

2009

Year in Review



Pymble Ladies' College

Pymble Ladies' College,
Avon Road, PO Box 137,
Pymble NSW 2073

Phone: + 61 2 9855 7799

Fax: +61 2 9855 7766

Website: www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

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Chairman of Council Message



2009 has been a fine year for Pymble Ladies' College.

The quality of the education offered at the College and the efficiency of its operations were recognised formally during the Registration and Accreditation process conducted in Term 1 by the NSW Education Department's Board of Studies. In preparation for this assessment, a thorough review of College and College Council policies and protocols was undertaken by the Principal, staff and Council members.

Later in the year, the College was included in a list of "five of the top boarding schools in the world outside the UK", compiled by the UK 'Good Schools Guide International'. *Pymble* was the only all-girls school and the only Australian school - an acknowledgement of our excellent reputation.

I thank our Principal, Mrs Waters, and her remarkable staff, for the magnificent job they do. Teachers have always been role models for independent and thoughtful young women, and our staff are in this tradition: consummate professionals, passionate about their academic discipline and devoted to their students.

At *Pymble*, good teachers thrive and develop, and the College takes pride in their success. We congratulate two senior staff members who will move to higher responsibilities in other places in 2010 - our Deputy Principal as Headmistress at St Catherine's School, and our Head of Middle School as Deputy Head at SCECGS Redlands.

During 2008, the College undertook a Strategic Review in consultation with our community.

Various pastoral care initiatives have been adopted this year in the wake of that Review, including development of a new formalised Pastoral Care Program, establishment of five additional Houses to provide more opportunities for participation and leadership, and formation of a Student Representative Council.

From 2011, Years 7 to 12 will be grouped into three sub-schools, each with its own Head. The College has commenced construction of a specialised building for Years 11 and 12, designed to facilitate their transition to independence, to tertiary study and life beyond school.

There will be an Appeal to assist in the financing of this building, which should be completed in 2011. The College receives no government funding to assist this Senior School Centre.

The College has been fortunate this year to receive generous funding for building from the Federal Government. A grant of \$200,000 under the 'School Pride' program was devoted to classroom refurbishment.

Under the 'Building the Education Revolution' scheme for primary schools, the College received \$3,000,000 a figure based on enrolment numbers in our Junior School. We have planned for additions and improvements to the Junior School Hall, extensions to the Junior Library and new space for staff.

The College's Indigenous Education Program continues to grow, supported by our community and our Scholarship Fund. Currently there are five girls at *Pymble*, and there will be eight in 2010. Mrs Evonne Goolagong Cawley MBE AO is Patron of the Program.

During 2009, the College received an invitation from the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation to become a partner school. The offer of partnership is a vote of confidence in our Program and in the education available here.

Four members of the College Council retire this year. Between them, they have given almost sixty years' service to the College. The Uniting Church Synod has appointed three new members to the Council, all current *Pymble* parents.



The College year was crowned with the visit of the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, who was Guest of Honour at the Senior School Speech Night.

2009 was rounded off by excellent results in final examinations from our remarkable Senior girls.

The life of the College and the opportunities for the girls are enhanced by the commitment of our parents, and the support of our Ex-students and friends.

Mrs Kate Mason

Chairman

Pymble Ladies' College Council

Principal's Message



In 2009 we celebrated excellence.

The American civil rights leader Booker T Washington once proposed excellence was doing 'a common thing in an uncommon way'. This year, we certainly travelled beyond the realm of the common – and it's been a fantastic journey.

Being named one of the top five boarding schools in the world beyond the UK certainly topped the year. *Pymble* was the only all-girls school and the only Australian school on the list - a great honour indeed. The significance of the honour does raise, in my mind, a fresh challenge: Having achieved this pinnacle of success, what's next? The answer, in part, is found in our College motto: *Strive for the Highest*.

Excellence is a *Pymble* tradition. *Pymble* women are strong, compassionate and confident. Guided carefully on a journey from dependence to independence, our students emerge as women of significance who seek excellence in all they do. We are living in a time of great change in education, when emerging research must continually refine the way we work and think and teach. And so our pursuit of excellence must embrace change.

In 2009, we saw *Pymble* students seek and achieve new heights in pursuit of excellence.

In 2008, I issued a challenge for us all to *Go Beyond*, and it has been a delight to see our students go beyond their limits to achieve greatness. I'd like to share just a few of those achievements.

First, our academic results:

In the 2008 Higher School Certificate result, Janet Chieng achieved the top UAI of 99.95, followed closely by Victoria Grimshaw with a UAI of 99.9. A number of girls also ranked above 99.5. Our students left their mark in the state in many subjects, including a first in biology, second in Italian, and Earth and Environmental Science, and a third in French. In the Sydney Morning Herald Honour Roll, 163 *Pymble* students earned 464 places on the list.

Our strategic intent is that academic excellence begins the moment a young girl walks into our school. And our results from the 2009 NAPLAN are proof of this. In all years of testing – Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 – our students well outperformed the state average in literacy and numeracy.

Other highlights of the 2009 academic calendar included

- Success in the International Mathematics Olympiad
- Year 9 students winning the Da Vinci Decathlon
- In Textiles and Design our students excelled with six Year 11 girls, finalists in the Australian Wool Fashion Awards and the annual *Textiles on Parade* showcased our students' creative talents
- The works of seven Visual Arts students were selected for the annual ArtExpress exhibition
- *Pymble* teams placed first and third in the National Write a Book in a Day competition
- And earlier this year, a team of Year 6 *Pymble* girls won the national television series, *It's Academic*.



To top off our academic achievements for the year, our accreditation and registration with the Board of Studies was again successful, with inspectors suitably impressed by the College.

Graduates of *Pymble* carry with them a lifelong watermark, an indelible belief that they have the knowledge, confidence and skills to take on the world.

In 2009, some of our graduates did just that.

- Our 2008 Head Prefect, Rey-Hanna Vakili, beat 30,000 others to attend the prestigious Yale University undergraduate program - only one of three Australians
- Two *Pymble* graduates are excelling at Oxford University, one a Rhodes Scholar and the other this year receiving the Excellence in Law award.

Pymble graduates of 2009, a world of opportunity awaits you.

In sport, *Pymble* recorded another extremely successful year. For the second straight year, we were the dominant school in the IGSSA competition, winning more premierships than any other school. Premiership wins were recorded in: Hockey, Cross Country, Football, Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics, Netball, Badminton, Snow Sports, Rowing and Equestrian.

Highlights also included State and National wins in Futsal, while in Tennis the *Pymble* team representing Australia reached the semi-finals at the 2009 World Schools Tennis Championship in Belgium and won the Tildesley Tennis Doubles

Championship. And that's just to name a few.

Individual students in our Elite Sportswomen's Program also achieved outstanding national and international results in 2009.

It was a magnificent year for our sporting teams.

One of the great delights of being the *Pymble* Principal is the opportunity to lead a school that is so balanced in its passions. It is deeply committed to academic excellence, to sporting excellence – and equally committed to cultural excellence.

In 2009, our students travelled beyond *Pymble* with Classics students touring Greece and Italy to experience the culture and artworks of these great countries.

Students also toured Vietnam, China and Cambodia, gaining an understanding of the cultural aspects of these countries as well as the poverty experienced by some people living in these countries.

In 2009 links were established for student exchange with schools in England, Korea, Argentina, France, Germany, Japan and Scotland.

Our understanding of other cultures was enhanced by the sojourn of the Chaplain of the William Goward Memorial College in Kiribati, a tiny nation in the South Pacific.

The Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) remains the cultural hub of the College and this year hosted many student performances:

- We were enthralled by *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Black Comedy*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Northanger Abbey*
- The Ensemble Concerts showcased the brilliance of our musicians
- The Dance Showcases highlighted the exceptional talent of our dancers



Our Musicians took to the world stage with our Strings Orchestra placing first in the international Youth Music Festival held in Vienna. The Chorale placed second at the Festival.

Closer to home, our Chamber Strings Orchestra scored an extraordinary 99.9 per cent, winning the McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge and the *Pymble* Chorale won the Australasian Choral Championships for Youth Choirs.

With greatness – and, in many arenas, our school does indeed come close to greatness – comes great responsibility.

