Pymble embraces community
As I look back on 2009 at Pymble Ladies’ College, I notice a theme emerging. It is evident in the achievements of our girls, the efforts of our teachers and staff, and the intentions of the College and its community. This theme is the standard of excellence.

Excellence is achieved when talent and ability meet commitment. There is nothing ‘lucky’ about excellence. You cannot stumble into it. It is often the end reward for consistent effort and practice, coupled with high standards or expectations.

As we go to print, our Year 12 students have achieved excellence in their HSC results. Pymble students have topped the State in five subjects. This is an amazing achievement. A full report on our 2009 HSC students will be in the next issue of the Pymbulletin.

You will see ‘excellence’ reflected throughout this issue of Pymbulletin, in stories about our youngest girls to our eldest.

It is clear that the Preparatory School teachers once again set standards of excellence in providing an enriching learning environment for their students. In turn, the girls turned out an excellent semester of work.

In the Junior School pages, our Years 4 to 6 girls impress at New Junior School building works. Year 9 girls win the Future Indigenous Leader award. There are always many examples of excellence in Pymble sport, this term particularly in ice skating, swimming, diving and athletics.

Our reputation for excellence is making an impact abroad, as I recently discovered while attending the prestigious London Independent Schools Show. Being named one of the top boarding schools in the world beyond the UK by The Good Schools Guide International is testament to our excellent teaching and support staff at the College. I thank them for yet another outstanding year.

New building projects at the College in both the Junior and Secondary Schools are part of the effort to maintain a standard of excellence in future years.

After such an exceptional year, I look forward to sharing further stories of excellence with you in 2010.
On the last day of Term 3, Year 12 students and their sisters and parents packed into the Chapel for their final service at Pymble.

2009 Head Prefect Jillian Boustred gave the welcome, and Deputy Head Prefect Lovelle D’Souza and Senior House Prefect Claudia Stocks delivered bible readings. They were followed by the Chaplain, Mrs Dokmanovic, who presented a heartfelt reflection urging the Year 12 girls to soar to even greater heights as they enter this exciting new phase in their lives.

The service featured the musical talents of the year, with performances of The Call, by Regina Spektor, and Michael Gore’s Here’s Where I Stand. Another highlight was Emily Macdonald and Danielle Pogson’s performance, on voice and guitar, of a piece they had composed themselves. The performances simultaneously ignited cheers and tears among the girls.

“...the friendships I have made. Out of all the sport, classes and music, comes true and honest friendships. Next year I will miss being surrounded by the same 240 girls every day, but I know our friendships will last long after we close this chapter of our lives.”

2009 Head Prefect Jillian Boustred, from her Final Chapel Service Welcome.
Throughout Semester 2 the girls participated keenly in many special events which are so important in the school. They enjoyed the sports carnivals, the Garden Party, the concert *Gumnut Gully*, Chapel services, musical performances, co-curricular displays and excursions. They have enjoyed activities both outdoors and in the classroom where they have worked conscientiously to complete pleasing work in all areas of learning.

Children’s Book Week promotes Australian books and a love of reading, and is always a favourite with the girls. Aaron Blabey’s *Sunday Chutney* was by far the most popular book with the girls this year. They also enjoyed the visiting musical performance, *Jungle Bungle*, written especially around the 2010 short-listed books. Some lovely projects were completed in the classrooms with a number of girls even writing and illustrating their own books.

On Jeans for Genes Day, the staff and girls paid a donation to wear casual clothes to school, with money raised going to children’s medical research. Everyone enjoyed the barbecue lunch organised by the PSPA.

Also during the semester a special appeal was held for victims of the tsunami in Samoa, and on Jacaranda Day gifts were donated to the Exodus Foundation for needy families at Christmas.

Specialist teachers provided interesting programs in Physical Education, Performing Arts and French. All girls participated in the class activities and additional challenges were set for the most able girls.

In Physical Education the girls completed units of work in ball skills, athletics, rhythmic gymnastics and swimming. They practised their throwing, catching, hitting and kicking skills. Basic rules, fair play and teamwork were the focus in modified games. In athletics the girls developed techniques in track and field and participated in sprints, hurdles and relay races at the athletics carnival. Field events included mini javelin, shot put and long jump. From the beginning of Term 4 the girls took to the water to further develop their swimming skills in preparation for the swimming carnival.

In Performing Arts the girls were busy learning the songs for this year’s concert, *Gumnut Gully*. The Musica Viva Program in Schools exposes students to professional musicians from all around the world, and in Semester 2 our girls enjoyed the music of Senegal by the group ‘Teranga’.

In French the girls continued to extend their knowledge of France and its language with activities based on the class topics. A Christmas theme was an enjoyable way to wrap up the year’s work.

From Kindergarten

Term 3 was busy for the girls, who completed the unit of work ‘Animals’, which included a visit to Taronga Park Zoo, and a science topic on the movement of objects, toys and people. The main topics for Term 4 were ‘The Senses’ and ‘Celebrations’, with Christmas activities playing an important part.
From Year 1

In Term 3 the girls completed the topic ‘Reduce Reuse Recycle’, which included a workshop at the Royal Botanic Gardens where they planted beans in recycled coffee cups, searched for nature’s recyclers and learnt about fruit bats. ‘Living Things’ was a popular topic, with the girls studying different plants. In Term 4 the girls enjoyed the unit of work on ‘Celebrations’. The girls learnt about festivals and customs that are important to people from different religions and countries.

From Year 2

As part of Human Society and its Environment, the group ‘InDidgDance’ visited Year 2 and conducted workshops in Indigenous dance, painting and stories. The girls also enjoyed a visit to the Art Gallery of NSW where they were introduced to the wonderful world of art. In another unit of work the girls studied the food pyramid and experimented with mould to demonstrate the importance of safe storage of food. Food Expo was a great success with the girls sharing dishes from around the world. The girls made some wonderful toys in the Science and Technology topic, ‘Toys’.
Junior School

Down the Nile and up the Creek
Sarah Conolly and Emily Kerrison, 6G

Every year, Year 6 girls stage a musical production written by our dedicated performing arts teacher, Mrs Worsley. This year’s performance was set in Ancient Egypt during the reign of Cleopatra.

Down the Nile and up the Creek was the story of Cleopatra’s search for love. Julius Caesar tries to win her heart, and her royal advisor Archillas also wants to marry her, but he is only interested in the crown. Unfortunately for him, his plan falls through thanks to the chief guard, Alexander.

In the end, Alexander confesses his feelings to the Queen and asks for her hand in marriage. She gladly accepts and Caesar is left wondering what went wrong. The story ends happily enough for everyone … except Archillas. He and his sidekicks get a little bit of smelly justice.

The auditions started early in Term 3 and serious rehearsals began about halfway through the term. By the time opening night arrived the girls were all so excited they could think of nothing else!

We had lots of help from parents and teachers who gave up hours of their time to assist us in making the props and costumes. Many teachers, parents and students took part in a weekend sewing bee.

The musical was a wonderful experience that we will remember for the rest of our lives. The Year 6 girls are very grateful for all the help and support they received from their school, teachers and families.

Fun and adventure at Year 3 Camp

The Year 3 girls had a wonderful outdoor education experience at their class camp in November.

The two-day camp was held at Chowder Bay on beautiful Sydney Harbour. The girls took part in a wide range of environmental, cultural, social and physical activities. They were enthusiastic participants, and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

I really enjoyed the activities such as rafting.
Florence Chou 3M

We went to camp on Wednesday and we went rafting and walked to Georges Heights and the view was beautiful because you could see the beautiful blue sea.
Mandy Sun 3M

Camp was fun, the night bush walk was the best but it was a bit scary!
Nicky Koubouzis 3M

At camp I learnt about various plants the Aborigines used to live off, such as the snake whistle.
Wendy Liang 3M

Rafting was awesome. It was thrilling to see people from different classes work as a team.
Alicia Chang 3D

I enjoyed the view from Georges Heights with all the lights of the city.
Stephanie Rennie 3D

Camp: exciting surprises waiting to be found.
Kate Woolley 3D

I really enjoyed the Aboriginal lessons. I learnt how to weave and how Aborigines used bush medicine.
Isabella Garrett 3D

The rafting was the best because we had races and bumped together. Then Mrs Davis jumped onto the other boat and said that pirates had kidnapped them.
India Mayer 3D

Camp was the best but it was hard to get to sleep!
Samantha Robinson 3D
Tournament of Minds team triumphs!

