Year 6 Coordinator



Year 6 students were given these evocative questions as the beginning of a new creative writing project. The learning intention of the project was for students to craft examples of figurative language which would evoke the reader's senses, emotions and imagination.

As part of the drafting process, students refined alliterative and metaphorical phrases and personified their objects to bring them to life. Many girls were introduced to a kenning as a literary device for the first time and there was much joy across Year 6 classes as everyday objects were captured in a unique way. Imagine describing a milkshake as a hurricane-in-a-glass, an apple as a doctor-preventer, or a ring as a golden halo!

The final stage of the project was for the girls to design an interactive representation of their poem. Having initially sketched a thoughtful design pitch, the students then selected a range of materials to create a final product which reflected and enhanced their language choices.

Year 6 shared their Matchbox Poems with parents at a special Celebration of Learning. The girls delighted in watching readers interact with their multi-modal installations by unravelling ribbons inside their matchboxes to reveal a handwritten transcription of their poem.

Writing is one of the most powerful forms of self-expression and there is no doubt that the Matchbox Poetry project allowed students to find their individual voices as a writer. Most importantly, the project brought all members of the Abbotsleigh community together to nurture a love of literacy.



Can you guess what objects are being described in these student poems?

The Night Orb – Isabella Apostolou

Orb of the night,
Twinkle of eternal light,
Guide me to the bright.
Passed across, tunnelled down, grasped by a
chain of hands,
Traveller of the world, citizen of many.

Places Far and Wide – Madeline Atkinson

The cherry on top
Snaking round, charms drift like the wind
Came in a box, ribbon on top, a gift of true feelings
I'm only a city girl, true to shopping and business.

Immortal Treasure – Angela Lu

Flamingo's beak
Alluring splash of vivid colours, touch of finest velvet
A bird tossed upon my vulnerable heart, healing and
comforting the fragmented soul
My endless, my enduring, my everlasting source
of comfort.

What are the objects?
Isabella's object is a South African Rand coin.
Madeline's object is a Disneyland charm bracelet.
Angela's object is a pink bow for her hair.



2019 Sports Lunch

The 7th Abbotsleigh Sports Lunch was held on Friday 14 August at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf. The Sports Lunch is the biennial major fundraising event for the Abbotsleigh Foundation. The weather was stunning and the views of harbour were breathtaking for our guests enjoying their drinks and canapés outside on the terrace before the formal proceedings commenced.

A great afternoon was had by all. Our brilliant MC, sports broadcaster James Bracey, added lots of fun and humour to the event as well as encouraging our guests to 'dig deep'.

The theme at this year's lunch was 'Women in Sport' and we were joined for the first time by an all-women panel of sports stars: Ruan Sims, (Sydney Roosters and broadcaster with Network 10) Louise Stephenson (GWS Giants) and Jodie Hicks (Sydney Sixers). The panel talked about both the opportunities and challenges they experienced playing their sport, which in Jodie's case included both AFL and cricket at an elite level!

Guests heard from two of Abbotsleigh's Indigenous students, Georgia Dennison, Year 11 (via video) and Sophie Oakeshott, Year 9. The girls highlighted the difference in the opportunities available to them at Abbotsleigh, compared with their friends and family in regional NSW.





Sophie Oakeshott Year 9:

'Many of the stories are brutal in their reality. Stories of domestic violence, mental health issues, drug and alcohol, unsafe households and unsafe communities. These are real stories that continue today and both Abbotsleigh and Yalari are playing and important role in breaking this intergenerational disadvantage.'

Georgia Dennison Year 11:

'There are statistics saying you are more likely to go to juvenile justice instead of graduating Year 12 and that's pretty much true. At home, most of my cousins and friends have gone to "juvey" and haven't graduated Year 12. And the good thing about these scholarships is they are breaking that statistic.'

During the event a hugely successful live auction was held to raise funds for our Indigenous Scholarships program. Auctioneer James Keenan did a fantastic job and more than \$80,000 was raised from guests in the room. This amount will fund four scholarships – what a sensational result!

The event raised an unprecedented \$160,000 from our generous Abbotsleigh community of current parents, past parents, Old Girls and staff and we can't thank you all enough.

Sasha Carrel
Fundraising Manager





ABBOTSLEIGH
FOUNDATION

Save the Date

Abbotsleigh Foundation Fundraising Event
Saturday 15 August 2020
Grand Court, Art Gallery of NSW
6.30-11 pm

Dazzle
and Dine Ball

Gala at the Gallery



**SUNDAY FOOTY
SHOW**

One of our lucky prize winners – Behind the Scenes at Sports Sunday/Sunday Footy Show Photo (L-R) Simon Bonny, Brad Fittler, Erin Molan, Poppy Adams, Peter Sterling, Rob Adams, Felicity Bonny, Elly Chapman (AOG, 2004 – Producer for Sports Sunday), James Bracey, Billy Slater

Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

exhibition calendar

2020

Vanessa Stockard Presented by Abbotsleigh Young Curators and 3:33 Art Projects	30 January to 20 February
ART NORTH HSC Visual Arts from schools in the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai district	26 February to 19 March
Visualising Stories Five book illustrators: Liz Anelli, Lorena Carrington, Tannya Harricks, Bethany Macdonald, Aura Parker	24 March to 23 April
Margaret Woodward From the Studio	1 to 28 May
Alan Jones Presented by Abbotsleigh Young Curators and 3:33 Art Projects	3 to 20 June
(re)arrangements Group exhibition exploring the repurposing of found imagery	24 June to 24 July
Stopping by the Colour Wheel (A Fabulation of Three Artists)	28 July to 15 August
HSC Showcase Abbotsleigh Year 12 Visual Arts	26 to 28 August (closes 1 pm)
Ruth Burgess The Music of the Planets	3 September to 3 October
Accretions Cross-Tasman printmaking links	13 to 31 October
Grace Cossington Smith art award Winners and finalist of the biennial award	7 November to 5 December

Dates subject to change Please check our Facebook page and website for updates and planned events www.facebook.com/gcsgallery/



2021/22 Scholarship Applications Opening Soon

Year 10 and 11 2021 Scholarships open in March 2020.

Year 7 2022 Scholarships open in June 2020, with exams on Saturday 19 September 2020.

Visit the website

abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships

Please contact Colleen Fenn on 02 9473 7744 or email registrar@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Create the future.



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Is your daughter interested in becoming a weekly boarder?

We are delighted to offer the opportunity for girls who might be interested in becoming a weekly boarder. Limited places are available. Please register your interest with the Registrar.

With many families working full-time or having numerous commitments, quality family time can get squeezed out by the daily pressures of the school drop-off and pick-ups, co-curricular activities and homework. Weekly boarding can offer the best of both worlds.

Boarding during the week means girls have after school access to a range of facilities, including the library, where they can receive assistance from our boarding tutors while they are working on their homework, coursework or assignments. With structured prep time, parents can be confident that their daughter will be able to work productively. The benefits of weekly boarding are not just academic; it is about encouraging the girls to develop character by instilling our school values of respect, integrity, compassion, courage and perseverance.

To take up this opportunity, or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs Colleen Fenn at registrar@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or call 9473 7744.

Around Abbotsleigh



APA Book Club with Kate Forsyth



Abbotsleigh's 134th Birthday



APA Trivia Night

From the President of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union



Following on from last year's theme of Celebrating 110 Years of Building Connections, we have continued to encourage Old Girls' engagement with each other and the AOGU. There have been a number of class reunions, regional reunions and various events where generations of Old Girls have come together. A conscious effort has been made to share photos following events and share stories of our Old Girls and it has been wonderful to see the increased engagement and rekindled relationships through Facebook

and to receive positive feedback following editions of The Loom and Around Abbotsleigh.

The AOGU is very proud to be recognising the positive contributions of Old Girls to their local and worldwide community. It was wonderful to see the fruits of the projects that the inaugural 110th Anniversary Grant supported. The difficulties faced by some of the children Rachel Scott works with are truly heart-breaking; yet it is inspiring to

hear how Rachel's music program helps them and their wider community in dealing with some of their challenges. Similarly, it was wonderful to witness Hannah Goodwin's thought-provoking play responding to the worsening violence against women. It was also gratifying to hear the AOGU Grant money not only helped bring this play to the public, it enabled Hannah and her team to partner with Jenny's Place, a community based charity that deals with domestic violence and homelessness, as well as to put on a free women's self-defence workshop after one of their shows. I'm very excited to continue to pay it forward and look forward to sharing the projects of our 2019 Anniversary Grant winners.

Finally, we are all very aware of the impact of the ongoing drought on the Australian rural community. In particular, the AOGU recognises the effect on our Abbotsleigh boarding families, many of which have a long-standing Abbotsleigh connection. I am now very happy to report that the AOGU will be donating \$20,000 to the Boarders' Assistance Fund which is a fund set up by the School specifically to provide fee assistance to boarding families affected by the drought. Please contact the Old Girls' Office if you would also like to make a contribution.

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)
President

A gift that gives

The scarf, priced at \$100, is beautifully packaged in a quality black gift box and measures 180 x 50 cm.

To order, please email Fundraising Manager Sasha Carrel at carrels@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or phone 02 9473 7738.

About the artwork and artist

Shedding Totem: Kamilaroi Bloodlines

Artwork by Hannah Hilton (Ranby, 2013)

2013 Abbotsleigh Old Girl and Indigenous Scholarship recipient

This scarf is a reproduction of a lino print created by Hannah in 2013 as part of her HSC body of work. The design evokes the patterns found in bark and trees, revealing the natural habitat of the carpet snake, Hannah's totem.

Indigenous Scholarships at Abbotsleigh

Abbotsleigh welcomed its first Indigenous Scholarship students in 2008 and since then, Abbotsleigh and the Abbotsleigh Foundation working in partnership with Yalari, have enabled 19 Indigenous girls to gain an Abbotsleigh education.

These scholarships are made possible by the ongoing generosity of the School's community – profits from the sale of these scarves will support Indigenous Scholarships at Abbotsleigh.

For more information visit www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving.





Sarah Flint (2017)

I have just finished my 2nd year of Aeronautical Engineering and concurrent army training at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. Throughout my time at the Academy I have been given many opportunities to participate in sporting and leadership endeavours and was lucky enough to walk the Kokoda track during 2018. I have two years left of my degree and one year at the Royal Military College of Duntroon after which I hope to join the Army Aviation Corps. I am looking forward to completing my 3rd year at ADFA as I now hold a leadership position as one of the four Squadron Cadet Captains in the Academy. I am loving the mental and physical challenge that being a part of the Defence Force has provided, and I am excited to see where my career as a future officer in the Army takes me.

