This year at Pymble, we have had much to be thankful for.

It has been a year of many great personal, educational, sporting and artistic achievements. As we approach 2009, it is good to reflect on the year that we have had, and celebrate those achievements.

The past few months have contained many celebrations, including the Year 12 final chapel service, Jacaranda Day service, Office Bearers’ Induction, Christmas services and of course our Speech Day and Speech Night events. Some of these services celebrate achievement, new roles and new opportunities. Others celebrate the gifts of life and the season. But they all give us the chance to be thankful for what we have.

The artistic performances this term were another gift to parents and the Pymble community. What a joy to experience the creative talents of the girls in the Preparatory and Junior School concerts, the Years 7 and 8 production of Sleeping Beauty, the dance showcase, and Carols under the Stars.

It is one thing to be thankful for our gifts in life; it is another to demonstrate this thankfulness. The girls, through their community activities, give the greatest thanks possible, by helping others less fortunate than themselves. In the pages of this magazine, you will find several stories about Pymble students’ work in the community this term.

There is no better time of year to reflect on our fortune than at Christmas. Amidst the excitement, the wrapping and unwrapping of presents, the sharing of food and drink and the holiday activities, we should all find moments to remember those who do not have as much as we do.

And during those moments, perhaps also take some time to reflect on our faith. The true meaning of Christmas can sometimes be lost in the flurry, when we are really celebrating the birth of Jesus – He who has given us so much to be thankful for.

I wish you and your families a happy Christmas and peaceful holiday break.

Vicki L Waters

PRINCIPAL’S PEN
YEAR 12 FINAL CHAPEL SERVICE

Year 12’s final day of school on 25 September was marked with a special service in the War Memorial Chapel.

Friends, family and staff members joined the girls at what was an emotional yet uplifting service, to help celebrate the end of the students’ time at Pymble.

The service commenced with a prelude performed beautifully by Joanna Choi on piano, and a welcome from the 2008 Head Prefect Rey-Hanna Vakili. Deputy Head Prefect Nicola Kynoch and Head Boarding Prefect Clara Wilson gave readings.

A highlight was the performance of two songs: ‘Goodbye is Hello’, sung by Emily Falk and Elizabeth Napier; and ‘High’, performed by Michelle Battersby and Ashleigh Funch-Thomsen. Another significant moment was the awarding of Long Attendance Prizes to girls who have attended the College since Kindergarten.

The service concluded with the release of white doves to symbolise the girls’ departure from the College. Attendees then gathered on Marden Lawn for morning tea.

Many thanks to Reverend Humphries and the staff who helped make the service so special and memorable. It was a lovely way to celebrate a special journey at Pymble.

Mia Popplewell, Year 11

BOARDING @ PYMBLE

INTRODUCING MRS DEANNE ELLIOTT - NEW DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

Pymble is delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Deanne Elliott as Director of Boarding at the College.

Mrs Elliott’s vision for Pymble is to develop a culture of leadership across all year groups within the boarding community. She brings with her a wealth of experience and strategic leadership to this newly created role that will enhance the quality of boarding at the College.

“Boarding at Pymble will provide students with opportunities for personal growth, underpinned by a strong sense of connection and engagement,” said Mrs Elliott.

Mrs Elliott has more than 30 years experience in leadership in education, both interstate and internationally. She is currently studying for her MBA at the University of New England. Mrs Elliott commenced her appointment in time for the start of term four 2008 and has already made a strong connection with the girls.

Mrs Jackie Gilson, formerly head of Marden House, has been appointed as Deputy Director of Boarding under the new leadership structure.

The year of 2008 has seen a number of changes to Boarding, including these appointments, and there are many more exciting plans for 2009 and beyond.
There were many challenges and achievements enjoyed by the girls and staff of the Preparatory School this term. The girls participated in a wide range of activities covering all the Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and the Creative Arts.

The swimming carnival, the transition program for Year 2, the Jacaranda Service, the Christmas picnic, and the concert and prize giving were all big events for the Preparatory girls and it was great that everyone participated in them with such enthusiasm. It was also great that there were a number of opportunities this term for parents and carers to attend open classes for Speech and Drama, Gymnastics and Stagecraft.

In this very special school, it is important that the girls are made aware of the less fortunate members of the broader community. On the day of the Jacaranda Service, the girls brought gifts that have now been distributed by the Exodus Foundation to make Christmas a happier time for many Sydney families. It was wonderful to receive such generous support for this special appeal.

**YEAR 2**

As they prepared for their transition next year to the Junior School, the Year 2 girls had a wonderful time making new friends and participating in a weekly Peer Support program planned and implemented by the Year 5 classes.

It is no surprise that the Year 2 girls also enjoyed this term’s Science unit, ‘Toys and Games’. As well as making their own board games, the girls delved into the science behind the workings of toys and games by conducting experiments using kaleidoscopes, making magnetic cars and using computers to make Lego constructions. They also investigated balancing bears and remote control cars, conducted surveys, interviewed people and researched the history of various areas of the unit.

**YEAR 1**

The Year 1 teachers always strive to widen the girls’ knowledge of the world around them. This term, we ‘travelled’ the world to learn about Diwali, Chinese New Year, Hannukah and Christmas customs in various lands as part of studying ‘Celebrations around the World’.

Year 1 classrooms also became science laboratories this term as the girls investigated wheels, gears, axles, inclined planes and surfaces in their study of ‘Transport’.

The girls in Year 1 very much enjoy their project weeks and it is pleasing to see the improvement in their skills as they planned, organised and prepared their individual pieces of work.

**KINDERGARTEN**

This year has seen many new and exciting challenges for Kindergarten, both in and out of the classroom, and term four was no exception!

As part of their study of the Science unit on ‘The Senses’, Kindergarten girls tasted various flavours, smelled different aromas and listened to all kinds of unusual sounds!

The girls also learnt about ‘Celebrations’, particularly Christmas. Wednesday morning assemblies were an excellent forum for learning many Christmas songs and carols, reading Christmas stories and reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

Visual Arts reflected the season of spring this term, with daffodils, blossoms and baby animals adorning the classroom walls, all created by the girls.

Mathematics took a digital turn, with the girls learning about analog and digital clocks, as well as calculators and digital numbers.

