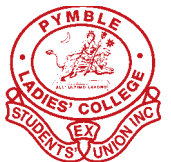
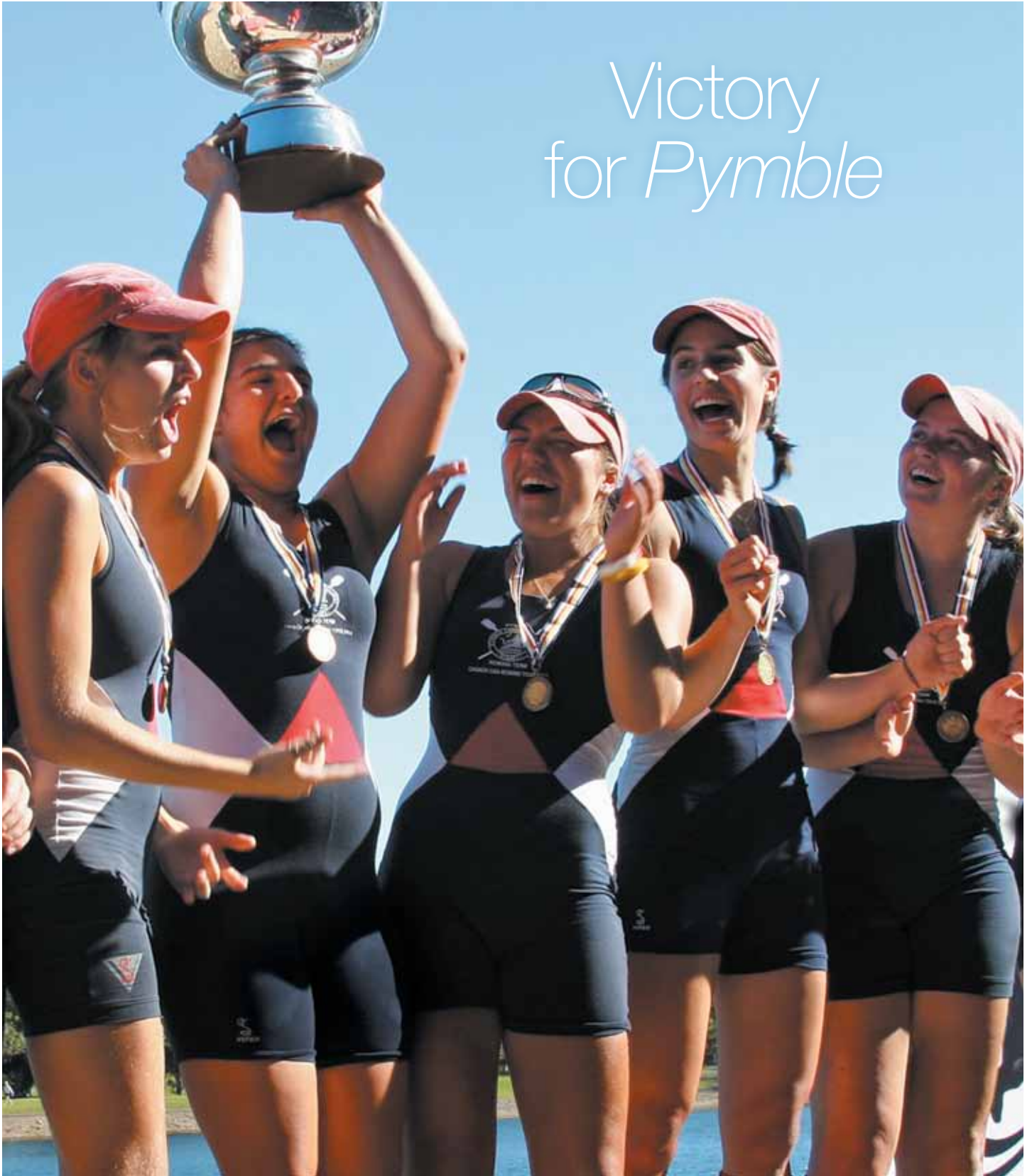


Victory for *Pymble*



Contents

	Page
Principal's Pen	2
Outstanding HSC results for <i>Pymble</i>	3
College News	4-6
- New Junior School Head and Deputy Head	
- 2012 Australia Day Honours	
- College Chaplain officially welcomed to <i>Pymble</i>	
- Foundation Day celebrates 96 years	
- <i>Pymble</i> embraces green site initiative with power saving solar panel system	
Looking back	7
- <i>Pymble</i> in the 1930s	
Preparatory School	8-9
Junior School	10-11
Community Service and Pastoral Care	12-13
- Peer Support Program reassures students	
- Easter egg extravaganza for Exodus	
- Presentation inspires hope in students	
- <i>Pymble</i> students march for Melanoma	
- Ella Pash cuts hair for charity	
- Year 10 students engage in community service project	
- St. Edmund's children enjoy swimming carnival	
Academic Opportunities	14-15
- Sea creatures experience for Biology class	
- Chicks raised for Easter Show	
- Medieval show engages history students	
- Exciting opportunities exposed at Careers Expo	
Performance and the Arts	16-17
- <i>Hamlet</i> engages audience	
- A night of exceptional music	
- Exceptional talent at the Dame Joan Hammond Piano Recital	
- Why the Red Eyes? Photography at <i>Pymble</i>	
- Oovie School Film Competition	
Beyond <i>Pymble</i>	18-19
- A blast at Year 7 camp	
- An inspiring and enriching camp	
- French exchange – an unforgettable experience	
- International Women's Day celebrated at <i>Pymble</i>	
- Students enjoy a United Nations weekend	
Boarding at <i>Pymble</i>	20
- Action packed term for <i>Pymble</i> boarders	
Sport	21
- <i>Pymble</i> triumphant at diving championships	
- <i>Pymble</i> rows to victory	
Parent Groups	22-23
Ex-Students' Union Inc.	24-27
2012 Garden Party	28

Front cover: Head of the River victory for *Pymble*

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Principal's Pen



Welcome to the first issue of the *Pymbulletin* for 2012. This is a significant year for the College as we set the direction for *Pymble* on our journey towards 2020.

Over the next eight years the College will be required to embrace a range of educational strategies. The dynamics of teaching, learning and assessing student progress will be very different to what we practise today. This is a ground-breaking era for education and I am excited about exploring future trends and opportunities in education with our community as we set the benchmark for educational practice across the globe.

As we all know 'today's children are tomorrow's leaders' and I am confident that both current and future *Pymble* students will leave their mark in countless global organisations and disciplines. The 'Towards *Pymble 2020*' strategic planning process being conducted in 2012 will form the blueprint for the future of the College positioning *Pymble* as a world leader in the education of girls and young women.

The College has commenced planning for our centenary. In 2016 the College will reach a significant milestone, which started with the forward thinking of our founder, Dr John Marden. In the past 96 years *Pymble* has established a reputation for providing an outstanding education for girls and young women. Our rich history is admirable and I look forward to celebrating our 100th birthday!

Pymble students support our College motto 'striving for the highest' in all endeavours. This issue of the *Pymbulletin* highlights some of our students' achievements in sport, academic and artistic endeavours. However it is not all about achievement, it is also about serving one's community and being an active member of the *Pymble* community. Community service at *Pymble* is taken very seriously and you can read about some of our students' service to the community on pages 12 and 13. You can also read about our *Pymble* community events conducted by our Parent Support Groups during Term 1 on pages 22 and 23.

I trust you enjoy reading about our dynamic College and the inspiring efforts by our students, staff and community as they embrace *Pymble's* five core values of care, courage, integrity, respect and responsibility that make *Pymble* the special place it is.

Mrs Vicki L Waters

PRINCIPAL

Garden Party

Saturday 15 September 2012

10.00am to 3.00pm

All welcome



Outstanding HSC results for *Pymble*

Pymble Ladies' College Year 12 2011 students achieved outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate (HSC) including two students achieving the perfect Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.95, two students topping the State in three subjects and a Year 11 accelerant placing first in a subject through the Open High School.

The perfect ATARs were achieved by Alice Han and Christina Guo, with many more *Pymble* students following close behind with a near-perfect ATAR.

"The *Pymble* Year 12 cohort of 2011 has achieved brilliant results and is to be congratulated for such outstanding achievements," said Mrs Vicki Waters, College Principal.

Pymble students excelled in HSC English courses with Charlotte Salusinszky topping the state in English Advanced, Alice Han placing fifth in English Extension 1, Tara Hariharan placing seventh in English Advanced and second in English Extension 1, Diya Pacheco placing sixth in English Advanced and Olivia Ronan placing tenth in English Advanced.

Pymble student, Miranda Middleton placed first in the State in French Continuers and French Extension, an incredible achievement for a student who was Captain of Athletics, Captain of Cross Country, Captain of Music and the Arts, Prefect and participated in numerous co-curricular activities. Alice Han placed second in French Continuers and third in French Extension and Year 11 accelerant student Emma Presutti came first in the state in Italian Continuers through the Open High School.

Pymble students featured in the State's Best in Subject list in other language courses with students coming second and fifth in Italian Beginners, third and fifth in Japanese Extension, fourth in Japanese Continuers and second in Classical Greek Extension.

