



ABBOTSLEIGH

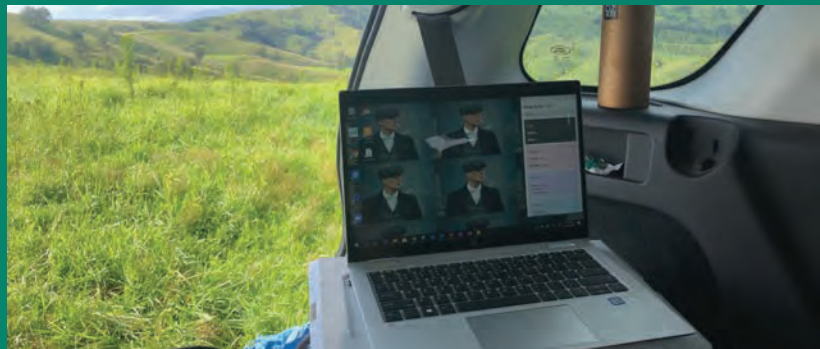
Around Abbotsleigh



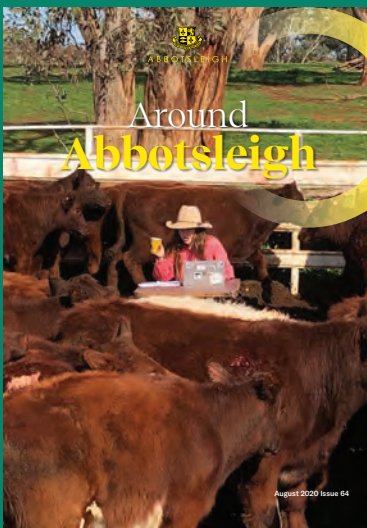
August 2020 Issue 64

Contents

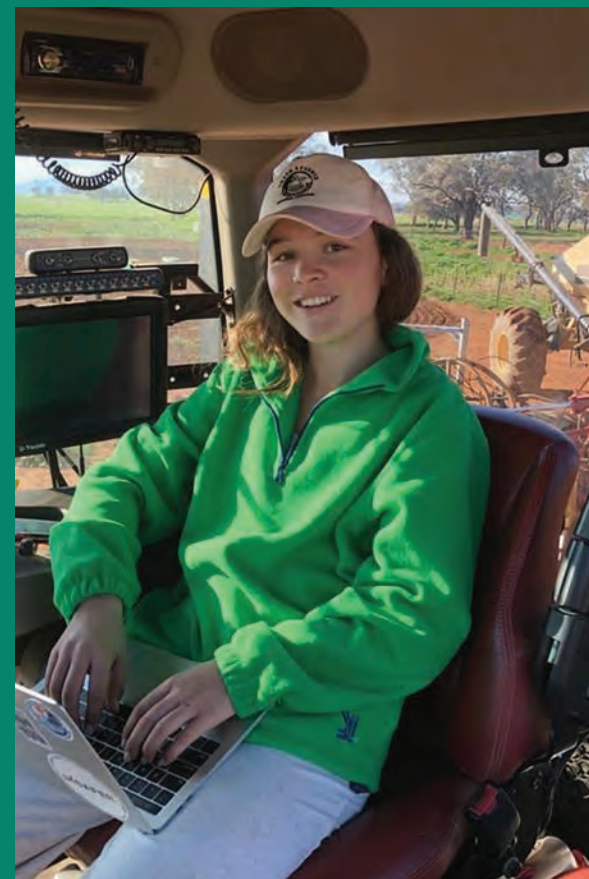
- 3 From the Headmistress
- 4 From the Chair of Council
- 5 Follow Abbotsleigh's journey through COVID-19
- 50 From the President of the APA
- 52 Changes to the Enrolment Policy affecting daughters of Abbotsleigh Old Girls
- 53 Supporting academic excellence
- 54 The 20th FAbbS reunion dinner
- 55 From the President of the AOGU
- 57 Old Girls
- 82 Foundation impact report



Charlotte Vincent (Year 10) from Narromine and her brother, and Adelaide Sylvester (Year 12) from Bowmans Creek had to head outdoors to find the best reception to get through their school day.



Skye Weston (Year 10) from Eurimbla had a bit of fun coming up with creative ways to work during AOCL.



Around Abbotsleigh is a publication for the Abbotsleigh school community.

Copyright is retained by Abbotsleigh. This material must not be reproduced without consent.



I can only imagine ...

Let's Celebrate: Our Stories, Our Spirit, Our Strength

'I wonder what 2020 will bring? I can't wait'... were the words which formed the conclusion of my 2019 Speech Day address. I must confess that since then, the warning, 'Be careful what you wish for' has come to mind on several occasions; the thought, 'We must be living in a dystopia' has also emerged.

Like every year at Abbotsleigh, the year began with much excitement and fanfare. It was all the more so this year as it is our 135th birthday year and we were, and still are, going to 'celebrate'! To words of the famous song, Celebration, the prefects launched their apt theme: 'Let's Celebrate: Our Stories, Our Spirit, Our Strength', and our girls looked forward to another great year ahead at Abbotsleigh with their characteristic enthusiasm and verve.

To date, 2020 has certainly been another great year; but it has also been an incredibly different year. Yet, in true Abbotsleigh style, the stories of our girls and our staff, their spirit and their strength as they rose to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our 'new normal' have been quite phenomenal.

At the beginning of Term 1, there were a few hints of what we might be facing, but they were only hints. Then, in what seemed like 'in a blink of an eye' we suddenly faced a fully blown pandemic the likes of which had not been seen since the Spanish Flu of 100 years ago. Australia was 'at war', but this was a war against a virus – an unseen enemy that was insidious and particularly difficult to deal with.

In the face of this crisis, Abbotsleigh girls and staff were galvanised into action; AOCL (Abbotsleigh Off Campus Learning) and AOCE (Abbotsleigh Off Campus Enrichment) were born, and in a few short weeks,

teachers revolutionised the way in which they taught and girls revolutionised the way in which they learned.

As you will read in this edition of *Around Abbotsleigh*, our 21st century girls' experiences were very different to those of their predecessors who lived through the Spanish Flu 100 years ago. Although day girls back then were mostly taught off campus, there was no such thing as online learning at home for them! Instead, they relied on 'snail mail' and a few short classes delivered by teachers in the St Paul's Anglican Church hall. Boarders (house girls) were not allowed to go home or mix with the day girls. They were taught at school, played a significant amount of tennis and enjoyed Saturday night parties put on by the staff! It was a very different world.

Despite the differences though, the spirit and strength of our Abbotsleigh girls and staff are almost interchangeable. Our 2020 girls' enthusiasm, positivity, courage and determination to learn and do their best, a glimpse of which is captured in this journal, is nothing short of inspirational. Equally as inspirational is seeing the way in which our teachers worked so hard to provide rich and deep quality learning experiences for the girls online. Indeed, the positive manner in which our whole Abbotsleigh community approached all the changes and challenges has been simply sensational.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Around Abbotsleigh* as much as I have.

Abbotsleigh girls and staff are amazing.

Megan Krimmer
Headmistress



Building a better future

Abbotsleigh is a leader in girls' education, where both learners and educators thrive. Our girls are unafraid to be awesome

At Abbotsleigh we empower our girls to serve and inspire the community and to become strong global citizens and courageous, socially responsible leaders. We are inspired by hope and we respect, explore and experience the beauty and wonder of the Christian faith. The greatest professionalism exists throughout the School, always aimed at building a better future.

As an Abbotsleigh community, it gives me great joy to know that there is enhanced compassion, where we lift each other up, by doing what is right and not what is easy. There is an enormous amount of respect amongst our community because we value everyone for who they are and what they do. And when our community is faced with trials and tribulations, we get up, even when we feel like giving up.

I am so honoured to see and hear that even though our Abbotsleigh community has been so adversely affected by a series of challenges, disappointments and even anguish through the year from the drought, the bushfires and COVID-19, we have stood together, prayed together and encouraged one another. It has not been easy, nor are the challenges behind us; however, with hope and faith within our community, Abbotsleigh will continue to grow, continue to thrive and continue to build a future for our girls to do amazing things today and tomorrow.

This is what makes the wonderful community we call Abbotsleigh. Thank you for your commitment to our school.

Paul Fontanot
Chair of Abbotsleigh Council



Bubble photo competition

On Thursday 12 March, when uncertainty prevailed, CRU hosted a bubble photo competition at lunchtime

Polly Butterworth, Assistant Chaplain

Everyone was feeling a little down that we weren't on camp, so the Chaplains decided to have some fun and spread some joy. The CRU leaders went around the Senior School campus handing out bubble wands and the grounds soon filled with glorious bubbles. The winning photographers received a packet of individually wrapped Freddo Frogs to share with all those who helped with their photos. There were about 60 photo submissions all up, but most of the girls were content to just have fun with the bubbles.



Extraordinary times

The saying that ‘every day’s a school day’ was never truer than when facing the prospect of bringing the Junior School – staff and students – into off campus learning with only a few weeks to prepare

Sally Ruston, Head of Junior School



The maelstrom of emotions that we have experienced as COVID-19 has taken hold have been exhilarating, overwhelming, challenging and ongoing. There have been days when I have wanted to get off this roller coaster ride, as I don’t like the direction we are heading. Yet there is no station in sight and so, with the grit and determination we expect of the girls, it has been a matter of holding on tight to the joy and hope that always comes with new learning and experiences.

The virus has demanded enormous agility and preparedness to work and learn differently. We started the year with no experience in online learning management systems and off campus learning. Yet here we are with our teachers engaging with our girls through Storypark, Seesaw or Canvas* and running multiple Zoom sessions each day. Just on 7,000 posts were made by teachers and girls in Seesaw alone in the first week of off campus learning.

As teachers, we found hardship in relinquishing our great competence in classroom practice to enable new learning to occur in online worlds. Being incompetent is a challenging place to inhabit. Yet equally, we know that great learning and new skills will not be acquired unless we get down and dirty in the learning pit and accept that first attempts will not satisfy. Persistence and refinement are required before success is ultimately achieved. We know this to be true for our girls, but it does feel strange and uncomfortable when we as the experienced educators find ourselves in the same state.

The girls have been remarkably adaptable and stoic in their resolve. As Term 1 progressed, more and more of the things the girls love failed to eventuate as more and more social distancing and hygiene protocols became a reality. The Cross Country Carnival was cancelled, so too was sport and all cocurricular activity including the Junior School Production cast announcement. Excursions were an early casualty and then incursions

were also cancelled. Finally, the much-awaited Literary Festival became impossible to mount. Yet the girls bore each of these changes with resolve and found the joy in scooting, skipping and accessing new worlds through books online.

While not underestimating the long-term impact of this virus on so many aspects of our lives, this disruption has also created room and opportunity for so many positive outcomes. Sometimes we must lose something before we recognise its true value. From the importance of engaging with friends in real time, to the freedom to actively participate in sport, dance, drama and music, we have come to understand just how fortunate we are to have these things in our lives in such abundance. While there is a hiatus for now, we are ever hopeful in the knowledge that all these things will return. What a time for gratitude and appreciation for the largess we so typically enjoy!

As the goal posts around what is considered normal have changed continuously this year, we have become more accepting of mistakes, retakes, second attempts and in recognising what we can’t change. We have encouraged each other when flummoxed and confused. We have been kind and reached out to hold each other up. In the end, it will be our optimism, resilience and compassion that will shine through. And won’t we be the better people, schooling community, country and world because of this?

*Storypark, Seesaw and Canvas are digital programs that enable online learning to be organised into lessons, tasks and assignments. Teachers are able to organise and deliver learning remotely, given each student has their own digital device. Lessons can include instructional videos, Youtube explanatory clips, pinboard discussions, quizzes and uploaded documents. Marking and feedback to the students is also provided online. Storypark is the platform used with our youngest learners in Transition, Seesaw is suitable for girls from Kindergarten to Year 4 with Canvas being used with girls from Year 5 onwards.

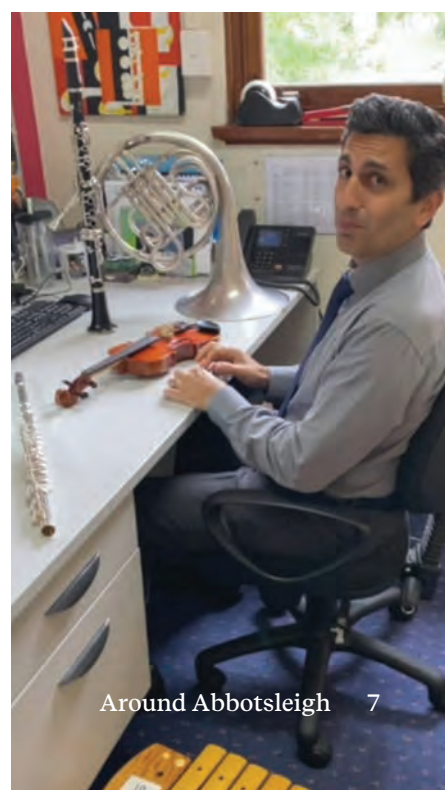
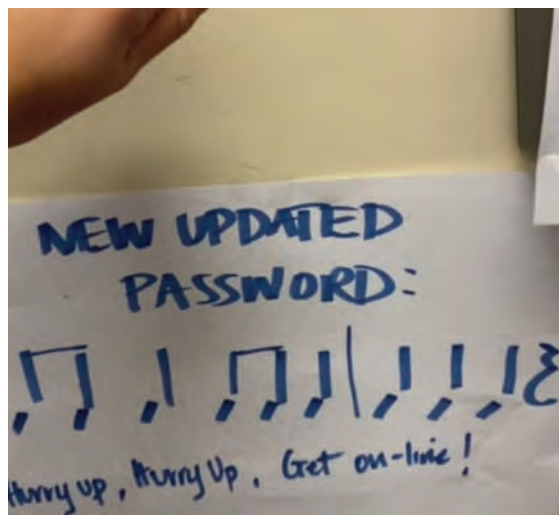
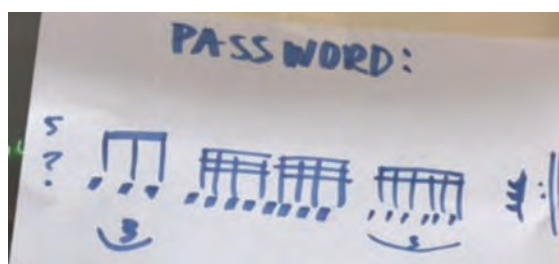
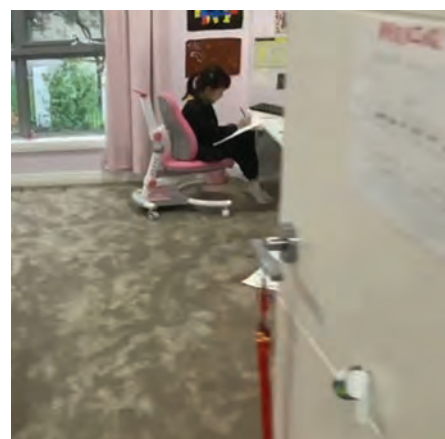
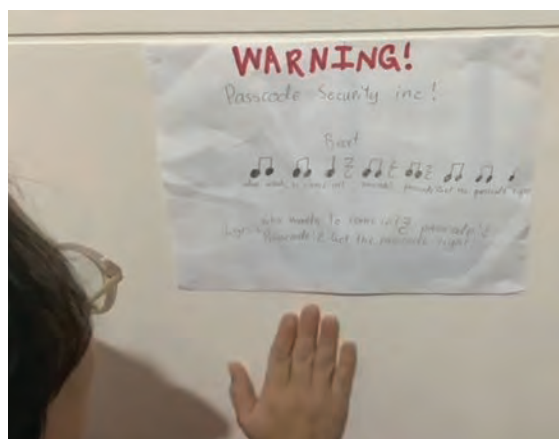
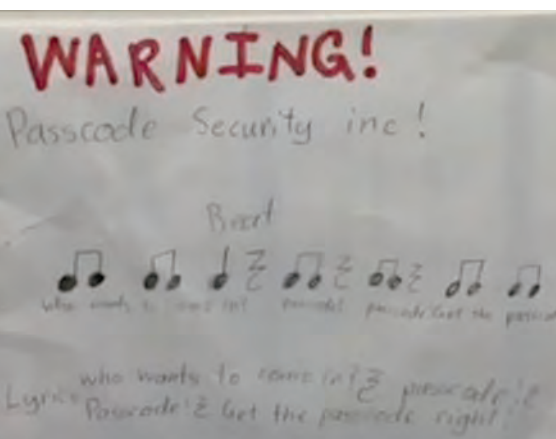
Beat it

In order to keep in time with the Music curriculum, the girls in the Junior School were encouraged to knock on wood

Stephan Kooper, Head of Junior School Music

During AOCL, the Junior School Music Department wanted to ensure that their young musicians remained connected with skills relative to rhythm. They tasked the girls with creating rhythmic passcodes. The girls had to compose, notate and post these rhythms to their bedroom doors. The intention was for family members to knock the rhythm if they wanted to enter the room.

The girls watched [this video](#) that Ms Napier and Mr Kooper created and used this as a template for their own creations. From the many wonderful submissions received, we particularly loved [this video](#) by the fabulous Heidi and her mum.



Conquering the digital learning curve

It helps to be prepared when the unexpected hits

Jeanine Kobylinski, Jon Adams, Jon Dunk and David Knott, Abbotsleigh Digital Learning Innovators

What was it like teaching in the midst of a pandemic? While parents juggled work and helping their children learn remotely, educators across the country were tasked with transferring classrooms to digital platforms in a matter of days, all the time balancing this with their personal responsibilities. Even now, the educational landscape continues to change daily. So, just what has it been like for the educators at Abbotsleigh?

Thursday 19 March 2020 seems like a lifetime ago, but it was on this day that Abbotsleigh held a trial Off Campus Learning initiative. On that day, the entire Year 9 cohort rolled out of bed, turned on their computers, joined their Zoom class sessions via Canvas* and started us on our journey. This incredible undertaking by the School brought together the hard work and dedication of the entire Abbotsleigh community. Traditional teaching and learning practices were instantly challenged and it was amazing to observe the flexibility and adaptability of teachers and students.

From that day, the rapidly changing situation forced the Australian Government and school leadership to make drastic changes to protect the health and wellbeing of students and staff. We were hoping to hold a second trial day, this time with two year groups, but we were not able to do so. Our country moved quickly into lockdown and with just one trial day, we moved to Abbotsleigh Off Campus Learning (AOCL). The girls were sent home for two unexpected

days of rest and the teachers moved at whirlwind pace and with incredible professionalism and perseverance to change the way they delivered learning. Although there were bumps along the way, the extraordinary thought and effort that went into every lesson shone through. Behind the scenes, technicians and engineers worked tirelessly to support staff and students.

While this all sounds like COVID-19 caught us off guard, the Abbotsleigh staff and students had unknowingly been preparing for their AOCL journey for several years. As part of the School's Strategic Plan we have spent the last four years migrating to cloud-based IT services such as storage solutions in the form of Microsoft OneDrive and leveraging digital collaboration tools in the classroom using Office 365 and the Adobe Creative Cloud. This is not to say that navigating AOCL was not challenging and at times a very stressful endeavour for the whole community, but the foresight in place made the journey smoother for Abbotsleigh as we travelled a familiar road through uncertain times.

In fact, a team of teachers from both campuses had spent 2019 exploring a new learning management system for K-12. A few years earlier, StoryPark was implemented in the Early Learning Centre, an ePortfolio that documents children's learning from birth to school. The success of this digital platform led our processes and we decided upon Canvas for our older girls and SeeSaw for our younger learners. We were exploring

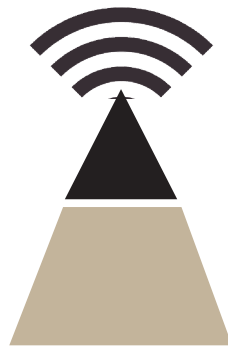
and implementing these platforms when the pandemic hit. Very quickly and following multiple professional learning sessions, blended learning hit full swing.

During the first two weeks of AOCL leading up to Easter, we uploaded 73,687 lessons onto Seesaw, 773,969 page views in Canvas and held 6,005 Zoom meetings. This number continued to grow as the state went into further lockdown.

Acknowledging the range of teaching practices being used across classes, sharing and modelling our work became paramount. Classroom teachers shared the stage with Digital Learning Innovators as everyone collaborated on best practice and resources. As we continued to support and work together to help our teachers, our girls and our School community, this sentiment was echoed across various social media groups: we were all collaborating and supporting one another around the globe – 'Teachers everywhere, make sure you take a whiteboard home! It is the most important teaching tool you will need.'

Some of the challenges included educating 1,500 girls on the nuances of video conferencing etiquette and its inherent differences to communicating via social media, and educating our teaching staff on the intricacies of classroom management via Zoom. This required new approaches such as retraining the AbbSchool staff to evolve from sports coaches and after school activity co-ordinators to online learning

AOCLin action.