Old Girls in the Armed Forces



It was an honour to welcome back to school three Old Girls currently serving in the Australian armed forces on Remembrance Day this year.

Sarah Flint (Vice Head Prefect 2017) from the Army, Anna Wilson (2016) from the Navy and Lucy (Lucinda) Branson (2016) from the Air Force graciously gave their time to talk about the history of the armed forces in Australia and what their roles entail.

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
Lest we forget.'*

Christina Barry (1975)

Christina Barry was Licensed as a Reader (Lay Minister) in the Church of England on 5 October in Ely Diocese. She is looking forward to expanding her ministry to the elderly, although not planning on retiring from teaching singing just yet. Christina is pictured with Bishop Dagmar Winter, suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon.



ABBOTSLEIGH

Alumni Relations Office



Aprons \$25 each or two for \$40
Tea towels \$15 each or three for \$35
Portable chargers \$25 each



Parissa Bozorg (2009)

After leaving Abbotsleigh, I went on to study my Bachelor of Arts/Law at the University of Wollongong, a place which I called home for five years. I generally spent my uni breaks travelling. Be it Europe, Asia, Central or South America. I would always look up the cheapest flights out of Sydney, pack my bags and go. I never seemed to spend a summer or winter at home.

I soon realised the same pattern would follow. I worked for one year at the Family Court of Australia and then left again. Over the next year, I travelled through Iran, Lebanon and Turkey. During the Syrian refugee crisis, the EU had made a deal with Turkey and there were millions of refugees in limbo. So, I decided to go to Izmir, a small coastal town in Turkey where many of the refugees landed on their way to Europe.

In Izmir, I made connections with local groups working with Syrian refugees in the urban areas. It was after spending time here that a group of us discovered there was so much more happening outside the city and in the rural farming areas; refugees were living illegally in makeshift tents, unaccounted for, with no access to services. It was here that The Tribe Projects was created. A group of us in Izmir, including some Syrian refugees, set out to meet these people and find the best ways to support their needs. After nine months and countless cups of chai, we raised thousands of dollars, gave aid, started education programs and built life-long friendships.

Once returning to Sydney, I spent a year working in Community Services running programs, mainly to newly arrived migrants and refugees in primary schools in Western Sydney. Although it was nice being home, I couldn't help but look for work overseas... and for some reason I had my heart set on Africa. I found a job as a Welfare Coordinator at The School of St Jude. I applied and next thing you know, I was setting off to Tanzania, where I have been living and working for almost two years.

I was instantly drawn to the values of the school, which provides free, high-quality education to some of the brightest, poorest students in Arusha and the surrounding areas. There are approximately 1,800 students at the school, from the equivalent of grades 1 to 12 as well as a post-school program where graduates participate in a community service year and are then supported through higher education. The opportunity to work for an organisation that has such a positive impact on the lives of students and their communities was something I knew I could not turn down.

I work within the Community Relations team, specifically as the Welfare Coordinator of the school. It is a dynamic role that allows me to work directly with the students and their families. While all the 1,800 students at the school are from the lowest income families, there are approximately 150 students who require extra assistance due to living in extreme poverty.



We support these students with any additional schooling needs they require; bi-yearly packs that include rice, beans, sugar, tea, toothpaste and soap, as well as covering any medical expenses that these students may face. During the year I will visit their family homes, sit down and speak to the students and their parents/guardians and assess their current situation.

I am also lucky enough to be involved with the student selection. This is a long process that occurs three times a year and it is really rewarding. I can sometimes find myself travelling hundreds of kilometres from Arusha to a Maasai Boma (group of dwellings like a farmstead), and meeting some of the brightest students. The students who join St Jude's from these areas would have been unlikely to continue their education otherwise, due to limited money or resources. These students then go on to become lawyers, doctors, engineers, and this year we have our first group of university graduates, which is very exciting!

I love living in Arusha. We are surrounded by the most beautiful landscapes, from Mount Meru literally at my doorstep and Mount Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Africa) just two hours away, plus the local markets, waterfalls and some amazing national parks with elephants, lions and giraffes. I really cannot complain – I have even witnessed some zebras crossing the road!

There is never a dull moment here. The streets are bursting with colours, smells and flavours, and Tanzanians are so friendly; you are greeted by every single person you pass. I live in a share house here with colleagues and friends and my life outside the school is a lot like it was in Sydney. During my holidays I have seen other parts of East Africa, exploring the landscapes from the mountains to the Indian Ocean. You can never get tired of things to do and see here. Tanzania also has more than 120 tribes, so there is a deep culture here that permeates all parts of day to day life; the food, the music, the dancing and so on... it is definitely going to be a very hard place to leave!



Larissa Cheng (2012)



Photo by Theik Smith



Photo by Nir Arieli

Larissa Cheng (professionally known as Larissa LongSee) is literally 'living her dream' of making a career as a professional dancer.

Larissa's aptitude for dance was recognised at a young age when she began dancing in the AbbSchool extended tuition dance program. Quickly, once a week classes turned into daily dance classes.