At *Pymble*, we are committed to guiding our students to becoming caring and

compassionate young women; citizens who are agents of change in the world around them.

Social responsibility is a core element of our strategic purpose because it challenges students to consider their obligations and to develop mature relationships based on respect and care.

Our inaugural Community Service Captains, Katherine Nguyen and Natasha Freeman, have led our Community Service Program beyond expectation.

The whole *Pymble* community has contributed generously in so many ways.

2008 graduate Sami Walker worked in Ghana at a remote village school. Regular reports from Sami were received with shock and horror. I have the greatest admiration for the work she undertook and the wonderful financial support she received from our community.

Our Years 9 and 10 students spent time working in an orphanage as part of their overseas tour to Cambodia and Vietnam.

Locally, students have supported

- Fred Hollows Foundation
- Riding for the Disabled
- Red Shield Appeal
- Jeans for Genes
- Bandana Day
- cancer research
- Humpty Dumpty Foundation.



On a more practical level, students have provided assistance to St Lucy's School, Westmead Children's Hospital, Knit with Love and the Special Olympics Carnival for disabled students.

A highlight each year is Jacaranda Day, resulting in truck loads of practical donations to the Exodus Foundation.

In total, the *Pymble* community raised more than \$80,000 for charity in 2009 – an outstanding effort.

Thank you all for your generosity. A particular thank you to all the parents who have worked so hard during the year on the many College community events - the Garden Party, a magnificent event, raised more than \$55,000 for the new Senior School Centre and the College Melbourne Cup Luncheon raised another \$25,000 towards our Indigenous Scholarship Program.

Our Strategic Review, launched last year, began our present journey towards excellence. It articulates our mission, vision, values, goals and directions to grow our reputation as a centre for excellence.



We have made great progress in every area outlined by the Review.

As promised, from 2011, we will have five distinct schools at the College on the one campus, providing more student leadership opportunities and more age-specific academic and personal care for each student.

Expanding the number of Houses in the Secondary School from three to eight has created a stronger sense of spirit and greater leadership opportunities. To the original Houses of Goodlet, Lang and Marden, we have added Bennett, Hammond, Ingleholme, Thomas and Wylie. All House names share a strong connection with the College's history.

In 2009 we re-established the Student Representative Council, giving students from Years 7 to 12 greater leadership opportunities and more involvement in College decision-making.

Thank you to all students for your loyalty and support of the College.

To Jillian Boustred, Lovelle D'Souza and the Prefect team thank you for your commitment and vision. We have loved our Hero awards and the donning of the capes, we've also loved the regular Performing Arts updates in rhythm and song.

As we reflect on the achievements of the year, it is clear that excellence has been a community effort. And so I want to pay tribute not only to *Pymble* students, but to the parents, the wider community and our immensely talented and dedicated staff.

In particular, I would like to thank two of our departing staff: Deputy Principal Dr Julie Townsend who joined the College in 2000 and is taking up the role of Principal at St Catherine's School, and Head of Middle School, Ms Jacinda Euler who has been promoted to Deputy Principal at Redlands. Other staff who are departing the College are Mrs Victoria Rennie who will head the English Department at Abbotsleigh and Miss Alison Macdonald who has been promoted to the Head of Science at Frensham. It is difficult to farewell good staff, but it is also important to nurture leadership and to make a contribution to the education profession beyond the College.

I would also like to mention two members of staff who are retiring after a combined 40-plus years of service to *Pymble* - Mrs Marion Moran and Mr Nigel Stanley. Thank you from all of us at *Pymble*.

To all academic staff who have once again supported the College with great passion and stamina, thank you for your unwavering efforts. My thanks is also extended to all boarding and operational staff. Your efforts are fundamental to the smooth operations of the College.

My thanks is extended to the Chairman and members of the College Council. Your leadership, dedication and support of the College has been significant. You are mindful custodians and I appreciate your wise counsel in overseeing the future of the College.

I began with a challenge to embrace excellence – to continually *Strive for the Highest* in the *Pymble* tradition.

To pursue excellence in every aspect of our lives is also to inspire those around us to strive for greatness.

Author Marianne Williamson puts it this way:

“We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking, so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us, it's in everyone and, as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people the permission to do the same.”

2010 stretches before us as an exciting year, filled with great potential and opportunity.

May our lights shine brightly together as we *Strive for the Highest*.

Mrs Vicki L Waters

Principal

Our College

Pymble Ladies' College, a school of the Uniting Church for girls from Kindergarten to Year 12, was founded in 1916 by Dr John Marden, a man of forward thinking who believed that women should get the best that education offered. More than 90 years later the College exemplifies the spirit of its founder as an outstanding school for girls that encourages its students to 'strive for the highest'.

2009 was an outstanding year for Pymble Ladies' College. Our vision is to provide an education universally acknowledged for its outstanding quality and exceptional opportunities. Our mission is to foster in each student a passion for learning and scholarship, a quiet but unshakeable self-confidence, and the values and skills to make a worthwhile contribution to her community.

Five core values affirm our commitment to the Christian heritage of Pymble Ladies' College and underpin everything we do. These values of care, courage, integrity, respect and responsibility provide a strong foundation for dynamic learning.

In 2009, *Pymble* was acknowledged in the international education arena as one of the five top schools in the world offering boarding outside the United Kingdom.

The Strategic Review, launched at the end of 2008 established the framework for future strategic directions, and in 2009 works were implemented in support of recommendations in the Strategic Review. This included the design and commencement of work on a new Senior School Centre, for the unique educational requirements of students in Years 11 and 12.

Pymble offers extensive opportunities for girls and young women to excel. They enjoy a showcase of exceptional curricular and co-curricular programs, advanced learning technology, outstanding facilities and extensive choices in the performing arts, sporting and cultural arenas.

A strong academic record and focus on each student as an individual creates a truly holistic educational experience. At *Pymble* students are nurtured to make the most of their individual potential and to get the very best from their education.

In the 2009 Higher School Certificate, *Pymble* was the only school in New South Wales where students came first in the State in five subjects (Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Science, Italian Beginners, Japanese Extension and Modern History). Five students achieved the perfect Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.95, with 14% of students scoring 99 or above, 33% of students achieving 95 or above and 50% of students scoring 90 or above. Twenty students finished in the top 10 in the State in individual subjects.

The College motto of *All' Ultimo Lavoro* – Strive for the Highest inspires our students and staff to go beyond and to be the best they can be.

Chaplain's Message



2009 has seen the beginning of a new season in the Chaplaincy of the College. I commenced my role of Chaplain at *Pymble* at the end of June 2009 and was warmly welcomed by the College community, including many of the students, staff, families and ex-students. It has been a joy to experience and facilitate opportunities for worship within the life of the College, both in Assemblies and Chapel services. Within the weekly services in Senior School the girls explored the questions, 'Who is this God?' and 'Who am I?' These explorations provided the opportunity to take a fresh look at our Creator, and in turn re-discover who we are as God's children.

Within the services, the girls learnt some new, contemporary hymns to sing alongside the beautiful hymns that form a rich part of the College's tradition. It has been wonderful to see the girls not only participating in Bible readings, but also expressing their own faith in self-written prayers.

Junior School Chapel Services provided a great opportunity to gather together for worship. We studied the book of Genesis, looking at the stories that teach us about our Creator, the God who made us, loves us, and continues to bring us life, despite our mistakes. It has been delightful to see the girls continue to learn some new songs, and sing both new and old with great heart and passion.

Many girls in both the Senior and Junior Schools continued to meet regularly for more informal fellowship in FISH and FISH Cru. The Senior School group, FISH (Fellowship In School Hours) has seen a great increase of girls attending thanks to the wonderful leadership of the Year 12 girls. A highlight was the Exo Day, where the FISH girls chose to bless the other students of the school with free things, including food, a band and some give away prizes. This was all done to demonstrate the free gift of Christ's love for all. The Year 11 girls, who began the leadership of the group in Term 4, brought great passion and vision for the continuing development of this group, including the change of name from FISH to Ignite. This new name represents Jesus' call to His followers to be the light of the world and to let God's light shine.

