Community spirit at Pymble
I'm proud to say that at Pymble Ladies’ College students embrace the College motto of All’ ultimo lavoro – Strive for the Highest in all endeavours. This is demonstrated in the many stories in this issue of the Pymbulletin that highlight the diverse opportunities and challenges our students undertake with outstanding commitment and success.

In the year of the Games of the XXX Olympiad at which Australia’s Olympic athletes pushed themselves to reach their ultimate goal, Pymble students have also aspired to greatness. From claiming victory on the snow fields to winning a silver medal in the International Biology Olympiad, Pymble students have exemplified the College motto in all of their pursuits. Pymble students have also fully engaged in social responsibility activities. At Pymble, we encourage students to fulfil their obligation to community service instilling them with a sense of social responsibility and giving back to the community. On pages 8 to 10 in this issue of the Pymbulletin you can read how our students have supported charities, knitted squares for ‘Wrap with Love’ and helped put a smile on the faces of children from St. Edmund’s School.

Our students have also excelled in showcasing their creative talents. Years 11 and 12 Visual Arts students, our Textiles students and Drama students have produced outstanding works of art and dramatic productions, which you can read about on pages 16 to 18. Students from Preparatory to Senior School shone on stage in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts in the brilliant song and dance extravaganza, Nothing like a Dame. This fabulous production was a grand example of how our Pymble community works so well together through the dedication and professionalism of students, ex-students, staff and parents.

It is a privilege to lead such a wonderful College backed by a community of keen and enthusiastic students, staff and parents who support the College’s five core values of care, courage, integrity, respect and responsibility in their pursuit of excellence across all activities. I hope you enjoy reading about our wonderful Pymble community in this issue of Pymbulletin.

Vicki L. Waters
PRINCIPAL

Cupid and Psyche
Classical Drama Festival
Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts
Friday 12 October - 10.30am and 1.30pm
Saturday 13 October - 3.00pm and 7.30pm
Book at www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au
Pymble celebrates Environment Day

Courtney Heaven, Year 7

Pymble’s Year 7 students marked Environment Day with the planting of a South African Cape Chestnut tree adjacent to the Gloucester Lawn on Tuesday 5 June. The species was selected to complement another South African Cape Chestnut tree growing in the lawn area. Environment Day reinforced with students the importance of protecting and nurturing our environment. The newly planted tree will be known as the Year 7 tree and its growth will be watched by the students with interest over their next five years at the College. The celebration also included a fabulous display of environmental posters and photographs on the Colonnade, created by Year 7 students. Activities during the day supported Juvenile Diabetes Australia with $572 raised from the sale of green cupcakes and a jelly baby guessing competition.

Seeing double at Pymble

Staff could be forgiven for thinking they are seeing double at Pymble Ladies’ College with 14 sets of twins, including five sets of identical twins attending the College. The twins gathered for a morning tea at the College on Friday 25 May to meet one another and to celebrate what’s special about being a twin.

All the girls agreed it was fun to be a twin. “You always have someone to share your thoughts with and as they are just like you, they fully understand,” said Year 12 twin Jana Birkby about her twin sister, Micha Birkby. “As you get older, you appreciate the benefits of having a twin.”

The twins are spread across different year groups at the College, with three sets of twins in Year 10, two sets of twins in Year 12, Year 8 and Year 4 and single sets of twins in Years 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9.
There has been exciting news in the Preparatory School with the official opening of our new playground by the College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters on Tuesday 19 June.

At the opening, Year 1 girls shared their reflections on their first play experience and a demonstration of the circuit was given by Years 1 and 2 students.

Play is an essential part of childhood development. It aids in the advancement of children’s strength, co-ordination, confidence and general social skills. The play equipment has been designed and purpose built with the intent to be fun, contain an appropriate level of challenge and be safe. This structure lets the girls explore their climbing, swinging and hanging skills in one compact play area with stimulating challenges including a climbing frame, swamp crossing, wobbly bridge, Tarzan swing, giant slide, fire pole, tunnels and a shop front with various play panels. The climbing frame is the most challenging component and if girls have the strength, fitness and endurance they can traverse the whole climbing frame without touching the ground. It includes a spider web, ladders, ropes, rock climbing wall and swinging loops.

Each Preparatory School class had an introductory lesson where the rules, safety points and play were discussed. The equipment is available for the girls to use at lunch time, during sensory motor lessons and at after school care.

Preparatory girls enjoy new playground equipment

Play equipment reflections by Year 1

“The best part is the tunnel because my friends and I play trolls,” said Anya.

“I love the shop because we can make different foods and drinks and sell them to our friends,” said Katherine.

“The hardest activity is the monkey rings, but I am getting much better,” said Jade.

“The rock climbing wall is very tricky but fun,” said Alyssa.

“I really like sliding down the slippery dip on my tummy,” said Jacqueline.

“The new play equipment is fantastic because it is challenging and I am going to try my best,” said Alexis.

“The equipment area even has a shop and the shop has fruit, salad and toys. The tiara steps are my favourite, but the trickiest part is the rock climbing,” said Natalie.

“I love the very fast slippery dip. I also like the red rock climbing wall, with its multi-coloured rocks. My very favourite activity is the twirly slide because at the end you don’t fall off it,” said Shivani.
Animal adventures for Kindergarten

Some special animal friends came to visit Kindergarten in Term 2 as part of their Science and Human Society and Its Environment topics about ‘The Farm and Meeting Needs’. Farmer Kate delivered ten precious eggs in an incubator and the girls eagerly awaited the hatching of their new arrivals. Ten fluffy ducks became quite at home in the Kindergarten practical area and the girls delighted in watching them grow and swim in the pond.

In English, the girls have become more proficient at procedure writing. They enjoyed the opportunity to plant and observe the growth of daffodil bulbs, beans, and carrots. Drawing on these experiences allowed the girls to construct well sequenced and clearly written procedures.

Kindergarten has been actively engaged in hands-on maths activities to learn more about sharing, groups of and making patterns. ‘Count Me In Too’ and ‘Maths 300’ have provided the girls with engaging and meaningful activities.

A visit to Calmsley Hill Farm was a highlight during our busy and exciting Term 2. The tractor ride and having the chance to milk Annie the cow were definite favourites.

Kindergarten began a Buddy Program last Semester with Year 2. This program will further enhance a responsive, collaborative and caring community within our Preparatory School. The girls have shared in activities such as iPad sessions, mathematical games, reading and art lessons.

In Science and Technology, the focus on the unique animals native to Australia began with an excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park. Using this exciting excursion as a springboard, follow up activities became real and meaningful to the girls and the term’s unit was concluded with an individual research project about an animal of the girl’s choice. Continuing on from Term 1’s work about Pymble and the wider community and the introduction of the term ‘volunteer’, Year 1 enjoyed visits from a doctor, a Newborn and paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS) emergency doctor, a dentist, a lifesaver and a Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service (WIREs) volunteer. Year 1 girls were also involved in tree planting in the College grounds. They enjoyed giving their time to help the environment and contribute to keeping the grounds of our College looking beautiful.

Year 2 girls study mini-beasts

Year 2 explored ‘Families’ in Human Society and Its Environment discussing the definition of a family, who are the members of different types of families, the many roles and responsibilities of family members and what makes a family special. Beautiful family trees were created by the girls allowing them to investigate and learn about their own family heritage.

The Term 2 Science topic was ‘Curious Creatures’. Girls investigated the many types of mini-beasts that live around the world including insects, arachnids, molluscs and annelids.

Exploration of the distinctive body parts, life cycles and living habits was undertaken and girls enjoyed a day of hands on activities at Wildflower Gardens, St Ives.

Project week completed the unit of work where girls independently wrote information reports, sketched and labelled diagrams of their mini-beast and an activity showing the life cycle process.

In addition to our Science program, Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous Science show presented by Questacon. Girls learned many interesting facts about slime including how to thicken and thin fluids, the concept of viscosity and why certain living things rely on their own slime to stay alive.

