Principal’s Pen

Vicki L Waters

We have reached the end of another year, and what a magnificent year 2010 has been. I am always amazed by the achievements of our students and equally impressed by their confident yet friendly manner.

Each student is an ambassador of our wonderful College and this year our students have embraced their role as Pymble girls with energy and enthusiasm.

Leading our students into the new year will be our 2011 office bearers and prefects. These fine students were inducted into their roles at a special ceremony in October and I look forward to working closely with this dedicated team of students in 2011, especially our Head Prefect, Jessica Drummer, and our Deputy Head Prefect, Olivia Ronan.

2010 also marks the end of an era for the College with the retirement of our College Council Chairman, Mrs Kate Mason, who retires from her positions as Council Chairman and Council member at the end of the year. Kate has been a wonderful Chairman to work with during my years at the College. She warmly welcomed me to Pymble in 2007 and has been a valued mentor. In the next issue of the Pymbulletin we will present a special article on Kate.

This issue of the Pymbulletin features stories on some of the truly amazing achievements of our students, from the impressive artistic and creative works by our talented students to the heart-warming reports of students serving our community.

Our students have travelled far and wide across the globe, immersing themselves in foreign cultures including visits to Japan and Russia, helping build facilities at an orphanage in Cambodia and one of our Year 12 students is travelling to Africa in January to work on a conservation project to help save the roan antelope.

Next year is already promising to be a busy year. On 29 January at 10.00am the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, will officially open the new Senior School Centre. I invite members of the Pymble community to attend this special ceremony. The new Senior School Centre will provide an exceptional learning environment for our students in Years 11 and 12, assisting them on their journey from dependence to independence as they prepare for their future lives beyond the College gates.

The end of the year is a time to reflect on the achievements of the past twelve months and a time to celebrate with loved ones. My best wishes to members of our Pymble community. May you have a safe, holy and happy Christmas and I hope you find time to spend together as a family during the festive season.
On the final day of school for the class of 2010, eager but saddened Year 12 students piled into the Chapel for a final farewell to the College. With the support of their parents and sisters around them the girls were able to sit, listen and mostly cry at the final moments of their schooling life.

Head Prefect Susanna Falk gave the welcome, and Deputy Head Prefect Gabrielle Georgiou and Senior House Prefect Grace Swain delivered bible readings. They were followed by the College Chaplain, Mrs Greer Dokmanovic, who presented a heartfelt reflection urging the Year 12 girls to embrace life’s journey and find the marked ‘X’ on their treasure map.

We were blessed with some truly beautiful performances such as Meredith Hastings’ Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Keiryn Lenoy and Elizabeth Tsang singing My Island Home, the beautiful musical styling of Sohan Judge’s creation sung by Camilla Wright, Elle Kwon, Julia Kraemer and accompanied by Jessica Sun, Julia Mitchelmore, Meredith Hastings and Anjela Ju and also a tribute from the chorale girls accompanied by Jessica Sun and conducted by Julia Mitchelmore. It was a truly memorable day filled with love, tears and anticipation for what is to come.

I have had a wonderful six years at Pymble Ladies’ College. It is an amazing school and I have loved every minute I have spent here. There is a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie and energy as you walk around the grounds, everyone is always smiling! I am grateful for the education I have received at the school; for the lessons I have learnt in the classroom and for the wisdom, friendship and guidance the staff have shared with me. I know that as I move out into the world I will always look back on my days at Pymble with a smile and remember the challenges, opportunities and joy I experienced as a Pymble girl.
Pymble Ladies’ College celebrates Indigenous culture

Indigenous Cultural Celebration Week
By Christina Guo, Year 11

Monday 16 August was the beginning of the Indigenous Cultural Celebration Week marked by a whole of College Assembly.

The Assembly began with greetings by two Pymble Year 8 students, who acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Guringai people. Following an address by our Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, the guest speaker, Dr Cat Kutay, who was an ex-Pymble student herself, began her insightful talk. Touching on the various aspects of her profession as a computer engineer and her work within Indigenous communities, Dr Kutay highlighted the important value of the Indigenous spirituality, artwork and literature in modern day science and research.

After a performance of a traditional Aboriginal song by the Preparatory School, Billy Missi, the Artist-in-Residence this year, was introduced by the Head of the Art Department, Ms Colleen Fry. Billy spoke of his important role of passing on the stories of his Torres Strait Islander culture through his artworks.

Throughout the Indigenous Cultural Celebration Week, Pymble students welcomed and learned a lot from the many visitors to the College. Pymble’s Visual Arts students were also given the privilege of attending workshops with Billy Missi, where he demonstrated his art-making process.

Pymble’s involvement in Indigenous Cultural Celebration Week was a valuable time to appreciate the diversity and tradition which remains an integral part of Australia’s identity. As well as the knowledge we had gained from exploring aspects of Indigenous culture, the Indigenous Cultural Celebration Week also emphasised how qualities of friendship, respect and understanding can create connections between people, no matter how varied their background.
Pymble Ladies’ College celebrates Indigenous culture

Evonne Goolagong-Cawley opens art exhibition

Renowned former world number one tennis player, Evonne Goolagong-Cawley AO MBE, officially opened an Indigenous Art Exhibition, Sharing Cultures, at the College on 18 August. The exhibition was open from 19 August until 22 August and was a highlight of a week-long Indigenous Cultural Celebration at the College.

“I am delighted and honoured that Evonne Goolagong-Cawley opened the Sharing Cultures exhibition,” said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

“Evonne is the Patron of Pymble’s Indigenous Scholarship Program, so it was appropriate for her to open this wonderful collection of Indigenous print works.”

Sharing Cultures, an exhibition of limited edition contemporary Indigenous prints from far north Queensland and Torres Strait Islands in conjunction with Djumbunji Press – KickArts Fine Art Printmaking, featured artworks by Billy Missi, a leading exponent of fine art print making in Australia and Artist-in-Residence at the College.

The week-long celebration also included an Art Lecture Series featuring Jonathon Jones, Curator, Aboriginal and Torres Island Department, Art Gallery of New South Wales and Billy Missi was the guest artist In Conversation with Pymble’s Co-ordinator of Visual Arts, Ms Colleen Fry on Saturday 21 August.

Sharing Cultures was supported by pmdl Architecture, Macquarie Bank, Alliance Catering, Westpac, Lester Printing, Aims Finance, IT Data and Electrical Pty Ltd, Custom Design Solutions and Signarama – Pittwater.

Pymble’s Indigenous Scholarship Program

The Pymble Ladies’ College Indigenous Scholarship Program was established to provide Leadership and Performance scholarships for Indigenous girls from remote and regional Australia to attend Pymble Ladies’ College. In 2010 there were eight Indigenous students in the Program at the College, including two students, Jessica Ah Chee and Keiryn Lenoy who graduated from Year 12 this year. In 2011 a further three Indigenous students will join the College community under the Pymble Indigenous Scholarship Program.

Contributions to the ISP can be made by downloading a brochure from the Indigenous Education page on the College website.
On Thursday 21 October, a service and morning tea was held to induct the 2011 prefects and office bearers into their positions. At a special ceremony attended by the College community, including Council members, staff and parents, each girl was presented to the Secondary School and awarded with their badge. Jessica Drummer, Head Prefect for 2011, was 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 2011 Year 12 cohort to help lead the student body while upholding the traditions and values of the College.

A beautiful morning tea was served to guests and students after the service.

**Office Bearers 2011**

Jessica Drummer  
Olivia Ronan  
Kate Peper  
Zara Tonkin  
Hannah Grimble  
Emma Sykes  
Miranda Middleton  
Gabriella Viglione  
Juliette Harrisson  
Carol Sin

**House Captains 2011**

Tara Hariharan  
Joanne Chenn  
Cara Lam  
Lara Newhall  
Georgia Phillips  
Julie Middleton  
Charlotte Salusinszky  
Claire Jackman  
Claire Stubbs  
Charlotte Johnston  
Alexandra Dalton  
Emma Chadwick  
Elizabeth Cook-Black  
Amy Lyons  
Chloe Dalton  
Sidonie Greig

**Prefects 2011**

Tarini Athukorala, Sarah Bird, Sarah Caldwell, Karmen Fong, Isabelle Galet-Lalonde, Christina Guo, Alice Han, Claire Hepburn, Judith Hui, Isabel Janssen, Michaela Janu, Phoebe Katelaris, Christine Kynoch, Jenean Lee, Jacqueline Liang, Eunica Liu, Carol Luo, Annabelle Osborne, Natasha Sviderskas, Virginia Wang, Victoria Whiteman, Phoebe Winch and Shauna Winchester

**Boarding Prefects 2011**

Sarah Brown, Sally Taylor and Madeleine Waters.
Jacaranda Day

Students and staff from across the College gathered together to celebrate Jacaranda Day on 4 November. The inclement weather didn’t dampen the special day with the special service being celebrated in the gymnasium.