FISH and Ignite are primarily student run, however the girls have been blessed by the support of other teachers including Mrs Jennifer Lyle, Mrs Carine Jenkins, Mrs Cristina Gomez and Mrs Judith Patterson. FISH Cru in the Junior School has also continued to go well under the leadership of Miss Jade Catherall, with much support from Mrs Amanda Dodson, Mrs Sarah Guy and myself, as well as Mrs Nerissa Davey and Mrs Lauren Hill. They met every Thursday before school and had a lot of fun learning and growing together.

The Preparatory School is in many ways a quiet corner of the school. It is the smallest of the three schools (both in size and number). However, a closer inspection reveals that the Preparatory School certainly has a beautifully big heart. I have deeply enjoyed my visits to Assemblies in the Preparatory School. Staff and students alike have welcomed me warmly and I have loved telling stories and singing songs with the girls in both Year and School Assemblies.

In addition to the regular assemblies and services, there have been a number of other services throughout the semester. These have included the Year 12 Final Chapel service, the Year 6 Chapel Service, the ceremony for the Induction of Office Bearers for 2010, and the Year 12 Badge Service. It was a beautiful sight to see the staff and students from across the whole College gather together for the annual Jacaranda Day Service and to see the generosity of the students in the food hampers, gifts and money raised for the Exodus Foundation.



There were a number of occasions through the year when I met others in the *Pymble* community, beyond the staff and students. On each of these occasions I was struck by the incredible essence of community displayed by all who come to the College, be it as a parent, ex-student or friend of the College. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of the ex-students at the Commemoration Day Service, which celebrated 90 years since the commemoration of the College, 80 years of the Ex-students' Union, and the launch of Margaret Coleman's latest book, *Dorothy Knox Remembered*. The most recent highlight was the *Pymble* Christmas Service. This was a lovely evening shared together celebrating the Christmas season, heightened by the beautiful music of many of the girls.

Over the past six months I have enjoyed getting to know so many who make up this College community: students, staff, parents and ex-students. They help to create the heart of Pymble Ladies' College. I look forward to 2010 and the opportunity to gather and worship with the *Pymble* community on special occasions, as well as continuing to nurture and develop authentic and varied expressions of worship within the daily life of the College.

Blessings,

Mrs Greer Dokmanovic
Chaplain

Deputy Principal's Message

2009 has been a successful year, not least because we had our Board of Studies Registration and Accreditation inspection, which we passed with flying colours. We are now registered and accredited until 31 December 2014. The inspection was rigorous, with a Board of Studies' team inspecting our premises and buildings, our facilities, the quality of our teaching staff and curriculum, the safety and welfare of our students and our policies and procedures. Every staff member was involved in the process to some extent, with many people spending hours ensuring that all our paperwork was in good order, and our curriculum and systems were first rate.

In many ways 2009 has been a year of consolidation, particularly in the area of compliance and OHS. We have reviewed our risk management plan, updated all our policies and procedures and formulated an OHS management system. Under the leadership of our Manager of Compliance, Mrs Margaret Lind, we have implemented a new online Staff Induction Program. The induction focuses on the College's culture, mission and values, and the expectations and responsibilities of staff in safety matters.

We have also consolidated our International Exchange Program, which has gone from strength to strength. The program comprises three components: cultural exchanges for students in Years 8 and 9; language exchanges for students in Years 10 and 11 studying a modern foreign language, and gap placements for students on completion of their HSC.



We have had several cultural exchanges this year. Five Year 9 girls took part in our longstanding cultural exchange to St Philip the Apostle School in Argentina. We were also very lucky in securing a cultural exchange to England with Cheltenham Ladies' College. This was our first student exchange with England, with four of our Year 8 girls

lucky enough to be selected. I travelled to England with our two boarders, and visited several schools in the south of England to discuss future exchange opportunities. I am very pleased to say that in 2010 we will have approximately 15 places available for an exchange to England. This year we also organised a cultural exchange with CheongShim International Academy in Korea, with 10 of our girls selected to take part in a two-week exchange early in 2010.

Our very successful Language Exchange Program to France, Germany and Japan, has also gone from strength to strength. The program is ably led by our Modern Languages Co-ordinator, Mrs Sue Knox. This year Mrs Knox visited schools in the

Lyon area in France, and has secured exchange opportunities with more schools for 2010.

Our Indigenous Scholarship Program has also grown stronger this year. We welcomed three Indigenous students to the College in 2009, two to Year 7 and one to Year 9. We now have five Indigenous students at *Pymble* on either a Performance or Leadership Scholarship, with the aim of welcoming 18 girls to the College by 2014.

Our Indigenous fundraising committee organised a very successful Melbourne Cup function that raised over \$25,000 for the fund. With the donations so generously



offered by supporters of the program, our scholarship fund now stands at over \$780,000. This is a remarkable achievement, and would not be possible without the generosity of time and money by many members of our community. The scholarship fund is used to cover the shortfall after AbStudy funding and parental contributions have been paid.

Dr Julie Townsend
Deputy Principal

Preparatory School

During this busy and exciting year the students have enjoyed a wide variety of stimulating activities designed to develop their love of learning. From the music of Senegal to throwing boomerangs, making lemonade to the works of famous artists, the girls have participated in the special activities which enhance the school curriculum.

All of the learning experiences enjoyed by the students are planned and implemented by the staff and in many instances an integrated approach is adopted so students consider a topic from many different aspects. Throughout the year enrichment programs have been enjoyed by the most capable students and when necessary students have received additional support with the basic subjects.



A firm foundation in literacy and numeracy has been provided through daily lessons in English and Mathematics plus regular lessons in Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment and Visual Arts have developed each student's skills, knowledge and attitudes. Specialist teachers have provided high quality programs in the Performing Arts, Physical Education and Language Other Than English. All students have borrowed readers from the classroom and books from the Preparatory School's library. They have enjoyed working on the classroom computers and interactive boards, plus a weekly visit to the Junior School's computer room has been part of the program for Year 2.



The Kindergarten students have looked at many interesting topics during their first year at school. Themes have included My Family, Our School, Food and Shelter, Animals and Movement. The girls have been encouraged to work co-operatively and they have displayed enthusiasm in all aspects of school life. During the first few weeks of the year, Kindergarten discussed their families and they enjoyed a tour of their new school. In Term 2, as part of the topic Meeting Our Needs the students visited City Farm at Fairfield where they milked a cow, travelled on a wagon, planted crops and watched sheep being shorn. A presentation from Kindifarm on being safe around dogs, and an egg hatchery from Chicks 'R' Us, provided the students with other interesting

experiences. At Taronga Park Zoo the students were able to observe the different ways animals move and this topic was continued in a science unit on moving toys.



Year 1 students have completed units of work on Under the Sea, Native Australian Animals, Recycling, Celebrations and Living Things. They visited the Sydney Aquarium, Featherdale Wildlife Park and on a wet, cold day they participated in a unit on recycling at the Botanic Gardens. Following these excursions the students produced work of an excellent standard.

In Science and Technology a group from Questacon stimulated Year 1 with experiments related to the Senses and Bubbles.

Questacon also presented for Year 2 students who found Freaky Forces and Slime interesting topics with the students keen to assist with the experiments. During the year the main themes for Year 2 have been Wet and Dry Environments, Families, What's For Lunch plus a unit of Indigenous Studies. Excursions to Bradley's Head and the Art Gallery of New South Wales were important learning experiences plus the students participated in an outdoor education program at Glengarry in North Turrumurra. To encourage co-operative learning, the students worked in groups rotating through a series of activities. A walk through the bush, making minibeasts, a rope challenge, nature study, billy-carts and boomerangs were all part of the day's program. To complete a wonderful day, parents joined the staff and girls for songs around the campfire. As part of the unit on indigenous education the group Indigdance spent a day with Year 2 leading them through art, stories and dance from the Torres Strait Islands.

In preparation for Junior School, Year 2 students have participated in a Peer Support program planned and implemented by Year 5. During regular sessions in Term 4 the girls have joined Years 3 and 5 for a series of activities in the Junior School. One of the benefits of a Kindergarten to Year 12 school is the interaction across the age groups. Year 11 students came to the Preparatory School to read their picture books based on the College values of care, courage, integrity, respect and responsibility. The 2010 Prefects also held a Christmas picnic for the students in the Preparatory School. Unfortunately due to the wet weather the planned games had to be replaced by songs in Kelso Pavilion.

