



Dance
spectacular at
Pymble



Pymble Ladies' College

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Front cover: *Pymble* Dance Showcase in the GMCPA on 9 and 10 November.

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The deadline for the next issue is **16 March 2013**. Please send your information to the Marketing and Communications Department or email Ms Kim Williams at kmwilliams@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au. For general enquiries please contact the College on +61 2 9855 7799.

Principal's Pen



Welcome to the final issue of the *Pymbulletin* for 2012. This has been a significant year for the College with the launch of *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest* at the Secondary School Speech Night on Tuesday 4 December.

Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest provides the blueprint for our adventurous journey to 2020, outlining our continuing vision of creating a leading, nurturing learning environment that is universally acknowledged for its exceptional quality and opportunities. Our vision for the next eight years reflects the expectation of worldwide shifts in learning environments and technology and our desire to anticipate and lead these changes while we nurture every girl to her potential.

In this issue of the *Pymbulletin* you will read how our students have continued the tradition of excellence and embraced the College motto of *Strive for the highest* in their academic, artistic, sporting, performance and, most importantly, social responsibility pursuits.

It has been refreshing to witness our students taking up the challenges they have set to go beyond their comfort zone and positively influence the lives of others. Our Year 10 Service Learning projects are a wonderful example of the hope our students have spread to communities across NSW and in the Northern Territory. These projects and other inspiring community service programs undertaken by our students are featured on pages 14 and 15.

The great *Pymble* tradition rests on the College's rich history of the past 96 years and I am delighted that past eras of *Pymble* are now on display in our new Heritage Centre. You are most welcome to visit the Heritage Centre, under the College Chapel, and enjoy the many interesting items of memorabilia on display. This issue of the *Pymbulletin* features an article on the Centre on pages 24 and 25.

The end of the year is always a time to celebrate student achievement and this year our students had much to celebrate. The Awards Ceremonies are always a fitting way to acknowledge our students' achievement and this year we were honoured to welcome Gail Kelly, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Westpac Banking Corporation to the Secondary School Speech Night and Tess Gerrard, *Pymble* 2005 ex-student and member of the Australian rowing team at the 2012 London Olympics to the Junior School Speech Day, as guest speakers.

2012 has been a tremendous year for *Pymble*. I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this issue of the *Pymbulletin* highlighting some of the successes that have contributed to the outstanding year we have celebrated.

Vicki L Waters
PRINCIPAL

Pymble presents
Chicago - a Musical Vaudeville
Wednesday 6 to Saturday 9 March 2013
Tickets on sale soon through the College website

Farewell to Year 12



Tamanna Abdi, Year 11

Thursday 20 September proved to be a bittersweet day for the departing Year 12 2012 cohort, as they closed the chapter on their time at *Pymble* with a poignant final chapel service held in the War Memorial Chapel.

The service commenced with a welcome from Head Prefect Nikki Raftopoulos and a moving rendition of Hans Zimmer's *Maestro*, arranged by Katrina Tang. Deputy Head Prefect Suzannah Bownes and Boarding Head Prefect Philippa Kensit delivered the Bible readings.

The class of 2012, known for its musically gifted students, displayed this talent with their moving performances of *Blackbird* by The Beatles and *An Irish Blessing*.

The service was conducted by College Chaplain, Pastor Greer Dokmanovic, who gave a heartfelt address urging the students to go into the world and make a difference in the lives of others. The Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, delivered a touching address which spoke of the similarity between a parent having to let go of their child's hand on the first day of Kindergarten and the Year 12 girls having to leave the College, now ready to conquer the world.

As the white doves were released from the Chapel stairs, the 2012 Year 12 cohort farewelled the College with tears, smiles and many happy *Pymble* memories.



college news



Farewell to Kathryn Butt

After 32 years of distinguished service to *Pymble*, students, staff, parents and College Council members said farewell to Mrs Kathryn Butt at a special morning tea on Monday 3 September.

Mrs Butt was a wonderful Head of Preparatory School, first commencing at *Pymble* in May 1980 as an Assistant Year 4 teacher before being appointed Mistress in Charge of the Preparatory School in 1982, later known as Head of Preparatory School.

In appreciation of Mrs Butt's service to the College, the Preparatory School Library has been named in her honour. A special plaque for The Kathryn Butt Library was unveiled at the farewell. Mrs Butt was presented with a framed collage of photos as a memento of her years at *Pymble*.

A trip down memory lane

Year 12 went on a trip down memory lane (and down the river bed!) on Friday 31 August when the girls who had been at *Pymble* since Kindergarten went back to the Preparatory School to visit their teachers and classrooms and even delight their parents with a musical item! This year's Year 12 cohort holds special significance to the Preparatory School as they were the first group of Kindergarten students in the new Preparatory School when it opened in 2002, and they were the first cohort to complete two years in the new Senior School Centre - Kate Mason Building.



Generosity blooms at *Pymble's* annual Jacaranda Day

Helen Zhang, Year 11

Preparatory to Secondary School students and staff came together in the spirit of giving on Thursday 15 November to celebrate the annual Jacaranda Day service. The Jeannette Buckham PE Centre was filled with a sea of purple ribbons and an impressive display of baskets filled to the brim with gifts for donation to the Exodus Foundation to distribute throughout Sydney to those less fortunate.

The service opened with a beautiful rendition of *What a Wonderful World* by Year 8 students. Guest speaker, Mrs Sonia Powell, Deputy Chair of College Council and 1981 ex-student, spoke about the power of education to change lives, and how it can enrich a country's cultural life and wealth and enhance people's capacity to engage with society. Symbolising education as fire and light she encouraged students to "keep burning the fire and light of education" in their future lives beyond *Pymble*.

Jacaranda Day has been a tradition at *Pymble* for the past 28 years, inspired by the Jacaranda tree on the Gloucester Quadrangle, which was planted in 1947 to commemorate the visit of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. It was first organised by Mrs Rajalaskshmi Ram, a former Science and Physics teacher, who hoped that through the symbol of the Jacaranda tree, the students and staff at *Pymble* would be encouraged to connect with humanity. The 2012 Jacaranda Day Service was organised by the Middle School students and staff.



Student leaders inducted for 2013

Tamanna Abdi, Year 11

The student leaders of 2013 were inducted into their roles in a special service and morning tea on Thursday 11 October. The service, held in the Jeanette Buckham Physical Education Centre, was attended by Secondary School students, staff, members of the College Council and the student leaders' proud parents.

Each student was presented to the College and given a badge to signify their position within the school and the responsibility it carries. The Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, charged the Prefect body to serve the *Pymble* community with humility and the Year 12 cohort to lead the College community by upholding its values and traditions.

Samantha Bear, Head Prefect for 2013, was presented with the Head Prefect's Bible, which has been passed down since 1997 and signed by each Head Prefect since then. The service was followed by a lovely morning tea for the new student leaders and their guests.



preparatory school



A busy term for Kindergarten

Term 4 has been a busy one for Kindergarten. The girls have enjoyed doing an author study of Mem Fox and have produced some beautiful art works and imaginative acrostic poems.

In Science the girls have been investigating the five senses. They ventured out into the riverbed with magnifying glasses to take a closer look at our natural environment. Using their sense of touch, they experienced the different textures found in the Preparatory School playground. They then created beautiful textured collages. The girls also experimented using their sense of taste and smell to identify foods that were salty, sweet, sour and bitter.

A highlight of this term was our major Christmas production *Alice*. The girls learned a number of new songs and dances. The characters were colourful and fun. They enjoyed playing white rabbits, marching cards and magic daisies. The costumes were amazing and they loved performing for our parents, grandparents and friends.



Physical Education

During Term 4 students worked towards participating in the Preparatory School Swimming Carnival held on 8 November, where all girls competed in at least one freestyle race and one backstroke race. Weaker swimmers used a kickboard for their races, while the more advanced swimmers also raced in breaststroke and even butterfly. Qualified swimming coaches have assisted the Physical Education teacher during class lesson time, allowing classes to be split into smaller ability-based groups.



Year 1 visits 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.

In Science and Technology, the focus on the unique animals native to Australia began with an excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park. In the Learning Burrow, the girls were able to learn about and interact with four of our most interesting animals: the koala, the shingle back lizard, an olive python and a tawny frog mouth. 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 girls' 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 NETS emergency doctor, a dentist, a lifesaver and a WIRES volunteer.

Performing Arts

During Term 4 there were sightings of white rabbits, dancing teapots, Cheshire cats, marching cards and magic daisies around the Preparatory School, as the girls prepared for this year's Preparatory School Concert, *Alice!*

There was much excitement amongst the girls as *Alice!* grew before their eyes into a full theatrical production using state-of-the-art lighting and projections, original music and lyrics by Miss Amanda Stelcova and an array of fabulous costumes and props.

Alice! was inspired by the wonderful stories of Lewis Carroll and set in the present-day with Alice reading from an iPad, the White Rabbit on a mobile phone, the Caterpillar rap-dancing 'Gangnam Style' and the Queen of Hearts as a rock star.

The Preparatory School Choir had a great finish to the school year, being part of the Christmas spectacular, *Pymble Celebrates Christmas* in the GMCPA joining the rest of the *Pymble* community in a singing Christmas celebration.



Year 2 prepares for move to Junior School

Term 4 is an exciting and busy time of year for the Year 2 girls as they prepare for their move to the Junior School at the beginning of Term 1, 2013. Links Day provided an opportunity for the girls to meet Junior School teachers, view their new classroom environments and Junior School facilities while Year 2 parents attended information sessions to familiarise themselves with the aims, organisation and opportunities available to the girls in the Junior School. In addition, girls were given a leadership role by acting as a buddy to Year 3 students commencing at *Pymble* next year.

In Science during Term 4 the girls have enjoyed learning about toys. They have participated in small group projects to explore the various ways toys are able to move and learn about forces such as push and pull. The girls enjoyed making magnetic cars and investigated different forces such as gravity, magnetism and friction. Girls were also provided with the opportunity to create a 3D Lego design with the assistance of computer design software.

