

Swimming
to success at
Pymble



Contents

	Page
Principal's Pen	2
College News	3-5
- <i>Pymble</i> strives for the highest	
- Vale	
- Exceptional 2012 HSC results	
- New Head of Prep School finds <i>Pymble</i> fabulous	
- New Head of Junior School	
Preparatory School	6-7
Junior School	8-9
Boarding News	10
- Equestrian success for Georgia	
- Angus Cup Twilight Swimming Carnival	
- Year 8 Boarders enjoy their first dance	
- Earth Hour – a huge success	
College News	11
- Head and Deputy Head Prefects challenge girls	
- Students and staff celebrate Foundation Day	
- Harpsichord for <i>Pymble</i> 's piano students	
Community Service	12-13
- Australian Girls Choir sing at Camp Firefly	
- Celebrating International Women's Day	
- Injustices in world explored at conference	
- <i>Pymble</i> students donate blood	
Sports	14-15
- IGSSA Swimming 2013	
- Successful season for <i>Pymble</i> rowing	
- <i>Pymble</i> places third at Tildesley	
Performance and the Arts	16-17
- <i>Chicago – A Musical Vaudeville</i>	
- <i>The Importance of being Earnest</i> – a trivial play for serious people	
- Musical brilliance at piano recital	
- Gracie Otto mentors students	
- <i>Pymble</i> students star at Tropfest Junior	
- Piano performance delights senior citizens	
Beyond <i>Pymble</i>	18-19
- Star gazing on Physics Camp	
- Year 11 Camp a memorable experience	
- Canadian exchange enjoyed	
- International opportunities at <i>Pymble</i>	
- Life time memories from French exchange	
- Life changing experiences for Gap Girls	
- Year 9 students tested on Urban Challenge	
Academic Opportunities	20-21
- Culinary skills showcased at Hospitality Dinner	
- <i>Pymble</i> student in Canberra delegation	
- Historian reflects on the Holocaust	
- Harvest time for Agriculture students	
- Where would pie-makers be without pi?	
- French culture on show at Film Festival	
Parent Groups	22-23
Development at <i>Pymble</i>	24
- Tradition of giving goes on	
Looking Back	25
- Memories from a <i>Pymble</i> girl, Jean Single	
Ex-Students' Union Inc.	26-31
<i>Chicago – A Musical Vaudeville</i>	32

Front cover: Madeleine Gallagher, Year 7 at the IGSSA Swimming Carnival.

Editor: Ms Kim Williams.

Editorial Committee: Mrs Vicki Waters, Mr Grant Birse, Miss Amanda Leverett, Mrs Carolyn Robson and Mrs Joy England.

Student Editorial Team: Alexandra Baker, Jean Chang, Madeleine Clark, Ashley Duncan, Devna Luthra, Ananya Sinha, Stephanie Stuart and Grace Zhang.

The deadline for the next issue is **Friday 26 July**. 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 first issue of the *Pymbulletin* for 2013. The commencement of an academic year is always exciting and Term 1 of 2013 has been an exceptionally busy start to the year.

The term commenced with a fabulous song and dance production of *Chicago – A Musical Vaudeville*. Students from Secondary School mesmerised audiences over four nights with their brilliant performances in this adaption of the famous Broadway musical.

On the sporting field our students have also shone, claiming the point score at the Head of the River in rowing, placing third in the Tildesley Tennis Tournament and fourth in the IGSSA Swimming Carnival.

2013 is significant for *Pymble* with the implementation of the College's new strategic plan, *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest*. The document was launched to the *Pymble* community in December 2012 and sets the vision and future direction of the College. *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest* builds on our past strategic plan and continues our journey that positions *Pymble* not only as one of the best schools in Australia but a College recognised internationally as a world class educator of girls and young women.

I'm delighted to welcome our new Head of Preparatory School, Mrs Karen Ahearn, and new Head of Junior School, Mrs Sue Knox, who commenced their roles in January 2013. Two students from the *Pymbulletin* editorial team met with Mrs Ahearn and Mrs Knox to discuss their aspirations for *Pymble*. See their stories on page 5 in this issue.

I am always proud of our students' commitment to social justice and community service. *Pymble* students have excelled in the most recent community service programs they have embraced including participating in the Melanoma March event at Manly and donating blood for Red Cross. In December 2012 our students showed overwhelming support at Camp Firefly, an experience which touched the hearts of all involved.

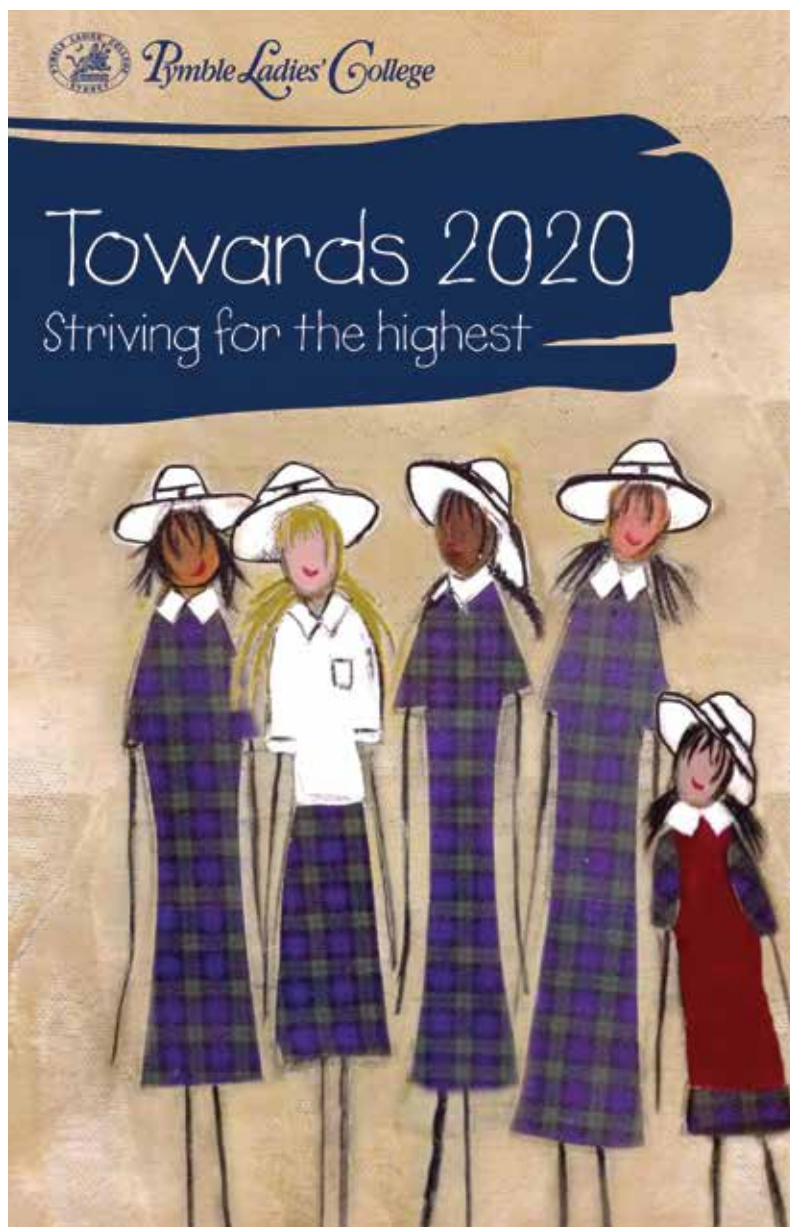
I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the *Pymbulletin* and the many stories of outstanding achievements and efforts of our students.

Vicki L Waters
PRINCIPAL

2013 Commemoration Day Service Sunday 28 July at 10.30am

All members of the College and wider community are warmly invited to attend this annual service, hosted by the Ex-Students' Union Inc.

Service in the College War Memorial Chapel
followed by morning tea.



Pymble strives for the highest

Pymble's vision for the next eight years was formally announced in December 2012 with the launch of *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest*.

The College is operating in an environment of continuous improvement within an educational, societal and wider community context. *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest* reflects worldwide shifts in learning environments and technology and our desire to anticipate and lead these changes while we nurture every girl to her potential. It also builds on our past College strategic plan. "Having delivered on all our key goals, our sights are firmly on the future," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest is the result of a community consultation process that lasted for 18 months and, through surveys, forums and extensive internal consultation, generated more than 8,000 individual elements of feedback.

"Four signposts – Personalised Education, People and Culture, Community and Sustainability – set a visionary direction and plan for the College and support our mission, vision and values," said Mrs Waters.

Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest is a directional rather than a definitive document. It will be realigned after each two-year action plan and is intended to reflect our continuing vision of creating a leading, nurturing learning environment that is universally acknowledged for its exceptional quality and opportunities.

The next eight years will see *Pymble* achieve ambitious goals in its continuing journey towards excellence in girls' education. "Together, we've gazed into the future and created an adventurous community journey towards 2020. We look forward to an exciting era at *Pymble* in the next eight years," said Mrs Waters.