During the year all classes have received regular lessons in French. The students have enjoyed greetings, songs and rhymes while learning about the country, products and customs of France.

Painting, collage, printing, drawing and sculpture have all been part of the program in Visual Arts. The students have studied famous works and used different techniques

while creating their own works. For the Garden Party the girls made badges and for Christmas they made cards and a calendar.



Opportunities for the girls to express themselves through all aspects of music, speech and drama were provided through regular lessons in the Performing Arts. Many students in Years 1 and 2 also joined the choir which met every Thursday morning. Throughout the year the College community has enjoyed performances by the Preparatory School students. This year's concert, *Gumnut*

Gully was performed on three occasions and proved to be a highlight of the year! To expose the students to various types of music, performances by Musica Viva groups and Oz Opera were held in the Preparatory School's music room. During Children's Book Week the students enjoyed *Jungle Bungle*, a show based on this year's short listed books.

In Physical Education lessons the students have completed units of work on swimming, athletics, artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and ball skills. They all participated in the Athletics Carnival during Term 3 and at the Swimming Carnival in November the students demonstrated their skills in the water.

To promote community responsibility, the students have been encouraged to take on tasks at home to raise money for their charities. During the year the girls have raised funds for the Children's Hospital at Westmead, UnitingCare, Children's Medical Research, Guide Dogs NSW, The Penguin Foundation and the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea. Many Christmas gifts were donated to the Exodus Foundation following the Jacaranda Day Service. The College Chaplain Mrs Greer Dokmanovic has been a welcome visitor in assemblies where the students have enjoyed stories, prayers and hymns.

The Preparatory School students are fortunate to have dedicated and professional teachers who provide the students with interesting programs designed to meet their individual needs. The Preparatory School Parents' Association led by president Mrs Fiona Shortis has enjoyed an active and most successful year. A family picnic, morning teas, dinners, refreshment stalls, High Tea and Kiddies' Corner received wonderful support from all parents. New families were made welcome, support was provided for families and staff, plus the students enjoyed cupcakes and a barbecue lunch.

Mrs Kathryn Butt

Head of Preparatory School

Junior School

Learning to be, learning to know, learning to do and learning to live together are the foundations of learning in the Junior School. These four pillars, articulated by Jacques Delors in *Learning: The Treasure Within*, provide us with a base from which we nurture and grow our children. They are evident within the life of the Junior School on a daily basis, and consequently we have much to acknowledge and celebrate as we reflect on another year of learning and contribution in many fields of endeavour.



The diversity of teaching methodologies, approaches and resources employed by the teachers helped to ensure the delivery of an enriched curriculum in each subject. To ensure competency beyond the classroom and beyond school, processes, skills and attitudes were treated as essential aspects of our broad curriculum. Learning Support teachers worked closely with staff and

students to support skill development in literacy and numeracy and, where appropriate, to provide opportunities for exploration of more complex concepts.

Appropriate integration of technology continued to be a feature of programs across the Junior School. 2009 saw the final phase of the installation of interactive whiteboards (SMART Boards) in all classrooms. This technology has revolutionised teaching and learning by providing access to a vast array of engaging resources. Class teachers and students continued to be educated about using *Moodle*, our e-learning program. Year 6 classes participated in *Quest Atlantis*, an interactive computer program and virtual world which integrates many areas of the curriculum to teach social responsibility.

A myriad of opportunities were provided to encourage students to pursue areas of interest and develop new skills beyond the curriculum. Such activities included the Year 6 leadership training program with Rising Generations, AIS Mathematics Camp, Band Camp, IPSHA, SDN and ISDA debating competitions, inter-house debating, Tournament of the Minds, Robo Cup, Chess Club, Mathematics Olympiad, Da Vinci Decathlon, Year 5 Drama Club, Fish Cru, Book Week activities, International Day, choir, a wide variety of musical ensembles and various writing competitions.

In May, girls in Years 3 and 5 sat the National Assessment Program in Literacy And Numeracy (NAPLAN). In both Year 3 and Year 5, our achievements in the top two bands remained considerably higher than the state.

Several guest speakers delivered presentations to the girls in 2009. In Term 3 we welcomed Elizabeth Collison who spoke to Year 6 girls about Fairtrade as part of

their Global Connections unit. Gene Roundtree gave a fascinating talk to Year 6 relating to issues of racism as identified in their literature studies in Term 3. Visiting author, Belinda Murrell, encouraged our budding writers with her presentations to Years 5 and 6 classes, while Years 3 and 4 classes were inspired by illustrator, Di Wu. Guest speakers also featured at the weekly FISH-Cru meetings on Thursday mornings before school.



The school based curriculum was enhanced by lessons outside the classroom. All classes viewed *Cinderella*, presented by Opera Australia as part of their Performing Arts program. Year 3 went to Taronga Park Zoo to complement their work in Science in Term 2. Year 4 girls enjoyed programs at the Imax Theatre and Sydney Aquarium in Term 1, and the Rocks Walking Tour in Term 2. In Term

3 they experienced the Solar System through the Planetarium at school and in Term 4 visited Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers as part of their local government studies. The Year 5 excursion to Bathurst gave the girls a much greater understanding of the significance of the gold rushes for Australian society as well as a taste of the hardships and excitement of life on the goldfields.

Year 6 girls viewed *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure* and *Antarctica – An Adventure of a Different Nature* at the Imax Theatre to complement their studies of Antarctica. The annual Year 6 excursion to Canberra provided valuable learning for the girls in their civics and citizenship education. They gained a greater appreciation of the role of the federal government and the responsibilities that we all have as members of a democratic society. *Fizzics Education: Hands-on Science Learning* delivered an excellent program to all Year 6 classes. Social skills and environmental awareness were again developed through participation in our outdoor education program.

Year 3 girls attended a two day program at Chowder Bay at Mosman, Year 4 spent three days at Tallong in the Southern Highlands, Year 5 explored rainforest and sea environments on the south coast for three days and Year 6 spent three days exploring Sydney Harbour, with the highlight being a camp out on Cockatoo Island.



Student highlights included receiving State Honours at the Tournament of the Minds competition and winning the first series of *It's Academic*, televised on Channel 7 earlier in the year. The staff and students have greatly enjoyed experimenting with the eight *Apple* notebooks we won as part of the prize package. Grandparents' Day is always a wonderful day, and 2009 was no exception as the girls excitedly shared their school day with these very special people.



In Term 3 our Primary B SDN (Schools Debating Network) team won the grand final in the Friday evening competition. LOTE International Day for Year 5 was a great success with pasta making in the hall and an Italian fashion parade. Year 6 students viewed *L'amore e bizzaro* for their LOTE Day, while

Years 3 and 4 classes sampled the delights of German cuisine. *Book Safari* was the theme for Book Week and we combined this with our international day celebrations. Activities were cleverly orchestrated to bring together literature and culture. The PJ (*Pymble Junior*) Factor was again wonderfully successful in promoting the Performing Arts, with girls across the school relishing the opportunity to perform.

At the end of Term 3, all Year 6 girls participated in the production of *Down the Nile and Up the Creek*. The production was magnificent and the process provided a significant learning journey for all. The community spirit of *Pymble* shone, as students, staff and parents worked together to produce this delightful musical, under the guidance of writer and director, Mrs Elizabeth Worsley. Throughout the year we welcomed many parents to the grade morning teas. During this mutually beneficial and memorable time, the girls performed for their parents and then invited them to their classroom to observe their work.

Strong participation and strong performance were evident in the IPSHA sport program on Saturday mornings and the Year 3 Aussie Sports program during the week. Junior School girls were entered in IPSHA, CIS and PSSA carnivals this year. Two students advanced through to the School Sport Australia National Championships in swimming and diving. At all levels, the Physical Education program, both curricular and co-curricular, has commitment, team work and sportsmanship as its key outcomes.

Similarly, our choirs, ensembles and bands have been well attended and have produced many very fine and impressive



outcomes. Our vocalists and instrumentalists had opportunities for performance at school events, assemblies, chapel services, eisteddfods and festivals, culminating in a superb evening of music at our annual Ensemble Concert in November.



