

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Our Abbotsleigh community 'Journeys with Joy' as we celebrate our 141st birthday together

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

'I Love Term 3' Ms Larissa Cameron, Head of Junior School

The whole school was 'buzzing' with excitement, fun and laughter as the girls walked through the gates of Abbotsleigh on Tuesday morning after a wonderful three-week holiday break. Our Senior School girls were especially delighted to be met by our Abbotsleigh Bee (Charlotte Whyburn, Year 12), dancing to the music that was blaring across the front plaza of the School.

Term 3, as Ms Cameron exclaimed above, is fantastic, as so much happens across the whole school. The beginning of the term is particularly special as our community has the opportunity to celebrate the birthday of this magnificent school, which, at 141 years 'young', has most certainly stood the test of time!

As we honoured the past, especially our courageous and visionary founder, Miss Marian Clarke, our traditional birthday celebrations today did not disappoint. Our 141st Birthday Assembly featured guest speaker, AOG Lara Keogh (2012), whose talk to the girls demonstrated her resilience at being thrown many curve balls, her fabulous

sense of humour, incredible honesty, keen intellect, insight and passion about contributing to our world and making a positive impact.

'I have learned two things: opportunities sometimes begin as disappointments, and I can get through anything if I can find a way to laugh about it with my friends.'

Lara Keogh

Lara currently works at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra, 'representing Australia overseas, helping to build relationships with other countries, and helping to solve problems that affect Australia.' During the assembly, Lara shared how she 'found her way into international relations, which was anything but a linear path, and, inspired by the Year 12 theme of *Journey With Joy*, how she incorporates joy and laughter into her work.'

Being very unsure about what she actually wanted to do when she left school, Lara's reflection on her non-linear post-school journey is both insightful and wise:



ABBOTSLEIGH

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I love working for DFAT...

'Looking back, my studies and jobs in politics, intellectual property and national security all led me to DFAT, even though they felt disconnected at the time. Diplomacy brings together the things I care about the most: culture, language, people, politics, problem-solving and how Australia connects with the rest of the world.

I think we can be so focused on the end goal of a good salary, a successful career or an impressive title that we forget there is value in each step along the way. The years I spent working out who I was and what I wanted to do gave me the knowledge, confidence and skills I now use every day.

Moving overseas made me confident and resilient. It taught me that I can have a chat and a laugh with anyone. Studying different religions and cultures helped me understand people's contexts and priorities. ... Living away from family and friends made me more empathetic and more grateful for the relationships in my life.

At DFAT, I work with very smart people. But what I bring, as a result of my experiences, is something unique. There will always be someone smarter than me, or more hardworking than me, but I bring a love of people, a cultural fluency and an ability to reframe the most depressing circumstances as funny. In tough negotiations or discussions, these are the skills that can often push us over the line. It is these soft skills that make a good diplomat as well as a good teammate.

My job often involves solving difficult problems quickly – often in the five minutes before the Foreign Minister steps onto a plane. I have travelled through the Pacific with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister. There have been broken-down planes, urgent press conferences and policy issues that suddenly became very dramatic. Earlier this week, I returned from spending three weeks on a tiny island called Nauru, bringing famous AFL players to engage with local communities. These experiences can be stressful but they can also be deeply joyful. Being able to laugh at the silly or absurd moments helps me keep going and helps lift the people around me.

If you are feeling unsure about your future, please know there is no rush. You do not need to have your whole life mapped out at 16, 17 or 18. The most useful thing you can do is gain life experience and meet people from different cultures, religions and backgrounds. Say 'yes' to opportunities, even if they do not fit the plan you thought you had.



And enjoy this time at school. One of the most important things Abbotsleigh gave me was an understanding of female friendship, not only within my year group but across generations. I have worked with many wonderful men, but my biggest champions have been women, especially women older than me who chose to guide, encourage and back me. Some of these women are even in the room today.

Before I finish, I want to make a quick case for working in government. Medicine, law and engineering are all wonderful paths, but government also offers incredible variety. As well as diplomacy, I have friends working on everything from seahorses in Tasmania to the National Art Gallery in Canberra. Public service can be practical, creative, international, scientific and deeply meaningful.