Jacaranda Day has been a tradition at Pymble for the past 26 years and is an occasion for sharing and thanksgiving. Inspired by the beautiful Jacaranda tree planted in the Gloucester Quadrangle in 1947 to commemorate the visit of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, the service was first organised by former Science and Physics teacher, Mrs Rajalaskshmi Ram, who encouraged students and staff to connect with humanity using the symbol of the Jacaranda tree.

The 2010 Jacaranda Day service was organised by students in the Upper School and featured an address by 2004 ex-student and former Miss Australia, Caroline Pemberton, who spoke about the importance of finding and following a passion, staying open to opportunity and the importance of ‘giving back’.

Food and 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.

Remembrance Day

Chloe Kim, Year 11

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Pymble’s Secondary School gathered together on Gloucester Lawn for Remembrance Day. Recalling the official end of World War I with the German signing of the Armistice in 1918, the day was both serene and perfect for reflection on the events which occurred ninety-two years ago.

Standing on the top of the Chapel steps, History Captain Alice Han delivered a powerful speech, recollecting the events of World War I and both remembering and appreciating the efforts of the Australian soldiers who lost their lives while fighting for the country.

Following Alice’s speech, Olivia Chang, Year 11, read The Ode, Juliette Harrison played The Last Post, and collectively, the College observed a minute silence. At the conclusion of the service Emily Kerrison, Year 7, placed flowers on the Chapel steps and Juliette Harrison played Reveille on the trumpet.
Year 2 girls celebrate indigenous culture

Year 2 girls spent time during Term 3 learning about indigenous cultures in the key learning area of Human Society and Its Environment. To end the topic during the College’s Indigenous Cultural Celebration week, the girls were treated to a visit from the performance group ‘Indigdance’. The girls spent a morning celebrating and learning about Aboriginal and Torres Straight Island cultures. They participated in traditional dance classes, art and storytelling activities and were thrilled to view a performance of indigenous dances and songs. Some girls had the opportunity to go on stage and have their faces painted with ochre! Even the teachers had a dance!

What’s for lunch?

Science during Term 3 was an exciting look at food and nutrition. Year 2 girls learnt about healthy foods and a balanced diet, the different kinds of vitamins and minerals found in food and where many foods come from around the world. The girls participated in a food experiment, observing the effects of food left in the fridge and at room temperature. The main project for the term was a special ‘Food Expo’. Every girl researched, made and brought a small plate of international food to share with her friends.

Art appreciation classes for Year 2 girls

Year 2 girls have enjoyed viewing and appreciating artworks by Australian artists, including Tom Roberts, Margaret Preston, and William Dobell. The girls visited the Art Gallery of NSW to see some of the original pieces. They learnt about form, medium, technique and style and even created their own landscapes, still life artworks and portraits.

The girls also studied the works of some very famous and influential international artists including Jackson Pollock and Pablo Picasso. They learnt about their distinctive styles, such as the ‘drip technique’, cubism and abstract portraiture and later created their own inspired artworks using computer programs.

It’s important to care for our environment

Caring for the environment was a key learning area for Year 1 girls when they learnt about ‘Living Things’ in the units of work, Science and Technology and Human Society and Its Environment. The girls discovered many interesting plants, animals and insects and about growing beans when they explored the school environment.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

The unit ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle’ gave Year 1 girls the opportunity to brainstorm ways of reducing waste in the Preparatory School and then putting some of these ideas into practice. Recycling their food waste in a worm farm and working hard to recycle waste paper in the classroom, as well as promoting their ideas to other girls in the Preparatory School was a focus of this unit. The Year 1 girls consolidated their work with a recycling project, completed in class using only recycled packaging.
Kindergarten embraces the seasons

During the year the Kindergarten girls have enjoyed learning all about the seasons. They watched the colourful autumn leaves dry up and fall from the trees as winter arrived. The girls listened to stories and discussed the changes that occur during winter time. Each girl made a beautiful snow flake to decorate the class winter trees. As part of this topic about the seasons, every girl in Kindergarten made her very own little snow fairy. Once spring arrived the girls observed the changes to the trees and learnt the names of some of the spring flowers as their class gardens and class trees blossomed.

Performing Arts on show

Preparatory School girls enjoyed being entertained by a variety of performing groups during Term 3. The girls were treated to a Torres Strait Islands music and dance performance by Ryka Ali during the College’s Indigenous Cultural Celebration week. The Musica Viva ensemble ‘Jacana’ introduced the girls to the instruments in the string and woodwind families and ‘Gulp’ provided a hilarious afternoon of mime and mayhem!

In Performing Arts lessons the girls enjoyed discovering the wonderful world of Dr Seuss in preparation for their concert in Term 4, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

Athletics Carnival a winner

After many bouts of inclement weather and the postponing of the event, the Preparatory School Athletics Carnival was finally conducted on Tuesday 12 October. The girls looked fabulous in their new House colours as they ran, jumped, crawled and dodged around the obstacle course. Congratulations to Turner House for winning the relay. Turner was also awarded the Gillian Moore House Cup after achieving the highest points score on the day!
Artistic talents inspired by Picasso

Emily Ainsworth, Year 5

A selection of Year 5 girls studied art at an extension level. My art extension group focused on Pablo Picasso’s sculptures and we were inspired to create a large sculpture of an owl. We made the owls out of newspapers, masking tape and containers then covered them in plaster of Paris. We painted the owls with black and white paint and placed them on a big stand that was painted to represent a forest. The owls are now on display in the garden next to the library. It was quite challenging but great fun!

Somewhere in the Garden – a night to remember

Pascale Kahn, Year 6

The moment we’d all been waiting for had finally arrived! After weeks of practising lines and memorising dances, the night of our Year 6 production, Somewhere in the Garden, was upon us. The atmosphere was tinged with excitement as we prepared for the performance.

As the curtains opened, we positioned ourselves on the beautifully decorated stage. Our costumes looked magical under the lighting. The show began. And what a wonderful show it was! It was such a thrill to be performing in front of an audience.

But of course, it had to end. The audience let out a roar of applause, much to our pleasure.

After being assured that we have done a marvellous job by our Performing Arts teacher, Mrs Worsley, the babble died down and then it hit us. The musical was over. We found it hard to believe! However, after being almost suffocated in the warm embraces of our friends and family, we were well satisfied.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of all of Year 6 that the musical has given us great memories to cherish, and taught us that hard work really pays off.
Lab on Legs
Samantha Chua and Emmerson Pearce, Year 4

In Term 3, ‘Lab on Legs’ from CSIRO came to Year 4 at Pymble and set up science experiments for us as we had been learning about space. We tasted some food that astronauts eat and mixed water with some powdered food and had to taste it and guess what it was. It turned out that it was powdered potato. Actually it was yummy! We sent rockets into the air by mixing vinegar with bicarbonate of soda as the fuel. We were given a blown up balloon to experiment how much movement astronauts have in their space suits. We felt space rocks and much, much more. It was a great experience and we would love to do it again.

Pymble wins Write-A-Book In A Day competition
Zohara Mendis, Year 5

"I can’t wait to write one chapter of a book!" were the voices of 10 excited Year 5 girls on 26 August. The ‘Rowling Stones’ which consisted of ten authors - Hebe Larkin, Amelia Woodward, Yvette Nguyen, Jane Hong, Amie Long, Zohara Mendis, Emily Wearne, Anjali Wijeratne, Alicia Goh and Eve Madden, were to write a fully published book in one day!