The Student Representative Council has continued to meet with Ms Yeates to discuss issues raised by the girls and organise fundraising events. Some highlights this year for the SRC were the Welcome Picnic for new students and an afternoon of busking to raise money for a charity. There was much excitement in the planning and enjoyment of the SRC Fair in the last

week of the school year. Through the involvement of every student, with their wonderful ideas, enthusiasm and generosity, close to \$4000 was raised for World Vision.

Opportunities for leadership and learning about leadership were provided across the school. The Peer Support Program took place in Term 1 with Years 3 and 4 girls participating in activities organised by Year 6. Our Year 5 girls received training later in the year and then lead orientation activities for Year 2 assisted by Year 3. Our School Leaders, Library and House Leaders have displayed commitment and enthusiasm in their roles, ensuring fine leadership throughout the year. All girls have an opportunity to be involved in leading an Assembly with their class. We welcomed several girls and leaders of the Upper School to our Assemblies during the year. These visits by our senior students are always well received by the younger girls.

The students and staff are very grateful to the Junior School Parents' Association for the active involvement of many parents in many different capacities throughout the year. The Camp Out on Kelso, Father Daughter Dinners, Fairy Grotto at the Garden Party and Year 6 Graduation Dinner were highlights for the girls and families. We are most appreciative of the JSPA's fundraising over several years which has contributed to the provision of a state-of-the-art sound system for the John Reid Hall.

In a rapidly changing and shrinking world we are acutely aware of the need for community. It is vital therefore that we develop in our children an understanding of others and their needs. How do Junior School girls and teachers build community? We seek to develop in each girl a sense of responsibility, not only to one another but also to the wider community beyond *Pymble*. As a community we strive to achieve our business goals of education, while nurturing social and emotional development, encouraging commitment to learning and to other pursuits, and celebrating successes and special times together. The Assembly program supports this by recognising achievements, effort and contribution, both social and academic, and by focusing on the College values and how we enact them in our daily lives.



Throughout the year, willingness to give, and to assist and serve others, has been evident in many ways. Students have led Assemblies, organised and supported fundraising events, participated in Harmony Day activities and the Close the Gap Campaign, and assisted with leading tours for prospective families. An annual fixture for our Year 3 girls is their

involvement in the Ku-ring-gai Senior Citizens Church Service and Luncheon. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed their weekly Chapel services with Mrs Greer Dokmanovic. Her inspirational words of wisdom have given the children opportunities for reflection and learning about love in action.

My sincere thanks go to all members of the Junior School teaching staff for their dedication, care and inspired teaching. There is great generosity of spirit and collegiality amongst the staff which is reflected in the quality and variety of curricular and co-curricular programs. Thank you to the many teachers who have positions of added responsibility for co-ordinating various subject areas and grades, and to those who oversee the wide variety of co-curricular activities. I am immensely grateful to Ms Yeates who has provided compassionate and diligent leadership, working closely with staff and students. Thanks are also extended to our wonderful administration, academic support and property staff for their hard work in supporting all aspects of life in the Junior School.

Ms Sarah Guy

Head of Junior School

Middle School

Middle School girls challenged themselves to be productive and creative in 2009 with wonderful results. They were engaged in an extraordinary range of intellectual and physical activities, explored many creative paths and committed themselves in service to others.



Girls benefited from the development of a formal Middle School Pastoral Care Program to meet the needs of students in Years 7 to 9. It allowed students to reflect upon the College's five core values of care, courage, integrity, respect and responsibility and its holistic approach addressed the mind, body, heart and soul of our girls.

Year 8 students enjoyed the thrill of the hands on 'Amazing Brain' experience and participants in Knox's Da Vinci Decathlon and the Tournament of Minds competition achieved great success. All girls studied hard for their end of year exams and Year 9 girls attained fine results in their first external School Certificate exams.

The Middle School Performing Arts Festival with its Elton John theme was a brilliant spectacle that reflected the gifts and collaborative efforts of the girls. The extraordinary talent of our Years 7 and 8 Drama Ensemble students ensured their production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was a stunning success.

Our Year 9 girls inspired us with their leadership this year. Formal leadership duties on Links Days, as ushers for various College events and in the organisation of Middle School Assemblies were fulfilled with maturity and commitment. They also contributed to the wider community through the Community Service Program. All girls in all Tutor Groups demonstrated their generosity with fundraising stalls for a wide range of charities.



The quality of our College facilities are renowned and the opportunities for the girls unparalleled. Combined with the intelligence, commitment and nurture provided by the staff in the Middle School these elements have contributed to the creation of a warm and supportive environment in which our wonderful girls can thrive. They can be very proud of their efforts this year.

Ms Jacinda Euler

Head of Middle School

Upper School

Leading the Upper School in 2009 has been a wonderfully exciting and fulfilling experience. The students in Years 10, 11 and 12 celebrated their achievements and efforts in both academic and co-curricular fields. As the young women of the Upper School represent the oldest students in the College, we all depend upon their leadership and enthusiasm to set the tone for the younger years. It is a privilege to watch them rise to the challenge and lead with such grace, diligence and spirit.

In 2009 the Year 12 cohort established the theme 'We Can Be Heroes' which acknowledged the heroic in all of us. In special Term Assemblies the Year 12s named students from each year who had demonstrated heroic attributes in some way – girls who showed courage, determination or integrity in their school endeavours. These girls were presented with special *Pymble* capes. Teachers were also recognised and thanked and presented with their own special hero masks! The Class of 2009 has modelled the College values and really engendered a fine sense of school pride and spirit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Head Prefect, Jillian Boustred, and the Deputy Head Prefect, Lovelle D'Souza, and the Prefect body for all their efforts and their outstanding leadership. On behalf of the College I would also like to acknowledge and thank all Year 12 students for their contributions to the College and wish them every success for the future.



Service and charity continued to be vital aspects of the Upper School in 2009. This year saw the introduction of two new Office Bearing positions on the Prefect body – Captain and Deputy Captain of Community Service. Our inaugural Captains in this field showed themselves to be compassionate and inspiring leaders, organising many charity and service initiatives throughout the year. This year also saw the beginning of the Jacaranda Award system in the Upper School. Every term each Tutor Group nominated a student who had consistently modelled the College values. These girls were presented with a certificate at Assembly. In this way, the school

aims to acknowledge the importance of citizenship and personal integrity. I would like to congratulate all Jacaranda Award winners for 2009 and thank them for their fine sense of community and service.

The students in the Upper School organised and led a variety of charity and service initiatives including volunteering to collect for the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, Movember, the magnificent participation in Wrap with Love, the Year 12 Trivia Night for the Exodus Foundation, the Special Olympics, Jeans for Genes Day, Windows On Pain, Drawtism for Autism, B-Day Out (decorating bras to raise money for Breast Cancer) and Daffodil Day, to name only a few. Thank you to all students and staff who involved themselves in such worthy activities.

Year 11 students again participated in *Mind, Body, Spirit Day*. This year the girls took part in a range of relaxation and stress management activities and heard presentations from The Butterfly Foundation and St James Ethics Centre. One of the genuine highlights of the day was the student led Chapel Service, which set the tone for a day of thanksgiving and reflection.



Our Year 11 students have presented themselves as committed and enthusiastic leaders for next year. They have volunteered for an extraordinary amount of activities and shown good humour and fine conduct throughout the year. One of the most exciting changes that this year group has supported was the introduction of five new Houses, to join the original three.

Year 11 students were charged with much of the responsibility for building House spirit and have done so with amazing success. Year 11 Tutor Groups also made picture books that represented the five College values and read these to the Preparatory and Junior School students. This bonding across the different schools is a much valued and valuable exercise at *Pymble*.

In their first year in the Upper School, Year 10 students have certainly established themselves as an outstanding group. Once again, the girls have been involved in a very wide range of curricular and co-curricular activities over the course of the year. It is very pleasing to see so many of the Year 10 students making the most of the opportunities available to them at the College and thereby building and developing strong skills in leadership and management. Some of the highlights include the Dance with Shore school, Australian Business Week and Driver Education Day. Over 140 students volunteered to serve as Monitresses and are carrying out their duties diligently and responsibly. The Year 10 Tutor Groups organised towels and pencil cases filled with equipment for Sunshine House Orphanage in Cambodia and also financially supported St Jude's Orphanage in Africa.