Thank you for having me today. It is very special to be back here. I hope you leave knowing that your path does not have to be perfectly straight to be meaningful. Take the opportunities that come, be brave enough to change direction, stay curious about the world, and remember that you can get through almost anything if you can find the joy – and laugh about it with your friends.'

I would like to thank Lara very much for sharing her journey with us today. Her experiences, courage, resilience, humour, wisdom and insight have been inspirational for us all.

Happy Birthday Abbotsleigh – we certainly continue to believe Miss Betty Archdale's famous mantra:

'With education, women can do and be anything'



Chaplain

A birthday reflection: How great thou art

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Carl Boberg wrote the lyrics that became the great hymn, 'How great thou art', which the staff and Senior School students sang as we returned this week. Its stanzas reflect an appreciation for the wonder of nature and how it points to the greatness of God. The story behind these words came from the Swedish preacher's experience in 1885 of journeying home one day when he was caught in a sudden thunderstorm near the coastal town of Mönsterås, Sweden. As quickly as the storm arrived, it then passed. The sun emerged, and the fresh air after the cleansing rain, the tranquil bay, with the sounds of singing birds and the church bells chiming, inspired Boberg. Returning home and opening his windows that faced the sea, he penned the beautiful poem called *O Store Gud* (O Great God). The poem was published the following year in 1886, translated into English and later set to music.

As we celebrate Abbotsleigh's birthday, it is striking to reflect that Carl Boberg was inspired by these words that same year. Boberg's words remind us to pause amid the busyness of life and recognise God's greatness revealed in creation, in history, in the death and resurrection of Jesus and in the lives of people. As generations of Abbotsleigh girls have learned, grown and served over the past 141 years, we can look back



with gratitude for God's faithfulness and forward with confidence to the future.

The hymn's final verse moves from wonder at God's creation to wonder at His salvation, culminating in the joyful declaration, 'Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art!' As we mark another year in Abbotsleigh's story, this same spirit of gratitude gives us reason to celebrate God's blessings on our School.

Psalm 19:1-4

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
- ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.*
- ³ They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.*
- ⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

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
Grace Cossington Smith Art Award exhibition	Saturday 18 July to Saturday 15 August	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 3 Gibberagong excursion	Thursday 30 July	
100 Days of Kindergarten	Thursday 30 July	Kindergarten classrooms
Parent Teacher interviews	Monday 3 to Thursday 6 August	
Primary Athletics Carnival	Thursday 6 August	

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 25 July	Click here
SDN Debating competition – round 1	Friday 24 July 4-9 pm	Various locations
Japan Concert Band rehearsal	Tuesday 28 July 3.30-5.30 pm	PDCH
IGSA Archdale Debating – round 7	Tuesday 28 July 4-8 pm"	Various locations
Year 9 Write a Book in a Day	Wednesday 29 July	Library seminar rooms
Year 11 leadership voting	Wednesday 29 July 12.40-1.15 pm	Tutor time locations
House Netball	Wednesday 29 July 1.20-2 pm	Sports Hall
STEM Mixer night	Wednesday 29 July 6.30-9 pm	PDCH and Marian Clarke Plaza
House Netball	Thursday 30 July 1.20-2 pm	Sports Hall
Year 9 Joeys Dance	Thursday 30 July 6.30-8.30 pm	Sports Hall
SDN Debating competition – round 2	Friday 31 July 4-9 pm	Various locations
Japan Jazz Ensemble rehearsal	Friday 31 July 3.30-4.45 pm	To be determined
Year 12 HSC trials begin	Monday 3 August	Various locations
Japan Concert Band rehearsal	Tuesday 4 August 3.30-5.30 pm	PDCH
IGSA Archdale Debating – make-up round	Tuesday 4 August 4-8 pm	Various locations
Senior Drama performances	Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 August 7-9 pm	Drama Studio
Japan Jazz Ensemble rehearsal	Friday 7 August 3.30-4.45 pm	To be determined
SDN Debating competition – round 3	Friday 7 August 4-9 pm	Various locations