‘Freak Forces’ were also explored including the centre of gravity, friction, the laws of motion and lubrication. Girls were invited to participate in various experiments and enjoyed the highly entertaining nature of the show.

Performing Arts

Term 2 was filled with exciting performances and concerts for the Preparatory School girls. This began with Nothing like a Dame, which featured Year 2 girls and teacher, Miss Stelcova, performing a scene from the musical Annie.

It was a special thrill for the Year 2 girls and Miss Stelcova to ‘tread the boards’ together, as well as having the chance to watch musical theatre star and inspirational role model, Rachael Beck in action.

During Term 2, the Preparatory School girls also enjoyed learning about opera in preparation for a performance of Hansel and Gretel by OzOpera. The Opera in Schools program gives students a wonderful opportunity to attend an opera performance and have unique access to this art form.

We also enjoyed a Musica Viva performance by the group Mara which introduced the girls to vocal and instrumental repertoire from around the world.

Year 1 girls visit Wildlife Park

Year 1 has had a busy term studying the topics ‘Australian Animals’ and ‘People Who Help Us’. They have enjoyed several wonderful experiences and met lots of interesting people who help them in many different ways in the community.

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During Term 2, Year 5 participated in a program called SPECTRA Awards. SPECTRA stands for Science Program Exciting Children Through Research Activities. Students could choose from a variety of topics including zoology, the human body and chemistry. Each task in a particular topic earned a certain number of stars with the aim to earn 20 stars by the end of the term. Everyone who achieved those 20 stars was awarded a certificate and a badge. I chose the topic Sight, light and Colour because I am very interested in extending my knowledge about this topic. My tasks consisted of learning about visual acuity using the Snellen eye chart, optical illusions, the primary colours of light, pigments, how colour television works and kaleidoscopes.

Year 3 visits the zoo
Shelby Schmidt, Claudia Braysich and Amber Cai, Year 3
Year 3 went to the Taronga Zoo on Friday 25 May to learn about Australian animals. As we were walking we saw a tree kangaroo. We also saw cassowaries running around and wallabies getting a drink. Then we went to a dark place and saw marsupial rats and mice.
We also saw the platypus - they had amazing webbed feet and a duck bill. During lunch we watched the bird show and then we went to see the elephants and the koalas. Then we went to the Education Centre and learned all about some amazing animal adaptations - like a lizard that looks like it has two heads to confuse predators!

Easter experience
Alice Dixon, Ashley Chen, June Kim and Sarah Kim, Year 3
On Wednesday 28 March, Year 3 went to Gordon Uniting Church for an Easter experience to learn about Jesus and the real meaning of Easter. We also did some craft. We made Easter cards, Mexican crosses and even a bracelet with the colours: yellow, green, black, blue and red. They are the colours of the bible stories. Next we had the Last Supper with Jesus and one of his disciples. We said a prayer and had some food. Some of the food was meat, dried fruit and dried bread. We also had to drink a glass of blackcurrant juice pretending it was a glass of wine.

Rwandan pen friend exchange
Margaret Salem, Junior School French teacher
Years 3 and 4 students have been involved in a Service Learning project to assist the students and their Rwandan pen-friends develop literacy skills and raise inter-cultural awareness. The letters and postcards from Pymble students provide an important learning resource for the children and teachers in a remote village school in Rwanda.
Nicola Farquharson, Claudia Braysich, Brianna Lollback and Sophie Main, Year 3
Last term in French lessons, Year 3 wrote postcards to children in Rwanda. During the holidays Madame Salem went to Rwanda and gave the postcards to our penfriends. Madame Salem said that the teachers got everyone together to write letters to us. We enjoy having penfriends and seeing the Rwandan people so happy with the postcards.

Fun science program
Zara Sved, Year 5
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Year 6 in Canberra
Enya Maritz and Maddison Kahn, Year 6
On Wednesday 2 May, Year 6 enjoyed an excursion to Canberra, visiting the Australian War Memorial on their first day where we watched short films about what it was like to be in World War I. A highlight of the second day was a visit to the CSIRO, holding and learning about stick insects and finding out what CSIRO was doing to help in Africa. We also saw some amazing artworks at the National Gallery. On our third day we visited Parliament House and saw the Senate, the House of Representatives and participated in a mock debate before going to the Australian Electoral Commission office where we watched a video on preferential voting. One of the biggest highlights of our Canberra trip was a visit to Questacon! Overall, Year 6 had a great time in Canberra. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

Movie made by Year 6
Clare Li, Year 6
Studying the subject, Federation and Democracy, students in class 6S decided it would be a wonderful idea to make a mini-movie about the different levels of government and how they worked. We planned drafts and ideas, had class discussions and everyone contributed towards the making of this film. Using Windows Movie Maker and a few editing tricks, our movie Journey to Pymble Luxury was viewed by fellow Year 6 students and the Head of Junior School, Mrs Cheryl Turner and Deputy Head of Junior, Ms Kate Lester.

Visit to Old Government House and Elizabeth Farm
Amelie Yee and Chloe Luzar, Year 4
Year 4, their teachers and some volunteer parents, went on an excursion to Old Government House and Elizabeth Farm on Tuesday 15 May to learn about the British colonisation of Australia. At Old Government House we entered a room designed like an old fashioned schoolroom to take a lesson with an extremely strict teacher using slates and chalk. At Elizabeth Farm we dressed up as convicts in the time of the 1800s and experienced what it would have been like to work for Elizabeth and John Macarthur.

Crazy Day a fund day for all
Charlotte Dunning and Charlotte Dean, Year 5
Junior School girls participated in Crazy Day to raise money for the RSPCA on Friday 22 June. The day was filled with laughter, giant glasses, funky wigs and fluorescent outfits, to name a few. As well as the girls, all the teachers dressed up in their own crazy ways. There was a guessing competition where girls were challenged to guess how many dog biscuits were in the jar. At the Fashion Parade classes voted for their favourite ‘craziest outfit’, which progressed to the hall for a Junior School Crazy Day parade. The craziest outfit from each class was there and you put money in the box for whoever you thought was the absolute craziest. Overall we raised $1,185 for the RSPCA.
Students raise riches for Red Shield

Helen Zhang, Year 11

More than $22,000 was raised by 106 Year 11 Pymble students who volunteered to participate in the annual Salvation Army Red Shield Doorknock Appeal on the weekend of 19 and 20 May.

In small groups led by an adult volunteer, the students ventured through the suburb of Turramurra, knocking door to door. They were humbled and surprised by the philanthropy of the residents.

“The generosity and approachable nature of most people made it a memorable experience,” said Navya Shastri of Year 11.

The money raised from the Red Shield Appeal supports the Salvation Army’s extensive social and community services across Australia. This includes providing accommodation for more than 2,250 homeless people every night.

With so many girls volunteering, Pymble’s participation in the Red Shield Appeal is a true testament to the active involvement of Pymble students in community service.

Fun run in the rain for MS

Victoria Lim-Howe, Year 11

Pymble girls demonstrated their care and dedication to Multiple Sclerosis Australia by participating in the MS Fun Run and Walk, held on Sunday 3 June at Hyde Park, despite the stormy weather. The event attracted thousands of participants sporting wacky costumes or their team colours. The rain didn’t dampen the proud Pymble spirit with Team Pymble ranking as one of the top five teams of the day, raising an amazing $18,850 for the charity. The fun run takes in some of the most scenic areas of Sydney, including The Rocks and Pyrmont on a 5.5 km, 9 km or 16 km trail. One Year 11 student commented that “It was cold but it was really good to know that I finished the 9 km walk.”

MS Australia supports those suffering from Multiple Sclerosis by providing funds for research, support networks and services to enhance their quality of life.

Students click knitting needles for ‘Wrap with Love’

Tamanna Abdi, Year 11

Years 11 and 12 students were joined by mothers, grandparents, ex-students and teachers at the College’s annual ‘Wrap with Love’ knit in on Tuesday 5 June.

The atrium in Pymble’s Senior School Centre – Kate Mason Building was a sea of knitting circles with the frantic clicking of knitting needles creating squares to make into rugs, in the name of a worthy cause - ‘Wrap with Love’, a charity which organises blankets to be made and then distributed all over the world for impoverished communities in cold climates.