The Human Society and Its Environment topic for Term 4 was 'Celebrations'. Girls participated in class discussions and investigations about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. This also included other celebrations from various cultures and religions including Ramadan, Chinese New Year, Hanukkah and Diwali. Girls enjoyed listening to *The Christmas Story* and a number of art and craft activities were completed to complement class discussions. A highlight for all girls this term has been the production of *Alice!* Year 2 girls enjoyed being on stage as a variety of characters and embraced the roles of narrator for the story.

junior school



Tess Gerrand at Junior School Speech Day

Olympian and 2005 ex-student, Tess Gerrand, was the guest speaker at the Junior School Speech Day held in the Jeanette Buckham Physical Education Centre on Friday 30 November.

"It was an honour and privilege to welcome Tess back to *Pymble*," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

Tess represented Australia at the London Olympics in August this year competing in the final of the Women's VIII Rowing. In her address to the girls Tess spoke about how her education at *Pymble* had prepared her for the challenges in her sporting career and ultimately as a member of the Australian rowing team at the 2012 Olympic Games.



Former Olympian visits Year 4

Sophie Bourges and Nathi Hoyle, Year 4

Year 4 was privileged to have been visited on Tuesday 7 August by Olympian, Ross Parker, grandfather to Sophie and Lena Bourges in Years 4 and 6, and Kathryn Middleton in Year 9. Mr Parker, whose two daughters Cathy Bourges and Sally Middleton also attended *Pymble*, delighted Year 4 girls with tales of his experiences as an athlete in the Melbourne 1956 Olympic Games and as a torch bearer in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay. Mr Parker told of the Australian team's excitement when he won his heat in the Men's 400m Hurdles event. Wearing his Olympic blazer, he showed the girls his Australian team running singlet, tracksuit and photos from the Games. A highlight of his visit was a mini torch relay run by the girls around the classroom using his Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch. Mr Parker emphasised the values of the Olympics – friendship, respect and fair play – which the girls agreed are similar to *Pymble*'s core values. The visit was a most valuable addition to Year 4's enquiry learning about the Olympics.



Simple machines make life easy

Alice Dixon and Sarah Kim, Year 3

In Term 3, Year 3 learned about Simple Machines. The CSIRO came for an incursion to teach us about them. Simple machines help us to make life easier. They consist of levers, wedges, wheels and axles, ramps, screws, pulleys and gears. To help us learn about them we made a carousel from Lego. This carousel was made up of wheels and axles, levers and gears.



Jennifer Hao wins storybook challenge

Year 4 student Jennifer Hao won the inaugural ABC Carpet Court Storybook Challenge for a story she submitted about what she loves most in her community.

Winning the prize of \$1,000 worth of new books for the College and a book package for herself to the value of \$250, Jennifer's story told of how much she loves bush walking and exploring nature in *Pymble*.

More than 1,700 school children from New South Wales entered the storybook challenge. The program was conducted in conjunction with the National Year of Reading, to encourage more shared reading and creative writing in classrooms across Australia.



Year 4 visits Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers

Ella Cassin and Michelle Huang, Year 4

On Tuesday 23 October, Year 4 visited the Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers to learn about the Council and local government.

After learning about the Council we had a quiz and the winners dressed in Council robes for a mock debate. Students debated if we should knock down the first house that was built in Ku-ring-gai. The rest of the girls acted as members of the public.

After the debate we went to the 'Secret Garden' behind Gordon Library. The 'Secret Garden' gets its name as it can't be seen from anywhere outside the library. We had a fun time exploring the garden and eating our lunch.



Year 6 musical a grand production

Juliette Clarke and Madeleine Gallagher, Year 6

The Year 6 musical, *Le Grand Course*, was a grand production of song, dance and drama set in six countries across the world. Audiences were entertained by four performances in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts from Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 September.

With each class represented by a country – England (6C), Germany (6F), Spain (6K), America (6G), Japan (6S) and France (6W) – *Le Grand Course* portrayed contestants racing around these countries and competing in unusual challenges. Challenges included a sausage eating competition, bull fighting and even a tour of Paris (on scooters).

Every student in Year 6 participated in the performance including dancing, singing, acting or helping backstage.

Being in the Year 6 musical was a great opportunity and was an awesome experience. We had so much fun putting it together and performing on stage. Even though it was hard work, it all paid off. We had the best time.



Junior School student runner up in Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards

Year 6 student Kate Soonius was named National Runner Up in the Upper Primary Division of the 2012 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards. Kate received her award from the Honourable Paul Fletcher MP, Federal Member for Bradfield, at a special Junior School Assembly at the College on Friday 7 September.

Mr Fletcher also presented awards to three other *Pymble* students who were recognised for their efforts in the competition: Year 4 student Mia Cameron received a Highly Commended Certificate and Year 6 student Eliza Moore and Year 3 student Alison Cook received Commended Certificates.

"The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards competition is the oldest and largest competition for school aged children in Australia," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. "The 2012 competition attracted 15,000 entries from school children across Australia and for four of our students to be recognised in the awards is absolutely brilliant."

Kate's award winning poem, *Death of Peace*, was described as extraordinary by the judges.

Death of Peace

Wrapped in wintry sheet,
Lies the orphaned dove of peace:
Sadly forgotten.

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards competition is conducted to inspire school students with a passion for poetry and love of country and to recognise the contribution Dorothea made to Australian literature.

sustainability update



Environment Minister launches Kids Teaching Kids Week at *Pymble*

The Honourable Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities joined Olympic gold medallist Brooke Hanson at the College on Monday 27 August to officially launch Australia Post Kids Teaching Kids Week.

Pymble was one of 500 schools participating in Kids Teaching Kids Week across Australia in 2012. "We are delighted to host the launch of this important national event," said Mrs Vicki Waters, College Principal. "It is critical to engage our community in sharing our respect and responsibility for the environment and to inspire our future environmental leaders."

Following the launch, students from Year 8 presented a series of workshops attended by students, teachers and members of the

community, providing interactive 'lessons' on a variety of local environmental issues. The presentations also included a workshop on erosion during the wet season by students from the Gapuwiyak School in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. Presentations by *Pymble* students included looking at human waste disposal options, cleaning up our waterways, the disposal of e-waste, energy efficiency at the College, endangered animals and solar energy.

Kids Teaching Kids Week (27 to 31 August) is a national program developed by Arron Wood where more than 10,000 students across Australia looked at locally-relevant environmental issues such as climate change, water, waste, conservation, energy, drought, population and pollution.



Homes for possums

Selina Chung, Year 8

Year 8 students were given a mission as part of the Kids Teaching Kids Week to teach a group of children about saving the environment. My group worked on the idea of preserving life in the Blue Gum High Forest, located in the College grounds.

To help save the environment we agreed that possum boxes would be a creative idea to help the wildlife. We raised \$185 selling cupcakes to buy wood to make seven possum boxes.

The possum boxes were installed in the College grounds, including in the Blue Gum High Forest. It was great to see our initial idea culminating in an action that we hope will have a positive impact on the population of local wildlife.



Sustainability Captains plan for a greener *Pymble*

Maggie Kerr, Year 11

Maggie Kerr and Chloe Kim have been appointed the College's inaugural Captain and Deputy Captain of Sustainability.

Maggie and Chloe see their role as an important opportunity to create a legacy within the College.

Pymble has taken on the responsibility of becoming more environmentally friendly.

Maggie and Chloe have planned several new initiatives that will take effect within the College during the coming year, including regular talks on aspects of environmental awareness in the Preparatory School, the development of the Eco-Warriors in the Junior School and a proposed project involving WIRES in the Secondary School.

Under the guidance of Mr David Sexton, Head of Operational Services at *Pymble* and Miss Belinda Bean, Sustainability Officer at Macquarie University, Maggie and Chloe hope to foster a passion for the environment in the College community and ultimately leave *Pymble* a greener and more sustainable place.

scholarship and learning

Scholarly pursuits inspired at Cambridge University

Four Year 10 students embraced a unique learning experience when they attended the Churchill College Summer School Cambridge University Forum on a *Pymble* scholarship for two weeks in July and August 2012.

The students, Angela Liang, Annice Savill, Shani Wijetilaka and Mannat Malhi, who were the first students from *Pymble* to attend the Summer School, were enrolled in the *Pymble* Scholars' Program, an enrichment program for academically gifted students, since Year 8 to qualify to apply for the scholarship.

Studying English Literature and the English Language at the Summer School, the girls said the variety of teachers gave them a taste of different learning styles. The creative approach to learning embraced by the Summer School allowed the girls to explore their own ideas and challenged them to rethink their approach to studying literature.



Providing opportunities for *Pymble* students to attend the Summer School Program embraces the College motto of *Strive for the Highest*, and inspires and challenges scholarly pursuits at such a prestigious university.

Professional Learning advances teacher expertise

Recent international studies have indicated that schools that embed professional learning into the school day for teachers are able to improve student learning outcomes dramatically. Evidence has suggested that when professional learning communities are thriving within school not only do students prosper, but the school culture becomes enriched and teachers enjoy greater professional satisfaction.

Academic staff at *Pymble* engage in a range of professional learning activities to keep abreast of advances in thinking in their areas of expertise and to support the College's priority of nurturing a culture of thinking. Teachers have been undertaking online courses through the Harvard Graduate School of Education that focus on ways to foster critical and creative thinking in our classrooms, as well as ensuring our programs are designed to afford students the best opportunities to achieve deep understanding.

This learning has involved attending external courses in which expert presenters share their knowledge of specific learning areas as well as presentations by experts in student well-being and development. Teachers also gain advancement in thinking through internal professional learning, allowing the teachers to work collaboratively in developing best teaching practice that encourages our students' deep thinking. The College Professional Learning Centre, established for internal professional learning, has been the venue for many experts in residence, including Dr Ron Ritchhardt from Harvard University.