A staggering 43 *Pymble* students were named on the State All-round Achievers List for earning marks of 90 or above in 10 or more units. This exemplifies the strength of learning and teaching at *Pymble* as the results were achieved across 44 separate courses.

An impressive 546 places were achieved by 162 students on the Honour Roll, which acknowledges students who earn a Band 6 result in a two unit course or a Band E4 result in an Extension course in one or more subjects.

Pymble students have also excelled in Visual Arts with five students' Bodies of Work selected for exhibition in ARTEXPRESS to tour the State in 2012. In the performing arts, three dance students were nominated for inclusion in Callback 2012 and six music students were nominated for inclusion in ENCORE 2012.

"The outstanding HSC results of 2011 have been achieved through the application, dedication and hard work of our students, and the support of their families and their teachers. The results cap a year of excellence at the College," said Mrs Waters.

"For many students, their academic focus and commitment has been complemented by wonderful achievements across a range of co-curricular programs in areas such as sport, the performing and visual arts, leadership and community service."

New Junior School Head and Deputy Head



New Head leads the Junior School

Maggie Kerr, Year 11

The College community welcomed Mrs Cheryl Turner as the new Head of Junior School at the start of the 2012 school year.

Born, raised and educated in Sydney, Mrs Turner has always had a love of schooling, previously as Head of Junior School at Tara Anglican School for Girls, the curriculum consultant at the Board of Studies as well as the Principal of Turrumurra North High School for eight years.

"I have always been passionate about teaching and learning," said Mrs Turner. Expressing her desire for a fresh approach to learning, she said: "I feel that a contemporary approach to education is the way of the future."

"I believe in girls participating in a way that gives them life skills," said Mrs Turner, when asked about new initiatives in the Junior School. Mentoring the Student Representative Council and guiding girls to research charities of interest are two areas of focus for Mrs Turner, which she believes encourage enquiry based learning skills.

Mrs Turner is excited about transforming the way Junior School girls interact and learn. "Group learning is an important aspect of the learning process and I want to implement a greater sense of flexibility and community in classes," said Mrs Turner.



Junior School Deputy Head impressed with *Pymble*

Samantha Bear, Year 11

Ms Kate Lester, the new Deputy Head of Junior School is excited about "establishing a true culture of thinking within the school". Since starting her role in January 2012, Ms Lester has been impressed with the dedication of the teachers, their willingness to volunteer for projects and their obvious care for their students.

Ms Lester has previously taught at a number of schools, including the Australian International School in Ho Chi Minh City. She describes the role of Deputy Head of Junior School as a "position that was made for me. I absolutely love it here. *Pymble* has a fabulous reputation in the community and I wanted to be part of that."

Having run a successful business for a number of years, Ms Lester had not initially considered entering the teaching profession, but once she began her studies, she discovered a passion that has resulted in her becoming a respected educator. Upon being asked what inspired her to enter the teaching profession, Ms Lester remarked, "It is a fantastic combination of intellectual and creative skills, and being with children is just so much fun; they're so fresh. I really enjoy the way they think."

Ms Lester has implemented several wonderful initiatives for the Junior School which have received an enthusiastic response. The recently established Chess Club has attracted many new members, as has the previously formed Gardening Club where Ms Lester works with her 'Eco Warriors'. Although her role mainly allows for interaction with students from Years 3 to 6, Ms Lester remarks that "it is wonderful to walk across the campus and see the Secondary girls as well." To be able to witness her students mature from their early stages of education into young women is a unique experience for her. "I love the atmosphere at *Pymble*, it's very dynamic and diverse," said Ms Lester.

2012 Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to College Council member Professor Wai Fong Chua AM on receiving the award of Member of the Order of Australia. The award acknowledges Professor Chua's "service to tertiary education as an administrator, through research and leadership in the discipline of accounting and as a mentor". Professor Chua has served on the Pymble Ladies' College Council since 1998, contributing invaluable academic, financial and strategic insights to the governance of the College. Her two adult daughters are both ex-students of *Pymble*.

Congratulations to Mr David Blackwell OAM, who has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the accountancy profession and to the community. Mr Blackwell was Chairman of the Pymble Ladies' College Council from 1987 to 1992, Council member from 1965 to 1992, Finance Committee member from 1965 to 1979 and Convenor from 1979 to 1987. *Pymble's* David Blackwell Music Centre is named in his honour and was officially opened on 4 April 1992.

College Chaplain officially welcomed to *Pymble*

Reverend Lorenzo Rodriguez Torres was officially welcomed as College Chaplain at an Induction Service held in *Pymble's* War Memorial Chapel on 13 February 2012.

Led by the Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia (Synod of NSW and ACT), Reverend Dr Brian Brown and with the magnificent voices of the *Pymble* Chorale, this auspicious occasion was filled with warmth and a great sense of community.

"It was a beautiful and uplifting service celebrating Reverend Rodriguez Torres' role as Chaplain at *Pymble*," said Mrs Vicki Waters, College Principal. "His warmth, honesty and generosity of spirit were an inspiration to all at the service."

College staff, students and visitors attended the Induction Service and later joined Reverend Rodriguez Torres for morning tea after the service.

Reverend Rodriguez Torres joined the College in October 2011 to share the role of College Chaplain with Pastor Greer Dokmanovic.



Foundation Day celebrates 96 years

Sabah Hussain, 2004 ex-student, was guest speaker at the 2012 Foundation Day ceremony on 8 February. She spoke to students and staff from across the College of her fond memories of school days at *Pymble* and the important role her teachers played both during school and in her years beyond *Pymble*.

Sabah acknowledged her teachers for instilling in her the importance of patience, courage, an open mind and to always have passion.

"My teachers opened my eyes to the outside world and to them I owe a great deal," said Miss Hussain. "To me, my teachers have been those priceless gems who have not only taught me the basics of how to read, write, count, paint and type but they took education further and they equipped me with life lessons and laid the foundation of my values which I have taken out into the real world with me."

Miss Hussain said that she also learnt to always have courage and rise up from failure, to have an open mind and to always have a passion.

Each year the *Pymble* community comes together to reflect on the rich history of the College and embrace the unique and inspiring qualities that makes *Pymble* so special. The 2012 Foundation Day Service celebrated 96 years of educating girls and young women at the College.

Sabah Hussain holds a Bachelor of Business from the University of Technology Sydney majoring in Accounting and Finance, is a qualified Chartered Accountant and currently leads the national finance team at Snap Franchising Limited. Miss Hussain is also the current Treasurer of the *Pymble* Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union.





Pymble embraces green site initiative with power saving solar panel system



Pymble Ladies' College will produce approximately 86,403 kW hours of power per year and reduce GHG emissions by 91,588kg of carbon dioxide per year after the installation of a 60kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system in February 2012.

"The installation of the solar panels supports *Pymble's* commitment to environmental awareness, sustainability, recycling and carbon emission reduction," said Mrs Vicki Waters, Principal of the College. "As a leading independent school for girls, it's appropriate that *Pymble* is setting a benchmark in sustainability initiatives with the installation of one of the biggest non-commercial solar power systems in Australia."

"The College has a responsibility to undertake such important sustainability initiatives but it's also important to engage the students in sharing this responsibility to ensure their children will also enjoy the world as we know it today."

The 60kW system, installed on the roof of the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) is an expansion on an existing 16kW system which was installed in 2011 and partly funded through a Commonwealth Government grant.

Pymble's solar power system includes solar data monitoring and an online web-portal to view the daily and total solar energy production, weather data and total energy consumption of the GMCPA.

The College conducted a comprehensive energy audit determining energy saving initiatives which have now been implemented, including the upgrade of existing fluorescent and halogen lighting to energy efficient LED lighting, the installation of occupancy sensors to automate the control of lighting, timers on air conditioning units and hot water systems, request buttons on split system air conditioners and the removal of excess lighting where feasible.

Other initiatives include a focus on the reduction of paper usage and recycling programs including water tanks to service gardens, waste management including the harvesting of all metal products and 'bio-bins' to provide compost from food waste.

In January 2011 the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, officially opened the new Senior School Centre – Kate Mason Building at *Pymble*. The design of the building affirms the College's commitment to environmental sustainability. Green features of the Centre include mixed mode air conditioning, low energy floor heating in main areas, movement/daylight sensor-controlled lights, high performance glazing and high levels of insulation and rainwater harvesting for WC flushing and irrigation. The building was assessed to achieve 82% savings against baseline energy efficiency requirements of the building code of Australia.

Pymble students are enthusiastic in supporting the College's drive towards a green site. Initiatives include an Enviro Kids Club, which was awarded the inaugural Panda Award in 2011 for environmental initiatives including 'Lunch Box Fridays', to reduce wastage from lunch wrappings.

Students also participate in 'Earth Hour', 'National Tree Day' and 'Clean up Australia Day' and a Student Representative Sustainability Committee develops sustainability programs across the College.

"At *Pymble* environmental sustainability is embraced by staff and students," said Mrs Waters. "Projects such as the solar installation is just one of the numerous initiatives conducted at the College to develop *Pymble* as a green site affirming our commitment to environmental sustainability."

looking back



Whole of College students - 1935



Miss Nancy Jobson Miss Grace Mackintosh Miss Dorothy Knox

Pymble in the 1930s

Mrs Kim Collins, College Archivist

"If you wear the right shoes to grip the steep side of a mountain you can grip the steep side of life..." (quote by 'Alison' from The Magazine of the Presbyterian Ladies' College Pymble, December 1931).