During 2009 the students in the Upper School have been involved in an incredibly varied and exciting program of activities and events that include Dance Showcase, Ensemble Concerts, the Music Tour, Textiles on Parade, Art Exhibitions, the Hospitality Expo, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Youth Parliament, the Mathematics Olympiad, Careers Night, the Classical tour, *Black*

Comedy, *Alice in Wonderland*, cultural exchanges and a whole range of sporting activities. In committing themselves to such a variety of activities, Upper School girls can feel justifiably proud of their leadership and fine sense of school service and spirit. Of course, all of these activities are balanced against the challenging and diverse academic program, which covers School Certificate, Preliminary HSC and HSC courses. In managing their workload, the girls are guided and supported by a wonderful team of professional and passionate staff, whose genuine care, optimism and dependability encourages students to value themselves and others, and to understand the contribution that everyone is capable of making. In this way, the young women of the Upper School come to see themselves as real agents of change in their communities and uncover many talents and interests.

Mrs Nikki Wyse

Head of Upper School

Boarding

New Structure

A new structure in Boarding, implemented in 2009, facilitating the needs and interests of girls across all years and their unique educational requirements had positive outcomes with good evaluations by the boarders and their parents. The most successful change in structure was for the Year 12 students.



The new structure in Boarding was introduced to facilitate the needs of the boarders and to support personal, social, emotional and spiritual development within the stages of personal growth and cognition. In addition to this, the students have quite distinctive needs and interests at these different age levels and this structure enabled planning to best facilitate the needs of each group of students.

Goodlet House

The girls in Goodlet House were supported by a new House Supervisor Mrs Angela Bond, who has experience working in boarding schools at Junior Secondary level. Some Year 11 students were also in Goodlet House, providing a mentor role as 'Big Sister' to the younger girls.

Marden House – a Year 10 and Year 11 House

In Marden House the Year 11 students provided positive role models for the Year 10 girls and also helped assist them in understanding aspects of the examination program for the School Certificate. Both these year groups are at a stage of school life where there is a strong focus on leadership development and this structure provides leadership development opportunities for the girls. In 2009 there were limitations to this as not all Years 10 and 11 girls were accommodated in the one House. This will be reviewed for 2010 boarding.

Lang - our Year 12 House

Providing single room accommodation for girls in Year 12 allowed for greater independence and more responsibility in the management of their lives and is something that Year 12 students need to experience in incremental amounts in preparation for adulthood.

Communication and building relationships with the Boarding Community



The introduction of monthly newsletters and information updates in 2009 proved successful in providing families with information relating to boarding and the changes in management in boarding. Communication to the boarding community included updates and introductions to processes and policies in boarding, activities and new programs and initiatives in boarding at *Pymble*.

Learning Program

The Scholarship of Learning Program was initiated to provide opportunities for boarders to take their Prep time in the Library four evenings a week and to access academic staff during Prep time.

Staff

At the end of 2009 the Deputy Director of Boarding, Jackie Gilson, resigned. Gayle Walker stepped into the role of House Supervisor previously undertaken by Mrs Gilson. The Marden, Goodlet and Lang House Supervisors Leadership Team has assumed greater leadership and responsibility roles in the Boarding structure.

Boarding Parents' Association

In 2009 the Boarder Parents' Association was extremely generous in their support of *Pymble* boarding. The Association provides a close network for boarder parents and a strong link to the College.

The girls were delighted when each House was given a *Wii* with games to use, including *Wii Fit*.

Mrs Deanne Elliott

Director of Boarding

Indigenous Scholarship Program

The Indigenous Scholarship Program was established to provide Leadership and Performance Scholarships for indigenous girls from remote and regional Australia to attend the College.

Each year, the Program offers three scholarships covering tuition and boarding fees for indigenous students during their Secondary School years (Years 7 to 12). This provides indigenous scholarship recipients access to a total educational experience.

Once the Indigenous Scholarship Program has completed its first six years it is envisaged that up to 18 indigenous students will be assisted by the funding. Ongoing donations will be required to provide funding for the 18 scholarships on a continual basis.

The College has also entered into an agreement with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) whereby our Indigenous Scholarships monies are partially matched by funds from AIEF. AIEF is a non-profit organisation that has received Australian government funding to assist Indigenous Scholarships, such as at *Pymble*.

In 2009 there were five indigenous students at *Pymble*. Interviews were conducted for an additional three students to commence in 2010. This will bring the total to eight indigenous students at the College under the Indigenous Scholarship Program.



The girls who are currently at *Pymble* have settled in very well and are engaged actively within the College community. The girls attending *Pymble* under the scholarship originate from diverse areas such as Alice Springs in Central Australia to the Torres Strait Islands in the far north.

The College has also established a comprehensive Indigenous Education Program as an integral part of the curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12 to enable students to develop a better understanding and appreciation of indigenous history, literature and culture.

Sport

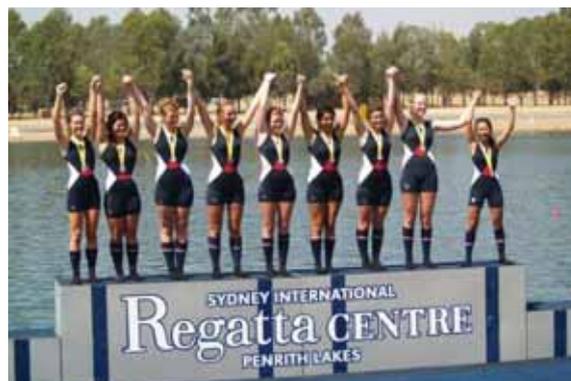


2009 was another excellent year for sport at *Pymble*. For the second straight year, *Pymble* was the dominant school in the IGSSA Competition, winning more premierships than any other girls' school. Not only did the girls perform well, *Pymble* also entered more students in competitions than any other school.

Some highlights of 2009 include:

- the Hockey Junior 1sts and Senior 1sts were premiers in the top IGSSA grades
- Year 7 student, Courtney Boyle, smashed records at the IGSSA and CIS Athletic Carnivals in the sprint events
- an amazing 14 medals were earned by *Pymble* students at the NSW All Schools Athletics Carnival
- the *Pymble* Badminton team won the Greater Badminton Association's School Carnival
- the *Pymble* Cross Country team won the IGSSA Carnival by an incredible 90 points
- *Pymble* Cross Country teams won four of the seven races at the CIS Carnival
- Katie Oag (Year 7), Grace Rowe (Year 9) and Michaela Janu (Year 10) won medals at the School Sport Australia National Diving Championships in Perth
- Lauren Lim became the highest placed junior competitor in the Sydney Equestrian World Cup Event, riding *Burdekin Lad*.
- Zara Pasfield placed first in the Junior Ladies division of the Sydney Figure Skating Club Championships and third at the National Competition
- the *Pymble* 1sts Football Team won the IGSSA competition and *Pymble* was the first independent girls' school to make the final of the CIS Cup.
- Rachael Soutar was awarded the NSW Institute of Sport Scholarship for 2010 for Football and played with the U17 Matildas Australian Team
- Rachael Soutar and Isabella Walker were selected in the NSW Metropolitan U15 Football team
- Annika Clayton (Year 7) represented Australia in the U14 Australian Football Team
- the U16 *Pymble* Ladies' College Futsal Team won both the State and National Schools Futsal Championships
- the *Pymble* IGSSA Gymnastics team swept the floor at the IGSSA competition becoming the Champion Artistic School, the Champion Rhythmic School and the Overall Champion School

- Sarah Iwanoczko and Anna Lorrigan were both selected to represent Australia in Gymnastics
- Emma Long qualified for the Australian National Junior International Squad in Rhythmic Gymnastics
- Claire Jones and Alexandra Savage were both selected in the NSWCIS U18 Hockey team and Claire was selected in the NSW U18 team and the U21 NSW squad
- The Netball 1sts won the Term 2 Invitational Carnival and made the IGSSA Grand Final
- In rowing, *Pymble* retained the Points Score Trophy at the Head of the River for a record 11th straight year and the First Eight won their event for a record 12th year in a row
- Eliza Flint trained and competed as the Stroke of the Australian Junior Women's Rowing Quad
- Rachael Ambrose and Melissa Adam were selected in both the IGSSA and NSW CIS Softball teams
- Rachel Ambrose was selected in the Australian All Schools Softball Team
- Emma Sykes, Toni Hodkinson, Michelle Sebesfi, Sarah Jackson, Alexandra Zalums and Susannah Lauer all medalled in their events at the Australian Interschools Snow Sports Competition
- Toni Hodkinson was selected in the 2009/10 Australian Junior Alpine Ski team
- Emma Morgan, Kate Heal and Victoria Macrae smashed long standing records at the *Pymble* School Swimming Carnival
- Kate Heal, Victoria Macrae, Louisa Creighton, Emma Morgan, Ming Ong and Leanne Wright competed at the Australian Age Championships in swimming
- Emma Morgan won four medals at the Australian School Sport Swimming Championships in Perth
- Keiryn Lenoy (Year 11) and Vanessa Ip (Year 10) won the Tildesley Tennis Doubles Championship
- Danielle Wagland reached the final of both the U16 Singles and Doubles events at the NSW Tennis Championships
- The *Pymble* Tennis Team consisting of Jessica Ah Chee, Vanessa Ip, Keiryn Lenoy, Ella Merritt and Danielle Wagland finished fifth in the World Schools Tennis Championships in Belgium.