News was reflective as the girls looked back on the past year, with topics such as ‘My Favourite School Subject’ and ‘What Have You Learnt So Far This Year?’ The girls enjoyed their presentation time and demonstrated the growth and maturity they had gained in their first year of school.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

By providing a firm foundation in the basic skills and principles across a range of activities, the Physical Education program encourages the development of self-confidence, the acquisition of skills and the development of positive attitudes towards physical activity for now and into the future. The term commenced with a continuation of ball games, where the girls incorporated their skills into modified sports such as soccer, cricket, tee-ball, tennis, basketball and netball. Through these games the girls learn valuable lessons in encouragement, team spirit and fair play. They interact positively with their peers and develop an understanding of playing with basic rules, tactics and game strategies.

The gymnastics program that the girls undertook is based around artistic gymnastics with students attempting basic skills and sequences learnt earlier in the year. Gymnastic activities develop abdominal strength, balance, flexibility and body control. The girls move around the gymnasium in circuit style, performing sequences on the various apparatus including beam, bars, vault and floor. Through these activities, the girls gain confidence and develop their skills at their own pace.

Swimming is an important part of the program in term four, with all girls participating in a carnival in November. The swimming program encompasses stroke development and correction, water safety, mobility and general encouragement of all students to become confident in and around water. Two qualified swimming instructors assist the Physical Education teacher, which enables each class to be split into small groups according to ability.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Preparatory School came to life with fairies, pixies, magic flowers, handy-people and entertainers in November as the girls rehearsed for our concert, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Each class devised its own item during Performing Arts lessons, incorporating song, dance, poetry and movement, all of which were used in our concert to tell this magical story. The girls enjoyed every step in the exciting process of creating their own piece of theatre, from discovering the world of William Shakespeare, to learning about the wonderful characters in the story and bringing them all to life, complete with costumes, lighting, scenery and music.

FRENCH

All the girls in the Preparatory School have enjoyed some fun performing and creative arts elements in their French lessons this term. The girls in Kindergarten enjoyed reading *Anniversaire a la Ferme* and drawing pictures about their birthdays. They also learnt a song in French about heads and shoulders.

The girls in Years 1 and 2 have enjoyed singing about the weather – *il fait beau, il fait chaud* – with Year 1 girls making posters about the weather and Year 2 girls making finger-puppet families.

During November, all classes enjoyed looking at Christmas traditions in France and they will be ready to say ‘Joyeux Noel’ on Christmas Day.

VALE

Bernadette Rainsford (1.1.77 - 18.9.08)

The Preparatory School staff were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend and colleague Bernadette Rainsford (Steffel) after a long, bravely-fought battle with leukaemia. Bernadette taught Kindergarten and Year 1 from January 2004 until December 2006. She was treasured by girls and parents alike. We will all remember her beautiful, beaming smile and cheerful classroom. Our thoughts are with her husband Tim, darling daughter Amelia and her family.
HIGHLIGHTING SOME HIGH ACHIEVERS

The Pymble Primary ‘A’ debating team won the SDN competition, defeating Wenona in the grand finals. The Pymble team argued the negative for the topic, ‘There should be less tourists in environmentally-sensitive areas’. It was a challenging debate and our girls did well to win.

Katie Oag and Courtney Boyle have been selected to represent NSW at the Pacific School Games in December 2008. The girls achieved fantastic results at the All Schools’ Competition and were selected as representatives in their sports - diving and athletics, respectively.

Some of our very talented athletes competed at the state PSSA Athletics Carnival, representing CIS. This carnival showcased the top primary school athletes from all over NSW. The girls achieved some fantastic results:

- **Courtney Boyle** - 200 m (3rd), 100 m final (5th), high jump (11th), long jump (16th)
- **Nicola Bowtell** - 100 m final (5th), discus (17th)
- **Bronwen Dingley** - discus (34th)
- **Junior Relay** - 6th place in heats
- **Senior Relay** - 15th place (semi-finals), 2nd place in heats.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is a charity idea, organised by Samaritan’s Purse. Towards the end of term three, we had a member of Samaritan’s Purse come to speak to us about this initiative. We learned how it helps society and how we should complete our gift boxes. Our guest speaker made us very excited about the idea. The first step of making a gift box was to find a medium-sized shoebox and wrap it decoratively. Next, you were to decide what gender and age group the child receiving your box would belong to. Then came the fun and exciting step - filling our shoe boxes. You had to include something from each of these categories: something to love, something for school, something special, something to wear, something for personal hygiene, something to play with and a donation for postage. With the variety of gifts each shoe box contained, it made a useful, fun and educational Christmas present.

Once the deadline to hand in our boxes had passed, we held an Assembly to bless the boxes and present them to a member of Samaritan’s Purse. Our boxes will now travel on a long journey overseas to be given to children less fortunate than us. I believe this scheme is a brilliant idea. It enables us to actively help those in need in a great way. These presents are not just any presents though, because they have been picked by children and packed by children just like the receivers, so they are also loved by children. The Junior School girls filled approximately 280 shoe boxes, which will hopefully result in a lot of happy children and consequently a better society.

*Elspeth Hughes, Year 6*

CHALLENGED AT CHOWDER BAY!

In November 2008, Year 3 went on camp to Chowder Bay. We arrived at Land’s Edge Camp by bus at about 10.00am. Our bags were so heavy that we could hardly carry them!

When we arrived, Kylie and Michelle, the lodge managers, introduced themselves and the other staff. We were separated into three groups, each with a different leader. Then we went down to Clifton Gardens, where we listened to the Indigenous people and did some activities such as weaving, painting boomerangs and tasting some different plants.

Once we got back to camp, one group went rafting and the other groups undertook the Chowder Bay Challenge or went for a walk.

Everyone agreed that rafting was the best activity and so much fun.

After dinner, we had a night walk up to George’s Head. We saw a ringtail possum and it was great to walk in the dark with our torches. We also went on a bush walk.

Some people walked to Taronga Zoo, while others walked to Balmoral Beach.

Camp was exciting, fun, awesome and cool.

We can’t wait for Year 4 camp!

*Anjali Wijeratne and Jane Hong, Year 3*
LONG, LONG AGO

Over the past year, Year 6 worked on a musical production called Long, Long Ago. It was written and directed by Mrs Worsley, the Year 6 Performing Arts teacher. Hours of hard work were put into the musical by more than 50 Year 6 parents, who helped make sets and costumes, along with Mrs Worsley, the Year 6 teachers and the band, which performed in this production.