The 1930s at Pymble began with the unsettling effects of the Great Depression and ended with the College community facing the sombre reality that Australia was once again drawn into a world war.

In the early 1930s declining enrolments, especially amongst the boarding community, affected the College's finances with staff numbers and salaries reduced and closing Lang House until 1935 to reduce costs. From 1934 things began to improve, although strict economic measures remained in place at Pymble until 1938.

The 1930s saw three Principals leading the College: Miss Nancy Jobson (1922 to 1933), Miss Grace Mackintosh (1933 to 1936) and Miss Dorothy Knox (1936 to 1967).

1934 was a historic year for Pymble when the College Prayer was introduced by Miss Mackintosh.

Enrolments grew later in the decade, with numbers increasing from 205 students (61 of these were boarders) in 1933 to 471 students (155 boarders) in 1939. The growth in enrolments was followed by the opening of Gillespie-McIlrath House, accommodating seven classrooms and a new Principal's residence, in 1938.

By the end of the decade the College community was thriving with a great diversity of academic, sporting and co-curricular activities on offer. When war was declared in September 1939 the College, in true Pymble spirit, established a Comforts Fund to support allied troops and a branch of Junior Red Cross to support military hospitals and soldiers' families. By the end of 1939 both groups had collected 38 pounds and dispatched 82 pairs of socks and 58 miscellaneous comforts!

As the decade drew to a close, despite the dark days of war that lay ahead, the College's future development and consolidation was assured as reflected in the following words from the 1939 College Magazine editorial:

"... once again we find the Pymble College engaged in building operations - this time a complete block for the domestic staff - an undertaking carried on, despite war and rumours of war, in faith, courage and belief in the future."



Gillespie-McIlrath House - 1938



Life saving - 1933

preparatory school

Maths Day

This year, the Preparatory School celebrated World Maths Day on 7 March which proved to be a very exciting time for the girls as they participated in a range of hands-on Mathematics activities covering all strands of the Mathematics curriculum. Equipped with their 'passport' the girls progressed through their tasks including hopping on one foot, skipping with a rope, spinning on bilibos and completing puzzles within a 60 second time frame and recording their achievements.





Kindergarten

The girls settled in quickly to the routines of school and have been thriving in the rich learning environment, including developing their phonemic awareness and reading skills through a variety of engaging activities across all areas of the curriculum.

Kindergarten girls created beautiful stained glass windows in art after they toured the school and were inspired by the stained glass windows in the College's War Memorial Chapel.

On Shrove Tuesday Kindergarten girls learnt about the significance of Lent and Easter. They also enjoyed learning how to make pancakes and all agreed the pancakes were delicious.



Year 1 visit Aquarium

A visit to Sydney Aquarium gave Year 1 girls an insight to the Great Barrier Reef, rock pools, rivers, mangroves and other water environments as part of their topic of study, 'Under the Sea'.

A presentation *Beneath Southern Seas* by marine biologist and underwater cameraman George Evatt provided the girls with an insight into the plants and animals that live in our oceans and the effect of pollution on our marine environments.

To supplement the topic with some more practical work, the girls did some fascinating science experiments to learn about the properties of saltwater and freshwater.

Year 2 explore the environment

Exploring 'Wet and Dry Environments' in Human Society and Its Environment, Year 2 girls were enthralled by the Daintree Rainforest and Great Sandy Desert. Researching plant and animal life within these two environments, the girls learnt about the many 'tricks' used by animals and plants to adapt and survive in their competitive surroundings.

The girls visited the Botanic Gardens and explored life in a rainforest and cactus garden and discovered the many creatures that live on the forest floor.

Many wonderful projects were completed during the 'Wet and Dry Environment' project week within the classroom. All girls independently researched life within both wet and dry environments and completed creative and written projects.



Water Works!

As part of the unit 'Water Works!', Year 2 students investigated ways to conserve water and created fantastic posters to share their ideas. They learnt about the water cycle, states of matter and the concerning effects of pollution on our water systems. Experiments were conducted in small groups to discover why and how matter dissolves and floats. The girls were provided with the opportunity to design and create a foil boat and then tested its ability to float on water.

Italian zone

On Mondays and Wednesdays the girls learnt that when they crossed the threshold into the Library they entered the 'Italian zone'. Lessons were conducted almost entirely in Italian and the girls learnt to develop skills of listening, using visual clues and 'having a go' to participate in movement, songs, games and online activities using the interactive whiteboard. They were introduced to Pino the puppet, practised counting and learnt to greet the class in Italian.

junior school

Year 5 Camp - a fun experience

Jessie Lum and Sophie Knox, Year 5

On Wednesday 14 March Year 5 went to Kiama for camp. It took three hours on the bus to get there.

Our first activity was the coastal walk. We went swimming in the seaside pool; it was freezing! One of the attractions was the blowhole. It was not as spectacular as it sometimes is as the water was unusually calm. On the bus again, we soon arrived at the Jamberoo Valley Lodge where we were to stay for the next two days.

The second day was full of fun and adventure for our class. For an hour we had a surfing lesson at Seven Mile Beach and then we caught some waves. Most of our class even managed to stand up!

On the last day we went kayaking. This was also amazing! We had to wait for this fun to begin as first we went on a rainforest walk in the Minnamurra Rainforest. When we got to the Minnamurra River, we had lunch and chose kayaks. With two people in a kayak, we cruised down part of the river.

All too soon, the bus picked us up and we were bound for home. The camp was an experience never to forget!



Year 5 learn about flight

Bronwyn Bereton, Sophie Mok and Grace Jarvis, Year 5

On World Maths Day, Year 5 Mathematics classes built and tested paper planes to see which design would fly the furthest. We completed this task in five groups. We had to cut rectangles out of a piece of paper that had specified perimeters for each group. After we had chosen the design of our plane, we made them and went outside to test them as a class. We tested the planes group by group, some of us measured the distances the planes travelled and others recorded the results. The furthest distance that we recorded was 7.4 metres. We concluded that the larger the perimeter of the rectangle, the further the plane travelled.

Leadership training workshop for Year 6

Olivia Hill, Year 6

Year 6 was lucky enough to participate in a leadership training workshop organised by Rising Generations on 6 February. Two fantastic leaders, Jannalee and Christian, spent the entire day with us to make sure we reached our potential when it came to leading others.

We had an interesting time attempting many exciting activities such as 'The Amazing Balloon Race' and 'Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?' They also gave us some useful tips to help us to develop leadership skills and deal with problems. They told us how to be great examples to younger girls and we learnt some new techniques that will help us succeed in Year 6 and for the rest of our lives. We definitely had a memorable experience and we will use the information and skills they gave us wisely during this year and into the future.



Year 4 visits Darling Harbour

Jennifer Hao and Sarah Wilson, Year 4

Year 4 girls travelled by bus to the IMAX Theatre and Sydney Aquarium in Darling Harbour on 2 March to learn about the fascinating underwater world and to have lots of fun.

We saw the most amazing sea creatures, including the toothy shark. The shark was our favourite because he swooped past us and some of us took marvellous photos of him. He even grinned at the camera. It was very toothy, but it was still a grin! His bright green, glowing eyes, shining in the dark in the wavy water, made him look so awesome!



Video conference with diver on the reef

Holly Ryan and Danielle Ferrigno, Year 4

During Term 1, in Human Society and Its Environment and Science, Year 4 studied the ocean. On Thursday 8 March we had an exciting opportunity to participate in a live video conference with marine biologists working on the Great Barrier Reef.

The diver we spoke with was named Colleen, and during the conference she was actually under the water off the coast of Australia in the Pacific Ocean talking to us. Using a hand held underwater video camera, Colleen swam around the Barrier Reef Aquarium and taught us about the different types of plants and animal species that live on the Great Barrier Reef.

Colleen went diving in the shark tank and introduced us to a grey nurse shark named Cuddles. We learnt that when you pat a grey nurse shark it doesn't mind, and it actually likes it, she was even able to cuddle the shark!

Our day with Jacqueline Harvey

Shreya Rutnam and Shelby Schmidt, Year 3

On Tuesday 21 February, Year 3 went to the library to meet famous author, Jacqueline Harvey. She spoke to us about her Alice-Miranda-Highton-Smith-Kennington-Jones books. She told us about her new book *Alice-Miranda in New York* and her book that is coming out soon called *Clementine Rose*. We were all very surprised to discover that her books are sold in many different countries and therefore, are also written in Japanese, Russian and Indonesian. We had all heard of the Alice-Miranda books and were so excited to hear how Jacqueline Harvey found the settings for her books and how she created the characters. We saw photographs of Highton Hall and Rose Cottage that Jacqueline Harvey used in her books.

Year 6 girls speak with Korean children *Phoebe Coles, Year 6*

Students in 6C participated in a video conference with a class of Korean students in South Korea on Friday 13 March. Using the Senior School Centre's Cisco Room video conferencing facilities we spoke with the Korean students who were as excited as we were as they waved happily and introduced themselves. We introduced ourselves and showed them a PowerPoint presentation that we had put together earlier. We then sang *Kookaburra sits in the old Gum Tree* with them. After we had talked to them about our life at school in Australia, they played us a lovely song on the pan flute and sang a Korean folk song, *Arirang*, with us.

community service and pastor

Peer Support Program reassures students

Pymble's Peer Support Program helps establish a smooth transition for Year 7 students when they first start in Middle School. During Term 1 Year 7 students met regularly with Year 10 students, establishing a reassuring link for the younger students as they learnt about College life in the Secondary School.