Mr Cameron Anderson
 Director of Sport and Activities

Music

2009 has been an outstandingly successful year for Music at *Pymble*. It has been filled with outstanding performances, exciting opportunities and extraordinary achievements. The students have attacked their musical pursuits with tremendous vigour and enthusiasm, always striving for that “little bit extra” in their pursuit of excellence. The Captains of Bands, Choirs and Orchestras; Meredith Hastings, Susannah Falk and Julia Mitchelmore respectively have assisted the staff in so many ways, and the Captain of the Arts, Emily Macdonald and her Deputy, Julienne Orcullo, have been inspirational in their leadership, support and encouragement of musical activities this year as well as organising and running the highly successful PAC – *Pymble Arts Competition*.

The Preparatory and Junior School Music Programs have, under the guidance of Ms Amanda Stelcova, Mrs Irene Stone, Mrs Elizabeth Worsley and Mrs Tamara Prattley, continued to provide the students with a love and enjoyment of music as well as a true engagement with the creative process of music making. The music emanating from the classrooms and rehearsal spaces is a sure testament to the quality of teaching and learning that is taking place and is providing the solid foundation on which the Senior School depends. The Senior School staff of Mrs Carine Jenkins, Mrs Narelle Colbey, Mr Marcus Stafford, Mr Kurt Schweinberger and Ms Amanda Wagg was reduced in Term 3 when Mrs Elisabeth Pisarek retired after 10 years of service at *Pymble*.



The first major event was the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* performed by a cast of over 100, showcasing the talents of so many of our students and using the marvellous facilities of the GMCPA to the full. It was very ably and imaginatively directed by Ms Amanda Stelcova from the Preparatory School, with Miss Katrina

Cluff creating superb choreography and Mr Kurt Schweinberger directing the orchestra with great finesse and style. The whole show had a very professional feel to it and the students were involved in all aspects of the production, including the technical side, so competently assisted by the Theatre staff.



Also in March we welcomed the vocal group *The Idea of North to Pymble* for a series of workshops and a concert involving them also performing with our students. This was a great innovation as we launched for them their Education package as well as giving our students the opportunity of working with this fabulous group. It has been the start of what I hope will be a long

continued relationship with the group. It involved Elective Music Students plus all the singing students and all the choirs. The evening concert featured various choral ensembles performing works they had workshopped with TION as well as the School Choir providing their largest backing group ever – over 200 voices!! In the second half the audience was entertained to the max by this amazing and talented group.

In July the Chamber Strings and *Pymble* Chorale embarked on the eighth overseas Music Performance Tour, this time to Vienna, Helsinki, Stockholm and Copenhagen. It was a resounding success with the students giving many wonderful performances in superb concert venues, particularly the Musikverein in Vienna, the Rock Church and the Cathedral in Helsinki and St Klara's Church in Stockholm. An exciting part of our repertoire was the inclusion of a work for strings with solo electric violin and cello composed by our Year 12 student Sylvia Lim. Every time we performed it we received rave reactions from the audience. Part of the tour was our participation in the 3rd Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival in Vienna. The *Pymble* Chorale competed in the Treble Choir Section against nine other choirs and was awarded Second Place at an Outstanding Level to the overall winning choir (from Canada).

The competition was fierce and we were thrilled with the result. The Chamber Strings was awarded First Place at an Excellent Level, competing against ensembles made up of mainly tertiary aged students. Both Ensembles were honoured to be invited to perform again at the Gala Closing Concert on the final night. The thrill of performing in such a prestigious and magnificent venue as the Musikverein was tremendous and the girls rose to the occasion magnificently. Preparation for the Tour was for well over 12 months and included visits by guest



conductors to hone the girls' performances – particularly Alice Evans from the ACO, and composers Dan Walker and Ruth Kilpatrick for the Chorale girls.



The Ensemble Concerts, held in April, June and November have continued to be of an excellent standard and afforded all the Ensembles valuable performance opportunities and goals to continue to work towards. An interesting addition this year has been the innovation of an Electric String Quartet. The Term 2 Concert again highlighted the talents of Year 12 students, many being featured as soloists

within Ensembles. Particular mention must be made of Emily Macdonald's very musical performance of the Reineke Flute Concerto performed with the Symphony Orchestra and Sylvia Lim's exciting composition *Bachin' Mad – A Beat Out of Time* performed by the String Orchestra.

Many of the Ensembles have also participated in eisteddfods and competitions in the Sydney region. In the McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge the Chamber Strings were placed first in both the String Orchestras Section with a score of 99% and the Chamber Strings Ensemble Section. The *Pymble* Chorale was also very thrilled and excited to again be awarded the Australasian Secondary School Choral Championship for the third time. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra were also Highly Commended in their sections and in the Yamaha Band Festival the Middle School Concert band achieved a Silver Award and the Grainger Band was awarded Gold. The Stanhope Band literally blew away the competition in the Galston Eisteddfod, winning First Place.

Outstanding individual student achievements have been numerous and at a very high level. Several girls have been awarded their Associate or Licentiate Performance Diplomas from the AMEB in violin, piano or flute and we were thrilled to have four students from HSC Music 2 and Extension nominated for *Encore!* – Adrienne Cohen, Sylvia Lim, Emily Macdonald and Nicole Nahm. Year 9 students have also given many Community Service performances throughout the year at both North Haven Retirement Village and Killara Gardens. The standard of performance at the HSC Music Students concert was exceptional this year, in the level achieved and the consistency of excellence in every performance given. Likewise the Elective Music Students Concert and Dame Joan Hammond Recital provided opportunities for our musicians to star as individual performers.

Another wonderful performance opportunity for our students was at the Elton Jack Fundraising Evening put on by the Music Support Group. Many of our very talented pianists and singers provided fabulous renditions of Elton John songs in the GMCPA foyer at Interval and before and after the Elton Jack Show. In addition our Stage

Band was also the support act for Elton Jack, getting the audience well and truly into the groove and fired up for the ensuing performance. It was a hugely successful night, both financially and musically, due in no small part to the hardworking members of the Music Support Group and our extremely talented students!

Our most major innovation for 2009 has been the introduction of the very stylish Music Performance Uniform, incorporating a red jacket worn with black trousers and dress shoes. This has been a Herculean task, undertaken largely by Mrs Jenni Macaulay and Mrs Kelly Viglione from the Music Support Group. They were launched at the Term 2 Ensemble Concert by the Music Tour students, String Ensembles and Choirs and were gradually phased in for all performing Ensembles for the Term 4 Concert. The end result is outstanding and our girls now have a very professional look when on the concert platform.

The Music Department has been very ably supported throughout the year by The Music Support Group, led by their president Dr Tim Freeman. They have achieved so much and as well as their fundraising activities are now moving in other directions as well, with the administering of the hire, buy and sell back system for the Performance Uniform Jackets. We are indebted to them and I thank particularly the Executive team of Tim Freeman, Pauline Hastings and Anne Murray all of whom are retiring from their positions, for all their hard work and leadership over the years.



