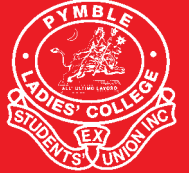




Pymbulletin

VOLUME 32, NO. 1 / APRIL 2008



*Leading
the Way*

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Pymbulletin is produced four times a year by the Community Relations Department, Pymble Ladies' College, Avon Road, Pymble, 2073.

The deadline for contributions for the next issue is **Friday 30 May 2008**. Please send your information to the Community Relations Department or email Miss Amanda Leverett at aleverett@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

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PRINCIPAL'S PEN

It is indeed a pleasure to present the first issue of *Pymbulletin* for 2008. In the short time I have been here, I have been impressed with all aspects of the College.

The Year 12 students, under the leadership of Head Prefect Rey-Hanna Vakili and Deputy Head Prefect Nicola Kynoch, epitomise College spirit. They have chosen 'Celebr8' (Celebrate in 2008) as their theme for the year. This does seem truly fitting. Their infectious enthusiasm and support for all aspects of College life is an inspiration to us all.

Passion and enthusiasm are also demonstrated by the professionalism, dedication and commitment of all members of College staff. They participate fully in the breadth and depth of extension and enrichment activities in both academic and co-curricular areas. Their willingness to 'be there' for the girls undoubtedly contributes to the positive ethos of the College and to outstanding academic achievement.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the outstanding results of our 2007 Year 12 cohort, including two students who achieved a UAI of 100, Constance Leung and Di Yu. Read more about these results on the following page.

Equally evident is the support and participation of the parents who are there at the various sporting activities, music evenings, Chapel services, social evenings, Family Group and support group events, and the many other activities throughout term one.

During the term, numerous focus evenings and surveys were conducted with students, staff, parents and ex-students to assist in the future planning of the College. I am most impressed with the data gathered and extremely thankful to all who participated for their contribution to this very important process.

The future is not a place to which we are going. It is a place we are creating. The paths to it are not found, they are made. In partnership, we can make them with solid foundations and smooth surfaces. It is indeed a very exciting journey we are embarking upon. I look forward to sharing our Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012 with you later this year.

Please enjoy reading about some of the aspects of College life in the following pages.

Vicki L Waters



A WARM PYMBLE WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Mrs Katie Carruthers, Mr Darren Elliott and Mrs Diane Lewis

SENIOR SCHOOL

Miss Katrina Cluff - Drama, Miss Amelia Elliott - Economics,
Mrs Katherine Kline - Mathematics,
Mr Kurt Schweinberger - Music, Mrs Sarah Roberts - TAS and
Mrs Pauline Jackson - Commerce

SUPPORT STAFF

Miss Jessica Barraclough - Administration Assistant,
Miss Lara de Jong - Administration Assistant,
Miss Lauren Harvey - Human Resources Recruitment,
Mr Michael Nguyen - IT Support Officer and
Miss Samantha King - Library Technician



HSC 2007 HONOURS

Pymble has a proud history of achieving great results when it comes to the Higher School Certificate (HSC) and 2007 was no exception. The class of 2007 achieved outstanding results and is to be commended for their diligence, determination and continued effort throughout the year.

As the College community celebrates our students' wonderful overall results, and we read the reports detailing excellent individual achievement, we must keep in mind that *Pymble* is not a selective school. We cater for girls of all abilities, and aim to see each student achieve her very best. To this end, we offer a broad, diverse curriculum, which allows girls to choose from a large number of subjects and a range of combinations. Teaching and learning at a high level promotes sustained learning experiences for every student in every subject taught at the College.

The **Honour Roll** acknowledges students who earn 90 or above in one or more subjects. In 2007, 169 individual students earned 581 places on this list of high achievers. Special mention goes to our English students, who gained 138 places on the list, ranking *Pymble* in the top 10 in the state.

In addition to these outstanding individual results, 38 of our students were named on the **Top All-rounders** list, for achieving marks of 90 or above in 10 or more units. We congratulate the following girls for their outstanding effort:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Smriti Arora | Julia Kingston | Michaela Salmon |
| Courtney Bhatia | Michelle Lam | Vui Leng Tan |
| Mridula Bhatia | Marina Lauer | Sophie Taylor |
| Angela Boustred | Constance Leung | Amritha Thiyagarajan |
| Lauren Chape | Emma Lindley | Sianne Toemoe |
| Jessica Dalton | Katherine McLaren | Caroline Traill |
| Siobhan Deves | Jane Milat | Natalia Trisna |
| Zara Fakhri | Annabelle Milosavljevic | Sophie Vohralik |
| Sarah-Jane Farlow | Picorelli Pal | Isabelle Whitehead |
| Georgina Harrowell | Jessica Phillips | Camellia Wong |
| Kathleen Heath | Annabel Probert | Renee Wong |
| Rose Iannuzzelli | Alexandra Radburn | Di Yu |
| Tamsin Janu | Sally Raymond | |



Di Yu and Constance Leung

In addition to this, we also earned 15 places on the Best in Subject list. Congratulations to all those girls who placed in the state, especially Victoria Grimshaw of Year 11, who accelerated in Business Studies, and in an outstanding achievement came second in the state!

This is an exciting and memorable stage of life for all of our 2007 graduates and we hope they can use the experiences and skills gained as a student of the College to achieve their future endeavours with confidence and maturity.



Elyse McMurrin, Constance Leung, Isabelle Whitehead and Annabelle Milosavljevic

TOP IN THE STATE

In 2007, *Pymble* girls topped the state in four subjects, and we warmly congratulate these girls for their outstanding achievement:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Constance Leung - | French Continuers |
| Elyse McMurrin - | Hospitality |
| Annabelle Milosavljevic - | Italian Beginners |
| Isabelle Whitehead - | Earth and Environmental Science |

TERM ONE 2008

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This year we welcomed a large group of new girls to the Preparatory School with 60 girls starting in Kindergarten, six in Year 1 and six in Year 2. The beginning of each school year is always busy and full of challenges as all girls return to a new class after the summer vacation. Following a number of new appointments in 2007, there were no changes to the staff this year and it was lovely having the same teachers return to resume their responsibilities.

On Tuesday 29 January the new girls and their families attended Orientation Day. Following a classroom visit, everyone gathered in the courtyard to be welcomed by Mrs Waters and to enjoy a morning tea provided by the Preparatory School Parents' Association (PSPA). Mrs Eileen Reeve, President of the PSPA, encouraged all parents to become involved in their daughter's school by attending the social functions and offering to assist as volunteers.

The first meeting of the PSPA for 2008 was held on Friday 8 February in the Preparatory School library. Mrs Waters and Head Prefect Rey-Hanna Vakili spoke at the meeting which was well attended, as were the morning teas during weeks three and four.

The PSPA Family Picnic on Sunday 30 March was a great success. The weather was perfect and it was lovely to see so many families enjoying themselves and making friends. Future social activities include class dinners, a father/daughter dinner, an evening function and treats for the girls.

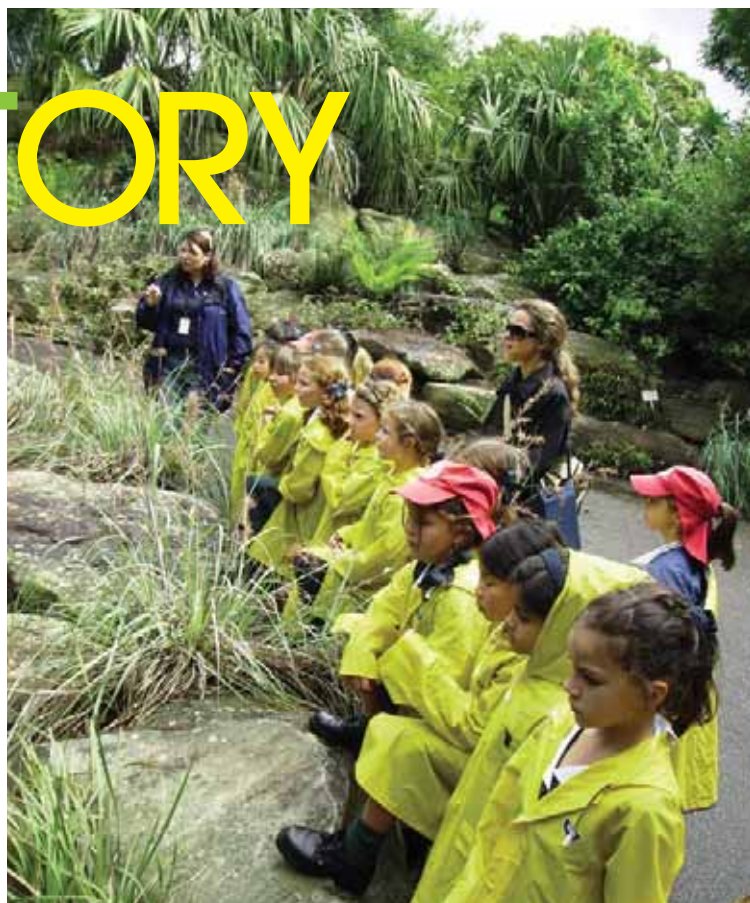
An information evening for parents was held on Wednesday 6 February when class teachers provided an outline of the curriculum. Leading up to Easter many parents visited the classrooms to view the term's work, and individual appointments at the end of term one provided parents with an opportunity to discuss their daughter's welfare and progress.