Reflecting on the program, Jacqueline Li, Year 7, said, "When first arriving as a new student to *Pymble*, I felt a little lonely and I'm sure many newcomers have also felt that way! During our first Peer Support session, our leaders warmly welcomed us to the *Pymble* community. They showed us around and we got to know other students who either came up from the Junior School or were new."

Claudia Gibson, Year 7, who came from *Pymble's* Junior School said, "It was really nice to see some familiar faces as well as meet new people. I especially loved all the peer support leaders, with their supportive natures and good humour."



Having Peer Support made me feel comfortable because although I came from the Junior School, entering Secondary School was a completely different experience. I have learnt a lot from my leaders, especially during the second Peer Support session when we spoke about women who inspired us. I realised how unique we all are and it is great to celebrate our differences."



Easter egg extravaganza for Exodus

Pymble students helped the Exodus Foundation make Easter special by creating gift packs of chocolate Easter eggs to give to homeless and disadvantaged people.

"We are really grateful the *Pymble* Ladies' College students help out at Exodus," said Reverend Bill Crew, Exodus Foundation. "They do an amazing job and I'm sure they gain a lot from the experience."

"We wanted to do something different and a bit special for the clients, but also a bit of fun for us," said Sarah, a Year 9 student.

Pymble students volunteer regularly at the Exodus Loaves and Fishes Restaurant as part of the College's program of community involvement and social awareness.

Presentation inspires hope in students

Jean Chang, Year 10

Motivational orator and director of 'Oxygen Factory', Glen Gerreyn, inspired Year 10 students to strive for their goals, pursue their dreams and not give up hope when he addressed the students in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts on 23 March.

"Everybody's got to find a reason to breathe," Mr Gerreyn told the students. "Nothing satisfies human spirits more than purpose. There is no point in trying to fill up your sense of self and confidence by buying physical things like clothes or getting into a pointless relationship; we have to set up a purpose and a goal for our lives."

Mr Gerreyn stressed to the students to study hard for a satisfactory end, until they are certain that they will have no regrets even if they fail. He told students to never give up, telling the students to "pick yourself up, dust yourself off and try again".

Glen Gerreyn presents seminars to students and teachers in Australia and New Zealand. He is also a member of the *Pymble* community as the father of Grace who is currently in Kindergarten.





Pymble students march for Melanoma

Thirty-three *Pymble* students were among 850 people to walk 3.2 kilometres from Manly's Lagoon Park along Manly Beach to Shelly Beach on Sunday 25 March to raise awareness of melanoma.

The students were complimented on their enthusiasm and energy on the day, which contributed to the great community spirit of the Melanoma March. Three Year 8 *Pymble* girls, Mary Kerr, Ayesha Moore and Tayla Sampson participated in a highlight of the occasion, the planting of 1,200 red, yellow and orange gerberas at Shelly Beach as a reminder of the 1,200 Australians who die from melanoma each year. More than \$100,000 was raised from the walk in support of work at the Melanoma Institute of Australia.

Pymble students also helped make a difference to the cause by helping to raise awareness of melanoma and the importance of sun safety through 33 fundraising pages they created as part of the Melanoma 2012 March initiative.

Ella Pash cuts hair for charity

Year 9 student Ella Pash said good-bye to her beautiful, long hair when she supported the World's Greatest Shave to raise money for leukaemia. After her visit to the hairdresser on Sunday 18 March she emerged with a very short haircut and the knowledge that she had raised \$7,466 in support of the cause, an amazing achievement!



Year 10 students engage in community service project

Ms Alison Boyd-Boland, Year 10 Student Co-ordinator

A group of Year 10 students were fortunate to meet with Sam Cawthorn, 2009 Young Australian of the Year for Tasmania, to discuss their plans to work in partnership with Sam's foundation, the Cawthorn Foundation which supports disadvantaged young people.

Sam is an inspirational speaker and advocate and his activities supporting schools in India has been a particular motivation for *Pymble* students to become actively engaged in their community. The students who met with Sam have taken the initiative and are working towards creating educational resources for students in India as well as inspiring others to spread the Foundation's aim of bringing 'hope to humanity'.

This meeting formed part of the initial phase of the Year 10 Community Engagement Program for 2012. Seventeen projects are being undertaken by the students and include a trip to Gapuwiyak in the Northern Territory to work with a sister school of *Pymble*, supporting the construction of homes with 'Habitat for Humanity', working with an Intensive English School and partnering with the Exodus Foundation.

The program is based on the pedagogy of Service Learning which brings together academic skills with community service to facilitate this experiential learning project. Each group is supported by a teacher/mentor who will guide their group through the planning phases in preparation for a week of service in November.

St. Edmund's children enjoy swimming carnival

Pymble's Upper School students hosted St. Edmund's Swimming Carnival, held at *Pymble's* pool, on Friday 30 March. The day was a resounding success. It was the first time students from St. Edmund's had come together for a swimming carnival and was thoroughly enjoyed by students and parents. *Pymble* students helped make the day a memorable event for the St. Edmund's students cheering on the students as they competed in their events and escorting St. Edmund's parents to the pool as they arrived at the College.

St. Edmund's in Wahroonga is a Year 7 to 12 co-educational special high school for teenagers with a wide range of disabilities.

academic opportunities



Chicks raised for Easter Show

Isabella Stanfield, Year 9

Year 9 Agriculture students learnt about the poultry industry when they were given day-old chicks by Steggle's to be raised as meat birds for entry in the Sydney Royal Easter Show School Meat Birds competition.

The class of 24 students experienced and learnt about both egg and broiler production through the competition.

Raising the chickens demanded the need for students to be rostered on daily duties (including weekends) to clean and freshen the water, feed the chickens, change wood shavings used as floor covering, enlarge the area in which the chickens were raised and to weigh the birds every week to ensure optimum health and to record and chart the growth of the chickens.

The brooder shed, a tin shed in the College's 'Ag Plot', used to raise the chickens presented some challenges including maintaining the ideal temperature. Students were also challenged with correctly establishing the food conversion ratio and feeding the chickens the correct amount of food.

Agriculture is available to students at *Pymble* from Years 9 to 12. *Pymble* students have regularly been included in the HSC honours list for Agriculture, and in 2009 *Pymble* students came first and second in the State in Agriculture.



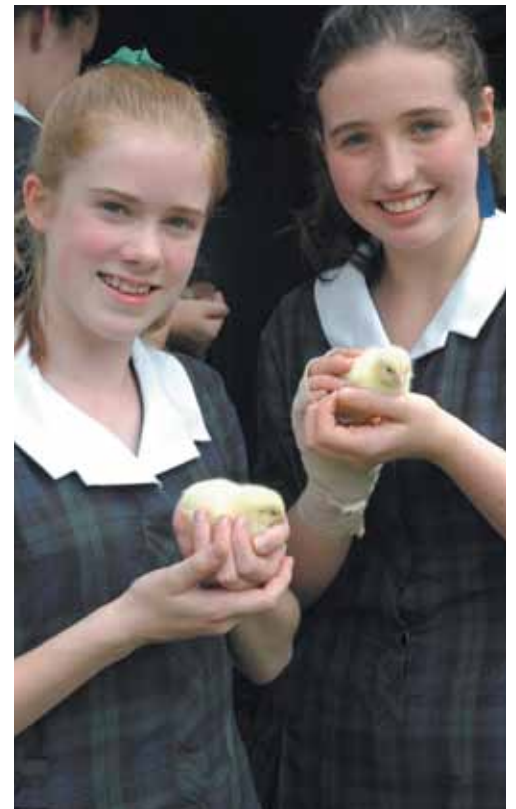
Sea creatures experience for Biology class

Sarah Cutter-Russell, Year 11

Year 11 Biology students travelled to Collaroy on Sydney's Northern Beaches to observe the local aquatic ecosystem on Long Reef Rock Platform on 6 March.

The excursion provided a first-hand experience for students to look at their classroom study of ecosystems and observe the relationships that occur within them. Mentored by professionals in the industry, students had the opportunity to observe organisms that inhabit the rock platform, test water samples and conduct population tests using professional equipment. Some students were even lucky enough to hold an octopus or sea urchin found by their fellow students after searching in rock pools during low tide.

The weather remained sunny throughout the excursion, resulting in a few red faces, but despite this every student left with a smile on her face and knowledge that could only be gained from such a wonderful day.





Medieval show engages history students

The Middle Ages came to life for Year 8 History students when they attended a Medieval presentation in the Jobson Lecture Theatre on 30 March. Dressed in Medieval armour with artefacts from the era, students participated in role plays and simulation games as they listened to historical renditions of life during the Middle Ages.

The event provided a great opportunity for students to consolidate their knowledge of the period in a fun, yet informative presentation.