The Write-A-Book In A Day competition was a challenging, interactive and fun contest to see which group of authors could write the best book. The funds and a copy of the book would go to places such as Westmead Children’s Hospital and the Katharine Susannah Prichard Foundation.

We were given parameters which we had to use. Three of our characters had to be a magician, sister and a cow. Our setting was on an island in Australia and our issue was rescue. The five words we had to use were honey, graffiti, repair, glamour and freedom. Finally, after hours of hard work we planned and wrote our story.

Our story was called Colliding Gravity and it was about two completely different sisters named Honey and Catherine who lived with their parents on Kingfisher Island which was mysteriously getting closer to a strange island called Remus. Many strange and magical things happened on Remus, including spells by a magician called Romulas. After many weeks, we finally found out we came first in New South Wales!

I absolutely enjoyed this experience and on behalf of the Rowling Stones I would like to thank everyone at the College who helped us write such a fantastic book.

Great excitement for Year 5 girls in Bathurst
Amelia Woodward, Year 5

Despite the early hour, there was great excitement as Year 5 piled onto buses destined for Bathurst. Visiting Echo Point in the Blue Mountains on the way we saw the Three Sisters and took hundreds of photographs. We also went to Jenolan Caves where we explored the spectacular Lucas Cave and its ancient rock and limestone formations.

Later that day, arriving at the Bathurst Sheep and Cattle Drome, we looked at the chickens, ducks, sheep and many other animals at the animal nursery. Some girls were even game enough to pat a kangaroo, a biting emu and a big hairy pig! Following dinner, we joined in an exciting bush dance in the big shed and played games. We also visited the Bathurst Goldfields travelling back in time to the 1800s and panned for gold.

Another highlight was seeing a glimpse of fresh snow drifts along the side of the road. Overall it was a brilliant excursion and everyone had a wonderful time.
**Community Service**

**Students support Jeans for Genes Day**

*Cissy Ye, Year 11*

*Pymble* students from the Junior and Secondary Schools raised more than $2,000 when they supported the Jeans for Genes Day in August. Girls wore jeans and each brought a gold coin on the day to support the Children’s Medical Research Institute.

The day promoted awareness of what is being done to help people with genetic diseases. One in twenty children are born with some form of genetic disorder. Funds raised from the day supports research to prevent these diseases and contributes to developing improved treatments.

The *Pymble* Jeans for Genes Day 2010 was an outstanding effort and will contribute to the national effort which first started in 1994. Thank you to all students who sold various products such as badges and to everyone who made a donation.

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**Daffodils sold for worthy cause**

*Carol Sin, Year 11*

Splashes of yellow were seen across the College on 27 August when Year 11 students with the help of the Year 11 Co-ordinator, Mrs Narelle Moylan, sold bunches of Daffodils in support of Daffodil Day.

Daffodil Day is an annual initiative by the Cancer Council to raise money to fund Cancer research. Fresh Daffodils and related merchandise were sold on the day raising an incredible $1,972.20 for the Cancer Council. The Daffodil is the symbol for hope for all those affected by Cancer because of its reputation as a hardy annual flower and its bright yellow colour, which encourages us to work towards a Cancer-free future.

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**40 Hour Famine raises awareness of global poverty**

*Cecilia Chang and Angela Lee, Year 11*

The 40 Hour Famine has been an ongoing yearly fundraising event at *Pymble* for many years. 2010 was no exception and during a weekend in August, *Pymble* girls volunteered to go without things that are often taken for granted, including furniture, food, electricity and even speech, for forty hours to raise money and awareness for global poverty.

Interact girls from Years 7 to 12 gathered on the Marden Lawn for a sleepover to start their commitment to the 40 Hour Famine. The evening began with a barbecue and was followed by inspirational presentations by the Youth Ambassador of World Vision, Tom Kiat and Youth Relationship Representative of World Vision, Rebecca Louie.

This year *Pymble* girls were particularly enthusiastic, with more than 100 girls participating in the 40 Hour Famine, raising nearly $12,000 for World Vision. This experience has helped many students gain a new perspective on how millions of those less fortunate in our world live.

Year 11 student Karmen Fong, who participated in the challenge and didn’t speak for forty hours, commented that “Not speaking was a challenging experience but ultimately very rewarding. I was able to experience, at least temporarily, the feeling of being without a voice and not being able to communicate my own thoughts and opinions which is a reality for many people in the world.”
Christmas stockings for special babies

Students from Year 10 have put the cheer into Christmas for families of premature babies born at Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) this year, when they donated 110 beautifully decorated Christmas stockings to the Hospital. Anne-Marie Curry, Director of Fundraising, and Chris Evans, RNSH were thrilled to accept the stockings at a Year 10 Assembly in November. The stockings will be given to the babies who have graduated from the unit during 2010 at the unit’s annual Christmas party. The girls thoroughly enjoyed making the stockings during their Tutor Group time and even commented that they would love to make more stockings next year!

Outstanding year for Year 12’s charity drive

Mrs Julia Kerr, Year 12 Senior Tutor

The Year 12 cohort of 2010 has been an outstanding year in so many ways, nonetheless with their sense of giving that should be cherished as part of a just society.

The girls’ chosen charity this year was Red Kite and we were fortunate enough to have Beth Palmer from Red Kite come and speak directly to the Year 12s about how the charity works and how any money raised would be spent. Beth’s visit fired the girls with passion and determination to make a difference to the lives of children and young adults suffering from cancer. The girls organised themselves into a committee that met regularly throughout the year and their planning resulted in the Year 12 Red Kite Day in September. With other initiatives throughout the year, including an ‘honour system’ for cold drinks in the Year 12 common room, the girls raised a total of $3,201.40.

Red Kite has not been the sole beneficiary from the Year 12’s charity impetus. The X Marks the Spot Day, so ably organised by our Head Prefect and Deputy Head Prefect, Susanna Falk and Gabriella Georgiou, in May of this year raised $2,345.30 for the Exodus Foundation. Additionally many girls have charities close to their heart and asked their peers in Year Assemblies if money raised could also be directed to these charities. Thus, Kathryn Glover, one of our Year 12 girls was given $300 towards her own tireless fund raising efforts for the African Conservation Experience and money was also sent to a remote aboriginal community school in the Northern Territory.

A group of nine Year 12 girls continued Pymble’s association with Legacy by raising over $1,000 for this year’s campaign.

In total the girls raised over $8,000. We are extremely proud of the fundraising initiatives and genuine sense of community spirit that the girls have and of their understanding that societies run on the kindness of strangers.

Year 7 make rugs for Cancer patients

A group of 25 Year 7 students travelled to Westmead Children’s Hospital on 13 September to present 12 hand-knitted rugs to cancer patients at Ronald McDonald House.

Year 7 students spent time during their Tutor Groups to knit squares which were sewn into rugs in support of their charity, Westmead Children’s Hospital. Each term, the girls have visited the hospital to learn about the needs of patients and to give some of their own time to help others.
The word ‘Classics’ brings to mind dusty books and elite academics quibbling over the nuances of ‘dead’ languages. However, the study of Latin and Classical Greek at Pymble is far from dead - in fact, it is both vibrant and enriching!

For History-lovers, Classics is a vibrant parade of famous and infamous personalities ranging from Julius Caesar to the troubled Emperor Nero. For those with a passion for foreign languages, Classics enables us to engage first-hand with the mother tongue of French, Spanish, Italian, and even English. It opens our minds to the many similarities and connections among languages, and essentially among people.

Then there is the wealth of literature. The works of epic poets such as Homer and Virgil are not only gems in their own right, but have shaped the face of Western literature. Take for example English poetry, which abounds with allusions to Classical mythology or Shakespearean plays, many of which explore events in Roman history.

For budding philosophers, Classics is the perfect introduction to the wisdom of the Ancient Greeks. The musings of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Epicurus can all be accessed in the original words of those deep-thinkers if we study Classics.

A Year 8 Latin camp as well as the annual Kevin Lee Latin Quiz and Latin and Greek Reading Competition for Years 9, 10, and 11 students all offer fun occasions to socialise with fellow Classic students in the state.

Academic Opportunities

Subject Spotlight: Classics

Virginia Wang, Year 11

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Bratwurst and pretzels for German language students

Karina Curry-Hide, Year 11

Year 11 students from 11 schools across Sydney met at Pymble on 15 September to immerse themselves in German language and enjoy some delicious German cuisine.