In 2012, teachers accepted Professional Development grants to enable them to study quality teaching and learning in organisations overseas. Mrs Gillian Sear from Mathematics undertook a study tour of Finland, Scotland and England looking at different models of Mathematics teaching with an emphasis on approaches to problem solving. Ms Heather Hansby undertook a Technology and Applied Studies Teachers' Association fashion and design tour of New York, and Ms Cassandra Freeman from English and Mr Glenn Dudley, Head of Mathematics, spent two weeks exploring new approaches to assessment and to problem-based learning at an innovative school in New York, the Calhoun School.



Above: Ms Maura Manning

Teaching Awards

Pymble's Director of Teaching and Learning, Ms Maura Manning, has received the NSW Premier's Teaching Scholarship in the area of leadership for 2012. Maura will investigate models for continuous, job-embedded professional development, and professional networks

that can improve teaching and learning and promote critical, creative and ethical thinking within and across schools. As part of her study tour, Maura will complete a course at Harvard Graduate School of Education and visit a range of schools in the eastern United States.

Pymble's Head of Classics, Dr Emily Matters, received the American Classical League Merita Award for "sustained and distinguished service to the classics profession". The plaque and citation were presented at the American Classical League Institute in July 2012. Emily is the only non-American to hold the award. Emily also received the Australian Professional Teachers' Association award for "meritorious contribution to the profession" at a ceremony on Saturday 1 December at the Sydney College of the Arts.

boarding news

Boarders move from dependence to independence at Rite of Passage ceremony

Samantha Bear, Year 11

First introduced in 2010, the Boarders' Rite of Passage ceremony has become a wonderful annual event that celebrates the significant journey each boarder embarks upon when moving Boarding Houses.

The transition from Marden House to Goodlet House, and then finally to Lang House in a boarder's final year of school at *Pymble*, is significant in the boarding community as it marks a boarder's journey from dependence to independence.

Watched by the boarding community, the girls of Years 9 and 11 (2013 Year 12) were led into the Atrium of the Senior School Centre – Kate Mason Building by Mr Mark Campbell, playing the bagpipes, after which a moving and inspirational video recorded by Belle Wheaton, a former member of staff, was watched.

Each student was presented with a certificate and pennant by their House Mistress to acknowledge this significant milestone. The Year 10 students performed a lovely rendition of *How Sweet It Is* to farewell their Goodlet 'sisters', and finally, the girls of Years 7, 8 and 10 were invited to form a guard of honour, which the Years 9 and 11 students walked through, officially crossing the thresholds of their new homes.



Pymble returns to Independent Schools Show in London

Pymble once again exhibited at the Independent Schools Show (ISS) at Battersea Evolution in Battersea Park, London on 10 and 11 November 2012.

The ISS featured 140 of the best independent schools from across the United Kingdom and around the world, and is the preferred venue for parents looking at schooling options for their children.

Director of Boarding, Mrs Deanne Elliott, and Community Relations Co-ordinator, Mrs Rebecca Pearce (pictured), enjoyed catching up with *Pymble* ex-students at the show as well as meeting ex-patriots who now call London home.

This is the fourth year that *Pymble* has exhibited, and interest and subsequent enrolments continue to grow following each visit.



college news



Ellyse Perry returns to *Pymble*

Pymble ex-student and international cricket and football sportswoman, Ellyse Perry, returned to the College on Tuesday 14 August to speak with Year 7 students.

Ellyse addressed the girls on the theme of 'teamwork', which Year 7 students were exploring in their Pastoral Care Program.

Speaking about the positive influence that being part of a team has had on her personal development, Ellyse reflected on her experiences during her years at *Pymble* and her international sporting career.

"It's wonderful that Ellyse came back to speak with our Year 7 students," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. "Ellyse was a great role model to students during her years at *Pymble*, representing Australia in cricket and football, and in Year 12, holding leadership

roles of Prefect, Captain of Sports, Captain of Athletics, Captain of Cricket and Captain of Soccer."

The Year 7 girls were captivated and asked many insightful questions. They were thrilled to have Ellyse address them.

Ellyse said she was excited about coming back to *Pymble* to interact with the students.

Ellyse completed her Higher School Certificate at *Pymble* in 2008. She made her debut for both Australian cricket and football teams at the age of 16, playing her first international games for cricket and football in 2007. She is the youngest person (male or female) to represent Australia in cricket and the first Australian woman to have appeared in both cricket and association football World Cups.



Gail Kelly inspires students at Speech Night

Sarah Cutter-Russell, Year 11

Secondary School students, staff, parents and guests gathered in the Jeanette Buckham Physical Education Centre on Tuesday 4 December to celebrate students' achievements at the Secondary School Speech Night.

Guest speaker, Mrs Gail Kelly, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Westpac Banking Corporation, delivered a thought-provoking address encouraging the girls to strive to be happy. Mrs Kelly told students to be bold and have courage, to do what they love and love what they do, to practise generosity of spirit and to make a difference which will add meaning to their lives. The audience was treated to special musical performances by the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the student body came together to perform *The Impossible Dream*, an inspiring lyrical musical item.

The Chair of College Council, Mr Braith Williams, and Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, also addressed the audience.

Speech Night was a highly memorable event with Alessandra Hammond and Matilda Howard sharing the honour of Dux of the School for 2012.



community service

Service Learning challenges students

Year 10 students were challenged, excited, confronted and rewarded by their experiences in the week beginning Monday 12 November when they undertook their Service Learning projects.

Seventeen groups of students spent the six months leading up to the Service Learning project week researching and planning community service projects using the knowledge and skills embedded in their curriculum. The planning, preparation, budgets, finances and resources for the projects were the responsibility of the student teams. Teachers took a back seat fulfilling the role of guide rather than teacher.

Students worked at a refugee centre, built homes with Habitat for Humanity, partnered with the Exodus Foundation and worked in indigenous communities on classroom projects at Gapuwiyak in the Northern Territory, and Moree and Enngonia in NSW.

Other activities included bush regeneration activities and the installation of possum habitats within College grounds, and teaching migrant students from Chester Hill High School how to swim.

"The Service Learning program was initiated by the College to provide opportunities for students to engage in civic and community responsibility, show care and respect for others and be confident in stepping beyond the school environment to be active participants in the community," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

Service Learning helps to connect students with the world beyond the College gates, giving them a sense of meaning and fostering a belief that they can be active and informed citizens capable of making changes in their own lives as well as the lives of others.

The program encourages students to connect with the wider community and provides them with the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned in the classroom to the work involved in implementing their projects.

Year 10 Service Learning Projects 2012

Aged Care – developed a program of activities and experiences for the elderly.

Art and Musical Experiences – students at Enngonia Public School in western NSW enjoyed a series of art and musical experiences provided by *Pymble* students.

Environmental Sustainability – bush regeneration activities and the installation of possum habitats within College grounds.

Environmental Sustainability – students conducted an advocacy campaign to promote National Recycling Week, which included a 'beach sweep' at Manly.

Exodus Foundation – students volunteered in the soup kitchen and provided support for the literacy program conducted by the foundation.

First Aid and Community Aid – after completing their First Aid certificate students worked with children at Cerebral Palsy Alliance and adults at the 'House with No Steps'.

Gapuwiyak School – six students travelled to the Northern Territory to help implement a literacy project at the school.

Habitat for Humanity – students provided assistance in the renovation of a house in Sydney's western suburbs for a family in need of assistance.

Miracle Babies Foundation – students created garments for premature babies and made hampers for the families of miracle babies. The Miracle Babies Foundation is Australia's leading organisation supporting premature and sick newborns, their families and the hospitals that care for them.

Moree – students worked with students at the Moree East Public School helping in curricular and co-curricular activities.



Refugees – students helped support a weekend retreat conducted by Josephite Community Aid for refugees.

Cawthorn Foundation – students supported Sam Cawthorn when he visited schools in the wider Sydney area to deliver his message of advocacy for education. Sam is the 2009 Young Australian of the Year for Tasmania. The Cawthorn Foundation supports disadvantaged young people, particularly children with disabilities in India.

Sunshine Home – students worked with the Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home, planning and implementing activities to build life skills and experiences for young adults.

Supporting Community through Sport – students collaborated with Chester Hill High School to provide swimming lessons to migrant students.

Westmead Children's Hospital – students provided entertainment, a picnic and art activities for patients in the oncology ward and also hosted a morning tea and conducted craft activities for outpatients.

Women's Rights – students worked with 'Room to Read' to promote literacy and education for women.

Young Children with Disabilities – students worked with pupils at St Lucy's School creating picture books and puppets to help with language acquisition. At St Gabriel's School students helped make costumes for the school's nativity play and assisted with rehearsals for the play.



Pymble students meet Dr Catherine Hamlin

Mehar Pathak, Year 11

A group of Years 10 and 11 *Pymble* students attended a private dinner held at Miramare Gardens on Thursday 6 September, where they had the rare opportunity of meeting Australian obstetrician, gynaecologist and co-founder of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, Dr Catherine Hamlin AC. Dr Hamlin and her son Richard Hamlin were guests of honour at the dinner, where she was interviewed by a journalist from *60 Minutes* about her extraordinary life story and the future of her organisation.

This experience was particularly enriching for the Year 10 *Pymble* students who researched the plight of Ethiopian women, as well as Dr Hamlin's work to empower and improve the lives of these women, as part of their study of the Geography topic 'Women of the World'.

Due to a lack of pre-natal health care many women in developing countries suffer from the effects of obstetric fistulae. In order to combat this, Dr Hamlin and her husband established the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in 1974. Since then she has operated on thousands of women, as well as trained Ethiopian physicians and nurses, giving many women a chance to rebuild their lives.