A member of Abbotsleigh's Dance Performance Team from 2007-2011, she contributed to much of the team's success at dance eisteddfods. Another highlight of her dance career at school was being appointed as Dance Captain for her team at Abbotsleigh's Wheeldon's Cup event. Even at such a young age, her ability to translate a story into the language of dance through her choreography created a magical performance, further confirming that her future lay in dancing.

Upon graduating from Abbotsleigh, Larissa realised her dream of making dancing her profession. In the summer of 2014, she

was accepted as one of 18 dancers, scouted internationally, to train in the prestigious school of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City. For the next three years, Larissa was the first Australian to work with many notable choreographers such as Tony Award-winning Chet Walker as well as the choreographer of music artist Beyoncé, Darrell Grand Moultrie.

Continually pushing herself to be the best that she can be, coupled with a desire to travel and explore living in different cities around the world, she now resides happily in the hub of performing arts, London, and is currently dancing with the world renowned Rambert Dance Company. Larissa says that she plans to eventually come home to Australia and would love to share her knowledge, especially with any young, aspiring dancers at Abbotsleigh. We wish her every success in making it overseas and look forward to her bringing her stories and experiences home.

Alison Morgan (Nicholson, 1978)

Alison is an academic specialist and the Head of the Maternal Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit at the Nossal Institute for Global Health in Melbourne. She joined what was then the Australian International Health Institute (which subsequently became the Nossal Institute for Global Health) in 2002. A medical graduate with qualifications in tropical medicine and obstetrics, she completed her PhD while working at the Nossal, focusing on health systems for quality maternal health care in low income countries.

Alison has more than 30 years' experience in global health research and practice with expertise in maternal and newborn health, primary health care and child and adolescent health and has worked across 15 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Her interest is the capacity development of health workers and systems and how national governments plan to reach health development goals. Alison's research includes implementation research for timely quality maternal and newborn health care, and better metrics for tracking maternal health outcomes. She is an experienced educator, having designed and conducted educational curricula in many international settings. She was responsible for creating the global health specialisation within the Master of Public Health program in 2003 and she currently leads the award winning global course in health systems strengthening for UNICEF. She co-chairs the World Health Organisation (WHO) advisory group Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results (MoNITOR) and is a member of the WHO advisory group for adolescent health metrics: the Global Action for Measurement of Adolescent health (GAMA).

Alison will be promoted to Associate Professor at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health commencing 1 January 2020.





Black and Gold Lunch



Golf Day



Mother Daughter High Tea



Networking Breakfast



Networking Dinner



Class of 1949 70 Year Reunion

As guests of the School, a cold damp June day did not deter 15 1949 leavers attending their 70 year reunion. One came from England and five from the country. It was a wonderful day for us all. We much appreciated the hospitality of the Headmistress and staff in every area we visited.

Sue Cross (Jacobs)



Class of 1959 60 Year Reunion

On 25 October, 25 of us who had left school in 1959 came back for a wonderful day of reconnecting, recollecting and discovery.

We started with morning tea at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery which had been home to some of us as boarders in the 1950s. A tour of the School followed, with lots of looking for what was familiar, and exclaiming over what was so different!

After a group photo, Megan Krimmer welcomed us back to school, and we sat down to a delicious lunch and lots of catching up and reminiscing.

Our thanks to the Old Girls' Office for facilitating such an enjoyable day – we are all looking forward to our next reunion.

Angela Barker (Blackwood)



Class of 1964 55 Year Reunion

October 27 and a perfect setting for a 55 year get together. Our small group of 45 delighted in seeing each other, catching up, exchanging information and photos amidst rising levels of chatter and frivolity. Amazingly, there were 12 present who started Abbotsleigh with Miss Carter's 3rd grade class.

So, here's to keeping well for the next reunion...60 years on in 2024.

Penny Stratton





Class of 1969 50 Year Reunion

On a weekend in August, the 1969 leavers celebrated their 50 year reunion. The Friday night saw around 20-23 boarders catching up at the Union Hotel, North Sydney for a fun night of reminiscing, renewing friendships and sharing our life stories. Despite the devastating drought, many from the land made the effort to attend.

On Saturday we were treated to a tour of the School and were all amazed at the changes in 50 years; then a Chapel service which included a sermon from our classmate, Reverend Helen Hoskins and an amazing rendition of the Lord's Prayer by another classmate Elizabeth (Dib) Campbell, mezzo-soprano. Then lunch attended by around 70 from our year – a great time to catch up on news, renew old friendships and create some new memories. In the words of one of our classmates, 'The most interesting thing I realised after our 50th reunion is that none of us have really changed. Whatever effect time and experiences have had over the years on each of us, we are still all basically the same recognisable people we were 50 years ago and I personally think that is a wonderful thing.'

Current technology played a big part in the success of our reunion. The creation of a Facebook page for our year group earlier in the year meant that by the time of our reunion, many of us had been in touch, with more joining in after the event. We hope to have a 55th reunion, and even now some mini reunions are being planned over the next few years.

One recurring theme from our reunion and ongoing contact has been that we were so fortunate to have Betty Archdale as our Headmistress – an inspiration to us all.