SEESAW K to Year 4	39,985 Posts	
	32,332 Feedback comments	
	20,686 Likes	



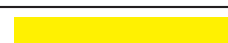
	1,476 Assignments	CANVAS Years 5-6
	573 Discussions	
	6,020 Media file uploads	



CANVAS Years 7-12	3,400 Assignments	
	1,785 Discussions	
	31,939 Media file uploads	



	37,166 Meetings	ZOOM
	8,197,771 Meeting minutes	
	293,421 Participants	





facilitators. Then we had to get one-on-one devices into the hands of girls from Transition to Year 4 in the space of a few days. The girls in these classes generally use digital technology through school-based devices, so it was an exciting day when all Years 3 and 4 students came to collect their very own laptop to take home.

As we return to on campus learning (ROCL) we are very aware that the entire school community has grown in digital literacy. Now we are faced with a new challenge: how to we continue to leverage digital in meaningful and authentic ways.

So what have we learned?

- Young people easily adapt to new situations. When engaging with our Senior School girls, we continually asked our students how they were coping with remote learning. They often responded that they were doing fine with it.
- Technology is now everyone's friend. We ALL made new friends through Zoom, Canvas, Seesaw and Office 365.
- The Abbotsleigh community has displayed numerous learning dispositions but especially persistence, empathy and innovation.
- AOCL has allowed the Digital Innovation team to deepen the dive in into leveraging digital. Quickly.

And finally, it's been inspiring!

*Canvas is a Learning Management Platform that allows schools to build a digital learning environment.

Year 12 photo with a difference

The thought of not being able to officially document Year 12 2020 as a group led Rosie Fordham, Debating and Public Speaking Prefect 2019/20, to think outside the box and onto the oval

I was sitting in prep when we got news that we wouldn't be back at school for at least the rest of the term. After realising we had not yet taken a Year 12 photo, and not knowing when we would return, I decided to suggest that we should take one during tutor time. One of the girls reminded me that many of the girls (especially boarders) were at home, already doing school via Zoom, so to keep them involved, I thought why not set up a Zoom and take a photo of them on the screen. Mrs Kerr sent out the link and during tutor we all headed out to the oval to take our 'social distancing photo'. Most of the girls at



home managed to join in and take part in our very unconventional Year 12 photo. It was a really nice way to get everyone together for a photo, just in case we never get to take one, and allowed us to bond as a year group during these weird times.

Transition finds new ways to belong

In Transition, we provide a very practical, play-based learning program to stimulate our students' thinking. When we were faced with the challenge of how to deliver this remotely, we really had to think outside the square

Rachel Mitchell and Jackie Buckingham-Shum, Transition Teachers

Our brief was to provide an engaging, enquiry based curriculum for 4-5-year-olds, who could not read or write, did not have their own device and needed substantial practical support. The girls were therefore heavily reliant on parent assistance, which was difficult for those families trying to work from home and/or supervise other siblings.

Our solution was to capitalise on the girls' visual and aural skills by using video to deliver both explicit instruction and provocation through images and music. Every day we sent a series of engaging videos on Storypark – a platform that allowed us to post, and the parents to post back. We demonstrated on the videos how to use the resources that we had sent home, as well as to use everyday items that the children could easily find in their homes.

In our presentations we filmed using a green screen, and used props and costumes to set an interesting scene each day, while adding energy to the program. This had the added bonus of entertaining many of the parents!

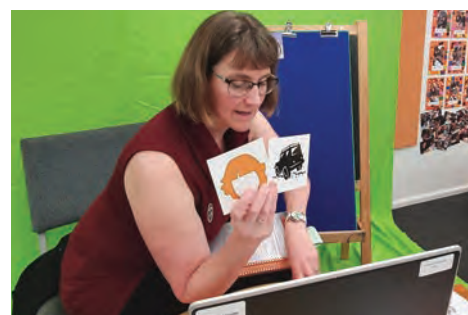
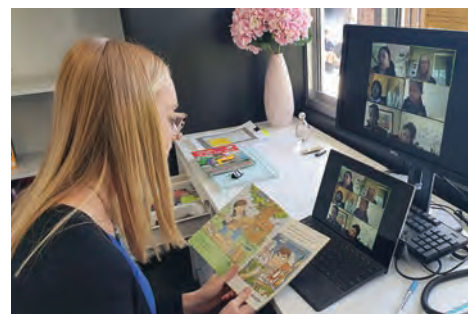
The parents would, in turn, take photos and videos of their child's work, and post them on the daily schedule. Here the girls were also able to see what their classmates had been doing, leading to a sharing of ideas. Using the platform in this way enabled us to continue a real sense of belonging to the class. Together with three daily Zoom sessions for stories, games and chatting, plus Friday afternoon popcorn parties, we were created a wonderful and unique sense of connection during this time of isolation.



Keeping literacy alive online

What a challenge the Transition to Year 2 team faced when tasked with providing access to rich literature online

Peita van Bussel, Transition to Year 2 Coordinator



To read is to fly: It is to soar to a point of vantage which gives a view over wide terrains of history, human variety, ideas, shared experience and the fruits of many enquiries – AC Grayling



A major part of the program in the early years of school is teaching our girls to read and helping them connect to books that inspire creativity and spark further enquiry. How were we going to foster this love of literature and the mechanics of learning to read without being face to face with the girls, pawing over books together?

Moments for quiet reflection, shared reading, or fact finding are always built into lessons and down time to allow the girls time to immerse themselves in literature.

To ensure that the girls had access to quality picture books rich with beautiful language, each teacher across K-2 took a selection of books to read to the girls. Some books were read live via Zoom and others pre-recorded so that the girls could revisit them time and again. As the girls returned to campus, these books were available in the classrooms for the girls to read with each other.

When we came across the bilingual text *China's Great Wall, Miss Ming*, our Mandarin Teacher, enthusiastically took up the challenge, providing the Mandarin translation to our English recording.

The girls were very appreciative of the Library team offering 'click and collect' to enable them to borrow books while off campus, allowing the girls to continue to access books to read themselves and books to enjoy as a family.

When the girls leave T-2, they are confident, capable readers. Off campus learning was not going to hold back the opportunity to continue with the explicit teaching of reading.

We know that foundational reading skills do not begin with letter names. Long before the girls learn to say the alphabet, they are exploring words through rhyme and nonsense words. The Transition team implemented small group Zoom sessions to share a story daily and explicitly taught language awareness through the Pre-Lit Program.

Sight word flash cards, the phonics program THRASS and MiniLit were delivered through small group and individual Zoom sessions to ensure that girls in K-2 continued to develop foundational phonics skills – the mechanics of reading.

Of course, being able to read is so much more than knowing how to say the words. Understanding and discussing texts leads to further learning. These deep conversations were led by our class teachers and literacy specialist team during reading groups. All girls were given copies of the books as part of their take-home resource packs so that they could read and reread these books together during the Zoom sessions and in the days that followed to build fluency.

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. – Dr Seuss

A new way of learning, creating and innovating

Year 2's experience of Abbotsleigh Off Campus Learning (AOCL) was 'fun, enjoyable, challenging, amazing, lonely, fantastic, annoying, experimental, tricky and exciting'

Nikki Di Bernardo, Year 2 Teacher

We have embarked on a huge journey which will change many schools forever. Teachers were forced to pack up, leave the classroom and forget what they knew about teaching 'traditionally' and entered a unique way of educating. Abbotsleigh teachers took on this challenge and experimented in new ways of delivering content to the girls in their classes. Collaboration, problem solving, patience, resilience and a lot of trial and error was a big part of this process.

Teachers shared their knowledge and worked tirelessly to cater for the girls' needs at home. The confidence,

flexibility, initiative, new skills, persistence and passion from the girls was remarkable. The support and patience from parents as teachers and school staff enthusiastically explored this unknown territory was evident and very much appreciated.

Our girls were brave and will leave this experience feeling inventive, curious, daring and creative. As they too, had to 'forget' what they knew about school... and achieve what many people thought not possible. Their new skills and confidence in using technology will help them grow and continue to strive on their path of learning forever.

Here are just some examples of what the girls achieved:

WRITING

Look at the examples and video from Miss Di Bernardo. Look carefully at the colour coding in the explanation. Now it's your turn to colour code an explanation. Don't forget the key!

Please show your key by highlighting to colour code the structure. You will need:

- title
- introduction
- description
- conclusion

Police Officer and Firefighters

Police officers are similar to firefighters because they both help to protect people in our community.

Police officers are like firefighters because they both deal with many different types of emergencies. They both use specialist forms of transport, such as helicopters and road vehicles.


Police officers are like firefighters because they both work in many different places. Firefighters work where buildings are in danger of being destroyed by fire, or where a person or animal may be trapped. They also can work at the fire station.

Police officers need to work wherever there is danger. This can be inside or outside, in the city or in the country.

Both occupations are crucial to help protect people in our community.

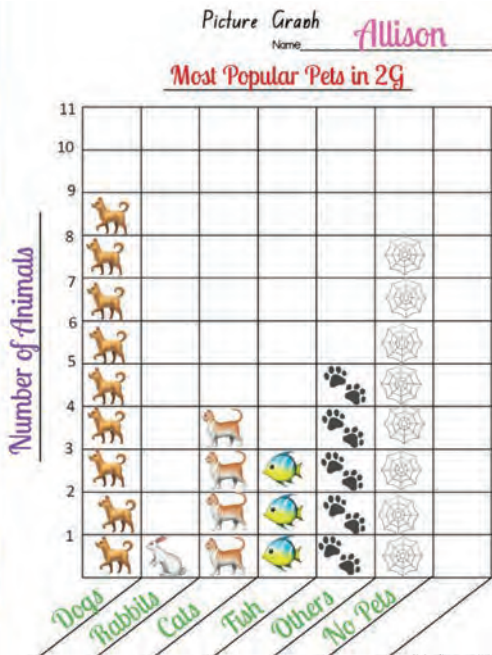
Key:

- TITLE
- INTRODUCTION
- DESCRIPTION
- CONCLUSION



NATURE ART

Go into your garden or a park and collect some natural treasures – things like leaves, sticks, petals, stones and so on. Use your treasures to create a piece of art – it could be flat like a picture or more like a sculpture – you can choose.



Dog was most popular.
Rabbit was least popular.
Students have 9 dogs.
I think other is the most interesting animal because it can be a rare pet.

MATHS: PICTURE GRAPHS

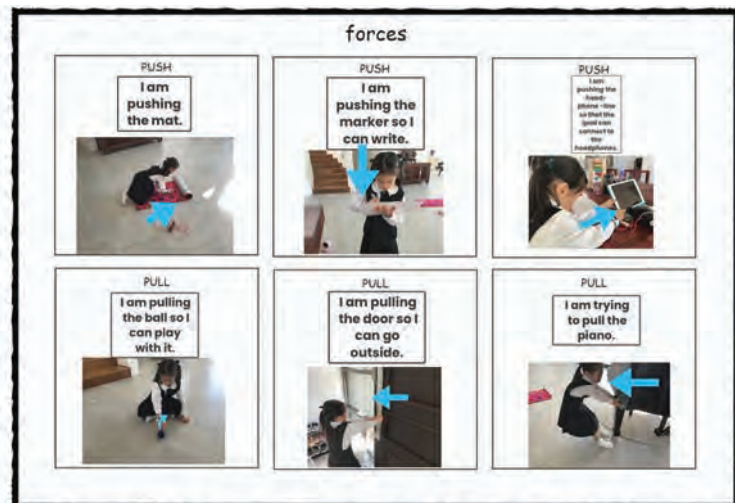
Listen to the video from Mrs Robertson to learn about picture graphs. Use either the template or your mathematics book to create a picture graph from the data we collected on pets in Year 2.

Tips: Don't forget to label your graph with a title, the type of pet and numbers. Remember to add a key if you need to say how many each pet represents. Extension: Which pet was most popular? Which was least popular? How many dogs did students have? What is the most interesting animal people have? Why do you think that?

SCIENCE

Push and pull forces are used every day, all around us. Think about building sites, factories, shops, airports...

1. Research ways in which push and pull forces are used.
2. Collect three pictures of push and three pictures of pull from the internet or books. Look at Mrs Burnett's example.
3. Make a collage or add the photos to Mrs Burnett's template.



MORNING CHECK IN ON SEESAW

MORNING
Check in



NAME

Jesinta Nipatcharoen

DATE

8th of May

HOW I FEEL TODAY...

I feel excited today.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

I am grateful for being able to eat food everyday.

I AM EXCITED TO LEARN ABOUT...

I am excited to learn more things about 3D shapes in maths.

FRENCH

Bonjour les filles!

Can you remember how to say that you 'have' something? Today we are going to revise that using our pencil case items. Meet Shelby. She is going to show you what she has in her pencil case. Follow these steps carefully! Watch the video carefully to see and hear some examples of each sentence.

Fill in the gaps to complete each sentence. Follow the pattern of the first example.

In my pencil case I have

...

Je m'appelle: **Hannah** La date: **11 May**

Dans ma trousse j'ai...

L/O: To be able to say what you have in your pencil case.

	Dans ma trousse j'ai un stylo.
	Dans ma trousse j'ai un taille-crayon.
	ma trousse j'ai une règle.
	Dans ma trousse j'ai une gomme.
	Dans ma trousse j'ai des ciseaux.
	Dans ma trousse j'ai des crayons de couleur.
	Dans ma trousse j'ai un baton de colle.
	Dans ma trousse j'ai des feutres.
	Dans ma trousse j'ai un crayon.

Vocabulaire

des feutres

un baton de colle

un crayon





Like ducks to water

BECKY QIU, YEAR 5, GIVES US A STUDENT'S VIEW OF LEARNING FROM HOME

It's hard to believe that in a few years' time, an older and much wiser version of me will be sitting at this very table and looking back at right now as a fond memory. However, that's probably exactly what I'll do, and when I read this very article, I'll smile. The coronavirus is very serious, as you know, and schools are closing down temporarily for fear the virus will spread. But we couldn't let children get away with skipping school, could we? So, a method of learning online was created and developed, and this is the story of online learning from my perspective.

Thursday, 26 March (first day of online learning)

'What if online learning goes wrong?' was my first worry of many. I was anxious because online learning seemed less straightforward than normal classroom learning, with not a lot of wriggle room.

Yesterday, I had set up a space in my bedroom, but now I wasn't sure if I was missing something or not. It was nerve-wracking! Soon it would be 8.30 am, and Ms Hunt still hadn't sent an invitation for Zoom. I went outside to the kitchen to ask someone whether there had been a technical error, and then I realised that the Zoom lesson was actually at 10 am! I would glance at the time every so often and sigh as the time seemed to be frozen, unmoving. Finally, a notification popped up on the right-hand corner of my screen, announcing that Outlook had



new messages. My Zoom session! I immediately clicked on the Outlook icon and impatiently tapped my foot as the message loaded. I launched Zoom, but there was a technical issue that I didn't foresee: I couldn't hear anyone! I tried a few things and FINALLY I could hear my classmates. The session mostly covered how online learning would work, (pew, what a relief) and we had some normal conversations. The class got off topic and started talking about jokes. Ms Hunt told us to bring our best knock-knock jokes to our closing Zoom on Friday, and that statement aroused a flood of questions. Our class schedule was explained and we were sent on our way.

I was nervous but who wouldn't be? Then I remembered Ms Hunt's instructions and my determination returned.



NICOLE HUNT, YEAR 5 TEACHER, GIVES US A GLIMPSE INTO WHAT IT WAS LIKE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ZOOM SESSIONS

Like many of the students in my class, there was some anxiety and worry as a teacher about how this would go. Watching the students come one by one to collect their things from their desks was bizarre and evoked a strange sense of loss. So much of the joy of being a teacher is the conversations, joint learning and interactions with the class throughout the day. How would that look online?

That very first Zoom session that Becky mentioned was the highlight of my week – seeing the girls in their homes, working spaces neat and organised, ready and eager to learn. The usual routine task of marking the roll suddenly became exciting and fun. Flashes of smiles swept across the screen. Pets running in and out, no doubt providing comfort and delight to their owners and younger siblings in the background taking a sneak peek into life in Year 5.

The girls were set and ready. They took to online learning like ducks to water, completing their tasks, engaging in discussions and collaborating with each other much like in the classroom. The independence that we strongly encourage at Abbotsleigh was shining through.

So what did it look like from my perspective? It looked like a steady flow of incoming emails with questions from students seeking advice, poems of gratitude flooding my inbox for specialist teachers, joke telling sessions, shared reading, Zoom student conferences with parents and funny fashion shows. We even did a cooking class where we made pizza together for our families on a Friday afternoon. What they managed from their homes was outstanding. I will forever be in awe of what the girls were able to achieve during this time of great change.

A little voice in my head that sounded eerily like Ms Hunt was telling me what to do, and my brain was put on autopilot. Relief washed over me. Eventually I got used to the flow, and it seemed a bit more natural. My uneasiness was chipping away by the second, but confidence wasn't replacing it just yet. I still hadn't 100% got the hang of it, but I was at least halfway there.

So, there you see a peek of what online learning was like, from the student's point of view. Eventually it did become second nature, and I was in my element. However, what was online learning like for a teacher? Let's find out...

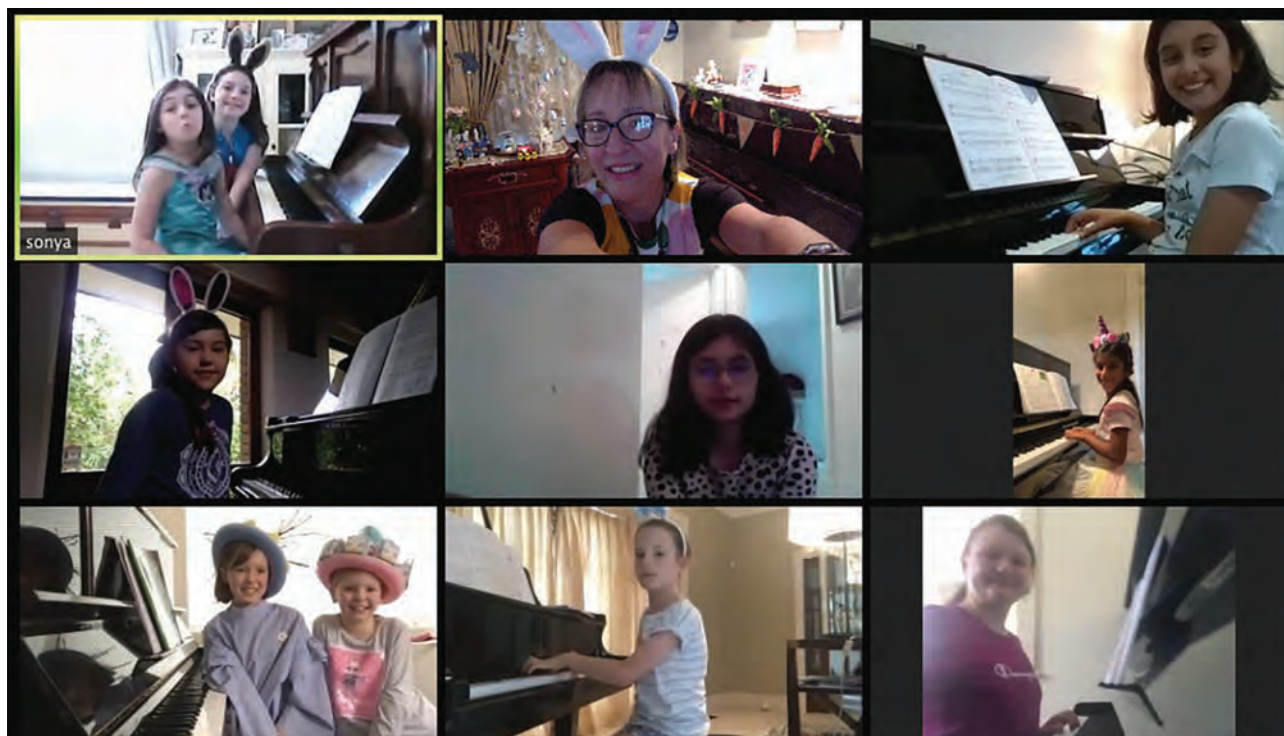


Unicorns and princesses at the piano

Preparing and presenting an Easter piano soir ee online was a new experience for all concerned and brought the joy of music into a number of family homes

Lise Rider, Junior School Piano Teacher

My Junior School piano students were quick to embrace their online Zoom lessons and it was wonderful to maintain our learning relationship while providing a framework for musical progress. These lessons gave some routine and normalcy at a time when so much was changing. The idea for an Easter Zoom soir ee, in which students would each perform one piece, presented the girls with a goal to work towards. An opportunity to dress up resulted in some fabulous Easter hats, rabbit ears, princesses and even a unicorn! There was lots of laughter and applause as each girl 'stepped up' to play to an appreciative online audience.



Abbotsleigh and the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic

Following the end of World War I, the returning troops brought home with them an unwelcome gift: the Spanish Influenza, and here we take up Abbotsleigh's story

Julie Daly, Archivist

Despite the scale of the pandemic, Abbotsleigh's doors didn't close and girls were still able to access their learning. The girls adapted to learning in different ways, mostly with lessons by post! An early – and very slow – version of our recent off campus learning.