Khoa Do promotes the value of hard work and compassion to students

Mehar Pathak and Victoria Lim-Howe, Year 11

Students from Upper and Senior Schools were privileged to meet Khoa Do, the 2005 Young Australian of the Year, on 10 August when he visited the College for a presentation to the students. Vietnamese-born Khoa Do is a refugee, humanitarian, esteemed filmmaker and screenwriter. Khoa endeared himself to the students and inspired them to recognise and appreciate the importance of self-belief, courage in the face of adversity, family, friendship and finding a place for yourself in the world that allows you to make a difference. He recounted his struggles as a Vietnamese refugee growing up in Australia during the 1980s, his anecdotes imparting to the students the value of hard work, perseverance, compassion and family bonds. His entertaining and lively presence captivated the *Pymble* audience, whilst his stories of overcoming adversity through his resourceful nature were humorous yet emotionally engaging.

Khoa received the Young Australian of the Year Award for his services in drama and his social work with disadvantaged young Australians in Sydney's south west suburbs. He has produced several films for Special Broadcasting Services (SBS) and his talent and hard work have been recognised with several prestigious awards, such as the Centenary Medal in 2003 and the Philip Parsons Young Playwright's Award in 2008.

Human Rights presentation by Allan Asher

Jessica Everingham, Legal Studies Captain 2012

Years 9, 10 and 11 Geography and Legal Studies students were privileged to attend a presentation by Allan Asher, the former Ombudsman and guest participant on the confronting SBS program *Go Back to Where You Came From*, when he visited the College on Tuesday 18 September to talk about Human Rights and the controversial treatment of refugees and asylum seekers by the Australian Government.

Mr Asher has represented Australia at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), and as part of his roles has established priorities in issues confronting immigration. *Pymble* girls were inspired to learn of his involvement in development assistance programs through which funding, training and mentoring services are provided to eight Pacific Island states, Indonesia and East Timor Leste. Mr Asher presented a powerful insight into the lives of refugees and the life threatening issues that they and their families face. His presentation provided a unique opportunity to see the flaws and strengths of our legal system, and inspired our budding Legal Studies students to see the role they can play in resolving this complex and controversial issue.

academic opportunities

Vietnam Vets share war memories

The Vietnam War was brought to life for *Pymble* Years 9 and 10 students when four Vietnam veterans arrived at the College in their 'Vietnam bus' on 13 August.

The veterans spoke with students about the Vietnam War and life on the battle fields as experienced by Australian soldiers. Army uniforms, ration kits, grenade launchers and weaponry were the focus of interest as students observed displays in a bus decked out with military memorabilia from the Vietnam War.

Listening to stories by Vietnam veterans Rob Cohen, Chris Stone, Charlie Hanlin and Kerrin Brown, the girls gained an insight into the ravages of war and life in a war zone.

The Vietnam War is studied by Year 9 students as part of their History syllabus and Year 10 Australian History students.



Success for 'Write a Book in a Day' team

A team of *Pymble* students from Years 9 and 10 won the state and national competition for 'Write a Book in a Day' for their book *The Murrumbidgee Dreaming*. The girls competed against 17 other teams from across NSW, many of them Years 11 and 12 students, to take the title. The books were judged by JC Burke, an award-winning Australian Young Adult Fiction writer.

'Write a Book in a Day' is a literary and fundraising initiative that requires students to write and illustrate a book in one day, based on a set of provided criteria.

Congratulations to Rebecca Dodd, Roshana Kanagaratnam, Phoebe Lind, Shelley Cheng, Rhea Darbari Kaul, Emily Kerrison, Loretta Chung, Devna Luthra and Vasya Tai.

MS Readathon webcast launch with Jennifer Byrne

Middle School students participated in a special webcast hosted by television personality Jennifer Byrne to launch the 2012 Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Readathon.

"Encouraging children to read whilst contributing towards finding a cure for MS provides students with an opportunity to help make a difference to the lives of people living with MS," said Mrs Vicki Waters, College Principal.

The MS Readathon has been conducted for 33 years and this was the first year that the program was launched by webcast. Students were encouraged to register online and seek sponsors for books they read during August.

Twenty Years 7 and 8 *Pymble* students participated in the webcast which featured MS ambassador Stephen Papadopolous, who has previously addressed students at *Pymble* about his experience with MS. The students also had the opportunity to post comments during the webcast.

Tournament of Minds victory

Elissa Zhang, Year 11

Pymble students were victorious at the 2012 Sydney North Regional finals of the 2012 Tournament of Minds competition held at the College on Sunday 26 August, with two of the three *Pymble* teams winning their division and the third team placing third in its division.

The students from Years 7, 8 and 9 in teams of seven were triumphant in the Language Literature and Social Sciences divisions, and proceeded to the state title against twelve other regions. The Mathematics Engineering team placed third in its division.

Tournament of Minds is a problem-solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. They are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from the disciplines of Applied Technology, Language Literature, Maths Engineering and Social Sciences. The competition provides an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents.



Young Australian of the Year inspires *Pymble* students

The 2012 Young Australian of the Year, Marita Cheng, inspired *Pymble* Secondary School students when she spoke about her passion for engineering and the need for more females in the industry on 18 September.

Marita received the 2012 Young Australian of the Year Award for her dedication to encouraging young women to become interested in a career in engineering. She spoke with the students about her excitement at receiving the award and the many ventures she has undertaken in her career to foster a greater participation of women in engineering. Marita also shared her study tips with the students and urged them to follow their aspirations.

"Marita is an inspirational young leader and has achieved some amazing accomplishments and acknowledgements as a young adult," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. "She is a wonderful role model to our students and proof that young women can achieve greatness if they follow their dreams."

Marita founded Robogals in 2008, as a response to the traditionally low levels of participation by women in engineering and technology. Since its inception Robogals has conducted robotics workshops for 3,000 girls across 80 schools in Australia and now has 17 chapters across Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Marita has been named as one of the top 30 under 30 years entrepreneurs in Australia in 2009 and 2010 and is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Herald Sun Pride of Australia Young Leader Medal, and the Anita Borg Change Agent Award. She was also acknowledged as one of the top achievers under the age of 30 from across the world by the Sandbox Network 2010.



Year 7 meets 'The Human Calculator'

Helen Zhang, Year 11

Exclamations of awe and admiration filled the Science Lecture Theatre on Tuesday 4 September when Scott Flansburg, more commonly known as 'The Human Calculator', visited *Pymble* to inspire and impress the Year 7 students with his incredible mathematical aptitude.

Described as 'cool', 'fascinating' and 'funny', 'The Human Calculator' performed mind-boggling feats for the girls - adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing and even finding cubed roots for any number which they suggested, and repeatedly beating the calculator to it.

During his exciting presentation, he introduced to the girls the importance of the number 9. He also showed the girls several shortcut methods of calculating and emphasised the importance of truly understanding the essence of mathematics.



Mathematics awards for *Pymble* students

Pymble students Judy Wu and Linda Yang earned High Distinctions in the Senior and Junior Divisions and were also awarded a \$100 prize when they competed in the 51st University of NSW (UNSW) Mathematics Competition held on Wednesday 20 June.

The competition, a three hour examination, is conducted by UNSW in two divisions, Junior from Years 7 to 10 and Senior from Years 11 and 12.

Pymble is one of only a handful of non-selective schools to routinely place in this competition and 2012 was no exception.

Pymble student Isabelle Gray was awarded a Distinction and a prize of \$50 and Keerthana Sritharan and Helen Haili Zhang both received Credit Certificates.

The girls along with their families attended an award ceremony at UNSW to receive their awards.

performance and the arts



The Snow Queen delights audiences

Samini Ward, Year 9

In an original and highly entertaining adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's book and Charles Way play, the Middle School Drama Ensemble delivered a wonderful performance of *The Snow Queen*. The production was performed in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) from Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 August. The Drama Ensemble was fortunate this year to receive a generous grant from the Ex-Students' Union which provided for Ms Tobhi Feller, a designer from NIDA, to work with them throughout the play. Director Miss Tamara Sweetman and Stage Manager Hannah Buchner did a wonderful job with the actors, giving them the opportunity to act to their full potential and make this show one of the best.

The costuming for *The Snow Queen* changes throughout the play as the main character of Gerda (Lucinda Smith-Stevens) journeys through the seasons to find her best friend Cei (Thomasina Buchner)

who was taken by the evil Snow Queen (Hayley Noble). As Gerda travels through the seasons, she meets new people everywhere she goes who help her along her journey to find her lost best friend.

Some very large sets were involved in the production, which meant extra care had to be taken by the stage crew. Girls from Years 9 and 10 helped with backstage work to make the show magical.

The audience was captivated as Gerda fought the Snow Queen to reach Cei, who finally wakes up from a hypnotic state and is joyful that Gerda has saved him.

The promising Middle School students showed great commitment during the play. The fantastic use of lighting, costumes and props greatly enhanced the story line of friendship, betrayal and forgiveness, and every student must be congratulated on her performance.



Dance spectacular a showcase event

Elissa Zhang, Year 11

The *Pymble* Dance Showcase held in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) on 9 and 10 November was a spectacular event, which commenced with something different – the foyer was themed with American style paraphernalia and merchandise to promote the upcoming 2013 dance tour to the USA. Eisteddfod dancers from Years 9 to 12 will travel throughout America to dance and learn about dance at renowned dance schools, including Julliard and the Martha Graham School.

The Showcase illuminated the quality and skill of *Pymble* dancers. The event featured performances from the youngest Preparatory School dance students just beginning to explore dance to Year 11 dancers. The performers impressed the audience with their skill, hard work, enthusiasm and most importantly the passion and enjoyment they showed in their dance. Co-curricular dance students performed a range of different styles including tap, musical theatre, jazz and hip hop/funk, and wowed spectators with their entertaining and polished performances. Eisteddfod groups from both the Junior and Secondary Schools also performed their outstanding routines, which had all attained exceptional results in Eisteddfods throughout the year.

The Junior Jazz Performer of the Year was awarded to Zoe Harrison of Year 6. The Secondary Contemporary Performer of the Year was awarded to Georgia Pretty of Year 12 and the Secondary Jazz Performer of the Year was awarded to Anju Ramanayake of Year 8.