Our mission

As we look to 2020, our College mission remains the foundation for our plans. We remain committed to creating a personalised learning environment for each *Pymble* girl so she develops a passion for learning and scholarship, a strong assurance of her own worth and the desire and values to contribute meaningfully to her local and global communities.

Our vision

We will continue to journey toward our vision of providing an education for our girls that is universally acknowledged for its outstanding quality and exceptional opportunities.

Vale

The College community was saddened by the news of the passing of two members of the *Pymble* community. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families.

Dorothy Kelso passed away on 11 February 2013. Mrs Kelso was the wife of Mr James Kelso, College Council member from 1977 to 1995, and mother of ex-students, Sally Carratt (1976), Fiona Crawford (1978) and Amanda Neville (1981). Mr and Mrs Kelso have had a long association with the College, funding a window in the College's War Memorial Chapel. The James Kelso field is named in honour of Mr Kelso.

Billy Missi died unexpectedly on 22 December 2012. Billy captured the hearts of students, staff and the *Pymble* community as artist-in-residence at the College in 2010. Students from across the College attended workshops with Billy where he demonstrated his art-making process. His residency was part of a week-long Indigenous Cultural Celebration culminating in an exhibition of Indigenous artworks, *Sharing Cultures*.



Exceptional 2012 HSC results

Pymble Ladies' College students have achieved outstanding results in the 2012 Higher School Certificate (HSC) with two students achieving a perfect Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.95, five students topping the State in five HSC subjects, and a sixth Year 12 student topping the State through the Saturday School of Community Languages.

Pymble was the only school in NSW to achieve first place in five subjects. The first in the State in HSC subjects were achieved by Christine Tan in Agriculture, Janet Jin in English Extension 1, Hannah Chong in Japanese Extension, Matilda Howard in Latin Extension, Lilian Zhu in Textiles and Design and Shoushan Sariyan in Armenian Continuers (through the Saturday School of Community Languages). Joy Jin and Matilda Howard achieved a perfect ATAR.

An additional ten students earned a place in the best in subject lists in a wide range of subjects: Agriculture, Biology, Classical Greek Continuers, Classical Greek Extension, English Extension, Earth and Environmental Science, Latin Continuers, French Continuers, French Extension, Modern History, Senior Science and Italian Extension (through Open High School). Thirty-six students were named in the All-round Achievers lists for achieving Band 6 results (90 or better) or Band E4 results (45 or better) in an Extension course in ten or more units.

Ten percent of students achieved an ATAR of 99+, 33 percent of students achieved an ATAR of 95+ and 52 percent of students achieved an ATAR of 90+.

On *The Sydney Morning Herald* Honour Roll, which acknowledges students who earn 90 or above in one or more subjects, 173 *Pymble* students earned 586 places.

Pymble students' success in the HSC was also recognised in Visual Arts with four students selected for ARTEXPRESS 2012 out of the eight students nominated for the exhibition. In Dance, five students were nominated and one selected for Callback 2012. Five Music students were nominated and one was selected for ENCORE 2012. Three Drama students were nominated for inclusion in OnSTAGE 2012 and two students were selected to exhibit their Major Textiles Project in the 2012 Textstyle Exhibition.

"The excellent HSC results of 2012 have been achieved through the application, dedication and hard work of our students and their teachers and the support of their families," said Mrs Vicki Waters, Principal of Pymble Ladies' College.

"The *Pymble* Year 12 cohort of 2012 has achieved incredible results and is to be congratulated for their outstanding academic and co-curricular achievements. 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 Head of Prep School finds *Pymble* fabulous

Alexandra Baker, Year 11

Pymble warmly welcomed the new Head of Preparatory School, Mrs Karen Ahearn into the community in January 2013.

Her first impression of the College was that it was “fabulous”, and she said the *Pymble* staff were lovely. She is eager to develop relationships with the whole *Pymble* community and, in particular, to know each and every member of the Preparatory School community.

Mrs Ahearn has been involved in educating girls since 1999. She was previously at Wenona as Deputy of Kindergarten to Year 6, also acting Head for a Term, and spent 12 years at Abbotsleigh School for Girls as an Infants Co-ordinator. Prior to this Mrs Ahearn worked at Macquarie University and feels it is important to maintain relationships with tertiary institutions.

Mrs Ahearn is passionate about the education of girls, especially in the early stages of their learning. She feels that the possibilities are endless with young girls, and wants to find different ways to engage with their own individual learning and their natural wonder.

She aspires to promoting an open learning environment that nurtures and supports each individual girl. Mrs Ahearn says that “no two girls will ever be on the same journey. I want to know the journey of every girl”. Mrs Ahearn is looking forward to forming special relationships with the Year 2 girls at Morning Teas. She has also started a red letter box that is placed outside the Preparatory School Office, so that the girls can post letters to her.

Mrs Ahearn is passionate about Mathematics and Visual Arts; she wants the girls to share her passion and to enjoy these subjects along with their other subjects. She is also passionate about inquiry-based learning and wants to instill her belief about “tapping into the inquisitive nature of girls and building on that”. Mrs Ahearn aspires to create a transparent learning environment. She wants the parent body to see what the classroom is like and how a lesson functions and equally she wants the girls to be open to talk to her and any members of the staff about anything. She feels it is extremely important to be visible in order to build these relationships.



New Head of Junior School

Madeleine Clark, Year 11

Mrs Sue Knox, who commenced as Head of Junior School in January 2013, has always been interested in the education of girls in this age group. When she initially decided to train as an educator she was going to be a primary teacher.

After arriving at *Pymble* in 2006 Mrs Knox has thoroughly enjoyed her past seven years at the College. Commencing as a French teacher Mrs Knox was appointed Head of Modern Languages in 2009 before taking on the role as Deputy Head of Upper School in 2011. In her two years as Deputy Head of Upper School she played an important role in the life of Years 9 and 10 girls and was well loved by the Upper School students.

“I will really miss the wonderful conversations and bond I had with the girls in the Upper School. The girls are on the cusp of becoming

young women and it was lovely to share their views, hopes and dreams for the future,” said Mrs Knox. When asked about the differences between working in the Junior School and the Upper School she describes the Junior School as energetic and cheerful and said she loved seeing the “joy on girls’ faces when they arrive at school right up until the moment they leave” while the Upper School girls were “a little less enthusiastic first thing in the morning!”.

Mrs Knox is loving every day of the Junior School describing it as a “vibrant caring community where girls laugh, learn, play and explore the world around them”. While she enjoys sharing the Junior School with the girls she says the biggest challenge is to prepare the girls with the skills, confidence and knowledge they need to successfully move into the Middle School.

The big question is which School she prefers! When asked the difficult question she describes them as both being a privilege to work in but right now she would have to say the Junior School because she is so happy there and loves the pictures girls bring to her each day!

preparatory school



Kindergarten celebrates College's 97th birthday

Celebrating the 97th birthday of *Pymble* on Foundation Day was an enjoyable introduction to the history of the College for Kindergarten girls. During their first weeks at school, the girls learned about the College and enjoyed listening to stories about going to school. A tour of the beautiful War Memorial Chapel was a highlight of their unit of work, 'Our School'.

As part of the Human Society and Its Environment syllabus, 'Our School' provides the girls with the chance to learn about the many exciting opportunities available at the College for everyone to enjoy.

An old favourite provides a new taste

Apple sauce was the flavour of the day when Kindergarten girls enjoyed making apple sauce as a fun activity learning about procedures as part of their phonics program. Surprisingly the taste of apple sauce was a new experience for many; however the final result met with sounds of approval.



Kindergarten girls buddy with Year 2 girls

There was much excitement as Kindergarten girls met their Year 2 buddies early in Term 1. Our 'Buddy Program' promotes a sense of belonging within our school community and facilitates positive social interactions. The Year 2 girls have enjoyed the role of 'Big Buddy' and have loved being paired up with a 'Little Buddy' from Kindergarten. The girls engage in reading together, Information Technology tasks, sensory motor activities, mathematical games and Visual Arts sessions. We look forward to watching these friendships develop over the semester.

Preparatory School girls enjoy World Maths Day

The Preparatory School celebrated World Maths Day on Wednesday 6 March, a day of fun activities which encouraged the girls to enjoy an exciting day of mathematical learning and discovery. In the Preparatory School we aim to build strong foundations that will underpin all future mathematical experiences for the girls. By combining the girls' curiosity about their world with an environment of hands-on materials and experiences, we are helping to create lifelong learners.

Girls from Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2 were placed into groups to participate in different activities covering the mathematical strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability.





Baby grand for Preparatory School

Preparatory School students showcased their musical talents on the College's newly acquired Essex GP-155 baby grand piano at an impromptu concert held in the Preparatory School Music Room on delivery of the piano on Tuesday 12 February.

"Preparatory School students and staff are delighted and excited about our new baby grand piano," said Mrs Vicki Waters, College Principal. "The piano is polished white and incorporates many design elements featured in the well-known Steinway pianos."