Schools represented at the German Day included Knox Grammar, Trinity Grammar School, Oxford Falls Grammar, Hornsby Girls High School, Shore School, Meridan, William Clark College and MLC School.

Hosted by Pymble Ladies’ College, German Day was a memorable event for all involved. The day consisted of five activities, aimed at preparing the students for the HSC, including speaking and comprehension. Different mediums were used, such as film. The students were then treated to traditional German cuisine, including apple strudel, pretzels, and bratwurst.

The day was considered valuable by all involved, both exciting and motivating everyone for their HSC year.

Pymble in court

Alice Han, Year 11

The 2010 Pymble Mock Trial team gained valuable experience throughout the year as participants in the Law Society’s annual Mock Trial competition, an intellectually demanding tournament that simulates court procedures and cases and offers an enlightening foray for students into the legal system.

The team comprising of ten Year 11 students started off the year with flying colours, winning all of its first six rounds and on the way successfully defending clients against such criminal charges as child assault, negligence, and breach of duty of care, as well as advocating for clients on cases involving arson, abduction, and assault.

Unfortunately, the Pymble winning streak was broken in the 7th round of the competition, held at the College on 2 September with Knox defeating Pymble by a narrow margin.

Congratulations to all the Year 11 students involved in this year’s Mock Trial team for their tireless effort and team spirit this season: Tara Hariharan, Olivia Ronan, Isabelle Galet-Lalande, Susannah Lauer, Elizabeth Ginges, Cecilia Chang and Alice Han.

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Scholars’ Program on show at expo

The work of a group of 12 Year 8 girls enrolled in the Pymble Scholars’ Program, a program designed for academically talented students to go beyond the conventional curriculum, was showcased at the inaugural Pymble Ideas Expo in the David Macfarlane Centre on 22 September.

The students who were selected for the program worked on a project of their own choice under the guidance of a volunteer staff mentor. Each girl researched her topic and then produced an original work based on it. At the Expo, each girl had a stall at which she could demonstrate, explain and enthuse about her work to visiting parents, teachers, members of the College Council and fellow students.


Victory for Year 9 Latin students

Samantha Bear, Year 9

Sadly, it is true that many consider Latin to be a dead language. I could not disagree more strongly, for if one was present on 11 August, 2010, they would have witnessed a magnificent display of talent, all revolving around the principle of that wonderful language called Latin - it was the Year 9 Latin Reading Competition. To initiate the event, which was hosted by Sydney Girl’s High, we sang songs with lyrics about Latin and the Roman world, put together perfectly with the tunes of My Favourite Things, Edelweiss and Do-Re-Mi. We also thoroughly enjoyed the rather raucous chorus of the Hokey Pokey, which was the original song about the various limbs, but with every word in Latin!

The first event was the solo verse reading, with the representative from Pymble being Samantha Bear. Next, the solo prose reading was conducted by Irene Ju, and finally, the group memorised prose, of which Pymble possessed the largest group by far. All 21 girls recited the prose perfectly in time, resulting in us receiving first prize. Irene Ju also received a well-deserved first, and Samantha Bear was awarded second place, with a single point between the first-place winner and herself. Pymble was the overall winner, with a massive point-score lead. We now have the privilege of hosting next year’s reading competition! Thank you so much to all the staff involved for their hard work. Vivat Latina!

Congratulations to an exceptional history student

Congratulations to Pymble student Alice Han who, after winning the state level of the National History Challenge, has gone on to win the overall competition. Alice was presented her NSW award at State Parliament in October and was flown to Canberra on 23 November to be presented this very prestigious national award in a ceremony at Parliament House.

The National History Challenge is a research-based competition that gives students a chance to be an historian, investigating their community and exploring their own past. It emphasises and rewards quality research, the use of community resources and effective presentation. This year’s theme was Celebrations, Memories and History.

Literary evening an inspiration to all

Mrs Mandy Reynolds, English Extension 2 Co-ordinator

Parents, staff and Year 12 English Extension 2 students gathered for an evening of literary accomplishment at the inaugural Evening of Reflection at the College on 26 August.

It was inspiring to hear from the girls about their creative journey over the twelve months of HSC study. The students who undertook the Extension 2 English Course gathered with their families and their teachers to celebrate the accomplishment of having completed this demanding English Major Work. The girls spoke about different aspects of this rigorous course; how they came to decide on their concept, how they were challenged by the nature of the course, the work itself and ultimately the passion they had developed for writing. The HSC English Extension 2 course requires students to produce a substantial body of work using a particular form, such as critical analysis, short story, poem, film, script or speech. The girls were impressive in their honest and thoughtful reflections and it was evident that their writing process had allowed them to discover not only their extraordinary ability to produce a work of such magnitude, but also an insight into themselves as writers and young women of the future.
Impressive display of artworks
Rosemary Enderby, Visual Arts Captain 2010, Year 12

The 2010 HSC Bodies of Work Exhibition was a fantastic celebration of the talent of the Year 12 Visual Arts students. The works displayed a diverse range of media and an extensive range of conceptual ideas from the intimately personal of love and emotion to Greek mythology through to social commentary on issues which dominate the headlines. Each of the works regardless of topic deeply engaged the audience.

Congratulations must go to all the students and the art teachers Ms Colleen Fry, Ms Amanda Harris, Ms Katherine Hassett and Ms Ann Starling for the plethora of knowledge which they brought to each girl’s art work.

Textiles on Parade
Joanne Chenn, Year 11

Pymble textiles students lit up the stage at the annual Textiles on Parade fashion show in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 July. The event gave students studying textiles from Years 8 to 12 the opportunity to showcase their work and was a fine example of the high calibre of textiles students at Pymble. The show commenced with Year 8 girls parading their ‘And Sew to Bed’ apparel. The girls approached the brief with enthusiasm and passion challenging them to create a pair of matching pants and t-shirt reflecting their inventive portrayal of bedtime.

Year 9 girls showcased an awe inspiring array of beautiful dresses that thoroughly impressed the audience. The Year 10 textiles students dazzled the audience with their garments inspired by their briefs, ‘Book Week Revisited’ and ‘Space Odyssey’ which they presented as wearable textile art. The experimentation and manipulation of fabrics produced some amazing results in the Year 11 girl’s interpretation of their brief, ‘Mix Master’.

The Year 12 HSC student’s works were on display in the foyer, providing a truly amazing display of talent, creativity and incredibly professional standard.

2010 Co-curricular Dance Showcase
Miranda Middleton, Co-Curricular Dance Captain 2010

The 2010 Dance Showcase was the culmination of a fantastic year of dance at Pymble. Held over two nights in November, it showcased the talent, passion and dedication of Pymble dancers from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The opening night featured performances from the Preparatory, Junior and Senior School. Highlights included the enthusiastic Kindergarten girls dancing to We are Family, and the Senior School Eisteddfod Groups’ polished performances of Lola and Sweet Dreams.

The second night featured the Junior and Senior School, with solo performances from Samantha Bear, Serena Giga and Hannah Gwatkin. The impressive level of technique and stage performance demonstrated by every dancer was a tribute to the girls’ hard work throughout the year.

Congratulations to all the girls on their wonderful performances, and to Miss Jane Standish for her amazing choreography and support of dance at Pymble!
Busy year for curricular dance students

Natasha Sviderskas, Curricular Dance Captain 2010

It has been a busy calendar for the curricular dance students with the first inaugural HSC Dance Showcase at the start of Term 3. The audience enjoyed the dance works which explored a range of concepts. Congratulations to HSC student, Samantha Campbell, who has been nominated to Callback, a selection of exemplary performances and projects from HSC Dance students, for her powerful and emotive Major Study – Composition, Starvation.

Years 10 and 11 Dance students continued to create emotive dance works for their Showcase held at the end of Term 3. The highlight of the night was Act II, where students performed a 30 minute dance production, based around the concept of Mother and Daughter devised with choreography by Miss Katrina Cluff and the students.

Dance students are thoroughly enjoying the new dance studio, completed in Term 3. It is equipped with full length mirrors, a ballet barre, vinyl floor and a change room. The studio is an amazing space to dance in and a source of motivation.