Long, Long Ago is the story of five young girls who live in an orphanage. The girls hope to find a better life. Every night, the girls read fairytale and wish that their lives would be like the characters in the stories. One night, after reading one of their favourite stories, they go to sleep, and wake up in a fairytale wonderland. They start their long journey home with Hansel and Gretel, and along the way they encounter many famous, fairytale characters – but with a twist. The moral of the story was to be careful what you wish for!

Long, Long Ago was a fun project, but also very educational. Many performing arts’ skills were discovered and enhanced. We wish Year 5 the best of luck for their musical, and hope that they have as much fun as we did.

Joyce Yu and Sydney Mitchell, Year 6
BADGE DAY

This year for the first time, instead of going to the Uniform Shop, the incoming Year 12 students were presented with their ‘Year 12’ badge in a special ceremony held on Monday 27 October in the Chapel. The ceremony united the year group and gave a special opportunity for all Year 12 girls to be aware of their importance and leadership role in the year to come.

Reminded of their individual responsibility as role models for the College and to the other girls, all 239 girls’ names were read out, with every student individually receiving her badge with honour, presented before the entire cohort. The girls all soon pinned their badge to their collar with a sense of pride, ready to represent the College and to step into some big, but nonetheless fill-able shoes.

Claudia Stocks, Year 11

OFFICE BEARERS’ INDUCTION

On Monday 20 October, a special service and afternoon tea was held to formally induct the 2009 Prefects into their roles as office bearers for the College.

In the presence of special guests including College Council members, parents and friends, each girl was introduced to the rest of the Senior School and presented with her badge. Jillian Boustred, Head Prefect for 2009, was presented with the Head Prefect’s Bible, a treasured item which has been passed down from one Head Prefect to another since 1997. The service called the new prefects to their roles of leadership, and also called upon the whole of Year 12 to support their Prefect body in leading the College.

New additions to the office bearers cohort this year are the positions of Captain and Deputy Captain of Community Service. Taking on these exciting new positions, Katherine Nguyen and Natasha Freeman will be in charge of restructuring the community service work of Interact within the College, including providing practical opportunities for girls to become involved, as well as fundraising and charity work through various external organisations.

The afternoon tea that followed the service was a chance for staff members to congratulate the new prefects and, of course, for proud parents to photograph their girls wearing their shiny new badges, given as a symbol of their roles and responsibilities.

Isobel Taylor, Year 11

OFFICE BEARERS - 2009

HEAD PREFECT: Jillian Boustred
DEPUTY HEAD PREFECT: Lovelle D’Souza
SENIOR HOUSE PREFECT: Claudia Stocks
DEPUTY SENIOR HOUSE PREFECT: Anastasia Reynolds
SPORTS CAPTAIN, PREFECT: Sophie Brown
DEPUTY SPORTS CAPTAIN, PREFECT: Louisa Grundy
CAPTAIN OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS, PREFECT: Emily Macdonald
DEPUTY CAPTAIN OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS, PREFECT: Julienne Orcullo
CAPTAIN OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, PREFECT: Katherine Nguyen
DEPUTY CAPTAIN OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, PREFECT: Natasha Freeman

HOUSE CAPTAINS

MARDEN
House Captain, Prefect Tara Waniganayaka
Deputy House Captain, Prefect Briony Insall

LANG
House Captain, Prefect Michaela Hatfield
Deputy House Captain, Prefect Harriet Johnston

GOODLET
House Captain, Prefect Danielle Colubriale
Deputy House Captain, Prefect Isabelle Lamberton

BOARDING CAPTAINS

GOODLET Boarding Captain Jennifer Rynehart
Lang Boarding Captain Georgina Walsh
Marden Boarding Captain, Prefect Elizabeth Dalton

PREFECTS

Clariissa Auffermann, Victoria Caldwell, Wendy Chen, Gabriella Dal Pozzo, Katherine Dickson, Lauren Drummer, Alice Evatt, Kate Fuery, Fiona Harrison, Chelsea Hartmann, Laura Hepburn, Shirley-Ann Hu, Apoorva Kallianpur, Penelope Kendall, Charmaine Lam, Alana Lee, Min-Young Lee, Sylvia Lim, Julianne Lipman, Severnne McGarity, Nicole Nahm, Danielle Pogson, Bharini Ravindra, Anne Sandig, Charlotte Simons, Hwa-Yong Tan, Jessica Tan, Isobel Taylor, Julia Tucker, Olympia Walker, Lara Wilkinson, Connie Ye.

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Claudia Stocks, Year 11
JACARANDA DAY

With purple ribbons in their hair, Pymble girls from Kindergarten to Year 12 gathered to celebrate Jacaranda Day on Tuesday 4 November. Each year, students and staff gather beneath our beautiful Jacaranda tree to give thanks for the wonderful opportunities provided at Pymble and to acknowledge those less fortunate.

This year, poor weather meant the service was held indoors in the PE Centre, but the spirit of the day could not be dampened. Guest speaker Clare Burgess, Head Prefect of 2005, spoke about her fond memories of her time at Pymble, and used the Jacaranda tree as a metaphor for the school’s ‘unending chain’ of students. She described the strong roots as the unseen and often unrecognised support of parents, and the flowers in full bloom as the Year 12 students about to leave and make room for new students and leaders of the College.

Jacaranda Day also presented the opportunity to support the work of the Exodus Foundation, with each Tutor Group donating baskets of food and Christmas presents for underprivileged children. The head of the Exodus Foundation was “blown away” by the two busloads of baskets and presents that they received.

Jacaranda Day 2008 was a great success that involved all students and staff in a morning of true Pymble spirit.

Katherine Dickson, Year 11

YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS SERVICE

It was an extra special Year 7 Christmas service this year, with parents invited to join the annual service to celebrate the Christmas season.

The theme this year was ‘Christmas through the Ages’. Students researched the historical and religious significance of Christmas and planned all areas of the service.

The traditional messages of Christmas were beautifully conveyed through music, song and performance. The students, tutors and senior tutors are commended for their participation, hard work and dedication in their presentation of this special service.

Miss Patricia Gallardo, Year 7 Advisor
In ancient Greece, Apollo, the god who inspired creative and intellectual arts, was honoured every four years with a festival at Delphi. This festival was known as the Pythian Games, and it included athletic events and contests in music, drama and poetry. Philosophers and scholars of all types gathered at Delphi to publicise their views, and artists worked to produce statues of the games’ victors, who were greatly honoured for their achievements.

On the final day of term four 2008, students and teachers of the Senior School celebrated a modern version of the Pythian Games. All departments held activities for the students to participate in and enjoy aspects of their disciplines - for the sheer love of learning!