Natasha Ng, 6T

Preparation for the Tournament of Minds began at the beginning of Term 2, with the selection of eight girls from Years 4 to 6 for the Pymble team. We undertook a few challenges from different categories to help us decide where our strengths were. We decided to work in the Applied Technology section, and solve the Long Term Challenge, ‘Did Video Kill the Radio Star?’

Our team worked together to create a documentary to demonstrate how a radio play is made. We used a variety of technologies to solve the problem and present our movie.

The first level of competition was regional, where we competed with many different schools from Northern Sydney.

Everyone was excited and nervous. As well as solving our Long Term Challenge we had to solve a Spontaneous Challenge, which involved brainstorming possible outcomes and delivering a solution to the issue proposed. We were all really excited when we won the competition!

The next level was state, held at the University of NSW. After a long day they finally announced the results. Our team received honours in our category. We were all so happy and excited. It was a great achievement to represent our school and to receive our medals in front of everyone. Being part of Tournament of Minds was a great experience I will never forget.

Junior stars of the water

Pymble girls Reena Oh and Johanna Volos made their mark at the Australian Swimming and Diving Championships in Perth in September.

Reena, a Year 5 student, placed second in the 11 years breaststroke, fourth in the medley relay and ninth in the 100 metres breaststroke. She started swimming in 2005 and now trains six times a week.

Johanna, a Year 4 student, placed fourth in diving and seventh in synchronised diving. Johanna began diving at the beginning of last year, and is also an elite gymnast.

Pymble is very proud of Reena and Johanna’s latest achievements.

Rev Bwa in Junior School

Angela Xia, 5M

Pymble was honoured to be visited in September by Reverend Nei Bwa, who came from her country, Kiribati, a tiny island in the Pacific. She met with us to talk about the risk that her country may be covered in water within ten years.

Nei Bwa spent thirteen days in Australia. During this time, she toured our school, watched school sports and music activities, and discussed Kiribati with the Senior School. She also visited the iconic Three Sisters and the Scenic Railway in the Blue Mountains.

Nei Bwa also spent some time in the Junior School. She met with Year 6 students to discuss global warming. The topic was further developed by 5M under the guidance of our teacher, Mrs Michie, with a play and dance about Kiribati that was performed for the Junior School Assembly.

We all enjoyed the company of Reverend Nei Bwa and look forward to her next visit.
Office Bearers’ Induction
Sashini Walpola, Year 11

On Thursday 22 October, a service and morning tea was held to induct the 2010 prefects and office bearers into their positions. In the presence of the College Community, including College Council members, staff and parents, each girl was presented to the Secondary School and awarded with their badge.

Susanna Falk, Head Prefect for 2010, was also presented with the Head Prefect’s Bible, which has been signed and passed down to every Head Prefect since 1997.

The service called upon the new prefects and office bearers to take up their roles of leadership and the Year 12 cohort to help lead the student body while upholding the traditions and values of the College. The girls, their parents and staff enjoyed a morning tea after the service.

Office Bearers 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Prefect</td>
<td>Susanna Falk</td>
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<td>Deputy Head Prefect</td>
<td>Gabrielle Georgiou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior House Prefect</td>
<td>Grace Swain</td>
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<td>Deputy Senior House Prefect</td>
<td>Olivia Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain of Sport</td>
<td>Kina Birkby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Captain of Sport</td>
<td>Camilla Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain of Music and the Arts</td>
<td>Jessica Sun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Captain of Music and the Arts</td>
<td>Kathy Xenos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain of Community Service</td>
<td>Sashini Walpola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Captain of Community Service</td>
<td>Jasmine Logaraj</td>
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House Captains 2010

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<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Deputy Captain</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bennett</td>
<td>Anna Lorigan</td>
<td>Morgan McBain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodlet</td>
<td>Stefani Drazic</td>
<td>Georgina Alcock</td>
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<td>Hammond</td>
<td>Phoebe Kershaw</td>
<td>Radhini Sappany</td>
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<td>Ingleholme</td>
<td>Heidi Pun</td>
<td>Georgia Sunito</td>
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<td>Lang</td>
<td>Avril Boyle</td>
<td>Sophie Whitehead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marden</td>
<td>Jessica Ah Chee</td>
<td>Katie Shipp</td>
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<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Tarini Paul</td>
<td>Jessica Willson</td>
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<td>Wylie</td>
<td>Vivien Tse</td>
<td>Eliza Flint</td>
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Prefects 2010

Jessica Ah Chee, Georgina Alcock, Sara Bamford, Kina Birkby, Avril Boyle, Emma Dowsett, Stefani Drazic, Susanna Falk, Eliza Flint, Gabrielle Georgiou, Catherine Gu, Olivia Hicks, Shiny Huang, Phoebe Kershaw, Alexandra Kongats, Jasmine Logaraj, Anna Lorigan, Morgan McBain, Eliza McDonald, Catherine Moore, Laura Parr, Tarini Paul, Eleanor Percival, Heidi Pun, Dreem Qin, Priyanka Ray, Radhini Sappany, Michelle Sebesi, Victoria Shehadie, Katie Shipp, Jessica Sun, Georgia Sunito, Grace Swain, Vivien Tse, Sashini Walpola, Winona Wawn, Sophie Whitehead, Jessica Willson, Camilla Wright, Kathy Xenos, Yolanda Zhu.
New Junior School building works commence

The new Junior School facilities are rapidly progressing, with work on the project commencing in December.

The proposed refurbishment of the Junior School will strengthen educational outcomes across several areas of the primary school curriculum. It is being funded through the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution program.

An outdoor/indoor area will significantly enhance continuity of learning, alleviating the need for activities to be suspended in inclement weather.

Extending the library will allow the College to expand the book collection, and provide space and facilities for students and staff, particularly during lunch breaks and also for team teaching of lessons and students working collaboratively.

The addition of two small, multipurpose spaces will provide rooms for additional Mathematics groups and for Speech and Drama lessons, allowing for more efficient use of time. We hope to integrate technology more fully in some of these spaces with video conferencing facilities.

Extending, reorganising and refurbishing the staff areas will increase the wellbeing, health and safety of staff – all of which contribute to the quality of education offered to our students.

The social program at Pymble

Pymble Ladies’ College supports a social development program and believes that it is an important component of students’ education.

The Pymble Ladies’ College Social Program was established in 2008 and is the result of collaboration between the College, parents and its broader community. It is designed to teach our students social responsibility through age appropriate social activities. Teaching social responsibility is the focus of this educational program. The calendar of events for the social program for Years 10, 11 and 12 are a result of this intent and were in keeping with the philosophy of the social program.

This year, the College hosted a Year 10 Dance on 13 November for our students and students of Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore). It was organised by Year 10 students and staff with the co-operation of the Senior School Parents’ Association. The event was a great success.

A Year 11 Formal was held on 22 October for our students and their partners. It was organised by Year 11 students and staff with the co-operation of the Senior School Parents’ Association. The evening was a great success enjoyed by all.

The Year 12 students’ final event for the year, a formal Valedictory Dinner, was hosted by the College. Students, their parents and staff enjoyed the evening held at Le Montage on 1 October.
Academic Excellence

Year 8 German zoo excursion

By Emilie Perl and Theresa Yu, Year 8

In August, a group of Year 8 German students enjoyed a day at Taronga Park Zoo where our challenge was to speak as much authentic German as possible. We would be rewarded with prizes for building perfect German sentences.

Before we even entered the zoo, the whole class was dared to approach another school and ask them which school they came from... in German!

We saw so many cute animals, such as a tiny baby elephant, and were allowed to pat a little echidna that stubbornly refused to walk in the direction he was placed!

The highlight of our day was a German picnic. Our German vocabulary increased greatly over the day, and it was a wonderful experience that we won’t forget.

Towers of Fun

Ms Gillian Sear

Some of Year 7 recently explored the principles involved in engineering by designing and building towers. Groups of students were issued with lolly sticks, straws, sticky tape, paper and card. Their challenge was to build the tallest tower possible with marks awarded for height and creativity. Each group also had to complete an account sheet as they could ‘buy’ extra equipment.

Student Brianha Nicolls said she found the project “challenging and very funny”.

Hannah Buchner enjoyed the opportunity to meet new girls. “We called ours the Leaning Tower of SHAB and we won. It was very exciting,” she said.