This year curricular dance students have had opportunities to further explore dance through the excursions offered. These included Sydney Dance Company’s New Creations production, Bangarra Dance Theatre’s Of Earth and Sky and West Side Story.

Peter Pan delights the audiences

Georgia Fallon, Year 9

The Pymble Drama Ensemble’s production of Peter Pan was a huge success and enjoyed by the many people who came to see the performances. Directed by Miss Tamara Sweetman, the performances of the Years 7 and 8 actors was very impressive. The cast displayed amazing maturity and professional skill on stage with focus and engagement. The use of the Storyteller speaking directly to the audience really brought to life the tale. The creative and imaginative set design seamlessly changed frequently, creating a variety of settings for the audience. The lighting was also effective, enhancing the enchanting Never Land, pirate’s ship and the nursery where the children learned how to fly. The different character groupings including the pirates, Indian tribe and the Lost Boys were effectively shown through their physicality and costuming.

Savannah Lamble and Alexandra Williamson were convincing in their roles and gave genuine emotion to the complicated relationship between Peter Pan and Wendy. Lily-Rose Palmer as Storyteller also conveyed a sense of maturity and authenticity to her character. The pirates - Hook, Smee and Starkey delivered very comical and entertaining performances. Peter Pan was a very memorable night and one of the best performances ever by the Drama Ensemble.

Gathering Stories a truly moving experience

Mr Steven MacPhail, Head of Drama

Thanks to the generosity of the Ex-Students’ Union, Years 10 and 11 Dance and Drama classes had the opportunity to work with Artist in Residence, contemporary Australian Aboriginal Choreographer/ Performer, Jo Clancy.

Jo is a descendant of the Wiradjuri people of Western NSW but was raised and still lives on Gundungurra and Darug country in the Blue Mountains with her family. Jo has trained and worked extensively with NAISDA Dance College. She is the first Aboriginal person to gain a Bachelor of Arts in Dance in NSW. The girls attended Jo’s workshops, learning about and engaging with Indigenous dance and culture and learning routines in a focused and enjoyable environment. Ms Clancy developed dance compositions, taught techniques, her movement style and repertoire, and introduced the dancers to shapes and gestures. This valuable learning experience culminated in a performance evening, Gathering Stories, which showcased the dance work and interpretation of excerpts from Indigenous plays, Jane Harrison’s Stolen and Wesley Enoch and Deborah Mailman’s The 7 Stages of Grieving.

In the words of Mrs Nikki Wyse, Head of Upper School: “All I can really say is WOW! The dance was extraordinary and the drama component was very moving and thought-provoking it was another incredible night of Pymble talent!”
Amazing experiences in Vietnam and Cambodia

Kumuthini Ravindra, Year 11

During the September/October holidays, 34 girls accompanied by three teachers departed on a two week cultural tour of Vietnam and Cambodia.

The trip started with a brief one day visit to Singapore, where we explored Chinatown and visited the beautiful Orchid Gardens. The next stop was Vietnam where we plunged straight into discovering the Vietnamese culture. There, we visited many historical sites, some including the Ho Chi Minh Museum, the moated ruins of the Imperial Citadel and the Cu Chi Tunnels, which were used during the Vietnam War.

The girls also enjoyed a Water Puppet show, explored the countryside of Hue on bikes, went swimming in the South China Sea, learnt the fine art of Vietnamese cuisine and went shopping at the local markets! We also spent one night in a home stay with a local family on the Mekong Delta, where the girls had a true experience of Vietnamese life.

After a week well spent in Vietnam, a boat trip took us to Cambodia’s capital, Phnom Penh, where we spent two days at the Sunshine House Orphanage, a project of Awareness Cambodia. For most, this was the highlight of the trip as the buoyancy of the children was certainly contagious. We played and talked with them all day long, some taking to the volleyball court and soccer field.

We ended our trip to the orphanage with a concert that got everyone singing and dancing together. It was our pleasure to present the orphanage with some donated clothes and toys and also a cheque for $6,809.30 which we had raised throughout the year.

Before heading home, we spent a few more days in Cambodia visiting the Angkor Wat Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Siem Reap, and the Toul Sleng Prison and Killing Fields, two devastating sites of the Pol Pot Khmer Rouge regime. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the two weeks and will truly cherish the wonderful memories.

Russian tour

Virginia Wang, Year 11

During the July holiday break, a group of Pymble students travelled to Russia and Eastern Europe, visiting seven countries in three weeks!

The tour began with a leisurely cycle through Berlin. In Prague, the girls were treated to the spectacle of a singing water fountain as well as the ‘Best of Swan Lake’. In Poland, the girls visited the romantic European city of Krakow, and the city once known as the ‘Paris of the East’, Warsaw.

In Auschwitz, the Nazi concentration camps provided a deeply sobering experience for the girls. The Baltic States provided a host of tourist attractions, including the Art Nouveau architecture preserved in Riga, Latvia.

All girls agreed that St Petersberg was the highlight of their tour. They found the Winter Palace and Peterhof to be truly impressive feats of art and architecture.
Language skills tested on Japan tour

Ms Salina Bussien, Modern Languages teacher

A group of 27 students from Years 9 to 11 Japanese classes flew to Japan for a week of touring and cultural immersion before spending five-days at Seirinkan High School in Nagoya.

The girls stayed in Tokyo, travelling by subway to various parts of the city and visiting the NHK TV studios, the Honjo Emergency Centre, the Senso-ji Temple and Disneyland. The girls caught the Shinkansen (fast train) to Osaka where they enjoyed exploring the Dotombori district and experienced the culinary art of Takoyaki making. Their cultural journey continued as they travelled to Kyoto where they discovered Japan’s historical and spiritual heritage as they walked through the very picturesque Kiyomizu-dera temple and Golden Pavilion. The next leg of their journey took them further south to Hiroshima, where they learned about and witnessed the devastating effects of the atomic bombing during World War II. Their last day of sightseeing was spent in Osaka exploring the castle, taking pictures in warrior costumes and shopping through the Shinsaibashi area. Throughout the week, the girls had the opportunity to use their Japanese skills and learn new words daily which they would find extremely useful as they faced the challenge of communicating with their host family.

After a week of great anticipation, the moment came for the girls to meet their host sisters at Seirinkan High School in Nagoya. As the girls felt welcomed with open arms by their Japanese family, new friendships were formed. Their five-day homestay program allowed them to experience what it really means to be an adolescent living in Japan. It also included activities at the school and cultural excursions.

Student raises $5,300 for volunteer work in Africa

An interest in animal welfare led Year 12 student, Kathryn Glover, to work tirelessly for the past eighteen months to raise $5,300 to travel to Africa and work as a volunteer in the African Conservation Experience.

In January 2011, Kathryn will be based in Limpopo Province, South Africa to participate in the Hanchi Project which focuses on monitoring the roan antelope. For a month she will live in a tented campsite inside a wildlife sanctuary, riding on horseback tracking and assisting in the breeding and relocation project.

Kathryn has always had a love of geography so the travel experience appealed to her. “Travelling to a developing region such as Africa will give me a memorable life experience and window into how other people live,” said Kathryn. With the backing of her fellow students in Year 12, Kathryn raised the money by selling chocolates, working extra shifts of netball umpiring and numerous baby-sitting jobs.

The African Conservation Experience program supports vital conservation projects in the heritage regions of South Africa, Botswana and Mauritius.
Pymble girls form guard of honour

The Pymble under 14s water polo team participated in a special ceremony in August to mark the tenth anniversary of the Sydney Olympics at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, forming a guard of honour for the Australian women’s water polo team which won a gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Yvette Higgins, a member of the 2000 Olympic team who scored the winning goal in the last 1.3 seconds of the game, is the head water polo coach at Pymble.

“It was quite a special moment as the 2000 gold medallist team and the current United States of America and Australian teams were presented to the crowd by walking through our Pymble team,” said Mr Tom Kindred, Water Polo Co-ordinator at Pymble.

Pymble wins 2010 IGSSA Athletics

Miranda Middleton, Year 11

When the Pymble Athletics Squad arrived at the Olympic Stadium on Tuesday 17 August, clad in red, blue and white, they were excited, determined and ready to do Pymble proud at the 2010 IGSSA Athletics Carnival.