"Our youngest students now have the opportunity every day to listen to beautiful music played on the baby grand. Music is an important component in a *Pymble* education and now our Preparatory School students have the opportunity to enjoy listening to and appreciating musical sounds of the highest quality."

The Essex baby grand piano is the entry level brand of Steinway pianos. Despite its length of just 155cm it has an unusually wide tail design allowing for a larger soundboard and providing a greater production of sound. Other features include a tapered soundboard, resulting in a deep and lasting tone and an all-timber action.

The baby grand was made possible by the generosity and enthusiasm of the *Pymble* Preparatory School parents who assisted in raising funds to purchase the piano.

Year 1 girls explore water environments

In Term 1 Year 1 learned about saltwater and freshwater environments in their topic 'Under the Sea'. A visit from George, an underwater cameraman, gave the girls great insight into the plants and animals that live in our oceans and also touched on the important topic of water pollution. On a visit to the Sydney Aquarium the girls learned about other water environments such as rivers, rock pools and the Great Barrier Reef. Science experiments have been a particular favourite in Year 1 as the girls learned about the properties of fresh and salt water and looked at how oil spills affect marine life.

Year 1 also learned about being a *Pymble* girl and the importance of being a good friend in their Human Society and Its Environment studies. A particular highlight of the term-long investigation was the presentation of news items about 'Groups We Belong To' where each girl in Year 1 spoke to her classmates about a special group she belonged to.



Year 2 girls investigate wet and dry lands

In Human Society and Its Environment Year 2 girls have been investigating wet and dry environments, including the Daintree Rainforest and Great Sandy Desert. The girls researched plant and animal life within these two environments and learned of the many adaptations they use to survive.

An informative day was enjoyed at the Botanic Gardens where the girls explored life in a rainforest and cacti garden. The day concluded with an exciting train-ride tour of the gardens.

Many interesting projects were completed during the wet and dry environment project week within the classroom. All girls independently researched life within contrasting environments and completed both creative and written projects. Various visible thinking strategies were then used to explore the impact of humans on our environment.

Another highlight of Term 1 for Year 2 girls was their visit to Narrabeen Sports Recreation Park to enjoy some outdoor adventure activities including riding the flying foxes, rock climbing and canoeing.

Integrated Learning

Year 2 girls have been involved in 'hands on' Italian lessons during Term 1 with the installation in the Year 2 practical area of an interactive artwork 'Acqua Alta' which represented Venice in flood.

Exploring the theme, the girls enjoyed a virtual gondola ride and conversations in a Venetian café.

junior school



World Science Day enjoyed by all

Junior School girls celebrated World Science Day on Thursday 7 March with a lunch time of interactive science experiments. Miss Amanda Smith, Junior School teacher, amazed students and fellow teachers with a demonstration using bottles of Coca Cola and Mentos lollies. Girls from all year groups were enthralled by the reaction, which was made even more exciting with some helpful advice and equipment from the Secondary School science laboratories. After the experiments, the girls were challenged to conduct their own research to explain the amazing scientific reaction they saw in the experiments. After such an exciting World Science Day, the girls are eagerly awaiting National Science Week in August.



Junior School celebrates International Women's Day

Bronwyn Brereton and Laura Kellaway, Year 6

To celebrate International Woman's Day, Ms Fiona Ellis-Jones, 2001 *Pymble* ex-student, came to speak at the Junior School Assembly on Friday 8 March. Ms Ellis-Jones talked to us about her work in Kenya, the people that she met that inspired her and her career as a news reporter. She said that her dream was to be a journalist and even though she didn't make it into journalism after leaving *Pymble* her experiences had made her become even more determined to be a journalist. She reminded us that we have so many opportunities here at *Pymble* and to make the most of them.

Ms Ellis-Jones currently anchors a number of television news programs on ABC News 24, including *The Drum*, *The World*, *The Late News* and *Afternoon Live* and has hosted the national morning and afternoon shows on ABC News Radio. She was the 2004 Youth Ambassador for World Vision Australia and has lived and worked in Tanzania, Kenya, India and Fiji. Ms Ellis-Jones is proof that if you have determination and you apply yourself then you are truly capable of anything. She was an inspirational guest.

The new adventure playground

Junior School girls are enjoying their new playground equipment installed in December 2012. The equipment is specially designed for creative and safe play.

“There is a spider web, slippery dip, rock climbing walls, treadmill, monkey bars, galaxy climber, ladders and other equipment which everyone enjoys playing on,” said Linda Wu, Year 3.

The girls take full advantage of the new equipment using it for play at recess and lunch.

“It is such a fun place to play and spend lunchtime. I love playing shops there,” said Holly Noble, Year 3. “I really love going down the slippery dip and playing tip with my friends,” said Isobel Gosper, Year 3.



A visit to Sheldon Forest

Year 4 students visited Sheldon Forest, Pymble to learn about the local Blue Gum Forest community and how it has been affected by the invasion of weeds. A Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare Officer pointed out various plants and involved our willing ‘weed warriors’ in interesting and fun activities. All four weeds in the girls’ Weed Challenge project were spotted. “We walked around with hand lenses, examining plants and saw the Blue Gum trees, Passionfruit vine, Black Wattle trees, Wombat Berry Bush and the Mickey Mouse plant,” said Maddie Lewthwaite commenting on the excursion.

“My favourite part was when we spotted a scaly lizard with its head poking out of a hollow log. As we sat on the forest floor, we closed our eyes and listened to the birds singing and the leaves rustling in the wind. It almost sounded magical,” said Ashley Chen.

Band Camp

The Junior School’s annual Band Camp held in Term 1 was a great success. The Stanhope and Grainger Band students spent a full day with tutors or in band rehearsals. In the evening, the girls were entertained by Year 11 students who ran a trivia competition. The girls had great fun and 80 students then slept over in the Junior School’s John Reid Hall.

“As a new student to *Pymble* it was amazing to see the range of instruments and large number of students involved. The Grainger Band consists of trumpets, French horns, saxophones, flutes, clarinets, euphoniums, trombone, percussion and oboe players. I play the trumpet and there were seven of us working hard to play our part for the concert held at the end of camp for parents and friends,” said Alexandra Egan in Year 6.

boarding news



Equestrian success for Georgia

Pymble Year 7 boarder Georgia Laurie has enjoyed success in equestrian events held during Term 1, winning Junior Herdsperson and the National Angus Youth Roundup at the National Roundup held in Dubbo in January 2013. Georgia also won Best Prepared Heifer, was first in the Junior Parading competition and first in the Junior Judging at an equestrian event on Friday 15 March.



Angus Cup Twilight Swimming Carnival

Prudence Eccleston, Year 11

The 2013 Angus Cup Twilight Swimming Carnival was held at the College in Term 1. Each House was given a particular song or tune which they had to work as a team to recreate into a House cheer. The girls gathered before the carnival to chant, sing and practise their actions for the cheer-off. Covered head to toe in House colours and costumes, the girls marched down to the pool eager to sniff out their opponents.

Goodlet gave it their all, right from the word 'go!', starting the cheer-off with their gifted groove. Marden followed with their magical moves and mesmerising voices. Lang didn't lag behind lifting the competition with lovely lyrics and Hammond hit the high notes in their tunes with great success. The swimming then began and was enjoyed by all with water splashing, the girls grinning, people clapping and Houses winning. Congratulations to the Goodlet girls for winning the overall point score.

Year 8 boarders enjoy their first dance

Jessica Seeto, Year 8

Year 8 boarders enjoyed their first Boarding dance, hosted at Riverview in Term 1. The girls had a fabulous time and everyone looked so pretty dressed up for the occasion. We were a bit nervous at first as there were many boarders from different schools, but once everyone started dancing we just enjoyed ourselves and got to meet heaps of new people! "The dance was amazing. I met girls and guys I had never met before that all went to different schools. The girls looked stunning in their outfits and everyone had a great time," said boarder, Bridget Titasey. It was an amazing time and I can't wait for our next dance.

Earth Hour – a huge success

Alicia Minter-Hunt, Year 12

As Earth Hour descended upon *Pymble* on Saturday 23 March and lights started to switch off inside the boarding houses, the boarders from Lang, Marden and Goodlet emerged from the darkness to meet on Marden Lawn. In order to save electricity, raise awareness about Earth Hour and have fun, the girls started off the night by making ears and glasses out of glow sticks to light up the night. A large banner with the image of the planet had been painted, and the girls painted their hands and stamped them across the banner, as a sign that they had switched off their lights for Earth Hour 2013. Easter eggs had been hidden and the girls had a great time trying to locate the chocolate and discovered that it was much harder in the dark! The night finished off with a round of sparklers for everyone and as Earth Hour came to a close, the music came on and everyone enjoyed a dance before retiring back to their houses. The girls all had an amazing time at Earth Hour as well as saving electricity and the banner will be mounted on a wall to remind girls to switch off and save electricity.



college news



Head and Deputy Head Prefects challenge girls to create their own luck

Devna Luthra, Year 11

'Lucky 13'. This hope-filled and wonderfully positive theme for 2013 comes from our Head Prefect Samantha Bear and Deputy Head Prefect Julia Tsolakis.