Meriel Barlow (Beale)

Class of 1974 45 Year Reunion





Class of 1979 40 Year Reunion

The class of '79 reunited on 2 November for an evening of memories and reconnections. As the noise level rose, so did the laughs and the story telling, with everyone remembering the funny and irreverent antics from the 70s. Lovely messages were sent from people unable to attend and we raised a glass and toasted those no longer with us. Picnics, wine tasting and catch ups continued the following day with lots of plans made to get together well before another decade flies by.

Thanks to everyone for making the 40 year reunion such a wonderful celebration of life and friendship.

Fiona Robinson

Class of 1974 Grammy Camp

In August this year, a small group of 1981 Old Girls gathered in New Hampshire to attend a long planned 'Grammy Camp' catch-up. The plan hatched as a result of one of the crew residing mainly in the US since leaving school, but undertaking frequent return trips home to keep in touch with us in Australia even while families were raised and children grew.

Once the first grandchild arrived, Grammy Camp was open for business – in two countries no less! The US Grammy Camp looked so inviting that talk soon turned to how the Old Girls could also attend. The result – a wonderful 16 days filled with city tours of Boston, watching a Red Sox game, white water rafting, tubing, SUP boarding, boating, hiking, relaxing, zip lining, shopping the outlets, visiting Maine and the Sea Coast, a short trip to NYC and of course lots of laughs and memories shared across many meals and quiet drinks. We are currently scouting for the next venue and hoping the crew members may increase. Highly recommend this form of catching up.

Here's cheers to Abbotsleigh for laying the foundation to the 40+ years of friendship and to the continuance of many more Grammy Camps.

**Melanie Baxter (Edwards) Carey McCloud (Hewett)
Jeanette Danckert (Cardilini) Lisa Mayo (Cowie)
Susie Wales (Seaborn)**



Class of 1984 35 Year Reunion



Photo by Diana Allen

Class of 1989 30 Year Reunion

More than 75 of the 1989 leavers gathered for their 30 Year Reunion at the Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club on Saturday 26 October. A small but extremely enthusiastic group relived many fond memories and reenacted their schooldays with a tour of the Senior School in the morning.





Class of 1994 25 Year Reunion

The 1994 leavers' reunion was held in October at the Greengate Hotel. Sixty attended the reunion. There were many who could not join us who are currently living abroad.

The 1994 leavers donated to the Country Women's Association to assist with the prevailing drought conditions in regional Australia. On the evening \$80 was donated in addition to more than \$100 donated via a link to the Charity website. A huge thank you goes out to Amanda Hatzioannou who organised the event with the Old Girls' Office.

Sarah Robson



Class of 1999 20 Year Reunion

Our 20 year reunion was celebrated on 19 October of this year. Sixty fabulous women joined together at The Centennial Hotel in Woollahra to catch up. Old Girls travelled from as far as Perth and Darwin to attend the night. We talked, laughed and laughed some more. Belinda Thomas gave a wonderful speech, recalling many memories that brought the house down! We also celebrated our amazing friend Gilly Truman (Carpenter), who is showing the most incredible courage in her fight against Motor Neurone Disease. Thank you so much to Nadean Richards, Sofie Mason-Jones and Belinda Thomas for organising the reunion. We are very much looking forward to getting together again in five years' time.

Georgia O'Hara (Buchanan)



Class of 2004 15 Year Reunion

On Saturday 31 August, the 2004 Leavers caught up for their 15 year reunion in North Sydney.

It was a great evening seeing familiar faces and hearing how people's lives and careers have been progressing and what's been taking up their time since the last reunion.

There had been a couple more babies, a few more qualifications and some professional changes since our last reunion, but still the same friendly faces. We even had international and interstate attendees!

The general consensus after every reunion is that we need to do it more often, so we're all looking forward to the next occasion.

Elly Chapman



Class of 2009 10 Year Reunion

After 10 (what feels like very short) years, the class of 2009 gathered at the Garden Pavilion at the Oaks in Neutral Bay for bulk laughs, constant reminiscing and a few cheeky drinks. Now young women, we entered the room to find yearbook pages from our graduating year staring us in the face. These pages had printed our cheesy high school grins, our greatest memories of school and most interestingly, 'where we thought we would be in 10 years'. Contrary to our belief at the time, most of us have not become famous rappers or bilingual. But instead, are still trying to work out what life has to offer and excited by the prospect that things are still not set in stone.

In the last 10 years, we now find ourselves in very different places, but the night brought us together in what could only be compared to Swine 09 and the infamous common room bake-off. Special shout outs must be made to those that travelled internationally, interstate and from the country. Overall, we are still the same motley crew, with the same vivacious energy for life that filled us during our time at Abbotsleigh. Looking forward to the next reunion – the 15-year countdown is on!

Sophie Armitage and Alexandra Davis



North West Reunion



Queensland Reunion





Rebecca Egan (2006) married Angus Duffin on 13 April 2019 at St Albans, Lindfield, and had their reception at Urban Winery Sydney.



Alexandra (Ali) Balmer (2000) and Isaac Lomanat Echakan (Lokai Kinga) are proud to announce the arrival of Malcolm Zak-Kinga Echakan Balmer (Zakki), who was born on Sunday 23 June at the Portland Hospital for Women and Children, London, UK.



Alexandra Davis (2009) married Brendan Pryke on 28 September 2019 in Bermagui on the South Coast. It was a spectacular day with beautiful blue skies and lots of kangaroos! Old Girls made an appearance in the bridal party with matron of honour **Courtney Aho (Davis, 2005)** and bridesmaid **Rachel Thampapillai (2009)**.