From an early age it is important that the children are encouraged to show concern and care for others. During term one the girls supported each other and the Children's Hospital and UnitingCare by raising money through special appeals. In assemblies, College Chaplain Reverend Humphries often speaks about kindness as he shares a story or song with the girls.

An Easter Service for the Preparatory School girls and their families was held on Thursday 20 March. The service reinforced the religious significance of Easter. Year 2 girls gave the readings and the Preparatory School Choir sang the Blessing.

This term all the girls participated in programs to develop their personal and social skills. The girls learn to value their individuality while understanding the need to work and play co-operatively as a member of a group. The girls in Year 2 have completed posters around the topic of making friends, and it is always most pleasing to see the girls showing concern for those around them.

During term one, some excellent work was produced by the Kindergarten girls who settled quickly into the school routine. The girls and their teachers visited boarding houses, the Chapel and Mrs Waters in her office, as part of their unit of work on 'Our School'. Foundation Day provided an ideal opportunity for the girls to learn a little of the history of the College as it turned 92. The girls and staff enjoyed hearing the former head of the Junior School, Miss



Year 2 at Botanic Gardens



Alexandra and Hannah in the rainforest

Rosalie Ramsay, speak of her experiences as a young teacher at *Pymble* and her descriptions of the buildings and facilities. During the term the girls made pleasing progress in literacy, with many able to read independently and express their ideas in writing. The 'hands on' experiences in Mathematics have also been a favourite with the girls.

Year 1 girls participated in a unit of work on marine environments. An excursion to the Sydney Aquarium at Darling Harbour provided a wonderful opportunity to view the creatures of Australia's rivers and seas. The need to care for the environment was emphasised with particular attention being drawn to the problems caused by people. The dangers to marine animals were also covered in George Evatt's excellent presentation 'Beneath Southern Seas'. Classroom activities included individual projects on sea creatures, information on the characteristics of various marine animals and very artistic creations of crabs, fish and starfish.



Annika and her patterns



*Above and below:
Kindergarten making lemonade*



Helena working with magnets



Ella and her patterns

As part of a unit of work on wet and dry environments, Year 2 girls travelled to the Botanic Gardens. Activities included a walk through the indoor rainforest, a search for insects, the classification of insects and a walk through the gardens to look at the survival techniques of succulents. At school the girls recorded differences between wet and dry environments and natural and built environments, and conducted research on a rainforest animal and a desert animal. They also produced travel posters for the Great Barrier Reef and Central Australia.



Above: Year 1 at Sydney Aquarium Below: Year 1 Under the Sea



Always friendly and helpful, the girls participated enthusiastically in all the learning experiences provided at *Pymble*. They are eager to accept all opportunities to discover and develop their skills and talents.



Bianca Martinolli and Alexandra Hunter making their gospel bead bracelets



Dilnoor Rangji, Kennedy Shine and Sami Ward with their gospel bead bracelets



JUNIOR SCH

EXPERIENCING EASTER FIRST HAND!

On 12 March, classes 5L and 5LH went to Gordon Uniting Church to be part of the Easter Experience.

To start with we went through a tunnel which took us back in time two thousand years. When we came out of the tunnel we arrived at a market in Jerusalem. People were absolutely everywhere. They put fish in front of our faces and beggars were begging for money. There were four stalls. They were selling fruit and vegetables, Mexican crosses, and also seeds. We rotated around activities that told us about God and Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

In the first activity we made cards out of seeds to give to someone at Easter. After that we made a Mexican cross. In Jerusalem at that time, lots of children made their own toys and decorations because it was too expensive to buy them.

After making the crosses and the cards, we were taken and shown 'first hand' the events that brought about Easter. First, we went into a room where we ate with Jesus and had the last meal before he died for us on the cross. After that we went on a tour and were shown into the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was praying. Jesus told the disciples to keep watch but instead they started sleeping and the guards came and took Jesus to court. We went into the court room and we saw that they decided to crucify Jesus. When we went to see the crosses there was a man there who told us about what happened. Then, two ladies went and took us to the tomb where he died. The stone was rolled over and we looked inside but no one was there. We saw Jesus and he was alive and we went to have a party to celebrate that he had risen from the dead and had forgiven our sins.

Going to the Easter Experience was really fun and gave us all a better understanding of what Easter really means.

Denise Klein, Year 5

Lucinda Crestani and Claudia Studdert making their seed cards

SUPPORTED BY OUR PEERS

This term, Years 3, 4 and 6 participated in Peer Support. We had names for each group like *Bubbly Buddies*, *Fuzzy Friends* and *Precious Pals*. Each week we met with our group and did fun activities and games. We even had a lovely breakfast for our last session. We learned a lot about friendship, co-operating, working in teams, following rules, being kind and including others. Peer Support is a great opportunity to have fun and make new friends. It also helps the Year 6 girls learn about leadership.

Sophie Brown and Louise Qiu, Year 4



Enjoying breakfast together

Lucy Smith-Stevens (Year 4) reading with Gillian Thornton (Year 6)



Chirping away!

HATCHING BEFORE OUR EYES!

Year 3 has been studying life cycles and on Monday 25 February, 12 eggs arrived in an incubator. The incubator was a very warm 40°C.

When the chicks hatched, we left them in the incubator for 24 hours. Once we put the chicks in the hatching box we named them. Each class received three chicks. One of our chicks didn't survive. Our two chicks' names were Tweetie and Mumble.

We were allowed to hold the chicks. In the hatching box the floor was covered in sawdust. There were two boxes to keep the food and water in. The chicks only stayed for two weeks but they were very fun to keep.

Anjali Wijeratne, Year 3

COOL



Rafting on Sydney Harbour

Amelia Elsmore, Catherine Baker and Brittany Dietrich snorkelling in the Harbour



feet. With the right goggles and mouth tube that would fit me, I was ready. But before we could get into the ocean we learned about fish that we needed to look out for and the very beautiful fish that we might see. By the time the talk had finished I could not wait any longer and just wanted to get in the water. But when I finally did, a rush of cold water was splashed at me. I had changed my mind! I got into the water and peered down. It was an amazing sight, fish swimming everywhere darting this way and that. Wow!

Well, then it was time to go. I finished packing and was ready to go home, but before I could even think about home I boarded a boat and was ready to enjoy a relaxing cruise. That was a beautiful ending for a wonderful beginning!

Alexandra Williamson, Year 6

PACKED AND READY FOR YEAR 6 CAMP!

I was ready, my heart was racing! Of course I was nervous, but for what reason? Ah, I had remembered, I was going away on camp!

I remember the teacher saying we were going to sleep in a tent at Cockatoo Island. I was not familiar with this place and yet I was going to be camping on the island. After that we were going to go to Chowder Bay and I was going to be sleeping in a bed!

"Are we there yet?" I kept asking our leader Annie. It was the only question I could manage. I could hear the impatience in her voice as she said for the hundredth time, "Almost!"

The boat was stopping. We did not stop at a tropical place as I had imagined, instead we stopped where there were wrecks everywhere. We got out and were set the task of building a tent. We then had to unpack, which was not my greatest desire. After we had finished, we had an interesting talk with an Aboriginal man called Steve. Steve painted our faces with ochre to pay respect to our elders.

That night I had to be faced with my worst fear... cooking! As you can imagine I am not the best cook, because while everyone else was enjoying their handiwork, pasta, I was eating hard pasta. I knew then it was time for a rest.

The next day we looked at old wrecks, and even went under tunnels. I had yet again risen early and packed all my stuff away. The next stop was to be Chowder Bay.

When we arrived we walked to the beach and awaiting us were big, inflatable boats. We jumped in groups and pushed the two boats into the water. I was at the front paddling as hard as I could. By the time we had finished I was exhausted. We had dinner and I think my stomach was as full as anything. I was going to sleep, I hoped!

"Rise and shine!" We were awoken early because we were going to start the day by going snorkelling. I pulled on a tight wet suit and got the right flippers that would match my



YOUNG LEADERS INSPIRED

On Monday 17 March the National Young Leaders' Conference was held in the Sydney Entertainment Centre and all the Junior School student leaders were there to hear a few famous people talk about leadership. Children's author Deborah Abela, kayakers Justin Jones and James Castrission, NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione and Channel Nine television presenter Catriona Rowntree spoke to us and each speech had an important point of advice on how to be a great leader.

Everyone spoke inspiringly and many questions asked by the audience were readily answered by the presenters. With such helpful advice, anyone from the audience that day might be there later in their life to talk to the future leaders of the next generation. The National Young Leaders' Conference was a positive experience for everyone and we all learned some valuable things from these leaders.

Julianne Kim and Amelia Williams, Year 6



Carissa Vici, Katie Pasfield and Madeleine Scott exploring a pool



Year 4 girls at the Aquarium

YEAR 4 EXCURSION

This term, Year 4 went on an exciting excursion to the IMAX theatre and the Sydney Aquarium as part of our HSIE/Science unit. At the IMAX theatre, we saw *Deep Sea 3D* and we had to wear 3D glasses.