Cupid and Psyche on stage at Pymble

Julie Wong, Year 11

The Fourth Classical Drama Festival brought 'dead languages' to life in an adaptation of Apuleius' timeless classic *Cupid and Psyche* on stage in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) in four performances on 12 and 13 October. The production was entirely in Latin and Ancient Greek and featured more than 70 students from ten schools across Sydney.

The producer, Dr Emily Matters, Head of Classics at *Pymble* and the then President of the Classical Languages Teachers Association (CLTA), and director, *Pymble* ex-student Jennie Bradbury (1999), collaborated beautifully together with cast and crew over six months to produce a show which moved the audience to tears of both sadness and laughter. Using handy English 'surtitles' positioned above the stage to aid non-Latin speakers in deciphering the play, the audience was captivated by the struggles of Psyche (Emily Baird, Sydney Girls High School), a mortal girl whose beauty is so breathtaking it angers Venus (Maggie Kerr), the goddess of love.

The show was a huge success, made altogether more amazing by the musical accompaniment composed by Year 11 *Pymble* students and performed by the orchestra conducted by Michelle Wang, also a Year 11 *Pymble* student.

Students and adults alike were honoured by the attendance of the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, at the first performance, who was thrilled at the talent she saw and fervently hoped that it would "enable people to realise the richness of the classics, due to the universal themes like envy, passion and love still prevalent today."

Pymble students acclaimed at film festivals

Pymble Year 10 students Savannah Lambie and Annabel Hennessey have won awards at the Robin Anderson Film Awards announced on Tuesday 13 November. Savannah's film, *I'm Sorry*, won Best Direction for all age groups overall, and Annabel's *The Snow Queen* won Best Film in the Junior Category – Non Fiction.

The films were created by the students as entries in the College's inaugural film festival, *Billboard*, which showcased seventeen short films, documentaries and mockumentaries written, filmed, produced and directed by Years 7 to 11 *Pymble* students. *Billboard* was launched to the community with a special screening at the College on Friday 23 November.



"*Billboard* has been an outstanding success," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. "Students have embraced the opportunity to engage in the diverse world of filmmaking and creativity. Using the skills they have gained in photography, narrative development, communication, teamwork, collaboration and information and communication technology, they have created some outstanding productions."

The audience enjoyed the range of films and the guest judge, Greg Read, commented on the high calibre of all entries and diversity of storytelling at the *Billboard* screening.

Students from Years 7 to 11 submitted short films on a diverse range of subjects. The films were captured in locations across Sydney and featured colleagues and friends. To enrich their filmmaking experience the students were mentored by actor, director and filmmaker, Gracie Otto, as she shared her experiences as a young Australian woman in the film industry in workshops held with the students throughout the year.

Savannah's film also won the Mocktail Award for Best Film in the Student Section at the JMC Academy Film Awards on 19 November. Year 9 student Annabelle Rosewarne's film, *That's Showbiz*, was also a finalist in the same category. Savannah's *I'm Sorry* was also nominated as a finalist for the highly prestigious Melbourne Australian Centre for Moving Image Student Competition, *Screen It*. Year 8 student Joanna Bradley's documentary *Outside Looking In* was nominated as a finalist at The Scots College short film festival *Scotsfest*, as well as the *Pymble* and Scots Years 9 and 10 collaborative short film, *Britney or Whitney?*

sports



Mountain Bike team thrill

Mrs Andra Priestley, Mountain Bike Co-ordinator

Pymble girls placed second in the NSW All Schools Mountain Bike Championships held at Yellomundee Regional Park, at the foothills of the Blue Mountains, on Sunday 11 November. This is the second year the College has competed in this team event, and this year *Pymble* entered four teams: two Junior and two Intermediate.

Teams competed in a relay fashion over a 4.5km course. Teams consisted of three to four riders with the aim to complete as many laps as possible over a four hour period.

The *Pymble* girls all rode extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the course. They displayed great skills, endurance and teamwork and all teams achieved excellent results.



Slam dunk for Maddison

Year 12 student Maddison Penn represented Australia in the Under 19 women's basketball team in the Oceania Championships held in New Zealand during the September/October holidays. The team won the series and has now qualified to compete in the World Championships in July 2013 in Lithuania. Maddison will need to go through the selection process again for this team. Maddison flew out to the United States on the day after she finished her HSC to join up with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) women's team for a two week tour, and she will take up a scholarship at the AIS for basketball at the beginning of 2013.



Australian Netball team at *Pymble*

Pymble netballers were privileged to watch the Australian netball team, the Diamonds, in a training session at the College in preparation for their participation in the international quad-series match that they played (and won) against New Zealand in Sydney on Sunday 21 October.

"The Diamonds are great role models setting high standards for females and provided the top 50 students from the *Pymble* netball program an insight to the training standards and ethics of a professional female sports team as they watched the team in training," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

The 2012 Netball Captain, Melanie Ballard, took time out from her HSC studies to meet the players. Speaking with former Diamonds Captain and Australian team veteran Catherine Cox, Melanie said she was delighted to meet the team members and she also gained some valuable playing tips.

Indigenous scholar Mary Kerr said it was an eye opening experience to see the players' high work ethic in training and she really enjoyed watching the players train as a team.

After their training session the Diamonds met with the *Pymble* students, sharing some netball play tips and signing autographs.

Secondary School Swimming Carnival

The 85th Annual Secondary School Swimming Carnival, held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Thursday 22 November, was a day filled with house spirit and enthusiasm, with a high level of participation across all year levels.

It was an exciting day with new record holders celebrating at the end of the day, including Paris Zhang who broke two very old records, the 50m backstroke record from 1992 and the 100m freestyle record from 1989. Paris also broke records in the 15 years freestyle and open 200m individual medley. Other new record holders were Grace Zhang in the 15 years 50m butterfly, Lily Hoang in the 14 years 50m butterfly, Clare Robertson in the 14 years 50m freestyle and 14 years 50m backstroke and Ingleholme House (Grace Zhang, Paris Zhang, Alison Smith, Shani Wijetilaka) in the freestyle relay.

Ingleholme House won the Overall Inter-House Pointscore with Hammond House and Thomas House following in second and third positions.



beyond Pymble



Conference in India explores empowerment of women

Mrs Angela Schumacher, Student Co-ordinator Upper School

Pymble students from Years 10 and 11 Pragya Goswami, Jagandeep Toor and Biama Nona were fine ambassadors for the College when they attended the Community Development and Leadership Summit in India during November. The girls were members of a delegation of 200 students from 28 countries who were brought together to embark on both academic discussion and cultural exploration in order to enhance a sense of belonging within our global community. It was impressive to witness the young leaders of our future navigate language and cultural differences to debate important issues pertaining to the empowerment of women throughout the world and ultimately conclude that the 'road ahead' for women still holds many obstacles that will only be overcome through global co-operation and education.

India has a rich cultural heritage that is celebrated with great pride. Fortunately, amidst the business of the Summit, our girls were able to experience this first hand as they visited famous monuments such as the Taj Mahal and Rajghat (Gandhi's shrine) and as they witnessed the lead up to the Diwali Festival which holds an important place in the Indian calendar. The girls were also afforded the opportunity to interact with residents of the Cheshire Home as part of their Community Service experience. It was most moving to see our girls join with other students from all around the world to provide support and assistance to those who are living with a disability.

The Community and Development Leadership Summit hosted by the Modern School Delhi was a resounding success and our girls returned to Australia with stronger bonds with our neighbours and the intrinsic determination to enact change within our world.



Music students enjoy *South Pacific*

Year 8 elective music students were privileged to watch Opera Australia's wonderful performance of the musical *South Pacific* when they visited the Sydney Opera House on Wednesday 22 August. The students had been studying and singing many of the well-known songs from the musical, including *Nothing Like a Dame* and *Some Enchanted Evening*.

The production was directed by Bartlett Sher, and the cast included the acting talents of Eddie Perfect and Kate Ceberano. The day was fun, and the production was very entertaining and enthralling, producing both laughs and tears from the audience. The captivating score from Rodgers and Hammerstein had the girls humming the tunes for days after their outing. *South Pacific* was truly an unforgettable musical.



looking back

Friendships forever

The following article is a reflection by Lady Averil Spender (McLeod, 1947) on her fond memories of school days at Pymble.

"It was a hot, sunny summer day, typical of a day in Sydney in the year 1943. For all the girls about to attend their first 'big school' it was the most exciting day because they were about to begin their studies at Presbyterian Ladies' College, Pymble. I was one of those girls.

There was so much excitement putting our uniform together and we were so proud to wear it; it was Black Watch tartan with our initials embroidered in red and underneath a white blouse and Black Watch tartan school tie. A panama hat with a tartan band and hat badge was also worn. We looked forward to being integrated into school life with other students, some who had begun one or two years earlier as boarders or day students.

After meeting Miss Dorothy Knox, our school's Principal, we were shown the Assembly Hall, our lockers and our classrooms. After this it was lunchtime and I went to the front lawn opposite the Colonnade and sat on one of the benches under a large tree. I was joined by several girls and these girls became my friends and were to remain my friends for the rest of our lives.

Despite the fact that these years were very sad for many, as we were in the midst of World War II, following the Great Depression, everyone tried to do what we could to help in our own small way. We learned to knit scarves for the soldiers and made camouflage nets. I together with some other girls, was in the Junior Red Cross and rolled bandages at our meetings or in our church. One morning, 15 August 1945, we were all in our classrooms (I was in the Science block) when suddenly everyone was clapping, cheering and laughing. We rushed to the windows to see teachers and students gathering outside and were told that the war in the Pacific was over and that all our loved ones would be returning home.



Above: Lady Averil Spender



Some of the great things we learned at the College were loyalty, honesty and a sense of fair play. Our school motto *All Ultimo Lavoro – Strive for the Highest* was something that was expected from us every day and what we expected from ourselves. It quelled rebellious natures and gave us a sense of worth. It showed in our studies, sport, relationships and was a strong message to live with every day. Our teachers were carefully chosen for the good qualities they could impart to us, so that in later life with children of our own we could try to guide them fairly and with love. Sport was an important aspect of school life – to be a good sport and to be good at sports was instilled in us and our school days as well as tuition included swimming, gym, hockey, netball, tennis and athletics.