The girls are to be congratulated on their terrific teamwork and their final constructions. Thanks to Miss Claire Erving for organising the activity.

Chinese in the New Year

Students may study Chinese as a co-curricular activity in 2010, with plans to incorporate the subject into the curriculum from 2011.

“The learning of languages is an essential skill which breaks down barriers and cultural differences,” said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

“Introducing Chinese to our diverse program will equip our students with the knowledge and skills to communicate and work with our international neighbours and succeed in a global community.”

In 2010, 45 minute weekly beginners and advanced classes will be offered as an after-school activity for Junior School students.

The College is looking to establish sister-school relationships with schools in China to facilitate student exchanges and study tours.

Future Indigenous Leader Award

Year 11 student Jessica Ah Chee has won a national award recognising her as a ‘Future Indigenous Leader’. This is a wonderful endorsement of Jessica as the first Aboriginal Scholar at the College.

Jessica started at Pymble in Year 9, paving the way for four other students who joined the College and another two girls who will be joining us in 2010. This award recognises Jessica’s efforts in helping narrow the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australia. We are very proud of Jessica and look forward to following her career and development.
Pymble wins ‘Write-A-Book-In-A-Day’ competition

Pymble Ladies’ College was victorious in the Write-a-Book-in-a-Day competition, winning both the NSW and National finals. This is the first year Pymble has participated in the annual competition, which raises funds for Westmead Children’s Hospital.

Two teams of ten students from Years 9 to 11 entered the State competition at which students are required to work as a team, and in one day create an illustrated children’s novel for ages 10 to 14.

On the morning of the competition, teams were given writing parameters such as characters and words that they had to incorporate into the story. They brainstormed the characters, storyline and writing style, then each student worked individually to create their component.

Team 1’s Cheetah Boy, “an epic tale of love and loss”, won the NSW competition qualifying for and winning the national competition.


Team 2’s Journey to Kalgoa placed third in the State competition with a beautiful story of a lonely and destitute busker who learns the meaning of belonging and acceptance. Congratulations to Nayoon Kim, Monica Ma, Cecilia Chang, Isabelle Galet-Lalande, Christina Guo, Jessie Zhang, Susie Lauer, Chelsea Shear, Alana Irwin and Cissy Ye.

The competition raised $6,000 for the Children’s Hospital.

Mind, Body, Heart and Soul

Eleanor Percival and Laura Parr, Year 11

At the end of Term 3 and with Year 12 just around the corner, Year 11 students were treated with the Mind, Body, Heart and Soul Day.

The day began with a student-run Chapel Service which featured performances from many of the girls. It was a beautiful way to start the day.

After the service, we were visited by speakers from the St James Ethics Centre and the Butterfly Foundation where we learnt about the importance of ethics and self-esteem. Both topics were engaging and particularly relevant to young women today.

We then had the opportunity to participate in workshops ranging from yoga and tai chi, to bushwalking and Latin dance.

A barbeque lunch was a great way to further relax and reflect on the day. A huge thank you to Mr Peacock, Mrs Kerr and Mrs Reynolds for organising this fantastic day. Thank you also to Mrs Wyse and Principal Mrs Waters.

Starry night

Mrs Kylie Cooley

Pymble students and friends were seeing stars when they gathered on a crisp winter’s night in August for ‘Astronomy Night’.

The College telescope was set up by Dr Jeffreys and Miss Hafner on the Main Oval, and four amateur astronomers from the 3 Rivers Foundation (3RF) brought with them a further five powerful telescopes.

About 100 students, staff and parents were thrilled with views of Jupiter, the Moon, star clusters, nebulae and many other fantastic astronomical features that are millions of light years away from us.

Science staff were on hand to provide knowledge and sustenance, cooking up a sausage sizzle for the hungry stargazers.

Hwa-Yong Tan of Year 12 said, ‘Astronomy Night was amazing! The view of Jupiter and the moon was especially incredible. Words simply fail to express... but I am feeling very small right now’!

It was an inspirational night and I would like to thank all those who came to view and those who came to help, especially our friendly astronomers from 3RF whose expertise, enthusiasm and knowledge seemed to be as boundless as the universe itself.
Community Services

Jacaranda Day

*Pymble* students and staff came together on 3 November for Jacaranda Day, an occasion for sharing and thanksgiving and in support of the Exodus Foundation. Food and gift hampers organised by students across the College were presented to the Exodus Foundation for distribution throughout the Sydney region to people who would not otherwise receive anything at Christmas.

Jacaranda Day has been a tradition at the College for 25 years. It was inspired by the beautiful Jacaranda tree planted in the College’s Gloucester Quadrangle more than 60 years ago to commemorate the visit of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

This year’s service was organised by students in the Middle School and featured an address by the College’s 2007 Deputy Head Prefect, Kathleen Heath, who spoke about her recent work in Africa. Miss Heath challenged the students on the dangers of being complacent and wasteful in a community of affluence. Sharing from her experiences of working in Africa and her time as a student at *Pymble*, she reflected on the importance of being generous with what we have been blessed with.

“Jacaranda Day was delightful, seeing the whole school community gathering together for the purpose of being thankful,” said Mrs Greer Dokmanovic, College Chaplain. “I was impressed by the incredible generosity of the staff and students. It is a wonderful part of the College’s heritage that every year we set aside a time to be thankful for the abundance with which we are blessed and give to others who are struggling and in great need.”

International Day of Peace

*Juliette Harrison 10D5*

In September, nine Pymble girls from Years 10 and 12 travelled to Knox Grammar School to attend a special Youth Peace Day ceremony in celebration of the United Nations’ International Day of Peace.

Attendees included students, teachers and leaders from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Our own special guest was Reverand Nei Bwa, who was visiting *Pymble* from William Goward Memorial College in Kiribati.

After a welcome to Australia by Mr Greg Simms, an elder of the Gadigal nation, we heard from a number of special guest speakers including NSW Liberal Leader, Mr Barry O’Farrell and Ms Bianca Pace from the Ministry of Peace.

In a symbol of peace, select guests, including Mr Howard Clark representing *Pymble*, lit individual candles from the World Peace Flame.

Special parts of the ceremony were the raising of the 192 flags for the UN member nations and the traditional dances performed by a young Aboriginal dance troupe from the Shoalhaven region of NSW.

The ceremony was really enjoyable and certainly inspirational. I think we all learnt a lot and can now appreciate even more the state of peace and harmony we are so lucky to have in our community and in Australia.

Bandana Day

National Bandana Day is one of the biggest fundraising events for CanTeen, the organisation that supports young people living with cancer.

At the beginning of Term 4, Year 9 students sold 222 bandanas and many pens to raise $844 for the cause.
Kiribati Chaplain visits Pymble

Reverend Nei Bwa Eria, Chaplain of William Goward Memorial College (WGMC) in Kiribati visited Pymble Ladies’ College during September to meet with staff and students and strengthen links between Pymble and the College.

WGMC is the high school associated with the Protestant Church on the island of Tarawa in the Republic of Kiribati.

During her stay at the College, Rev Nei Bwa visited classes from Preparatory, Junior and Secondary Schools to observe and interact with students and staff. The Year 10 Ethics class wrote letters to the students at WGMC, while Years 5 and 6 students learnt about life in Kiribati and the nation’s concerns of global warming. Rev Nei Bwa also attended Chapel services, school assemblies, sporting activities and the Garden Party.

Rev Nei Bwa’s visit was also sponsored by the Uniting Church in Australia.

Picture Books Illustrate core values

A Pastoral Care Program activity required Year 11 students to write and illustrate a picture book suitable for girls in Preparatory School. Each book was to demonstrate one of the core values of the College: care, integrity, responsibility, courage and respect.

The results are wonderful; beautifully illustrated picture books, with a very simple but clear message about the values our school upholds. The books were enthusiastically received by the Preparatory School students.

Pymble supports Fred Hollows Foundation

Casandra Poon, Year 8

In 2009 the Year 8 students supported The Fred Hollows Foundation. This organisation prides itself in working for a world where no-one is needlessly blind and Indigenous Australians enjoy the same life expectancy as other Australians.

The Year 8 students found the generous and essential support The Foundation provides inspirational and were happy to add their contribution to the legacy of such a remarkable man.

Year 8 students organised many events to raise funds: stalls selling homemade goodies, barbecues and a fun “Sunnies Day”, where students were encouraged to wear unique sunglasses to school.