Opening and closing ceremonies maintained the link with the original Pythian Games, with students reciting poetry in Classical Greek. A beautiful rendering of the First Pythian Ode of Pindar was sung by Jessica Tan and Jasmine Logaraj to a lovely melody composed by Sylvia Lim. Dr Townsend impersonated the priestess of Apollo, the Pythia, and Head Prefect Jillian Boustred presided over the ceremonies.

Sincere thanks go to Dr Emily Matters for conceiving this wonderful conclusion to 2008 for the Senior School, and for her tireless efforts in putting the whole day together and making it such a great event. It might be breaking with ancient tradition, but let’s hope this becomes an annual event on the Pymble calendar.
PYMBLE LADIES’ COLLEGE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS WEEK

For the first time, Pymble’s Year 10 students participated in the Australian Business Week Challenge in November. Australian Business Week Enterprise Education (ABW) is a coalition of state departments of education, universities and major businesses. The ABW Challenge is an intensive learning experience conducted over a week to enhance social and academic development.

It gives students an opportunity to learn about themselves and develop a wide range of cognitive, communication and leadership skills, which increases self esteem and confidence.

Throughout the week, students were involved in a variety of activities related to the operation, management and decision-making processes undertaken in business. They were given a number of lectures from academics and entrepreneurs focusing on the core areas of business practice.

The students worked in teams, forming companies. Business mentors provided advice on running meetings, adhering to deadlines and problem solving.

The ABW computer program allowed students to assume the role of company managers and make decisions which affected their company’s performance. In addition the students were required to write a company report, produce a 30 second commercial, develop a trade display and give an oral presentation regarding the performance of their company.

This program would not have been possible without the generous support of the business mentors and the Pymble staff; in particular, Mrs Kerrie Corne, Ms Jenni Nixon, Miss Katrina Cluff and Mrs Amelia Phillips.

Mrs Julie Gleeson, Australian Business Week Co-ordinator

‘ABW was an interesting and new experience which introduced us to the complicated world of business’
Bethany Ellis (Year 10)

‘One of the best aspects of ABW was being able to get to know other people and communicate with them in ways which we had never experienced before. We learnt how important each person was to the team, and it was really great to have fun with them in a different environment’
Dreem Qin (Year 10)

YEAR 11 EXCURSION

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)

“Amazing”, ”mind-boggling” and “wow” were just a few of the words used by Year 11 Chemistry and Physics students who visited the centre of Australia’s nuclear research in term four. The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation at Lucas Heights produces radiopharmaceuticals for hospitals and industry, and researches the inner workings of atoms and neutron scattering.

This excursion was undertaken as an extension of a study of radioisotopes. Girls were able to explore the OPAL research nuclear reactor, learning about thermal neutrons, moderators and cubic lattices.

The Year 11 students were amazed by the expansive grounds of the ANSTO complex, which were so large that the girls were required to take a bus from one building to another. They were especially entertained by the naming of the roads after famous scientists including Einstein, Bohr and Rutherford.

Students were also wowed by an intense lecture on the uses, dangers and practicalities of radioisotopes and were introduced, to the dismay of some, to a new periodic table! Also fascinating was the particle accelerator, a smaller version of the Large Hadron Collider recently unveiled in Switzerland by ANSTO’s European counterpart, CERN, amid significant controversy. Here, girls learnt about the workings of carbon dating, particle collisions and annihilations.

At the end of the day the students returned to school and awakened to a world of possibilities.

Tara Waniganayaka, Year 11
CHINA TOUR

On 24 September 2008, 26 excited Pymble girls, together with two enthusiastic teachers, set off for China where they would spend the next 19 days.

The China tour took the students to six Chinese cities, many of which are very remote. The girls experienced the wonders of ancient cities, fortresses and temples, spectacular scenery, modern mega cities, theatre and camel riding in the Gobi Desert. 

While in Beijing, the students spent a memorable day experiencing the splendour of the Great Wall of China, where they walked for 13 kilometres between Simatai and Jinshanling. They also visited the Temple of Heaven and the Forbidden City, and walked in the largest city square in the world, Tiananmen Square.

“It was an amazing experience to finally see up close everything that I had once studied in class,” said Natasha Spiegel, Year 11. “I particularly liked seeing the Terracotta Warriors in Xian.”

Each day of the tour was filled with memorable experiences, tours and activities. While in Dunhuang, the group visited the famous Mogao Grottoes, popularly known as the Thousand Buddha Caves. The walls of the caves are lined with Buddhist frescoes, scriptures, murals and sculpted figures; an extraordinary sight and certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

“China is such a culturally-rich country and it was incredible to learn of its history and visit so many unique sites,” said Victoria Montgomery, Year 11.

Even mealtimes became a cultural experience. The group enjoyed a delicious dumpling banquet while watching a stage show at the Tang Dynasty Theatre in Xian.

Special thanks must be given to Mr Candy and Mrs Gleeson who organised and supervised the tour and to Mrs Waters for making such a valuable experience possible.

Katherine Dickson, Year 11

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD

Year 11 students Julianne Lipman and Wendy Chen were wonderful ambassadors for Pymble, when they were chosen as finalists in the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Competition.

The purpose of the awards is to foster awareness of women in society and so help advance the status of women worldwide.

Young women aged 16 to 20 from throughout the metropolitan area were eligible to apply. They were required to submit five essays that described the community service activities they performed, and demonstrated their awareness of international issues and of the status of women in Australia and worldwide.

Finalists were then asked to present a speech on their solutions to some of the problems facing women in today’s society.

Wendy and Julianne both spoke at the awards’ presentation dinner, which was hosted by Zonta Hornsby Ku-ring-gai. Congratulations to both girls for advancing that far in the competition, and special mention to Wendy, who was awarded a highly commended on the evening. Thanks to Mrs Moran for her support and to Carroll Howe, President of Zonta Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, for hosting the evening.
It was quite amazing to see how many different mos can be grown by a relatively small sample size. At Pymble, there were a few variations of the ‘shortboxed beard’ and some versions reminiscent of the ‘regent’ and the ‘truckie beard’.

However, the highlight for many students was discovering the uncanny resemblances that grew between some of our more familiar teachers and some famous faces. Most notably, Mr Peacock revealed signs of a very distant Italian heritage, looking more and more like Mario or Luigi with his thick ‘major’ style moustache (although he did indicate that he preferred a comparison to a dashing World War I fighter ace or movie star Clark Gable).