After an exciting adventure underwater we went to the Aquarium where we saw lots of fish, marine mammals and coral. Later on we went to see the seals. It was most exciting when we saw the seals gliding in the cold water. The seals were fun to watch and we had a very good time. We also went to the touch pool and felt the sea creatures in there. There was a big splashy bucket that kept pouring fresh water into the touch pool and it always splashed us.

Then we saw the small enclosures with little fish and plants as well as jellyfish. The moon jellyfish reflected the light that shone on them and they looked so pretty. We went to the shark, sting ray and manta ray enclosure and they were really big. There was a sign that said that the glass made them look smaller, so we wondered how big they really were! We all had a wonderful time.

Reena Oh, Madeleine Scott and Joanna Cao, Year 4

PREFECTS' INDUCTION 2008

The *Pymble* Prefects for 2008 were inducted on 1 February 2008 in the Gymnasium when, for the first time in the history of this ceremony, the entire Senior School was able to attend the proceedings. The Prefects and Office Bearers were watched and supported by family, friends and the Senior School students, as they gratefully received badges and pledged to uphold the values of the College. Mrs Waters presented the badges and wished the Prefects well in their duties for the coming year. All the Prefects are looking forward to pursuing their new roles in the exciting and challenging year ahead.

Julianne Lipman, Year 11

OFFICE BEARERS - 2008

HEAD PREFECT:	Rey-Hanna Vakili
DEPUTY HEAD PREFECT:	Nicola Kynoch
SENIOR HOUSE PREFECT:	Hannah Brown
DEPUTY SENIOR HOUSE PREFECT:	Clara Wilson
SPORTS CAPTAIN:	Ellyse Perry
DEPUTY CAPTAIN OF SPORTS:	Georgia Clarke
CAPTAIN OF MUSIC & THE ARTS:	Catherine Spira
DEPUTY CAPTAIN OF MUSIC & THE ARTS:	Alice Wood

HOUSE OFFICE BEARERS

MARDEN

House Captain	Lisa Henderson
Deputy House Captain	Claire Nashar
Boarding Captain	Veronica Dowling

LANG

House Captain	Gillian Bennett
Deputy House Captain	Victoria Grimshaw
Boarding Captain	Anna Rikard-bell

GOODLET

House Captain	Anna Reed
Deputy House Captain	Vinuri Ariyasinghe
Boarding Captain	Jessica Downes

PREFECTS

Stephanie Barrett, Alannah Blockley, Samantha Boyd, Eliza Breusch, Lina Caccamo, Claudia Chapple, Stephanie Condon, Michelle Djokowinata, Rachel Falconer, Emily Falk, Hilary Gumley, Anna Hamilton, Christina Hodgkinson, Stephanie Khoo, Susannah Kindred, Stephanie Krautil, Aimee Lillyman, Stephanie Liu, Victoria Lui, Tula Mount, Elizabeth Napier, Elyse Newell, Hazel Ng, Kate O'Sullivan, Emily Read, Jenna Rich, Chloelia Sevil, Electra Silk, Bonnie So, Emma Soutar, Jacqueline Stevenson, Olivia Stewart, Samantha Walker, Laura Warden, Mirabella Wawn, Rachel White and Bernadette Yim



Mrs Waters, 2008 Head Prefect Rey-Hanna Vakili, 2007 Head Prefect Sally Raymond and Mrs Kate Mason



2008 Boarding Prefects



FOUNDATION DAY

On 8 February 2008 the entire College from Kindergarten to Year 12 gathered to wish *Pymble* a happy birthday at the annual Foundation Day. Despite the wet weather moving girls into the gym for the service, spirits were not dampened and the occasion was commemorated with delight.

The guest speaker this year was the beloved Miss Rosalie Ramsay, who spent more than thirty years as a teacher in the Junior School, including the Head of Junior School position. Her speech highlighted the changes at *Pymble* since she had first begun her post at the College, such as the establishment of new buildings like the Gillian Moore Centre for

Performing Arts, and the range of opportunities available for girls – from needlework to rowing!

The speech gave much food for thought for all girls listening and gave insight into how fortunate the College is to have such facilities and opportunities and, most importantly, the community of *Pymble* with its strengths and support.

Foundation Day has always proved to be a joyous occasion for *Pymble*. The College's significance as a community was recognised and appreciated once again.

Tara Waniganayaka, Year 11



Sarah Guy, Fiona D'Souza and Julie Townsend with a traditional dance class on Poruma Island

PYMBLE AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

VISIT TO THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS



Steve Foster (Associate Principal), Kate Whiteoak (Project Officer), Sarah Guy, Fiona D'Souza and Julie Townsend

The Executive Principal of Tagai State College, Don Anderson, visited *Pymble* in 2007 as a member of a panel of experts on Indigenous education. We accepted a return invitation to visit his College, travelling to the Torres Strait in early March. Tagai State College is unique in that it has 17 campuses spread over 48,000 square kilometres. There is one secondary campus and this is on Thursday Island. Torres Strait secondary students also attend boarding schools throughout Queensland and New South Wales. Tagai State College prides itself on delivering a high standard of teaching and learning in a context that reflects the aspirations of the Torres Strait region. This fusion of identity, culture, history and community is described in the College as *Yumi Education*.

The visit left us with the firm belief that developing a strong relationship between Pymble Ladies' College and Tagai State College would be mutually beneficial for staff and students. The Torres Strait schools are well resourced, with computer labs and Internet connections. We are planning to develop 'pen pal' relationships between our Junior School classes and some of the island schools so that the children learn about one another's schools and communities. The secondary campus is particularly well resourced in marine studies and Indigenous education, and we may be able to draw upon their expertise in this area in the future. There may also be opportunities to share resources, and organise student exchanges or even staff sabbaticals. In addition, the students from Tagai State College would be very strong candidates for our Indigenous Scholarship Program. Julie Townsend (Deputy Principal), Sarah Guy (Head of Junior School) and Fiona D'Souza (Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Studies) visited primary schools on each of the five Torres Strait Island clusters, as well as the secondary campus on Thursday Island.

The visit was a most enriching experience. The communities on each island welcomed us very generously, with the incredible hospitality that the islanders are famed for. The parents and wider community placed great value on their children's education and supported the schools in many ways – attending school functions, working in the canteen and becoming involved in various school-based programs.

We are very grateful to Don Anderson and his staff who dedicated much time and energy to arranging our tour, and who share our vision for developing a strong and lasting association. The strength and warmth of the island communities, the quality of the educational programs, and the different cultural backdrop will give us the scope to do this. If you would like to know more about our Indigenous education program and how you can be involved, please contact Dr Townsend or Miss Guy.

Dr Julie Townsend and Miss Sarah Guy



Murray Island



Students presenting us with shells at Murray Island Campus

QUEENSLAND TENNIS TOUR

During the recent summer holidays while most *Pymble* students were snoozing until noon, 39 girls and five tennis coaches from *Pymble*'s Tildesley Tennis Team set off for a fantastic week at Hope Island, Queensland. However, none imagined how different the training would be to the usual rally practice back at the College.

The *Pymble* squad trained at the Pat Cash International Tennis Academy, which is recognised as one of the best in Australia. The Academy has trained some very accomplished players and has some remarkable coaching staff. The Academy has 16 tennis courts, a fitness and stretching studio, a running track and pro shop.

The days were filled with an intensive professional tennis training and fitness program. Early wake-up calls at 6.00am were followed by buffet breakfasts that needed to last us through hours of tennis and fitness. Already by the second morning many stragglers were seen limping to breakfast with sore 'hammies' and 'glutes'. The pain of simply standing up or sitting down would be too much for some, resulting in only a few brave souls standing at breakfast serving food to the rest. After the hard fitness sessions the girls were looking forward to a nice cooling ice bath, an experience that sounds much more pleasant than it actually is! As to whether fitness or ice baths were the more feared activity, only 10 or so people were left by the week's end, braving the burn.

Thankfully, the hard training sessions were broken up by some exciting activities such as shopping, movies and a fantastic trip to Dreamworld. *"It was a great way to bond as a team. We set off with many faces and names to learn and by the end we were all a tight group,"* said 2008 Tennis Captain Jacqueline Stevenson.



Even though everyone came home a little sleep deprived, it was no doubt a huge success as their tennis game had improved extensively, their jeans were somewhat looser and they had huge smiles on their faces.

A huge thank you to Miss Bowen and the Tennis coaches who organised such a fantastic tennis experience for all involved. It was their amazing efforts that made the trip such a success.

Hana Dinh, Year 11



Claire Williamson, Year 9



Ice bath recovery sessions

TEXTILES AND DESIGN EXCURSION

On Thursday 14 February the Years 11 and 12 Textiles and Design students travelled to Vaucluse House for a very interesting day of tours, workshops and seminars.

The first section of the day consisted of the Year 12 students going to a feedback seminar, where they looked at the 2007 HSC students' works who were awarded the top marks in the state, including *Pymble* girl Sybilla Kenny's major work. This feedback seminar was very useful for the girls as they will be able to apply the skills and techniques that were discussed to their final Textiles projects later this year.