Throughout Term 2, students learned how to cast on, cast off, knit and purl to create squares that would inevitably be made into blankets consisting of 28 squares. The blankets have been distributed to places such as Pakistan, Swaziland, Chile, Palestine and Samoa, as well as communities within Australia, particularly after the onslaught of natural disasters.

The students and staff embraced the cause with enthusiasm and could be seen knitting during breaks, in between classes, on public transport and even in year assemblies – much to the delight and equal dismay of the teachers.

The Head of Senior School, Mrs Nikki Wyse summed up the occasion, commenting that “it’s a wonderful representation of the spirit and community of the Senior School and I couldn’t be happier; I’m so proud of all the girls, the staff and parents that have come along”. With the Wrap with Love initiative, both students and staff have learned a skill for life that can be used for the benefit of others less fortunate for many years to come. Pymble students knitted 1,113 squares made into 39 rugs for the 2012 Wrap with Love project.
A few friends for morning tea

Pymble hosted what is believed to be the largest gathering in Sydney for the 2012 Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea with 2,500 students and staff from Kindergarten to Year 12, along with more than 300 parents, grandparents and great grandparents enjoying a ‘cuppa’ on the College’s Main Oval on Monday 28 May.

“The Pymble Biggest Morning Tea was a most exciting event in support of such a worthy cause, the Cancer Council,” said Mrs Vicki Waters, College Principal. “This year’s morning tea was a historic occasion for Pymble as it was the first year we invited parents and grandparents to the event.”

“As an all girls school it is important to raise awareness of breast cancer and the responsibility of our community to support the fundraising efforts towards cancer.”

“Pymble, like most communities, has been affected by this disease and with one in two Australians now being diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85 we will continue to contribute to the fight against cancer.”

The theme for Pymble’s 2012 Biggest Morning Tea was the Teddy Bear’s Picnic.

Confronting documentary screening in support of charity

Samantha Bear, Year 11

Lang House presented a screening of the documentary film, Not my Life, in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts on Thursday 24 May, as part of its fundraising initiative in support of its nominated charity, The Freedom Project, an international Christian justice organisation established in 2012 to end human trafficking and slavery.

The screening attracted an audience of school students and members from the wider community, including representatives from various youth organisations. Masterfully created, the documentary was extremely confronting, but profoundly inspirational and raised more than $500 in support of the charity.

Directed by Robert Bilheimer and narrated by Glenn Close, Not my Life was filmed on five continents over a period of five years and depicts with dignity and compassion the unspeakable practices of global human trafficking.

Pymble reaches out with Interact

Julie Wong, Year 11

Pymble’s Interact Club members have supported the words of English author and historian, Thomas Fuller, “charity begins at home but should not end there”, in their many community service projects conducted since the beginning of 2012. Raising thousands of dollars in student-driven projects, Interact has provided assistance to those in need across the globe.

Under the direction of three Pymble teaching staff, Mrs Gibbons, Mrs Tenney and Mrs Campbell, Interact’s Pymble girls have supported the wider community through fundraising events and volunteer work.

Interact first commenced at the College in 2003. The name Interact was formed by combining the words ‘international’ and ‘action.’ Backed by the Ku-ring-gai Rotary Club, this year Pymble’s Interact has already achieved a myriad of projects, including raising $1,000 through selling ice-blocks to purchase a Pymble Shelter Box. The box contains basic essentials such as a waterproof shelter, collapsible bed and cooking equipment which will be sent around the world to people affected by disasters.

During Easter, the girls conducted a Giant Easter Egg Raffle for Youth off the Streets as well as Multiple Sclerosis Australia, raising a total of $2,660. Other initiatives have included the Moonlight School Clothes Sales as well as the Princess Charlotte Alopecia Foundation Food Stall, initiated by Year 11 students Ciara Smart and Helen Zhang.

Nine Interact girls, Jane Liu, Jemima McGahey, Sophia Moshegov, Ciara Smart, Ananya Sinha, Holly McGahey, Debby Xu, Grace Zhang and Paris Zhang, attended World Vision’s Global Leaders’ Convention at the Big Top at Luna Park on Friday 1 June. They participated in an eye-opening simulation game where groups represented different countries and had to produce and trade food.
Year 9 hosts High Tea for St. Edmund’s School

The aroma of freshly baked cakes, scones, caramel slices and other cakes wafted from Pymble’s Food Technology area on 4 June as 19 Year 9 Food Technology students busily prepared for a High Tea they were hosting for students from St. Edmund’s School, a school for children with special needs. The High Tea was part of the Year 9 Community Service program, which the Technology and Applied Studies department has supported this year. The girls were also assisted by some students from St. Edmund’s.

“The St. Edmund’s students were all very excited and they knew exactly what they wanted to cook,” remarked Amber Evans, who participated on the day.

At midday, the girls and some Pymble staff enjoyed a splendid High Tea with students, parents, staff and St. Edmund’s School Principal, Mrs Kathy Freeman. The Pymble girls thoroughly enjoyed working with the students from St. Edmund’s. “It was a life changing experience,” said Bronwen Dingley of Year 9. Pymble is an active supporter of St. Edmund’s School and has participated in several of St. Edmund’s events, including the joint St. Edmund’s and Pymble choir performance at the ‘St. Edmund’s Big Day Out’, a fundraising event for the school, conducting and assisting the St. Edmund’s Swimming and Athletics Carnivals and helping to film a St. Edmund’s production of Romeo and Juliet.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Pymble students, Nina Lee, Anna Dobrijevic, Sophie Whitehead, Victoria Whiteman and Serena Ritchie attended a special ceremony hosted by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir at Government House on Saturday 28 April to be awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Katherine Dickson was not present at the ceremony, but also received an award. The award is an enriching program inviting young people to participate in a number of activities over a set length of time. The program first started in 1956 by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and involves volunteering, physical, practical and social skills and completing an expedition. The program is progressively awarded on three levels: bronze, silver and gold.

Paralympian speaks with students about disabilities

Gillian Thornton, Year 10

Paralympian Hannah Dodd visited the College in June to speak with Year 10 students who were working on Service Learning projects with Miracle Babies, St Lucy’s School and the Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home. Miss Dodd, accompanied by her mother, spoke with the girls about the many challenges she faced growing up with a rare genetic abnormality called Sacral Agenesis; she was born without the lower half of her spine, causing many neurological defects and also without a bladder and one of her legs turned back to front. Through her incredible determination and a strong support network Hannah qualified for the Paralympics in equestrian.

Miss Dodd provided the students with an insight into her life and reminded them that although disabilities can be limiting in some aspects, they do not stop people from excelling and nurturing talent.
Pymble triumphant in Snow Sports

Pymble’s Snow Sports team was triumphant in the NSW Northern Region Interschools Snow Sports Championships held at Thredbo during the July school holidays. The College was named Northern NSW Champion Snowboarding School as well as the Overall Northern NSW Interschools Snow Sports Champion School. Girls from the Preparatory and Junior Schools performed brilliantly with their team placing second overall.

Fifty Pymble students from Kindergarten to Year 12 braved tough conditions particularly on the steep and icy alpine course but their hard work and training paid off.

Seventeen of the Pymble teams along with many individual members qualified for the State Interschools Championships held in Thredbo in August. The girls won the Northern Region Cross Country Championship and placed eighth on the overall point score.

Pymble’s football stars

Year 12 students Rachael Soutar and Isabella Walker made history earlier this year when they toured with the Australian Girls School Football Team to the United Kingdom and Ireland. The team won all eight of their games becoming the first school girls’ team to complete the tour undefeated.

This year both Rachael and Isabella were again selected in the NSW Schools football team for the Australian Schools Championships, held in Townsville in August. The girls have been playing football together since the age of five.

Pymble’s Elite Sportswomen’s Program

Pymble offers students who are performing at elite levels of competition across all sports an Elite Sportswomen’s Program (PESP) to help maintain a balance between their sporting commitments and academic studies.