At the close of Movember, 22 of Pymble’s male staff members were sporting an impressive amount of facial hair. The mos were proudly displayed on Friday 28 November when students and staff were invited to cast their vote for the Man of Movember.

Those who attended were rewarded with the additional entertainment of some fabulous novelty mos being showcased by some enthusiastic female supporters including Mrs Wyse, Ms Euler, Miss Brownlee and Mrs Waters.

After all the votes were tallied, it was Mr Anderson with his handlebar moustache who took out the title. There was tight competition with Mr Dunk coming in at second place and Mr Stafford a close third.

Movember was altogether a fantastic and fun event that raised $974, well over our goal of $600.

Thanks must go to all the Mo Bros, particularly Mr Meli for his support in co-ordinating the event, the supporting staff, students and of course the families who had to put up with the mos.

Katherine Nguyen, Captain of Community Service
“Coven court of shady deeding
Help me now the ogress feeding
Grilled and shaped to my own needing
With stumps and edges still a bleeding”

You may not have picked it, but this is a line from Rufus Norris’s play *Sleeping Beauty*, which is, in fact, more similar to the original story than the fairytale known by most people today. In this version, there are multiple princes, evil thorns, an ogre and ogress, not to mention some very pitiful farm animals! The Drama Ensemble, made up of Years 7 and 8 students, have been working on this project since term one; learning lines, blocking scenes and practising songs. With the guidance of Drama teacher Ms Martin and Year 11 students Natalie Stern (Drama Captain) and Jessie-Marie Goldie (Theatre Captain), the play came to life, in all its quirky and bizarre glory.

For many of the girls, this was their first opportunity to perform in a large production before an enthusiastic audience. Needless to say, nerves were running high on opening night! The play featured live sounds created backstage as well as fabulous sets that built an entire world. All their hard work resulted in some fantastic performances, and the girls finished closing night feeling inspired and ready to do it all over again. One thing is for sure; the girls involved in this production are rising *Pymble* stars and we will no doubt be seeing much more of them in the future!

*Claudia Stocks, Year 11*
**SPORT @ PYMBLE**

**SURF LIFE SAVING**

Since 1907, Australia’s surf lifesavers have saved more than 530,000 lives. Today, Surf Life Saving Australia has almost 130,000 members in 305 clubs around the Australian coastline.

*Pyoble* began its involvement with Surf Life Saving Australia in 2005 when a group of 15 girls joined the program. Since then, interest from the girls has risen dramatically. Although not a formal sport at *Pyoble*, many girls choose surf lifesaving for their Duke of Edinburgh Community Service segment; another group of mainly Year 9 girls have just commenced their training to become a surf lifesaver.

Training consists of ten intensive weeks of instruction on Sunday mornings at Whale Beach, starting at the beginning of term four and concluding at the start of term one. Girls undertake land training, consisting of first aid, ‘carries’ and education about surf life saving equipment, and water training, including trial rescues using boards, tubes and other equipment.

After Sunday morning training girls are encouraged to take part in the surf races. This is very valuable as it can help the girls gain more confidence in surf swimming and on the boards.

At the end of each season, the Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club holds an awards dinner, where last year Julia Tucker (Year 11) was named the Rookie Surf Life Saver of the Year. *Pyoble* girls have also been very successful in internal and external competitions. Original *Pyoble* surf lifesavers Danielle Scott and Elzaan Pienaar (Year 12, 2007) have been very successful at branch, state and national levels of competition.

Apart from the social and competitive side to surf lifesaving, there is the Community Service element. After girls have achieved their Bronze Medalion for completing the ten-week course, they become qualified surf lifesavers, assigned to a patrol team which will patrol about once a month. This is a rewarding, hands-on experience. Whale Beach lifesavers are involved in about 80 rescues a year. In a previous season, Clementine Wickham and Mia Leszinsky of Year 12 were involved in major rescues; they are congratulated on their professional, skilful approach and assistance.

“Surf lifesaving has been a great experience overall,” said Stephanie Fowler of Year 11. “It is a great chance to learn skills you would not acquire elsewhere; it is really fun and has been a good opportunity to meet new people. Most of all, it has been rewarding to give something back to the community.”

All girls currently involved in surf lifesaving encourage any other interested students to ‘give it a go’ at Whale Beach or at a beach close to them next season.

*Mia Popplewell, Year 11*

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**NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Pyoble* rider Natasha Sviderskas gladly took on a 2000 km round trip in October to participate in the inaugural National Interschool Championships, held by the Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA).

The event in Toowoomba, Queensland, offered competition in four disciplines - eventing, dressage, show jumping and showman.

Natasha, a Year 9 student, and her pony, Joemoor Arizona, had qualified for the NSW showman team earlier in the year. The showman competition is a four-phase event with a dressage test, a jumping round, a riding class competition and a led presentation.

The national competition had a fantastic atmosphere, with competitors from every Australian state. The stables were decorated with each state’s colours, flags and emblems. Natasha was excited to be wearing the ‘blue’ for New South Wales.

Natasha won individual reserve champion and was one of the top four scoring showman riders from NSW to be awarded Reserve Champion State Team.

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**IGSSA GYMNASTICS**

A group of talented and enthusiastic *Pyoble* gymnasts took out top honours at the annual IGSSA Gymnastics Competition at the Homebush Sports Centre in October.

The girls had trained incredibly hard over the past year in bars, beam, vault and floor events for Artistic Gymnastics, and rope, ball, ribbon, hoop and club events for the Rhythmic Gymnastics girls.

*Pyoble* finished the day with the highest-overall point score, becoming the overall winners of the competition.

The team is congratulated for this outstanding achievement. Special congratulations also to Anne Sandig, Captain of Artistic Gymnastics, and to Lucy Rennick, Captain of Rhythmic Gymnastics, for their encouragement and leadership.

“It was such a fun day and it was great to achieve what we did,” said Anne Sandig.

All girls would like to thank Head Coach Mrs Feng Jin and Ms Mansfield for their hard work, their enthusiasm and the long hours dedicated to the girls’ training. Thank you also to Mr Anderson and the PDHPE staff for planning the day and helping out at the competition.

*Mia Popplewell, Year 11*
**BEYOND THE CURRICULUM**

**CELEBRATION CAKES**

Year 9 Food Technology classes produced celebration cakes this term as part of their work on the unit Food for Special Occasions. The students researched different celebrations and styles of cakes and were inspired by expert demonstrations. From their research the girls developed their own designs and each created a celebration cake. The cakes were then displayed for the enjoyment of the College community.