Year 11 girls were given a tour of Vaucluse House where they learned the history of the amazing estate and William Wentworth's family. The girls were also given detailed descriptions of major textile items in the house. After lunch, both year groups took part in a two-hour workshop on drawing and rendering, led by a



Year 12 Textiles workshop

Textiles and Design student from the University of Technology.

"The day was very beneficial and interesting and what we learned will help us a great deal for the year ahead in textiles," reported Louisa Creighton of Year 11.

Thank you to Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Hansby, who attended the excursion to Vaucluse House with the girls. It was a great day of learning, study and fashion.

Mia Popplewell, Year 11



Sybilla Kenny's HSC major work that was selected for TexStyles

YEAR 12 ECONOMICS EXCURSION

On 5 March 2008, Year 12 Economics students attended the Australian Industry Forum, *Growing Your Business in 2008*. During the forum, the Hon Michael Costa, MLC Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure, outlined the business opportunities and challenges for 2008. Other speakers included Dr Malcolm Edey (Assistant Governor of the RBA), Mr Mark Rodrigues (Senior Economist, ANZ Bank) and Keith Reams (Asia Pacific Service Line Leader, Lead Economist Pacific Rim, Global Transfer Pricing, Deloitte Touche Tomatsu). The forum concluded with a session chaired by Peter Ryan, Business Editor for ABC Television. The students remarked that they found the information accessible and that the discussions deepened their understanding of the economic factors influencing the outlook for 2008. It allowed students a greater insight into the practicalities of businesses as the driving factors behind economic growth and also gave them a deeper understanding of global influences on the domestic economy.

TASTE OF ITALY

On 4 January 2008, 22 *Pymble* students left the sunny beaches of Sydney and instead chose to rug up and spend their summer travelling through Italy on the Italian study tour. The girls, accompanied by Mrs Ceparaga, Mrs Knox and Mrs Wood, spent the next 22 days studying at Perugia's University for Foreigners (famed for its study courses for foreigners), travelling to some of Italy's most famous cities as well as its most beautiful towns and soaking up all the language, culture, food and fashion they could manage.

After a long and exhausting plane trip the girls arrived in Venice. There, the girls enjoyed the typical Venetian experience including Gondola rides, shopping and visits to the small islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello. The exquisite Murano glass is world-acclaimed and the girls were lucky enough to view a demonstration of its creation. After two days in Venice it was off to Perugia, but not without a quick visit to Bologna to see a few of the most beautiful churches.

On 6 January, the girls arrived in Perugia, where they would live and study for the following two weeks. *"The chance to study at the university allowed us to immerse ourselves in the Italian language, whilst gaining valuable language skills and vocabulary,"* said Claudia Chapple. The intensive Italian course was challenging because the girls had to speak Italian the entire time. However, to everyone's delight this vastly improved all the students' Italian skills. *"Our time at university was lots of fun,"* said Rachel Falconer. *"Getting to know a new independent lifestyle was challenging but also very rewarding."*

Although the time spent in Perugia had an educational focus, it was also full of enjoyable activities, tours and shopping. The girls visited the small towns of Spoleto, Siena, San Gimignano, Montecatini, Terme, Pisa, Lucca, Gubbio and Assisi. Bike riding around the walled town of Luca proved a highlight of the trip and the girls took advantage of every photo opportunity with landmarks like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The *Pymble* students made a strong impression on the community of Perugia and even landed a spot on the front page of the local newspaper.

After the highly educational and valuable two weeks spent studying in Perugia, the girls were ready to visit the last two destinations and test their newly improved Italian skills. After arriving in Florence on 20 January, the group dedicated the next four days to seeing as many sights, eating as much food and doing as much shopping as is humanly possible. Italy is famous for, among other things, its art. The girls viewed works of Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo at the Uffizi Gallery. Some of the girls also visited Michelangelo's Statue of David, wanting to see all that they could whilst in Florence.

On 23 January the group made its way to Rome, the heart of Italy and the highlight for many of the girls. They visited all the most famous tourist destinations and took joy in seeing the sights so steeped in Italian culture and history, such as the Colosseum and Roman Forum, which gave a fascinating insight to the life of Ancient Romans. The group also visited the Vatican and watched the sun set each day from the Spanish Steps. The three days spent in Rome were the perfect way to finish the Italian tour. The students threw coins into the Trevi Fountain and wished they would return one day.

The Italian trip was an experience of a lifetime for both the students and teachers. *"The girls made us so proud through their exemplary behaviour, passion for the Italian language and culture and consistent enthusiasm,"* reported Mrs Ceparaga, Italian teacher and tour organiser.

Throughout their time in Italy the girls experienced a new culture, met new people, saw incredibly beautiful things and above all improved their love for and proficiency in the Italian language. *"I definitely hope to come back to continue my Italian studies,"* remarked Stephanie Burgess.

"The tour was a memorable and eye-opening experience for all," said Tiffany Eastland. *"We all cannot wait to plan our next adventures in Italy."*

Katherine Dickson, Year 11



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Katherine Dickson, Year 11



Bike riding in Luca



Siobhan Deves overlooking Florence



SYDNEY THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2008

On Sunday 9 March the *Pymble* Chorale, Barker College Chamber Choir and Sydney Grammar School Choir joined forces to present an afternoon of diverse and glorious choral music in the GMCPA. Each choir presented its own program of works. The *Pymble* Chorale opened the concert with Kodaly's *The Angels and the Shepherds*, followed by a beautiful setting of Robert Burn's poem *The Banks of Doon* and concluding with a challenging and exciting work by Sydney composer Christopher Gordon called *Peace on Earth*. This involved many percussion instruments and soloists 'on high' as well as on stage. Barker College created a haunting and ethereal atmosphere in Iain Grandage's *Hush on the Death of a Bush Church* and Sydney Grammar's Grammarphones wowed the audience with very stylish performances of Billy Joel's *New York State of Mind*, followed by *Break My Stride*.

The second half of the concert brought the three choirs together under the baton of visiting conductor Mike Brewer OBE, conductor of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. Mike had worked with the three choirs during the previous week preparing a wide variety of wonderful choral music, including a commissioned work by Australian composer, Paul Jarman, titled *Pemulwuy*; glorious eight-part a capella works by Mendelssohn and Pearsall; and excerpts from Orff's *Carmina Burana*. The latter was an exciting and uplifting conclusion to what had been a fabulous concert and a tremendous experience for all 130 choristers involved.

Mike's week at *Pymble*, where he also worked with several of the other choirs and groups in the College, was made possible through the Ex-Students' Union 'Artist in Residence' program. We are extremely grateful to the Ex-Students' Union for providing this opportunity for our girls to work with such a widely-acclaimed and internationally-renowned conductor. Mike was an inspiration to our students, amazing them with his depth of knowledge and musical experience, and urging and encouraging them to even greater heights of performance than they believed possible.

Mrs Sabina Turner, Director of Music





Courtney Bain, Laura Benson and Amelia Cooper



Muyu Zhou's HSC major work

ArtExpress and OnStage

Every year, HSC markers take a small selection of high-scoring major works from both Visual Arts and Drama to be put on public display, showcasing the best and most diverse talents of the New South Wales HSC cohort. Once again *Pymble* was represented in both ArtExpress and OnStage as 2007 HSC students demonstrated their creative and artistic talents.



Julia Burnside's HSC major work

Special congratulations must go to the four *Pymble* girls whose major works were chosen to be part of ArtExpress exhibitions across New South Wales. Muyu Zhou's outstanding painting series, *The Changing Age*, *The Changing Mao*, was selected as one of only 62 pieces to be hung in the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the exhibition's principal venue. Her work will also be touring to the regional New South Wales galleries of Newcastle and Wagga Wagga. Senior Art students were encouraged to visit and review the exhibition, now in its 25th year, to gain an understanding of the broad range of approaches to the art-making component of the Visual Arts HSC course.

Julia Burnside, Kate McLaren and Julia Knibbs were the other three *Pymble* Visual Arts students whose works made the final selection that will tour regional galleries across New South Wales. Julia's impressive printmaking works, *We Were Riding on the Crest of a High and Beautiful Wave*, based on 'The Wave Speech' from the novel *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S Thompson, will be exhibited at the Dubbo Regional Gallery later in the year.

Kate McLaren's printmaking works, titled *Bare Reflections*, can currently be seen in the Sydney Olympic Park Armory. The mixed media sculptural and printmaking works of Julia Knibbs, *Keys*, *Zipper* and *Light Bulbs*, are also currently on display at the Hazelhurst Regional Arts Centre. *Pymble* girls were also successful in Drama, with Courtney Bain, Laura Benson and Amelia Cooper's group performance *Take Me Out* earning them a place performing at OnStage. The girls used the All American Girls Baseball League as a metaphor to explore the issue of women's freedom, asking the question: *will women ever be free from the constraints of the home?*

Years 11 and 12 Drama students were lucky enough to be able to watch a selection of the individual and group performances, including *Pymble's*, in a performance at the Seymour Theatre Centre on 6 February 2008. Not only were they able to support Courtney, Laura and Amelia, but they could also see and be inspired by the outstanding calibre of the state-wide selection, which aimed to demonstrate a variety of dramatic forms and styles.