The youngest members of the team got Pymble off to a great start, with Fiona Glover winning her 12 Years Hurdles heat, Sarah Paek leaping over five metres in the Junior Long Jump, and Mackenzie Little throwing a massive 35.96m to win the Junior Javelin. Special congratulations must go to Madeleine Neville, who broke the only IGSSA record of the day, throwing the shot put an incredible 11.87 metres to easily win the Junior Shot Put.

Our more experienced athletes continued to run, jump and throw with great determination and success. Courtney Boyle and Samantha Hulme both won their 100 and 200 metre finals, Lara Boyle won the Intermediate Javelin, Gabrielle Ralphs won the Intermediate Shot Put, and Ellen Dobrijevic demonstrated her talent in the 100 metres, 800 metres and Intermediate Relay.

Led by our dedicated Athletics Captains, Phoebe Kershaw and Camilla Wright, who won the Senior Long Jump and Javelin respectively, the Seniors continued to do Pymble proud. Miranda Middleton won the 1500 metres, Frances Schmiede won the 800 metres and Sally Wiltshire-Bridle was a tough competitor in the 100 metres, Long Jump and Shot Put.

Having not won the IGSSA Athletics Shield since 2003, the team gathered excitedly for the final results to be announced. With Pymble winning the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Pointscore, it wasn’t surprising when the team came first in the Overall Pointscore by over 100 points - a very well deserved win!
Year 11 boarders farewell Year 12s

After many fundraising efforts throughout the year, Year 11 boarders took the departing Year 12 boarders out for a special farewell and good luck dinner on 15 September. It was an exciting night in the city with the girls dining at The Manhattan Lounge in Martin Place. There was a warm and enjoyable atmosphere at the restaurant, as the Years 11 and 12 girls reflected on the exciting and memorable times they have spent together over the past few years. The night was enjoyed by all and one that they will remember for years to come.

Valedictory Dinner

The Valedictory Dinner is a formal occasion where the Year 12 boarders are officially farewelled and wished the best of luck for years to come. The boarding community, including girls, parents and staff attended the 2010 Valedictory Dinner on the last Wednesday of Term 3. It was an exciting night enjoyed by the girls who took the opportunity to wear their favourite dress and heels and sit down to an enjoyable three course meal. The evening was filled with laughter as boarders reflected on their years at Pymble with memorable and amusing anecdotes. The evening also saw a few tears shed as everyone remembered the great times they spent with the Year 12s and realising that this was also an evening of good-byes.

Angus Cup

The coveted Angus Cup, a long-standing boarding competition between the Houses, saw girls competing for the Cup in a speech competition between students from each House. The girls were required to make a speech on the topic, ‘Tropic and Exotic’ to entertain the boarding community and be marked by a panel and judges. The Middle School division was won by Samantha Bear and her adventurous tale of ‘Pymble as a Jungle’. Alice Han won the Senior School division with her perspective on a politician’s budgie smugglers and the thrills of Justin Beiber and the skills she would adopt if she needed to avoid him if stranded on a deserted island. It was an exciting event leaving boarders in tears of laughter.

Rite of Passage ceremony

A special ceremony to mark the auspicious occasion when boarders move into a different Boarding House was held on Friday 19 November. Current Year 9 boarders moved from Marden House to Goodlet House and current Year 11 boarders moved into Lang House. The Boarder’s Rite of Passage Ceremony was a magnificent event heralded by the sound of bagpipes as the boarders paraded to the Marden Lawn for the occasion.
2010 Garden Party a festive affair

Diya Pacheco, Year 11

Pymble’s annual Garden Party held on Saturday 18 September was an enjoyable occasion for all involved, raising considerable funds toward the new Senior School Centre. The brilliant weather combined with the festive atmosphere of the College contributed to the annual celebration being a huge success. The festivities would not have been nearly as wonderful were it not for the combined efforts of the College community including students, staff and parents who worked together to provide fun for all. With the Boarder Parents’ Association selling their delicious orange juice made from home grown fruit and a multitude of food stalls, nourishment was never far away. Food lovers could sample a variety of delicious oriental dishes such as chicken satay, spring rolls, sushi and an array of traditional curries from the Asian Food stall or experiment with Greek cuisine at the Souvlaki stall.

The ever popular Rides stall proved popular with Junior and Senior students alike. The Prep School artworks selected from the Garden Party Poster Competition were displayed in the David Macfarlane Centre. The artistic talents of our youngest students were admired by patrons of the Year 11 Devonshire Tea stall. There was no lack of entertainment, during the day engaging ensembles from Pymble’s Senior and Junior Schools provided a rich array of musical talent while guests mingled, shopped, ate and drank. Some groups chose to take a break from the flurry of activity by picnicking on the Gloucester Quadrangle while listening to Pymble’s talented musicians. The GMCPA housed the artworks of Senior students and showcased performances of Junior students for the Pymble community to enjoy.

For the shopaholics in the Pymble community, the old favourites, the Fine Food Fair and Second-hand Book stalls were must-visits of the Garden Party. Shoppers were thrilled by the once-loved gems found at the Black Rhino stall and many ‘wounded’ victims of the day found solace at the Casualty Clearing Station. Another successful Garden Party on our exquisite grounds was a renewed testament of Pymble’s spirit of excellence combined with its warm and cohesive community spirit.
Parent Groups

Family Group Chapel Service an inspiring occasion

Pymble ex-student Cathy Knox was the guest speaker at the annual Family Group Chapel Service in 2010. Cathy gave an inspiring talk on her work as CEO of the Gidget Foundation – a not-for-profit organisation that promotes awareness of Perinatal Anxiety and Depression amongst women and their families. She also talked about her years at Pymble and introduced her mother Mrs Barbara Knox, one of the people who planted our famous Jacaranda Tree on the Gloucester Lawn!

Barbara posed under the Jacaranda tree with some of the members of the Junior School Band, who with the Year 4 Recorder Group performed on the day. Many thanks to Leanne Winter for organising the event.

JSPA kept busy with events

Rain may have stopped play, but hadn’t dampened spirits! The re-scheduled Hop, Skip and a Jump-a-thon eventually was conducted early in Term 3 and the girls gave it their all, managing to raise over $11,500 for the Senior School Centre. Rain also caused the cancellation of the Athletics Carnival in Term 3, but the girls still enjoyed the sausage sizzle and looked resplendent accessorised in their House coloured pomchees and tattoos!

The girls loved buying gifts for their dads at the Father’s Day Stall and Year 5 ran a very successful, spring themed Cupcake Day. They raised over $1,400, half of which was donated to the Bear Cottage charity.

The Year Representatives and Class Parents have been busy throughout the term organising Mother Daughter Dinners and Year Group Parent Cocktail Parties. It’s great to see these events so well attended as they help promote a real sense of community within the Junior School.

Many Junior School families had a wonderful day at the Garden Party. Thanks to the generosity of the Junior School Community our Tombola Stall was a huge success, selling out of prizes by the end of the day.

Preparatory School Parents’ Association

Term 3 was filled with some wonderful moments for the girls and parents within the Preparatory School community.

In early Term 3, the PSPA hosted a sausage sizzle for the girls to mark Jeans for Genes Day. A few weeks later more than 40 parents, Mrs Waters and Mrs Butt gathered together to enjoy a special Yum Cha lunch at Kam Fook’s Restaurant in Chatswood. It was a wonderful opportunity to relax for a few hours and enjoy delicious food and terrific company.

It was fun for all ages down at the PSPA Kiddies Corner “County Fair” at this year’s Garden Party. The sound of laughter was in the air as children lined up to create their Sand Art masterpieces and try their luck at our sideshow games. Once again, we received incredible support from our parent community, Mrs Butt and the teachers during the planning stages and at the stall on the day. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the stall’s success.
From the President

As we approach the end of the year, gasping yet again at how quickly it has gone, I have a feeling of joy and excitement that the Ex-Students have had another great year. Each time I write this report, I go over the activities the ESU has hosted during the year and the related activities of the College and our former students. Looking back over the Year of 2010 I can’t help but think that the future holds no fears.