Year 8 students were honoured to meet the Founding Director, Patron of The Fred Hollows Foundation Miracle Club and the public face of The Foundation, Gabi Hollows who has continued to work tirelessly for The Foundation, and present her with our contribution of over $2000.

Close the Gap

Oxfam’s ‘Close the Gap’ campaign urges the Federal, State and Territory governments to close the 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.

The final initiative from Pymble’s 2009 Community Service group was to raise awareness about this social health issue. We created a six by ten metre banner featuring the handprints of every girl from Kindergarten to Year 12, which we presented at a Junior School and a Senior School assembly.

Pymble’s promotion of Close the Gap was very much a team effort. Zap Variety in St Ives generously donated paint for the handprints. Teachers were very supportive, and in particular we thank Mr Strunk, Mr Anderson and Mrs Corne for their enormous help.

A big thank you to the Community Service Group, our Year 12 girls and Interact for all their help with painting the banner; and finally to the girls who made a handprint (or two) in support of Close the Gap – may they stand as a symbol of our care and desire for positive change.

Movember

Some Pymble male staff members took on the challenge in November to grow their facial hair and cultivate a moustache for the fundraising event, Movember.

This annual event raises awareness and money for the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCFA) and beyondblue: the national depression initiative. About 3,000 men die of prostate cancer each year in Australia, and one in eight men will experience depression in their lifetime, many of whom will not seek help.

This year our ‘Mo Bros’ raised $1,845 in support of Movember.
Performance and the Arts

Northanger Abbey

Eleanor Percival, Year 11

A refreshing adaptation of Jane Austen’s classic, Northanger Abbey, closed a spectacular season of Drama at Pymble.

The well-loved novel of Gothic parody following Catherine Morland and her adventures in self-discovery was transformed into an engaging and captivating play.

Set in the 1930s and ‘40s, Georgian ballgowns made way for swing music and the Lindy Hop dance.

The production was directed by Mr MacPhail and performed by an outstanding cast of Years 9 to 11 students in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts.

The acting of all involved was flawless. The manipulative nature of the Thrope siblings (Rachel Morton, Eleanor Agnew), and innocence and naivety of the story’s heroine Catherine Morland (Alexandra De Zwart) was superbly portrayed.

The lovable personalities of Henry Tilney, James Morland, Eleanor Tilney and Mrs Allen (Christina Blanco, Jessica Wilson, Zoë Miller Stubbs, Jennifer Bartlett) and an outstanding ensemble cast contributed to an excellent production.

“The adaption was really clever and you could tell how much effort everyone had put into it; they were fantastic,” said audience member Georgia Sunito.

Congratulations to the production crew for their wonderful work in creating the lighting and sound effects, costumes, set, props and posters. A special mention to Vivian Li (Year 11) who took on the demanding roles of both Assistant Director and Stage Manager.

Thank you to Miss Goldrick, Ms Jolly and Mr Kentish for their tremendous efforts across all areas of production. We look forward to the next instalment of Drama at Pymble in 2010.
Pymble Dancers get fast and fresh

At the end of Term 3, 17 Curricular Dance students successfully auditioned for Fast & Fresh Dance, a youth dance festival aimed at cultivating the talent of young choreographers and dancers.

The students auditioned a variety of dance works they had choreographed this year in the Dance course. All students were invited to perform in the festival in Parramatta on Wednesday 18 November.

Congratulations to Year 10 students Natasha Sviderskas, Julie Middleton, April Vardy, Miranda Middleton, Jemima Withanshaw, Katie Howell, Claire Jackman, Elisa Kwak, Anthea Ledwidge and Joanna Pan for their excellent performances on the night.

Unfortunately, Years 11 and 12 students Eliza Murray, Eliza Cox, Helen Kim, Samantha Campbell, Carla Horton, Emma Lewis and Sheridan Lawrie were unable to perform due to Assessment Week.

The students worked extremely hard leading up to and during the festival, creating an extremely rewarding and fun experience.

Special thanks to Mr MacPhail for supporting the girls, and to parents and friends for attending the event.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The Pymble Drama Ensemble produced a dramatic adaptation of CS Lewis’ ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ in the GMCPA in August.

The company of talented Years 7 and 8 students brought to life the much loved tale of four children who stumble into the world of Narnia, where humans, animals and mythical creatures come together in a battle of good versus evil.

A showcase of Dance talent

The second Senior School Dance Showcase for 2009, held on 5 November in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts, was a great end to a year of Dance at Pymble.

Curricular and Co-Curricular Dance students joined together to demonstrate their excellent technical and performance skills. Congratulations to the girls on their wonderful efforts.
Sports

Year of Champions

It was a very successful year for the Pymble athletics team, led by captains Sheridan Lillyman and Anne Sandig. Outstanding results were achieved at a number of championships. It was the closest finish in many years at the IGSSA Championships. Pymble placed third overall, just 15 points behind the winning school. There were many highlights, not least from our seven gold medallists – Courtney Boyle, Mackenzie Wood, Emma Morgan, Ellen Dobrijevic, Frances Schmiede, Phoebe Kershaw and Camilla Wright.

Pymble athletes were also a force at the NSWCIS Championships and the NSW All Schools Championships. To place at state level is a remarkable achievement; Pymble athletes came away from All Schools with 14 medals, and Sarah Paek, Courtney Boyle, Aleisha Wawn and Phoebe Kershaw all achieved gold.

The College entered five teams in the Athletics NSW Schools Knock Out, a unique event where each athlete scores points for their team. The Junior Pymble A team, won the event to qualify for the National Championships in Melbourne.

Well done to all athletes and sportswomen for their contribution to this terrific year of athletics at Pymble.

Top season for Pymble Hockey

By Ellen Dobrijevic, Year 9

2009 proved once again that Pymble is a dominant force in the IGSSA hockey competition. Out of 17 teams, 12 made the semi-finals, and seven of those went on to the IGSSA Hockey grand finals on 26 September.

The Senior firsts and Junior firsts both played a semi-final and followed up with a grand final game just an hour later. A tightly fought final between the Senior firsts and PLC Armidale was drawn two-all at full time and moved into extra time. The two teams could not be split and were declared joint premiers. The Junior firsts defeated PLC Armidale 4-1 in their grand final.

Pymble Team 3 was joint premiers with PLC Sydney after the game ended with a one-all draw. Team 4 was victorious over Abbotsleigh 2-0. Team 9 defeated Abbotsleigh 1-0. Team 10 won its game 3-1 and Team 12 won 2-1.

This is the fifth year in a row that Pymble has been premiers of Grade 1A, and the third consecutive year that Team 4 has won its final.

It was an enjoyable and rewarding hockey season for all involved. A large part of the season’s success was due to the wonderful coaches, especially Miss Halliday who had the task of co-ordinating the hockey program.

Bethany sets sail

By Laura Parr, Year 11

Pymble sailor Bethany Ellis of Year 11 recently experienced an adventure that many can only dream of. As a crew member on the Young Endeavour, a 44 metre tall ship, Bethany spent 12 days sailing along the western coast of Australia from Exmouth to Fremantle.

Bethany started sailing with Pymble in 2005 and is now a member of the College racing team. She was chosen by the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme to join a crew of 13 girls and 12 boys from across Australia and nine naval officers.

These challenges included climbing the mast, steering the boat, setting sails, navigating, monitoring weather changes, and even learning to work as a team with 24 people she had never met before.

“Being on the Young Endeavour was one of the most worthwhile experiences of my life,” said Bethany. “I would strongly recommend it to anyone interested.”

Well done to all athletes and sportswomen for their contribution to this terrific year of athletics at Pymble.
An audience with Australia’s Winter athletes

By Shani Wijetilaka and Ali Baker

Year 7 students spent an exciting day at Foxtel’s Ryde studios in September for the filming of An Audience with Australia’s Winter Athletes.

This television show went to air in November, and featured winter athletes Jeremy Rolleston, Torah Bright, Hannah Campbell-Pegg, Damon Hayler, Jenny Owens, Cheltzie Lee and Ramone Cooper, answering questions from students at Pymble, Marsden High School and North Sydney Boys High School.

It was great to be able to watch TV being made. We could see the set manager giving directions. Some parts were filmed several times, and the hosts read off teleprompters above the cameras. Before leaving Fox Studios, we also got the opportunity to see Sky News being broadcast live.

This was an amazing day that the girls will remember for a long time. Hearing that hard work and perseverance were the most important assets for any elite athlete was a valuable lesson. We also enjoyed learning a lot more about how television is made. This awesome experience would not have been possible without the contribution of many people.