Exciting opportunities exposed at Careers Expo

Helen Zhang, Year 11

Pymble's annual Careers Expo, held on 2 April in the Jeanette Buckham Physical Education Centre, was an outstanding success with more than 60 universities and institutions present, including Melbourne's Monash University being represented at the expo for the first time.

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 were invited to attend the expo which featured representatives

from some of the best universities both nationally and internationally, including the University of Sydney, Australian National University, the University of NSW and New York University Abu Dhabi. Representatives from professional and business institutions such as Ernst & Young were also present, offering students information on courses and degrees available. Representatives from each of the universities answered any questions girls may have had about university life and the different courses available. This also helped many students clarify their subject choices for the following years.

Anjeli Sivakumar of Year 11 said she would definitely recommend the Careers Expo to other girls as it was a "great opportunity to know more and to get a better idea of what you want to do after school".

A popular area at the expo was the 'Talk to the Professionals' break-out area where girls could speak face-to-face with professionals from various fields of expertise, including doctors, vets, lawyers and architects. Girls who were uncertain about the direction their future careers might take, gained valuable insight about these occupations from experienced professionals, who were more than willing to answer any queries they had. This was an ideal opportunity for girls to discover their vocations or confirm pre-existing outlooks.



performance and the arts



Hamlet engages audience

Alexandra Goodman, Year 11

Pymble students from Years 9, 10 and 12 started 2012's year of productions with a bang in their haunting and engaging production of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) from 29 to 31 March.

Confronting Shakespeare's longest play was sure to be no easy task but the cast and crew of *Hamlet* did so beautifully, making the night a truly engaging one for all. Using elements of 1940s film noir style, the play was as dark and sinister as it was appealing. Within the murky streetscapes and gloomy interiors of the set, the mood was tense and the audience captivated as the cast played out the tragedy that is *Hamlet*. It was an extraordinary effort from the whole cast and crew, with Clara Strandhoj particularly shining in the title role. Finding the perfect balance between Hamlet's sanity and feigned madness, Clara both made the audience laugh and thrust them into a more sinister state following the Prince's journey as he seeks revenge on his murderous uncle Claudius, played by Zoë Miller Stubbs. A special mention should go to all the other leads for their performances, Alanna Irwin (Gertrude), Emily Bird (Horatio), Miranda Aitkin (Polonius), Nicola Bowman (Laertes) and Alexandra Morgan (Ophelia), who brought all their roles to life and sustained them through the performance. Alexandra even had many audience members in tears with her portrayal of Ophelia's madness.

It was an incredible and rewarding performance to witness, especially for those girls in Years 11 and 12 who are already, or are about to study this text for their HSC year. Congratulations should go to everyone involved, especially Director Mr Steven MacPhail who took on the daunting task of tackling arguably Shakespeare's greatest play, producing this very audience-friendly masterpiece. Another mention must go to the work that was carried out seamlessly behind the scenes during the production, especially Assistant Director, Alexandra Tingey and Stage Manager, Alexandra Galwey. Their efforts were flawless and helped to create the enthralling atmosphere that filled the GMCPA this March.



A night of exceptional music

Aditi Aiyer and Sarah Cutter-Russell, Year 11

Pymble students and their families gathered in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) on 3 April for the first Ensemble Concert for 2012. It was a night of unique and awe inspiring pieces showcasing an exceptional program of performances, from strings to woodwinds.

The night opened with the String Orchestra performing two breathtaking pieces - *Entrance and March of the Guests from Tannhauser* and *Danse Macabre*. The concert included many more magical and diverse performances including the Middle School Concert Band with the *Hawaii Five-0* theme and the famous tune of a Lady Gaga dance mix making the audience dance in their seats. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed *Centuria*, an uplifting and energetic piece to take the concert into interval.

Following interval the audience was thrilled by J.S. Bach's well-known *Brandenburg Concert No 3 Third Movement* performed by Chamber Strings. This was followed by the first vocal performance of the night, with the *Pymble* Chorale presenting *The Seal Lullaby*, a piece composed by Eric Whitacre using the words from Rudyard Kipling's famous poem. The Cantori was next to showcase their talent, with some of the best vocalists across Years 10, 11 and 12 joining to sing *Can't Help Lovin' That Man* and *Some Enchanted Evening*. Other highlights of the night included *The First Movement of Spring from Four Seasons* by Vivaldi performed by the Senior Flute Ensemble, *Hey Jude* and *Oye Como Va* played by the Guitar Ensemble and *Pedal To The Metal* and *On The Street Where You Live* performed by the Stage Band and featuring flawless vocals by Hannah Gwatkin and an impressive saxophone solo by Sarah Hu.

The Ensemble Concert achieved a new benchmark for *Pymble* by reducing our carbon footprint by projecting the evening's program on the walls of the GMCPA, a new and innovative way to present the event's performances. The evening was an outstanding success enjoyed by all.



Why the Red Eyes? Photography at *Pymble*

Julie Wong and Elissa Zhang, Year 11

Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, an enthusiastic group of *Pymble* girls gather at the Visual Arts Ferguson Building to enhance their art-making skills through an after school photography class. Mentored by long-term practising artist and photographer, Mr Alex Cyreszko, the students learn about the basics and processes of photography, including creating mini pinhole cameras and developing photographs chemically in the College's dark room. During Term 1, students explored portraiture, inspired by the stylistic conventions of the Renaissance. They also experimented with profiling, the effects of black and white and looked at studios and lighting.

The photography class is just one of a range of extra-curricular art activities provided at the College. Other activities include oil painting, water colour, digital arts, stage craft, jewellery making, dress making, wood working and drawing.

Exceptional talent at Dame Joan Hammond Piano Recital

Elissa Zhang, Year 11

Pymble's most talented pianists showcased their talents at the annual Dame Joan Hammond Piano Recital held in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) on 22 March.

Pianists from Years 7 to 12 displayed their skills in an astonishing diversity of pieces, ranging from fluid Romantic pieces to complex Modernist variations to even a playful reworking of the traditional 'Chopsticks' waltz. Everyone showed their great passion for the piano as the audience enjoyed the masterful renditions on the piano and the mix of emotions inspired by the performances.

The evening was aptly described by Mrs Sabina Turner, Director of Music, as the girls sharing the 'gift of music' with all. Congratulations to Sally Cao (Year 7), Jacqueline Li (Year 7), Angela Liang (Year 10), Jane Liu (Year 11), Patricia Tsong (Year 11), Theresa Yu (Year 11), Kimberley Romeo (Year 12), Shoushan Sariyan (Year 12), Katrina Tang (Year 12) and Renee Woo (Year 12) for a wonderful evening of fine music.

Dame Joan Hammond attended *Pymble* as a boarder during the 1920s. From the mid 1940s to the early 1960s Dame Joan was one of the world's most sought after opera singers. She maintained her close ties with the College throughout her career, performing at the College on a number of occasions. Dame Joan donated her beautiful Steinway grand piano to *Pymble*, which is today housed in the College's War Memorial Chapel.



Oovie School Film Competition

Miss Tamara Sweetman,
Drama teacher

Year 11 student, Jessica Long, has recently been short-listed in the top ten for the Oovie Schools Film Competition. This is an amazing achievement considering

the amount of entries from a variety of schools from NSW and Victoria into this prestigious competition.

The competition required students to create and write an outline for a short film based upon the concept of 'The Island'. Jessica wrote a story about reminiscence, an elderly man reflecting on his memories and life experiences on the island and the importance of settings in cementing memories. The three winners will go on to create their own short film, under the mentor of a professional in the film industry, and that will then be shown at the Cockatoo Island Film Festival.

beyond *pymble*



A blast at Year 7 camp

Aditi Aiyer and Helen Zhang, Year 11

Year 7 arrived at The Great Aussie Bush Camp on 6 February to spend an exciting week participating in fun and enriching confidence-building activities.

The girls participated in a wide range of activities, from the Vertical Cluster to the famous Giant Swing, which proved to be a favourite amongst many girls.

"It was really thrilling to be up so high and to go backwards through the air," said Emma Dunnnett about the Giant Swing.

Although the weather during the five day camp was not ideal, the rain did not hinder the girls from engaging in the activities together and exploring their inner strengths. The camp also provided an excellent opportunity for the Year 7 girls to get to know the girls in their year group and form new friendships within their cohort.

"Camp was one huge team building exercise. I made a heap of friends and conquered numerous fears," said Eve Madden.

All Year 7 girls agreed that camp was a great experience and it provided an opportunity to bond with each other, have some fun and learn some valuable life lessons.



An inspiring and enriching camp

Helen Zhang, Year 11

There's nothing like starting the year with friends, the beach and awesome teachers... and fortunately for Year 11, this was exactly what was planned for them as they made their way to their last-ever school camp at the Collaroy Centre on 13 February.

The Collaroy Centre is located beside Collaroy Beach, and the camp activities ranged from surfing and body boarding to archery and rock climbing. The camp also included several motivational talks on leadership and learning. Prue Salter, founder of Enhanced Learning, provided invaluable advice on study techniques and organisation skills. Brent Williams, an extremely inspiring young speaker, encouraged the girls to pursue their dreams and passions without fear, and emphasised the importance of stepping out of comfort zones.