There are currently 66 students participating in the program across 18 sports with some girls represented across more than one sport.

A dedicated Pymble staff member supports each of the students and provides the link between Pymble sporting and academic staff and external coaches, closely monitoring the student’s progress.

Specialist sessions with nutritionists and sports psychologists are part of the program along with motivational speakers, specialist field testing and education on prevention of injuries.

Zara and Katie Pasfield, Isabella Walker and Rachael Soutar are members of Pymble’s Elite Sportswomen’s Program.

Winning streak for Katie

Pymble elite athlete Year 8 student Katie Pasfield has enjoyed enormous success on the ice skating rink this year. In April, Katie won the Rubina Doolan Open Division, the top artistic level, in the 2012 NSW Artistic Figure Skating Competition. This was a very special occasion for the Pasfield family as the trophy has been won in the past by both her father and her sister, Pymble Year 11 student Zara.

In May, Katie competed in the 2012 Macquarie Ice Rink Artistic (MIRA) Figure Skating Championships placing first in Junior Ladies and was awarded the Wendy Rigg-Smith Perpetual Trophy for outstanding performance.

During the July school holidays Katie and her sister Zara enjoyed performing in a variety of ice skating shows around Sydney and were also guest performers at the Disney on Ice extravaganza Let’s Celebrate!
Da Vinci Decathlon

Mehar Pathak, Year 11

Pymble has once again performed well in the Da Vinci Decathlon, held annually at Knox Grammar School. From 29 to 31 May, four teams of Pymble girls from Years 7 to 10 participated in the competition, achieving impressive results and enjoying a fun day of academic stimulation and friendly inter-school rivalry.

Pymble’s Year 7 team was particularly successful, placing third in the Science section, as well as winning the overall point score. The Year 8 team of Louise Qiu, Angela Xia, Phoebe Lee, Isabella Bignasca, Alina Alikhan, Helen Lin, Naomi Wang and Joanna Cao also performed well, gaining first place in the English section. Mrs Lauren Thompson, the Pymble Science teacher who accompanied the Years 7 and 8 teams to their competition on 29 May, said the teams “worked tirelessly all day and gained some excellent results”.

The Da Vinci Decathlon is an academic gala day, where teams of high school students from across Sydney compete in a series of challenges in the disciplines of Maths, English, Engineering, Mathematics, Code Breaking, Games of Strategy, Art and Poetry, Science, and Forensic Sleuthing. This wide range of disciplines reflect the diverse talents and interests of Leonardo da Vinci whilst the resourceful thinking, problem solving skills and creativity required to complete the challenges are the defining qualities of his genius.

Silver medal in Science Olympiad

Pymble Year 12 science student Hannah Mugford was awarded a silver medal in the International Biology Olympiad held in Singapore during the July holiday break.

She was just one of four students to represent Australia at the Olympiad and competed against 233 of the world’s best biology students. The Biology Olympiad required students to complete theory and practical tasks in the areas of cell and molecular biology; microbiology and biochemistry; plant diversity, anatomy and physiology; and animal anatomy and ecology.

Students studying science at Pymble are provided with a platform of opportunities and experiences to enrich their understanding in the subject. While the International Biology Olympiad took Hannah Mugford to Singapore, Pymble students are experiencing fantastic learning opportunities within the classroom. These dynamic initiatives help to build the students’ skills and knowledge and provide a catalyst for a student’s love of science.

Hannah’s recent triumph at the International Biology Olympiad comes on the heels of the success of Pymble students in the NSW Schools Titration Competition sponsored by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

Science students at Pymble have enjoyed opportunities to interact with a range of experts in person and by videoconferencing. The ‘Surfing Scientist’, Ruben Meerman, spoke with Year 10 students about global warming. Our marine science students continue to benefit from the long-standing relationship with Dr Shona Lorigan from ORRCA (Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia). These experts have helped students to appreciate their responsibility for protecting the environment and provide practical strategies to make a difference using their scientific skills.

Videoconferencing also enabled our students to ‘tour’ the Great Barrier Reef, communicate with an underwater diver in real time and investigate parts of the reef that are inaccessible to tourists. Junior School students have ‘travelled’ to the Panamanian rain forest and linked up with university professors from the United States. Students have also connected with researchers at a base station in Antarctica.

Science is a rich and rewarding field for young women. It is great to see Pymble students poised to contribute to great scientific discoveries of the 21st Century.
German cultural day enjoyed by all

Pymble hosted a day of German cultural activities, cuisine and language for more than 40 students and eight teachers from schools on Sydney’s North Shore on Wednesday 6 June. German language students from Pymble, Knox Grammar, Shore, Abbotsleigh, Queenwood, King’s, Waverley College and MLC enjoyed their German immersion day exchanging ideas, participating in a culture quiz, learning a popular German song, attending workshops and eating pretzels, German sausage and apple strudel. This is the fourth year that Pymble has hosted the German Day, an ideal opportunity for students to use their German language skills and network with students studying German from other schools.

Top economists share their experiences at Pymble

Leading economists, including Dr Saul Eslake and Mr Ross Gittins were the key presenters at an Economics Seminar hosted by Pymble Ladies’ College and attended by more than 400 students and staff from eleven schools across Sydney on Thursday 24 May.

“This was an amazing opportunity for the Years 11 and 12 economics students,” said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. “The students were privileged to hear and personally engage with such high profile economists.”

Mr Ross Gittins, Economics Editor at the Sydney Morning Herald addressed the students on fiscal policy and the recent budget and Dr Saul Eslake, Chief Economist, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Australia presented on Australia and the External Sector.

“I found the seminar very interesting and engaging,” said one Pymble student. “I learnt so much and understand the opportunities and challenges for economics globally and nationally.”

Students and staff who attended the seminar were from Pymble Ladies’ College, Abbotsleigh, Brigidine College, Cherrybrook Technology High School, Killara High, Knox Grammar, Loreto Kirribilli, Masada College, Tara Anglican School for Girls, The King’s School and Wenona School.

This seminar reaffirms Pymble’s position as a market leader in successfully developing, executing and attracting Australia’s industry leaders to further enhance the learning experiences of its students.

Classics Reading Competition

Elissa Zhang, Year 11

Classics students from Years 10 and 11 travelled to the University of Sydney to support and cheer classmates who achieved outstanding results in the finals of the reading competition at the NSW Classics Association Reading Competition in June.

Students also enjoyed visiting the Jack Nicholson Museum while on campus, appreciating the fine collection of ancient artefacts amassed from around the world. Students attended an informative lecture on the different readings of ancient literature presented by a university lecturer.

Congratulations to Ann Ding who achieved first place and Samantha Bear who achieved second place in the Year 11 Latin Reading Section and to the Year 10 Chorus Team who placed second in a highly competitive event.
International scholarship win

Year 12 Pymble students, Ellen Dobrijevic, Matilda Howard and Joy Jin, have been awarded a prestigious American Classical League Scholarship for university study in Latin or Greek at the university of their choice across the globe.

“This is a great honour for Pymble,” said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. “More than 130,000 students worldwide sit for the exams as set by the American Classical League and for three of our students to be awarded is outstanding.”

Ellen, Matilda and Joy are the only non-American winners of the 21 scholarships awarded, which provides $1,000 a year towards study in Latin or Greek.

The American Classical League was formed in 1919 to promote the study of classical languages. Membership of the League includes teachers of Latin, Greek and the Classics across school and tertiary levels of education.

“I have always loved Greek and Roman myths as stories from an ancient world and studying Latin has allowed me to begin to unlock the door into the past,” said Matilda. “My five years studying Latin at Pymble have fostered a great love of the Latin language and of classical literature. I hope to continue my study of Latin in a combined degree at the University of Sydney next year.”

Joy is planning to study Latin as part of an Arts / Law degree at the University of Sydney. Ellen has thoroughly enjoyed studying Latin at school and plans to continue with it next year. She is interested in doing science or medicine along with the study of classics either at a university in Australia or the United States.

Ellen, Matilda and Joy are the latest Pymble students to receive this prestigious scholarship following one scholarship in 2011 and three in 2008.