Thank you particularly to Mr Anderson and Miss Wheaton who accompanied us and made sure we were well looked after.

Zara’s ice magic

It has been an outstanding year for Pymble ice-skater and Year 8 student Zara Pasfield.

This was Zara’s first year in the Junior Ladies Division of the 2009 Australian Figure Skating Championships, and she placed third from 18 entrants.

At the Championships presentation, Zara was awarded the 2009 Alan Blinn and Simone Moore National Scholarship by the Morgan Innes Foundation. She was selected out of 30 applicants Australia-wide. The scholarship is to be used for training and development.

As a result of her performance at the Championships, Zara was awarded a second scholarship. She is the recipient of the National Figure Skating Scholarship for 2009/2010. This is an outstanding achievement for someone of Zara’s age.

Zara has also been selected for the ASAS program (Australians Shine at Sochi), which aims to deliver athletes to the Olympic Winter Institute for preparation for the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Zara was selected to represent Australia in New Zealand in the October school holidays, and in the short program placed second overall in the Junior Ladies Division (under 19s). Zara had a fall in the long program and placed fourth overall.

And to cap an already exceptional year, Zara was recently in Italy as a member of the Australian Figure Skating Team competing in the Merano Cup. She was the youngest competitor in the event and skated very well to be placed 12th overall, an excellent achievement for her first international competition.

Duke of Edinburgh girls meet HRH Prince Edward

A group of Pymble girls was on hand to welcome delegates from 125 countries to the opening of the 10th International Award Forum of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.

HRH The Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward, was special guest at the event, which was held at the Sydney Opera House on Wednesday 28 October.

The Year 11 students formed a guard of honour for the delegates while waving the flags of the represented countries. After the official opening, the girls mingled with the delegates to share their experiences of the award. They were thrilled to meet HRH Prince Edward and were eloquent in their discussion with him, representing the College with pride and confidence.

The girls who attended are all completing their Silver or Gold Award. They are Megan Aldridge, Vivienne Chan, Shiny Huang, Phoebe Kershaw, Joanne Lee, Alina Muller, Katie Shipp, Radhini Subramaniam, Sophie Whitehead and Yolanda Zhu.

Great start to Adventure Race

Team Hell’s Angels, aka Pymble’s Sophie Evans, Hannah Grimble and Emma Chadwick, were the first women’s novice team across the line in the first event of the Paddy Pallin Adventure Race Series.

On 17 October, 580 participants ran along the shores of Shelley Beach on the Central Coast, kayaked across Tuggerah Lake, swam across Wyong River and rode their mountain bikes through Ourimbah State Forest.

The Pymble girls were the youngest participating, making their result even more impressive.
Beyond Pymble

Year 9 Camp
By Lucy Murray and Isabelle Cherry, Year 9
In September, a group of Year 9 students travelled to Somerset Outdoor Education Centre for a week of adventure activities in preparation for our Duke of Edinburgh expedition later in the year. After a day's training at school with our camp leader, we left for camp early on a Monday morning unsure about what lay ahead. Each group had to undertake a 15 km hike and an overnight stay in the middle of the bush. We had to carry our food, shelter and clothes on our backs, and learnt survival and navigational skills along the way. Meals were rehydrated food, and we had to carry all our rubbish to dispose of the next day. We were pushed to our limits both physically and mentally. When we finished the hike everyone felt very happy, relieved and proud. We also experienced canoeing, rock climbing, raft building and Adventure Base Learning activities, all of which helped us develop important teamwork skills. Camp was a fun and memorable experience which gave us a real sense of achievement.

Students visit War Memorial
By Laura Parr, Year 11
Year 11 Modern History students rose early for a 5.30am bus trip to Canberra in September, for a day at the Australian War Memorial. The excursion was to prepare the girls for their HSC unit in Term 4 that required them to study the experiences of those who served in the First World War. They would also study conflict in Indochina.

After arriving and viewing a short introductory movie to the War Memorial, the girls walked through the various exhibitions. Here they were exposed to the true nature of World War I, including the brutal conditions, advanced weaponry, uniforms and battles. The guides imparted many interesting facts, real life stories and truths of the war. “It was an enriching experience as it made us realise how horrendous the war really was – something you almost need to see to believe,” said student Jennifer Bartlett.

Girls watched an impressive lights and sounds show, viewed the Roll of Honour and visited the Hall of Memory. It was a very successful excursion, and special thanks must go to Mr Bulmer, Ms D’Souza, Mrs Kovacs, Mrs Moran and Ms Wells for their co-ordination.

Hooked on Classics
It was a return to Classical competition, when 25 Pymble girls attended Classics Camp in Term 4.
The Classical Languages Teachers Association has conducted the camp since 1976. This year it was held at the Uniting Church Conference Centre at Elanora, and it was the biggest yet, with more than 200 students from 15 schools attending.
The girls enjoyed putting on heroic dramas, playing Lotto in Latin, exploring the Underworld in the Elanora bushland, watching a show on ancient weaponry, re-enacting a gladiatorial combat, competing in Games, and challenging their rivals in the final trivia quiz. Pymble students were also happy to catch up with ex-students, Stephanie Centner and Zara Fakhri (HSC Latin and Classical Greek 2007), who had taken time from their university studies to volunteer at Classics Camp.
China Tour 2009

By Emily Jackson and Shauna Winchester, Year 10

On 4 October 2009, 15 Pymble girls, accompanied by Mr Candy and Mrs Gleeson, left Sydney for a 15-day trip to China. The tour took us to some of the most beautiful and remote regions of this fascinating country.

We arrived in Beijing where we spent the next two days discovering some of its most historical sites.

Day one began with a visit to the busy Tiananmen Square, the largest city square in the world, followed by the Forbidden City. After lunch, we travelled to the Summer Palace and explored some of the city’s ancient hutongs on a trishaw. That night many of us tried out our bargaining skills on our first shopping trip to the pearl markets.

The next day we set out to walk 10 kilometres on the Great Wall from Jinshaling to Simitai. We climbed the steep steps to reach the Wall and were rewarded with the most amazing view of the Wall and mountains. We walked for four hours to reach our destination, then drove back to Beijing for a dinner of Peking Duck and a performance by the famous Chinese Acrobats.

On the following days we travelled by bus to Jiayuguan to explore its ancient fortress and the western end of the Great Wall of China and to Lanzhou to see the impressive Bingling Temple and Buddhist Monastery.

We took a flight to Xian where we spent a couple of hours in the Muslim Quarter after visiting the ancient City Wall. The following day was spent visiting the breathtaking Terracotta Warriors. We also flew to Chongqing and cruised on the Yangtze River.

Our final days in China were spent in Shanghai. We visited Nanjing Road, one of Shanghai’s most famous shopping areas, and visited the Yu Yuan Gardens where we saw classical Chinese architecture. We also visited the impressive Oriental Pearl TV Tower and walked on a glass floor 400 metres above the ground which gave us a fantastic view of the city below.

We would like to thank Mr Candy and Mrs Gleeson for their excellent organisation of this tour. Our thanks also to the school and Mrs Waters for allowing us this experience of a lifetime. We made many new friends and learnt so much about another culture in such a short space of time. This trip will forever be remembered and treasured by the Pymble China Group of 2009!

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Biology students visit Australian Museum

By Helen Hughes, Year 11

Australia’s megafauna was the ‘big’ attraction when Year 11 Biology students spent the day at the Australian Museum in August.

The exhibition, ‘Surviving Australia’, featured life-sized representations of Australia’s megafauna, which is an extinct group of giant fauna. The largest of the megafauna was a Diprotodon, a 2700 kg wombat-like animal. The exhibition was particularly rewarding as it related directly to the Year 11 Biology course.

We also enjoyed the dinosaur exhibition, which taught us about how these creatures lived and died. We were awed by the life-sized casts of the Tyrannosaurus Rex and Brontosaurus fossils.

This was a highly enjoyable and rewarding excursion. Special thanks to our Biology teachers for organising this wonderful opportunity for us.
Amidst a swamp of glue and fake nails (which surprisingly turned out not unlike a French manicure), rainbows of nail polish and green masked faces with ‘relaxing’ cucumbers plonked over the eyes, the Goodlet girls went wild on their ‘Girly Night In’!

Glossy magazines with the latest gossip and scented salty footbaths were the go as the girls kicked back and pampered themselves in glamorous Goodlet style.