Isobel Taylor, Year 11



Kate McLaren with her HSC major work



Julia Knibbs with her HSC major work

YEAR 7 CAMP

As the morning of 19 February 2008 dawned, Year 7 students left for the Great Aussie Bush Camp in Tea Gardens. The girls faced four days of intense fun and excitement with a range of activities, from canoeing to the flying fox.

Activities were based around 'stepping out of the comfort zone', group work, support and initiatives. Though fun, these also challenged the girls to consider how best to tackle different situations. One such activity included raft building. Girls were presented with the simple problem of creating a raft out of given materials and then racing it across the lake. Needless to say, the majority fell into the water in the process and some seemed to be having a little bit too much fun!

The Year 7 students also partook in abseiling, the famed and feared 'Leap of Faith', the treacherous Lost Mud World, rock climbing and the teamwork-based Survivor Challenge, where girls had to transport their group across a muddy swamp without touching the water. "The best activity was 'Lost Island' - the teamwork was really good because we got to know members of our group," reported Evangeline Moore. And if all this was not enough, they had to cook their own dinner afterwards!



Overall, Year 7 declared the Great Aussie Bush Camp an amazing experience. The skills learnt during the camp will no doubt be utilised in some form or another as the girls settle into the Senior School. "Year 7 Camp was the best camp I've ever been on because you get to step outside your comfort zone and get muddy!" said Evangeline. Many thanks to the dedicated staff who organised and led the camp, which proved to be delightful from start to finish.

Tara Waniganayaka, Year 11



WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

This year when the 'World's Greatest Shave' came around, Year 11 student Jillian Boustred decided to pick up the clippers, pluck up some courage and shave it all off in aid of raising funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. The World's Greatest Shave is a national fundraiser held each year and thousands of people volunteer to colour, cut or shave their hair to raise money and awareness for those with leukaemia, lymphoma or melanoma. Jilly's inspiration came earlier this year when her 23-year-old cousin was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease.

The weeks prior to the shave were spent working hard to raise as much money and awareness as possible. The fundraising was taken a step further by having a 'Shearing Barbecue' for the shave. A silent auction determined who would have the privilege of 'doing the deed'! By the end of the night Jilly and her father, who also participated in the Shave, raised \$10,000 combined to contribute to the \$6,155,015 which the event raised nationally.

"It's a small price to pay for the good things that will come from all the money that we raised," said Jilly when asked about her new hair style. "It was definitely worth it. It feels really good to help such a worthy cause." Many thanks must go to everyone who supported Jilly for this event, especially the Principal Mrs Waters.

Katherine Dickson, Year 11



MISS WORLD AUSTRALIA VISITS PYMBLE

On Monday 31 March, Years 10 to 12 had a special presentation by the current Miss World Australia Caroline Pemberton. Caroline, a Pymble graduate from 2004, told the captivated student audience about the journey she undertook in becoming Miss World Australia, her experiences at the Miss World pageant in China last year and the humanitarian work that is her driving passion behind it all. She also took some time to dispel some 'beauty pageant' myths about the Miss World competition, explaining the competition's motto of 'Beauty with a purpose'.

Caroline is currently studying psychology at the University of NSW but has taken the year off to concentrate on her role, her charity work and her humanitarian goals. It was her keen interest in world humanitarian issues that led her to enter the Miss World competition last year.

Caroline's passion for humanitarian work also led to her appointment as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, the Red Cross and Life Education. She is a fully trained volunteer at Westmead Children's Hospital and to date has worked with more than two dozen Australian charities. Caroline is also passionate about humanitarian work outside Australia and has recently undertaken trips to Uganda and East Timor.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Enthusiasm, talent and fun is without a doubt the best way to describe the annual Senior School Swimming Carnival held on Wednesday 27 February.

The Year 12s once again lived up to the high standard of previous years and made the day exceptionally colourful and entertaining. All the Houses presented a great deal of House spirit and talent on the day, but in the end Goodlet came through to win the House Carnival Cup and the Boarders won the race against the day girls.

Congratulations to the girls who competed on the day and in particular the girls who won their age championships: Junior Champion - Leanne Wright; Intermediate Champion - Victoria MacRae; and Senior Champion - Rosemary Zemancheff, the 2008 Swimming Captain. Also special congratulations to Mia Lesznksy who set a new College record for the 50 metres breaststroke. All of these girls put in many hours in and out of the pool in preparation for the carnival, so it was great to see those results on the day.

A special thank you to all the officials and staff, particularly Miss Brennan, whose work as swimming co-ordinator made the day run as well as it did.

Mia Popplewell, Year 11

DIVING CARNIVAL

The sound of splashing followed by enthusiastic cheering could be found erupting from the *Pymble* Pool on Tuesday 26 February, as divers battled it out to achieve the top positions in *Pymble's* annual Senior School Diving Carnival. The participants, competing in the Junior, Intermediate or Senior divisions, demonstrated an extensive array of talent to the spectators who looked on in awe. These divers had been training for weeks in preparation for the event, and it was great to see all of their hard work shine through as each girl performed difficult individual and synchronised dives. All of the girls must be congratulated on their stunning results; and our thanks must be extended to the coaches and PE staff who facilitated the wonderful event.

Julianne Lipman, Year 11



PYMBLE BOARDING

BOARDERS' CLOSED WEEKEND

16 -17 FEBRUARY

To anyone else, a 'closed weekend' might sound like a dull two days of staying in school. But talk to any one of *Pymble's* 123 boarders, and you'll come to realise that the Boarders' Closed Weekend is anything but. In actual fact it is a fun-filled, jam-packed weekend of swimming, surfing and most importantly, having an amazing time with friends so close they feel like sisters.



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On 16 February, the peace and calm of a lazy Saturday afternoon was instantly shattered by the invasion of more than 100 girls in multi-coloured zinc and costumes, screaming for their House. You could be forgiven (like the IGSSA divers) for quickly sprinting in the opposite direction. After all, it was the Boarders' Swimming Carnival.

The sun shone as boarders of every age leapt into the pool for a range of events, including 25 metres freestyle, breaststroke, doggy paddle and wheelbarrow races. Everyone cheered on everyone else, and no-one was left out of the action, with non-swimmers standing in as House mascots on the high tower.

The cheering competition was, as always, an event of intense secrecy, with each House staying silent about its plans until the last second. Marden burst forth with a medley of perfectly memorised war cries; Lang used *High School Musical* for its inspiration; and Goodlet flawlessly adapted *Sexy Back*, to eventually take out the Cheering Cup!

This year's carnival was also the site of a new competition – Synchronised Swimming. While the Jersey race was taking place (new event in 2007), a group of swimmers from each House went to the shallow end to create their routines. Everyone was surprised and awed by the performances of each team as they turned, somersaulted and twisted, all in (almost) perfect time. Lang succeeded in taking out the prize.

Everyone then turned their attention to the House Relay. A culmination of all the pent-up rivalry between the Houses, the House Relay is usually the most tightly contested race, but this year Goodlet took the lead right from the start, and while both Lang and Marden made impressive catch up efforts, Goodlet maintained its lead and took out the race!

At the end of the day Lang was awarded the winner of the top Overall Point Score Trophy, with Natalie Yu (Lang) awarded Best Dressed and Annabelle Osborne (Goodlet) Best Competitor.

Many thanks are owed to Hannah Brown and Clara Wilson (Senior House Prefects) and all the Boarding Prefects for their amazing efforts and unfading enthusiasm throughout the day, without which the day would not have been the incredible success that it was.

Pymble Ladies' College will be at the upcoming NSW Boarding Expos and Agquip.

We would be delighted if local families of the *Pymble* community visited our stand to meet staff and join us for some refreshments.

For more information, please email Kim Williams at kmwilliams@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

BOARDING EXPOS

Orange: 16 and 17 May, Orange Function Centre

Canberra: 13 and 14 June, Rydges Lakeside

Singleton: 1 and 2 August, Singleton Civic Centre

DUBAI

Pymble in Dubai: 29 May, Al Murooj Rotana

AGQUIP

19, 20 and 21 August, Liverpool Plains,
6 km west of Gunnedah



Andrea Viviers



MANLY

Bright and early on Sunday 17 February (after being awoken by a fire drill), all the boarders set out in their singlets and shorts, set to invade another unsuspecting area – Manly. Split into groups and given matching red rash vests, the girls all got to know a different group of people better as they participated in a range of activities, including paddling, swimming, wading and rescuing. It was a bright and sunny day, and everyone was free to walk and shop around Manly when

the activities were through. All the girls returned home exhausted, a little sunburnt but highly satisfied, collapsing into bed with happy memories from their day at the beach. Many thanks to the Manly Surf School and the Boarding Heads of House, without whom the day, and indeed the entire weekend, would not have been so fabulous.

Claudia Stocks, Year 11



This year's gap girls ready for the New Girls' Concert



Alison Jones and Melissa Cripps



The rubik's cube being solved in the Year 7 skit

NEW GIRLS' CONCERT

'Do you remember when you were new?' – the immortal words of the New Girls' Song, sung by all new *Pymble* Boarders, was heard again on Saturday evening after the Swimming Carnival. A huge range of acts were seen, including 'A Game', a skit from the Year 7 Boarders; a fabulous collection of dances and songs; and the speedy solving of a Rubik's Cube. The night was all about making the new girls feel a part of the boarding community, through having lots of fun and being ever-so-slightly embarrassed. Dr Townsend joined in the fun with a boarding family dance; a sight met with much cheering and greatly enjoyed by all the girls.