Stephanie Borys (2006) married Thomas Lowrey in March this year. The wedding was held in the Central West of New South Wales where the couple first met. They were joined by family and close friends for a weekend of celebrations at Stockman's Ridge Winery. The bridal party included Abbotsleigh Old Girls **Katerina Borys (2008)** and **Lucinda Browne (2006)**.



Katrina Haynes (Christie, 2004) and Cameron Haynes welcomed Imogen Sally Haynes on 29 October 2019 – a little sister for Frederick Louis (22 February 2018).

Ann Cartwright (Jenkin, 1964)



Ann attended Abbotsleigh from 1959 to 1964 when she completed the Leaving Certificate. After her schooling, she flourished at university, studying English literature and history and became a high school teacher after graduation.

She married Robert Cartwright and had three children Richard, Laura and Stephen. After various moves the family settled in Pymble. During this time, Ann served on the Abbotsleigh Council.

Ann was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer the day after her 65th birthday. For six years she battled the disease but finally succumbed early in 2019. Ann had been part of the lives of her five precious grandchildren, who were now all old enough to always remember her character and their time with her, and that she loved each of them deeply.

Ann was a wise and gracious lady of substance who put others ahead of herself and remained constant in her Christian conviction and witness since her teenage years.

Linda Gray (Phillips, 1964)

Margaret Emily Travers (Marr, 1938) 1921-2019



Margaret Emily Travers (Marr) attended Abbotsleigh from 1932-1927 with her older sister Ruth Wilson (Marr). She made life-long friends while at school including Mollie Hodgkinson (Watson) Pam Marr (Graham) and Joan Hipsley (Kidd). After leaving school in 1937, she attended Sydney Technical College.

During the Second World War she was a member of the Women's Australian National Service (WANS) as a Lieutenant.

She married Basil 'Jika' Travers in 1942 and they first lived in England and then East Lindfield. In 1952 Jika's career took them to Tasmania, and they returned to Sydney in 1959. Her life focused around supporting her husband as 'a Headmaster's wife,' a duty in which she excelled.

Her three daughters Susan Travers, Tina Armati (Travers, 1964) and Pip Hyles (Travers, 1968) attended Abbotsleigh as did her granddaughters Anna Ruepert (Armati, 1990), Sophie Harper (Armati, 1993) and Katie Brown (Hyles, 1996).

Margaret had a great love of the School and supported the AOGU by playing golf, bowls and bridge on the Old Girls days. She and Pam Marr, being avid golfers, decided to donate a trophy for the Old Girls' Golf Day. Initially known as the Perpetual Silver Tray for the best gross, it is now known as the AOGU Salver. She presented the trophy each year and for the last time in 2016.

She was an excellent sewer and cross stitcher and continued all activities well into her later years.

Tina Armati (Travers)

We remember the following Old Girls

Lois Abram (Baillieu, 1946)

Yvette Adams (Godfrey, 1944)

Ann Baxter (Burstal, 1945)

Elizabeth Boulton (1945)

Rachael Brown (2006)

Philippa Fenwicke (Morgan, 1955)

Sara (Sally) Fewtrell (Wilson, 1954)

Geraldine Flower (1964)

Jocelyn Lewin (Roseby, 1942)

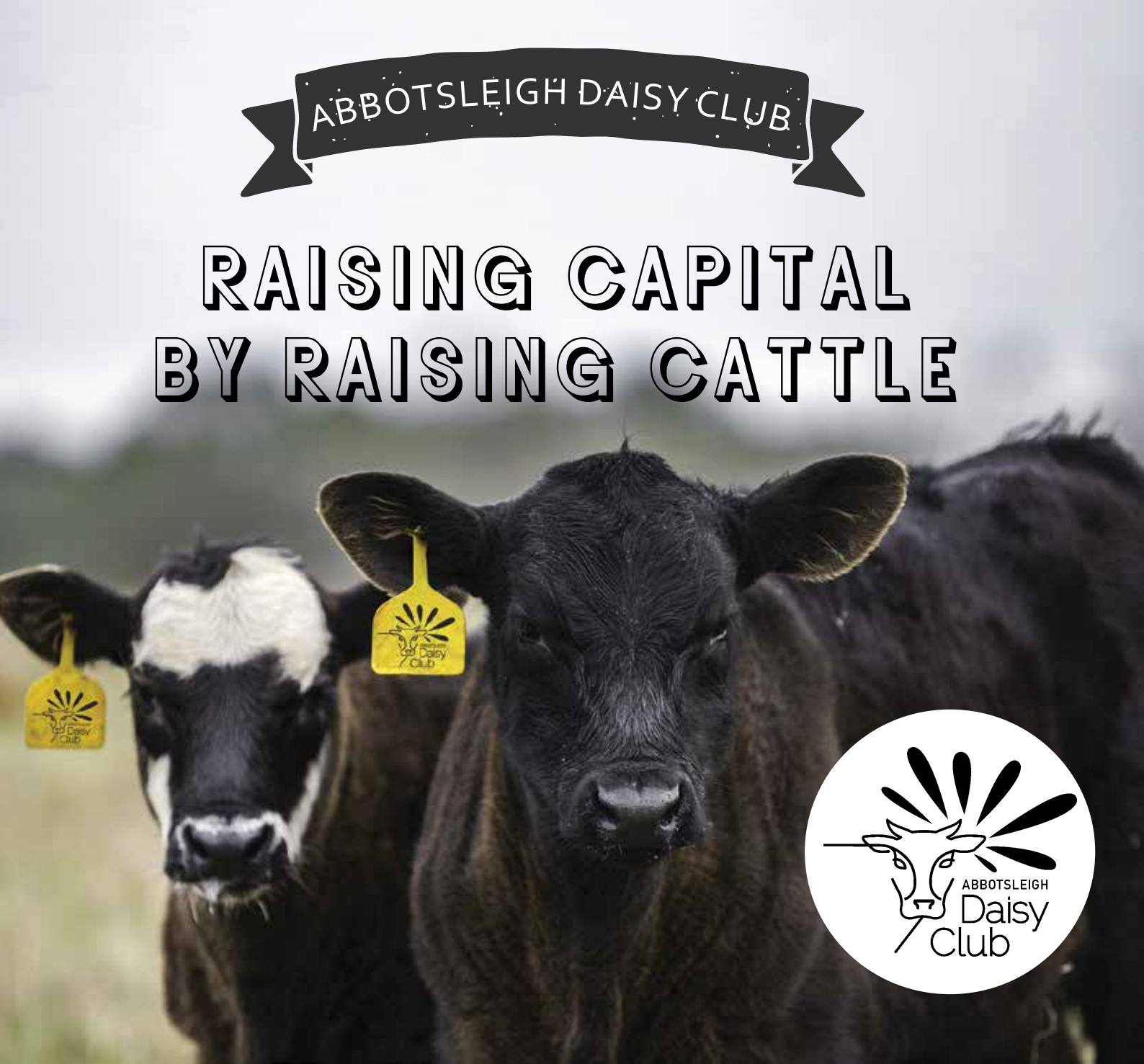
Anne Parker (Burton-Dibbs, 1945)