Samantha and Julia decided on this theme to subvert the negative connotations that the number generally brings and give it an optimistic spin instead.

"We really want to encourage the girls to create their own luck by working hard and enjoying what they do," Samantha and Julia said. "We want them to focus on involvement and participation, rather than necessarily success. The number '13' is often associated with bad luck. We wanted to make 2013 a 'lucky' year for everyone, for as the saying goes, 'luck is in direct proportion to effort!'"

As leaders of the Student Representative Council (SRC), their aim for this year is to create a more cohesive environment between the schools and to ensure that there is increased interaction between students of different ages. "We want to inspire students to make the most of all the wonderful opportunities on offer at *Pymble*," said Samantha.

Samantha, a history enthusiast, and Julia, a maths whizz, have combined their prefect responsibilities with their HSC workload by cleverly and efficiently delegating and prioritising. However, the girls say, "We really rely on each other in order to get through the tough times, and we don't think we could do it without each other!"



Students and staff celebrate Foundation Day

The College welcomed 2007 ex-student Tamara Prochnik as the guest speaker at the 2013 Foundation Day Service on Wednesday 13 February.

The inaugural Foundation Day Service was conducted on 8 February in 1916 to celebrate the opening of the College. These services commenced again in 1991 to mark the 75th anniversary of *Pymble*. Since then students and staff have come together each year to celebrate and commemorate the tradition of *Pymble*.

At the 2013 service, Tamara acknowledged her years at *Pymble* as impressive, providing the framework for shaping the person she is today. "My teachers taught me to trust myself," she told students. "I am here today to share with you the lessons that really stayed with me from *Pymble* and how they shaped who I am today. These lessons are not so much to do with Maths and English, although that certainly did help, but lessons to do with passion, courage and determination. It is without question that these lessons helped me achieve the 2012 Graduate of the Year award from the Design Institute of Australia."

"The message that I would love to send out today is that passion, drive and courage are things that all of us have, all we need to do is trust ourselves and we can achieve great things."

After completing a four-year Interior Architecture degree at the University of NSW, Tamara is studying for a Bachelor of Architectural Studies and will then complete her Masters. At just 22 years of age, Tamara was named one of the 11 finalists in the architecture and interior design category of the 2012 QANTAS Spirit of Youth Awards, a leading grants program for emerging creative talent. Tamara was also named Graduate of the Year by the Design Institute of Australia (NSW) in June 2012.

Harpichord for *Pymble's* piano students

A beautiful, handmade and specially commissioned harpsichord now stands in the Music Gallery at *Pymble Ladies' College* for students and staff to enjoy and appreciate.

The Ruckers Double Harpsichord was delivered to the College on Wednesday 27 March which prompted some *Pymble* piano students and scholars to play beautiful renditions on the harpsichord.

"The harpsichord is a magnificent instrument and it looks stunning in the Music Gallery," said Director of Music, Mrs Sabina Turner. "The blue hand painted exterior is complemented by Flemish printed papers on the keywell soundboard rim and interior lid and the soundboard is decorated in Australian flora and fauna motifs hand painted by *Pymble* 1959 ex-student, Diana Ford."

The harpsichord, ordered in February 2011 and taking a year to make, was custom designed and built by Carey Beebe Harpsichords.

community service



Australian Girls Choir sing at Camp Firefly

The Australian Girls Choir entertained Pymble Ladies' College Year 11 students (now in Year 12) and Shore Year 11 students, volunteers and 'campers' on Tuesday 11 December 2012 at Pymble's inaugural Camp Firefly, a live-in four-day camp for children with physical and intellectual disabilities.

The choir sang at the Christmas celebration on the final day of camp, much to the delight of the 25 campers and their companions.

Over a period of four days, more than 50 Pymble students and 25 Shore students took on the responsibility of caring for their companion camper looking after their everyday needs 24 hours a day. They were supported by a network of dedicated student relief companions, volunteer parents, staff and nurses who assisted in meeting the daily requirements of the campers and student companions.

"Camp Firefly has been an amazing experience for both campers and companions," said College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. "The Pymble and Shore students have excelled in their commitment, enthusiasm and maturity caring for their campers. The campers have also benefited from the social experience, the exciting activities and the personalised care provided by their companions. The aim of the camp was to break down the barriers of disability and by the end of the camp all barriers had completely disappeared. All that could be seen was a group of teenagers laughing together and enjoying their life at Camp Firefly."

The students were challenged over the four days caring for and entertaining their campers. Gaining valuable experiences as carers they have grown and matured with sensitivity and understanding of

the needs of others, learning to be patient and forming strong friendships with their campers and fellow companions.

Current Year 12 Pymble student, Selin Ince said she now appreciates what she has and how lucky she is, finding her work as a companion incredibly inspiring. "I've been challenged to give back to the community and to those less fortunate than me," said Selin. "I've learned to be patient and it's been an incredible experience taking care of children and being totally responsible for them."

Camp Firefly provided a four-day respite for the parents of the 25 campers. Charlotte and Vaughan, parents of eight-year-old campers, Dylan and Gwyneth, said they enjoyed the respite time, but more importantly the camp has provided their children with an exciting, stimulating and social experience which they have both obviously enjoyed.

Camp Firefly, co-hosted by Pymble Ladies' College and Shore, was sponsored by the Sony Foundation Australia. The accommodation for the campers and their dedicated companions was provided in the College's boarding houses, with numerous activities including swimming, zumba, a magician, Camp Firefly fete, a soft area room and quiet space, games and activities conducted in the grounds of Pymble. The campers also enjoyed an outing to Sydney Aquarium during their stay. On the final day, a Christmas Party was held for all to enjoy which included a special visit from Santa.

Due to the outstanding success of the 2012 Camp Firefly, plans are now underway for a 2013 Camp Firefly.



Celebrating International Women's Day

Jean Chang, Year 11

Pymble Senior School students celebrated International Women's Day on Friday 8 March with a series of activities in support of the theme for 2013, 'The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum'.

As young women living in a global community, students reflected on their role of empowering women to seek equality across the world. Activities held in the week leading up to International Women's Day helped students to acknowledge the many opportunities available at the College, as well as learning about women's rights issues and gender inequality that are still prevalent in other communities.

Activities during the week included a teacher versus student debate on the topic 'That women are the better sex'. It was a friendly, humorous debate through which the students showcased their fluency and logic in their arguments and won the debate whilst arguing in the negative against an affirmative team comprised of male staff! The Community Service Captains also launched the Senior School's service focus for the semester to support the School of St Jude. During the week, Gemma Sisia, founder of the School of St Jude in Tanzania, spoke with students about the school and her drive to provide an education for primary and secondary school students. The students hope to raise funds to educate one girl at St Jude.

The week culminated with a presentation from guest speaker and 2005 ex-student, Tess van der Rijt, an advocate of law and policy reform, who has been working to eliminate gender inequality and violence against women in Malaysia. She spoke about the challenges that women and children of the developing world face and her work to combat these issues.

Pymble students are continuing their efforts to fight for women's rights through their two-year-long charity partnership with The Girl Effect, an international movement which leverages the potential of adolescent girls to change their social and economic dynamics.



Injustices in world explored at conference

Ananya Sinha, Year 11

Pymble students were joined by students from Knox Grammar School and Newington College when the College hosted the 2013 One World Won Tok Conference on 5 March. The conference encouraged students to explore issues of injustice and inequality experienced by disadvantaged people across the world.

One World Won Tok inspired students to understand the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and its fast approaching deadline of 2015. Delegates were required to think critically in groups to generate innovative ideas to overcome challenges in relation to the MDG.

The MDG is considered to be the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. Governments, international organisations and civil society groups around the world have helped to significantly reduce the world's extreme poverty rate and improve life experiences for the disadvantaged. MDG programs continue to address issues such as hunger, access to education, improved sanitation, maternal health and gender equality.

Commenting on the conference, Devna Luthra of Year 11 said "It was a significant influence on the way I see how injustice and unfairness can be alleviated in the world".



Pymble students donate blood

Devna Luthra, Year 11

In mid-Term 1, 100 brave Years 11 and 12 *Pymble* students and staff rolled up their sleeves to donate blood for the Red Cross Blood Bank. Organised by Year 12 student, Vanessa Zhu with the support of staff members Mrs Debbie Gibbons and Mrs Miriam Tenney, Red Cross came to *Pymble* on Monday 11 March. Presentations in Assemblies had informed students that at least one in three people will need blood in their lives, and only about one in 30 donate. Second time donor 16 year old Charlotte Glover said "I was feeling a little nervous but keen to donate for the second time. Afterwards I felt really good for donating again and saving lives".

IGSSA Swimming 2013

Grace Zhang, Year 11

Pymble's swimming team achieved some extraordinary results at the 87th IGSSA Swimming Carnival at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Friday 8 March. The team of 29 swimmers finished fourth out of 26 schools in the Champion School Point Score.