Jumping forward, the year is now 2012 and I have attended our 65 Year Reunion, hosted by Jeanette Rickard at her home with some of the same girls I met that day under the tree in 1943. We are all aged in our 80s now, so sadly, some of our friends are now no longer with us, but our memories are still alive and our love is with them always."



Bottom right: Photo taken in 1945 or 1947 of girls at school. In the back row from left Margaret Brown, Averil Spender (McLeod), Margaret Herford (Harris), unknown, Margaret House (Hopkins). Middle row on the right is Mary Jamison. In the front row on the left is Margot Freeman (Milne), in the middle is Margaret Wilson and on the right unknown.

development at *Pymble*



College's history housed in the new Heritage Centre

Located underneath the War Memorial Chapel, the Heritage Centre houses an extensive archive collection including uniforms, photos, certificates, sports trophies and memorabilia.

The Heritage Centre is also the home of the Development Office, which works with families, past and present, interested in financially supporting the development of Pymble Ladies' College. If you are interested in supporting the College, you are warmly invited to meet the team for a confidential discussion about your plans and ideas.

The Heritage Centre will be the heart of the Ex-Students' Union (ESU) where the committee will now meet for its Annual General Meeting, regular meetings and other related ESU events. Any ex-students who would like to consider holding a reunion or event in the Heritage Centre are most welcome to come along and have a look and a chat.

All members of the *Pymble* community are very welcome to drop by and see the displays of past eras at *Pymble*. There are some very interesting items on display dating back to when the College was established in 1916, including photos of the College, prefects, former Principals and the College Council.

The Year 8 girls have already visited the Centre and all girls agreed that their current uniform is much more comfortable than the long velvet dresses that the boarders wore, or the cumbersome dresses worn for sports by the girls in the 1930s. A newfound respect for today's uniform was clear. A number of the Year 8 girls are second or third generation *Pymble* girls and they were most excited to be able to see what *Pymble* was like for their mothers or grandmothers earlier in the 20th century.

The displays also include a range of trophies and sports memorabilia ranging from trophies for tennis, swimming and life-saving to the traditional red and white Tildesley Tennis blazer. The beautiful Rose Cups are also on display.

If you are interested in visiting the Heritage Centre, please contact John or Joy by phone or email.

John Da Cruz – Director of Development
jdacruz@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or phone: +61 2 9855 7303

Joy England – Alumni Relations Manager
jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or phone: +61 2 9855 7304





Circle of giving – leaving a legacy

Pymble Ladies' College has an extraordinary history of providing an outstanding education for girls, equipping them with the skills to become confident, capable and responsible young women ready to take their place in all walks of life, locally and globally.

Since 1916, when Dr John Marden opened the doors of the College, generations of girls have been educated and given unrivalled opportunities to reap the benefits of being part of Pymble Ladies' College. Education is one of the most valuable gifts we can give our children, and the key to a brighter future. At *Pymble*, we are passionate about continuing to provide this excellence into the future and invite all members of the *Pymble* community to consider leaving a bequest to Pymble Ladies' College. Your support is vital to this long-term goal.

A bequest is a wonderful, enduring gift which makes a profound difference in the lives of girls and in the development of the College. *Pymble* has been the fortunate recipient of a number of generous bequests which have enabled the College to invest in facilities, learning programs and scholarships.

Former Principal, Miss Jeanette Buckham (above), left one of the most important and lasting legacies to *Pymble* which enabled the 'Artists-in-Residence' program to be established. Eminent artists including Mitsuo Shoji (top right), an internationally renowned Ceramic Artist, and leading academics including Professor Michael Archer, Dr Joanne Righetti and Professor Andrew Short have participated in the Visiting Scientist Program. These and other unique opportunities have been realised because of this generous bequest from Miss Buckham. Other bequests have been directed to the Pymble Ladies' College Scholarship Fund, which enables the enrolment of deserving young girls from diverse backgrounds to attend the College.

Excellence in education, development and continued growth of the College can be assured through the philanthropic support of ex-students, parents and friends of *Pymble*. If you would like to discover how you can support Pymble Ladies' College through a bequest, please contact the Development Office for a confidential discussion regarding your legacy planning.

Are you available to assist with the Heritage Club?

Pymble Ladies' College has a rich history and retains extensive archives relating to generations of *Pymble* girls, day and boarders, and their achievements, their families and school activities. The Heritage Club is seeking the assistance of volunteers to help with operation of the centre. No experience is required, just lots of enthusiasm, a love for *Pymble* and a regular commitment for a couple of hours one or two mornings each week. The Heritage Club will provide a great opportunity to find out more about *Pymble*, to trace relatives and friends and to help the College showcase its heritage and history for the whole community to enjoy. We are very excited about this new initiative and welcome your involvement. If you would like to participate as a volunteer in the Heritage Centre, please contact Joy England.

Building our Archive collections

Historically, we have been most fortunate to have received gifts of items from the *Pymble* community, in particular the ex-students. This has enabled us to build up an extensive collection of many different and interesting items. If you have anything which may be of interest, we would love to see it. It is through this sharing of treasured items from different decades that we have been able to trace the rich history of *Pymble* since 1916. With the Centenary of the College just around the corner in 2016, now is the time to go through your old boxes and uncover those memories of the College. If you would like to be involved in the Heritage Club, if you have items for the Archives or are considering leaving a legacy to *Pymble*, please contact Joy England.

parent groups



Melbourne Cup luncheon a winner

Nicholas Fiennes

The 2012 Melbourne Cup Luncheon, held in support of the Pymble Ladies' College Indigenous Scholarship Program, took place at Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills on Tuesday 6 November. The enthusiasm of those attending was fabulous, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to dress up and dust off their fascinators.

The support provided by many local businesses, who donated prizes to the silent auction and raffle, was very generous. Together with the sweepstake sales on the day, an amazing \$12,000 was raised.

A highlight of the lunch was an interview by *Pymble's* Deputy Principal, Mrs Julie Shaw, with former Indigenous scholar Keiryn Lenoy (2010). It was a wonderful opportunity to hear how the program has benefited a talented young Indigenous woman.



JSPG dinner a great community get-together

Victoria Qi

The Junior School Parent Group (JSPG) Year 4 parent function was held in the home of Voni and Jon Leighton (parents of Callie Leighton, 4M) on 16 November. Fifty-nine Year 4 parents attended the event, which was a delicious feast of fine food. The Pattisons (parents of Laura Pattison, 4W) also provided hands-on support for the evening. Everyone left the function with the memory of sensational food, drinks, and above all, a feeling that we have gotten closer as a community. Thanks to the Leightons for their hospitality and the Pattisons for their great contribution and generosity!



PPA lunch enjoyed by staff

Amanda Bear

World Teachers' Day was inaugurated by UNESCO in 1994 to focus attention on the contribution and achievements of teachers. In Australia it is celebrated on the last Friday in October, the occasion when the *Pymble* Parent Association (PPA) sponsors the staff barbecue each year. This year, academic and operational staff from the whole school enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch followed by dessert served on the Gloucester Lawn on Friday 26 October.

The event was an opportunity for members of the parent community to express gratitude and appreciation to our teachers, who provide quality education for our daughters and create a stimulating and challenging learning environment. It was also an acknowledgement of the intrinsic role played by our operational staff.

The event is a highlight of the PPA calendar and enjoyed by staff and parents.



Gingerbread House making a fun night for all

Cathy Elliott

On Thursday 15 November, hoards of *Pymble* families streamed through the doors of the Hall to tables neatly set up with gingerbread house-making kits, comprising gingerbread houses, boards, icing and bags full of sweets kindly donated by Mr Chris O'Brien of Haribo. The Hall was filled with a cacophony of raucous noise; so much fun was had assembling and decorating! Enormous thanks goes to Row McGilvray for putting together a well-planned and well-run evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Preparatory School Swimming Carnival

Cath Mantis and Nicky Coghill

Thursday 8 November brought brilliant blue skies and sunshine to *Pymble*, providing perfect conditions for the Preparatory School Swimming Carnival. The girls looked fantastic in their swimmers, rashies and caps, and the procession to the pool was a sea of pink, purple and blue pomchies. All participants impressed with a magnificent display of swimming and diving, and parents enjoyed a delicious selection of sweet and savoury foods offered at the Preparatory School Parent Group stall. There was wonderful House spirit: the girls cheered their team mates from the pool sidelines and showed great sportsmanship. The depth of swimming talent was evident and all of the races were well-supported and very exciting. A big thank you to Mrs Smith and the Preparatory School staff, Mrs Gentle, Leanne Trembath and her team, the Property Department and all of the parents who volunteered food and/or their time. It was a fabulous day enjoyed by all.



President's Report

2012 has been a wonderful year for the ESU. Not only have we enjoyed hosting some spectacular events during the year, we have also achieved some incredible milestones in our journey to being an active, engaged, vibrant and relevant influence at *Pymble*.

The first significant milestone was the appointment by the College of John Da Cruz as the Director of Development. He has overseen the development of a magnificent display in the Heritage Centre under the Chapel. The Heritage Centre celebrates the life, history and success of the College over the last 96 years. It is open every weekday and we invite you to drop in, look around, join the Heritage Club to assist with the archives or just have a coffee!

John was also instrumental in the appointment of our first ever full-time Alumni Relations Manager, Mrs Joy England. Joy has already started working to get to know the ex-students and is available to assist with all matters related to the ESU and ex-students. These two appointments now mean that the ESU has full-time support at the College for liaising with ex-students, organising reunions and other special events that will most certainly make a difference. Can I encourage all ex-students to ensure that personal contact details and memberships are up-to-date so that we can inform you about ESU events and activities as they arise.