Margaret Read (AOG 1915-1926) wrote that “during the influenza epidemic of 1919, we wore white cheesecloth masks over our noses and mouths. These were supposed to stop the inhalation of the ‘flu germs.’”

While the Spanish Influenza didn't cause us to completely close our doors, we did have lower numbers of girls in attendance for a couple of terms due to them either being sick themselves, or a member of their family, or in their own version of self-isolating.

Owing to a government proclamation on account of the influenza outbreak, the school year didn't commence until 3 March 1919, one month late. Even then, many parents kept their children home as they were fearful of their contact with infection. It wasn't until after the June holidays that the School's numbers were anything like complete. In spite of this great drawback, Abbotsleigh girls managed to get through their work, helped to some degree by those lessons by post which allowed the girls to be able to carry on during their physical absence from the school grounds.

The most effective and compelling way to show the impact of the Spanish Influenza on our Abbotsleigh girls is best told in their own words, taken verbatim from the December 1919 issue of *The Weaver*. Each form wrote their own form news, so let's enter their world:



Miss Eleanor Dredge, Abbotsleigh Teacher 1913-1919.



Junior School, 1919

Form VA (equivalent to Year 10)

Our work during the first term of the year was rather interrupted owing to the influenza epidemic. We had only been back at school for a few weeks when it became necessary for the house* and day girls to part company. School was therefore held on alternate days for house and day girls. But this system had only been in force for about a fortnight when the day girls were prevented from attending school at all, and had to be taught by correspondence – to the great envy of the house girls. The latter were just becoming reconciled to their unhappy lot when school was once more held on alternate days. However, this state of affairs had only continued for a short time, when matters returned to normal.

Form VB Lower (equivalent to Year 8)

VB Lower, like most of the other classes, suffered from influenza at the beginning of the year, and at one time there were only about half-a-dozen brave members of the class attending school.

Form IV Upper (equivalent to Year 7)

The first half of the year was so disturbed by influenza that we did not have the usual examinations at June, but had test papers set on the work that we had done by correspondence.

Form IV Lower (equivalent to Year 6)

At the beginning of the year, owing to influenza, we had school at St Paul's Hall. Miss Eleanor [Dredge] and Miss Windridge took us there on alternate mornings. We began lessons at 9.30 am and sometimes finished at 11 am.

Form III (equivalent to Year 3)

The first term of the year owing to influenza restrictions we could not attend school in the usual way, but the day girls used to go to St Paul's School Hall every afternoon for lessons. Miss Windridge

and Miss Eleanor were our mistresses... We were all very sorry to hear of the death of Minnie Benjafield, who was in our form, and of whom we were all very proud. (Minnie died from pneumonia after only 24 hours' illness).

Form II (equivalent to Year 2)

We came back to school in early March, a month later than we generally do. In April there were many more cases of influenza, and we were not allowed to have school at Abbotsleigh, so the six of us, who were attending school, went over to St Andrew's Hall. After some weeks we returned to Abbotsleigh, and many of the girls came back. Naturally we have to work very hard, having lost so much time.

The house girls had a different experience of this time, living at school and not being sent home. Here is their report:

At the beginning of the year we were for some time not allowed any intercourse with the day girls, and so we had school on alternate days, and on the day when we were not having school, we house girls did our preparation over in Wollumbin** garden, varying the work by taking it in turns to play tennis for twenty minutes. In order to prevent the girls becoming dull, Miss Murray suggested that we should have a series of Saturday night parties, and she herself gave the first. These parties became known as the 'influenza' series of parties. ... The most exciting event after Easter was the evening which the mistresses gave us. No one knew what the entertainment was to be, and so when we entered the hall and found it was to be a play, the excitement was intense. The play was a farce, entitled 'Influenza', and was the greatest possible success... Soon after we returned from the June holidays some of the girls developed influenza, and before long most girls had had it; fortunately no one was very ill, and, as the girls went down pretty quickly it was soon over. There were only about half-a-dozen girls who did not have it at school, and they



Form VB Upper, 1919



Physical exercise at Abbotsleigh's playing fields, corner of Lucinda Avenue and Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway), 1919

had nearly all had it at home. During the epidemic some of the girls became quite efficient parlour maids, helping to lay and clear the tables, as several of the maids were ill.

The sport report was a lot smaller than usual:

It seemed hardly fair at the beginning of the year to have house tennis matches, as so many of the girls who would have been in the teams were absent owing to influenza, but a cricket match was arranged for April 30, which proved most thrilling.

On December 16 Speech Day was held – Miss Murray read her report, outlining that “a successful year’s work had been done in the face of great difficulties, due to

influenza.” What a wonderful understatement of how difficult the year must actually have been!

Abbotsleigh and our wonderful girls survived the Spanish Influenza, coping resiliently with all this change. To read about it is different to experiencing it, and we are living through history right now. As history shows, we will get through this, and Abbotsleigh girls will get through it together – helped by some social distancing, of course!

*House girls was the name for boarders at the time

**Wollumbin was across the other side of the Pacific Highway on the corner of Coonanbarra Road, where the steps from the overpass are. Abbotsleigh only ever leased the property, and next door lived the school doctor, in a house called Terranora. It was used as an overflow boarding house from 1914-1924.



Abbotsleigh's Headmistress, Miss Margaret Murray, 1919



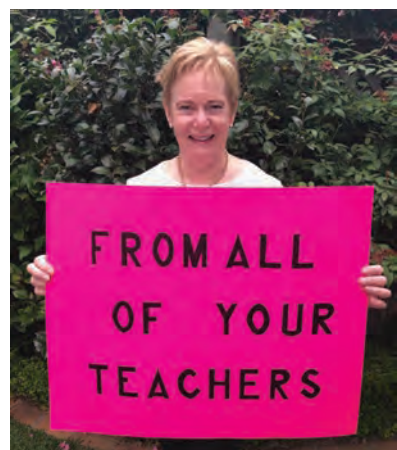
Girls at Wollumbin dressed in their Sunday clothes



The front of Wollumbin showing the tennis court.

Welcome to Term 2 Transition to Year 2

The teachers couldn't greet the girls in person as they returned after the holidays, so did the next best thing...



Creative accounting

2020 has thrown a curve ball at the day to day operations in Abbotsleigh's Finance Department

In a matter of days, we reinvented the wheel from face to face communication within the Finance Department to weekly online meetings. Gone were the days when we could shout from the one office to the next and enquire (politely!) if someone had posted the receipts, ticked the box for closing month end or who was the culprit that turned the aircon up yet again!

Skeleton staff (wo)manned the office, while other staff members had to transition to working from home. Working from home definitely had its challenges, but also benefits. What better way is there to break the serious tone during a team meeting than with a toy dinosaur or shark floating in the camera view with a voice singing *Baby Shark* in the background – especially when a very important audit point is being discussed?

Working from home was a learning curve in many ways. We are fortunate to be living in a world where technology makes working from anywhere possible. Having most of the team working off campus led to a new conundrum – how do you keep the team engaged and make everyone still feel part of a team when working in isolation? If you think that finances and numbers are complex, ask an accountant to be creative and it takes the difficulty to a whole new level!

Never fear when Google is near! Some ideas were great and some not. Weekly team meetings via Zoom are a highlight in our calendar. (Or do I just speak for myself?) It is so good to see the smiling faces of the team and how resilient they are, changing the way we all work so quickly.

A few things we did to minimise the sense of isolation included: 'photo trivia of your day', 'throwback trivia', 'up close guessing games,' 'two truths, one lie', to name a few. Every week we learned something new about a team member – building the sense of belonging – one guess, one photo at a time.

Life has changed and is slowly but surely changing to our new normal. My hope is that our team will continue with the changes we made for the better, stop doing things that add no value and above all be grateful for the opportunity to get to know our colleagues better and support each other through these unprecedented times.

'Instead of getting angry, find the lesson. In place of envy, feel admiration. In place of worry, take action. In place of doubt, have faith.' – Marc and Angel Chernoff

Madeleine Compion
Finance Director



Photo Trivia of a day



Throwback Trivia – guess who?



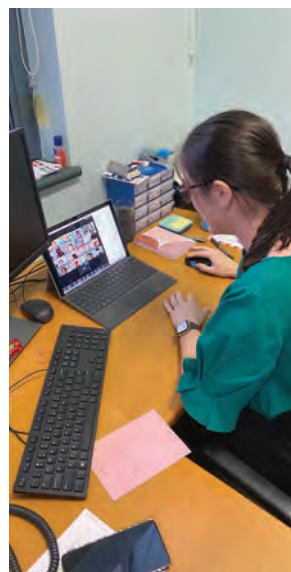
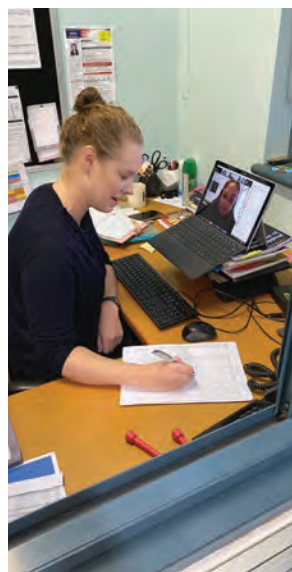
I walked from Switzerland to Italy
I have a boat licence
I'm a Westie at heart

I have run off a mountain paragliding
I have run a half marathon
I lived in Africa for 2 years as a child

Two truths and a lie...



A new way of teaching



Snapshots of AOCL

A time of good things

Ann Lim, Christian Studies, EAL/D and Learning Support Teacher and Chisholm House Patron writes, 'This is the cartoon version of my online self. I used this to bring levity in a time of change. I sent this in an email to the girls before our lesson and posted the same in our class OneNote.

In the online learning mode it took time to get used to working between Canvas, OneNote and Zoom. I

found it was really wonderful for the girls to be able to get to know each other better by showing each other things they were thankful for from their homes. The Zoom chat also allowed many of my girls who do not usually say much in class to say what they thought in discussion in a much less intimidating way.

I would say that the off campus learning has deepened relationships and allowed girls to grow to become more responsible in their learning.

All in all, many good things came from the time at home."



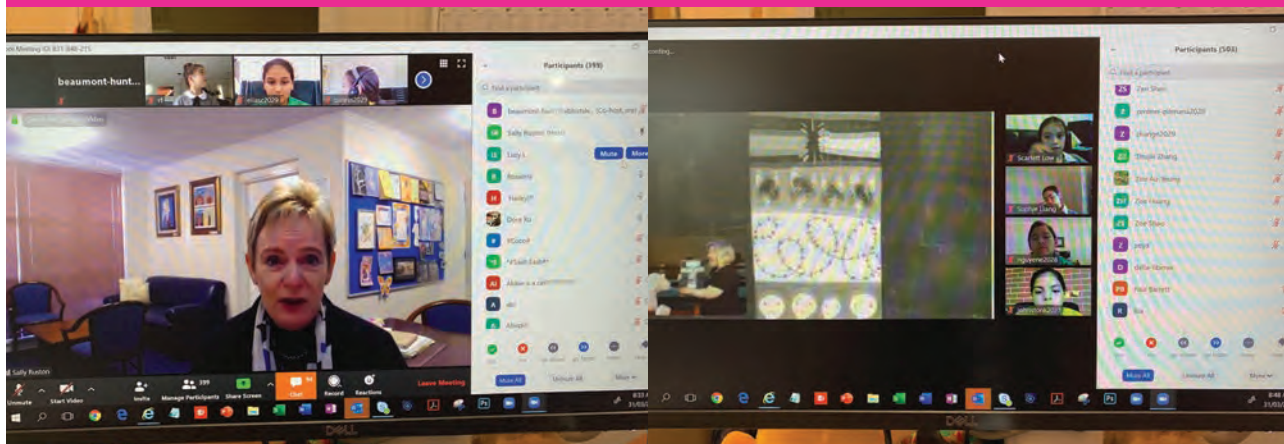
Hi, Welcome to today's lesson!
Today we will

1. Do a show and tell of one thing we are thankful for from our homes!
2. Go through our learning task posted under "Assessment Tasks" in Canvas
3. Complete the page called Genesis 4-12 in One Note

(answers will be posted by the end of the week)
Ask me questions on the chat!
SEE YOU IN ZOOM! Mrs Lim :)

The Junior School Easter Service zoomed by

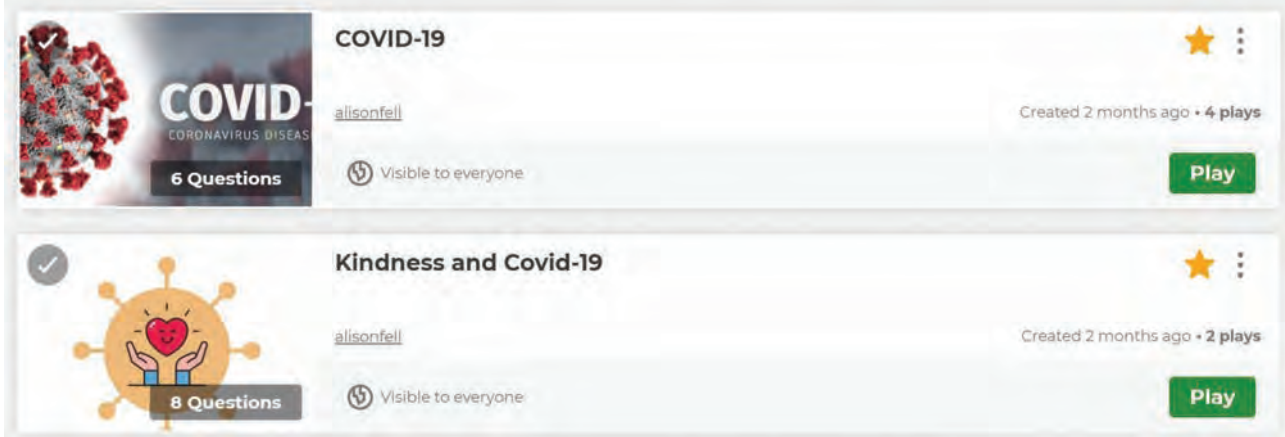
The Junior School Easter Chapel Service took place at 8.30 am on Tuesday 31 March with 596 participants. Ms Ruston welcomed the girls and then shared a video prepared by Rev Stoddart and Mrs Soper of the service.



Middle School in Kahoots

Dean of Middle School, Alison Fell, used Kahoot!* quizzes for the Middle School daily welcomes on Zoom, and they were so popular with the girls that she used them at the end of her lessons as well!

*Visit the [Kahoot! website](#) if you'd like to know more.



Music for mateship

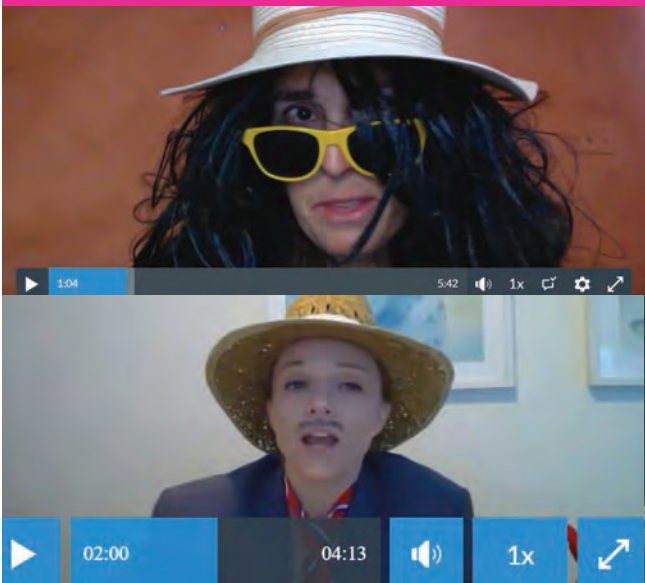
Amber Johnson, Junior School Music Captain 2020, rallied her neighbours for this year's 'Music for Mateship' Anzac Day event – along with thousands around the country. She distributed notes to her neighbours that she would be performing the *Last Post* and *Reveille* at dawn on Anzac Day and encouraged them to come to the end of their driveways and show their support for the ANZACs and all our service people.



Blast from the past

The Year 5 girls met with some of Australia's most significant people from our colonial past in a most unusual way. As an introduction to the topic, the girls viewed some pre-recorded videos of these iconic characters sharing details about their life's work. Next, Caroline Chisholm, Elizabeth Macarthur, John Macarthur and Charles Sturt were Zoomed into the

21st century and sat on the Hot Seat with each of the Year 5 classes. The girls took the opportunity to ask higher order questions that they had prepared and loved grilling these significant Australians who looked strangely like their classroom teachers! Later in the term, the girls stepped inside the shoes of a significant person of their choosing and took part in their own Hot Seat. In doing so, the girls were able to empathise with these significant Australians and how their stories have been told.



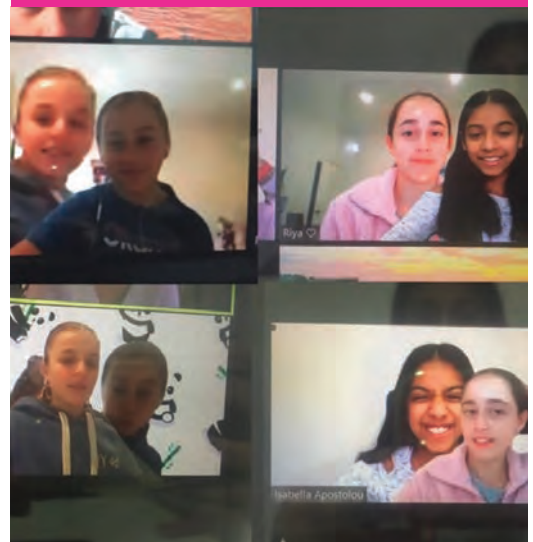
Fun with food

7 Richardson Black had a great time during Zoom tutor sessions making fun foods, with fruit animals, a beautiful owl and happy pizzas on the plates.

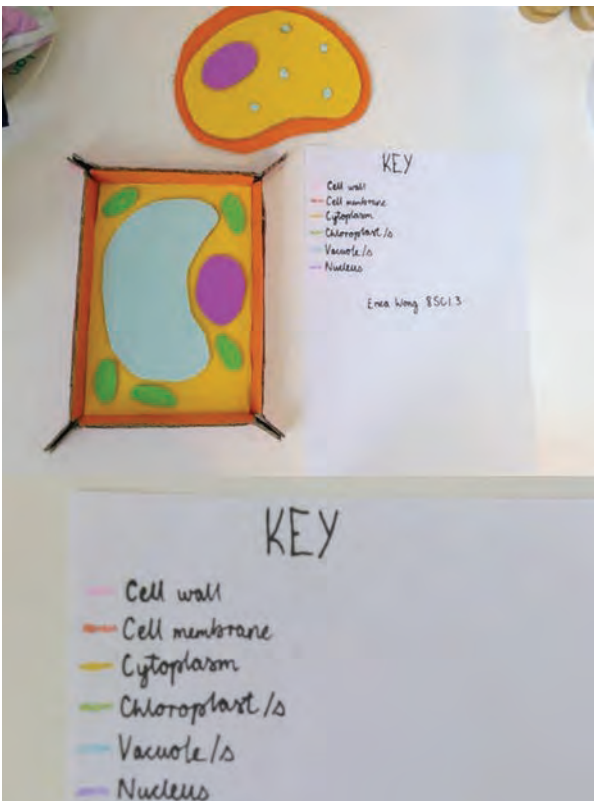


Virtual friends

7 Chisholm Black had some creative Zoom background photo ideas to stay connected to each other. Even if they weren't in the same room with their friends, they made it look like they were!

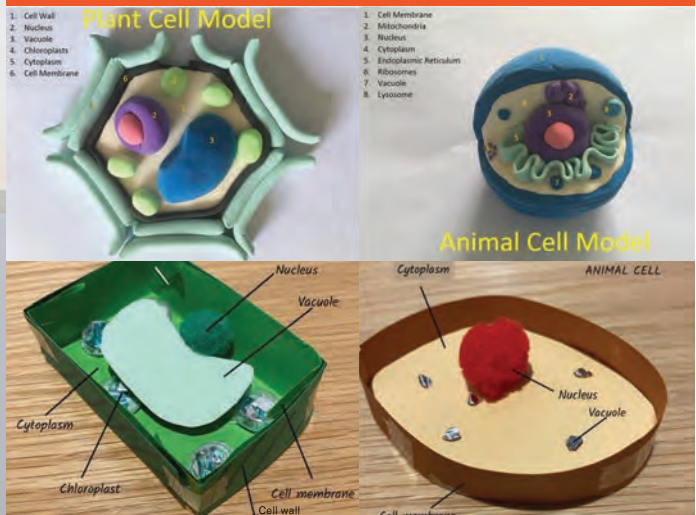


Year 8 daily welcome



3D science

Year 8 students created 3D models of plant and animal cells during the holidays and Week 1 of Term 2 for Science Teacher, Marina Taylor, with some pretty impressive results. The activity culminated in a peer review of the accuracy and creativity of the models.