Pymble students swam fast in the heats to secure representatives in 36 out of 39 finals, fighting their fatigue and backing up in multiple races to ensure a final swim. Some outstanding results were achieved by the *Pymble* relay teams, especially the Intermediate Medley Relay team consisting of Amy van Dongen, Clare Robertson, Grace Zhang and Paris Zhang who came first and the Intermediate Freestyle team of Taylor Babbs, Clare Robertson, Grace Zhang and Amy van Dongen who came second.

Congratulations to Amy and Tahire Wijetilaka who both finished first in the 50 metre freestyle and 50 metre breaststroke respectively and to Paris Zhang for being named runner up for the Intermediate Individual Point Score. All girls trained extremely hard in the lead up to this meet and their results are evidence of their dedication and commitment.



The Pymble Swimming Team at the Olympic Park Aquatic Centre for IGSSA.



Successful season for *Pymble* rowing

Anna Jackman, Year 12

Pymble rowing has had one of its most successful seasons in *Pymble's* rowing history, claiming seven overall point scores in the 2012 – 2013 season. The squad was the largest that *Pymble* has ever had, comprising of 145 rowers. The squad's hard work and commitment during the season was demonstrated at the final regatta, the Head of the River, where *Pymble* won the overall point score and the Betty Deer Rose Cup.

The strength of the entire squad was evident by the success throughout the season and the exceptional results from all crews - Year 8 Learn to Rowers, Year 9 Juniors, Year 10 Intermediates and Years 11 and 12 Seniors. However the entire squad is responsible for the successful season, especially at the *Pymble* Regatta with the team finishing with a 500 point score lead.

The excitement of Head of the River was shared and encouraged by the many supporters who travelled to Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith on Sunday 10 March. The day was blessed with great weather, which assisted to make it such an enjoyable event. Commencing with the decorated roadside, the many posters and banners showed support for the competing schools. Inside the Centre, the colourful tents were scattered across the viewing hill, again creating a great carnival atmosphere.

The success of *Pymble's* season would be non-existent without the support of the College, the skills and commitment of coaches and the support given by the many parents of the Rowing Support Group.

Pymble places third at Tildesley

Ashley Duncan, Year 11

Pymble placed third overall at the 93rd Tildesley Tennis Tournament held at Pennant Hills Park from 20 to 22 March. This is the College's best result in the competition since 1995.

The Tildesley Tennis Tournament is the longest running IGSSA competition and, with many different schools involved, it has a highly prestigious and distinguished name. The *Pymble* team of 40 tennis players and 15 lines girls are to be commended for their brilliant performances and results.

By the conclusion of the tournament, *Pymble's* singles and doubles players had won a total of 16 more matches than the team achieved at the 2012 tournament.

Congratulations to Danielle Wagland who was a finalist in the singles for the third consecutive year but was unfortunately defeated in a tie breaker.



performance and the arts



Chicago – A Musical Vaudeville

Stephanie Stuart, Year 11

Glamour and glitz filled the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts from 6 to 9 March when the College presented four performances of the Broadway classic *Chicago – A Musical Vaudeville*.

This fabulous song and dance production entertained full houses over the four performances.

Set in Prohibition-era Chicago, the musical *Chicago* is based on a play of the same name by court reporter Maurine Dallas Watkins, who was assigned to cover the 1924 trials of murderesses Beulah Annan and Belva Gaertner for *The Chicago Tribune*. The story, a satire on corruption in the administration of criminal justice and the concept of 'celebrity criminal', was brilliantly portrayed by *Pymble* Secondary School students and Knox Grammar School and Sydney Grammar School students.

Each performance in the show was modelled on a traditional vaudeville piece or a vaudeville performer. As the orchestra played the brassy, blaring score, the characters emerged on the stage to perform an energetic story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery. The singers, dancers, musicians and stage hands brought their talents together to produce an outstanding and flamboyant performance.

The show received brilliant reviews from students, staff and the *Pymble* community, with members of the audience saying it was "an absolute spectacle" and rating it a five star production. See more photos from *Chicago* on the back cover.



The Importance of Being Earnest – a trivial play for serious people

Stephanie Stuart, Year 11

The *Pymble* Drama Company cleverly brought to life the Oscar Wilde classic *The Importance of Being Earnest* in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts in three performances on 21, 22 and 23 March.

Years 10 and 11 Drama students carried out all the acting and backstage roles presenting a brilliant witty comedy of mistaken identity, ridicules, foolish codes of propriety and etiquette and ridiculous manners and morality. The students' hard work and dedication in rehearsing for the production under the guidance of the Head of Drama, Mr Steven MacPhail, produced a witty and fast-paced performance which had the audience grinning from ear to ear. The production attracted much praise with it being labelled as "brilliant and a good laugh" and "extremely enjoyable". Congratulations to the students involved in the production, it was a huge success.



Gracie Otto mentors students

Stephanie Stuart, Year 11

Years 9 to 11 film students were privileged to participate in a one-day film workshop with Gracie Otto, a rising star in the Australian and American film industry, on Friday 8 February. Graduating from Sydney Film School in 2006, Gracie has since directed numerous short films and starred in Hollywood films such as *Three Blind Mice* and performed in a role in the popular television series *Sea Patrol*. It was a fun and informative day which provided the girls with advice and techniques in script writing, creating a shot list and making a breakthrough in the film industry.

Musical brilliance at piano recital

The Dame Joan Hammond Piano Recital held in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts on Tuesday 26 March was a wonderful display of musical brilliance featuring piano scholars and music students from the College.

The program featured performances by Theresa Yu, Patricia Tsong, Jacqueline Li, Jennifer Peng, Gabriella Vici, Jane Liu, Angela Liang, Olivia To, Anna-Lisa Tie and Sally Cao.

The piano recital is an annual event in honour of the late Dame Joan Hammond who was a student and boarder at the College during the 1920s. She was a multi-talented student winning colours in hockey, netball, squash and tennis as well as swimming and diving championships. She also excelled in singing, violin and piano and had a great interest in drama. From the mid-1940s to the early 1960s Dame Joan Hammond was one of the world's most sought after opera singers. She maintained her close ties with the College, returning to perform on a number of occasions and donating her Steinway grand piano and extensive music collection to the College.



Pymble students star at Tropfest Junior

Jessica Ibbotson, Year 10

Year 10 film students Marnie Drake and Seetha Tan's short film *Alice* and former *Pymble* student Isabelle Lees' film *Here I Am* were two of 16 finalist films shown at Tropfest Junior in the Domain, Sydney on Sunday 16 February. Tropfest Junior is the world's largest short film competition for children aged 15 years and under. The competition attracts hundreds of entries from across Australia.

The films were screened in front of more than 1,000 people and a panel of celebrity judges including Sean Keenan, Samara Weaving, Gretel Killeen and Sam Moran. Being part of Tropfest was an honour for these students, they learned many new skills and it has made them eager to make more films in the years ahead.

"It was such a great experience to be involved in such a prestigious film festival and I was privileged to meet some famous faces such as Sam Worthington and Sean Keenan," said Marnie Drake.

Alice is based on the concept that life's a game of chess and you only win if you control the game. *Here I Am* explored a young women's journey to discovering the beauty inside herself. The short films can be viewed on the Tropfest Junior website at

<http://tropfest.com/tropjr/category/archive/2013-finalists>.



Piano performance delights senior citizens

Angela Liang, Music Subject Captain

Angela Liang, Laurel Donnelly and Boyoung Jeong of *Pymble's* Piano Trio, accompanied by Music Co-ordinator, Mrs Carine Jenkins and Music teacher Mrs Narelle Colbey set off to the Baptist Community Services Willandra Village in Marsfield to attend a service to celebrate Seniors Week on Wednesday 13 March. With the presence of the Mayor of the City of Ryde, Cllr Ivan Petch, the Piano Trio performed *Meditations* by Jules Massenet, an arrangement of *Amazing Grace* and the third movement of Bedřich Smetana's *Piano Trio in G minor*. The students impressed their audience, as a performance by musicians of such high calibre was a very rare treat for the residents at Willandra. The spirit of the community and the close-knit relationship between residents made the evening a true celebration and our team of *Pymble* students and staff were extremely proud to have represented the College at such an amazing event.

beyond *Pymble*

Star gazing on Physics Camp

Grace Zhang, Year 11

Year 11 Physics students had a wonderful and enriching experience when they travelled to Dubbo for their Physics camp in March to widen their knowledge of the cosmic universe. The three-day camp saw the students travelling to different observatories near Dubbo to study the stars using telescopes.

The students went to Darby Falls Observatory in Cowra at night and used the biggest telescopes available to the public. All the students were amazed and enchanted by the size of the sky and the sheer number of stars they could observe with their naked eye. The telescope gave them a clear vision of their surrounding universe, and they were able to observe several different constellations and even a few planets including Jupiter and Saturn.