The beautiful cake created by Amy Sales was judged as best overall design.

**FORMER STUDENT RETURNS TO PYMBLE**

It was back to school for ex-student Tanya Choucair (2001), who returned to Pymble in term four to complete a practical component of her teaching degree at ACU.

Tanya is majoring in Religious Studies and Commerce/Business Studies. Here, she can be seen helping Year 7 students create Christmas cards that contain a Christian message. The students found the task harder than anticipated, as they discovered that many images attached to Christmas these days, like presents and Santa Claus, are not the traditional Christmas symbols.

**YEAR 10 CAMP**

At 6.30am on Tuesday 14 October, a group of excited Year 10 students departed College grounds for their Year 10 Leadership and Study Camp.

The four day camp aims to equip Year 10 students with leadership qualities as they begin their final years of school, and with good study habits to help them through their preliminary and HSC studies.

For many, this is one of the most loved camps on the school calendar. Upon arrival at the Collaroy Conference Centre the girls were split into 12 groups, which would rotate through the different activities each day. The topics included Motivational Start, Pioneers, Careers/Money, Study Skills, Regatta, Study Skills and Leadership Rising. The major activities attended by all the students were surf awareness classes and a self-protection seminar.

All the girls very much enjoyed their Year 10 Camp, and felt feeling a lot more confident to face their Year 11 and Year 12 studies.

Julianne Lipman, Year 11

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Religious Studies class with ex-Pymble student teacher Tanya Choucair
YAMAZING

A business selling umbrellas was the idea chosen by six Pymble girls participating in the Young Achievement Australia (YAA) program. From May to October this year, 25 Year 11 students from a number of North Shore schools participating in the program started and ran a small business.

The Pymble team formed the company Yamazing, which sold reflective umbrellas to promote safety in the dark, as well as corporate promotional umbrellas. The girls were extremely successful, with their starting share price of $2.00 climbing to more than $5.00. The company also won the Trade Expo Retail Performance Award, for achieving the highest sales at a shopping centre stall.

YAA was a great way for the girls to gain some practical business skills and to apply that knowledge to the wider world. The girls were also able to work with a wider community, making friends with students from five other North Shore schools. The venture was a great learning process that was also a lot of fun. “I have learnt an enormous amount, especially that with clear objectives, planning, determination and teamwork, nothing is impossible,” said Apoorva Kallianpur, Yamazing Marketing Director.

The knowledge the girls gained by starting and running Yamazing will be invaluable in the future for their own business ventures.

Hana Dinh, Year 11
PYMBLE SKIERS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

It was a great year for snow sports at Pymble in 2008. During the term two holidays, 50 girls and their teachers attended a snow sports camp based at Thredbo. Snow fell just in time to make a magical week of skiing and boarding for all.

Also in Thredbo, 35 girls participated in 23 events at the Interschools’ NSW Regional Snow Sports Competition. Competitors came from the Preparatory School through to Year 12 and were led by Snow Sports Captain Olivia Black. The girls skied well with ten teams making it through to the State Championships. Four Pymble teams also made it through to the Interschools’ Nationals Championships with outstanding results in moguls and skier cross.

Next year promises to be even bigger and better for snow sports at Pymble. The Pymble Cup will be held at Perisher Blue in the July school holidays. This event is open to girls of all ages and abilities, their family and friends. Although it is a competition the emphasis will be on having fun, with many novelty events planned.

A snow sports camp will be held from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 July 2009. Girls who are not skiing with their families this week but who would like to participate in Snow Sports are especially encouraged to attend this camp. All enquiries should be directed to the Pymble Snow Sports Co-ordinator Belle Wheaton. Girls attending the camp will have the opportunity to compete in the Regional Competition held during the week.

Families planning their snow holidays are strongly encouraged to make bookings early so that their daughters can compete in the Regional Competition, which is held from Wednesday 15 to Sunday 19 July. We are aiming to have our best-ever turnout of girls in 2009. Events include alpine, skier cross, moguls, cross country and snowboard. Skiers of all levels are encouraged to participate for Pymble in these events.

Planning is now underway for a trip to Japan in April 2010. Girls of all levels of skiing ability will be eligible to participate in this exciting event.

Roland Everingham, Snow Sports’ Support Group

CAROLS UNDER THE STARS

The Pymble community came together for a wonderful celebration of Christmas music at ‘Carols under the Stars’ on Gloucester Quadrangle. The beautiful voices of our Preparatory, Junior and Senior choirs, backed by the Pymble Symphony Orchestra, were raised in song to celebrate the story of Christ’s birth. The Senior Stage Band welcomed Pymble families and friends to the event with a wonderful performance that entertained us through dinner. Thank you to the Music Department for a very special night.

PSPA

The PSPA has enjoyed a great final term for 2008 with a successful presence at the annual Preparatory School Swimming Carnival. The PSPA provided a refreshments stall for the event and a large majority of the parents provided food and/or helped on the day at the stall.

The PSPA End of Year Function was held in the foyer of GMCPA. Pictured here are some of the dads enjoying a well deserved drink after a great year. Head of Preparatory School Mrs Kathryn Butt also attended, pictured left with parents Eileen Reeve, Susan Knox and Chris Cooper.

FAMILY GROUP
While rain was on the horizon in the long range forecast, Saturday 20 September turned out to be one of the hottest Garden Party days on record! The lines for the snow cone machines were always at least 20 deep and BPA freshly-squeezed orange juice was a big hit as always. Thank you to everyone in the Pymble community who helped make the 2008 Garden Party such a wonderful success. This year’s profit of $49,486 will go towards the Indigenous Scholarship Program.

FAMILY GROUP BARBECUE
A SIZZLING SUCCESS

As is the tradition, the Family Group operated the barbecue at this year’s Garden Party. There was great spirit and enthusiasm amongst the 20 parent volunteers who cooked and served 1,200 sausages and 250 burgers and prepared salad items. The wagyu beef burgers introduced this year were so popular that demand outstripped supply. Cold drinks and hot food were a great combination on a perfect spring day. Thanks to all the parents who gave up their time to help, and special thanks to Lorrae Kentwell and Lyndal Elder for their efforts behind the scenes.
From THE PRESIDENT

At the 79th Ex-Students' Union Annual General Meeting on Friday 31 October 2008 the following members were elected.