Sport aerobics

9 PDHPE had been working through a challenging Sport Aerobics unit prior to and during AOCL. The students were able to adapt to off campus learning of the compulsory movements, including push ups, jumping jacks and high leg kicks using video resources and direction from their teacher, Steve Bultitude. The unit completed at the end of Term 1 with students individually demonstrating their routines from home.



Birthday hats

Jennifer Collins, 11G Tutor, had some fun with the group's first online tutor session. Everyone wore silly headwear to mark the occasion and to celebrate a member of the group's birthday. The best part was that since the girls had only been emailed about this the night before, if they had forgotten, they only needed to dash off for a moment to grab something and take part in the festivities!



Year 11 community through an online kitchen

Year 11 joined Emily Liddell, Year 11 Coordinator, in the kitchen to make fluffy American pancakes. 25 girls took up the challenge with two girls cheering from the sidelines. There was much chatter during the session – laughing at the mistakes and celebrating the successes.



Furry first aid

11 PDHPE had been completing a unit on First Aid, led by PDHPE Teacher, Rob Winslow. The practical nature of this unit made it challenging to teach and learn remotely as it includes topics such as CPR and bandaging. However, Year 11 displayed their 'can-do' attitude to overcome the hurdles of off campus learning by performing these activities on their favourite teddy bears.

The lessons were structured by the formation of breakout groups using Zoom. Each group was given a topic (arm sling, collar and cuff sling, splinting, bandaging) to learn and teach their peers.

Once each group had learnt their skill, we closed the breakout groups and came back together as a class. Each group then taught their newly refined skill to their peers using their teddy bears as a casualty.

The students enjoyed introducing their teddies to their classmates and mending them back to health. We understand that no bears were harmed during the activity and that all bears made a full recovery.

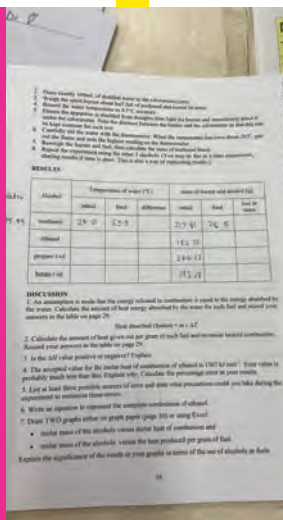


Making history in maths

Mathematics Teacher Peter Garside took this screenshot of his Year 12 girls just after they had completed an online assessment task. It was the first time that they had completed a task at home that was weighted towards their HSC assessment in Mathematics. Mr Garside said that the most unusual thing about this photo is that the girls all looked so happy about it!

Practically chemistry

Jenny Hart, Science Teacher, used a series of strategically placed cameras to show her students the set-up, execution and results of a Chemistry prac. While unable to physically do the prac, the girls watched the process then wrote up their answers based on what they observed.



Abbotsleigh Off Campus Enrichment takes off

How do you keep hundreds of Abbotsleigh Senior School girls engaged and connected outside the virtual classroom?

We know Abbotsleigh girls love keeping active outside the classroom. Not to be put off by COVID-19 restrictions, we saw the creation of Abbotsleigh Off Campus Enrichment (AOCE) – a range of fun cocurricular activities where girls could engage with peers and staff from their very own homes.

Launched in Week 1 of Term 2, the platform of choice was Microsoft Teams, where all sorts of channels were created: live fitness sessions with our own Ninja Warrior, Disney trivia, knitting, crocheting, Photoshop skills, cryptic crosswords, puzzles, story writing, origami, macramé, public speaking and debating, music and choir and subject tutoring, to name but a few. We also had 'Girls in the Garage'; a session hosted by Grounds staff member, Tim Fitzaddam, teaching our older L and P plate students the basics of a car's engine.

Sessions were held before school, at lunchtime and after school, and were led by Abbotsleigh staff (assisted by students in the case of Abb Kitchen Rules), sharing such



a variety of skills that meant there was an activity to suit everyone.

Kate Coventry
Risk and Compliance Manager

AOCE LAUNCHED ON THE KITCHEN BENCH

Deputy Headmistress Victoria Rennie and Head Prefect Ilaria Calo officially launched AOCE from their respective kitchen benches with the first Abb Kitchen Rules and a delicious recipe for sweet potato chips.



SPORT KICKS IN

Due to sport being cancelled, the SS Sport staff took on many of the programs. The sessions we ran included fitness, netball, tennis, hockey, soccer and sport aerobics, but also some non-sport ones, such as Abb Kitchen Rules and K9 Collaboration!

The below is just a snapshot of the programs we ran.

Kate Howitt
Head of Sport

AEROBIC GYMNASTICS

Each Wednesday afternoon, several Abbotsleigh girls have been participating in our Aerobic Gymnastics Zoom session. We have had a blast keeping our fitness up and being active.

In each session we perform an aerobic style warm up to get our heart rate up and our blood pumping. Once we're warm, we've been working on our full body conditioning, then we finish off our lesson by learning and perfecting the Gymnastics Australia Level 3 aerobic routine.

In our conditioning portion of the lesson we have been working on getting our bodies physically strong so we can perform the perfect routine. We need to condition because aerobics is physically demanding due to the various fitness based elements (such as push ups) and also plenty of heart pumping exercises like high jumping kicks, tuck jumps and many more.

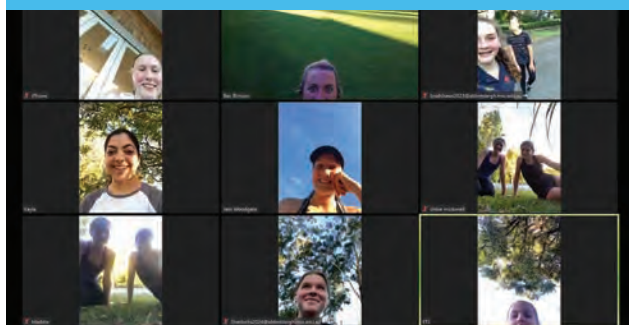
It has been fantastic seeing the girls have so much fun while working hard over Zoom
– Miss Brittany Holmes

ZOOM 2 5 KM

'Zoom 2 5 km' is a HIIT program encouraging the girls to increase their individual fitness and endurance collectively. Offered three afternoons each week, 'Zoom 2 5 km' is based on the 'C25K' (Couch to 5 km) program. The girls finish their classes for the day, put on their runners, grab their phones and headphones, connect and then Zoom their way to running 5 km.

We had around 10-15 girls each session, from a variety of year groups, run together across the suburbs and farms, encouraging each other, laughing and challenging their PBs. Over the last few weeks we also introduced 'plank-a-thon', a student run planking challenge. This not only increased our core strength, but was a great opportunity for the girls to engage and have a chat post-work out (talking while running is sometimes not an easy feat). By the end of Term 2, the girls were running 5 km – either for the first time or faster than before – 'zooming' to 5 km!
– Miss Bec Bimson

“Every Monday and Thursday my brothers would get so excited because they knew that I had baked something delicious with AKR (Abb Kitchen Rules). Four times a week, I knew that I was closer to running 5 km with Zoom 2 5 km. I loved how my dog joined in and ran with me! My dog even learnt some new tricks with K9 Collaboration. AOCE was so much fun!” – Sigrid Boehme, Year 8



HOCKEY HACKS AND BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

For both hockey and football, I have been running a weekly online session for any girls that would like to hone their skills and stay connected to their sport. Some play club and school sport and want to ensure that their individual skills remain sharp until the season recommences. Each session consists of a sport specific dynamic warm up, ball mastery skills and challenges the girls can do at their home or nearby park. We even introduced some football and hockey trivia, which was a suggestion from the girls,

and they've challenged me to come up with some interesting questions too!

We initially started with basic fundamentals/ techniques of the sport and have progressed to include weekly challenges. The girls really jumped on board with this and started recording and posting their own trick shots and challenging their friends via the Teams platform. It has been great to engage with some regular football (soccer) and hockey players but also encourage some new girls in the sports.

- Mr Graham Nes

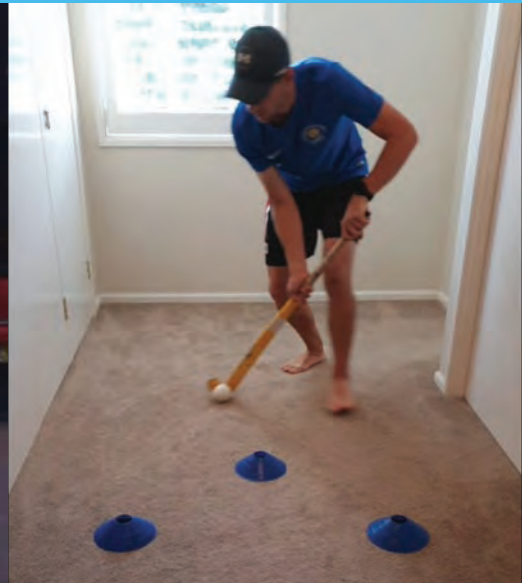


ABB KITCHEN RULES (AKR)

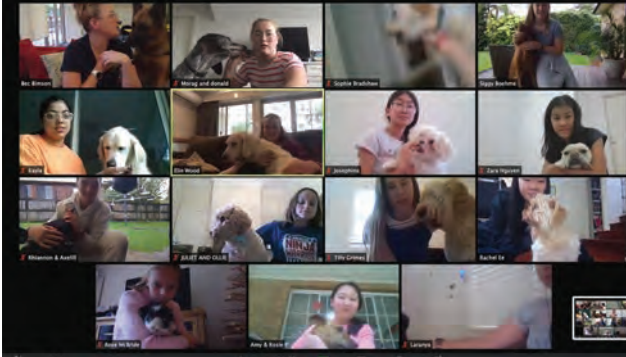
Every Monday and Thursday afternoon, around 16 girls regularly zoomed in to AKR to learn new recipes or skills, or just practise their cooking techniques. Mrs Rennie started us off in Week 1 with sweet potato chips and I ran the second one, showing the girls how to cook the perfect omelette, just in time for Mother's Day.

From Week 2; however, the girls took over the hosting of the 'show'! Over the weeks, we've had girls from

every year group taking turns, however the Year 7s are by far the biggest proportion of attendees. We've baked cakes and biscuits, made ice cream and pasta, and spinach and feta pie.

The students have been great online, engaging with girls they normally wouldn't. It's been such a positive outcome of AOCE, that the girls want it to continue once life gets back to 'normal'. I guess only time will tell! - Mrs Kate Howitt





K9 COLLABORATION

Zoom with friends? What could be better than that? Clearly, zooming your friends with your beloved canine (K9). The golden retriever appears to be the trademark Abbotsleigh K9 for 2020. We have had a great time trying to teach our dogs the various commands such as sit, stay, touch and even a round or two of hide and seek (for those more advanced dogs). The girls have realised that teaching requires patience, practice and consistency and that all tricks, unfortunately, will not be mastered in a single Zoom session. They have thoroughly enjoyed introducing their family member/s, laughed at the independent streak that their furry siblings possess, and cherished the conversation with girls outside their daily classes and cohort. – Miss Bec Bimson

“Working with Mrs Shirvington in ‘What’s the Story’, I, along with an enthusiastic group of participants, developed my understanding of the key elements to creating a successful short story as well as my ability to engage the readers with a captivating plot and express myself through fictional characters. Mrs Shirvington gave us constant guidance and detailed, helpful feedback.” – Sally Liu, Year 8

AbbFit @home exercise

With the rapid increase in uncertainty around how COVID-19 was about to impact our normal work environment it was time to think quickly. As news of schools shutting down in some format was part of most conversations and we had already stopped all sport activities, it was a matter of time before a lockdown was only days away. While supervising a Year 11 tutor group I could tell that some students were already feeling the effect of not being active that week and missing their regular training/activities. We therefore grabbed the opportunity to create a video library of body-weight exercises, and with the help of some Year 11 students, we filmed more than 30 exercises during lunchtime that could be done at home by anyone.

With an exercise library set up and a good selection of workouts posted, a variety of YouTube videos were then uploaded to help the students find something that suited their needs and the environment they were in, including 'Learn to juggle'. Luckily for those in NSW, we were allowed outdoors during the restrictions to exercise, so walking and running were permitted and no doubt taken up by many students and families as their part of their daily routine.

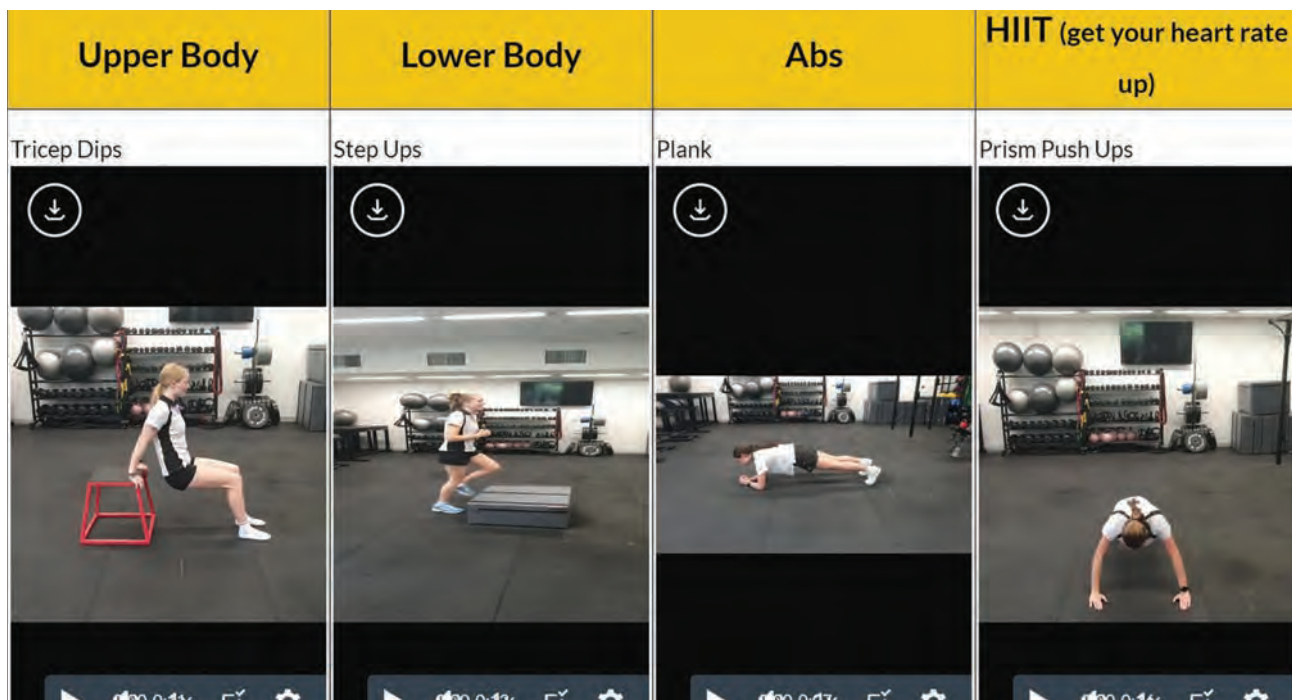
Knowing that most students would not have much equipment at home, let alone the same equipment, putting together fitness sessions for Zoom was an exciting project. We worked with swim coaches Joao



and Leon to develop a timetable suitable for the school community to take part in. We even ran an Instagram challenge for girls to set up a home workout area.

The student feedback was overwhelmingly positive...

"I found the variety of workouts useful for motivating myself to exercise daily (by doing a different one each day) and even though I did them without any equipment,





Playlist Challenge (Walking)	1. Pick your favorite 4 songs and go for a walk until the music stops
Playlist Challenge (Jogging)	1. Pick your favorite 2 songs and see how far you get before the music stops - then walk home 2. Add a song as you get fitter (i.e. jog for longer) or try and get further each day (i.e. jog faster)
4 Room Challenge	1. Pick 4 rooms (or areas) in your house and have a different exercise for each room/area 2. Perform as many repetitions of that exercise as you can in 1min then walk to another room to start your next exercise 3. Repeat that for each room doing the selected exercise for 1min Do more rounds for a longer workout or extend the 1min out to 90 seconds etc Example exercises (1 per room): star jumps, squats, sit ups, cycle crunches etc
Front Yard/Back Yard	1. Do 30 Star Jumps in your Front Yard 2. Jog/Walk to your Back Yard and do 30 Sit Ups 3. Jog/Walk back to your Front Yard and do 20 Star Jumps 3. Repeat until you have done 10 reps of each exercise Mix up the exercises and reps to suit you. Just remember to set a target first and enjoy accomplishing the workout
Park Fun Run	Find a quiet nearby Park and pick an area to run around Do 3 Laps of your chosen area - Stretch/Walk for 3min Do 2 Laps of your chosen area - Stretch/Walk for 3min Do 1 Lap of your chosen area - Stretch/Walk for 3min

they were still extremely effective.” – **Noemie Ah Chong (Year 11)**

“Some workouts on Canvas were definitely challenging but got me to be active and was overall really enjoyable. I even managed to get my family involved. I definitely gained some muscles, no pain no gain!” – **Emma Fischer (Year 9)**

“I found that the Canvas AbbFit page was very helpful during time in lockdown. The workout plans and social distance running ideas kept me accountable to staying active, especially since organised sport had been suspended. It was beneficial knowing that I didn’t have to come up with my own workouts, and there were options readily available to accommodate all experience levels. These workouts have helped me to be in the best form I can, so that I can hit the ground running when sport seasons recommence. It was helpful that the exercises didn’t require any equipment and the video demonstrations helped me understand any exercises that I was unsure of.” – **Annabel Hutcheson (Year 9)**

“I found the Canvas AbbFit page extremely helpful because it provided some fun workouts to stay fit during quarantine. I also really enjoyed the videos attached! It was a really fabulous way to encourage all the girls with some fun fitness ideas!” – **Madeleine McDonell (Year 10)**

“I found that the Canvas AbbFit page was very valuable in providing ideas for how to keep active and stay healthy. The exercise library was particularly helpful in assisting me with different and new exercises that I had no idea existed before. Also, the workouts were fun and you could do them with your friends on Zoom or Facetime.” ‘Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.’ – **Natasha Ton (Year 8)**

“The Canvas AbbFit page had so many different workouts and exercise options that were super fun ways to stay fit and healthy and were suited to anyone who wanted to do some enjoyable exercise at home by themselves or with family.” – **Elinor Trevelyan-Jones (Year 10)**

Mark Everingham, Sport Coordinator and Steve Bultitude, Head of PDHPE



Old dogs, new tricks

Abbotsleigh staff found many ways to fill their spare time – with new pursuits or past passions

IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL HSIE DEPARTMENT

- Matt Goodyer (Geography Teacher) took up walking to work.
- Sarah MacLeod (AOG Boyle, 1994) (Business Studies Teacher) started to do rhythmic gymnastics again as she used to do when she was at Abbotsleigh in the 1990s.
- Adrienne Zervos (History Teacher) joined an online slow roasting coffee Facebook group.

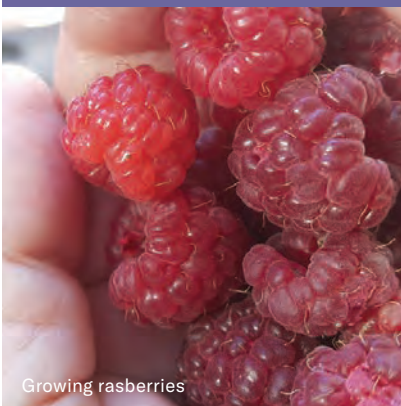
DEVELOPING SKILLS IN KNITTING

The Development Department was tasked with knitting squares to create a blanket to donate to Wrapped With Love. Despite having only one experienced knitter in the department, the challenge was accepted with enthusiasm and an assortment of (not so square) squares was produced. The resident knitter, Heidi Grout (Community Relations Manager) was given the unenviable task of cobbling the mismatched lot together and Julie Daly (Abbotsleigh Archivist and crocheter extraordinaire) skilfully tidied up the edges. The results speak for themselves. Some of the team took to their newly acquired skills with such enthusiasm that they have now moved on to bigger, and hopefully better, projects!



SIMPLE PLEASURES

Ann Lim, Christian Studies, EAL/D and Learning Support Teacher and Chisholm House Patron simply enjoyed everything that her home has to offer.



Growing raspberries



Growing potatoes



Baking bread



Roasting coffee

BRUSH STROKES 1

Rob Willis, Head of Senior School Administration and Staff Relations, despite dabbling in sketching and drawing over many years, only recently developed an interest in pastel drawing. He has been greatly encouraged and inspired by his older sister who is quite accomplished in the same medium. He worked from photos taken while travelling and greatly enjoys drawing and the relaxing escape that it provides.

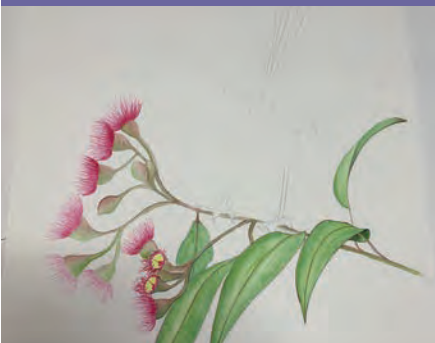
Below Ventina is in the Italian alps and in an area where glacial retreat is powerfully evident. *Cotswold Time* is a drawing of the sundial in the back garden of a cottage that he and his wife have stayed at a couple of times while in England.