Our best wishes to the 2010 Year 12 girls

We had hoped to host a Year 12 v Ex-Students sports day during the busy Term 3 before our most senior girls embarked on their HSC exams. Alas, the weather did not co-operate and we had to cancel at short notice. Our thanks to Mrs Mandy Reynolds, the Year 12 Co-ordinator, for facilitating a lovely morning tea instead where members of the ESU Committee met the girls, shared cupcakes and treats and enjoyed talking with these wonderful girls. The girls got to see who we are and accept our heartfelt best wishes for their end of year exams and their future outside the gates of Pymble. We look forward to staying in touch in the knowledge that our days as Pymble girls do not end with our last days at the College.

Garden Party

Once again we presented our ESU stall on the Gloucester lawn (conveniently located next to the Chicken and Champagne stall – always a winner getting volunteers here!) This year’s big initiative was a red, white and blue hand knitted rug which proved very popular on the day. Our thanks to Linda Lamberton (Satchwell, 1976) for the idea and to Mrs Hilarie Wood (Orman, 1958) for knitting most of the squares. We would love to be able to produce more of these! If there are any keen knitters out there please let us know!

Golf, tennis and bridge day

On 29 October 2010, 20 ladies visited Killara Tennis Club to play tennis and 30 ladies arrived at Northbridge Golf Club to play golf or bridge. It was another great day followed by a friendly lunch together at the Northbridge Golf Club. Thanks to Gill Ross-Edwards (Clarke, 1976) for co-ordinating this event once again.

Annual General Meeting

At the 81st Ex-Students’ Union Annual General Meeting held on Friday 29 October 2010, the following members were elected to the Committee:

Executive Committee

President: Sue Everingham (Taylor, 1977)
Vice-President: Linda Lamberton (Satchwell, 1976)
Secretary: Katrina Corcoran (Hum, 1987)
Assistant Secretary: Kristen Faahan-Smith (Wood, 1987)
Treasurer: Gill Ross-Edwards (Clarke, 1976)
Assistant Treasurer: Pauline Jackson (Turner, 1980)

General Committee

Wendy Dreyfus (Sherman, 1976) Julie Opie (Doig, 1988)
Edwina Fawcett (Seaton, 1986) Fiona Thomson (Thompson, 1986)
Angela Gapes (Bean, 1975) Ann Wright (Palmer, 1978)
Smitri Arora (2007)

We were delighted to welcome Angela, Julie, Fiona and Ann to the Committee and farewell with a huge vote of thanks Leona Blanco (Outridge, 1975) as the outgoing Vice-President and Janet Redman (Playfair, 1970) as the outgoing Ex-Student member of staff. Thank you to both of you for your support of the Ex-Students’ Union over the years.

The President’s Report is prepared and read at each AGM. In preparing this Report I took the time to outline the activities of the ESU Committee by reference to our Objectives. These Objectives are set out in our Rules of Incorporation. I invite you to read my Report which has been posted on the ESU site on the College website. As an Association of like-minded people, I invite any comments or questions you may have. I have no doubt that through greater engagement with our fellow alumnae, we can grow ever stronger.

Calendar for 2011

Next year will mark the 95th anniversary of the College. It will also coincide with the opening of the Senior School Centre. Needless to say, this will be a significant year for the College and for the Ex-Students. We will be encouraging all our Ex-Students and College friends to celebrate this significant event.

All’ Ultimo Lavoro

Sue Everingham (Taylor, 1977)

President

Pymble Ladies’ College Ex-Students Union Inc

esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or PO Box 15, Pymble NSW 2073

Upcoming Reunions

Calling all 2011 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 30 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1981 Leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 17 September 2011 (to be confirmed), venue tba</td>
<td>Kristin Downing (Gissing) M: 0401 544 367 E: <a href="mailto:plc1981@hotmail.com">plc1981@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 50 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1961 Leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 29 October 2011, 12 noon David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble</td>
<td>Anne Stephen (Priddele) M: 0407 487 872 E: <a href="mailto:stephenb@bigpond.net.au">stephenb@bigpond.net.au</a> Margaret Mullien (Langsworth) M: 0408 979 598 E: <a href="mailto:margmullen@yahoo.com.au">margmullen@yahoo.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 55 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1956 Leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 15 October 2011, tours of the College at 11.30am followed by lunch in the David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble, at 12.30pm</td>
<td>Barbara Wood (De Groot) E:<a href="mailto:groota@iprimis.com.au">groota@iprimis.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 60 Year Reunion</td>
<td>1951 Leavers</td>
<td>Saturday 30 April, 2011, 12 noon David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble</td>
<td>Jan Harper (McPhee) E: <a href="mailto:jharper@netspace.net.au">jharper@netspace.net.au</a></td>
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50 Year Reunion
Fifty years on and the Class of 1960 showed once again why our Year was such a memorable one – Miss Knox would not have been surprised at the level of chat, laughter and friendliness! She would also have been proud of the achievements of her girls in all spheres – and we were delighted to hear of the success of five of our year group who had received Order of Australia awards in a variety of endeavours.

We were particularly pleased Mrs Burgoyne and Miss Tuck were able to join us. Mrs Burgoyne travelled from Queensland especially for the day; she fondly remembered our cohort as we were the first classes she taught at Pymble. And of course Miss Tuck was our kind and inspirational teacher of singing and choirs during our years at the College.

Fifty-nine girls attended the reunion on Sunday 25 July 2010, travelling from areas across Australia. It was agreed that ten years would be far too long before the next get together, so we are hoping to hold our next reunion in five years time.

We were also pleased to be able to make a donation to the Indigenous Scholarship Program from the girls who attended the lunch.

Lindy Stuart (Stothart) and Bronwyn Harvey (Lamy)

20 Year Reunion
The last weekend in October saw school leavers from 1990 gather in Sydney to mark 20 years since finishing school. A visit to the College left many ex-students amazed at its growth while reliving many memories. A cocktail party on Saturday 30 October 2010 at The Commodore Hotel, North Sydney had 100 women catching up and having a fabulous time while the Sunday provided the perfect day for a picnic with family at Lane Cove National Park.

What most girls reported was the incredible sense of how time has passed, that so much has happened and changed, and yet we were able to pick up with each other as if it had only been a few days. With an up-to-date database now at our disposal there are plans for more regular and informal get-togethers in the future. Our Facebook page – Pymble Ladies’ College 1990 Leavers – is a great way to keep up to date with the year group.

Kim Berry

10 Year Reunion
The 10 Year Reunion for 2000 leavers on Friday 8 October at the Glenmore Rooftop Hotel in The Rocks was a huge success, with 100 girls attending. The lovely Spring evening saw lots of great catching up on what we have done in the last 10 years and everyone agreed it was a great evening.

Lizzie Webster

40 Year Reunion
Seventy-five 1970 ex-students travelled from overseas, interstate and NSW country and across Sydney to celebrate their 40 Year Reunion at a luncheon at the College on 16 October 2010. We all had a fabulous time with lots of chatter and agreed to set a date for our next reunion in five years time.

Annie Johnston

35 Year Reunion
On Saturday 30 October the 1975 Pymble leavers celebrated their 35 Year Reunion with a cocktail party at the Greengate Hotel. The evening was a great success with 80 ex-students attending. Many had travelled from afar to be there. Guests came from Canada, New Zealand, interstate, regional NSW and across Sydney. The theme was the 70’s with a schooldays slide show, music from the era and several in 70s outfits.

Everyone had a great time, there was no shortage of conversation and many complained of no voice the next day!

Cynthia Playfair

London 10 Year Reunion
It was a lovely clear day in London for our 10 Year Reunion on Saturday 16 October. We started with a champagne reception on the viewing deck of Centre Point in the centre of London where we could observe London’s wonderful views and after which we were seated in our own private room for a lovely lunch. There were 14 of us in all - some of us who see each other on a regular basis and others we have not seen since school. It was a lovely group of people - we all had a lot of fun catching up and remembering some of the good times at school. One thing we all agreed upon is that most of our firm friendships arose out of Pymble and it is so great to have such a fantastic moral support network in a country that isn’t our own. Some of the girls at that lunch I have known and been very good friends with for 20 years or so and I have Pymble to thank for those wonderful friendships.