Executive Committee
President: Diana Brown (Mickle, 1982)
Vice-president: Leona Blanco (Outridge, 1975)
Secretary: Robyn Wood (Killen, 1973)
Treasurer: Jane Marks (1978)

General Committee
Wendy Dreyfus (Sherman, 1976)
Linda Lamberton (Satchwell, 1976)
Janet Redman (Playfair, 1970)
Vicki Davies (Jacobs, 1973)
Katrina Corcoran (Hum, 1987)
Gill Ross-Edwards (Clarke, 1976)

We were delighted to welcome Katrina, Vicki and Gill as interim members during the year and farewell with much appreciation Diana Julien (Semmonds, 1970) and Gai Mather (Montgomery, 1973). Janie Rogers (Knowland, 1975) and Judy Dreverman (Lamble, 1976) have stepped down from the committee, but remain as USA and Middle East representatives.

Next year, the Union will celebrate its 80th anniversary. We hope that many ex-students will join us in recognising the role the College, the Union and our fellow ex-students have played in our lives. In addition to a celebratory luncheon following our annual Commemoration Day Service on 2 August, there will be other ESU events in 2009 to enjoy. Please send your email address to esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au so you can be regularly updated with ESU events. We are determined to bring the Union into the 21st century, with a focus on improving communication.

All’ Ultimo Lavoro
Diana Brown (Mickle, 1982)
esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

SEND IN YOUR NEWS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
ESU@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or PO Box 15, Pymble NSW 2073

Coming Black Watch Events

Calendar for 2009

As 2009 is our 80th birthday, we have lots of exciting events planned. Although some don’t have definite dates yet, they are most certainly going ahead! Keep your eye out on the Pymble website, your email inbox and future Pymbulletins for more details. If you have any questions or queries, you can always contact us at esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or at PO Box 15, Pymble NSW 2073.

Term One
• Colleen Parker Retrospective (see next page)
• Morning Tea for ex-student grandmothers and mothers of current students
• Artist in Residence hospitality function

Term Two
• Golf/tennis day
• Black Watch Pymble Women and the Environment
• Indigenous Scholarship Program Information Evening

Term Three
• Commemoration Day Chapel Service and 80th birthday lunch (Sunday 2 August)
• Garden Party (Saturday 26 September)

Term Four
• Annual General Meeting (Friday 30 October)

Keeping in Touch

We love keeping in touch with our members. We are hoping that you will forward us items and photos that we can publish, such as news from reunions and other functions during the year. We are planning to keep in contact with our fellow ex-students more often via email so that we reach you in a more timely and cost-effective manner. If you have not provided the ESU with your email address, or it has changed, please send us a quick ‘hello’ email to esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au and ask your friends to do the same so that we can keep in contact with everyone!

2008 Daughters of Ex-students

The graduating year of 2008 celebrated the end of their school days with a moving Chapel service where they were joined by their parents. It was wonderful to see 18 daughters of ex-students graduating this year. In several cases, these were third generation Pymble girls!
Colleen Parker Retrospective

A retrospective exhibition of Colleen M. Parker’s (Lockley, 1960) works will celebrate the beauty, movement and colour of Australia as Colleen saw it and captured in paints. The exhibition acknowledges Colleen’s major contribution to the art world, and will feature a diverse range of her paintings created over her lifetime. Friday 8 May 2009 - Sunday 7 June 2009, Lavender Bay Gallery (Royal Art Society of NSW), 25-27 Walker St, North Sydney. For more information, visit www.royalart.com.au or phone Christine on 02 9955 5752.

Recent Black Watch Events

Garden Party

What a beautiful day Garden Party turned out to be this year! The Ex-Students’ Union was there again this year selling our crested goods and our newest edition to the range, the lovely hand-drawn cards by friend of the College, Reverend Dr Bernard Thorogood. The cards are a collection of six drawings, featuring scenes from different areas around the College grounds. If you missed the opportunity to purchase a pack at the Garden Party it is not too late. For a set of 12 cards with envelopes, please send a cheque for $25 (includes postage) made payable to the Ex-Students’ Union Inc to PO Box 15, Pymble NSW 2073.

30 Year Reunion (1978)

On Saturday 16 August, 82 girls gathered at Albert’s Corner Bar in North Sydney for a night that will be long remembered! There was laughter, merriment, sounds of shock and disbelief as girls came together – some for the first time since we left school. It was a most enjoyable evening with a slide show bringing back long-forgotten memories. We enjoyed great music, a great venue, and deafening chatter until the wee hours of the morning. Boarders came from far and wide to attend the event. Many day girls now living interstate and overseas also attended and indeed added to the success of the night. Our Head Prefect Sylvia Hartog (Janssen) made a speech reminding us all that public speaking was the least favourite part of her duties when at school so we were pleased we could coax her into one more for our reunion! Thanks to my fellow reunion organisers, Victoria Nichol (Nettleship), Sonal Moore (Sheth) and Liz Cameron, for all their assistance - it was a great night and we look forward to the next one!

Merry Hughes

Above: Liz Cameron, Victoria Nichol (Nettleship) and Merry Hughes

Left: Sarah Condie (Wright), Fiona Jennings (Hams) and Jane Marks

Upcoming Reunions

2009 Reunions

Calling all 2009 reunion groups. No, it is not too early to register your interest in organising a reunion for your year group in 2009. We have already been contacted by a number of people who are organising reunions and would welcome any offers of help or even expressions of interest in the event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1969 leavers</td>
<td>Date to be confirmed</td>
<td>Philippa Graham (Myers) Ph: 02 9488 8525 M: 0407 202 838 E: <a href="mailto:pdgraham@pobox.com">pdgraham@pobox.com</a> Please contact Philippa if you are interested in this event or helping to organise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1962 leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 21 March 2009, 11.00am for tours and 12.00pm for lunch (until 3.00pm), David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble</td>
<td>Susannah Smith (Stirling) is organising a belated 45 year reunion (so belated it is now a 47 year reunion!) at the College early next year. Ph: 02 9974 1998 E: <a href="mailto:susannahsmith@bigpond.com">susannahsmith@bigpond.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1959 leavers</td>
<td>Date to be confirmed</td>
<td>If anyone is interested in helping organise a 50 year reunion in 2009 for 1959 leavers, please contact Diana Ford (Gee) E: <a href="mailto:dianasford@yahoo.com.au">dianasford@yahoo.com.au</a></td>
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ENGAGEMENTS:
• Alexandra Holcombe (1998) to Samuel Haggan
• Jyoti Larke (1990) to Andrew Herrick

MARRIAGES:
• Emily Jane Phippard (1997) married Guy Patrick Burnett on 17 May 2008 at St James Anglican Church, Turramurra, followed by a reception at Atholl Hall. Emily was attended by her sisters Catherine Parker (Phippard, 1986), Victoria Humphrey (Phippard, 1989), Alex Bogle (Phippard, 1993) and her cousin Caitlin Dunnet (2000).