Fun activities in subject clubs

Aditi Aiyer, Year 11

Everyone enjoys making sherbet in Science or eating pie to celebrate the milestone of Pi day; all of these activities and many more have taken place at Pymble’s array of subject clubs. The clubs are run by student Subject Captains for the students. In Term 2, many events were initiated by the Subject Captains that students and teachers alike have enjoyed and participated in.

Pymble talent shines in all areas. The Visual Arts Captains have uncovered many hidden gems of artists within the Pymble community. The Science and Math Clubs have been working hard to present many successful events, including a Maths Trivia Quiz and the Science Club revelled in the Transit of Venus.

As every Subject Captains’ motto is “the fun never ends”, many more engaging activities are still in planning purely for the enjoyment and education of Pymble girls and will no doubt astound us all.

Ancient Egypt comes to life

Hayley Kowal and Catherine Chung, Year 7

Year 7 History students created a display of models and posters as the culmination of a project they studied on life in Ancient Egypt. The display, aptly named The Museum of Everyday Life, portrayed four areas of enquiry: education and learning; health and medicine; hair, makeup and family life; and work and occupation.

Students researched numerous sources to compile evidence for their museum exhibits. In creating the museum displays, students were required to write a reflection log that documented the understanding and information gained from each lesson and the research they had compiled.

The models and posters were displayed in the Conde Library in June.
**Pymble Masterchef: a tasty experience**

Monique Masling, Year 11

Year 11 students, Anna Jackman, Harriet Giles and Imogen Wirth claimed the title of Pymble Masterchef 2012 winning team in Term 2. “The competition felt like a real Masterchef challenge, especially wearing the chef’s hats and aprons,” said Anna, Harriet and Imogen.

**Conde Library activities inspire a love of reading**

Sarah Cutter-Russell, Year 11

With 2012 being the National Year of Reading, Pymble’s Secondary School Conde Library has been the centre for action packed reading activities and associated experiences. Students have been challenged by two quizzes organised by the Library to test their knowledge of popular culture favourites: the Hunger Games quiz to celebrate the release of the movie adaptation of Suzanne Collins’ acclaimed novel and the One Direction quiz much to the excitement of avid One Direction fans. The annual Library Lover’s Month was held during February, where both staff and girls were given ‘blind book dates’ to broaden their reading and consider books that they may otherwise have never read. The Library in conjunction with the English Department organised an excursion for some Years 7 and 11 students and teachers to attend the Sydney Writers’ Festival.

**House Day celebrations enjoyed by all**

Monique Masling, Year 11

Students came together to celebrate teamwork in their Spirit House and the end of Term 2 with a special day of fun activities. House Day first commenced in 2011 as an initiative by the Prefects to mark the end of term and encourage House spirit. Their legacy has carried on and in Term 2 of this year, a Disney ‘Sing-Off’ was conducted with Houses competing with one another, singing famous Disney tunes. The guest judge, Miss Amanda Stelcova, Preparatory School Music Teacher, said that even though they “were judging for musical quality and talent, an important factor was how well each of the students worked together in their Houses.”

House Day has, however, become more than just an enjoyable last day of term. Participating in House Day has fostered friendships with students across all year levels and impressed with the students the value of teamwork and collaboration. Ingleholme’s performance of Colours of the Wind exemplified the value of teamwork and collaboration, and impressed the judges to win the Term 2 House Day. House Day was also run on the last day of Term 1 with a range of sporting and academic activities which enabled students to play an active role in representing their House. Activities included debating, soccer, volleyball, aerobics and public speaking. The winner of Term 1 House Day was Marden. The Secondary School has eight spirit Houses: Bennett, Goodlet, Hammond, Ingleholme, Lang, Marden, Thomas and Wylie.
almost identical

Samantha Bear, Year 11

In a characteristic showcase of flair from Pymble’s extremely talented Year 11 drama students, Almost Identical, was a vividly comical display of individual ability and combined effort, both on stage and behind-the-scenes. All aspects of the production, staged in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts on 31 May, 1 and 2 June were undertaken by Year 11 Drama students.

Written by Year 11 student, Jessica Long, who co-directed the production alongside Keziah Morgan, the play was a sensational hit. Each character delivered a sophisticated performance and combined with the wonderful props, sets and costumes, it fittingly received much acclaim from all those who came to see it. Congratulations to all the girls and members of staff who contributed their time and effort in carrying out this fantastic production.
**Shakespeare festival**

_Stephanie Stuart, Year 10_

Drama students from Years 10 and 11 showcased their acting skills in the Shakespeare Festival held in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts on Friday 4 May.

Students performed pieces from Shakespeare’s works including _Macbeth, As You Like It, A Midsummer Night’s Dream_ and _Twelfth Night_. The festival was the result of the students’ study of Shakespeare and his dramatic works. Students were required to research the time, place and characterisation of his works and bring them to life in a modern context. It was an evening of dramatic and emotionally moving pieces with some humour to add to the delight of the performances.

Several groups were selected to represent _Pymble_ at the Regional Shakespeare Festival to perform against other representative groups from local schools.

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**Reflections of nature at Art Camp Exhibition**

_Elissa Zhang, Year 11_

Year 11 Visual Arts students set out for their annual art camp at Collaroy in May to enjoy an exciting three day workshop with talented Australian artist, Wendy Loeffler. Learning from a landscape based artist helped students with their own major works inspired by the surrounding Australian bush. The students’ passion and creativity for art was showcased at the Year 11 Visual Arts Camp Exhibition on display at the College from Wednesday 8 to Tuesday 14 June. An impressive range of techniques and mediums was demonstrated and students seamlessly integrated natural materials with both traditional and modern artistic techniques to create unique and beautiful representations of nature. In the words of Visual Arts Captain Olivia Cincotta-Lee: “Girls had their first taste working as individual artists. Each of their artworks reflected a personal response to the camp, and they should be very proud of their works.”

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**Pymble on parade**

_Pymble_’s Textiles students from Years 8 to 12 showcased their flair and creative talents at the College’s annual _Textiles on Parade_ fashion show and exhibition of the Year 12 Major Textiles projects held in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPC) on 28 and 29 July.

More than 200 students paraded their creative designs to packed houses in the GMCPC. The event was the result of the great team effort by staff in the TAS Department and delicious catering prepared by our Year 11 Hospitality students. Creativity, innovation and technical precision shone through in the garments on display and in the parade.

As a reflection of the standard of work in this year’s event, a record number of students were awarded prizes by The Whitehouse Institute of Design.
Year 12 Bodies of Work Exhibition
Sarah Cutter-Russell, Year 11

The 2012 Higher School Certificate Visual Arts students Bodies of Work exhibition was a brilliant display of unique ideas and exceptional talent.

Owen Craven, editor of Artist Profile and Art Almanac and Curator, officially opened the exhibition on Friday 20 July in the Main Hall at Pymble, which was open for viewing until Tuesday 24 July.

The artworks were truly inspiring and showcased the creativity and talent of this year’s Year 12 Visual Arts students. Visitors to the exhibition were impressed by the students’ creativity and the work they had put into their projects to achieve their final artworks.

Art mediums represented in the exhibition included painting, drawing, printmaking, video, animation, ceramics and digital media.

Theatre Sports Competition
Stephanie Stuart, Year 10

Lily-Rose Palmer, Victoria Lee, Annabel Hennessey and Stephanie Stuart (Year 10) and Lily Dobson, Rebecca Gulia and Jessica Long (Years 11 and 12) performed exceptionally well at the Intermediate and Senior Theatre Sports Competition held on Monday 14 and Thursday 17 May. Theatre Sports is similar to a sports contest but is a contest for Drama students who love being random and spontaneous. A test in improvisation, students from schools across the country compete against each other by taking part in four rounds of ‘games’ which involve quick thinking and creativity. More than 120 schools competed in the competition with the Pymble Senior team receiving one perfect score and narrowly missing out on the finals round.
In a highly touching and poignant gesture, the Pymble boarding community conducted the inaugural Boarders’ Commemoration Service to celebrate the lives of the five boarders who have had their time at Pymble cut short by accident or illness over the past two decades – Alanda Clark, Jane Gay, Prudence Papworth, Felicity Lamb and Natalie Feist.