Rob writes, "It's interesting that I have discovered that there are never enough greens in a pastel set!"



BRUSH STROKES 2

Jenni Beaumont-Hunt, EA to the Head of Junior School, found time to paint. This blue wren was a birthday present for a friend. Posting the finished artwork on Facebook resulted in a commission!



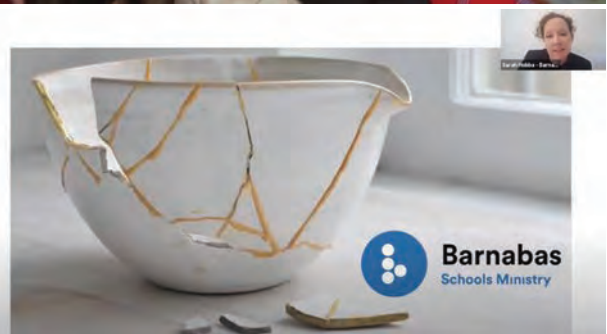
FROM A CONFERENCE TO A RED CHAIR

Sarah Hobba, Assistant Chaplain and Christian Studies Teacher, spent three weeks organising an online conference for the Barnabas Conference, with the Bible Society, The Centre for Public Christianity and Shore Chaplain Rev Paul Dudley. The conference, broadcast via Zoom, was called 'Connected: Building Community in a Fractured World' (the theme had been decided upon last December, but could not have been more relevant) and brought together 250 chaplains and those in Christian schools ministry across Australia as well as participants from Indonesia, New Zealand, Fiji, Canada and the United States – with internationally recognised speakers including Professor Miroslav Volf from Yale and Professor David I. Smith from Calvin University. We used an image of the Japanese artform of Kintsugi – the art of repairing broken pottery with gold. God takes our brokenness and fractured lives, and in His love and mercy redeems us. His love through us helps creates communities in the midst of fractured lives.

Sarah usually visits the ELC every Tuesday, but during the period of AOCL, she started a series of reading to her dog Ruby. She called it 'Reading to Ruby on the Red Chair.' The feedback from the children was so positive that they have demanded more such storytimes!

CRAFTY CARDS

Elizabeth Russell, Assistant Head of Science, dug out her craft things during the holidays and made some unique greeting cards. Realising that they were more suited to female recipients, Elizabeth is going to make a few more to suit the XY chromosomes in her family.



DIGITAL DRAWING

Over the isolation period, Assistant Chaplain and Christian Studies Teacher, Polly Butterworth, did a course on digital drawing. She decided to use her new skills to represent different women as they read the Bible, using a naïve art style. They've since been picked up by a church who has commissioned some for a campaign encouraging personal Bible reading.



And then we were back!

Year 12 girls were all smiles as they returned to school...



...and Year 7 Tennant Gold and Black reconnected with each other in a social distanced way via a strategically placed Zoom session.



We worked on our nonverbal communication skills, testing our ability to read each other as a group. Phase one was COVID-modified, so we were able to speak, but progressively we will be able to complete our task simply through our ability to read each other.

We had to kick a ball around the group, but had a few rules that we needed to adhere too. Once we managed

to get the flow we challenged ourselves to reverse the process and then upped the ante by mixing up our physical placement... this ultimately brought us undone but we will keep practising.

**Angela Sparks, Senior School Teacher Librarian and
Renee Black, Social Science Teacher**

Temperature testing became the daily ritual...



We did our best to remain socially distant...



En plein air and in the living room

How Visual Arts classes moved off campus

Mrs Mary Faith, Head of Creative Arts, Design and Innovation

YEAR 7

The theme for Visual Arts in Semester 1 is 'Animals and Their Habitat'

During AOCL, the girls were asked to create a series of photographs using a camera or smart phone, while learning about Photoshop with their teachers online. The subject was: 'Your Pet!... If you don't have a pet, don't fret, you can use an animal soft toy instead'. They also completed drawings they had started in class.

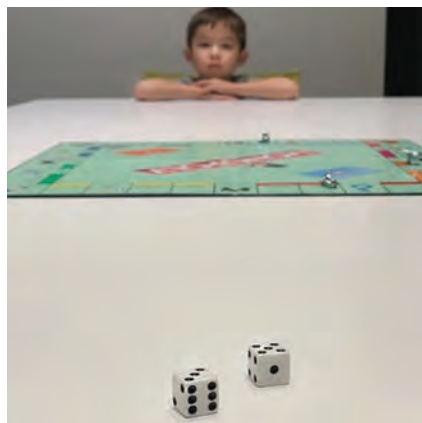


YEAR 8

Year 8 started AOCL with a new unit of work - 'The Portrait'

They were asked to create a photograph or photo story using a camera or smart phone. The subject was:

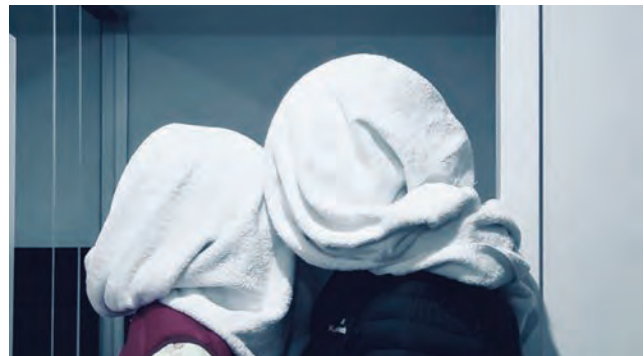
- a precious object that would be saved if they were about to lose their house and contents to a fire (specifically as we had just emerged from a huge fire season) OR
- a documentation of the life of your family in the time of COVID-19



YEARS 8 AND 9

#covidclassics

The girls were invited to contribute to the remaking of artworks. This was a movement of people in quarantine all over the world recreating art in their homes. It was encouraged by galleries such as the Getty, and many can be seen on Instagram hashtag #covidclassics



YEAR 9

In class, the girls learnt to paint in a careful, tonal way by copying a painting by Manet. They then brought in still objects, photographed them and drew them up on a canvas. AOCL occurred and the girls finished these works in class, but at home.



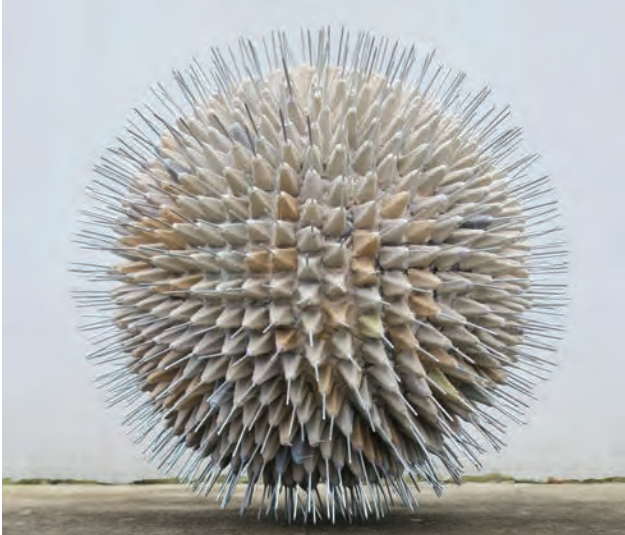
YEAR 10VA

These girls had been looking at Impressionist art styles and learning some of the painting techniques. When AOCL started they had to finish their paintings at home. They also had lessons in using watercolour and painting watercolour landscapes outside (*en plein air*).



YEAR 10PDM

As one of their tasks, the girls had to take a series of five photographs that artistically documented the coronavirus impact. Another task was to create a short, evocative film exploring the idea of 'The Decisive Moment' with sound, music, pacing and editing transitions, plus title and credits.



YEAR 11VA

During AOCL the girls created a 'Corona diary':

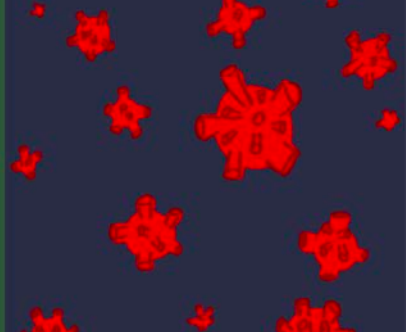
As part of the Year 11 Visual Arts 'Identity' unit, record/document/interpret your own experiences of this time in history. Choose a selective visual lens to create a 2D artwork that considers how this virus impacts your own life or people in your world or what aspect of this time interests you. The visual lens you select may be historical, scientific, psychological, commercial, material, cultural, social, political or the everyday.



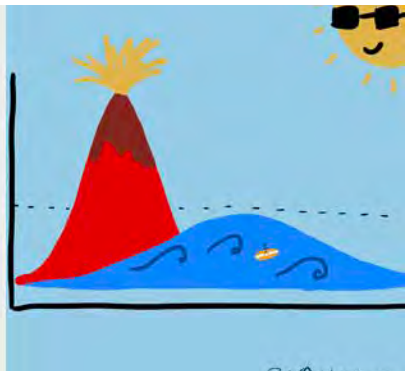
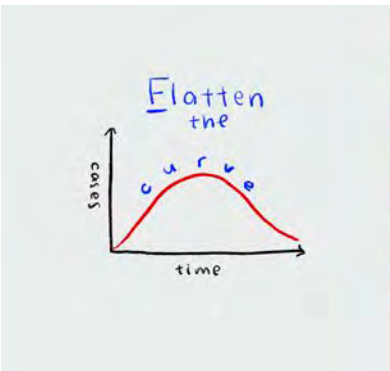
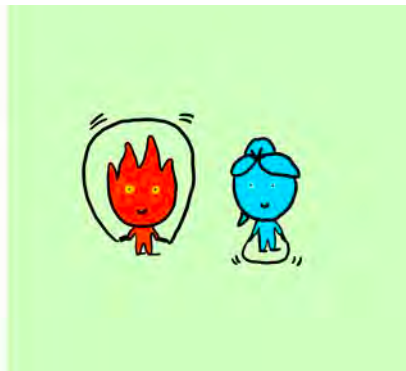
Athena Zhang created a COVID-19 alphabet, she said it was the most fun in her AOCL time.



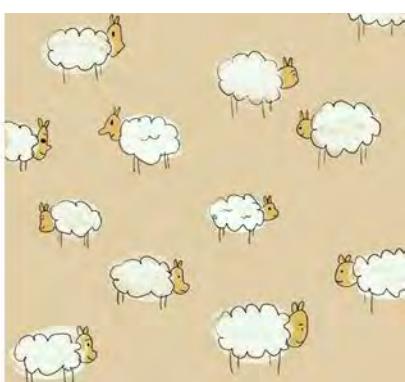
COVID-19



dalgona coffee



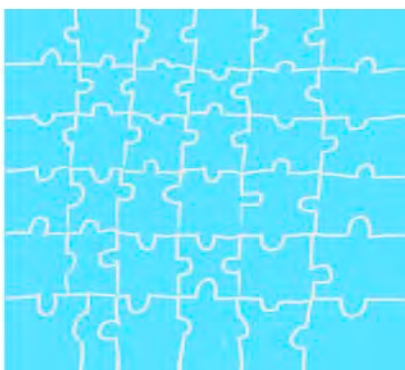
Herd Immunity



internet



jigsaw puzzles



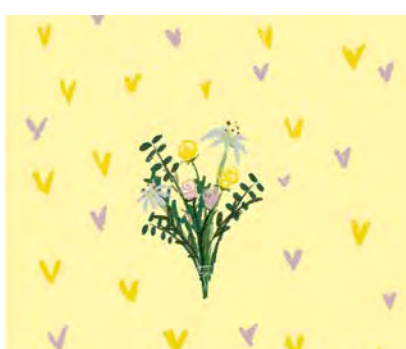
Kartoffel (Potato)



Licence



Mother's Day



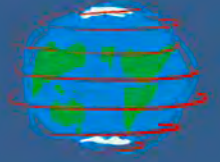
NETFLIX



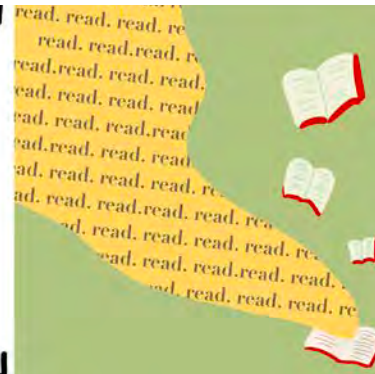
"organisation"



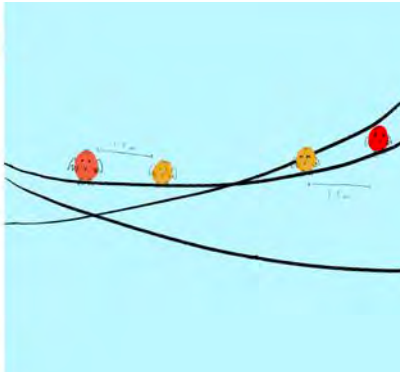
Pandemic.



read



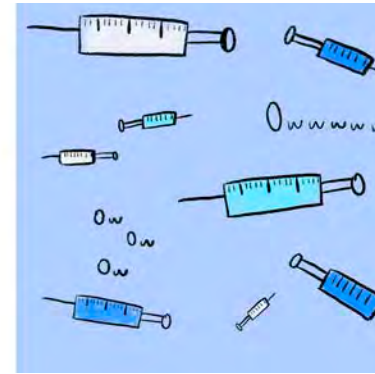
s o c i a l
d i s t a n c i n g



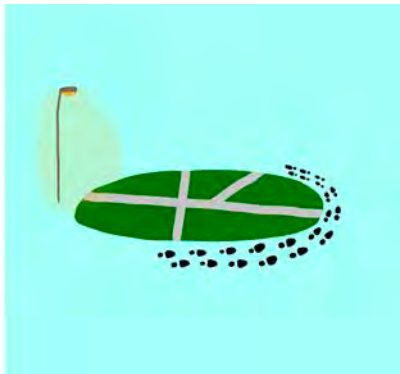
Uber
Eats



vaccine



WALK



Xbox



yolo 🤪

yolo yolo yolo yolo yolo
yolo yolo yolo yolo yolo
yolo yolo yolo yolo yolo
yolo yolo yolo yolo yolo
yolo yolo yolo yolo yolo
yolo yolo yolo yolo yolo

zoom

Athena
Zhang



From the President of the Abbotsleigh Parents' Association



It would be an understatement to say that 2020 has not been the year that any of us expected!

After the fabulous events and achievements of 2019, the APA had exciting plans for 2020. These included a repeat of the very successful Trivia Night, barbeques at Saturday sport, Book Club and supporting School events, such as Twilight on the Plaza, the Literary Festival and Dazzle & Dine, to name just a few. Dates were already in the diary for APR organised Year events, such as morning teas, playdates

in the park and dinners. These activities, along with simple practical assistance, such as book covering or helping at Tuckshop, all form an integral part in bringing the Abbotsleigh community together.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 brought these well-laid plans to a grinding halt. The rest, as they say, is history.

One constant in this rapidly evolving and uncertain environment has been the fortitude and resilience of the entire Abbotsleigh community. While social distancing may have restricted face to face interactions, the strength of our virtual community has been remarkable.

Within days, the Abbotsleigh staff managed to organise and deliver AOCL and AOCE to the highest standard. It has taken a monumental effort from every member of the School to ensure that the girls have continued to learn, develop, connect and above all, have fun at home. On behalf of the APA, a most heartfelt THANK YOU to all the Abbotsleigh staff for the countless hours dedicated to this innovative content.

Similarly, it has been no mean feat for parents and carers to manage their children's education, while juggling work and other family commitments.

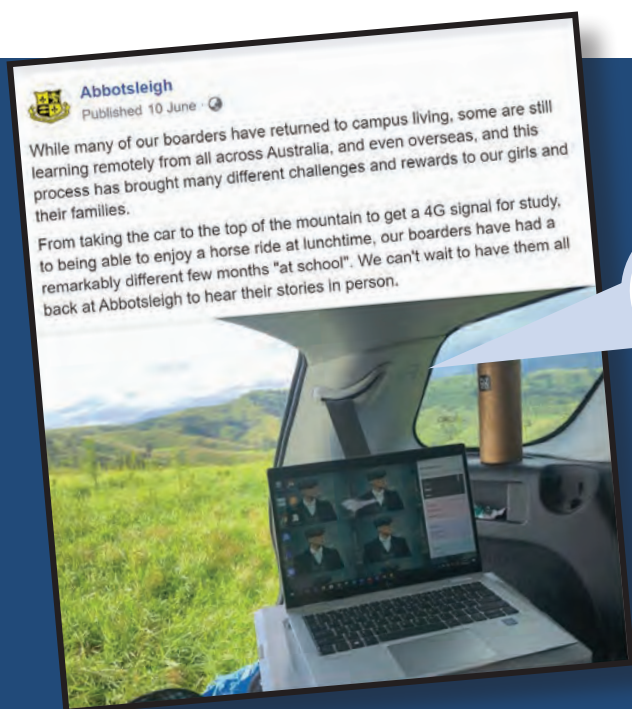
We should be most proud as a community of the way in which the girls have conducted themselves. They have displayed kindness, adaptability, determination and gratitude throughout this difficult time.

As Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do, excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." I hope that we will never have to repeat this experience again, but I am confident that as a community, we can meet any challenge with excellence.

The primary role of the APA is to support the School and its activities. As things start to return to 'normal' we hope to be able to re-engage with some events, mindful of the restrictions in place. Please keep an eye on the Shuttle for further news and updates.

If you would like more information about the APA or have any suggestions, please email me at president.abbotsleighapa@gmail.com.

Amberen Qureshi



**3,186
people
reached**

FOLLOW US AND LIKE US ON

twitter

www.twitter.com/abbotsleigh

facebook

www.facebook.com/abbotsleigh

www.facebook.com/AbbotsleighOldGirlsandAlumni

Instagram

www.instagram.com/abbotsleigh

www.instagram.com/abbotsleigh_oldgirls



Year 7 2022 Scholarship Applications Open

Year 7 2022 scholarships are now open, with exams on Saturday 19 September 2020.

To register, visit the website

abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships

Please contact **Colleen Fenn**, or call Colleen on 02 9473 7744

Create the future.



Weekly Boarding

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. 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 **Colleen Fenn** or call Colleen on 9473 7744.

Change to the Enrolment Policy affecting daughters of Abbotsleigh Old Girls

We are delighted to communicate a change to the Enrolment Policy affecting the daughter of an Abbotsleigh Old Girl.

It will no longer be necessary for the daughter of an Abbotsleigh Old Girl to attend entrance testing for her entry to Year 5 or Year 7. Accepted places are offered to daughters of AOG entering at ALL entry points on early application.

Abbotsleigh Old Girls are strongly encouraged to make application soon after the birth of their daughter to best ensure a place at Abbotsleigh. After 12 months of age, places are offered to those girls on the waiting list and while we will always try to assist with progressing enrolment for the daughter of an AOG, it will become more difficult to guarantee a place.

The entry points for Junior School are Transition, Kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 5. The entry point for Senior School is Year 7.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this process.

I look forward to welcoming your daughter to Abbotsleigh.

Colleen Fenn
Registrar

02 9473 7744
registrar@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Grace Cossington Smith Gallery exhibition calendar 2020

Closed

Monday 3 August to
Saturday 26 September

Margaret Woodward
From the Studio

Monday 28 September to
Saturday 5 December



Dates subject to change

Please check our Facebook page and website for updates and planned events

 Grace
CossingtonSmithGallery

 ABBOTSLEIGH

FREE ENTRY

Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga 02 9473 7878 | gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au | www.gcsgallery.com.au
An Anglican Pre K-12 Day and Boarding School for Girls



ABBOTSLEIGH
FOUNDATION

Supporting academic excellence

Each year many generous members of our school community encourage excellence by endowing a Speech Day prize. Donors endow prizes for many reasons: celebrating achievement and inspiring students; acknowledging their daughter's/granddaughter's/mother's or perhaps their own experiences at Abbotsleigh; being passionate about an area of study; or

simply taking the opportunity to give back to the School. A gift of \$1,000 to the Abbotsleigh Foundation endows a prize for five years. A gift of \$5,000 to the Foundation will endow a prize in perpetuity with the option to name the prize.

Please note that prize endowment gifts are not tax deductible.

Prizes available for endowment

Junior School prizes

- Chinese Heritage Language Prize
- Citizenship and Effort in Year 5
- Citizenship in Kindergarten
- Citizenship in Year 1

Senior School prizes

- Academic Achievement in Year 8
- Ancient History in Year 12
- Business Studies in Year 12
- Chinese and Literature in Year 12
- Creative Writing in Middle School

- Creative Writing in Senior College
- Creative Writing in Senior College Archdale
- ESL in Year 12
- Extension History in Year 12
- Japanese in Year 12
- Latin in Year 12
- Music Composition
- Physics in Year 12
- Standard Mathematics in Year 12
- Technology and Applied Studies in Senior College
- Theology in Year 11

If you are interested in endowing a prize please contact **Sasha Carrel**, Fundraising Manager or call Sasha on 02 9473 7738

The full list of prizes available for endowment is also available on our website. Visit www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving/prizes-for-endowment.