One of the highlights of camp was *Pymble's Got Talent*, which was held on the last evening at Collaroy. Year 11 girls, and even the teachers, certainly overcame their fears and stepped out of their comfort zones (or in some cases, right into it!) to perform show-stopping performances that ranged from dancing in sleeping bags to a soulful, unaccompanied rendition of *Hallelujah* by Ann Ding.

The last day of Year 11 Camp was held at school in the Senior School Centre. *Pymble* girls nominated to attend a number of skill-building seminars which explored topics from methods of managing stress to mastering languages. They also enjoyed having a barbecue lunch and watching a contemporary drama production, *Cyberia*.

Year 11 Camp received an extremely positive response from those involved. "It was a great experience and I wouldn't change a thing," said Sarah Cutter-Russell.

Many students reflected that it helped them to prepare for the upcoming year and that it was a lovely finale to their school camp experience. "It was the best camp," agreed Christine Chen.



French exchange – an unforgettable experience

Mehar Pathak and Victoria Lim-Howe, Year 11

Last November, 18 *Pymble* girls embarked upon the journey of a lifetime, leaving behind friends and family to spend two months of the summer in France on cultural exchange. Within our group of Year 10 students, 11 girls stayed in the city of Lyon, in the Rhone-Alpes region, and seven stayed in the picturesque town of Colmar close to the German border. It was an amazing cultural experience. We lived the lives of our French exchange sisters - going to school, participating in family life, savouring the exquisite French cuisine, marvelling at French architecture and history and of course shopping. The complete language immersion allowed us to renew our appreciation and love of the French language and put into practise the skills that until then we had only used in the classroom. As you would expect, by the end of the trip we were much more confident of our French speaking and listening skills. Over the Christmas break, we experienced a traditional French Noël and some of us were lucky enough to be taken skiing in the Alps, or sightseeing in Paris by our host families.

At times, we faced difficulties with the language barrier and with homesickness, but these challenges were quickly overcome with the support of our loving host families, our fellow Australians and our teachers back at *Pymble*. Overall, it was a life-changing experience that broadened our horizons and enriched our understanding of another culture and way of life, whilst giving us a fresh perspective on our own lives in Australia. We will treasure the friendships we made, particularly with our host sisters, for years to come, and are looking forward to their arrival in June this year.



International Women's Day celebrated at *Pymble*

International Women's Day was celebrated across the globe on 8 March with thousands of events held to inspire women and celebrate achievements. The theme for this year's event was 'Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures' which our Senior School students celebrated with displays promoting equal rights. *Pymble* 2004 ex-student, Sheryn Lee spoke with Years 11 and 12 students about her research study at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University and her work as Project Officer for the Australian Research Council linkage project, 'The Languages of Security in the Asia-Pacific'.

A number of Senior School and Upper School students attended the International Women's Day Breakfast at the Convention Centre on 7 March along with 1,700 other girls and women. Guest speaker Sally Sara, ABC Afghanistan Correspondent and award winning journalist, captivated the audience as she shared some of her stories of the unimaginable struggles faced by women and children during her time in Afghanistan and India. Celebrating International Women's Day provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their personal goals and aspirations and the contribution they can make to improve the opportunities for other girls across the globe.

International Women's Day first started in 1911 when suffragettes campaigned for women's right to vote. The day honours the work of the suffragettes and celebrates women's successes.

Students enjoy a United Nations weekend

Elissa Zhang, Year 11

Two *Pymble* teams travelled to Knox Grammar School to participate in the 2012 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) competition held in conjunction with the International Rotary project on 24 and 25 March.

The aim of the day was to help students develop their debating skills, learn about the culture and issues surrounding nations of the world as well as gain an insight into the United Nations organisation and its role in decision making in the world. Chloe Kim, Emilie Perl and Christine Wang were the delegates representing Nigeria and Wendy Li, Debby Xu and Elissa Zhang represented Iran, who all enjoyed dressing in the national costume of their countries.



boarding at *Pymble*



Action packed term for *Pymble* boarders

Samantha Bear, Year 11

The 2012 school year has had an action packed start for the boarding community at *Pymble*. In the second week of term, amongst the beautiful, lakeside scenery of Narrabeen, 120 eager boarders set out for a weekend of adventure, fun and bonding, which was especially enjoyable for the new boarders settling into their new environment.

Many activities were on offer, including beach volleyball, canoeing, and the highly enjoyable 'Big Sister, Little Sister' evening, where we all spent time with another boarder, getting to know each other over painting our nails and other beauty treatments.

A few weekends later, spirits were high, and voices were loud, as our Boarders' Swimming Carnival pitted the four spirit houses, Lang, Goodlet, Marden and Hammond against each other in competition, but also camaraderie. With events including the 'wheel-barrow' race and 'kick-board' race, each and every boarder got involved in some way, either by swimming in multiple races, or cheering endlessly for their house on the bleachers. It was an extremely entertaining day, complete with a 'cheer-off' and a spirit house relay, but by the end of it, exhaustion had inevitably kicked in, and we returned to our boarding houses, fulfilled, content and undeniably waterlogged.

Pymble also recently collaborated with Knox and Ravenswood to organise a joint Easter Service, an initiative implemented several years ago, which has become a highly anticipated evening for all. Thanks to the endless dedication and hard work of the boarding staff and College Chaplains, the evening ran smoothly and successfully.

In keeping with tradition, each boarding house participated in a themed 'night out' at the end of term.



sport

Pymble triumphant at diving championships

Mrs Christine Lang, Diving Co-ordinator

The *Pymble* diving team reigned supreme at the 2012 IGSSA Diving Championships winning the event by an amazing seven points - a victory last claimed by *Pymble* in 1998.

After many years of determination and training the 2012 championships was an outstanding event showcasing exceptional diving from divers across all competing schools.

Outstanding individual performances were achieved by all team members, particularly *Pymble's* Year 12 Diving Captain, Grace Rowe who placed first in both her springboard and platform events with a spectacular display of diving.

Katie Oag (Year 10), Brittany O'Brien (Year 8), Isabella Ashdown (Year 8) and Amelia Travis (Year 8), all had outstanding individual events in both the springboard and platform events to place in first, second or third.

Kimberley Thoo had a spectacular event placing second in her springboard event, achieving a personal best.

Pymble's youngest diver, Heidi Lillyman (Year 7), had a fantastic experience. Having never dived competitively before, Heidi entered the competition like a seasoned diver and displayed her great potential to place fourth in the 12 year event.

Pymble's team divers, Katie Oag, Anneka Everett, Alexandra Moir and Georgia Fulton, dived superbly together to gain first place.

Well done to all divers on this outstanding team effort which made the many months and for most years, of hard work a sweet victory.



Pymble rows to victory

Mr Tom Kindred, Rowing Co-ordinator

The Combined Independent Schools Schoolgirls Head of the River held on 24 March at the Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith was an amazing day showcasing *Pymble* rowers' sportsmanship and courage with the day culminating in *Pymble* winning the 1st VIII race and the overall point score.

The 1st VIII race was one of the most thrilling races in schoolgirl rowing history. It was one of the closest that has ever taken place with the *Pymble* 1st VIII winning over Queenwood who came second over Loreto Normanhurst. The entire race was close from start to finish but the *Pymble* 1st VIII crew pushed through the other boats with 200 metres to go to take it out on the line.

Winning the overall point score was the result of a great team effort. All crews performed exceptionally, especially the 2nd VIII who also finished with a convincing win, the Year 9 double scull who finished



with a courageous victory to win by 0.18 seconds and the Senior Four and Senior Coxed Quad Scull coming second and third respectively in what were considered very competitive races. A total of 16 *Pymble* crews ascended the podium during the day.

Well done to the *Pymble* Rowing team; their outstanding effort and hard work in training throughout the season has been testament to the dedication and commitment to the sport and the College.

parent groups

Icebreaker sets scene for the year ahead

Eileen Reeve

On a balmy and beautiful February evening more than 700 *Pymble* parents and 80 staff gathered on the Gloucester Lawn for Icebreaker 2012. One of the most popular events on the College calendar, the Icebreaker was a great welcome to everyone for 2012 and provided an opportunity for parents and teaching staff to mingle and socialise.

The Senior Stage Band created a fabulous atmosphere and our *Pymble* Prefects worked tirelessly to ensure everyone enjoyed the night. The flags purchased by the *Pymble* Parent Association (PPA), complete with the new PPA logo and signature Icebreaker penguin added to the positive atmosphere and made it very easy for parents to find their year groups.



PSPG family picnic a fun day for all

Kim Johnson

Thank you to all the lovely families who attended the Preparatory School Parent Group Family Picnic on 11 March. Despite all the rain leading up to the event it turned out to be a beautiful sunny day and everyone had a wonderful time. The highlight of the day was definitely the 'Mums and Dads Relay'. This highly contested event was won this year by the parents of Mackeller! Many thanks to all the people who worked so hard to make this such a fabulous day.



Jubilant celebrations at 2012 rowing dinner

Judy Tanna

The 20th Annual Rowing Awards Dinner, held at Miramare Gardens on Sunday 25 March, in celebration of *Pymble's* triumphant victory at the 2012 Head of the River was a spectacular dinner enjoyed by

all. With 100 rowers and 190 parents in attendance, everyone enjoyed the evening of award presentations in tribute to the 2012 season. Speeches were made by College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, Rowing Co-ordinator, Mr Tom Kindred and each of the rowing coaches acknowledging the accomplishments of members of the rowing team from Years 7 to 12. After six months of early morning training sessions at the Leichhardt Rowing Club and rigorous weights and fitness sessions throughout the year, all members of the *Pymble* rowing team and their parents embraced the opportunity to celebrate such a successful season.