Alexandra Egan
Engagements

- Alannah Blockley (2008) to Adam Commegno
- Elissa Reid (1999) to Christopher Jay
- Jane Williams (1998) to Giordano Fusi

Marriages

- Katie Evans (1998) married Anthony Lueif at 'Sea Farm' Copacabana on 17 September 2010. Katie was attended by Jamie Turner (1998), Alison Punch (Webber, 1998) and Vicki Wade-de Waal. Annabel Gay (1998) was the very accomplished MC for the reception and Pymble friends present were Anna Henderson (1998), Victoria Mendle (Jones, 1998), Georgie Birrell (Staniestreet, 1998) and Fiona McMullen (1998). Katie is the daughter of Mark and Sue Evans (Platt, 1974) and Katie's sister Sarah (2000) read at the wedding. Katie and Anthony have settled at “Mallala” Rankins Springs, near Griffith.


- Alexandra Russ (1997) and Ray Lenane were married in the College Chapel on 17 April 2010. Alexandra was attended by Suzie Westphal and her cousin Kate Cameron (2001).

Births

- Niamh Alexandra Bogle, born 17 March 2010, a beautiful daughter for Charles and Alex Bogle (Phippard, 1993) and fun little sister for Darren, Emilie and Cameron.
- Michele Graham (1993) and her husband David are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter, Amelia Peterson on 11 April, 2010.
- Natalie Grange (Schramm, 1990) and husband Stephane are delighted to announce the arrival of their first child, a beautiful daughter Laura Audrey Grange born 7 June 2010.
- Sarah Martin (Slater, 1994) and husband Andrew are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter Abigail Sarah on 19 July 2001. A little sister to Timothy (5 years) and Christopher (7 years).
- Sarah Nelson (Kirkwood, 2000) and husband Anthony are happy to announce the arrival of their daughter, Cleo Victoria, born 19 July 2010.
- Sumeena Qidwai (Ahmed, 1995) and husband Faisal are thrilled to announce the arrival of beautiful baby Sara to the family on 11 August 2010. She is a little sister to brother Danyal (3 years).
- Fiona Scognamiglio (Ellis-Jones, 2001) and her husband Mark are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Joshua Mark, born 13 October 2010.
- Erica Warner (Richards, 1998) and husband, David, welcomed their first child Lachlan David Warner, on 23 June 2010.

Vale

- Anne Hirst (Gill, 1970) will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Anne started at Pymble Ladies' College in Kindergarten and made friends that lasted throughout her life. She invited Vern Hirst to her Year 12 formal and their relationship never looked back. They were married in 1975 and their children, Rob and Catherine, were born in 1986 and 1988. Anne was a loving and caring wife and mother, as well as a wonderful daughter and sister, and her family was always at the centre of her life. Always intelligent and compassionate, Anne studied Social Work at the University of NSW on leaving school and later completed her Masters in Social Work. She worked tirelessly in the positions that she held after graduating, first at St Vincent's Hospital, then at AIDAB (now AUS AID) in the Department of Foreign Affairs as counsellor for overseas students, and finally at the Burnside Family Learning Centre at Ermington, initially as counsellor and later as co-ordinator of the centre. Her great capacity for work, her exceptional emotional intelligence and her leadership qualities meant that she did an outstanding job throughout her career, although her modesty meant that she always understated her contributions.
- Anne also made a significant contribution to the community. Most notably, she was a prominent member of the Pymble Uniting Church. She was an elder and held a number of positions including Congregational Chairperson.
- Anne’s life was filled with many experiences which included wonderful times at the beach, tennis (she played in the Tildesley for several years), horse riding and overseas travel, including nearly two years in Britain, Europe and Israel after completing her Social Work degree. Anne showed great courage in the very difficult 18 months after her diagnosis with ovarian cancer.
- A person of great integrity, Anne enriched the lives of many, and was loved and admired by all who knew her. Anne died on 28 August 2010.
Ex-Students’ News

• Alison Miles (Chisholm, 1949) died in July 2010 after a relatively short illness. Her husband, Magistrate Don Miles, pre-deceased her by many years and Alison remained active in her nursing profession, both with South Australian hospitals and in community organisations for the aged. Alison had two daughters and a son and with their spouses and families, she will be especially missed.

Doreen Dingwall (Moorhead, 1944)
(Doreen lives in Adelaide and is one of a small group of ex-students who still meet regularly. In her own words, “All of us have been, and are, proud of our association with the school and its continuing prominence in all areas of education for women and for life.”)

• Sheila Mitchell (Webb, 1942) died in August 2010. Sheila came to Pymble from Marsden (Bathurst) and was in the class of 1942 but left early to help on her parent’s property at Tarana as her brother had enlisted in 1940. Sheila married Peter Mitchell who had several postings with Westpac, in New Guinea, Rabaul and around Australia, before settling in Adelaide. Sheila leaves a son, Andrew and daughter, Suzie, three granddaughters and a great grandson.

Doreen Dingwall (Moorhead, 1944)

• Jessie Smith (Watt, 1940) died on 15 June 2010. She was 87. Jessie was a student at Pymble in the 1930s. She is survived by Bob, her husband of 57 years, her daughters (all ex-students), Shona (1973), Sandra (1974), Penelope (1974) and Tammy (1979) and her grandsons Matthew, Jack and William. Her granddaughter, Amanda, died in 2000.

Shona Smith (1973)

Ex-Students News

Impressive award for Mia Sharma

Mia Sharma (Crisp, 2001) is the winner of the 2010 NSW Scientist Award for Leadership in Teaching Science and Mathematics. The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO presented Mia with her award at a special ceremony on 15 September at Government House, as part of the NSW Scientist of the Year awards.

Mia is currently the Head of Science at International Grammar School, Ultimo. She received the award for outstanding ability, leadership and innovative thinking in teaching Science. Mia also recently won the Norman Baker Award for Educational Achievement.

Pymble girls go for gold

Julianne Lipman (2008)

Pymble 2009 ex-students, Marie Claire Jarratt, Julianne Lipman, Emily Shipp and Katherine Williams and 2008 ex-student, Aimee Lillyman were presented their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Certificates by the NSW Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, at NSW Government House on 7 August.

The Award is presented at the culmination of hundreds of hours of service across five key areas: Service, Skills, Physical Recreation, Expeditions and a residential component. The Award is recognised Internationally and the Awardees are held in high esteem by Industry leaders around the world.

Kathleen Foster humbled by Kenyans in volunteer experience

Kathleen Foster (2006)

On 9 June 2010, I began a four week adventure of a lifetime volunteering in a hospital in Kenya. My trip was planned through the non-profit organisation Touch Africa International, which focuses on rural development issues through bettering access to healthcare. Travelling with two friends, we each lived with a host family in Kaloleni, a small town about 40 kilometres from Mombasa, the second largest city in Kenya. We worked at St Luke’s Mission Hospital where we learned everything from how to administer vaccines, insert catheters, to take blood, and how to scrub in to assist with surgeries. We also sponsored and organised a medical camp at a school where we treated over 270 people from the surrounding villages.

My experience exceeded all of my expectations, from the new foods I tried, to the places I went, to the skills I learned like washing my clothes by hand and showering with a bucket. I fell in love with the country that welcomed me with open arms, her beautiful ever-smiling children, vibrant culture, and difficult yet simple way of life. But most importantly I positively affected the lives of countless Kenyans, and learned volumes from people who had nothing but were willing to give us everything. My eyes were opened to a different way of life and I was humbled by the love and generosity of some of the most wonderful people on earth. And finally, I learned that if you travel with an open mind, you will be forced to open your heart and when you do, you will forever be changed for the better.
The new Senior School Centre will be officially opened by Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of NSW on Saturday 29 January at 10.00am. Members of the Pymble community are most welcome to attend this special ceremony.

The new Senior School Centre will begin a new world of learning in the education of students at Pymble Ladies’ College. The College’s reputation as a world leader in the education of girls and young women will be enhanced by this specialist learning environment dedicated to the unique developmental and educational requirements of students in Years 11 and 12, assisting them on their journey to independence and preparing them for life beyond Pymble.

The College is most grateful to all who have supported this important building project. A list of donors who have contributed $500 or more to the project will appear on a Donor Board located in the new centre and in the next issue of the Pymbulletin.