The 20th FAbbs reunion dinner

FAbbs is the association of Abbotsleigh staff alumni, mainly retired teachers, but also some who have moved on to other schools and a few who are still working at Abbotsleigh. Jill Tuffley, FAbbs Secretary, recounts a wonderful evening of friendship and memories



On Friday 6 March 2020, the 20th Annual Reunion Dinner for FAbbs was held (as usual) at Pymble Golf Club. For this special celebration the committee decorated the tables in Abbotsleigh's black and gold colours.

The evening opened with the Committee singing the FAbbs reunion song, which had been written for the inaugural dinner and updated for the 10th and again for the 20th. It comprised words of welcome to the tune of 'Hello Dolly'.

Then FAbbs President, Rosemary Abrahams, welcomed everyone, especially the five Headmistresses, who had put this date in their diaries a year ago. It was an historic occasion to have all five of them together for this celebration, plus three of their Deputies.

The dinner was attended by 85 FAbbs members and included people who started teaching at Abbotsleigh in the 1960s and every decade since then.



Photo: Five Headmistresses and three deputies

Elaine Collin, Judith Wheeldon AM, Judith Poole, Rosemary Abrahams, Diane Nicholls OAM, Robyn Claydon, Kathleen McCredie AM, Megan Krimmer



Photo: Some of the teachers who started in the 1970s
 Judy Copeland, Trish Arrowsmith, Susie Toy, Maddie Giutronich, Margret Selby,
 Ann Pettigrew, Janine Cooper



Retired teachers from all Departments were there, with the best representation by Mathematics, English, Science and the Junior School, who each filled a table of 10 or 11 people.

Between the buffet dinner and the dessert, Robyn Claydon, who was the FAbbS President for the first 13 years, recalled how the association of past Abbotsleigh staff was established by Jill Tuffley after she retired in 2000. With the help of an enthusiastic group who formed the foundation committee (with Robyn as President, Jill as Secretary and Ann Owen as Treasurer, plus ten others), the first Reunion Dinner was held in March 2001, attended by 89 past and present staff. A competition was held for suggestions of an appropriate title for the group, and there was a unanimous vote for the name FAbbS (Former Abbotsleigh Staff), which was suggested by Sue Hutchins.

After Robyn's recollections, Rosemary presented yellow roses to Jill who has continued as Secretary for the past 20 years.

This was an evening of both celebration and nostalgia, so with the help of our obliging photographer Adrian Tyler, we screened photos from the first dinner and the 10th dinner. They included many of us (looking much younger then) who were also there at the 20th, and also about 20 of our friends and colleagues who, sadly, are no longer with us. Adrian took many more photos that night – which will probably be shown again in ten years' time!

We were very lucky to have been able to hold this dinner just before the lockdown restrictions were imposed.

“Thank you to all the committee for the entertainment, the excellent organisation and for all you do for us lucky FAbbS members.” L.B.

“Another wonderful evening in a superb venue, with excellent food and great company.” A.O.

“I felt so blessed to be part of such a group of inspirational people.” L.B.

“Everyone seemed so happy to be there. It truly was still the Abbotsleigh family.” S.C.

“It was a very special evening... and such fun to be with dear friends and former colleagues from the Junior School.” R.B.

From the President of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union



Who could ever have imagined the events that we have experienced this year – continued drought, devastating bushfires and a COVID-19 pandemic! I am very aware of the impact that each and every one of you is experiencing whether it is physical, financial, emotional or mental and my thoughts and prayers (and a big virtual hug) go out to all of you, your families and friends. While we have been relatively lucky in Australia

with the containment of cases, management of the situation by our government and the easing of restrictions so that life can slowly return to 'normal', we still have a long road ahead of us and many of our overseas community are not so lucky. The AOGU hopes to remind you that we are all in this together by continuing to connect the Old Girls community.

I would like to commend Mrs Krimmer, her executive team and all the Abbotsleigh staff who have done a fantastic job responding and managing the everchanging situation throughout this crisis and keeping the Abbotsleigh community informed. They have been incredible keeping our girls safe, learning and engaged

while managing their own personal challenges, so a big THANK YOU to all of them.

I would also like to commend the girls on their resilience and positive attitudes dealing with the continued changes to school life and life in general. Despite all the uncertainty and restrictions, the ability of these young women to adjust and carry on is nothing short of amazing and I am very proud that they are our future Old Girls.

As always, Old Girls have sought to make a positive community impact and they continue to do so even in these troubled times. One example is the service being provided to vulnerable members of our local community by Abbotsleigh girls, staff, Old Girls, parents and former staff coordinated by Mrs Marg Selby. Another is Opera Australia's Principal Soprano and Old Girl Jane Ede's (Parkin, 1993) performance to celebrate the final night of lockdown for 460 quarantined guests at the Sofitel Wentworth Sydney. There are many more examples and I know many more to come. So, I am happy to announce that applications for the 2020 AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant are now open and encourage Old Girls with a project to benefit the community to apply.

Keep well.

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)

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](mailto:Sasha.Carrel@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au) or phone Sasha on 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.



AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant 2019 Recipients

The 110th Anniversary Grant was established in 2018 to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union (AOGU). The aim of the Grant is to support Old Girls in meaningful endeavours to benefit the community or have a positive social impact. The Grant recognises the value Old Girls add by being contributory members to their local and/or world-wide communities through financial assistance and raising awareness of their activities.

The Anniversary Grants Sub-committee really enjoyed reviewing the very high calibre applications in a range of different projects and it was a privilege to hear how many Old Girls are giving back to the community. It is a shame that we cannot award a Grant to all the applicants. However, it is a pleasure to share details of the three winners for 2019 as follows:

Rebecca Ladd (1981)

This Grant will assist Rebecca to provide professional development opportunities for two teachers and interpreters from the Wangsel Institute of the Deaf in Bhutan. School education for deaf students in Bhutan only commenced in 2003, so teacher

education is badly needed in order to better support these children. We are very pleased to be supporting this project and look forward to providing further updates as Rebecca's project develops.



Helen Hoskin (1969)

Helen has been doing amazing work in setting up the Bunda Girls Secondary School in Tanzania. This Grant will provide a two-year scholarship for an academically gifted girl to attend the school. Without the scholarship, this girl would not be able to study at this school and most likely would not continue her education at all. Mary Masanja (pictured) was selected as the scholarship recipient and commenced Form One (Year 7) at the beginning of this year. Mary hopes to

be a doctor when she leaves school so she is very excited to have this opportunity. On behalf of Mary and her family, Headmistress Deninsia and all the staff of BGSS, Helen sends her heartfelt thanks. If anyone is interested in further supporting Helen's project, please contact the Old Girls Office.

Gillian Truman (1999)

Many of you may know Gill and the group of nine Abbotsleigh girls who set up the charity MotorOn in 2015 to support those with motor neuron disease (MND). Gill herself has been diagnosed with MND, yet her focus is on helping other sufferers. The money from this Grant has been donated to the Macquarie University MND Research Centre, Australia's largest MND research facility and in particular to support the purchase of a 'Neurotrack module', a microscope which will be able to assess new drugs for neuroprotection and neurorepair for MND.

Congratulations to our three winners! Could you be the recipient for the 110th Anniversary Grant for 2020? Applications are now open.

2020 AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant call for applications

As part of its 110th Anniversary celebrations, the AOGU launched its 110th Anniversary Grant program in 2018. The aim of this program is to support Old Girls in meaningful endeavors to benefit the community or have a positive social impact. The Grant recognises the value that Old Girls add by being contributory members to their local and/or worldwide communities through financial assistance and raising awareness of their activities. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, contributions to national or international service work, significant creative and performing arts projects and extraordinary sports or research project.

The AOGU is now calling for applications from eligible Old Girls for a limited number of grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

Full terms and conditions and application form are available on the AOGU website at abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au/old-girls/old-girl-news/aogu-110th-anniversary-grant. If you have any further questions, please contact the Grants Sub-committee at aoguanniversarygrants@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au.

Applications close on Monday 12 October 2020 and the winner(s) will be announced at the AOGU AGM on Wednesday 18 November 2020.

The Barker family – Generations of Abbotsleigh girls living through a pandemic

If social distancing rules had been enforced 61 years ago, there's a possibility that one family of fifth generation Abbotsleigh girls may not exist today

Rhonda Kaan (Turner, 1993) Old Girls Relations Assistant



Old Girl and past staff member Angela Barker (Blackwood, 1959) vividly remembers her Leaving Dance (known today as the Year 12 Formal) but not just because it was a special celebration marking the end of her school days. It stands out because her partner – and now husband – danced with her Headmistress at the time, Mrs Betty Archdale, and because of what happened after that.

“Clif asked, and they danced!” Angela said. “And then we all climbed the water tower!”

While it was a night to remember for all the right reasons for Angela (the legend of the water tower climb is familiar to most Old Girls!), she also recalls the ‘scandal’ transpiring further down the Pacific Highway at the same time.

“At the PLC Leaving Dance, their headmistress came in and saw all the girls in their strapless dresses,” Angela said. “She made them go and put on their sports blouses to cover themselves up!”

According to Angela it ruined the dance for the PLC girls.

“Betty didn’t do that,” she said. “She was a bit more liberal.”

In fact, the success of the night may have helped pave the way for Angela to marry Clif five years later and become a mother to their three, fourth generation Abbotsleigh Old Girls; Zoe (1988), Lucinda ‘Lucy’ (1992) and Karina (1997).

Angela’s granddaughters – Zoe’s daughter Alice Candrick (Year 11) and Lucy’s daughter Lola Treseder (Year 7) – are fifth generation Abbotsleigh girls, courtesy of connections between her own family and Clif’s. Karina’s eldest daughter, Violet Wenkart, is also due to start in Year 3 next year and her younger sister, Clementine, intends to follow in her sister’s footsteps shortly afterwards. Violet and Clementine will also be third generation Abbotsleigh girls on their father’s side.

Not surprisingly, the Barkers are a close-knit family with Angela and Clif plus all three daughters living in what they affectionately call the ‘Wahroonga Triangle’.

“It’s all kind of cosy, which has its advantages and disadvantages!” Lucy says laughing. “I haven’t lived in Wahroonga my whole life but it’s great for the kids. They find it quite amazing when they have friends who hardly know their extended family – they can’t really understand how that could be a thing.”

And what better time to be close to family than during a global pandemic?

Read on to find how three different generations of a fifth generation Abbotsleigh family have lived through these unprecedented times.

Angela Barker (Blackwood, 1959) – Grandmother

As soon as the COVID-19 restrictions came into play in Australia on March 21, Angela and her husband, Clif, self-quarantined.

Angela describes their lockdown experience as being “a bit like a holiday. “I’ve actually quite enjoyed it!” she said. “I’m quite happy not to do a lot of the things I’m normally rushing around doing.”

She said having her three daughters living nearby during the COVID-19 restrictions had been a huge benefit because it meant being able to stay safe, but not having to be totally isolated.

“Our kids have mainly done the shopping and run other errands for us,” Angela said. “I’ve also had some groceries delivered.”

Living near beautiful bushland in Wahroonga in the house they built nearly 50 years ago was also very fortunate, according to Angela.

“We’re really lucky because we live on the edge of the bush,” she said. “We’ve seen quite a bit of our family – but sensibly at a safe distance – often walking the dog along the fire trail.”

Angela said she’d also kept in touch with friends and family through Zoom.

“I’ve been Zooming once a week with my book club who are all ex-Abbotsleigh Science staff and it’s worked very well.”

In addition to the book club, and of course being a past parent and grandmother to current girls, Angela has also remained strongly connected to Abbotsleigh as a 1959 reunion convenor, FAbbS committee member (an alumni group for former Abbotsleigh staff), HSC exam supervisor and member of the Marian Clarke Society (an initiative of the Abbotsleigh Foundation that acknowledges and celebrates, during their lifetime, the generosity of those who have notified the

School that they are leaving a gift in their will to Abbotsleigh).

“After more than 60 years since leaving school I reflect on where we all are now in life, what a wonderful circle of friends we have from our days at school, what fun we have continued to have together and what support there has been in the hard times,” she said. “I feel very fortunate!”

While thankful to have celebrated her 60 year reunion last year and having enjoyed the FAbbS 20th reunion dinner only the week before everything shut down, Angela said one of the greatest disappointments resulting from the coronavirus restrictions had been missing the family’s annual Easter camping trip to their farm in Bathurst, where their son Stephen and his family have been isolating.

“Easter camping has been a family tradition for nearly 50 years now,” Angela said. “None of my grandchildren had ever missed it before, even as little babies.”

Having only recently ventured out for one of the first times since COVID-19 restrictions had started to lift, Angela admitted having her hair cut was a huge relief.

“It felt very odd actually – going out and getting in the car and driving off.”

Angela conceded eventually returning to the ‘real world’ wouldn’t be all bad.

“I realised as I put on the daggy clothes I have been wearing around the house that I have missed having a good reason to get into something more presentable.”

For the sake of her grandsons especially, Angela is hoping restrictions continue to lift quickly, provided it is safe to do so.

“I have three grandsons at Knox, and for those in Year 12 and Year 10 it looks as if they won’t be having any formals, which is really tough,” Angela said. “I think that’s almost

more important to them than anything else.”

Arguably, if history is anything to go by, school formals have proven to be a memorable milestone on the Barker family calendar to date... who knows, a future sixth generation of Abbotsleigh Barker girls might depend it!



Zoe Barker (1988)

Being in the medical profession has given Zoe and her husband, Jon Candrick, a real taste of the impact of the global pandemic.

Zoe is the Senior Staff Specialist Radiologist at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, Director of Breast Imaging for Hunter New England and is a member of the radiologist team at Sydney Adventist Hospital.

“For me, the changes at work included a lot of rearranging of the workplace structures to plan for a potential tidal wave of sick patients which could have inundated the hospital’s acute care settings as was seen overseas,” Zoe said. “Routine outpatient breast assessments were also moved from the hospital to avoid clients having to visit a COVID environment.”

As the designated radiologist for Hunter New England BreastScreen, Zoe’s usual regular trips to Tamworth ceased with the suspension of all routine breast clinics and screening in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

“As radiologists, we had designated reporting hubs and no longer moved around the various hospitals in the regions,” she said.

Zoe’s husband Jon also experienced extensive workplace changes in his role as an Emergency Physician at Maitland Hospital.

“The Emergency Department introduced an exclusive ‘hot zone’ where COVID-19 suspected patients were separated from other patients,” Zoe said. “Staff had a lot of training in taking on and off the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) they needed to wear when working in this area.”

She said while Jon enjoyed the challenge of assessing the sick patients in the hot zone, he did not enjoy how hot the PPE was to wear and how when working in this zone there was no flexibility to leave for food, toilet breaks, phone calls etc.

“Thankfully the tidal wave never arrived and although our region (Hunter New England) had approximately 280 COVID-19 cases, many were treated at home and the intensive care and acute care beds were never overloaded,” Zoe said.

Nevertheless, at one stage Zoe herself developed a cough and sore throat and needed to be tested for COVID-19.

“I was delighted to find the nurse performing the swabs was another Abbotsleigh Old Girl!” Zoe said. “I did not recognise her with all the protective gear on, but she recognised me, and she too had several sisters at the School.”

While a joint theatre subscription would normally allow Zoe to catch up with her 1988 cohort friends throughout the year, she said sadly COVID-19 had brought that to an abrupt halt.

“Unfortunately, we only made one play this season before the theatres were closed,” she said. “I’ve had a few Zoom meetings with friends and family but while Zoom is good for work meetings, I found social meetings rather unsatisfying.”

In fact, being an essential service worker and therefore permitted to continue working during lockdown, Zoe said she hadn’t really felt socially isolated at all.

“I have actually really enjoyed the quieter life with lots of home time and all the kids around a lot more and not rushing in a thousand different directions!” she said.

Lucinda ‘Lucy’ Treseder (Barker, 1992)

As a pilot with QANTAS, Paul Treseder is usually away more than he is at home, but since the global pandemic hit, life for the Treseder family has changed dramatically.

According to his wife Lucy, Paul had only recently been promoted to the role of Check and Training Captain at

QANTAS when COVID-19 essentially grounded the entire aviation industry.

“It was a goal for him his whole life,” Lucy said. “He went from the peak of his career – his last flight was literally him checking out as a new Training Captain – to nothing and not even knowing when he will be going back to work.”





While it has been good to have Paul around, Lucy said it has been a worrying time.

“He’s applied for heaps of other jobs because they have no indication of when they’re going back,” she said. “Obviously international travel is not going to be an option for a long time so there’s not going to be that much work.”

Lucy said they had made the most of him being home and having the extra set of hands around.

“We’ve built a retaining wall, got a whole lot of storage sorted out, cleared out a couple rooms, hung up pictures and that sort of thing,” she said. “We’ve done a lot of stuff although the average person probably couldn’t tell!”

Lucy said the family’s new puppy had also made the most of the change in circumstances having only met Paul once in January before lockdown began.

“They have gotten to know each other much better than they would have otherwise so that’s been a nice distraction!” she said. “We’ve been walking the dogs and going to the dog park A LOT!”

A contemporary artist, who usually works on her own from home anyway, Lucy said her work had not changed much except for some delays in installation.

“The install I am doing now was meant to happen in an office block in town at the end of March but that was put off,” she said. “We had just finished when it all happened, so it’s just been sitting there waiting.”

Lucy also suspected there may be fewer commissions on the horizon because of the economic impact of the global pandemic.

“Obviously jobs that we thought might have been in the pipeline for other offices and businesses have gone quiet and probably won’t happen considering they now have other priorities.”

Nevertheless, Lucy has been able to continue sculpting during lockdown courtesy of being well-prepared in relation to materials and supplies.

“The pieces I am working on at the moment have lots of old electrical cables,” she said. “I had a feeling the council-run recycling outlet was going to shut down, so I made sure I had plenty to go on with when it was all happening.”

Under normal circumstances, Lucy said she would probably access more materials about now, but it wasn’t yet critical.

Having exhibited in *Sculptures by The Sea* 11 times since 2009, Lucy is hoping her current work might be included again this year, provided the event is able to go ahead.

“I’ve been able to tinker away on it the whole time which has been really nice because it has been a good stress relief,” she said. “It’s very repetitive work so it is kind of quite meditative.”

In terms of adopting technology over the lockdown period, Lucy said she had made an effort at the beginning, but soon gave up.

“I sat down with the kids and forced them to do a ‘how to draw a face’ on the Art Gallery of NSW website with me and I found a couple of yoga classes,” she said. “I also participated in a free online workshop with a photographer through Head On(line) Photo Festival, which was really good, but that was about it.”

Lucy said the Abbotsleigh Off Campus Learning (AOCL) had gone very smoothly for her daughter, Lola (Year 7), during lockdown.

“I feel very lucky because basically I haven’t needed to be involved except right at the beginning when there might have been a technical hitch,” she said. “Lola is a real homebody – she got right into isolation!”

However, Lucy said she felt very disappointed for her 15-year-old son, Ted, who had missed out on an important Cadet camp.

“Ted is really into his Cadets so it was a shame, but I guess they will just have to make it up in some way.”

For Lucy, one unexpected bonus of coronavirus lockdown has been her new-found skill of roller-skating!

“It’s been a lifesaver!” she said. “I’ve been going to an unused undercover carpark to practise almost every day



and now I've bought myself a fancy new pair of skates – I'm just like a kid again!"

Karina Barker (1997)

The coronavirus lockdown didn't stop Karina and her family from pitching a tent and going boating, they just had to do it differently this year.

"Over Easter we usually go camping, but this time we pitched a tent in the living room," Karina said. "We also bought an inflatable boat for the swimming pool and spent many lazy days paddling back and forth."

With three busy young children – Violet 8 years, Clementine 5 years and Fred 2 years – Karina and her husband, William, knew they would need to get creative to survive lockdown at home.

"Thankfully Will's company encouraged people to take special COVID leave, which was a blessing as it allowed both of us to be at home with the children full time."

She said lockdown felt like it descended suddenly and dramatically and while it was scary, it was also quite exciting to suddenly have her little family home all the time.

"The best part about all of this is that we've been able to move slowly and together every day," Karina said.

Not surprisingly, home schooling has been a challenge, as being so young, the kids needed to be guided a lot.

"We chose to focus on reading and maths and used online resources like ABC Reading Eggs to help us," Karina said.

However, she said Violet missed her friends a lot!

"On Easter Sunday she made a little care package for her best friend and dropped it on her doorstep."

Karina said she was very grateful to have her sister Zoe and her family living next door and essentially operating as one household during lockdown.

"We have continued to (cautiously) keep the gate open between our houses during this time – it's impossible to keep the cousins apart!" Karina said. "We feel very fortunate to have a large extended family in our 'safe zone'."