A SAD FAREWELL

We continue to honour Natalie Anne Feist, one of our beloved boarding students who passed away earlier this year on 2 January 2008 from dengue fever. A memorial service was held at the College on 29 January 2008, later followed by a tree-planting ceremony on Lang Lawn. All the boarders gathered to farewell their friend and support close friends and family who planted a 'Little Gem' magnolia tree to remember her by. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Natalie's family and friends.

Reverend Jonathan Humphries

FAMILY GROUP



FAMILY GROUP ICEBREAKER

The air may have been cold but the atmosphere was warm and friendly at Icebreaker 2008.

The unseasonably cold and wet weather held off enough for us to hold the event outdoors, with much mingling amongst old and new friends.

The evening began with parents being serenaded by the Senior School Band, which provided a wonderful backdrop to the convivial atmosphere. Delicious nibbles were served by the Year 12 Prefects with great enthusiasm.

Paul Goyen, President of the Family Group, welcomed the 700 parents and staff to the event. Mrs Waters, Principal of the College, followed up by thanking the Family Group for such a fun and informal evening for her first Icebreaker at *Pymble*.



SSPA NEW MOTHERS' LUNCHEON

Feasting, fun and friendship were on the menu at the 'Aloha Feast' to welcome all new Senior School mothers to the haven that is *Pymble*.

More than 100 mothers embraced the spirit and warmth of 'aloha' in a variety of loud Hawaiian shirts, colourful floral frocks and the traditional floral leis as they were welcomed by Mrs Waters and the SSPA. As a summer breeze swept along the colonnade, laughter and chatter accompanied a delicious feast served in the Boarders' dining room.

Ms Euler, Head of Middle School (centre), enjoying the New Mothers' Lunch

MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP



JAZZ @ PYMBLE

On 18 March the Music Support Group presented a jazz concert featuring John Morrison and Jacki Cooper and their band *The New Generation*. They were supported by the school Jazz Band, directed by Mr Kurt Schweinberger, and the Stage Band, which was led by the Head of Bands, Mr Marcus Stafford.

John and Jacki are well known in the world of jazz music. They are both extraordinary performers and have played with the world's best of modern jazz. They are also among the greats of musical education, and our girls were privileged to take part in a Master class with John and Jacki on the preceding Saturday. Their enthusiasm, passion and knowledge lifted the girls and set the scene for some terrific performances at the concert.

The night kicked off with the Jazz Band performing *The Birth of the Blues* and *Shake a Tail Feather* featuring Gabriella Viglione, who sang with a new-found confidence thanks to Jacki's tuition.

The Stage Band followed with *It's About Time* and *Mac the Knife*, featuring the wonderful voice of Georgina Prior. Jacki then sang *Moondance* with the Stage Band before the first half finished with John playing drums with the girls for a rousing version of *Sing, Sing, Sing*.

The concert continued with *The New Generation* featuring John on drums, Jacki singing, Karl Dunncliff on double bass, Bernard Winetroube on vibraphone and Tim Fisher playing the new Steinway piano. Their love of music and performing was obvious to all in the audience. The band played classic and modern numbers and finished with a rousing version of *Route 66*. The band invited five girls onto the stage to 'jam' with them in the finale.

As usual, the music staff led by Mrs Turner provided great support for the girls and the Music Support Group, and helped make the night an educational and musical success.



BPA WELCOME DRINKS

After the challenging traffic delays on the F3 for some and the hot and humid weather for all, the Boarder Parents' Association Welcome Drinks on Tuesday 29 January provided an opportunity for parents to relax and socialise with old friends, and to welcome new boarding families to *Pymble*.

As always, it was a pleasure to enjoy the company of many of the College staff and members of the College Council. All the girls and the parents are very excited with the major refurbishment that is currently underway in the Boarding Houses. Thank you to all who helped make it another great BPA event.

Principal Mrs Vicki Waters and husband Garry with Mark and Kerry Swain



Black Watch Ties

From THE PRESIDENT

It was wonderful to welcome back the girls from 2005 and 2006 to their first reunion, which was hosted by the Ex-Students' Union. We were delighted and a little envious to note how many are overseas studying, on exchange or simply travelling before resuming their studies in Australia. We encourage all our ex-students to take advantage of our pages within the *Pymbulletin* to let us know of their news and to keep all their fellow ex-students informed and aware of the diversity of the experiences of *Pymble* women.

Black Watch 2008 certainly highlighted the diverse talents of our ex-students. Members of the Pymble Women in Health Sciences panel impressed ex-students, staff and current students with their stories and messages. We really appreciate them volunteering their time.

Our Artist in Residence for 2008 was choral conductor and composer Mike Brewer. During his visit I was invited to attend the rehearsal sessions and workshops for our choral groups. This only served to reassure the committee of the importance and significance of this unique program. So many *Pymble* girls benefited from Mike's time at the College. For those who were lucky enough to attend the Three Choirs Performance (*Pymble*, Barker and Sydney Grammar) I'm sure you are looking forward to another spectacular planned for 2010.

Upcoming events include Commemoration Day on 27 July and a golf and a tennis day are also being planned.

All' Ultimo Lavoro

Diana Brown (Mickle, 1982)

ESU@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au



Mrs Vicki Waters and Diana Brown (Mickle, 1982) with Mike Brewer

In Appreciation

The Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union gratefully acknowledges the generous and kind donation from the Class of 1957 towards the Ex-Students' Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship provides half of the tuition fees for Years 11 and 12 to the daughter or granddaughter of an ex-student.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

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

Black Watch Abroad

The Black Watch ties travel far and wide. If you are living or visiting overseas, why not make contact?

USA – New York

Janie Rogers (Knowland, 1975), janie11@bigpond.net.au

Susan Talbot (Thompson, 1953), susantalbot@usa.net

Susan is organising an Australian Short Film festival in New York on 4 June 2008 – see details at right. All *Pymble* girls are most welcome.

Middle East – Dubai

Judy Dreverman (Lamble, 1976), drevo29@hotmail.com

Pymble Ladies' College is hosting an event in Dubai at the Al Murooj Rotana on Thursday 29 May at 7.00pm.

The Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, and the Marketing and Media Relations Co-ordinator, Kim Williams, will be attending. We'd be delighted to welcome any of our *Pymble* community living in Dubai. For further information, please email Kim Williams at kmwilliams@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

UK

Katrina Collier (Richardson, 1988), katrina.collier@googlemail.com

Fiona Schreuder (Hayman, 1986), fionaschreuder@hotmail.com

Fiona Small (Kelly, 1987), fionasmall@starlightinteriordesign.com

Regional NSW

We have so many *Pymble* girls living and studying throughout rural NSW. If you would be interested in arranging an informal gathering during the year, please contact us on ESU@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

Coming Events

New York

Susan Talbot is the curator of *Short Film Today: Award-Winning Short Films From Australia*, an annual event in New York City since 1992. This year's event will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 June 2008 at the Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue at 70th Street, New York City. Contact Susan in New York on (212) 472-9043 or susantalbot@usa.net

Commemoration Day Service

A Commemoration Day Service will be held in the College Chapel on Sunday 27 July 2008 at 10.30am. All ex-students and other members of the College community are most welcome.

Golf and Tennis Days

Full details will be in your next *Pymbulletin*.

Australian Chamber Orchestra Concert

The College is privileged to present the Australian Chamber Orchestra in concert in the GMCPA on 21 May at 7:30pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to experience this world-renowned orchestra. The evening will also feature selected College orchestras and soloists. For further details please see the flyer on the *Pymble* website at

www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au



Ex-Students' Union Inc.

Black Watch *Pymble* Women The environment or performing arts

Following our fourth *Pymble* Women Forum, which focused on Health Sciences, we are now busy planning for our next function. These forums are a very special opportunity for current College students and ex-students in tertiary study to hear from *Pymble* women from all professions about opportunities in the workforce. Past forums have featured Women in the Media, Women with an International Focus, our Woman in Antarctica, and most recently, Health Sciences.

We would be delighted to hear from any past *Pymble* students who may be involved at any level in environmental issues or the performing arts. Whether you are a recent graduate or have 20 years' experience; whether you work at the coalface or at a policy level; whether you are a performer or an administrator; we would love to have you volunteer to share your experiences with the College community. Please contact us at esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

Recent Reunions

Class of 1997

The 10 Year Reunion was held at Stephany Parrott's Poolside Cafe at the Andrew Boy Charlton Pool in the Botanic Gardens. Eve Clark (nee Gillett) organised the reunion but due to work commitments was in London on the night. It was a fantastic night with more than 100 girls having a great catch up with old friends.

Juliette Saly



Stephany Parrott, Juliette Saly and Sarah Cooke at the 10 year reunion

Class of 1967

On Saturday 10 November 2007, 72 'girls' gathered at the College for our 40 Year Reunion. It was a great day - in fact a great weekend - as so many combined the lunch with other dinners and brunches. Almost half the girls came from afar - from California, Hong Kong, interstate and all over country NSW. It was a huge effort from them all and well worth it to be able to renew so many friendships.