Junior School Camp Out

Margie Dixon

With perfect blue skies, 272 campers spent a wonderful weekend on Kelso Field on 31 March and 1 April. Girls from Years 3 to 6, together with their sisters, brothers, mums and dads shared in the fun. Tents, big and small, lined the Kelso Field, and one family braved the night sleeping under a tarpaulin with their heads peaking out into the night. Happy campers headed to the Main Oval for football games and a mammoth face painting session. An absolute highlight was the evening torch walk with the rewards of delicious chocolates once back at Kelso Field. Our campers were a hungry lot with 28 dozen eggs, 48 loaves of bread, 23 dozen rolls and 84 litres of fruit juice consumed on the weekend. All campers agreed the Junior School Camp Out was a fantastic opportunity to develop friendships and have fun, while experiencing the joys of camping.



Masquerade dinner

Joanna Gallagher

The Year 6 Father Daughter Dinner, held on Friday 9 March, was a masquerade themed event enjoyed by more than 180 girls and fathers. Everyone thoroughly embraced the theme with an amazing array of colourful masks. The Main Hall was transformed into a Venetian-inspired setting, complete with a gondola and masks decorated by the Year 6 students. The girls danced the night away, only leaving the dance floor to sample their favourite ice cream at the gelato cart. It was a fantastic night and a wonderful last father daughter event for the girls before they move to the Middle School next year.

Supporter tops

Support your daughters from the sideline in *Pymble* rugby and polo tops for men and women.

Rugby tops \$75 Polo tops \$50

Now available at the Uniform Shop.





President's Report

Our journey Towards *Pymble* 2020 has begun. We started our events on 28 March this year with a record attendance at our traditional Mothers' and Grandmothers' Morning Tea. The morning tea was hosted at the College where we enjoyed a very special art exhibition by Wendy Loeffler. As always we enjoyed the companionship of past students who are mothers and grandmothers of current students. The special connection of these women serves to remind us of the traditions and values of *Pymble*.

In the year ahead the Ex-Students' Union (ESU) will continue to focus on the current strategic review being conducted by the College, Towards *Pymble* 2020. Thank you to the many past students who have contributed to this review. If you want to know more about the review process please contact the ESU or the College to see what's happening and find out how you can add your contribution to this important process.

As a parent of three students at the College the review has challenged me to consider the meaning of education in the constant environment of change in which *Pymble* exists. As the current President of the ESU my involvement in this review has also lead me to consider the role and importance of 'tradition' in this environment. What are the 'traditions' of *Pymble*?

Traditions are defined as the long-established customs or beliefs handed down from generation to generation. As was very evident at the Mothers' and Grandmothers' Morning Tea, the 'unending chain' is an important tradition in the life of the College. Our Black Watch tartan is a symbol of the traditions and values of the College. And of course 'striving for the highest' in all pursuits is a tradition for which *Pymble* is renowned.

So how do the traditions of the College align with the challenges that our daughters will face in a rapidly changing world? The Towards *Pymble* 2020 review will provide a foundation that will ensure that students at the College are equipped with the skills necessary to meet the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world. However, our traditions will light the pathway to ensure that change is met with confidence and certainty.

As the representative body for past *Pymble* students, I have a strong belief that the Towards *Pymble* 2020 review also provides us with an opportunity to carefully but critically examine what we do, how we do it and how we can do it better. There is no doubt in my mind that the community of past students of Pymble Ladies' College will be called upon to respond to the broader challenges of change identified by the review. Some change may be fundamental whilst other change may be incremental.

As our community and world changes, with greater focus on globalisation, technology and competition for resources, new opportunities will no doubt emerge for us to contribute to the enrichment of current and graduating students.

I envisage past students mentoring recent graduates, providing networking opportunities and assisting students' understanding of their ethical and personal obligations in their professional and personal lives. My challenge for each member of our community of past students is to acknowledge the challenges of change and the expectations of others in our community whilst demonstrating the ability to respond in an appropriate fashion remembering the traditions that have sustained us.

Perhaps a small but symbolic starting place for the ESU in planning for 2020 is for us to consider a change to our name – perhaps *Pymble* Collegians? It is also time for us to review our Constitution and forge a Charter in consultation with the College that will lead us confidently 'Towards 2020'.

If you would like to contribute to this process, please let me know.

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

Reunion reports



Miss Tuck

50 Year Reunion

Saturday 29 October 2011 saw 62 'girls' from the year of 1961 returning to *Pymble* to celebrate 50 years since leaving school. A tour of the College, with the enormous changes, was a real eye opener. This was followed by lunch in the David Macfarlane Centre, and we were delighted to welcome Miss Tuck and Mrs Burgoyne as special guests. We had classmates travelling from the United States,

New Zealand and all over Australia. Much merriment and lots of reminiscences were shared in all too short a time. The following day Marg Mullen (Langsworth) very kindly hosted a casual lunch at her home to continue our get together. A donation has been made to the Indigenous Scholarship Program at the College.

Anne Stephen (Priddle)

40 Year Reunion

The 1971 leavers had a fabulous 40 year reunion on 12 November 2011. The event, held in the College's David Macfarlane Centre, was a great success with 75 'girls' enjoying lunch, tours of the much-changed Boarding Houses and tracing fond memories through *Pymble's* magnificent buildings and gardens. Many of the ladies travelled from afar to attend the reunion. Miss Rosalie Ramsay, known to the majority of the 1971 leavers, especially the boarders, also enjoyed sharing the afternoon. Spilling out onto Marden Lawn in the summer sun, there was lots of chatter and catching up with folk seen far too infrequently.



Barbara Herden (McLellan) and Merran Davidson

ESU AGM 2012

Thursday 25 October 2012 at 6.30pm
Senior School Centre - Kate Mason Building

Keep us updated

To help us keep you informed of upcoming ESU events, please update the College with your current email address. If you have changed your email address or not sent us your current email address, please send your details to esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

Upcoming Reunions - 2012

Event	Year	Date	Contact
5 Year Reunion	2007 Leavers	Saturday 26 May 2012, 7pm at Cabana Bar and Lounge (upstairs) 80 Christie St, St Leonards. \$60 pp.	Justine Wheeler M: 0421 340 953 E: Jmwheeler1407@gmail.com
10 Year Reunion	2002 Leavers	Saturday 13 October 2012 at The Victoria Rooms, Darlinghurst. \$75 pp. Payment to Lucy.	Melanie Kench M: 0413 111 300 E: melkench@hotmail.com Lucy Haynes (Millner) M: 0409 077 820 E: lucym@igssyd.nsw.edu.au
15 Year Reunion	1997 Leavers	Date and venue TBA	Convenor required - please email esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au
20 Year Reunion	1992 Leavers	Saturday 20 October 2012, from 7pm at The Treehouse, North Sydney.	Annabelle Ashwin (Macdonald) M: 0403 044 504 E: annabelle_ash@hotmail.com Annette Tseung E: annettetseung@gmail.com
25 Year Reunion	1987 Leavers	Date and venue TBA	Katrina Corcoran (Hum) E: katrinacorcoran@yahoo.com Melissa Oppenheim (Steenbhom) E: melissaoppenheim@hotmail.com
30 Year Reunion	1982 Leavers	Saturday 13 October 2012 – Venue TBA *Do we have your email? The contact list is quite out of date please email ESU@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au and copy one of the convenors with subject "1982 Reunion" to make sure.	Diana Brown (Mickle) M: 0418 225 986 E: diana_brown@bigpond.com Alison Phin M: 0418 543 124 E: alison.phin@environment.nsw.gov.au Sue Lucas (Cozens) E: suecozy@yahoo.com
35 Year Reunion	1977 Leavers	Date and venue TBA	Convenor required - please email esu@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au
40 Year Reunion	1972 Leavers	Sunday 16 September, 2012 at 11am. 34A Fiddens Wharf Rd, Killara.	Carol Sroczynski (Reid) P: 9499 8818 E: mummyrox@hotmail.com Tina Jackson M: 0419 277752 E: tinajacksonoz@gmail.com
45 Year Reunion	1967 Leavers	Saturday 27 October 2012 at 12.00pm at the Greengate Hotel, Killara. \$30 pp for lunch.	Sue Macdonald (Sevier) E: suemacdon@yahoo.com.au Joc Chadwick (Parkhill) E: jchad54@hotmail.com
50 Year Reunion	1962 Leavers	Sunday 29 July 2012, Senior School Centre, Pymble Ladies' College.	Susannah Smith (Stirling) P: 02 9974 1998 E: susannah.smith2325@gmail.com Robyn Grant (Howell) E: rgrant@aapt.net.au
60 Year Reunion	1952 Leavers	Sunday 29 July 2012, David Macfarlane Centre, Pymble Ladies' College.	Jean Single (Vicars) P: 07 3357 4752 E: js755420@bigpond.net.au
65 Year Reunion	1947 Leavers	Saturday 28 July 2012. Luncheon at 12.00pm at Jeanette Rickard's home. Address: Gleneagles, Villa 12, 277 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.	Jeanette Rickard (Mackenzie) P: 02 9144 1185 Barbara Knox (Blackwell) P: 02 9498 2528
2013 70 Year Reunion	1943 Leavers	Date and venue TBA	Alison Hale (Nield) P: 02 9327 4923



Announcements

Engagements

- **Fiona Rinaldi (1998)** to Dave Pearce.