She said the family also quickly decided it was a great time to get a puppy!

"We have spent lots of time bushwalking as a family in Wahroonga."

Unfortunately, a planned lunch with a fellow 1997 leaver had to be cancelled due to lockdown, but Karina said she had been able to keep in touch with others over Facetime.

FIFTH GENERATION CURRENT STUDENT Q & A



Alice Candrick (Year 11)

Q: What has been the best or worst part about the COVID-19 lockdown?

A: What I have hated most is missing out on our usual Easter camping trip with lots of friends and extended family. I was also booked to go with mum to New York in the school holidays as she had a

conference there. All our plans had to be cancelled and we are not sure when we can travel overseas again.

Q: Have you enjoyed the experience of Abbotsleigh Off Campus Learning (AOCL)?

A: Some parts of learning at home has been fun. I love having my dogs with me, often on the bed where I do some lessons from. I love being able to take them for walks at lunch time. I have also really enjoyed doing an art project from home during this time – utilising lots of photos and craft materials from around the home as we could not go to the shops.

Q: How has technology during COVID-19 restrictions worked for you?

A: The technology for learning from home has been fine. My biggest challenge is having to help mum and dad with their Zoom meetings!

Q: What have you missed the most during lockdown?

A: I have three brothers at home so there is always lots going on and people to talk to, but I have really missed my friends. I have managed to go on some walks with just one friend at a time who lives nearby.



Lola Treseder (Year 7)

Q: Have you enjoyed being in lockdown?

A: Yes, because I have connected with my family more. I have also had more time to play with my dogs.

Q: Have you enjoyed the experience of Abbotsleigh Off Campus Learning (AOCL)?



A: I have, because without afternoon activities, I have more time to do things. It has made me more independent and attentive because I have had to concentrate more, and I can't speak to my friends.

Q: What was the best part about returning to school?

Seeing my friends again... I didn't realise how much I missed them!

Q: Have you taken up any new activities during lockdown?

A: I feel like I've had more time to take care of myself. Reconnecting with friends on the phone, skin care, and drawing. I've done lots of cooking too – crême brûlée, meringues, wedges, cupcakes, cakes, pizza and lots more.

Q: What do you want to do when life goes back to normal?

A: Give Meemoo and Nonna (my grandmothers) a hug and make sure they're alright – and also my grandfathers!



ABBOTSLEIGH

Old Girls' Union Inc.



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



To order
 02 9473 7740
aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Queen's Birthday Honours List

Two Abbotsleigh Old Girls have been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List. The late Dr Michele Cotton (1965) is the recipient of the Member of the Order (AM) for significant service to veterinary science, education and professional organisations (awarded posthumously) and Jenetta Russell (1973) who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community and to business, in particular as a leading woman in the agricultural industry

DR MICHELE MARGARET COTTON AM (1948-2020)



Dr Michele Margaret Cotton (1965), known as 'Snowy' due to her fair hair, is fondly remembered by her Abbotsleigh classmates. She was Head Boarder Prefect and went on to become a veterinary scientist who had a huge impact on the Australian

and international veterinary communities and allied profession for more than 45 years. Graduating in 1973 from UNSW at a time when female vets were rare, she began her career in a country practice close to home. Her career as a clinician, researcher, conservationist, an educator and mentor took her to Seattle, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Zimbabwe and back to Sydney. A loving wife, mother and grandmother, Michele was passionate and dedicated to all her roles and managed to juggle it all.

You may wish to [read an article](#) about Michele's fascinating life published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 1 April 2020.

Heritage Fleet, Australian Society of Marine Artists, Australian Light Horse Association, Ben Ricketts Nature Preserve, St Johns Anglican Church (Gordon), Rotary Club of Wahroonga and Bush Children's Education Foundation (BCEF).

BCEF raises money for outback NSW secondary students who live more than 60 km from a school and come from a family that is struggling financially. Jenetta said that the organisation had received record applications for this school year but thanks to very generous benefactors, had been able to assist 80 students get to a regional NSW boarding school at a cost of \$160,000. However, Jenetta said while she expects there will be similar or greater demand from families in 2021, she had real concerns regarding donation levels due to the economic forecasts relating to COVID-19, as well as the recent drought and bushfires.

She described Rotary as being like a family to her for the past 20 years and expressed her joy to act as Membership Director and to see the amount of support given locally and globally.

A committee member of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union from 1979-1993, Jenetta ran a business in the poultry, pet food, pig and equine sectors from 1984-2018. The majority of the business was around predominantly natural animal feed additives and supplements.

"One of the achievements I am very proud of was to create a novel additive for chickens in Papua New Guinea, which resulted in increasing welfare and productivity in their poultry industry in both commercial meat chicken operations and also the village chickens up in the highlands which are bred for food or bartered between villages," she said.

JENETTA RUSSELL OAM

Old Girl Jenetta Russell (1973) says she is very honoured to receive a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2020 Honours List, as a woman in leadership in the agricultural industry and for her community service.

Jenetta's long list of charities include Riding for the Disabled, Primary Club of Australia, Cape Horners Association, Sydney





Abbotsleigh Commemorative Pavers

Steps of time...

When an Abbotsleigh girl walks out the front gates for the final time and takes her first step into her new journey as an Old Girl, she can't help but leave a little piece of herself behind.

The School has a special way to recognise these special 'steps of time'.

In recognition of donations of \$500 or more (tax deductible) to the Abbotsleigh Foundation, you will receive a commemorative paver and in doing so create a lasting legacy.

Our pavers are located just outside the Marian Clarke Building where current students, staff, Old Girls and guests stroll by them on a daily basis. These 'steps of time' tell a story of those who have been part of the School's history and at the same time create an opportunity where Old Girls and their families can enjoy seeking out their pavers amongst the collection. In addition, our current students also enjoy discovering familiar names and families during their school day.

If you would like to take up this opportunity, please contact **Sasha Carrel**, Fundraising Manager or phone Sasha on 02 9473 7738.





Jillian Colebourn (2013)

Jill made history last year when she became the first Australian woman in more than 20 years to compete at the Biathlon World Cup, where she achieved a personal best, re-qualifying her for the 2020 World Cup circuit. She's completing a double degree in mechatronic engineering and commerce and is set to graduate at the end of this year.

She was awarded an Engineering Sydney Industry Placement Scholarship (ESIPS), designed to give the highest-achieving students valuable industry experience at top engineering companies. As an ESIPS recipient, Jill underwent an internship at multinational services company Accenture Australia.

In her thesis, Jill investigated new machine learning models for predicting failures in complex computer systems, and was also a recipient of the Muriel Anderson Scholarship for Engineering in 2014, the first year of her degree, which recognises outstanding female engineering students beginning their studies.

Jill headed for an overseas exchange in Milan, Italy at Bocconi University for the first semester of 2020 to further her engineering and commerce degree – and possibly prepare for an Olympic berth.

She sees herself working with Accenture for the near future as a software engineer while also balancing her athletic commitments and Olympic goals. This will help her keep her technical skills up to date while she pursues sport, so that she is fully prepared for work as an engineer when she finishes her sporting career.

Senior School Swimming Carnival

One of the few school events to take place before COVID-19 restrictions hit was the Senior School Swimming Carnival held at Sydney Olympic Aquatic Park in February. This year the hotly contested Boarders vs Day Girls vs Old Girls Relay came down to a nail-biting finish. Congratulations to the Day Girls who took out the win by the narrowest of margins when Year 12 student Holly Nelson overtook her sister Amy (2017) in just the final few metres. The Old Girls team was enthusiastically supported by some of the Old Girls on staff proudly wearing the bottle green!



Some of the Old Girls on staff supporting the Old Girls swimming relay team.



Old Girls 2020 Swimming Team: Natasha Ramsden (2018), Amy Nelson (2017), Annabelle Andrew (2018) and Rebecca St Vincent (2019)

Mothers' Afternoon Tea

An early appearance on the AOGU's 2020 calendar saw approximately 35 mothers and daughters attend the Mothers' Afternoon Tea before COVID-19 restrictions brought all other events to a stop. It was a lovely opportunity to welcome six Old Girl 'new mothers' back to the School as their daughters started at Abbotsleigh this year. Sally Ruston brought the Junior School girls up to the Senior School to join in the afternoon tea, making it a good opportunity for them to meet each other. This was particularly nice for the new Year 7 girls as there were a number of Year 7 daughters of Old Girls in attendance. As usual, it was a very relaxed event and everyone happily mingled. This year, there were a number of attendees from the classes of 1990, 1991 and 1992 so it was like a mini-reunion. Abbotsleigh Archivist Julie Daly provided an archival display including copies of *The Weaver* from those years, which the girls particularly enjoyed.



Reunions when you can't have a reunion

COVID-19 may have put a halt to hundreds of Old Girls gathering to celebrate milestone reunions so far this year, but it can't stop the sharing of fond school day memories. In lieu of the actual events for those year groups who would otherwise be celebrating milestone reunions about now, we hope you enjoy reliving the days of the old schoolyard with the following...



1950 leavers – looking back 70 years

1950 Prefects with Headmistress, Miss Gordon Everett (as she styled herself), who was referred to particularly among her senior 'gels' as 'Ev', although not to her face.



1960 leavers – looking back 60 years

(photo supplied by Jane Meggitt)



1970 leavers Prefects – looking back 50 years



1980 leavers – looking back 40 years

1980 Boarder Prefects (from left): Anne Royds, Katherine Brown, Annabel Hirst, Susan Poole, Margie Firth, Fiona Hamilton, Prudy Miles, Margot Alston, Alison Bowen, Bettina Russ.

Photo supplied by Sandy Ryley (1980): "Here is a photo I took in 1979 showing my distinguished friends who inspired me over the two years, 1979 and 1980 at Abbotsleigh, and since then. The photo brings back many happy memories of those times and all the friends that I made there. The inclusiveness, comradery, sharing their love of Australia and the School spirit are some of my favourite memories from school."



1995 leavers – looking back 25 years

1995 House Captains bringing house spirit to life!
Photo shared by Lisa Bloom (Thiedeman, 1995)

1972 leavers reunion 2022

Want to be on the list for the 50 year reunion in 2022?

Please contact:

Miranda (Mandy) Harrowell AM

E aug2012reunion@gmail.com

M +61 402 172 231



2000 leavers – looking back 20 years

Welcome to the world



Clare Rannard (2002) and husband Dean were relieved to meet their baby boy, a delightful son named Edmund Vincent, who emerged two and a half weeks early but in good health on August 12 2019, and then thrilled to be able to take him home four days later. Edmund is a little brother for their first child, Lydia Estelle. Lydia was stillborn on 30 July 2015 nine days before her due date. She is a dearly loved and deeply missed daughter and now, a big sister.



Mahlia Peachey (2015) is the Health Informatics Officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Melbourne, where she been working (in multiple roles) for the past three years. She really loves the work that she does and the people that she works with.

Mahlia writes, "In October 2019 I had my first child, a baby boy, whose name is Djikurra. His name originates from the Yorta Yorta tribe here in Victoria/NSW. It was given to him by his Godfather who is a proud Yorta Yorta man. Djikurra is the sweetest baby and can definitely brighten your day with his beautiful smile."



Susan Walker (2000) and husband Marcio Puga welcomed their little lady, Rafaela Antonia Walker Puga, on 6 March 2020.



Eloise Gillespie (Norton, 2008) and her husband Adam were delighted to welcome their daughter Ruby on 18 November 2019. Ruby arrived three weeks early and has been in a hurry to do everything else since!



Georgie Worner (Rees, 1997) and her husband Alex are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Imogen on April 6, 2020. Imogen is the granddaughter of Jackie Rees (Selosse, 1969) and the great granddaughter of Shirley Selosse (Forrest, 1941). Everyone was looking forward to all four generations meeting for the first time together as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allowed!

Moira Dondas (Ferguson, 1967)



Our beloved friend Moira died on Easter Saturday, 2019. She had signed off from our schoolies WhatsApp group the night before as always with “Love and laughter, Peeps,” but she didn’t wake the following morning. Her departure, leaving family and friends bereft and stunned, was as brusque and unceremonious as she could have wished for.

Moira came to Abbotsleigh in Year 7 and became a leader of a loose-knit group of friends which, far from unravelling, has strengthened over the years. Her energy and forthright approach charmed many over her lifetime. “Be interested and be interesting,” she used to say to her daughter, Millie.

After leaving school, Moira threw herself into working life before embarking in her early 20s to live and work in Rome. On returning to Australia she moved to Tamworth where she established a secretarial services business. Her door was always open, and with her warm, gregarious personality and love of conversation, her house was often filled with people calling in for a chat over a cup of tea or a drink. This ‘open door’ policy continued all Moira’s life.

In addition to her secretarial services she had a regular program called *Take 5* on Prime TV, which gave a rundown of community news. This whetted her appetite for television and the rest of her career was spent in the industry in Australia and Indonesia. She moved to live in Darwin due to the filming opportunities and there her company developed and produced the first Indonesian version of *Sesame Street*. She was rightly proud of the fact that the format is still replicated in Indonesia today and exported to developing countries in the region.

In 1987 she married Nick Dondas, an MP in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly who later went on to the House of Representatives. The next 14 years were very busy for them both, celebrating the birth of their daughter Amelia in 1992, and combining working together and in separate locations.

When they retired, Moira and Nick left Darwin and moved to Noosa to be closer to Millie who was in boarding school in Brisbane, and looked after her mother for the last five years of her life. Throughout her life Moira had been a great support to not only her mother but also to members of her extended family.

In 2010 Nick’s right leg was amputated after a clot, following double hip replacement surgery. After some time, Moira took over his rehabilitation. As self-pity was not in her character and she did not accept it in others, Moy told Nick to “get a grip” and get out of his wheelchair, or she was walking out the door! It sounds tough, but she feared a slide into lethargy and depression, and she made mountains move to ensure that his life was as easy and interesting as possible. She called Nick ‘Hop-along’ after the amputation, but she adored and protected him.

She told many of those who went to her for sympathy to “get a grip” but this bracing advice was always accompanied by a cup of tea or a glass of wine, heartfelt sympathy and assistance.

When it was clear that a change was desirable, Moira packed up and moved them both to Penang where she continued to entertain generously. She also spoke up about the destruction of the orangutan habitat in Borneo due to the expansion of the palm oil industry.

Moira loved reading and hated euphemisms. If anyone said that someone had ‘passed away’ she would interrupt with, “She died, for God’s sake”, or if someone referred to a woman as a lady, Moira would declare “she’s not a lady, she doesn’t have a title”. Her straight talking was legendary.

While Moira was a woman to be reckoned with and didn’t suffer fools easily, to her friends she was loyal, kind and generous. An excellent communicator and conversationalist, with Moira, laughter and fun were always near. Her energy, optimism and enthusiasm for life were infectious.

We all miss her greatly; we are all diminished by her death.

By 1967 leavers: Anne McCallum (Pawley), Jane Reynolds (Stuart), Pippa Horton (Hull), Lyndall (Lou) Stackpool (Hudson), Verity Roberts, Dale Osborne, Alison Grant (Vernon) and Pen Murray (Robbie).



Janet Harrowell (King, 1942)



Janet Grimley King was born on 26 June 1925 to Ralph and Myra King, the youngest of five children, and attended Abbotsleigh with Pauline Griffin (1942), her cousin and lifelong friend.

Pauline remembers Janet as being very good at sport, particularly netball, horse riding and tennis.

Janet commenced veterinary science at Sydney University, but during WWII, there was a shortage of labour in Australia as the men enlisted to fight, so Janet left university to work as a jillaroo on a sheep station in southern NSW.

With the end of the war, Janet and her sister Audrey travelled through the UK and Europe. Janet had previously met John Harrowell, and he proposed to her on her return – prompted (according to a tale that must have come from Janet) by a photo of Janet smiling beside a particularly handsome Austrian ski instructor. They were married in 1952 with one of her best friends from Abbotsleigh, Barbara Rofe, as bridesmaid. Barbara had been Senior Prefect, and Janet a Prefect.

Janet and John bought a home in Gordon and had four sons, and Janet became very involved in the parents' association and in supporting the development of art teaching at their school.

In the late 1960s, Janet became interested in yoga, subsequently qualifying as a yoga teacher, and a wonderful collection of swamis, healers and occasional cranks would be warmly received into the family home.

Around 1964, the family moved to Turramurra and in the 1970s, Janet and John purchased a farm near Dalgety, which Janet loved, and moved there permanently a couple of years later. John became involved in local issues and went on to form the Dalgety Progress Association and started the environmental ball rolling

that resulted in a return of water into the Snowy. Janet and John moved to Oberon in 1994 where John was diagnosed with lymphoma and died in 1998. After John's death, Janet took to his ride-on mower with glee and regularly mowed the 4.2 hectare property, announcing that it was such fun that she could see why John enjoyed it so much.

Janet was a skilled craftswoman and could spin yarn, weave and work in ceramics. Gardening and love of animals were constant themes in her life. Janet was also heavily involved in the Oberon community, and was a long-time volunteer at the Cobweb craft shop. She finished up at Cobweb at the age of 89 when the shop decided to move to an EFTPOS trading system. She was still paying for groceries using a cheque book and did not feel able to make the technological leap.

In the last couple of years of her life, Janet suffered from dementia and had to move to the Columbia Nursing Home in Oberon. Even when she didn't have much of an idea who any of her visitors were, it was a testament to her real, unadorned character that she was genuinely delighted to have a visit from anyone, and even more so if there was a glimmer of any memory of who the visitor might be.

Janet died on 16 April 2020, a few months short of her 95th birthday. Truly the rock on which her family was built, her many tributes speak of her radiant smile, infectious laugh, happiness, gentle and caring nature, and genuine interest in everyone's lives and activities.

Sheila Margaret Johnstone (Macdonald, 1938)



Sheila Margaret Johnstone (Macdonald, 1938) was a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, university graduate, scientist, parent campaigner, company director, share trader, avid walker, skier, tennis player and community activist. Until she was diagnosed with Parkinson's, Sheila lived a full and active life, and one also of service to others.

She was fiercely determined and in her own life she challenged and overcame barriers to women. She passionately believed women could do anything and she strongly encouraged her daughters, friends and many other women to believe in their own abilities, to travel and to have independent lives. It is one of Sheila's greatest legacies.

Sheila attended Ravenswood primary school before moving to Abbotsleigh until intermediate and then Frensham for the last two years of school. On leaving school, Sheila desperately wanted to study medicine, but her father didn't think it a suitable occupation for a young woman. Instead she studied Occupational Therapy and then, fascinated by science, she also studied Agriculture at Sydney University.

After graduation, Sheila worked for two years at the CSIRO in Canberra on biological control methods for the destructive cabbage moth. Sheila went on to marry Cliff Johnstone and to raise four well-educated and strong, independent daughters.

"We Scots are hard to kill." It was a refrain we heard regularly as Sheila bravely battled Parkinson's. It summed up her great determination and her fierce pride in her Scottish heritage, one of the Macdonalds of Skye, and she made a point of keeping in close touch with her family in Scotland. She loved and could sing many Scottish ballads. Her favourite was the *Skye Boat Song*. Sheila also adored and could recite by heart many of the works of the Scottish Poet Robbie Burns.

The last few years of her life were difficult ones for Sheila, but she bore the Parkinson's with an enduring optimism until her death in 2014.

Diane Johnstone AM (daughter)

Prudence Ann Hordern (Searcy, 1943)

Prue attended Abbotsleigh in her primary school years, and while she went on to board at Frensham, she made lifelong friends at Abbotsleigh.

Prue had a zest for life. She expressed herself through her creativity and was a member of The Queen's Club where she created many flower arrangements. She also loved her garden and was continually creating new areas. A member of the National Trust, Prue loved all things cultural and was an avid reader. She had a special interest in the theatre, and in particular, the opera.

Throughout her life she painted, attending classes, and enjoyed trips away, travelling annually.

Prue adored her family, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and lived a full and eventful life.

Verity Bligh (Prue's daughter)

Megan Tozer (Hunt, 1982)



My beautiful bestie Megan Tozer (Hunt) passed away on 10 May 2020 after battling secondary breast cancer.

Megan attended Abbotsleigh from Year 4 (1974) to Year 10 (1980), completing her schooling at Barker College and graduating in 1982. She went on to study Real Estate and had a successful career in commercial leasing. Megan and her husband of 28 years, Steve Tozer, worked together closely, specialising in the telecommunication industry, and were heavily involved in setting up the leases for Australia's mobile phone tower system.

Megan was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008, and successfully fought it off. She then became involved in dragon boat paddling with the Pittwater Pinks, a team of breast cancer survivors, and Bei Loon Dragonboat Paddling Club. Megan was deeply committed to fitness and paddling and participated in many competitions including Saratoga (USA), Florence (Italy) and the Dragonboat World Championships in 2018 in Szeged, Hungary as well as a 55 km race in

Kununnurra. She was an inspiration to others, being incredibly disciplined in her training, and going onto become a director of Dragons Abreast, a spokeswoman for the National Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and a participant in the Laine Beachley Foundation's mentoring program.