Margaret Rook (1952)

Fiona Sollars (Bell, 1969)

Catherine Wood (Turner, 1987)

Lillian Vains (Herz, 1950)



ABBOTSLEIGH DAISY CLUB

RAISING CAPITAL BY RAISING CATTLE



WELCOME TO THE DAISY CLUB

The Daisy Club is an initiative of the Abbotsleigh Boarder Parents' Association. It was started by a group of boarder parents who were keen to find a way for boarding families to give back to Abbotsleigh. Since its inception in 2007, with generous support of past and present Abbotsleigh families, the Daisy Club has raised more than \$100,000 for a variety of projects, with both the School and the ABPA suggesting areas requiring funding.

There are many ways that all parents and friends of the School can become involved. The Daisy Club purchases cattle, which are then run on boarders' farms. The proceeds from the sale of these cattle return to the Daisy Club. Proceeds from grain and sheep sales can also be donated.

I HAVE A FARM

Host cattle or sheep on your property

The Daisy Club pays for the purchase of the animal and the proceeds of the eventual sale of the animal are returned to the Daisy Club. In real terms, the boarder parents are donating the agistment of the animal.

The stock are:

- identified by way of special ear tag
- managed by the host in the normal course of their business
- sold by the host in their normal selling manner

I DON'T HAVE A FARM

Build a fridge herd

Introducing an exciting new range of bull, cow and calf magnets. Build a herd on your fridge and add to it on an annual basis. A great option for people who would like to support the Daisy Club, but cannot manage a cow in their backyard.

If you have ever yearned to own a cow, this is your opportunity.



CALF

\$50



COW

\$100



BULL

\$200

Visit www.trybooking.com/290831 to purchase these items.

DAISY DOUBLE UP

This allows day or non-farming boarder families to share ownership of a calf with an Abbotsleigh boarding family. A family contributes \$500 directly to the Daisy Club and this amount covers half the initial cost of the calf. Then, a boarding family will manage and raise the calf until it is ready to be sold.

The supporter family receives two ear tags with the Daisy Club logo that could be used as key rings, bag tags etc. A third tag is sent to the agisting boarder family to identify the calf. The boarder family will send the supporter family photos and updates of their shared calf. When the calf is sold as a weaner, the proceeds return to the Daisy Club. What a great way for city and rural families to interact.

OTHER DAISY CLUB MERCHANDISE



Show your support on the sporting sidelines with a stylish Daisy Club cap.



Sick of those stick families? Purchase Daisy Club stickers and grow a herd of cattle on your car instead!

Purchase Daisy Club merchandise through Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/290831

Thank you for your interest in this important fundraising project supporting your daughter's school. For further information, please contact John and Selena Sylvester at selena@sylvestercattleco.com.au or on 0427 468 125.



ABBOTSLEIGH
FOUNDATION

Abbotsleigh Commemorative Pavers

Celebrate Your Years at Abbotsleigh.

In recognition of a taxable donation of \$500 or more to the Abbotsleigh Foundation, you can receive a commemorative paver in your name.

Our pavers are located just outside the Marian Clarke Building where current students and guests stroll by them on a daily basis.

If you would like to take up this opportunity, please contact Sasha Carrel at foundation@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or phone 9473 7738.