Lauren Koch, Year 11

I joined the crew in Goodlet House on Sunday 23 August, and I love it. As an elective boarder, I made the choice to board at Pymble and so far it has been a really good decision.

At any time of the day there are people to talk to and to ask for help. I must admit, I am not that good at staying focused while studying, but having the Conde Library available to use weeknights has helped me get my work done. I am able to stay attentive longer and actually get work completed.

One of the reasons I became a boarder was to focus on rowing, my favourite sport. Being this close to practice sessions has really given me a boost. I am able to achieve a great balance of work, sport and fun.

Alicia Minter-Hunt and Julie Wong

On a warm Sunday afternoon, a group of boarders headed off to catch a train to Macquarie Ice Rink. Along the way we enjoyed space-aged lifts and telling each other jokes and stories. When we hopped off at Macquarie train station, we ran to the ice-rink to escape the heat.

At the rink, we had to find the correct boots, throw on our jackets, and hold on to the edge for dear life as the faster skaters whizzed past us. Little did we know that as the day went on, we were going to learn to skate almost as fast. We struggled for a while to find our ice-legs, but after some time we could actually skate without knocking ourselves and others over.

By the end of two hours, our arms were numb and we were very hungry. The ice was streaked with skate marks, so it was no longer safe to skate.

We stopped for some much needed lunch and returned to school for a warm shower and a good night’s sleep.

We had a fantastic time at the ice rink and would love to do it again any time.

Bedtime reading

Every night after our extraordinarily busy but sensational day at school, after prep, after our co-curricular activities, after dinner and a hot shower, it is finally time for bed. How excited we are as Mary Pilkington, our Assistant House Supervisor, reads to us the most awesome bedtime stories. This makes us even more tired and ready for a good night’s sleep!

Mary has been reading to us from the beginning of the term, which helps us relax and get into the sleeping mood.

A huge thanks to our ‘marvellous Mary’!

Goodlet House has recently been having barbecue dinners on the lawn outside the House.

Our first barbecue was Aussie-themed to welcome the new gap staff, Imogen and Sophie, and to celebrate Imogen’s 18th birthday.

Some girls dressed in rugby uniforms and some came with Aussie tattoos, ready to teach the new gaps some Aussie slang and traditional songs, such as I still call Australia Home and the national anthem.

Our next barbecue was themed ‘Inside Out and Back to Front’. Girls, including staff, wore their clothes either inside out or back to front or both – making for some hilarious outfits.

Alicia Minter-Hunt and Stephanie Mah received a Chocolate Fountain Party Award for their exceptionally clean rooms, and we shared amazing blue cupcakes kindly provided by Lauren Irwin’s grandparents for her 16th birthday. Afterwards we played ‘Capture the Flag’ in the hall with Mary before returning, slightly hyperactive, to the house for prep!

These barbecues are a treat for us and we are looking forward to more barbecues in 2010.
An Enduring Legacy...  
Mrs Betty Shannon (Mooney ‘34)  
Kim Collins, College Archives

Recently I was delighted to receive a phone call from Wendy Ell, daughter of ex-student Betty Shannon (Mooney ‘34). Betty is now 92 years young and currently resides in a Nursing Home in Yass. Betty was Head Prefect in 1934 and the winner of the Marden Prize for that year, an outstanding achievement. Betty was a high achiever both academically and in the sporting field. The Betty Mooney House Cup was donated by Betty’s parents to the College in 1934, and is awarded each year, in Betty’s honour, to the House that has won the most House points from sporting events throughout the year.

The Betty Mooney House Cup was first awarded in 1934, the year the House System was first introduced into the College. Goodlet House was the recipient that year.

Seventy-five years later for a House to be awarded the Betty Mooney House Cup still remains a significant achievement and a highly prized Special Award. The most recent recipient of the Betty Mooney House Cup was Goodlet House in 2008.

Wendy kindly offered to share some details about Betty and her life since her days at the College. She writes as follows:

Betty Mooney was the only child of Harry and Isla Mooney. She was born 23 March 1917. When the family moved to Greengate Road, Killara, from Cremorne, Betty began her schooling at PLC Pymble. She was aged eleven. She was an enthusiastic student both with schoolwork and sport. In 1933 she became a Prefect and in 1934 she became Head Prefect. Betty’s parents donated the ‘Betty Mooney House Cup’. Whilst at school she became a great friend of Joyce Shannon, a Boarder who left PLC early because of the Depression in 1932. In 1936 Joyce invited Betty together with her parents to the Yass Picnic Races where she stayed with the Shannon family at “Marilba” homestead. Here she met Colin Shannon and they were married in 1940. When Japan entered the war Colin joined the Army in 1942. Betty, with two children, went back to live with her parents until 1945.

Betty and Colin had four children. They shared a very happy life together until Colin’s sudden death in 1964. Betty has twelve grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren.

The years of Betty’s student days at the College, 1929-1934, were marked by hardship and change. Australia was in the grip of the Great Depression and Pymble was not untouched by this. Miss Grace Macintosh replaced Miss Nancy Jobson as Principal in 1933. Country areas were particularly affected by unemployment and this is reflected in the boarder enrolment numbers during these years. At this time Betty must have felt most keenly the loss of her friend Joyce from the Boarding College, so it is heart-warming to know that their friendship endured and led to such a happy outcome!

All previous and future recipients of the Betty Mooney House Cup would no doubt wish to express their heartfelt thanks to Betty for this ongoing Special Award and for her enduring legacy to the College. College Archives is grateful to Wendy for keeping in touch and extend very best wishes to Betty and to Wendy.

Thanks to our Indigenous Scholarship Program supporters

There has been a tremendous effort by the College to continue to raise awareness of the Pymble Ladies’ College Indigenous Scholarship Program and maintain the focus on raising further funds.

Thanks to the tremendous effort and hard work by staff, parents and supporters and the amazing generosity of all the donors of the Pymble Indigenous Scholarship Program.

In November the College hosted a Melbourne Cup luncheon at which 180 people attended and $25,000 was raised in support of the Indigenous Scholarship Program. The willingness of a large group of the College community to put time and tremendous effort into making the event successful is a credit to our College community.

Our vision is for indigenous and non-indigenous students to be educated side by side, and stand together as leaders of community and country. The Pymble Indigenous Scholarship Program can make a difference to the education of indigenous girls and is made possible through the ongoing support of our donors.
Family Groups

Garden Party 2009
The annual Garden Party held on Saturday 26 September was an outstanding success, raising more than $55,000 towards the new Senior School Centre. Despite windy conditions we all had a fantastic time. Thank you to the members of the Pymble community who contributed or attended to make our 2009 Garden Party such a wonderful event.

Fairy Grotto
The JSPA’s Fairy Grotto at this year’s Garden Party was a magical, colourful fantasyland that enthralled visitors, big and small. Months of hard work by Thilinie Ramanayake and her band of Junior School parents certainly paid off when wide-eyed girls explored Fairyland in wonder, thrilled to meet the Fairy Queen and her fairy helpers.

Staff Barbecue
The Family Group recently hosted the annual staff barbecue, this year held most appropriately on World Teachers’ Day. This popular event is to thank all our wonderful teaching and support staff for their contribution to our daughters’ educations.
Barbecues were set up in the Junior School and on Gloucester Lawn. Family Group volunteers cooked chicken and vegie kebabs and served delicious cakes and slices to their guests.
Preparatory School Cocktail Party

Mums were dazzling and the magician simply dazzled at the Preparatory School Cocktail Party on Saturday 7 November.

More than one hundred parents gathered in the foyer of the GMCPA for the final social event for the year hosted by the PSPA.

Sydney’s number one magician, Phil Cass, roved around the room leaving guests amazed by his talents. It was a wonderful night enjoyed by many, and the perfect way to celebrate yet another busy and successful year.

From Gingerbread House to Winter Wonderland

On a November evening, Pymble’s Main Hall was transformed into a busy workshop that would have made Santa and his elves proud.

More than 100 Pymble ‘girls’ (and a couple of brave fathers) gathered to transform their gingerbread house, making kits into magical winter wonderland centrepieces for their Christmas tables.

Beavering well into the night, the houses were painstakingly transformed into colourful and delectable treats resplendent with rich, snowy frosting and more-ish candies.

The sound of laughter and good cheer echoed down the colonnade.

It was a special evening that we hope will become a Pymble tradition each festive season.