A few months after receiving the 10 year all clear in 2018, Megan was diagnosed with secondary breast cancer. After a brave fight, she passed away peacefully on Mother's Day surrounded by her family. A small funeral was held in her honour, in her beloved Tumut, in accordance with her wishes.

A dedicated wife and mother, loving daughter, sister, daughter in law and friend, she is survived by her husband Steve, daughters Lauren and Madeline, mother, Julie, sister Myfanwy (Sarni), brother Garth, parents-in-law Cliff and Pauline and countless relatives and friends who will miss her very much.

Meg was a true friend – always positive, always had time for a catch up, her family were my family as our children grew up together.

Stay strong and keep paddling my friend. Miss you heaps.

Please feel free to donate to the [National Breast Cancer Foundation](#) in her memory. Meg passionately believed that a cure was possible. Thank you.

Kara Jamieson (1982)

Prue McCullagh (Docker, 1948)



Abbotsleigh Old Girl Prudence Wybergh McCullagh (Docker, 1948) passed away peacefully in November 2019 aged 89 years. While at Abbotsleigh in 1948, Prue was awarded the Five Sisters Prize. This is awarded to the girl who succeeds at the highest level in the School across numerous disciplines including academic and co-curricular. The photo shows Prue as part of the 1948 tennis team.

Prue was an active member of the Abbotsleigh Old Girl community and attended many events, including Black and Gold lunches, and she also played an active part in organising year group reunions including her recent 65 and 70 year reunions. Only recently, Prue said she was very proud to be an Old Girl having had nine wonderful years at Abbotsleigh and still had strong friendships lasting from her school days. Prue was also a proud supporter of our Indigenous Scholarships. We treasure our Old Girls and Prue will be sorely missed.

Mareah Rhodes-White (Ludowici, 1953)



Mareah attended Abbotsleigh from 1941 to 1953 when she completed the Leaving Certificate. She then went on to Kindergarten Training College in Waverley, however, before completing this course Mareah 'went bush' to take a governess role working on 'Bairnkine Station' near Walgett.

It was here that she met Robert Rhodes-White who was the Overseer. Rob and Mareah got engaged soon after meeting, following a whirlwind romance. Mareah and Rob were married on 10 September 1960 at St James, Turramurra. They then moved to 'Solfarino' station in central Queensland which they purchased in partnership with Rob's sister and her husband. Their first child, Hugh, was born in 1961, followed by a daughter, Lucy, in 1965.

Mareah and Rob sold 'Solfarino' in 1965 and purchased another cattle and farming property closer to Clermont which they named 'Merriwonga'. In 1980, they sold up and moved to the new 'Merriwonga' in Wotton, NSW.

Known as 'Mardi' to her six grandchildren, two of whom attended Abbotsleigh – Melanie Rhodes-White (2007) and Claudia Rhodes-White (2011), Mareah brought much joy and many laughs, to her family.

Mareah was involved in many AOGU events after leaving school and had many dear, lifelong friends from her Abbotsleigh days. It was with these friends that she enjoyed going on many local and international trips. She particularly loved travelling through the NSW countryside visiting family and friends. It was on one of these journeys that she died peacefully while in Armidale, NSW, a favourite destination of hers.

Mareah was extremely generous, highly eccentric and dearly loved by many. She will be greatly missed.

Melanie Rhodes-White (2007)

Vicki Keen (Hemingway, 1961)



After leaving Abbotsleigh, Vicki Keen (Hemingway, 1961) trained at business school which led to an interesting career in the travel industry. She had a career break when she married and had two children before rejoining the workforce and working for the Guide Dogs Association.

Upon remarrying, she moved to Oberon in NSW with her husband, Sam, and they started a native farm tree nursery called Evergreen. Vicki also worked as the executive assistant to the manager of the CSR operations in Oberon for many years. Vicki and Sam retired in 2010 to Alstonville, NSW. She always kept in touch with her loyal and very close school friends with holidays and AOGU activities, coming to Sydney annually for the Golf Day and attending reunions. Golf was her hobby and she played for the clubs where she lived.

Vicki battled with cancer for more than 20 years and passed away in September 2018. Vicki and her daughter Belinda Lasker (Pierce, 1990) were both boarders at Abbotsleigh. She was the sister of Sue Dowsett (Hemingway, 1956), much-loved aunt of Sarah Hofman (Dowsett, 1986) and great aunt to Alex Hofman (2018).

Elspeth 'Essie' Lennox Sullivan (Davis, 1965)



Elspeth 'Essie' Sullivan (Davis, 1965) grew up in Wahroonga and began her Abbotsleigh education in Year 3, joining her big sister Carolyn. She played competitive cricket and, courtesy of having a court at home, was not only a good tennis player but also known to host excellent tennis parties!

Essie left Abbotsleigh in 1965 and trained at Sydney Kindergarten Teachers' College in

Waverly. Essie then travelled to London in 1968 where she worked at a London Docks preschool before continuing her travels abroad for the remainder of the year. Having found she was a natural at her chosen career path, Essie worked at and became principal of a number of preschools in Sydney before marrying Robert 'Bob' Sullivan in July 1974 and moving to the small NSW country town of Molong.

Essie subsequently became principal of Molong Preschool and was a board director prior to the birth of their first child, Lucinda. In 1977 the small family moved to the property, 'Teralba', near the far north-western outback community of Brewarrina. Their first son, Timothy, was born in 1978. During this time Essie helped facilitate preschool services at the 'nearby' remote Indigenous community, Weilmoringle, north of Bourke. Their second son, Lachlan, was born in 1980. Shortly afterwards, drought forced the Sullivans into a caravan and onto the stock route for four months in search of feed for their thousands of sheep. Once back on the property, Essie taught Lucinda school by correspondence while simultaneously establishing a mobile preschool van which provided much needed social interaction and educational activities for isolated families with young children living in the shire of Brewarrina.

The move back to Molong in 1982 saw Essie return to teaching at Molong Preschool and the start of her heavy engagement in a long list of other community services in the region, including the Life Education Van and Children's Medical Research Foundation. In 1992 Essie

joined the Abbotsleigh Boarder Parents' Committee and in 1993 was a member of the organising committee for the inaugural NSW Women of the Land Gatherings held in Orange (events that continue to be held across NSW today). Rural Women's Gathering.

In 1995 Essie started working at the local Cabonne Council, taking on the role as Family Day Care (FDC) Coordinator and rapidly turned the small service into a thriving business. Essie had fantastic links with State and Federal Governments and a knack for seeking funding when needed. As the service grew, Essie was instrumental in gaining funding for new Development Officer positions. It was also during this time the Federal Government put forward a pilot program to NSW Local Government, Family Links. With Essie's engagement, commitment and passion, Cabonne Council gained one of the six pilot programs, which successfully continues to assist isolated and lower socioeconomic families in the area.

In 2002, Essie was part of the team that applied for funding and grants to build a new Community Health Centre in Molong. The plan for the proposed one stop health facility was to house a combination of primary care and preventative health services – the very first of its type in Australia, and would also include a separate childcare facility (Essie's passion in life), meeting rooms and Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service offices.

The \$3.6 million Waluwin Health Centre was officially opened in February 2010, with Essie being part of this opening and acknowledged for her commitment and passion to this fantastic project. Ten years later, the Centre is now a thriving hub integrating primary,





community and allied health service staff, as well as a training facility for young doctors and medical students.

In 1999, with expenses from her own pocket, Essie attended the International Family Day Care Organisation (IFDCO) conference in Scotland and presented a paper on rural and remote education in Australia. She was elected Vice President of the NSW Family Day Care Association in 2001 and was very proud to be later named a Life Member of the organisation. She also treasured her experience of visiting all the corners of Australia (often accompanied by Bob) as a Registered Validator for the Family Day Care Quality Assurance System until her resignation in 2009 due to ill health.

Despite her ongoing battle with cancer, Essie continued attending various conferences and maintaining good relationships with friends and colleagues. In 2014, Red Cross' Centenary year, Essie undertook the collection of memories, photographs, documents and information on the Red Cross in the Molong, Cumnock and Euchareena areas culminating in The Red Cross Story.

In 2015, with Essie's health continuing to be tested, Bob and Essie moved into Orange. However, not one to remain idle, Essie joined the board of the Orange Conservatorium of Music and just last year was a key instigator in helping secure \$10 million in federal funding for a planned, purpose-built music education and performance facility. Essie resigned from her beloved board position while in palliative care earlier this year but was promptly visited by the group who presented her with Life Membership.

Essie recently stated how hard it was sending her children away to boarding school at the tender age of 12 but that she recognised all the good things it brought into their lives. Essie never once hesitated to throw open her doors to all their friends, including when the 'Weandre' homestead burned down in 1993 and the Sullivans were forced to live in a small farm cottage while the main house was being rebuilt. Literally dozens of Abbotsleigh girls (who had been planning their stay for months due to the proximity to Wellington where the country parties were being held) descended and were all catered for with apparent ease. During these stays, Essie could often be heard sharing words of advice to any loitering teenager (often while doing the washing up).

Essie's strong belief in family and life saw her courageously maintain a solid and positive battle with her health. Her Christian beliefs always remained by her side – and within.

Rhonda Kaan, Old Girls Relations Assistant, written with contributions from many including Bob and Lucinda Sullivan (1993), Annabel Baxter (Marr, 1965), Rhonda Kaan (1993) and Cabonne City Council.



Marcia 'Sunnie' Kitson (Russell, 1940)

Marcia 'Sunnie' Kitson (Russell, 1940) died peacefully on 16 May 2020. She was 97 and according to her daughter, Melina, she had a wonderful life. Melina said Marcia used to share many fond stories of her time at Abbotsleigh and that she felt very privileged to have been Head Girl in 1940. Marcia kept in touch with the School over the years and was in regular contact with the School Archivist, Julie Daly. Mrs Daly said Marcia was always concerned for the veracity of information in the archives. Marcia had planned to have everyone sing the hymn that the School Song is sung to at her funeral.

Marcia is pictured here with the 1940 Prefects.

Margaret Ann Wallace (Letch, 1951)



Margaret Ann Clairs Wallace (Letch) passed away on 27 May 2019. Ann attended Abbotsleigh from 1941 to 1950, when her family moved to Melbourne. Her leaving year would have been 1951. She loved her time at Abbotsleigh and placed great store on the friendships that she made and the education that she received. Ann

is pictured on her first day at Abbotsleigh, and also (holding wine and flowers) with Robin Gregor (Firth, 1951) on their way to attend the Class of 1951 60 Year reunion in 2011.

From Melbourne, Ann and family moved to the UK where she met and married English submariner Richard (Dick) Wallace in 1954. In 1956 they left the UK for Sydney, settling in Killara. Dick left the navy, and they started their own gift trade business, which they ran together for more than 50 years.

Ann loved the Arts, and during the years that her daughters Kerryn Hands (Wallace, 1974) and Kim Wallace (1979) attended Abbotsleigh, she convened and ran for many years the Abbotsleigh Gallery Viewing Group (an extension of the Abbotsleigh Arts Association (AAA)) – promoted with the following words by Ann – “We can all ‘look’ but sometimes we cannot ‘see’. From ‘seeing’ will come visual appreciation – appreciation being not necessarily the enjoyment of liking but that of understanding.” On behalf of the AAA, Ann and Dick

organised A Century of Australian Art, exhibition and auction, held in Everett Hall in September 1972.

Twice, Ann booked out the entire Capitol Theatre (more than 2,000 seats) for performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, selling the tickets to raise funds for Abbotsleigh. On each occasion, the Capitol Theatre provided no box office service to Ann – she had to process and manage it all manually. I remember the big seating plan spread across our dining room table, being gradually filled in with colours and patterns indicating tickets reserved, sold, paid and collected.

Ann passed away peacefully in May 2019.

Kerryn Hands (Wallace, 1974)



We Remember

Belinda Baker (Martin, 1997)

Helen Carroll (Kenyon, 1948)

Sue Costello (Prideaux, 1969)

Alison Hartnell (1975)

Elizabeth Ann Hartnell (Fitzsimons, 1945)

Michele Judzewitsch (Cotton, 1965)

Caroline Laws (Waller, 1954)

Margaret McNeill (Costello, 1949)

Stephanie Gaye Powell (Roberts, 1985)

Anne Margaret Reynolds (Buckingham, 1942)

Lorna Robinson (Murray, 1962)

Diana Thorburn (Scott-Waine, 1945)

Penelope ‘Penny’ Jane White OAM (Moir, 1946)

Bernadette Farrell (1998)

A philanthropic passion for education

Margaret Sachs (Coburn, 1965) chats with Rhonda Kaan, Old Girl Relations Assistant, about her love for Abbotsleigh and her desire to see it flourish for future generations

Rhonda Kaan (Turner, 1993) Old Girls Relations Assistant



Margaret Sachs (Coburn, 1965) often says, “I’ve never really left school” and perhaps there are no truer words ever spoken.

Margaret ‘left’ Abbotsleigh in 1965 but she promptly joined the Abbotsleigh Old Girls’ Union (AOGU) and after years of service, including serving as President during the 1980s, she was made an Honorary Life Member in 2012 and is still an active member of the committee today.

As well as being an Old Girl, Margaret has been involved with the School as a parent and now also as a grandparent. As an Abbotsleigh student during the extraordinary leadership of Betty Archdale, Margaret is acutely aware of the opportunities a good education can provide.

“It was an amazing era to be educated and to be going on to one’s vocation in life,” Margaret said. “Women were gaining their independence in many ways and by the time I left school, the world was our oyster. We could do whatever we wanted – even as a woman!”

Having been involved with a number of philanthropic organisations over the years, including The Northcott Society and more recently as Advisor for the Bush Children’s Education Foundation of NSW, Margaret

not only knows the importance of education, but how supporting it can make a real difference.

“Throughout our lives we’ve had opportunities to give to the School and we’ve been very grateful we’ve been in the position to do so,” Margaret said. “Obviously having been involved with the School as long as I have, I know it is always looking forward to new projects, new building programs, special items like the organ for the Chapel and in more recent times, the Indigenous Scholarship program.”

Margaret was around at the time of inception of the Abbotsleigh Foundation and served as a Board Member for almost three decades. Today she is a committee member of the Marian Clarke Society.

“Anyone who has been to the School will be able to see the way Abbotsleigh has taken on all the new challenges and aspects of education,” she said. “I see a bequest as a marvellous way to leave a gift to the School and make a real impact by helping open doors to opportunities for our future generations.

“*Tempus fugit*, as they say in the classics!” Margaret said. “At my stage in life, having experienced an Abbotsleigh education myself and having had a daughter and now a granddaughter at the School, you realise how important it is to play your part, if you can, in what the School has to offer our future generations.”

The Marian Clarke Society is an initiative of the Abbotsleigh Foundation that acknowledges and celebrates, during their lifetime, the generosity of those who have notified the School that they are leaving a gift in their will to Abbotsleigh.

However modest, Abbotsleigh is deeply appreciative of bequests from members of our school community. Further information about gifts in wills can be found at: www.abbottsleigh.nsw.edu.au/giving/gifts-in-wills

Alternatively, you may contact the Director of Development and Community Relations, [Alex Lightfoot](mailto:Alex.Lightfoot@abbottsleigh.nsw.edu.au), or for a confidential chat by phone, call Alex on 02 9473 7737.

How we looked in 1920

Our Headmistress



Miss Margaret Murray, photographed here in 1922, was our Headmistress from 1913-1924.

Our uniform

In 1917, Miss Murray introduced a uniform in which the girls could play sport. Comprising a navy skirt, white shirt and later, a black blazer with gold trim for inter-school sport teams, it served as the inspiration for the main uniform, which appeared in 1920. This comprised a blue box tunic, black woollen tights and black shoes. The photos here suggest that the girls could wear a white shirt of choice, their own belt, and neckwear appeared to be optional. A panama hat completed the ensemble. Note the black school shoes worn for tennis!



Junior School girls



Prefects in their white silk Sunday dresses



3rd Form



Aileen and Kathleen Gordon



1st Class taken in the garden at Wollumbin, the boarding house across the road from Abbotsleigh on the corner of Coonanbarra Road and Pacific Highway.



Prefects

Sport

In 1901, our first Headmistress, Miss Marian Clarke, purchased land on Lucinda Avenue, up the highway from Abbotsleigh. Called 'fields', here she added tennis courts, basketball courts and a cricket ground. Due to 'fields', Abbotsleigh is recognised as the first school in Australia to provide sporting facilities for girls, the first to offer cricket to girls, and one of the earliest schools to play basketball.



Tennis team



Physical culture



Cricket at fields (photographed in 1921)

Our surroundings

Abbotsleigh didn't own anything else up or down the (now) Pacific Highway around 1920 except for 'fields' up on the corner of Lucinda Avenue and Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway). Our classrooms were all in School House and the Platform Room, and our boarders lived in School House and Wollumbin (directly across the Highway from Abbotsleigh). There was a separate sick bay which was the health centre - located away from the main buildings due to quarantining sick girls. Our girls walked up the highway to St Paul's at Pearce's Corner to attend church, as our Chapel wasn't built until 1965.



The School in the 1920s



Our playing fields ('fields')



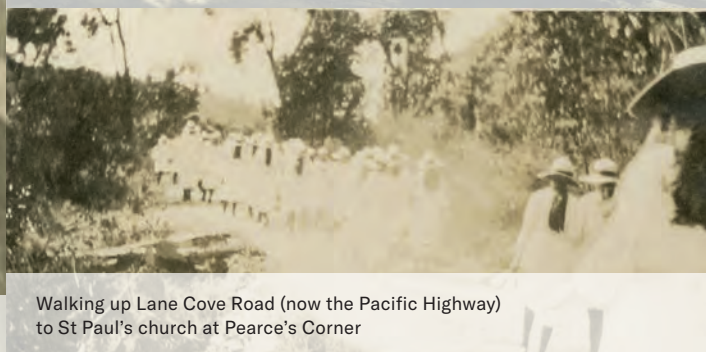
Platform Room view 1



Platform Room view 2



This building, known as the Platform Room, was located in front of the current GLC. The building housed classrooms, music rooms and downstairs doubled as both classrooms and school hall.



Walking up Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway) to St Paul's church at Pearce's Corner

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.

\$190,000 | 10 

INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS

\$141,320 | 5 

BETTY ARCHDALE SCHOLARSHIPS

\$90,732 | 7 

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

\$32,840 | 1 

KATHLEEN McCREDIE
SCHOLARSHIP

\$32,230 | 2 

ROYLE SCHOLARSHIPS

\$30,830 | 1 

MOLLIE AND NANCY
DOUGLAS SCHOLARSHIP

\$15,810 | 1 

EVERETT SCHOLARSHIP

\$533,752 | 27 

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP
ALLOCATION

Other Grants

Donors to the Foundation can make a gift to the fund of their choice to support an area of the School about which they are passionate. Together as a community we can continue to build on our strong foundations and create greater opportunity in girls' education.

\$224,512

BOARDER BURSARY
DROUGHT RELIEF FUND



\$47,353

BUILDING FUND



\$33,730 | 82 

PRIZES

\$8,188 | 2 

STAFF RESEARCH
GRANTS

\$847,528

TOTAL FUNDS
112 RECIPIENTS

The Foundation could not have raised these funds without the very generous Abbotsleigh Community of current parents, past parents, Old Girls and staff. This support makes a very real difference to our students' learning every day. We look forward to working with our donors to grow the impact of the Foundation in 2020 and beyond.

Abbotsleigh scholarship graduates over the last decade



ABBOTSLEIGH
FOUNDATION

Sally Mack (2009-2010)

Abbotsleigh Welfare Fund Bursary

"At Abbotsleigh I was lucky to be surrounded by people who really believed in me and taught me the importance of making the most of every opportunity."

Currently Sally is the Business Operations and Strategy Manager for a global tech start-up called SafetyCulture.



Hannah Hilton (Ranby, 2008-2013)

Indigenous Scholarship

"If I hadn't come to Abbotsleigh I think I'd still be in Moree and working as a check-out chick... My life would be very different if I didn't have the opportunity to come to Abbotsleigh."

Currently Hannah works at Yalari (a not for profit organisation providing Indigenous Scholarships) as the Student Support Officer for Abbotsleigh and Kambala students.

Rani West (2014-2016)

Kathleen McCredie Scholarship

"The Kathleen McCredie Scholarship opened endless doors of opportunities for me that I could never have had or imagined. It changed my life. The scholarship has broadened my understanding of what I am capable of and exposed me to new and incredible experiences."

Currently Rani is undertaking a PHD in Sports Biomechanics (physics and hydrodynamics). She is also working for the Queensland Institute of Sport preparing swimmers for the next Olympics.



Vimbainashe Murambi (2016-2018)

Foundation Scholarship

"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."

Currently Vimbainashe is studying a Bachelor of Laws and Social Sciences.



ABBOTSLEIGH

Junior School
22 Woonona Avenue
Wahroonga NSW 2076
T 02 9473 7700
F 02 9473 7690

Senior School & Administration
1666 Pacific Highway (Cnr Ada Avenue)
Wahroonga NSW 2076
T 02 9473 7777
F 02 9473 7680

www.abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au