The students also travelled to Parkes Observatory, where they learned about Parkes' many significant scientific events, especially its participation in the first manned moon landing in 1969, *Apollo 11*. The students also explored the Parkes Museum and an astronomer working for 'The Dish' shared with the students some of the amazing experiences he had while working at the Parkes Observatory.

All students represented *Pymble* extremely well and despite the long bus rides enjoyed themselves while learning about our universe!



Year 11 Camp a memorable experience

Year 11 students went to Collaroy on Sydney's Northern Beaches for their Outdoor Study Camp from 4 to 6 February. It was a busy three days where students enjoyed activities such as a rock climbing, abseiling, beach games, surfing and the giant swing. The camp provided a great opportunity for girls to get to know the new students and to form closer friendships with girls in their cohort. A feature of the camp were seminars presented by inspiring public speakers including Brent Sanders who inspired students to think big, dream big and do big for the year ahead. A highlight of the camp, the Talent Quest was enjoyed by all with acts ranging from 'the sleeping bag worms' to the brilliant Opera performance by Gabrielle Nottle. The camp was an extremely enjoyable and memorable occasion which will be fondly remembered by both staff and students.



Canadian exchange enjoyed

Devna Luthra, Year 11

Pymble students Georgia Dixon, Alexandra Hunter, Madison Killick and Isobel Shepherd-Shaw travelled to Canada at the end of 2012 for the first part of their exchange experience spending six weeks staying with their host families and attending Collingwood School in Vancouver.

Their exchange 'sisters' visited *Pymble* in Term 1 this year to complete the exchange experience, thoroughly enjoying the many delights of Sydney.

The *Pymble* girls were hesitant at first, not knowing what to expect and learning how to cope in another country without the support of family and friends. For Alexandra, the biggest thing she had to adjust to was "the concept of independence and that I was without family in a foreign country. However everyone was so welcoming. The highlight of the exchange was Canadian Halloween, it was a massive event."

The *Pymble* girls loved having their exchange 'sisters' visit them in Australia in Term 1. Outdoor activities in the sun were cherished by the Canadian girls! Travelling by train and being in an all-girls school environment were welcomed adjustments to their new schedules. A highlight of the Canadian girls' experience was a bridge climb at sunset, an outing enjoyed by all the girls.

Pymble offers language and cultural exchanges to many countries, including Argentina, England, Scotland, France, Japan, Korea and Germany.

International opportunities at *Pymble*

Pymble's International Exchange Program provides students with the opportunity to enrich their linguistic knowledge and gain an understanding and sensitivity to cultural differences. Our exchange programs allow students to immerse themselves in different cultures and ways of life, develop important life-long skills and build international networks.

The *Pymble* International Exchange Program is available as a Cultural Exchange for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 and a Language Exchange for students in Years 10 and 11. Gap Year Exchanges are available for post-Year 12 students.



Lifetime memories from French exchange

Hannah Buchner, Year 11

In early November last year, Year 10 students embarked on a language exchange program to Lyon and Colmar, France. The *Pymble* girls on exchange attended school with their host 'sisters', which was a wildly different experience to life at *Pymble*.

Many of the *Pymble* girls were fortunate to take a holiday with their host families, that included holidays in Paris, Germany and the Alps. All students agreed that their exchange to France was a valuable experience and stepping out of their comfort zone often helped them to enhance their self-confidence. Many girls tried new things like eating snails and climbing snow-capped mountains. The exchange helped each girl to realise new heights within herself whilst having an experience of a lifetime. Our host 'sisters' are staying with us in June this year for seven weeks, so we can show them around Sydney and parts of Australia. We have made extraordinary new friends and memories that will last us a lifetime and we will never forget this valuable experience.

Life changing experiences for Gap Girls

Hannah Grimble, a 2011 *Pymble* ex-student who spent a gap year at the Cheam School, Headley in 2012, said her 12 months in the United Kingdom was life changing and an amazing opportunity which she thoroughly enjoyed. "My job at Cheam provided a taste of the workforce and the education system and had the added bonus of a positive atmosphere and character which reminded me a lot of *Pymble*, making me feel instantly comfortable and at home. I found it challenging at times to find the line between an adult with authority and a friend. I made it through however and toward the end of the year I even had the opportunity to teach a class. Our holidays and free weekends were very generous, so we travelled Europe extensively. I never even dreamed of going to such destinations as Hungary, Turkey, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Croatia and Greece. Leaving Cheam was incredibly emotional as I had formed great friendships within the school however it was the perfect year and it was time to go home," said Hannah.

Grace Ellis, who graduated in 2012 is now at Cheam and is doing a great job at representing *Pymble*. She is having a wonderful time and reports back that all the staff, students and other gappers are great fun! Earlier this year Grace said they were snowed in at school, a very different experience for Grace!

2012 graduate, Aleisha Wawn sends a big hello from Pipers Corner School in Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom. "I've really been enjoying myself here. The staff have all been so welcoming and helpful and the girls are all very lovely," said Aleisha. "I've mostly been working with the junior boarders and with the pre-preps who are just the most delightful group of girls."



Year 9 students tested on Urban Challenge

Rachel Li, Year 9

Year 9 students trekked across the city and suburbs of Sydney in Term 1 for our four-day Urban Challenge. The camp is designed to give students the opportunity to experience independence as they complete tasks and challenges in various Sydney locations.

Students were required to work in teams to complete their challenges. Each day we were given clues and instructions via hidden envelopes, the Urban Challenge blog, riddles and text messages. The activities were held in great locations around Sydney.

Our accommodation on the Urban Challenge included staying at YHA hostels. It was such an amazing experience since we developed skills that can be used in everyday life such as navigating, developing social skills, leadership, co-operation and decision making skills. Year 9 student, Belinda Sun said "I thought it was an amazing experience since I developed more confidence as well as seeing parts of the city I haven't seen before".

academic opportunities



Culinary skills showcased at Hospitality Dinner

Year 12 Hospitality students excelled as they provided a gala evening of fine dining and fun for parents and guests at the annual Hospitality Dinner on Friday 15 March.

Students worked alongside Hospitality teaching staff and Jeff Turnbull, owner and executive chef of High Street Bistro to prepare the meal.

Guests were greeted upon arrival with an amazing sight of fairy lights and flowers whilst being served canapés and sparkling wine. They then enjoyed a sumptuous meal and dessert.

The evening, a celebration of the culinary skills that the Hospitality students have acquired during their study of Hospitality, was an outstanding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Pymble student in Canberra delegation

Year 12 student, Alexandra Baker was one of 122 senior student delegates from across Australia who participated in the 2013 National Schools Constitutional Convention held in Canberra from 20 to 22 March.

Facilitated by Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO from the Australian National University, students explored ways to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution.

After hearing from expert speakers as well as discussing and debating the issues, student delegates participated in mock referenda on how the Constitution can recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

“It was great meeting other students from all around Australia who were interested in learning about our democracy,” said Alexandra. “We also met politicians and attended Question Time in Parliament House.”

The convention is funded by the Australian Government as part of its ongoing commitment to civics and citizenship education.



Historian reflects on the Holocaust

Helen Chen, Year 12

Year 12 Extension History students were privileged to hear renowned historian Professor Konrad Kwiet speak on his career as a historian, the Holocaust and the creation and interpretation of history when he visited the College on Tuesday 19 February.

His speech, which reflected on his personal memories and history, was both insightful and engaging. Professor Kwiet spoke of his earliest memories of being a Jewish child in World War II and recalled other key moments in his life, such as witnessing first-hand the fall of the Berlin Wall. We learned about his experiences as the former chief historian of the Australian War Crimes Unit, raising ideas about the challenges of historians in regards to the limitations of memory and oral history, as well as the conflict between historical truth and legal evidence. His speech acted as a useful supplement to the students' studies on the different schools of historical thought and the case study of Deborah Lipstadt verses David Irving, examining the concept of Holocaust denial.



Harvest time for Agriculture students

Year 9 Agriculture students have been kept busy during Term 1 tending a variety of herbs and vegetables and spent the last day of term harvesting their crops.

In their practical lessons, the students have also been responsible for feeding the chickens and ducks, walking the goats and caring for the newly acquired sheep in the College Ag Plot.

Agriculture is offered to students at *Pymble* from Year 9. Studying Agriculture provides students with the opportunity to interact with a farm environment through involvement in activities in the Ag Plot, where the production of crops and rearing of animals is closely

monitored and studied by the students. Agriculture students also extend their study of the subject through excursions and specialised in-house programs, including the rearing of meat birds for judging at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney.

Pymble students have excelled in Agriculture in past Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations. In 2012 a *Pymble* student topped the State and a second student placed seventh in the State in Agriculture. In the 2009 HSC, *Pymble* students came first and second in the State in Agriculture.



Where would pie-makers be without pi?

Ms Pam Stott, Mathematics

At the start, it was 'pie in the sky'. The idea of an entire day dedicated to a single number is, after all, almost as irrational as the number itself. However in 2009, the US House of Representatives backed the official designation of Pi Day, saying it "supports and encourages schools and educators to observe the day with appropriate activities".