Pymble’s Head Boarding Prefect, Philippa Kensit, and Deputy Head Boarding Prefect, Zoe Warden, delivered a moving welcome, followed by a Bible reading and prayer. All of the boarding students then joined together in song, performing Seasons of Love to celebrate the lives of the five girls. Words of gratitude were given by Annabelle Honner, one of the recipients of the Alanda Clark, Jane Gay and Prudence Papworth Boarding Scholarship, while all six current Scholarship recipients laid down white roses to symbolise the memory of all five girls.

The College was honoured to welcome the Papworth and Clark families to the service.

1930s trophy brings back school day memories

It was a case of déjà vu for ex-student Constance Carter when she was presented with a trophy she won in 1936 for hurdles at a function hosted by the College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, for members of the Pymble community in the Wagga Wagga region.

Connie was a boarder at Pymble during the 1930s and was delighted to see the trophy again. The function was also attended by ex-students from the 1940s, Bernice Powell and Jean Jenkins as well as more recent ex-students, current, past and prospective families of Pymble.

The ‘Pymble in Wagga Wagga’ function, held in conjunction with the NSW Boarding Schools Expo also held at Wagga Wagga in June, was a most enjoyable evening with many entertaining stories about boarding at Pymble through the decades being shared. The Director of Boarding, Mrs Deanne Elliott, Pymble Marketing staff and boarders attended the function and expo.

Pymble also hosted functions for members of the Pymble community living in the Dubbo region in May and in Narrabri in July. These functions were hosted in conjunction with the NSW Boarding Schools Expos held in these centres.

Boarding has a long and proud tradition at Pymble with more than 4,000 girls calling Pymble their home away from home since the College was founded in 1916. Twenty of the first 60 students who commenced at the College when it first opened in 1916 boarded in Marden and Lang Houses. Today there are 122 girls boarding in Marden, Goodlet and Lang Houses.

Pymble will be attending the 2013 NSW Boarding Schools Expos to be held in Dubbo on 17 and 18 May, Griffith on 14 and 15 June and Tamworth on 26 and 27 July.
Students help children in Cambodian orphanage

In the April school holiday break, 38 students from Years 10 and 11 travelled to Cambodia and Vietnam for an unforgettable two week experience.

A highlight for everyone was the two days at the Sunshine House Orphanage in Cambodia. The toys, books, clothing and money collected by the Pymble community before the trip were gratefully received at the orphanage.

It was an extremely moving experience to witness the children so happy with the little they had and to spend time getting to know them. The Pymble girls played games and drew pictures with the children and helped on the orphanages eco-farm.

The culture of Cambodia is very unique; the Angkor Wat temples were stunning and even more remarkable from the back of an elephant!

After Cambodia, we journeyed to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and then visited the ANZAC Memorial, the Long Tan Cross at Nui Dat. A memorial service was held and each girl laid roses in memory of those who fought.

Next we visited Hoi An and explored the Old Town, the bustling markets, cycled through the countryside and swam in the South China Sea.

This was followed by an exploration of Hanoi, the Capital and then an overnight train trip to Sapa where we experienced village life with the colourful hill tribes.

The people of Cambodia and Vietnam were very welcoming and friendly. The tour was an amazing opportunity to experience new cultures and to become educated about the history of these countries. Through the Orphanage we were able to give something of what we have to a country that has so little. I would definitely recommend the tour for future students.

Social justice explored at conference

‘Won Tok’ is a Melanesian phrase, meaning shared family, community, language, history and future. Fifteen Years 10 and 11 Pymble girls contributed to this shared global community by developing their understanding of social justice programs overseas as part of a conference sponsored by the Uniting Church of Australia, AusAid and the Federal Government. The conference, One World Won Tok was held at Ravenswood on 15 June and attended by several high schools.

Students were encouraged to explore the UN Millennium Development Goals before breaking into groups to define and propose initiatives that would alleviate poverty in developing countries. This was a stretch for teenage participants but expanded student’s thinking and existing knowledge of approaches to current overseas aid programs. All students attending were challenged to take responsibility for addressing global inequality by taking action and utilising their abilities to make a difference, no matter how small or large.

German Film Festival promotes love of German

German students from Years 7 to 10 travelled to the Chauvel Cinema in Paddington on 27 April to see the popular German film Der Ganz Grosse Traum (Lessons of a Dream) as part of the 2012 German Film Festival.

Viewing the film provided an ideal opportunity for the students to use their abilities to understand and interpret German while enjoying a film about social class and values in German society.
French culture for a day

Grace Chen and Annabelle Rosewarne, Year 9

Year 9 French students enjoyed a day at Alliance Française, an international organisation based in Sydney which promotes French language and culture, on Monday 4 June.

Commencing the outing with a pain au chocolat (chocolate croissant), students learned about Bastille Day and the history of France, sang songs in French and participated in a craft activity making a traditional French revolution hat and a small tricolor cockade (brooch). Throughout the day students spoke in French and enjoyed the opportunity to speak with the native French speaking staff at Alliance Française.

With new vocabulary fresh in their minds students returned to school and enjoyed the afternoon watching a movie in French.

Interesting experiences on Ancient History excursion

Christine Wang, Year 11

Year 11 Ancient History students gained valuable knowledge and understanding of historical records and archaeological sources when they attended an archaeological excursion at The Rocks on Friday 4 May.

Touring the State Library of New South Wales, students were shown areas of the library that would be relevant and helpful to their studies. They were shown whole floors of the library which are dedicated to manuscripts and oral history. The students also visited the Mitchell Library and observed the various methods used to access historical records.

History was recreated as students were asked to role play the numerous personalities in George Cribb’s life at the Big Dig Archaeological Site on Cumberland Street. George Cribb is a historical figure of interest, who lived and established a business at The Rocks. After the site was excavated, remnants of the past were clearly visible, such as a well which was rumoured to be the well in which George Cribb hid the paraphernalia that he illegally distilled alcohol. Handling genuine artefacts allowed the students to formulate their own image of the context which convicts may have lived in and what life in The Rocks would have been like.

The excursion was a beneficial experience. The students learned more, saw more and most importantly, reflected on and interpreted the written and archaeological sources.

Chinese dumplings a treat for all

Mclaine Parsons, Year 7

Years 7 and 8 Chinese Beginners and Chinese Heritage students visited the Chinese Garden of Friendship at Darling Harbour on 4 May to explore the gardens and learn about the history and culture of China. During their walk through the gardens which featured native Chinese plants, waterfalls and the Lake of Brightness, the students read information plaques regarding different aspects of Chinese culture, such as the 12 zodiac animals and saw artefacts from the Ming Dynasty.

After exploring the gardens the students enjoyed a delicious lunch feasting on dumplings, fried rice, green vegetables with oyster sauce and spring rolls at The 8, a Chinese restaurant in Haymarket, Sydney.
Fun, games and laughs at Year 12 night
Colin Murdoch, SSPG

Fun, games and lots of laughs were the ingredients for a very successful and joyous Fun ‘n’ Games Night for Year 12 girls and their fathers on Saturday 26 May. Dad jokes aside, more than 180 guests chowed down on yum cha and curry and battled for supremacy. Fuelled by the Pymble competitive spirit, the guests hit Google and gossip magazines, trawled through iTunes, watched copious movies and devoured the newspapers in their quest to win. By the end of the evening Facebook was littered with delightful photos of girls face-first in bowls of jelly and strawberries and whipped cream with their fathers equally in the swing of things devouring dry Weet-Bix and attempting to whistle Waltzing Matilda! The good, old fashioned fun was enjoyed by all.