All the above achievements are the result of the enthusiastic, talented and dedicated staff who have nurtured and guided the students to perform and achieve their very best. I wish to thank them all for their hard work, dedication and commitment and above all, their passion for music and teaching. The final performances at Speech Night this

year of the orchestra, choirs and massed voices of the Senior School performing *O Fortuna* really reflected the culmination of a fabulous year of music.

The performances at Speech Night with the whole school singing from Carmina Burana and the Symphony Orchestra and Choirs giving a very moving performance of *The Gael* complete with solo electric violin certainly lifted the standard another notch!

Mrs Sabina Turner
Director of Music

Information Technology

2009 commenced with a number of exciting technologies to enhance curriculum delivery, student engagement, classroom management and operational efficiencies of the College.

A number of infrastructure projects were undertaken to upgrade the existing technology platform of the College. A Technology Innovation Group was

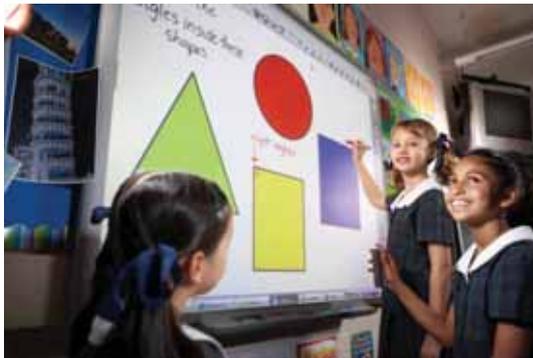
established with representation of staff from the Preparatory, Junior and Secondary Schools and Operations. A number of new technologies and best practices were discussed and trialled based on the recommendations of this group.



Classroom Technologies Projects

Technology is totally integrated into the teaching and learning of students from Kindergarten to Year 12 in the College. Smartboards made their entry into Secondary School classrooms in 2009. They were introduced into Mathematics, English, Languages and Science faculties.

Throughout the year these departments have integrated this technology in innovative and exciting ways. Podcasting of class lectures was introduced by some departments for Year 12 with great success.



Immersive Technologies to provide a 3D virtual experience was used by the Languages Department with the aim to provide immersive and collaborative experience to language learning.

The Junior School participated in a trial of Thin Client laptops which provided a similar experience to laptops both from school and from home.

The Preparatory School integrated technology in classroom activities with exciting new ways using the Smart Boards. Google Gmail was introduced to promote collaboration and communication.

Online student elections made the process of student leadership election seamless and efficient.

Operation Efficiency



VStaffroom was introduced in 2009 to provide a collaborative and communicative Wiki platform for staff.

Classroom Kiosks are a great success with teachers and students enjoying the efficiency and smartness of a self service touch screen for rollcall.

Online Systems for Boarding streamlined the approval process for boarder's leave. Connx HR Portal provided an online workflow for staff leave approval and a self service tool for payroll queries for staff.

The introduction of an eNewsletter in Semester 2 brought personalisation to our existing College Newsletter.

Digital signage brought student communication to screens in key areas of the Secondary School. These screens are effectively used for promoting events, celebrating student achievements and communicating important messages.

Online Payment facility was setup through our website to offer our *Pymble* Community a secure payment gateway.

Mrs Rathika Suresh

Director of Information Technology

Property

2009 was a busy year for Property with ongoing works and maintenance to College facilities, buildings and grounds.

The design of the new Senior School Centre was finalised and works commenced at the College in readiness for the commencement of construction in late 2009.



Works during 2009 included:

- refurbishing the bathrooms in Marden House
- painting the interior and exterior of the Preparatory School
- painting the exterior of the Gymnasium
- new lighting was placed in the Conde Car Park
- the boundary fence was near-completed around the College
- new lights were placed on three tennis courts for night playing
- the main water and gas mains into the College were renewed ready for the new Senior School Centre
- new power mains and boards were installed in readiness for the new Senior School Centre
- the Property Manager and staff were relocated to office space under the Conde Library
- the Uniform Shop was relocated
- College security and CCTV cameras were relocated to the GMCPA
- demolition of the Health Care Centre and Jobson House.

Mr Gordon Kerr
Property Manager

College Council

Chairman

Mrs Kate Mason, BA, MComm

Members

The Reverend Stephen Aynsley, BTh

Professor David Barker AM, LLB (London), MPhil (Kent), LLM (Cantab)

Ms Christine Bartlett, BSc, FAPI, MAICD

Mr F.J. Chilton, RFD, BA, LLB (Syd) LLM (Harv)

Professor Wai Fong Chua, BA, PhD, FCPA, FCA

Mr Peter R. Gaydon, BComm, CA

Dr Paul Goyen, MB BS (Hons)

Mr Roger Parker, BSc(Hons) MRICS

Mrs Sonia Powell, BEc, FIAA, ASIA

Mr Peter Sjoquist, AM BA MSc (Boston), FCPA, FAICD, AFAIM

Mrs Mary J. Smith, MA, Dip Ed

Associate Professor Janet Vaughan, MBBS, FRANZCOG, MRCOG, DDU, COGU

Mr Braith Williams, BBus, FAIBF

Exofficio Member: Mr Jim Mein FCA, FLGAA, FAIM, FAICD, FTIA, MAusAE

Secretary to the Council: Mrs Alison Hale

College Leaders

Principal Mrs Vicki Waters MSchM, BEd, DipT, MACE, MACEL, MAICD

Deputy Principal Dr Julie Townsend

Chaplain Rev Jonathan Humphries (*Term 1*)

Chaplain Mrs Greer Dokmanovic (*Terms 2 - 4*)

Head of Upper School Mrs Nikki Wyse

Head of Middle School Ms Jacinda Euler

Head of Junior School Ms Sarah Guy

Head of Preparatory School Mrs Kathryn Butt

Director of Curriculum Mrs Kerry Wood

Director of Studies Mr Stephen Dunk

Director of Sport and Activities Mr Cameron Anderson

Director of Music Mrs Sabina Turner

Director of Computing Mrs Diana Stewart

Director of Staff Mrs Jane Meenahan

Director of Boarding Mrs Deanne Elliott

Year 7 Advisor Mrs Irene Smith

Year 8 Advisor Miss Patricia Gallardo

Year 9 Advisor Mrs Andrea Leslie

Year 9 Advisor (*Acting Semester 1*) Miss Ann Brownlee
Year 10 Advisor Mrs Narelle Moylan
Year 11 Advisor Mrs Andrea Pryor (*Acting Assistant Director of Studies*)
Year 11 Advisor (*Acting*) Mrs Julia Kerr, Mr Matt Peacock & Mrs Amanda Reynolds
Year 12 Advisor Mrs Marion Moran
Learning Support Co-ordinator Dr Lenore Drinkwater
Careers and Tertiary Advisor Mr Julian Holden
Counsellor (10 – 12) Ms Deborah Anderson
Counsellor (7 – 9) Mrs Amanda Barnes
Counsellor (K – 6) Dr Stephanie McMahon

Subject Co-ordinators

Business Studies Mr David Broadbridge
Classics Dr Emily Matters
Computing Ms Jenni Nixon
Drama Mr Steven MacPhail
Economics Miss Meredie Mee-Ling
English (*Acting Semester 1*) Mrs Victoria Rennie
Geography Mr Rob Candy
History Mrs Linda Pride
Mathematics Miss Frances Repaci (*Acting Terms 2,3 and 4: Mrs Catrina Kerr*)
Modern Languages Mrs Sue Knox
Music Mrs Carine Jenkins
PDHPE Mrs Sharon Newman
Religious Education Mr Howard Clark
Science Mrs Amanda Paterson
Technology & Applied Studies Mrs Carolyn Burgess
Visual Arts Ms Colleen Fry

Executive Operational Staff

Director of Finance Mr Roger Shewell
Director of Information Technology Mrs Rathika Suresh
Director of Marketing and Communications Mr Richard Madgwick
Property Manager Mr Gordon Kerr
Theatre Manager Miss Sophie Goldrick
Administrative Services Manager Mrs Susanne Lambert
Human Resources Manager Ms Lauren Harvey
Compliance Manager Mrs Margaret Lind
Library Manager Mrs Ruqqiya Dean
Health Care Centre Ms Ann Hayden