And so, since pi's infinite nature makes it a fun challenge to memorise, *Pymble's* Mathematics Department hosted a Pi Day recital event on Thursday 14 March.

More than 100 students attended to recite the digits of pi at lunch time and earn themselves a free apple pie. Congratulations to Vicky Huang in Year 7 who accurately recited 207 digits, a new *Pymble* record. A highlight of the day was Year 10 student, Michele Boulos, who recited 104 digits to the tune of *Old MacDonald had a Farm*.

French culture on show at Film Festival

Anushri Sood, Year 11

The Year 11 French class buzzed with excitement as they travelled to the Palace Cinema to watch *Le Prénom* on Friday 15 March as part of the Alliance Française French Film Festival.

The festival is dedicated to promoting the spread of French language and culture around the world. In their fifth year of learning French, the students were thrilled to be able to watch an international offbeat film which allowed them to vicariously experience French culture and humour. The entire class, including French teacher Mademoiselle Lombard, thoroughly enjoyed this culturally enriching group experience.

parent groups

Rain didn't dampen spirits at 2013 Icebreaker

Eileen Reeve, Pymble Parent Association Event Co-ordinator

With the threat of torrential rain and ominous skies above, the 2013 Icebreaker held in the Atrium of the Senior School Centre – Kate Mason Building on Friday 22 February was a fabulous event enjoyed by more than 600 parents, staff and members of the College Council.

It was lovely to see that a few drops of rain could not dampen the spirit of our guests. The food was delicious and the beautiful renditions of the Senior Concert Band provided a perfect backdrop to what was by all accounts a successful and very well attended event.

The Icebreaker was the first *Pymble* Parent Association event for 2013 and provided our community with the opportunity to meet new and current *Pymble* parents.



Mothers and daughters enjoy afternoon of lawn bowls

Jackie Choo, Junior School Parent Group

Year 6 mothers and daughters enjoyed a sunny afternoon learning how to lawn bowl in bare feet on Sunday 3 March. A few of us even discovered we had a hidden talent! It was a fun way to exercise and socialise at the same time for the mothers. The girls also had a great time, having exclusive use of the Gordon Bowling Club. Thank you to Nigel Streatfield, Club Manager, and his wonderful Club members, who gave up their afternoon to coach us on the finer points of lawn bowling, Heidi Green (mother of Kate in 6W) for the music and Victoria Humphrey (mother of Megan in 6S) for the team ribbons.

New mothers' enjoy luncheon

Row McGilvray, Event Convenor

This year's New Mothers' Lunch was a wonderful success. It achieved its goal of bringing new mums together to build a community which we will all be involved in over the next six years.

We enjoyed a sit down lunch in the Boarders Dining Hall and were welcomed by Mrs Julie Shaw, Deputy Principal and joined by Ms Lindsay Bosch, Head of Middle School and our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators. As our daughters are in their pastoral care groups for two years mothers were seated accordingly and benefitted from getting to know one another. We were also joined by new parents from Upper and Senior Schools and we hope that this has helped in their transition to a new environment.

Thank you to those who were able to attend and for those who could not join us, I hope that you will be able to attend future *Pymble* community events.

Annual Family Picnic

Michelle Braysich, Preparatory School Parent Group

Preparatory School families enjoyed the annual Preparatory School Family Picnic Day on Sunday 10 March.

The girls were kept busy by playing games such as Leaps 'n' Bounds and enjoyed an action packed day with an obstacle course, sack races, a hula hoop competition, tug-o-war and much more.

The day concluded with our ever popular House relays which saw all the mums and dads kick off their shoes and join in the fun!



Year 10 parent morning tea

Eva Coulan and Bambi Markus, Upper School Parent Group

Almost 40 Year 10 parents attended the Year 10 Morning Tea on Thursday 21 March at Eden Gardens. It was an excellent event with a great group of parents and a very positive vibe. Thank you to Mr Phil O'Regan, Head of Upper School, for attending the event.

Rowing dinner

Tony Cox, Rowing Support Group President

Congratulations to all the *Pymble* rowers for their commitment and effort throughout the rowing season. *Pymble* rowers and their parents celebrated the end of the rowing season at a special dinner at Miramare Gardens on Sunday 24 March. The girls all looked fantastic on the night and were in great spirits. They are a great credit to the College and their parents. It has been a pleasure being the *Pymble* Rowing Support Group President this year and seeing all the girls happy and enjoying their rowing makes it all worthwhile.



Year 8 mums enjoy morning tea

Isabel Heaven, Middle School Parent Group

More than 60 Year 8 mothers were joined by Acting Deputy Head of Middle School, Mrs Carolyn Burgess and Mrs Patricia Mitchell for a morning tea on Friday 15 March. The morning tea, held at Debbie Paterson's home, was a lovely event which saw mums and staff chatting on the delights and wonders of having daughters. Thank you to Debbie for opening her lovely home to all of us for the morning.



Year 5 Father Daughter dinner

Camille Stewart, Junior School Parent Group

On Friday 22 March Year 5 girls and their dads kicked up their dancin' boots at the Father Daughter Dinner 'Country Barn Dance'. Everyone had a great time as the 'caller' from the Sydney Coves Bush Band encouraged the 200 excited guests up on the floor for line dancing. The girls loved seeing the Head of Junior School, Mrs Sue Knox and Year 5 Co-ordinator, Miss Kim Irvine join in the dancing at the night. The country style decorations, dress code, barbecue dinner and fantastic music ensured everyone enjoyed the spirit of the night. The girls had a ball dancing with their dads and friends, with the band playing right through to the 9.30pm finish. Many new friendships were formed and a great night was had by all. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a special event, especially event convenor, Jenelle Montgomerie.

development at *Pymble*



Tradition of giving goes on

Pymble invests in the lives of every girl in unique ways. You can, too.

Pymble Ladies' College has offered exceptional educational opportunities to young women for nearly a century, and we are always looking to provide more for our girls to enrich their educational experience.

This year, *Pymble* is restructuring its supplementary funding programs to introduce Annual Giving. A new

opportunity for the College community, Annual Giving focuses on directly improving student facilities and initiatives that cannot be funded through the College budget.

This year, Annual Giving will have four exciting and important projects: the Preparatory School's Riverbed Playground, climate control for the College gym and extended support for the Boarding and Indigenous scholarships.

Pymble Principal Mrs Vicki Waters said Annual Giving allowed community members to support needs that couldn't be met from fee income.

"More than just direct benefits for current students, the Annual Giving initiatives are also an investment for future generations of *Pymble* girls," Mrs Waters said.

Promoting environmental sustainability and innovative learning are fundamental goals of the College's *Towards 2020* vision. The project of refurbishing and upgrading the Riverbed Playground for the Preparatory School students will enable the College to continue its progress toward this vision.

Pymble's youngest students are at a development stage when getting hands-on and hands dirty are vital components of developing curiosity, problem solving and an appreciation for the natural environment.

Sadly closed at present because of its need for refurbishment, the Riverbed has long been a beautiful and important learning playground. In the past, this natural watercourse has been the setting for the girls to play safely in the soil among the river stones.

"It is a place of unique and wonderful experiential learning," Mrs Waters said.

"However, its very popularity means it now needs upgrades and landscaping repair to once more make it somewhere *Pymble* girls can safely learn and play in nature."

Like the Riverbed, the Jeanette Buckham Physical Education Centre (PE Centre), the focus of the second Annual Giving project, is also due for upgrades. Improvements to this facility, however, will have far broader effects within the *Pymble* community.

Mrs Waters said the PE Centre, in constant use by students, parents, staff and visitors, was a true community meeting place.

"It's also *Pymble's* main indoor sports centre, the venue for school leader inductions, the Secondary School Speech Night and Junior School Speech Day, the boarders' recreation centre and the assembly venue for our girls," she said.

"It is the focal setting for building the distinct *Pymble* spirit and inspiration.

"And in summer, it is sweltering hot."

This project will enable *Pymble* to invest in effective climate control – huge overhead fans – to make this centrepiece venue comfortable for all families, visitors, staff and students who visit.

The third Annual Giving initiative is *Pymble's* Indigenous Scholarship Program, which closely reflects the College's values of care, courage, integrity, respect and responsibility.

"Education is the most valuable gift we can give and each time we give, it enriches the College," Mrs Waters said.

"Including Indigenous students in our diverse community enriches the life of our College and the wider community."

Pymble's Indigenous Scholarship Program has been running for six years. The recipients are young women who show potential and, with a *Pymble* education, are given the best possible opportunity to contribute to the nation's development.

Currently, there are 13 Indigenous girls on scholarships across the College. Four Indigenous girls have graduated from *Pymble*. Each is now completing tertiary studies, which is a terrific achievement for the program.

"Through Annual Giving we can extend our important commitment to this community," Mrs Waters said.