Many thanks to the Year 11 girls who took time away from their studies to take about 40 of us on tours of the College and to Anne Cooke, the College Archivist, for her great photo displays. It was a reunion of friendship and happiness, and we look forward to gathering again in five years, as 10 years seemed just too far away to continue our conversations!

Sue Macdonald (Sevier) and Joc Chadwick (Parkhill)

Class of 1957

On 27 October 2007, more than 80 excited ex-students convened on the Marden Lawn for the start of a happy and emotional few hours in celebration of our 50 years of leaving school. We had girls attending from overseas and interstate, from the country and the city; some had not seen the College for 50 years. Thank you to the Year 11 girls who guided us around and who were so well-informed. It was a festive occasion with lots of chatter and laughter. Thanks to the organising committee on a job well done.

Nicky Thorpe (LeFevre)



Upcoming Reunions 2008

Below is a list of the initial details for this year's reunions. Everyone should receive their invitations in the mail. If you wish to organise a reunion that is for a year not currently listed below, please contact Miss Amanda Leverett on 9855 7793 or email esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au. In particular we are looking for organisers for the 5 and 10 Year Reunions.

Event	Year	Date	Contact
20 Year Reunion	1988 Leavers	TBC	Vanessa Kyrikos (Black) M: 0419 412 811 E: voom@voom.net.au
30 Year Reunion	1978 Leavers	Saturday 25 October Location: TBC	Merry Hughes M: 0411 436 155 E: merry.hughes@au.mcd.com
35 Year Reunion	1973 Leavers	Saturday 9 August David Macfarlane Centre, <i>Pymble</i>	Sally Gulson (Sherman) Ph: 9489 5575 E: fgulson@bigpond.net.au
40 Year Reunion	1968 Leavers	Saturday 1 November, 11:00am David Macfarlane Centre, <i>Pymble</i>	Sue King (Bristow) Ph: 07 4630 3581 E: suses@westnet.com.au
45 Year Reunion	1963 Leavers	Saturday 6 September David Macfarlane Centre, <i>Pymble</i>	Robyn Dampney (Dunnet) Ph: 4958 1471 E: rdampney@bigpond.com
50 Year Reunion	1958 Leavers	Saturday 11 October, 11:00am David Macfarlane Centre, <i>Pymble</i>	Sue White (Vicars) Ph: 9144 6844
55 Year Reunion	1953 Leavers	Sunday 27 July David Macfarlane Centre, <i>Pymble</i>	Meg Henderson Ph: 9899 7090
60 Year Reunion	1948 Leavers	Sunday 27 July, 12:30pm 86 Telegraph Road, <i>Pymble</i>	Ruth Alcock Ph: 9449 5263
61 Year Reunion	1947 Leavers	Saturday 2 August, 11:30am David Macfarlane Centre, <i>Pymble</i>	Beverly Morris (Harris) Ph: 9489 3757 Barbara Knox (Blackwell) 14 Robert Street, Gordon 2072 Ph: 9498 2528

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGAGEMENTS:

- **Amy Kelo (1997)** to Jason Currey
- **Mel Macpherson (1999)** to Bradley Cox
- **Courtney Tims (1993)** to Nicholas Ludlam

MARRIAGES:

- **Katherine Eve Appleby (1989)** was married in England on Sunday 16 September 2007 at Braxted Park Estate in Witham, Essex, to Mark Lawrence Stevens from Billericay in Essex. Her bridesmaid was Sarah Noble (Appleby, 1990).
- **Lauren Blockley (2003)** married Christopher Thompson on 17 November 2007 at the Pymble Ladies' College Chapel.



Jemma Cranney (2003), Gemma Blockley (2005), Sarah Williams (2003), Lauren Blockley (2003), Chris Thompson, Steve Tong, Jamie Alexander and Matthew Paterson

- **Fiona Cameron-Smith (1996)** married Matthew Hartcher at Hunters Hill on 13 April 2007 and had a reception at the Gunners' Barracks in Mosman. Her bridesmaids were Celia Cameron-Smith (2000) and Katherine Eccles (1996).
- **Anneka Deaton (1995)** married Andrew Fickling in November 2007 at Longview Vineyard in the Adelaide Hills. Anneka gained her Science Degree attending ADFA and is now a Captain in the Air Force flying AP-3C Orion aircraft with No 10SQN from RAAF Base Edinburgh. She has lived in Adelaide since 2001, and recently returned from her third tour of the Middle East where the Orion is employed in intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance missions overland Iraq, and in maritime surveillance missions in the North Arabian Gulf region.
- **Jenny Gill (1997)** recently married James Bartrop. They are now living in Melbourne.



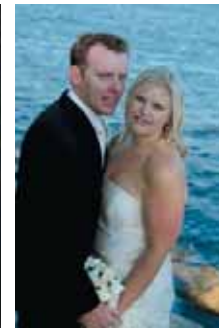
Susan Livingstone (Gill, 1993), Dr. Katherine Gill (1991), Jenny Gill (1997), Leanne Slade (1998) and Sam Brand (1998)

- **Sarah Heazlewood (1995)** married James McDonald on 3 March 2007 at St Clements, Mosman with a reception at The Bathers' Pavilion, Balmoral.



Back row: Anneka Deaton (1995), Vicky Harbutt (Williams, 1973), Lucy Harpham (1995), Jessica Deaton (1997). Front row: Peta Swift (Luya, 1995), Fiona Thistlewood (Shailer, 1995) and Carrie Jellie (Mayne, 1995).

- **Rowena Newcombe (1998)** recently married Matthew Geall in Adelaide. She was attended by Jane Williams (1998).
- **Rebecca Pride (1998)** married Matthew Mauro at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Manly on 8 December 2007, and was attended by ex-students Tracy Stone, Vanessa Newing and Natalie Pride. The reception was held at Pasadena on Pittwater, Church Point.



Katherine Appleby Sarah Heazlewood Rebecca Pride

- **Amie Thorn (1997)** married Matt Easy at the Shore School Chapel on Saturday 2 February followed by a reception at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron in Kirribilli.



Amie Thorn (1997) with Pymble leavers

BIRTHS:

- **Kim Crouch (Casey, 1996)** and husband Damien are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Alyssa Linnea on 31 July 2007, a little sister for Jackson Keith, born 2 July 2005.
- **Floriana Dua (Chan, 1997)** had a baby girl named Isabella Li Li Dua, born 19 November 2007.
- **Melanie Fitzsimmons (1992)** and partner Fiona Mackenzie are thrilled to announce the arrival of their daughter, Zoe Lily, born 6 October 2007.
- **Susan Hanstrum (Ingram, 1988)** and husband Barry are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Thomas Maxwell, on 13 October 2007.
- **Krystie Harris (Giblin, 1997)** and husband Ben are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first child, Imogen Louise, born 30 April 2007.

Ex-Students' Union Inc.

- **Kim Palmer (1990)** and husband Andrew Berry are delighted to announce (albeit belatedly) the arrival of their third and fourth children. Jasper Andrew was born 19 October 2005 and Grover George was born 2 July 2007. Kim and Andrew are over the moon with their four fabulous boys, and big brothers Oscar (b. 1998) and Felix (b. 2000) are stoked to have two little brothers. Kim has found a quiet acceptance of the fact there will be no daughters to continue the *Pymble* tradition.
- **Catherine Somerville (1985)** and Jay Brampton had a son, Jolyon Iruka Somerville, born 12 November 2007; a brother for Jesse and Jasper.

VALE: ---

- **Nancy Brown (Beit, 1929)** passed away on 29 October 2007 aged 94 years. Nancy had a long involvement with the College. After her own education here, she had two daughters Margaret (1959) and Barbara (1961) come through the College, and a son who spent the odd brothers' lunch with his sisters. This was always a challenge for the brothers, as I recall, amidst the boarding gaggle of girls.
- **Panthea Farokhzadeh (Chatterton, 1982)** died on 27 December 2007, aged 42 years. Ponti had a private battle with cancer for two years. She is survived by her husband Graham and two children Lydia and Sam, who reside in England. Panthea, better known as Ponti, attended Pymble Ladies' College from 1977 until 1982. She went on to study civil engineering at Sydney University before becoming a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers in London. After many years of working for Costain Construction she settled in Worcestershire with her husband Graham and had a family. She quickly embraced rural village life which was clearly evident by the hundreds of people that attended her funeral. A eulogy was given by a close classmate from *Pymble*, Silvana Severino (1982). In reference to Ponti's life and character the vicar gave unending praise of her kindness to others and her wholehearted devotion to her family.
- **Margaret June Norden (Russell, 1938)** passed away on 16 August 2007.

ACHIEVEMENTS & OTHER NEWS: ---



• Award-winning author **Christobel Mattingly (Shepley, 1945)** has just published her 47th book, *Chelonia Green, Champion of Turtles*. She writes: "My first writing appeared in the 1941 School Magazine. The seeds of my 47th book, *Chelonia Green, Champion of Turtles*, were sown in Year 5 when our teacher, Miss Dossiter, introduced us to the word 'ecology', encouraging my love of nature. Our feisty Principal, Miss Knox, berated the whole school if she found even one piece of orange peel or lunch paper anywhere. Since then I've always picked up litter – on beaches, in parks, the bush, the street. Seeing the jetsam on a Queensland island where turtles come to breed brought the story to life."