The second significant milestone achieved this year was the introduction of automatic life membership of the ESU for every girl who leaves the College at the completion of Year 12. This is a much appreciated initiative which means that the ESU's membership will be more fully reflective of the girls who have attended *Pymble*. Just as importantly, it means that the ESU will be able to afford much more significant projects as the life membership fees fund new and exciting projects.

In recognising these developments I want to thank everyone who has had the vision and the confidence to work with us on this. I particularly want to thank Mrs Vicki Waters for her ongoing support of the ESU. I would also like to thank Mr Braith Williams, Chair of College Council, who has attended many of our functions this year and strongly supported the work of the ESU. Our thanks also extends to past Presidents and past and present Committee members who have all had a part to play in our achievements this year.

Amongst our outstanding achievements this year was the AlumNOW art exhibition hosted by the ESU. The exhibition drew on the talents of many former students and was an outstanding success. Our annual Commemoration Day Chapel Service was, as usual, well attended. Those attending enjoyed a very insightful speech delivered by a former student and Ex-Student Scholarship recipient, Elizabeth Morell. We also hosted our first ever Chicken and Champagne Stall at the Garden Party, donating all proceeds to the College. This drew in ex-students, partners and friends from far afield and we had so much fun in the planning, preparation and hosting of this event. We hope you can join us next year when we plan to do this again!

As we look back with delight at 2012, we can also look forward to a bright and exciting future full of opportunity and potential. In 2013 we have reunions planned locally, interstate and internationally. The ex-students are a global community and we encourage you all to network and stay in touch through the ESU. With this new support you can certainly expect to hear a lot more from the ESU. It is now so simple to see the ESU in action – just pop in to the Heritage Centre under the Chapel and have a cup of tea or coffee with John and Joy. The Tim Tams are great, the company fantastic and the opportunities are endless.

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**



Jacaranda Day Service

The 2012 Jacaranda Day Service held at the College on 15 November was particularly special this year as ESU member Sonia Powell (Harley, 1981) was the guest speaker. Sonia, who is also the Deputy Chair of *Pymble* College Council, spoke fondly of her time at *Pymble* and her passion for education. Currently, Sonia is working at the University of New South Wales at the Nura Gili Centre for Indigenous students. The words 'Nura Gili' come from the language of the Eora Nation and together they mean 'Place of Fire and Light'. Sonia works closely with Indigenous girls who want to explore whether they would like to study at university and she shared with the girls some of the many success stories which Nura Gili has made possible. Sonia is also a tremendous supporter of the *Pymble* Indigenous Scholarship Program, which currently has 11 Indigenous girls participating. The ESU thanks Sonia for sharing her experiences with the current girls.



Good luck breakfast

The ESU hosted a lovely breakfast in the Senior School Centre Atrium on Friday 9 November for the Year 11 girls moving into Year 12 to wish them well for their upcoming

year. ESU President, Sue Everingham (Taylor, 1977), spoke to the girls, passing on the best wishes and support of the ESU. Cupcakes and 'stressmen' were given to the girls, who all thought that the 'stressmen' would be well used. Samantha Bear, Head Prefect for 2013, thanked the ESU for their support. The ESU is looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2013 next year at the conclusion of their final year at *Pymble*. Best of luck to all the girls.

10 Year Reunion

Lucy Haynes

Fifty ex-students enjoyed catching up for their ten year reunion at the Victoria Rooms, Darlinghurst on Saturday 13 October 2012.

15 Year Reunion

Juliette Saly

The 15 year school reunion was a great success with more than 75 girls enjoying the event on Sunday 11 November at the Village in Potts Point.

20 Year Reunion

Annabelle Ashwin (Macdonald, 1992) and Annette Tseung (1992)

On 20 October, 135 girls who left *Pymble* in 1992 converged on the Treehouse Hotel in North Sydney for their 20 year reunion. It was a fabulous night with loads of laughter, memories and stories to be shared. Any nervous anticipation was quickly forgotten as the typical girl's chatter began and the champagne started flowing.

Some had made a huge effort and had flown in from the United Kingdom, the United States, Ethiopia, Japan, Dubai, as well as interstate and country regions. Everyone agreed that they easily slipped back into the school day conversations and remembered how fun it was to hang out again!

Thanks to all those who came along and made the night such a fun and memorable one. We look forward to catching up again at the next one.

50 Year Reunion

Susannah Smith (Stirling), Robyn Grant (Howell), Lesley Neil (Peacocke), Fran Lowndes (Green).

The class of 1962 held its reunion at the school on Sunday 29 July 2012. Sixty-one girls came and we all had a 'blast'! As it was also Commemoration Day, we began with a Chapel Service (a great walk down Memory Lane), followed by morning tea and lunch in the Senior School Centre.

Being our 50 year reunion, it was very special, so we organised a 'Biography Book' in which all the girls we could round up sent us a brief outline of their lives since leaving school and a recent photo. This information was compiled by Marita Headlam (Keenan), her son Matthew Hoo and Robyn Grant (Howell) and the College organised the printing. Thank you; you created a wonderful book that we can use to keep in touch and a memento that we all treasure.

The College organised five Year 10 boarders (Emma Warton, Victoria Toole, Chanel Ling, Ebony Hall-Fairweather and Alicia Minter-Hunt) to take our girls on a tour of the school. These five girls were fabulous!

We had an unexpected treat when one of our senior school English teachers, Mrs Hicks (Miss Hill) arrived. She was attending her 60 year reunion lunch, heard we were there, and popped in! It's interesting to think she was only 10 years older than we were at school.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped make our day so special; it was such fun we decided to get together again in five years.

If there are any girls in our year who were not contacted by us, and would like to be in contact, please email Susannah Smith (Stirling) on susannah.smith2325@gmail.com

65 Year Reunion

Ten ex-students from the class of 1947 recently gathered at Jeanette Rickard's house to reminisce about their days at *Pymble* and enjoy the company of women they had met as young girls when they first started at the College in 1943. Attending the reunion were Jeanette Rickard (Mackenzie), Margaret House (Hopkins), Helen Turner (Lees), Diana Hughes (Rae), Barbara Knox (Blackwell), Beverley Morris (Harris), Robin Erratt (Allen), Margaret Hamilton (Husband), Margot Fleming (Sabine) and Averil Spender (McLeod). Apologies were received from Rosemary Corbett, Joan Walker (Green), Pam Herford (Leggett), Barbara Cross (Gray), Barbara Hindmarsh (Bailey) and Rosemary Pike (Campbell).

An article recollecting the 1947 cohort's days at Pymble, 'Friendships forever' by Lady Averil Spender, features on page 23.



A trip down memory lane for Marjorie Cronin

College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, and the Director of Development, Mr John Da Cruz, had the honour of welcoming back to the College one of our oldest 'Old Girls', Mrs Marjorie Cureton Cronin (Long, 1930), affectionately known as 'Billy' by her fellow students. Marjorie visited the College with her son

Michael Cronin for morning tea and a tour on Thursday 13 September. It was a wonderful opportunity for Marjorie to reminisce about her days at *Pymble*, particularly her fond memories of Miss Nancy Jobson, Headmistress of *Pymble* from 1922 to 1933.

Marjorie spoke of her memories of the College swimming pool in the 1920s and was excited to hear of the plans for the proposed indoor Sports Centre and Swimming Pool. She also spoke of her memory of cows in the fields at *Pymble*.

Marjorie presented to the College Archives her Bible that she was awarded as a Scripture Prize in 1930 by the Chairman of the College Council, Mr R.W. Gillespie, and Headmistress, Miss Nancy Jobson. Following morning tea, Marjorie and Michael were taken on a tour of the College, which Marjorie noted has changed considerably over the past 82 years. A highlight of the visit was meeting students in the Performing Arts Centre who warmly welcomed Majorie back to her old school.

Announcements

Engagements

- **Emily Cale (2005)** to Chris Rees.
The wedding is on Friday 13 September 2013.
- **Rebecca Craig (2003)** to Peter Hubert.
The wedding is on Saturday 27 April 2013 in Berry.
- **Candace Shepherd (2000)** to Michael Chandler.
The wedding will be in March 2013.

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.



- **Sophie Armstrong (1998)** married Quincy Neufeld on Saturday 1 October 2011 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Sophie was attended by her sister Laura Armstrong (2000), Hanna Oblikov (2004), Saskia Driscoll (Mulley-Gibson, 1998) and Taraleigh Davidson. They are now living in Calgary, Canada.



- **Jennifer Davidson (Anschau, 2003)** married William Davidson at All Saints Anglican Church Hunters Hill on Saturday 17 December 2011. Jennifer's bridesmaids, her sister Laura Anschau (2009), Vanessa Clare (2003) and Sarah Williams (2003) are *Pymble* ex-students. The reception was held at the Deckhouse, Woolwich. Jennifer and William are living in London.



- **Fiona Rinaldi (1998)** married David Pearce on Saturday 28 June 2012 at a private ceremony with family in London. Fiona's bridesmaids were her three sisters, Katie Rinaldi (2001), Laura Rinaldi (2003) and Stephanie Rinaldi (2007) and sister-in-law Lynley Kemp. The happy couple enjoyed their honeymoon in Tuscany.



Left to right: Laura Rinaldi (2003), Fiona Rinaldi (1998), Stephanie Rinaldi (2007) and Katie Rinaldi (2001)



- **Holly Howard (1995)** married Steve Tongu at Milton Park, Bowral in early 2012. Holly lives in London and flew home for the wedding. She was joined by several ex-students, including Angela Marlow (Phillips, 1995), Leigh Hartshorn (1995), Belinda Rudolph, Cynthia Pym (Marlin, 1995) and Sheridan Mury (1995).

- **Brianna Roach (2004)** married Dean Edwards on Friday 30 December 2011 in the College's War Memorial Chapel with their reception at WatersEdge, The Rocks. Brianna was attended by *Pymble* ex-students, Maid of Honour Ellise Roach (2006), Penelope Cameron (2004) and Melanie Austin (2004).