Year 3 Cupcake Day

Year 3 held a very successful ‘Holiday Cupcake Extravaganza’ in November. Cupcakes were beautifully decorated in a Christmas theme, and were quickly consumed by Junior School girls. Parents supported the theme, donning Santa hats and Christmas crowns.

The event raised just under $1,200. Half the money will be donated to an Indigenous school in Arnhem Land and the balance will go towards Year 3 resources. What a great start to the holiday season!
From the President

At the 80th Ex-Students’ Union Annual General Meeting held on Friday 23 October 2009, the following members were elected to the Committee:

Executive Committee
President: Sue Everingham (Taylor, 1977)
Vice-President: Leona Blanco (Outridge, 1975)
Secretary: Katrina Corcoran (Hum, 1987)
Treasurer: Gill Ross-Edwards (Clarke, 1976)

General Committee
Wendy Dreyfus (Sherman, 1976)
Linda Lamberton (Satchwell, 1976)
Janet Redman (Playfair, 1970)
Kristen Faahan-Smith (Wood, 1987)
Pauline Jackson (Turner, 1980)
Edwina Fawcett (Seaton, 1986)

We were delighted to welcome Kristen, Pauline and Edwina to the Committee and farewell with a huge vote of thanks Diana Brown (Mickle, 1982) as the outgoing President and Robyn Wood (Killen, 1973) as the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer. We also took the opportunity to present Mrs Gillian Moore with an honorary life membership of the Ex-Students Union in recognition of her devotion to the College during her time as Principal.

2009 was another year filled with reunions and events featuring a spectacular 80th anniversary lunch after the traditional Commemoration Day Chapel Service in August.

The College has kindly asked Christine Shute (past Year Advisor) to assist the ESU one day a week with organising reunions and keeping the ESU and the College connected. We are thrilled with this outcome and, with more than 5,000 current ESU members, hope to keep Christine very busy over the coming year.

We are always keen to receive news and updates and encourage all ex-students to keep in touch and support the Ex-Students Union and the College. Please send your email address and other contact details to esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au so you can receive our regular updates about the ESU news and upcoming events.

Golf, Tennis and Cards day
Glorious weather and great sportswomanship was the key. The Tennis was won by Anna Virgona (Eastment, 85) and the Golf by Mindy Carr and Lisa Hale. Thank you to Gill Ross-Edwards for her wonderful organising and all those who attended.

Calendar for 2010
We advertise our upcoming events via the Pymbulletin, the College Newsletter and special email alerts to our ESU members for whom we have email addresses. Sometimes, we will send our information by mail. So please keep your contact details up to date and let us know if you have any comments, questions or suggestions.

Canberra Reunion
All years welcome. Canberra and region get-together Saturday 27 February from 2.30pm. More information: Margot Geering (Mace) E: wageering@bigpond.com Carolyn Forster (Dent) E: carolynjforster@bigpond.com P: 02 6273 2431

Send in your news or change of address: esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or PO Box 15, Pymble NSW 2073
Ex-Students’ Union Inc.

2008 Year 12 students & mothers raise funds for Cancer Council
A committee of mothers of daughters in 2008 Year 12 raised $9,073.11 from their daughter’s social programs in Years 10, 11 and 12 and donated the funds to the Cancer Council. Mothers on the committee included Lindy Clarke, Kim Thompson, Kathy Lewis, Sue Zemancheff, Heidi Lileyman, Rainie Stoneham, Clare Wilkins, Tina Spira, Fran Jackman, Maya Keppo, Sue Grimson, Cathy Spain and Fiona McKaskill.

Class 2007 “P” Party Reunion
Elle McMurran an ex-student from the class of 2007, is an ambassador for the Cancer Council of NSW and a current Miss World Australia National Finalist. Elle deferred from her Bachelor of Business and International Studies at UTS in 2009 to devote herself to charity work.

In November, 2009 Elle’s fundraising initiative for the Cancer Council was to join with her Pymble classmates, who were all happy to donate $20 each for their “Girls Night In” fundraiser. The reunion was a great success and raised much needed funds to help defeat women’s cancers.

Reunions

40 Years Reunion (1969)
Philippa Graham (Myer)
On Saturday 24 October, 65 ‘1969ers’ celebrated 40 years since leaving school. The level of chatter from the DMC reflected the joy for many in meeting up with old friends and rekindling friendships and for some growing friendships with people whose school days took them along different paths. One of the boarders, Merryn Dowling, came from France and others came from interstate or far flung parts of NSW. For some, attendance at the reunion represented a significant life journey; for some it was their first time back to the school. A tour of the school grounds provided much opportunity for reminiscing and for some of the boarders a significant opportunity to visit their home away from home some 40 years ago. A wonderful time was had by all.

Upcoming Reunions
Calling all 2010 reunion groups. It is never too early to start planning your reunion. As you can see below, 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 / Leavers</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1975 leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 30 October 2010, Cocktail Party</td>
<td>Cynthia Playfair M: 0407 959 370 Catherine Vipond M: 0401 303 767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1970 leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 16 October 2010, David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble at 12 noon</td>
<td>Pam Gordon (Somerville) E: <a href="mailto:pamgordon@bigpond.com">pamgordon@bigpond.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1965 leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 25 September 2010, David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble at 12 noon</td>
<td>Elspeth Hodge (Loewenthal) P: 02 9439 1234 M: 0414 439 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1960 leavers</td>
<td>Sunday 25 July 2010 (Commemoration Day), David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble at 12 noon</td>
<td>Lindy Stuart (Stothart) P: 02 9439 8260 E: <a href="mailto:lstduart@bigpond.net.au">lstduart@bigpond.net.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1950 leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 23 October 2010, David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble, 12 noon</td>
<td>Dorothy Oag (Cathels) P: 02 6949 1994; Beth Kannegieter (Tirney) P: 02 9436 3497, E: <a href="mailto:kanneg@bigpond.net.au">kanneg@bigpond.net.au</a></td>
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37 Years Birthday Party
All Ultimo Lavoro
Amanda Porter (Sexton)
On Saturday 14 November 60 former Pymble girls wandered down the long driveway marked with red, white and blue balloons at the home of hostess and 1972 leaver, Carol Sroczyński (Reid). Gossip began at the gate and didn’t stop till the last guests were thrown out! A fabulous birthday party and reunion for all awaited us in the home and garden of Carol and husband Jim, and their daughter Molly (Year 12 in 2010 at Pymble).

Whilst our 40 year reunion in 2012 is acknowledged to be a future fixture, this wonderful and warm event grew spontaneously from friendly exchanges between several 1972 leavers who attended the annual Commemoration Day Service held in the School Chapel in July 2009. Carol and her co-organisers Tina Jackson and Gillian (still labelled as Ching!) Riches (Myers) realised (as do we all!) that we all turn 55 years of age this year. We all feel that is something to celebrate.

The result of that moment, and a great deal of generosity in time and effort by Carol (and family), Tina and Gillian, was our 1972 Leavers 55th Birthday Party.

30 Years Reunion (1979)
Anna Davis (Gissing)
Thirty years had passed since many of us had seen each other, but in August, 93 “girls” from the year of 1979, came together at the Albert Hotel, North Sydney, with much hugging, laughter and chatter.

Over the years we have been scattered far and wide – so not just the boarders travelled long distances to make a weekend of it. During the months of planning, hundreds of photos were collected and shown on the night, revealing some appalling hairstyles and uniform malfunctions, but it became obvious that it was the fun shared with friends that made our days at school so unforgettable.

The night passed too quickly even for those who kicked on. We were so blessed to have had the chance to catch up with everyone on that night, and I thank you all for making the effort to attend, or send messages if you were unable.

Don’t wait ten years to seek out old friends again – stay in touch with the updated email list – we have certainly seen a change in that respect since the 20th Reunion – and will make the planning of the 40th a piece of cake!
Marriages


- Lara Daniels (1995) married James Evans on 23 January 2009 at the Garrison Church with a reception to follow at the QVB Tea Room. Lara’s bridesmaids were her three sisters, Elyssa Rollinson (Daniels 1992), Brooke Daniels (1997) and April Daniels (2001) and Lucy Harpham and Sarah Lovegrove.

- Sarah Kelly (2000) married Damian Stephenson on 16 May 2009 at her home “Lugano”, Rugby. Her Matron of Honor was her sister Karen Harvey (1994) and Sally Macready (2000) was a bridesmaid along with two friends from university. They honeymooned in Western Australia and are now living in Chicago Illinois for two years.