• Natalie Schramm (1990) married Stephane Grange at the Pymble Ladies’ College Chapel on 8 March 2008. Natalie was attended by Nicole McDonnell (Moore, 1990), and celebrated the occasion with fellow school friends Jane Filmer (1990), Rebeccah Finnegan (Johnston, 1990), Fiona Gallagher (Halstead, 1990) and Alice Greenwood (1990).


BIRTHS:
• Alex Bogle (Phippard, 1993) and husband Charles are proud to announce the birth of their second child Cameron Ripley born 3 December 2007, a brother for Emilie Lysette, aged 4.
• Paula Cansick (Cribb, 1991) and husband Richard are delighted to announce the birth of their first son Max Peter on 12 August 2008.
• Belinda Gerreyn (Broadhead, 1996) and husband Glen are thrilled to announce the birth of their second daughter Eden Hope on Wednesday 5 November 2008. A sister for Grace Edoni (born Sunday 24 September 2006).
• Jo Graham (Elsey, 1998) and husband Matt are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Amelia Joy on 30 September 2008 at Muswellbrook Hospital.
• Susan Livingstone (Gill, 1993), husband Paul and son Thomas welcome with love Harry John Geoffrey, born 25 July 2008.
• Margaux Mansour (Le Guay, 1996) and husband Elie are delighted to announce the birth of their second child Christopher Elie in Dubai on 23 August 2008, a little brother for Alannah.
• Priscilla Marneros (Ma, 1990) and husband Paul are proud to announce the arrival of their first son, Isaac Andrew, on 1 August 2008.
• Kathy Skewes (Gilkes, 1989) and husband Matt are delighted to announce the arrival of their latest addition, Clare Louise, on 23 January 2008. A little sister for Angus.
• Alix Toynton (Icklow, 1994) and husband Andrew are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their precious little girl Samara Jessie on 19 August 2008. A beautiful sister for Hannah.
• Ineke Walker (Hogendijk, 1995) and husband Nick had a beautiful baby boy James Grant on 4 September 2008, a little brother for Bella.
• Fiona Walmsley (McGeachie, 1996) and husband Matthew are delighted to announce the arrival of their first child, daughter Grace Katherine, born 9 October 2008.

VALE:
• Elva Grace MacCallum (Haynes, 1939) passed away on 20 September 2008 aged 84. She started at Pymble in 1934, and sat for the Leaving Certificate in 1939. She was Dux, a Prefect and Head of Lang House. Elva graduated in Medicine from the University of Sydney in 1946 and completed a Diploma of Child Health in London. She worked in the now disbanded School Medical Service, at the Red Cross and for the Repatriation Department.
• Christina Thorburn (McMahon, 1940) passed away on 23 November 2008.
• Margaret Windeyer (Vicars, 1925) passed away on 8 July 2008 aged 96. She was the last surviving daughter of Robert and Violet Vicars. Robert was one of the early supporters of the school and a member of the first College Council. He was Chairman of the Council 1931-32 and 1937-39.

NEWS:
• Nicola Jeffery (2002) was awarded the University Medal in Medicine at UNSW in 2008.
Ex-Students’ Union Inc.
Looking Back at 2008
Our First Senior School Leavers

As the 228 girls of the Year 12 class of 2008 pass through the College gates for the final time as students, it is fitting to look back and remember the four impressive young women who led the way. They were the Leaving Certificate Class of 1916 – the founding year of the College.

On 8 February 1916, the first day of the new Presbyterian Ladies’ College at Pymble, 60 eager students signed their names in the official School Register. Their ages ranged from six to seventeen. The first three spaces in this historic Register held in the College Archives record the signatures of Dorothy Abbott, Esther Wait and Beryl Whysall.

These three young women, at 17 years of age, were the oldest of the girls enrolling that day, and were entering into Year IV studies. They had all transferred from PLC Croydon. Mavis Furst, at nineteen years of age, was to join them midway through term one, also from PLC Croydon.

At the end of 1916 these four outstanding young women were our first senior school leavers. Dorothy, Esther, Beryl and Mavis were all appointed school Prefects in that first year, and Dorothy became the first Head Prefect of PLC Pymble.

From all accounts, Dorothy and her fellow Prefects were an exceptional group. In December 1916 Dr Marden, Principal of both PLC Croydon and Pymble at that time, wrote a letter to Dorothy as Head Prefect, expressing his appreciation of her fine character and outstanding leadership qualities as well as expressing his deep gratitude for the help and support of all the Prefects throughout a challenging year.

"... the Prefects were always there, always ready, always diligent, always smiling."

Dorothy and Esther were Boarders and Beryl and Mavis were Day Girls.

At a time when no Australian family was left untouched by the Great War, Dorothy, Esther, Beryl and Mavis must have welcomed the peaceful beauty of the College’s environment and the certainty and security found within the regular cycle of school life.

Dorothy, Mavis and Beryl went on to sit for the Leaving Certificate Examinations in 1916 with great success. All three are featured on the 1916 Honour Board which hangs on the first floor of the Conde Library. Beryl became the first Dux of PLC Pymble and also received the Good Conduct medal. Dorothy was awarded the first College Medallion. Esther was unable to sit the Leaving Certificate due to ill health. However, she did go on to university in later life and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Psychology and Anthropology.

The warmth that these four young women generated amongst their fellow students and staff during the first year of our College is reflected in the sentiments expressed in the closing pages of the December 1916 issue of the school magazine Aurora Australis:

Good-byes are always hard to say, and perhaps first ones are particularly so. At all events, the joy of a long holiday coming is largely tempered for us by the knowledge that we shall return from its delights to find many an old friend missing. To them all we would say, “A long life, a happy one, and a useful one!”... And so, while we hope that our departing senior girls are taking pleasant memories away with them, we know that they are leaving fine ones behind.

No doubt the sentiments expressed in these lines have been felt many times over the past 92 years, and they remain as appropriate now as we farewell the Class of 2008 as they did for the Class of 1916.

Kim Collins,
College Archivist.