Front row left to right: Eleanor Lyell (2010), Ellise Roach (2006), Brianna Edwards (2004), Penelope Cameron (2004) and Melanie Austin (2004); Middle row left to right: Amanda Grundy (2004), Nina Middleton (2004), Rebecca Afrakoff (2011), Elizabeth Afrakoff (2007), Samantha Mooney (2004) and Rev Jonathan Humphries; Back row left to right: Elizabeth Probert (2004), Deana Low (2004), Emma Bowman (2004), Kiera Batten (2004) and Jane Johnson (2004).

Births

- **Angela Grimsdale (1989)** and her partner Joanne are delighted to announce the birth of their second son Marcel, a brother to Andre.
- **Amelia Jacka (Thomas, 1996)** and husband Justin are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Alice Jacka, born on 18 October 2012. A beautiful little sister for Lachlan and Xavier.
- **Susan Lakeman (Cook, 1995)** and husband Andy are delighted to announce the arrival of their second child, Charlie John Gordon Lakeman, on 4 April 2012 at University Hospital, London, UK. Charlie is a brother for Lucy, aged two and a half.
- **Amelia McPhie (Daymond, 2000)** and husband Thomas are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Genevieve Louise, born 31 July 2012.
- **Kate Reynish (Gay, 1999)** and husband Brett are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Jane Isabella, on 24 August 2012, a little sister for Campbell. She is named after Jane Louise Gay who tragically passed away in 1993.
- **Stephanie Rofe (Nelson, 2002)** and husband Ashley were delighted to welcome their first child, a son, Hugo James Fulton Rofe into the world on 26 June 2012.
- **Erica Warner (Richards, 1998)**, husband David and big brother Lachlan welcomed William Michael to the world on Tuesday 12 June 2012.

Vale

- **Constance Marjorie Davidson (Croxon, 1936)** a resident of Auckland, New Zealand for the last 50 years, died on 26 July 2012.
- **Margaret Cameron Bower (Logan, 1945)** of Wallerawang, NSW passed away on 4 June 2012. Margaret and her husband James were only seven weeks shy of their 64th wedding anniversary.
- **Brenda Jean Brennan (Lambie, 1943)** passed away on 14 November 2011. Brenda was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on 29 January 1926 and her family moved to Sydney in 1930. Brenda attended *Pymble* in her latter secondary years when her parents moved to Pymble during World War II. Brenda lived on the land at Gocup (Tumut area) with her husband Bryan from 1955. Life would not have been easy for Brenda at this time. Electricity was not connected to her home until August 1958, so kerosene fridges and lights were used. Clothes were boiled in a copper before being washed by hand. For a woman who grew

up with modern conveniences in Sydney, this would have been quite a challenge. Brenda, however, took it in her stride. She was noted for her community work, particularly her membership of the Country Women's Association, and loved travelling and cooking. Brenda was always proud of her Scottish heritage. As a young woman, she enjoyed Scottish country dancing in Sydney. In Tumut, she would participate in St Andrew's Day celebrations, often being responsible for the cooking of the haggis, much to the chagrin of her family. Brenda is survived by her seven children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Bryan predeceased her in 2002, and her sister Wilda passed away on 12 October this year.

Helen Brennan (daughter-in-law)

- **Dorothy Butler (Watts, 1939)** passed away on 27 August 2012. Her funeral service was held at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, North Ryde on 30 August 2012.
- **Margaret Ann Davidson-Thorp (Davidson, 1948)** passed away on 3 August 2012. A Memorial Service for Ann held on 10 August at St Andrew's Scots Kirk Church, Rose Bay was attended by family and friends.

- **Betty Marian Ferguson (Rogalsky, 1937)** died in 2011.
- **Gloria Ford (Hocking, 1941)** died on 9 August 2012 just one day before the 18th anniversary of her husband's death in 1994. Her funeral was held on 15 August. Gloria had attended several *Pymble* ex-student luncheons in Brisbane and lived on the Sunshine Coast.
- **Lesley Maxwell-Dowey (Maxwell, 1950)** died suddenly on 24 October 2012.
- **Elsa Simpson (Menzies, 1955)** passed away on 1 November 2012 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Elsa was always proud of her years at *Pymble* and loved meeting up with other ex-students at reunions. She also loved to keep abreast of news at the College through reading the *Pymbulletin*.
Catherine Simpson (daughter)
- **Jennifer Milner (Hubbard, 1971)** passed away in July 2011.
- **Margaret Wass (Gordon, 1953)** died on 3 January 2012.

Upcoming Reunions - 2013

We need organisers for the 10, 15, 25, 35 and 55 year reunions. Please contact Joy England by email jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or on 02 9855 7304 if you would like to be the convenor.

Event	Year	Date	Contact
5 Year Reunion	2008 Leavers	Friday 17 May, 7.00pm - 9.00pm Heritage Centre and Colonnade, evening drinks and nibbles.	Chloe Sevil (2008) E: chloe.sevil@gmail.com
20 Year Reunion	1993 Leavers	Saturday 9 March, 6.00pm for 6.30pm until 11.00pm. The Treehouse, North Sydney \$35 per person	Felicity Degotardi (Lawson, 1993) E: fdegotardi@yahoo.com
30 Year Reunion	1983 Leavers	Early November 2013	Rowena Stulajter (McMurray, 1983) M: 0400 485 926 E: Rowena@nanovations.com.au Chris Fisher (MacGregor, 1983) E: fisherc@bigpond.net.au Jenny Cole (Hart, 1983) E: jenhart@everydaycashmere.com
40 Year Reunion	1973 Leavers	Saturday 12 October 2013, 5.00pm - 11.00pm Senior School Centre Atrium, dinner	Janette Norrie (Morell, 1973) E: janettenorrie@hotmail.com M: 0414 696 528 P: 02 4369 6528 Sally Gulson (Sherman, 1973) E: fgulson@bigpond.net.au
45 Year Reunion	1968 Leavers	Saturday 19 October 2013, 12.00pm Senior School Centre Atrium, lunch	Margaret Parrett (Whitney, 1968) P: 02 9416 6031 E: marcol@bigpond.net.au
50 Year Reunion	1963 Leavers	Sunday 13 October 2013, 11.00am - 3.00pm Senior School Centre Atrium, lunch. A boarders' dinner is also planned for Saturday 12 October. Venue to be confirmed	Pamela Hennessy (Waterhouse) P: 02 9999 2852 E: pjph@bigpond.com Louise Allison E: ruffcat2@bordnet.com.au Mail: PO Box 921 Dickson ACT 2602 If you have not received the letter sent out regarding the reunion, please email or post your details to Louise.
60 Year Reunion	1953 Leavers	Sunday 28 July 2013 (Commemoration Day 2013) 10.00am - 5.00pm, Senior School Centre Atrium, lunch	Meg Henderson (1953) E: Megh1@tpg.com.au
65 Year Reunion	1948 Leavers	Sunday 28 July 2013 (Commemoration Day 2013) David Macfarlane Centre, lunch	Ruth Alcock (Inglis) P: 02 9449 5263 E: vda@tpg.com.au Joan Scougall (Cadwallader) P: 02 9966 5507
70 Year Reunion	1943 Leavers	Sunday 28 July 2013 (Commemoration Day 2013) Heritage Centre, lunch	Alison Hale (Neild) P: 02 9327 4923

International and Interstate Reunions in 2013

Event	Year	Date	Contact
UK Reunion	All ex-students who are overseas from all years are very welcome to the UK reunion	Saturday 18 May 2013, venue TBA	Katrina Collier (Richardson, 1988) Fiona Schreuder (Hayman, 1986) E: PLCAumniEurope@gmail.com www.facebook.com/PymbleLadiesCollegeExStudentsAlumniEurope
Melbourne	Date and venue TBA All ex-students in the area	Date and venue TBA	We need an organiser for this event. Please contact Joy England on 02 9855 7304 or email jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au if you would like to be the convenor
Brisbane	Date and venue TBA All ex-students in the area	Date and venue TBA	We need an organiser for this event. Please contact Joy England on 02 9855 7304 or email jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au if you would like to be the convenor

garden party...

a grand day enjoyed by all



Aditi Aiyer and Sarah Cutter-Russell, Year 11

Pymble's much-awaited Garden Party, held on Saturday 15 September, exceeded expectations this year, with visitors exploring the myriad of food stands, the many highly-acclaimed stalls and even trying out a ride or two for a few thrills. Children and adults alike came from far and wide to celebrate a wonderful spring day of amazing family fun and returning guests enjoyed some new attractions that were featured this year.

Farmyard Fun, organised by the Preparatory School Parent Group, was one such attraction, which featured adorable baby animals which could be fed and cuddled, much to the delight of visitors, particularly young children. *Pymble* students helped to run the stall on the day, which made the experience even more exciting. Another new stall featured was the Photo Booth, run by Year 9. Visitors lined up to pull their funniest faces and show their biggest grins whilst capturing the memory of the day.

As well as the new stalls, many old favourites were present on the day including The Black Rhino, where people were able to find a bargain on a range of items, and Portobello Road, which was heaven for shopaholics and also a great place to find unique items, ranging from amazing soaps to long lost treasures of the sea. All of the student bodies again held their stalls, such as Devonshire Tea (Year 11) and Gift Baskets (Year 7), where *Pymble* students ensured everything ran smoothly and their customers went away smiling.

The Colonnade was filled with sweet aromas floating from the Boarders' Parent Group Country Stall, while the Fine Food Fare and Sweet Sensation stalls left many mouths watering. Anyone in search of a good bargain could also find some great items at the Second-hand Book Stall or the Music Support Group's Second-hand Music Stall.

Entertainment ran throughout the day, with performances from both Junior and Secondary music ensembles pleasing listeners, and an exciting showcase of talent from the Knox Pipe Band left everyone smiling. Art works completed by students throughout the year were on display during the day in the Senior School Centre-Kate Mason Building, reflecting the impressive artistic talent at *Pymble*.

After many hours of excitement and laughter, this year's Garden Party came to a close and left everyone remarking that it was a most successful and memorable day.



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