- Libby Phelps (2000) married James Brennan on 7 August at St Patrick’s of Nulkaba in the Hunter Valley. The reception was held at Tamburlaine Wines. The bridesmaids were Anna Phelps and Claire Quigley. Libby and James honeymooned in Thailand before heading back to London, UK, where they are living and working.

- Natasha Zlatarich (2004) married Julian Bercich on 26 September 2009 at Our Holy Name of Mary in Hunters Hill followed by a reception on Starship Sydney. Natasha’s bridesmaids were Melissa Zlatarich (2006), Hannah Imgraben, Michelle Tulich and Ashleigh Bercich. Groomsman were Justin Bercich, Andrew Pejovic, Jianni Bercich and Josh Moran.

Ex-Students News

- Anna Kim (mid-2007) is now in her third year at Harvard College, majoring in government and minor in health policy. During the northern hemisphere summer break, she interned in New York City at ABC’s ‘Good Morning America’ in the research department where she was involved in pitching stories, working with producers and helping to demonstrate products on air. Throughout her sophomore year, she was involved in a 10-person research team with Harvard Berkman Centre for Internet and Society’s Co-Director Yochai Benkler to research collaborative online efforts in order to survey and explore the broad landscape of online cooperation. She will continue working with Benkler and the Berkman Centre throughout her junior year.

- Excerpts from an African Diary 2008 ex-student Sami Walker deferred her studies to spend three months in the small village of Obuasi in Ghana, West Africa, helping at the village school. She taught English and Maths to a Year 5 class of 45 children at Obuasi Presby Primary School. Sami raised over $10,000 before she went to Africa and used these funds to demolish what was the five classroom school made from post and rail fencing and palm leaves to build a new facility with concrete block walls, solid corrugated roof structure, guttering, downpipes and rain water tanks. She has also made the decision to ‘adopt the education’ of two extremely poor children in her community. At $30 per year, per child she will be giving these two children, Mafia and Kofi a chance to survive.

Commenting on her experience, Sami said: “Ghana is amazing. Words cannot begin to describe the world I have come to know. It’s difficult. Every little thing is just so complicated, takes so, so much more effort and is so eye opening. Despite how hard it is, I know it will make me stronger. Acceptance has been the greatest lesson. It’s not great, or good or bad even, what it is, is hard, hot, sweaty, challenging, very draining, absolutely exhausting and emotionally heartbreaking.”

“Every day I feel the desperation that surrounds me. I feel excited, in awe, then devastated, completely helpless, insignificant and superficial, but other times I really feel at peace with myself and content with where I am in life at this very moment. For it is but a moment, and nothing that I do will change the world... but if for just one moment I can change the life of one small soul; I feel blessed.” If you wish to support the fund, please visit www.walktoafrica.com.au

Engagements

- Sally Hunwick (1995) to Simon Rich
- Leah White (2002) to Cameron James Brown
Ex-Students' Union Inc.

- **Georgie Wass** (2006) married Ben Williams in the Sydney Botanic Gardens in April 2009. They are living in London but plan to return to Sydney in a couple of years for Georgie to commence her studies.

**Births**

- **Jo Amor** (Meers 1995) and husband Dan are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Heidi Marie, born on 8 June 2009. A little sister for Phoebe.
- **Jenny Bartrop** (Gill 1997) and husband James, welcome with much love their first child, a daughter, Emily Victoria Rose. Emily was born on 18 April 2009.
- **Rebecca Colvin** (Clarkson, 1996) and husband Scott are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Edward Scott on 3 September 2009. A little brother to Oliver.
- **Gillian Cunneen** (Rogers, 1997) a gorgeous daughter Jemma Gillian on 16 March 2009. Ben (father, deceased) would have been very proud of his two beautiful girls.
- **Floriana Dua** (Chan, 1997) and husband Himanshu are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Ava Rani Dua on 18 September 2009. Ava is a little sister for Isabella.
- **Clare Fish** (Gallagher, 1996) and husband Simon are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Thomas Patrick, born 12 July 2009. James (2) is delighted with his little brother.
- **Kim Mukuka** (Philips, 1994) and her husband, Raphael, are delighted to announce the arrival of baby Jordan Isaiah on 29 May, 2009, a little brother for Aiesha.
- **Nicolette Nixon** (Kelo, 1999) and husband Michael are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Sophie Rose, born 24 November 2009.
- **Prue Ritchie** (Roberts, 1997) and husband Ben are delighted to announce the arrival of their son Campbell Jeremy, on 21 December 2008.
- **Bonnie Robinson** (McKechnie 1994) and husband Mark are happy to announce the early but safe arrival of their third child, Hayden Ian, little brother for Angus and Tess. Both mum and bubs are doing really well.
- **Elyssa Rollinson** (Daniels 1992) and husband, Chris, welcomed their beautiful daughter, Lucinda May (Lucy) on 19 November 2008. All family members are delighted.
- **Georgina Trevaskis** (Blake, 1997) and husband Luke welcomed their first child Victoria Margaret on 14 July 2009.

**Vale**

- **Annette Coyle** (Heffer 1969) of Byron Bay died of cancer on 28 October 2009. An article in the Byron Bay Echo on 3 November described Annette as “a warm hearted, giving friend to so many. Annette loved and nurtured her home, Byron, and was a strong, quiet support for the entire Byron community... She will be much missed. Her dedication to the things she believed in serve as a real model for any woman working for social justice and the environment.” Annette is survived by her husband, Peter and two sons Ben and Luke.
- **Addie Clare Martel** (Cater) 1912-2009. Addie was a boarder from Wagga Wagga, along with May Dorothy Lyons, her sister-in-law Mimi Mantrel and Connie Cater (Thompson). Addie joined the WAAFs in 1942 as a pay clerk which took her to Sydney, Melbourne, Parkes, Townsville, Redcliffe and finally Bradfield Park where she was stationed after the war. Addie was the loving mother of Andrew, Diane, Kim and Janice, wife to Hugh, and sister of Max, Ray, Ralph and Frank. She lived a full and active life over her 97 years, walking and riding her exercise bike up to just months before her passing. Addie was much loved and will be greatly missed by her four children, 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.
- **Barbara Nipress** (1952) 1934-2009 died of cancer at 75 years. Born with cerebral palsy, Barbara had near paralysis of her left side, yet her parents decided that she should participate in normal educational and lifestyle activities, subsequently enrolling her at PLC Pymble. Barbara never saw herself as disabled and her school friends will remember her determination to not allow her physical handicap prevent her achieving her dreams. She used a typewriter in class to keep pace with her friends in formal lessons, went on school excursions which required physical challenges and tried out for sports teams, but never complained if she didn’t succeed.

Upon matriculation Barbara went on to the University of Sydney graduating with a Diploma of Social Studies in 1958 and then becoming a social worker in the Department of Veteran Affairs. Barbara received a Public Service Medal in recognition of the varied and senior positions she held over the next 37 years. Her school friends remember Nippy as she was fondly known, for the lessons in life we learnt from her and in not to give up especially in the face of adversity. We thank you Nippy for being our friend. We will always remember you.

Jan Pfafflin (Crawford 1952)

- **Margaret Dorothy Shields** (Ludowici 1974) died on 29 October, 2009 of kidney failure. Beloved mother of Dimity, Earle and Merrilee and sister of Janette.
- **Nan Wittus** (Park 1930) died on 23 November 2009 at the age of 96. Nan was a boarder at the College from 1927 to 1930 and was a contemporary of Dame Joan Hammond (1928) and Miss Mollie Dive (1931). The Principal at the time was Miss Nancy Jobson (1922-1933) whom students of the era remembered fondly.

Jan Pfafflin (Crawford 1952)
2010 Expos

Pymble Ladies’ College will be participating at the following expos in 2010. Please visit us at our stand if you are in the area.

6-7 March 2010  Independent Schools’ Expo at University of Sydney
21-22 May 2010  NSW Boarding Expo - Wagga Wagga at Bolton Park Stadium. There will be a Pymble community function following the Expo.
28-29 May 2010  North Shore Independent Schools’ Expo (Venue to be advised)
18 -19 June 2010  NSW Boarding Expo – Goulburn at the Soldiers Club
30-31 July 2010  NSW Boarding Expo – Narrabri at the Crossing Theatre

For further information, contact Margaret Craig on mcraig@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or phone 02 9855 7799.