

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

A week of celebration as our girls 'journeyed with joy' at Abbotsleigh

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

Abbotsleigh has been alive with the sound of music, joy and celebration this week as our Junior School girls staged their superb production of *Mary Poppins JR.* and our Senior School girls put on an outstanding music concert, 'Joy Unbound'. The fantastic 'Journey With Joy' Festival, organised by our Prefects for girls in Years 6-12, was a magnificent conclusion to this wonderful week of celebration and joy at Abbotsleigh.

From the minute the curtain opened until the closing moment, every member of the audience watching our Junior School girls' performances of *Mary Poppins JR.* was mesmerised by our Junior School girls' creativity and talent as they brought the story of Mary Poppins to life. Indeed, the energy, enthusiasm and pure joy radiated from every part of the stage as our girls acted, sang and danced their way through this delightful musical. It really was such fun! The final performance of *Mary Poppins JR.* is on tonight – and I am sure that it will be equally as *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* as the previous performances have been. Well done to every girl involved, both on and off stage – your teachers, your parents and I are so proud of you girls!

Click here for the full program of *Mary Poppins JR.*





The creativity, talent and hard work of our Senior School musicians were also on display this week as the girls celebrated 'Women in Music' through their exceptional 'Joy Unbound' Music Concert. The concert, which explored the many dimensions of joy and celebrated the musical and creative contributions of women in music, featured performances from our senior ensembles, including the Chamber Choir, the Choir, the Symphony Orchestra, Camerata, Symphonic Winds, Jazz Ensemble and the 7Sonders Rock Band. In their final Celebration Concert, a number of our very talented Year 12 girls were featured as soloists, in groups and as members of the various ensembles.

Click here for the full program, which includes the names of all featured soloists and the groups that played during the concert.

Our Celebration Concert also featured Lyhra, an acclaimed vocal harmony group and band, well known for their original music and innovative song arrangements. This group has been working with our girls throughout the semester, and their combined performances were very special indeed. In fact, Samantha Walton (Lyhra member and vocal teacher) composed the choral piece *Joy Unbound*, which premiered at the concert. When introducing her choral composition, Samantha explained that *Joy Unbound* had been:

'inspired by [a Year 12] Abbotsleigh student whose dedication and discipline left a lasting impression on me and her peers last year. Week after week, through steady work and a deep commitment to her craft, I had the privilege of guiding her through that journey and



witnessing not only her own growth, but the way she inspired those around her in the process.

Early in the piece, we sing:

'No need for praise,

No need for a crown'

[The Abbotsleigh student's] example was a powerful reminder to me that resilience and excellence are cultivated over time, and that our greatest achievements are often built together.

May we remember that our greatest growth is a shared endeavour, and that while achievement brings its own joy, it is in the striving, the growing and the lifting up of one another that we find our joy unbound.' Samantha Walton

These are inspirational words indeed.

Our week of celebration continued today when the Senior School top oval burst into a hive of activity as girls from Years 6-12 participated in the sensational 'Journey With Joy' Festival that our Prefects had organised for them. An atmosphere of great joy was created by the abundance of scrumptious food, the fabulous music that rang out over the whole oval, and the huge number of creative activities in which the girls participated; in fact, it seemed that the girls literally ran from station to station so as not to miss out on anything! Please **click here** for the map and see the program below, so that you may experience a small 'taste' of the festivities, which the girls absolutely loved.

We are especially proud of our Prefects' determination to ensure that the 'Journey With Joy' Festival was not just a time of fun and celebration for Abbotsleigh girls, but that it also highlighted our School's values and the resolve of our girls to make a positive social impact.

Many of the activities and food stalls were set up to raise money in support of Bunda Girls Secondary School. As you would be aware, Abbotsleigh has been supporting this school, established by AOG Rev Helen Hoskins (1969), for a number of years. All the money raised today will contribute to the scholarships that our girls are providing for eight Tanzanian girls in Years 7-10, so they might attend Bunda Girls Secondary School. Without our support, these girls would most likely have left school at

the end of primary school; instead, they are receiving an excellent education in a safe haven for girls, so that they may develop as leaders and, in turn, make a very positive difference in Tanzania.

Our girls certainly have 'journeyed with joy' this week as they have celebrated their creativity, talent, hard work and determination to make a positive social impact. The sound of music, creativity and fun have emanated from every area in the School, and it has been a great joy to behold.

Journey With Joy Festival program 2026

Welcome 🌈

- Collect your map and some sustenance for your journey!

Gratitude 🍷

- Draw what you're grateful for and contribute to a large collective poster that once completed will be placed into the Year 12 Common Room

Empathy 👤

- Discover a day in the life of a Bunda girl

Teamwork 🧑‍🤝‍🧑

- Team up for skipping, 3-legged races and the giant parachute

Perseverance 🏃

- Race your friends at egg and spoon races, pin the bow on Joy and eat doughnuts off a piece of string

Respect 🧠

- Symbolically destroy negative self-talk by playing ten-pin bowling

Compassion 📧

- Send a kind message to someone by designing a postcard

Passion 🌱

- Get crafty and contribute to our Joy jigsaw puzzle

Appreciation of beauty 🌸

- Create some pipe cleaner flowers

Integrity 📜

- Make a bracelet that represents your personal values

Community 📷

- Get some pics with your friends in the photo booth

Courage 🎤

- It's time for karaoke and Just Dance!

There's so many exciting stalls to enjoy, as well as...

- Live music 🎵
- Food, drinks and a sausage sizzle 🍔 (all of which are raising money for Bunda!)



Chaplain

Contentment

Rev Polly Butterworth
Chaplain

As we come to the end of our chapel series on 'Joy in the Book of Philippians', our Chapel Prefect, Caitlin Tan, spoke on Philippians 4. She began by asking the question – Have you ever wished you could instantly get whatever you need? We can often picture ourselves as more content if only we had more, if only our circumstances would change.

In Philippians 4:11, Paul makes a remarkable statement: *'I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.'* Although he was in need, his contentment was not dependent on whether he had plenty or little. He goes on to reveal the secret of this contentment: *'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.'* (Philippians 4:13). This verse is often misunderstood as a promise of unlimited success. However, Paul is explaining that God gives him the strength to remain content and faithful whether life is easy or difficult.

But how does God provide this strength? Caitlin reminded us of Romans 8, which speaks about Christians who have received the Holy Spirit – the very

Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Through the Spirit, God is present with his people, enabling them to persevere through challenges and trust him even when circumstances are far from ideal.

So, our contentment does not come from having everything we want. Whatever challenges we face, we can trust that in Christ we already have everything we truly need.



Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Parent Wellbeing Hive – parent wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to visit
Pacific Highway pedestrian overpass overnight closure	Tuesday 28 April to Friday 31 July 9 pm-5 am	15 temporary overnight closures to complete work on pedestrian overpass
Pulse exhibition	Wednesday 24 June to Saturday 11 July	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

Women in STEAM Breakfast	Wednesday 24 June 7-8.15 am	Senior School Library Seminar Rooms
Last day of Term 2	Thursday 25 June	
First day of Term 3, all students	Tuesday 21 July	

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 Fundrasier	Tuesday 23 June 12.30-2 pm	JS Campus
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SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 20 June	Click here for times and venues
Year 11 Geography field trip	Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 June	NSW Mid North Coast
Year 12 Latin study day excursion	Tuesday 23 June	Barker College
Year 9 Elective Music Schubertiade	Wednesday 24 June 9.40-11 am	PDCH
Year 11 2027 subject selection parent info night	Thursday 24 June 6.30-8.30 pm	Assembly Hall
Boarder travel day	Friday 26 June	