Marriages



- **Alyssa Burman (1998)** was married to Dane Squance on Saturday 1 October, 2011 in the College's War Memorial Chapel. Alyssa was attended by bridesmaids, Ella Grygiel (1998) and Alyssa's sister Emma Zillman (Burman, 1987) with Emma's two daughters as flower girls.

- **Laura Coleman (2000)** married Simon Walsh on 4 June 2011 in Melbourne. Penelope Coleman (2005), Sheena Cartwright (Pillay, 2000) and Kirsty Hughes (2000) were bridesmaids.



- **Sally Conway (1997)** married Ben Gablonsk in the College's War Memorial Chapel on 26 March 2011. The wedding breakfast was held at Avondale Golf Club. Sally was attended by Alice Hudson (1997), Hiona Sturrock (Haeata, 1997) and Jane Conway (2000).



- **Tori Holmes (2000)** married Brett Peacock on 11 November 2011 in an outdoor ceremony by the harbour followed by a reception held at the Deckhouse, Woolwich. Tori's bridesmaids were Larissa Holmes, Stephanie McFadden (2000), Sarah Holmes (Grellman, 2000) and Lara Rutledge (Falls, 2000).



- **Sophie Stephen (1994)** married Stephen Hogg on 8 January 2011 at St Mary's North Sydney with the reception at Sergeants Mess, Chowder Bay. Sophie was attended by her school friends Lisa Montesin (Kerrigan, 1994), Suzy McPherson (Duff, 1994), Louise Grant (Rowley, 1994), and Libby Woods (Chambers, 1994). After honeymooning in Africa they are living in Castle Cove.



Births

- **Kathy Carper (Kam, 1997)** and husband Tyler are pleased to announce the birth of their third baby boy, Nicholas Chan Carper, on 29 July 2011. A little brother to twins, Michael and Patrick.
- **Ann Hagerthy (Casey, 1999)** and husband Mike are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Sienna Linnea born on 11 September 2011 in Los Angeles, USA.
- **Sarah Holmes (Grellman, 2000)** and husband Robert are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Harrison Angus born 17 July 2011.
- **Jennifer Hoult (Barrett, 1994)** and husband Matthew are thrilled to announce the arrival of their third son Lachlan George on 22 February 2012 in Singapore where they are currently residing. A little brother for William and Edward.
- **Louise Jordan (Steenbhom, 1989)** and husband Chip are very delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful twin boys, Thomas and Nathaniel, on 20 December, 2011. Louise and Chip are currently living in Salt Lake City, USA.
- **Alexandra Lenane (Russ, 1997)** and husband Ray are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a beautiful daughter, Chloe born 24 June 2011.
- **Kim Mukuka (Philips, 1994)** and husband Ralph are delighted to announce the birth of Faith Mwila on 1 July 2011, a lovely baby sister for Aiesha and Jordan.
- **Lara Pike (Frost, 2000)** and husband Philip are thrilled to announce the healthy and safe arrival of their son, Digby Charles Pike on 9 May 2011.
- **Shilpi Sanghera (Chakrabarti, 1998)** and husband Michael welcomed their beautiful baby boy Naveen into the world on 28 March 2012.
- **Tanya Taylor (Grennan, 1994)** and her husband Greg are delighted to announce the birth of Holly Amelia Taylor on 3 February, a little sister to brothers Rex and Bryce.
- **Emma Whiteley (Leckie, 1998)** and husband Tim are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their second child Maxwell James. Max arrived on 2 December 2011, a little brother for Matilda.

Vale

- The College community was saddened by the passing of three elderly ex-students: **Shirley June Fox (Bradfield, 1940)** who died on 1 April 2012, **Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Heydon OAM (1934)** who died on 27 March 2012 and **Joan Taubman (1934)** who died on 25 November 2011.
- Dorothea Anne Kaleski (Tomalin, 1951)** suffered Junior Rheumatoid Arthritis at a very young age and was strapped motionless to a bed for 12 months. This apparently unreasonable treatment is credited to her long and relatively healthy life. She was a boarder at *Pymble* and studied physiotherapy at the University of Sydney. Dorothea and her husband David had two children, Kate and Andrew and five grandchildren. Dorothea enjoyed cooking, sailing, four wheel drive trips and the theatre, but more recently was confined to a wheel chair. Dorothea died suddenly and peacefully from a major stroke on 7 October 2011.
- Melissa Alexandra Lewis (1993)** who died on 17 March will be sadly missed by family, friends and friends from *Pymble*.

News

Speech and Drama Awards for 2011 Ex-Students

At the recent AMEB Presentation Ceremony held at the University of NSW, six *Pymble* girls, who studied co-curricular Speech and Drama, were presented with their Associate Diploma in Professional Communication (APCA) which they completed in 2011. Congratulations to **Cecilia Chang, Olivia Chang, Amanda Choularton, Lisa Gao, Kate Peper and Amy Pottie**.



Lisa Gao and Amy Pottie with Mrs Victoria Glancy

Laura Benson (2007) has a lead in a new web series. The Series, Cheese on Toast Productions' SYD2030 is set in the heart of Sydney.

Laura was a member of the *Pymble* Drama Company and demonstrated exemplary acting skills in many productions, including successfully performing the theatrically demanding and diverse roles of Emily in *Our Town*, Mary in *The Children's Hour*, Felicity in *Daylight Saving* and Trixie Martin in *Daisy Pulls It Off*.

Kirsten Binnie (1993) has recently travelled to Japan as part of Rotary's Group Study Exchange program, a vocationally focused program offering under 40 year olds the opportunity to see how their vocation is conducted overseas. Kirsten is currently a Japanese teacher at St Rita's College in Brisbane. Her trip to Japan provided a wonderful opportunity to brush up on her language skills. Kirsten had travelled to Japan on *Pymble's* exchange program with Tsushima Girls High School in 1994.

Eve St Clair Chappell (Cameron, 1962) received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division in the 2012 Australia Day Honours list. The citation in the *Sydney Morning Herald* read: "Eve Chappell, Glen Innes, NSW. For service to the preservation of local history through the Glen Innes and District Historical Society." The Glen Innes and District Historical Society's Newsletter for February 2012 noted: "Her contributions [to the Society] since 1969 have included - Life Membership, Archivist and Researcher, Vice-President, Secretary, Librarian. She also records oral histories from elderly residents of Glen Innes and district, has written and assisted with a number of historical publications, assists local and family history researchers, organises school tours and has organised to have historical records electronically scanned and recorded."

Briana Cowlshaw (2006) has been nominated for the 2012 Australian Bell Jazz Awards in the category of Best Australian Jazz Vocal Album of year.

Dr Kirsten Harley (1987) has been awarded the University of Sydney's Rita and John Cornforth Medal 2011 for "exceptional contribution to the diverse life of the university and excellent academic results in a PhD degree". Kirsten's PhD thesis (2010) was entitled *What (else) is theory for?: a historical exploration of theory use in sociology*. It explored the place and uses of theory in sociology, including those concerned with research and understanding; disciplinarily and boundary work; and positioning and producing the individual sociologist in competitive institutional contexts. In 2001 Kirsten received the University Medal (UNE) for her sociology Honours thesis, *Polynymity and the self: Testing the limits of Foucault*. Kirsten is now at the University of Sydney working on postdoctoral research in health governance.

Kim Mukuka (Philips, 1994) and her family are moving to Zambia in August this year. Kim and her husband Ralph started a charitable organisation in 2007 called Blessed to Bless Incorporated and currently support a community school in Zambia. They plan to set up a school for orphans and disadvantaged children in 2013. Kim is a trained primary school teacher and believes that education brings hope to the lives of children who would otherwise be destined for a life of poverty. She has big plans for her school in Zambia, which she plans to begin with a classroom on a cement slab in a shipping container. Employing local people to teach, Kim also hopes to use the school to teach adults to read and write. For further information visit www.blessedtobless.com.au.



Tamara Prochnik (2007) has been awarded Graduate of the Year in Architecture by the Design Institute of Australia. Tamara completed her degree at the University of New South Wales. This is a significant achievement, congratulations Tamara.

Victoria Wallace (2010) has been selected as the recipient of Dartmouth College's Peter S. Easton 1972 Memorial Scholarship for 2011- 2012. Quoting from Victoria's award letter; "This endowed scholarship is awarded annually, preferably to a member of the crew team, who has demonstrated personal and academic promise. The honour of being named to an endowed scholarship fund is bestowed only on Dartmouth students whose (personal and academic achievements demonstrate the potential and promise to make a significant contribution at Dartmouth and beyond."



Join in the fun at *Pymble's* annual Garden Party

Saturday 15 September 2012, 10.00am to 3.00pm
Avon Road, Pymble

Come and enjoy a day of family fun at our Garden Party with food, entertainment, games, produce, craft, rides and much more.

*Invite your family
and friends for a
great day*



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