Year 12 2019 Garden Party



Thank you to our donors of 2019

Warm thanks to all who supported the Foundation's work in 2019. Thank you also to those who have chosen to remember Abbotsleigh in their wills and to those who gave but asked to remain anonymous.

Donors and Event Participants

Dr S and Mrs F Abel
Mr Q Adam
Mr D and Mrs K Adams
Mr R and Mrs S Adams
Mr P Allott
Dr M and Mrs A Allworth
Dr J and Mrs T Antoon
Mr R Appaswamy and Mrs N Jayaraman
Dr G Archbold
Dr C and Mrs M Ashley
Mrs D Austin
Drs E and Y Au-Yeung
Mr D and Mrs A Bailey
Mrs P Baird
Mr T Baker
Mr G Baker and Ms K Taylor
Mr D and Mrs S Balog
Ms B Barnett
Mr S and Mrs M Barnett
Mr P and Mrs S Batta
Mr B and Mrs V Batuwitage
Mr G and Dr K Bhola
Mrs J Bilger
Ms M Bisley
Mr A and Mrs A Black
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Dr J and Dr E Blair
Mrs R Bleach
Ms A Bliss
Mr A Boden and Ms H Ho
Mr B and Mrs K Boehme
Mr S and Mrs J Bonny
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Mr L and Mrs N Bradshaw
Mr P and Mrs S Breden
Justice P and Mrs S Brereton
Mr J and Mrs M Brice
Dr K Brown
Rev A and Mrs S Brown
Mr P and Mrs J Brown
Mr M and Mrs J Callagher
Mr A and Mrs N Cameron
Mrs E and Mr N Cannon
Mr B Cao and Ms X Jiang
Mr E and Mrs H Carless
Dr K Carter
Dr M and Dr L Cejnar
Mr G and Mrs L Chaffey
Dr A and Mrs L Chai
Mr P Chakrabarti and Ms J Ball
Mr K and Mrs K Chamberlain
Mr M and Mrs M Chan
Mr Y and Mrs V Chang
Mr F Chang and Dr K Tran
Mr V Chang and Mrs C Peng
Mr R and Mrs V Charteris
Mr C Chavdarov and Mrs S Chen
Mr D Chen and Ms S Wang
Mr L Chen and Ms J Luo
Mr S Chen and Ms S Yeung
Mr Y Chen and Ms W Wei
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Mr A Cheung and Ms K Mak
Mr K Cheung and Ms H Lam
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Mr T Chung and Ms E Tang
Mr D and Mrs R Clare
Mr J and Mrs M Clark
Mr M Coffey and Mrs B Au-Yeung
Mrs J Coggins
Mrs M Collins
Miss J Combe
Mr C and Mrs S Condoleon
Ms S Cone
Mr S and Mrs K Conn
Mrs D Cooke
Mr B and Mrs B Cooper
Mr D and Mrs A Copeland
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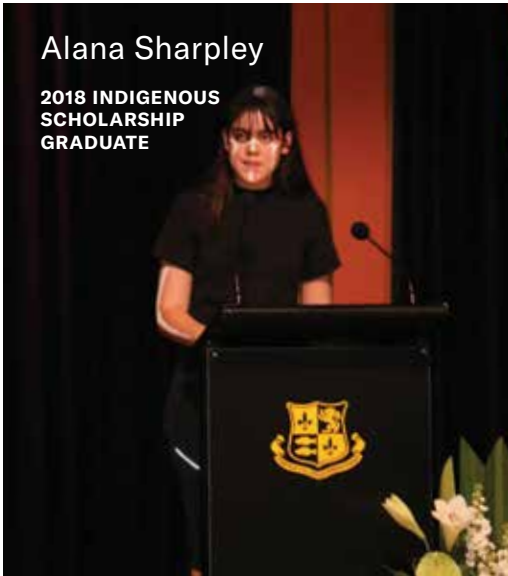
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Indigenous Scholarships

“Abbotsleigh gave me so many opportunities which have opened many more doors than school at home could have done for me.

My elders are proud, as I’m the first person in my family to graduate from school. I am truly grateful, especially to individuals who donated to make these scholarships possible.”



State of the Art Facilities

The Sports Precinct, Betty Archdale Library, STEM Street, the Infants Wing and Boarding Houses, are some of the projects made possible by the generosity of previous and current generations.

With your help, we can continue to offer facilities that give our girls the best learning environments.



Scholarships

Each year the Foundation supports means-tested scholarships for students. These scholarships give an opportunity to girls who, without this scholarship, would not be able to attend Abbotsleigh.



Every Abbotsleigh girl, past and present, has benefited from the generosity of parents, Old Girls and staff.

Without the generous donations from our Abbotsleigh community, we would not be able to fund our important Indigenous Scholarships, Foundation Scholarships and prizes, or improve our facilities.

In 2018, our generous community donated approximately \$700,000 to the Abbotsleigh Foundation for school programs, scholarships and facilities. With your help, this year we aim to raise \$800,000.

Foundation Scholarships

“I was able to push myself more academically than I ever thought I could, which is why I am so glad to have received my scholarship; my education enriched my life.

I am studying a Bachelor of Laws and Social Science and one day plan to work with NGOs in policy advice or advocacy.”

2019 Goal
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- ☐ **Abbotsleigh Foundation Scholarships:** To support two new means-tested scholarships for students entering Year 10, to cover 50% tuition for remainder of schooling

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