Recent Events ---

Black Watch Forum 2008 – *Pymble* Women in Health Sciences

We travelled with the Flying Doctor, visited PNG with an orthopaedist, shared the challenges of a child psychologist,

learned that botox is currently being trialled for many other uses, heard from an occupational therapist and a speech pathologist, and followed several careers as they developed from one speciality to another.

Question time could have continued for hours given the interest from our young audience, and continued through supper with enthusiastic discussion.

Thank you for volunteering and so generously sharing your experiences: Linda Satchwell (1976), Jane Ellis (Pardey, 1974), Barbara Herden (McLellan, 1969), Natalie Kaine (1992), Erica Richards (1998), Diana Semmonds (1970), Kate Treloar (2001), Janet Vaughan (1974) and Deborah Walton (Finney, 1992).



The Pymble Women in Health Sciences panel

2005-2006 Alumni Cocktail Party

A delightful bevy of young beauties gathered at the GMCPA on 8 February to catch up with friends and swap tales of the past year or two – many have been away on GAP adventures, many have been at university, many have been travelling, and many have already joined the workforce. The ESU committee was delighted to host this first reunion for these wonderful young women, and look forward to seeing them at many other functions in the years to come. Don't forget, it is never too late to join the ESU, so if some of your friends were not there and they would like to join, they can contact us at ESU@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au



Joanna MacKenzie, Phillipa Janu, Stephanie King, Jessica Hamilton and Anja Leszensky

A Scarlett and White Morning Tea

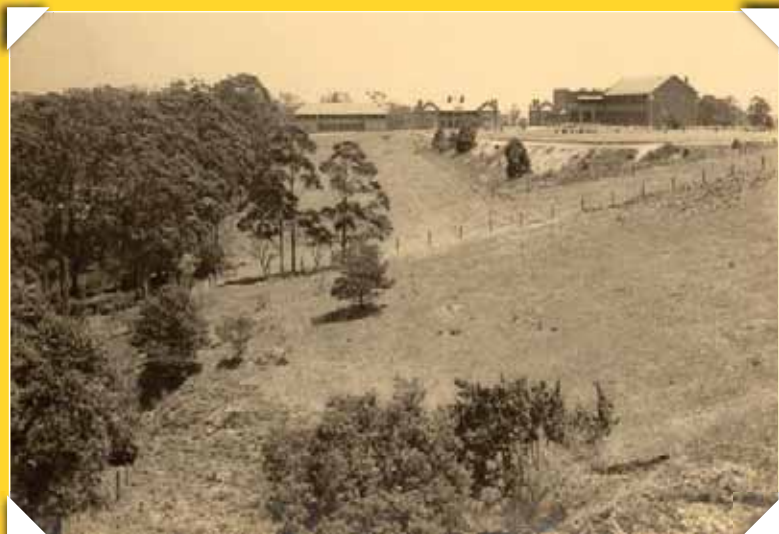
A perfect autumn morning welcomed a delightful group of current mothers and grandmothers, who are enjoying another phase of their *Pymble* experience with their daughters and granddaughters as current students. We were particularly delighted to welcome a four generation family back to the College this year.

Thank you particularly to Leona Blanco for hosting this wonderful morning and for all those scarlett and white touches, and to committee members for again providing a delicious morning tea. Gayl Leake was thrilled to win the lucky door hamper.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

OUR GARDENS ARE FULL OF MEMORIES

As we drive and walk around the grounds at *Pymble*, we enjoy the shade and sight of large trees and overflowing gardens. It is hard to imagine *Pymble* College in 1916, when raw, newly completed buildings stood in the middle of an old citrus orchard, little of which remains.



The College grounds, 1926

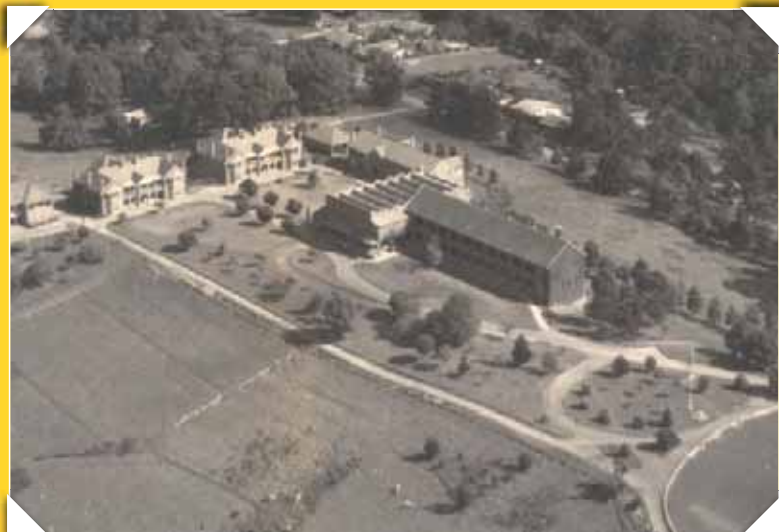
The first plantings were to create shade for the walk from the station, and loads of soil and established plants were brought from PLC Sydney (then PLC Croydon). In the 1930s the Principal, Miss Mackintosh, set her heart on improving the gardens and in 1934 a planting scheme for the grounds was drawn up and 180 trees and shrubs were planted. It is fitting that her departure in 1936 was marked by the planting of a Liquid Amber, presented by the Parents and Friends Association and setting in motion a long tradition of planting trees to commemorate events and in memory of members of the College community.

While some of our memorial trees have been lost to age, weather or building, many remain as living memorials to events and people important to the College.

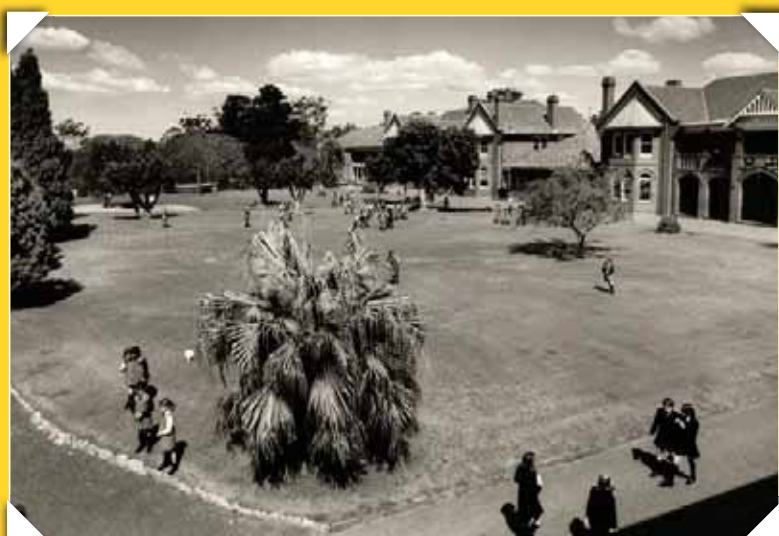
A Blue Spruce on the front lawn was planted by Miss Knox in 1956 to celebrate her 20th year in office, and Miss Jobson's Cape Chestnut planted in the 1930s is still on Lang Lawn. However, the six trees planted in 1976 to commemorate six principals were lost when the music school was built. In 1986, class captains planted 60 trees on the Junior School drive to celebrate Miss Buckham's 60th birthday. Public events have also inspired our horticultural endeavours: a Jacaranda was planted to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 21st birthday in 1947; and two golden Reinospera trees were planted on the Flagpole lawn to celebrate the visit of Queen Elizabeth to Australia in 1954. Finally, of course, our treasured Jacaranda tree was planted to commemorate the visit of the Duchess of Gloucester in 1947.

This year a sad event was commemorated with the planting of a Magnolia tree in memory of Year 10 Boarder, Natalie Feist, who tragically passed away on 2 January of this year.

Trees provide the structure of the garden, but our garden benches, fountains and pergolas are also gifts from friends and students. A walk around *Pymble* truly does provide living links with our past.



An aerial view of the grounds in 1940 reveals the change that has taken place after 68 years of tree planting



Marden Lawn, 1975

DONATION TO THE ARCHIVES

On Dr Marden's retirement on 17 March 1920, the girls of the College presented him with a canteen of silver cutlery. On 21 February this year the canteen was presented to the College for the Archives by his great granddaughter Mrs Cary Roberts.

The College Magazine records the sad farewell and presentation in 1920 when, *'after shaking hands with each girl, Dr Marden left us; but although he left, there was not a true parting, because he will always be with us in spirit. He has guided our lives, and it is for us to carry on the work that has been begun for us at Pymble: to make it one of the worthiest schools in Australia-one of the worthiest schools in the world.'* The Archives was delighted to receive a gift so symbolic of the link between Dr Marden and the College.

The College Archives is always seeking donations of photos, documents, uniforms and other College memorabilia to help preserve the rich history of Pymble Ladies' College. If you think you can help, please contact the College Archivist, Mrs Anne Cooke, at acooke@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au