High Tea a delight for Year 11 girls
Rachael Gribble, SSPG

On a sunny winter’s Sunday afternoon, the Senior School Parent Group hosted a High Tea for Year 11 students and the special ladies in the girls’ lives. One hundred girls and their mothers, grandmothers, aunts and special friends joined together in the beautiful settings of Pymble Golf Club on Sunday 17 June for a fun and relaxing High Tea and were treated with a delicious array of treats, coffee, tea and juice. We were fortunate to have the Deputy Head of Senior School, Mrs Andrea Pryor join us for the High Tea. After she welcomed everyone to the event, Mrs Pryor drew the collection of lucky door prizes which was followed with lots of chatter, fun and catching up. There was a special surprise for Mrs Pryor when one of the ‘special ladies’ was an ex-student who was in one of Mrs Pryor’s first history classes. Overall it was a wonderful afternoon and the beginning of a new tradition for Year 11 girls and their special ladies.

1950s father daughter dinner a swinging evening
Louise So, Amanda Holmes and Amalie Gunzehauser, JSPG

The Main Hall was transformed into a fabulous 1950s style Rock ‘n’ Roll Diner on Friday 15 June for Year 5 girls and their dads to dance the night away at Pinky’s Diner.

Both dads and daughters embraced the fun of the fifties theme and jitterbugged the night away, dressed in their favourite 1950s outfits of leather and denims for the dads and skirts and bobby socks for the girls. With a pink Chevrolet on show and Elvis on stage, 1950s style hamburgers were enjoyed by all.
A night at the circus
Stephanie Tan, PSPG
Clowns, ringmasters, animals and all kinds of circus acts filled the Main Hall on the evening of Friday 1 June for a very colourful Preparatory School Father Daughter Dinner. The evening provided non stop entertainment throughout the night, including visiting the photo booth, enjoying some face painting, dancing, a show, eating pizza and gelato. It was wonderful to see all the fathers and their daughters having so much fun together and getting so involved. A truly memorable and spectacular night! Special thanks to all who helped to make it run so seamlessly.

Fathers and daughters enjoy special breakfast
Rachael Gribble, SSPG
The Senior School Parent Group held its first ever Year 11 Father Daughter Breakfast on Friday 27 July. At the breakfast, more than 130 girls and their fathers and/or grandfathers joined with Senior School staff to enjoy the delicious breakfast treats served in the foyer of the Senior School Centre – Kate Mason Building. All guests thoroughly enjoyed the casual setting and atmosphere and the girls took the opportunity to show their dads around the Senior School Centre and spend time with them.
President’s Report

As 2012 unfolds, I am proud to report to you the magnificent success of the AlumNOW Art Exhibition held on 18, 19 and 20 May at the Lavender Bay Gallery in North Sydney. A dedicated Committee of ex-students worked tirelessly towards this over a 12 month period to bring together an impressive array of art, sculptures and jewellery by our talented alumni community. Renowned Australian artist and Pymble ex-student Kerrie Lester opened the exhibition which was attended by more than 200 keen enthusiasts, many of whom came back to visit the exhibition over the weekend admitting that they had been too busy chatting and catching up with Pymble friends to look at the exhibits. A special thank you to Gil Ross-Edwards for leading this from concept to delivery, and to Philippa Graham, Suzi Winch, Wendy Dreyfus and Linda Lamberton as well the many volunteers who helped make this event such a magnificent success. In my view this was the quintessential ex-student event showcasing the extraordinary creative talent of our ex-students, the pride in their work and support for their networks. Watch this space for the next AlumNOW event scheduled for 2014.

Our AGM is on 25 October and I urge you to attend this important meeting. I am also delighted to report that a number of our younger ex-students have qualified as ski instructors and returned to Pymble to coach current members of the Pymble Snow Sports Team. I am equally as excited to report that the Pymble Ex-Students’ Hockey Team (proudly sponsored by the ESU) is playing again this year and we have also just sponsored an ESU Netball Team. Go girls!

Call for Nominations

I call for nominations to join our Committee as we face the retirement of several of our key office holders this year. Volunteering on the Committee is not only a great experience for those seeking not-for-profit and board experience, it is also a very exciting time to be involved in the evolution of Pymble and its community. Participating provides the opportunity to make a difference, gain valuable insights into the College, its connections and its networks. If you have a daughter at the College, all the more reason to get involved. Please let me or the ESU Secretary at Pymble know if you would like to volunteer. You can call the ESU Secretary Katrina Corcoran at the College or email us at esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au.

Communicating in the 21st Century

The College has just launched itself into a number of social media platforms as a key part of its communications strategy. I invite all ex-students to embrace electronic communications as the way forward for communicating. If you choose to do so, it will enable you to keep up to date with current developments and will allow us to communicate with you more quickly, efficiently and sustainably. It also has another benefit – it can help keep you engaged with your friends and with your community.

On this point, I would like to share with you some research published by the National Council of Women in their July Newsletter. A copy of their Newsletter can be found on our Ex-Students’ site on the College website and I invite you to read it. The title of the article is Technology Reducing Isolation for Older Australians. Researchers at the University of Melbourne’s Institute for a Broadband-Enabled Society, in collaboration with not-for-profit aged care service provider, Benetas, built an iPad application that allowed participants to create and share photographs and messages with each other. The researchers found that these electronic communication technologies were effective in alleviating social isolation commonly experienced by this demographic.

Face-to-face engagement was recognised as remaining an essential part of maintaining and developing connections, but it was interesting to read that even in this demographic, embracing technology and communicating with others via this medium helped these aged care residents feel more engaged and less isolated. As you will read for yourselves, the study group were 80 and 90 year old residents of the aged care facility. It makes me think, if they could do it and benefit from it, so can our members.

Thank you for all your ongoing support and I look forward to hearing your views and seeing you at one or more of our upcoming events.

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

ESU AGM
Thursday 25 October 2012 at 6.30pm
Heritage Centre (under the Chapel)
Commemoration Day - a day of reflection, reminiscing and robust singing

Wendy Dreyfus (Sherman, 1976)

Over 120 guests gathered in brilliant sunshine for the annual Commemoration Day Service on Sunday 29 July.

Organised by the Ex-Students’ Union, the service celebrates the dedication of the College on 31 July 1919, as the property of the Presbyterian Church and New South Wales “for the higher education of girls and their moral and religious upbringing.”

Guest speaker Elizabeth Morell (1975 Ex-Student Scholar) reflected on the “twists and turns” of her journey since Pymble which eventually brought her back to her great passion, the arts.

Under the stewardship of Jillian Cranney (Stacy, 1972), the soaring voices of the Ex-Students’ Choir led the guests in song while Reverend Lorenzo Rodrigues Torres charmed everyone with anecdotes of his own personal journey that brought him to Pymble last year.

While guests bathed in the winter sunshine enjoying an extended morning tea, an excited group of ‘old girls’ wandered into their 50 year and 60 year reunion lunches sure to enjoy a time of reflection and reminiscing of their own.

Ex-Students perform in London 2012

Wendy Dreyfus (Sherman, 1976)

In a remarkable achievement, two ex-students waved the Pymble (and Australian) flag at the Games of the XXX olympiad in London.


What a great achievement for our Pymble ex-students to represent our country at the Olympics. Go Pymble!
Announcements

Engagements

• Stephanie McFadden (2000) to Rhys Shannon.
• Lucinda Cooper (2003) to Dylan Lattacher.

Marriages

• Nicole Davis (1999) married Brendan Power on Saturday 17 December 2011 in the Hall Catholic Church (ACT). The reception was held at Flint in the Vines in Murrumbateman NSW. Michelle Davis (2000), Jianjia Chan (1999) and Kay Wijaya (1999) were bridesmaids.

• Suzy Duff (1994) and Angus McPherson celebrated their wedding at Suzy’s family property Lake Cowal Wyalong, on 26 March 2011. Suzy was attended by ex-students, Edwina Beveridge (Walker, 1993), Sophie Hogg (Stephen, 1994), Libby Woods (Chambers, 1994) and Emily Swift (Ross, 1994). Suzy’s sisters Libby (1987) and Margie (1989) and their daughters (future students) added to the Pymble presence at the wedding. Suzy and Angus are living in Melbourne.


Births

• Rebecca Colvin (Clarkson, 1996) and husband Scott are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their third child Ella Lucy. Ella was born on 1 March 2012, a little sister to Oliver and Edward.
• Susan Hanstrum (Ingram, 1988) and husband Barry are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Amelia Susan on 9 September 2011, a little sister for Torn.
• Suzy McPherson (Duff, 1994) and husband Angus are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Annabelle Katie, born on 5 April 2012 in Melbourne.
• Katie Motteram (Struve, 1994) and husband Nick are thrilled to welcome Fleur Alexandra to their family, born 1 March 2012. A little sister for Celia and Angus.
• Sarah Nelson (Kirkwood, 2000) and husband Tony are delighted to announce the arrival of a beautiful second daughter Mika Pearl Nelson born 20 May 2012, a sister to Cleo.
• Nicole Power (Davis, 1999) and husband Brendan are elated to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Avalyn Michelle born on 4 June 2012.
• Fiona Walmsley (McGeachie, 1996) and husband Matthew welcomed son Benjamin on 30 April 2012. A much loved little brother for Grace.

Vale

• Constance Marjorie Davidson (Croxon, 1936) a resident of Auckland, New Zealand for the last 50 years, died on 26 July 2012.
• Helen Margaret Sanderson (Wheatley, 1942) passed away peacefully on 3 June 2012 after battling with deteriorating health for 18 months. This however did not interfere with her perpetual optimism and good humour, which characterised her whole life. Margaret was born in Forbes in 1924 and attended Pymble in the years just prior to World War II. She remembered fondly the companionship of her schoolmates and the outstanding leadership shown by Miss Knox. After school she returned to Mulgatherie to take up household and bookkeeping duties. She married George Sanderson on 17 May 1949 and together they raised four sons on Sherwood, their farm north of Ootha. Helen moved to Newcastle not long after George’s death in 2007. Margaret will always be remembered for her dedication to community issues and her social conscience. She was a life member of Oxley Branch Country Women’s Association and also spent many years in official roles with the Patient’s Welfare Association and Red Cross. The world is worse for her passing.

Bill Sanderson (son)
Ex-Students’ Union Inc.

Helen Creer Richards (1944)

• Pam Crichton (Heydon, 1967)

Upcoming Reunions - 2013

10 Year Reunion
Event: 10 Year Reunion
Year: 2002 Leavers
Date: Saturday 13 October 2012, The Victoria Rooms, Darlinghurst. $75 pp. Payment to Lucy.
Contact: Melanie Kench M: 0413 111 300 E: meli@bigpond.com
Lucy Haynes (Miltner) M: 0409 077 820 E: lucym@iysn.edu.au

15 Year Reunion
Event: 15 Year Reunion
Year: 1997 Leavers
Date: Sunday 11 November 2012, 1pm-5pm, upstairs at The Village, 1 Kellett Way, Potts Point
Contact: Juliette Saly E: Juliettesaly@cbca.com.au

20 Year Reunion
Event: 20 Year Reunion
Year: 1992 Leavers
Date: Saturday 20 October 2012, from 7pm at The Treehouse, North Sydney
Contact: Annabelle Ashwin (Maccdonald) M: 0403 044 504 E: annabelle.ash@bigpond.com
Annette Teague E: annettea@bigpond.com

25 Year Reunion
Event: 25 Year Reunion
Year: 1987 Leavers
Date: Saturday 27 October 2012, 7.30pm at Greengate Hotel, Killara
Contact: Katrina Corcoran (Hum) E: kcorr@bigpond.net.au
Melissa Oppenham (Steinbom) E: mel@bigpond.com
Kristen Faithan-Smith (Wood) E: faithan.smith@yahoo.com

30 Year Reunion
Event: 30 Year Reunion
Year: 1982 Leavers
Date: Saturday 13 October 2012, Greengate Hotel, Killara
Contact: Diana Brown (Mickle) M: 0418 225 986 E: diana.brown@bigpond.com
Alison Phin M: 0418 543 124 E: alison.phin@environment.nsw.gov.au
Sue Lucas (Cozens) E: sueccozzy@yahoo.com

40 Year Reunion
Event: 40 Year Reunion
Year: 1972 Leavers
Date: Sunday 16 September 2012, 11am at The Treehouse, 1 Kellett Way, Potts Point
Contact: Carol Sroczynski E: carol@bigpond.com
Tina Jackson M: 0419 277 752 E: tinajacksonoz@gmail.com

45 Year Reunion
Event: 45 Year Reunion
Year: 1967 Leavers
Date: Saturday 27 October 2012, 12.00pm at Greengate Hotel, Killara. $50 pp for lunch.
Contact: Sue Macdonald (Sevier) E: suemacdon@yahoo.com
Joc Chadwick (Parkhill) E: jchad54@hotmail.com

Upcoming Reunions - 2012

Event: Upcoming Reunions - 2012
Year: • (Betty) Ann Heydon OAM (1934) was a Prefect, member of the A grade netball team and played piano during her years at Pymble. In 1936 Betty joined the Bank of New South Wales, Sydney branch before working in the bank’s London office in 1947 and 1948. On her return to Sydney she worked in the bank’s Chief Accountant’s department before retiring in 1973. Betty was a foundation member (1953) of the Art Gallery Society of New South Wales and in 1981-82 she helped found the Gallery’s Task Force, to further help the gallery by the use of volunteers. Betty was made a Life Member of the Art Gallery Society in 2003 and in 2007 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of her services to the Art Gallery. In 1956 Betty qualified as a chiropodist and used this skill to help many older people. She served as secretary on the board of the Eryldene Trust for eight years from 1984 and was made a life member. Betty enjoyed playing golf and bridge, attending theatre and concerts, and travelling. A warm, vibrant person Betty kept in close touch with her friends and her family. On 27 March 2012 Betty died in Sydney, the city she enjoyed so much.

Helen Creer Richards (1944) died on 14 April 2012, after a long time in a nursing home. Helen was a kind, thoughtful, cheerful friend to many and a happy holiday companion to her school friends. As a loyal member of the Pymble Ex-Students’ Union, she served on its committee for eleven years (1968 to 1979) and was its Secretary for a year. Few ex-students’ functions were missed by Helen and she was always a willing contributor to the refreshments which were supplied by the committee at that time. As a regular golfer she became anxious to play ‘golf in the sky’ during her long and tedious time in bed.

Margaret Coleman (1946)

Joa Taubman (1934) died on 25 November 2011. Joan had six wonderful years boarding at Pymble from approximately 1928 to 1934. She won many prizes in a wide area of subjects, including scripture, writing, botany and art. She greatly enjoyed mathematics and held the role of Sports Captain.

After leaving school she travelled with her father (Henry George Taubman, the founder of Taubmans Paints) and stepmother to Europe with the plan to live with her mother in Ireland, who she had not seen for six years. However her mother died before she reached England. Joan travelled back to England to spend her 21st birthday there and returned to Sydney to learn to fly, obtaining her pilot’s licence on 27 May 1941. During the war Joan worked in flight control, where she met and married an American marine. The marriage produced a daughter, her only child and the marriage ended in divorce five years later. Joan had two more marriages; her second husband died after six years of marriage and in 1964 she married for the third time, which also ended in divorce. Joan had a most interesting life with many friends involved in the arts. She was able to count many well-known people as her friends. Joan is survived by her daughter Christine, her brother, Keith and his three sons.

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Students star in fabulous song and dance show

Sarah Cutter-Russell, Year 11

Students from Preparatory School to Year 12 thrilled audiences in a magnificent song and dance musical celebration of women in theatre, Nothing like a Dame, in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts on 10 and 11 May.

The production, directed by Pymble’s Director of Music Mrs Sabina Turner and Music Department staff member Mr Kurt Schweinberger, presented a compilation of items from well-known musicals and featured special guest artist Rachael Beck and four ex-students, Lauren McKenna (2006), Catriona Hamilton (2007), Kathy Xenos (2010) and Gabriella Viglione (2011) who had played leading roles in musicals during their time at Pymble. The Master of Ceremonies was special guest, Guy Noble.


The grand finale, which featured the entire cast, was of course Nothing like a Dame from South Pacific.