Similarly, in 2012, *Pymble* established a means-tested Boarding Scholarship Program to provide Australian girls in regional and rural areas an opportunity to study and board at the College. As much as *Pymble* gives each student, she contributes even more to College culture.

"It is exciting to see this initiative come to fruition and we look forward to ensuring the fund has a lasting and positive impact in the lives of the recipients," Mrs Waters said.

"The scholarship is an initiative of the Boarding Parent Group, which generously wants to leave a legacy for future rural and regional boarding girls."

"Given the recent difficulties in regional Australia – which has suffered through numerous economic and environmental catastrophes – it has become very difficult for families to commit to a six-year secondary education in a boarding environment."

Your support affirms the *Pymble* vision of excellence through education and strengthens the work of the entire College community. Gifts of any size are welcome and appreciated. Every gift is valued and each gift will be directed to the project of your choice. All gifts to the Annual Giving initiative are tax-deductible.

To find out more about Annual Giving 2013, contact the Director of Development, Mr John Da Cruz at jdacruz@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or 02 9855 7303.

Thank you for your continued and generous support for current and future generations of *Pymble* girls.

looking back

Memories from a *Pymble* girl, Jean Single (Vicars, 1952)

Jean and her sister, Susan White (Vicars, 1958) were day girls at Pymble, and both were in Goodlet House.

Their father John Vicars (known as Jack) was Chairman of Pymble's College Council for many years. Her memories of her years at the College follow.

"My father, Jack Vicars, was a very special man.

We led a wonderful life, very simple really but enjoying everyday things with Mum and Dad, picnics, holidays in the country with relations, beach holidays and special holidays on the Hawkesbury River staying at a home called 'Taracoonee', which celebrated its centenary in 2011.

My daughters and families go there and love it too. I feel very fortunate to have had such a great family and now also special friends.

Dad served on the College Council for about 26 years of which he was Chairman for 15 years. My job on Speech Day was to time his speech, there was a strict limit, and fortunately he did not like long speeches.

I recall Miss Knox would visit our home in Lindfield on most Sunday nights. Dad and Miss Knox would discuss school matters and then Mum, who was great friends with our headmistress would have a chat with Miss Knox.

When I was in 6th Class, an outing to Vicars' Woollen Mills was arranged and this tradition continued for many years. At the end of the excursion, each student received a card about the production of wool, from the sheep's back to the yarn.

My school days were very happy ones. Since moving to Brisbane I have met up with many school friends.

We have always enjoyed the visits of past and present headmistresses/principals, Miss Knox, Jeanette Buckham, Gillian Moore and Vicki Waters to our annual lunches.

Over the years my family has contributed to the books published about the College. My sister Susan was Head Prefect in 1958 and my brother John was also a member of the College Council. His daughter Susannah also attended *Pymble*, so we have a long family history with this wonderful school.

I get carried away with thoughts from those days but would like to say that when anyone discusses school days, my reply is that I went to the best and most beautiful school, *Pymble Ladies' College*."



Photos kindly donated by Miss Elizabeth McLean (1948) Above: Pymble in the 1940s and top: The Chapel in the 1960s.

Thank you for donating *Pymble* memorabilia

Thank you to all those in the *Pymble* community who have donated items for the Archives. We have received wonderful photos, badges, books, magazines, uniforms and other memorabilia. The items are greatly valued and assist us in recording and retaining the history of the College. We recently discovered the University of Melbourne Bachelor of Law testamur awarded to Dr John Marden in 1888!

We have also received a collection of photos from 1948 showing sports teams as well as prefects and class captains. In addition, a beautiful crested College badge belonging to Marjorie Harbison (1919) has been given to us for the collection. If you have any items which would enhance our Archives please contact Joy England, Alumni Relations Manager, 02 9855 7304 or email jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

The Development Office has also had some interesting and exciting enquiries about the College. A number of people have been searching for their relatives and we have been able to find out information for them to complete family trees and fill in gaps in their knowledge of their ancestry. Ku-ring-gai Historical Society continues to source information and photos from *Pymble* Archives for their ongoing exhibitions.

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society is featuring Dame Joan Hammond as one of the key women of the area. Joan's great, great grand-niece Claudia Hammond is currently in Year 8 at *Pymble*. Each year the Dame Joan Hammond Memorial Recital takes place honouring the memory of this distinguished ex-student.



President's Report

What does it mean to be a Pymble girl?

The Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union (ESU) engages with current students and the College in a variety of ways forming a close link between current and ex-students.

Ex-students are invited to speak at significant College events such as Foundation Day in February and at the ESU Commemoration Day in July. More recently, ex-students are enjoying being invited back to the College to speak with the Year 7 girls about their experience as Pymble girls. Ex-students have also participated in significant events at the College including the vision for *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest* and the 2016 College Centenary Planning Committee.

Reunions are regularly held for all year groups. Many of these I have had the pleasure of being invited to attend to welcome 'the girls' back to the College. There are also several reunions being hosted overseas reflecting Pymble's position as part of a global community.

Financially, the ESU sponsors a half scholarship for a Year 11 daughter or granddaughter of an ex-student that continues to Year 12. This is traditionally awarded to a girl who meets the desired academic criteria, but who also is judged as a girl of good character who can represent the College with pride and acclaim. We also sponsor uniforms for the new Indigenous Scholars and an Artist in Residence Grant at the College.

The ESU sponsors prizes at Speech Night such as the Year 12 Citizenship Prize and an Honour Award for Proficiency at Work and Sport. And most importantly, all Year 12 girls will now automatically become members of the Ex-Students' Union, providing a higher proportion of ESU membership in the younger age demographic.

These initiatives provide opportunities for the ESU to engage with the current and former students and to share experiences. It also helps shape what it means to be a Pymble girl and the College motto of 'Striving for the Highest' and what it means during school days and after.

The ESU conducted its own strategic survey last year at the same time as the survey conducted by the College leading to the *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest* strategic document. I would again like to thank all those ex-students who took the time to respond.

The results of the survey help focus our attention on the future relevance of the ESU to the College and to question whether our current engagement will continue to be sufficient to meet the expectations of our members. The survey indicated that what our ex-students valued most about their Pymble experience was assisting in developing a network of lifelong friendships and providing a broad and balanced education.

The Centenary of Pymble in 2016 – update your details

With the Centenary of Pymble coming up in 2016 please ensure your contact details are correct. Contact Joy England, Alumni Relations Manager, with updated email and address contact details. We want to stay in touch with all our ex-students, locally and globally so please email your details to jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or call Joy England on 02 9855 7991

ESU Annual General Meeting

The ESU Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 October in the Heritage Centre.

Find us on Facebook!

We invite our ex-students to join our new and growing dedicated ESU Facebook page – find dates of reunions locally, regionally and globally, contact friends in your year and find out what is happening at the College. www.facebook.com/groups/PymbleESU

The wonderful work that Joy England, Alumni Relations Manager, is doing in co-ordinating our reunions is consistent with the values of our members. And the College continues to deliver a broad and balanced education providing a life-long advantage to all Pymble students.

With an increasingly younger aged based membership comes a fantastic opportunity to provide other forms of assistance, in addition to those we have traditionally provided, particularly in the form of providing mentoring and networking opportunities.

During my years as the ESU President, the current year being my last, I have had many interesting conversations about how the boys' schools provide networking opportunities almost as a matter of course. Traditionally, this has gone hand in hand with the expectation that all boys go on to full-time paid employment so their family and friends naturally focus on the pathways available for boys after leaving school.

As with most all girls' schools, however, Pymble has not established those networks. To my observation, girls have far more choice in their future careers and there is always the likelihood that their careers will be interrupted for at least a period of time in dedicating their time to raising and nurturing a family.

While I acknowledge that girls work differently, I nevertheless believe that there is a great opportunity to promote our fellow students and Pymble alumnae by providing guidance and introductions to their world after Year 12.

We therefore need a younger, more engaged focus within the ESU to create the solutions its changing demographic requires.

What we are looking for is leadership to strive to make the association more relevant to its membership. This most likely means we have to do more things and do them differently to cater to the needs of our younger members.

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**

Commemoration Day

The 2013 Commemoration Day Service is on Sunday 28 July at 10.30am commencing with a service in the College War Memorial Chapel followed by morning tea. All members of the College and wider community are warmly invited to attend.

Thank you ex-students

Thank you to all the ex-students who have been into the College and shared their experiences with our current girls. We have had ex-students involved with International Women's Day, Foundation Day, Year 7 'Being a Pymble Girl', Careers Night and many other activities. Please do come back to College, we will be delighted to welcome you to Pymble anytime. If you would like to visit, please contact Joy England on jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

Send us your news

We love to hear what our ex-students are doing – professionally and personally. Please send us your news about jobs, families, visits, reunions, personal and professional achievements and any other news of interest. Any items for the Archives, for example original photos and uniforms, are also very welcome. Keep in touch with the ESU through Joy England on jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

Life membership of the ESU

The ESU plays an important part not only in the life of the ex-students but also in the life of the current students. Did you know that your Life Membership fee helps us to support the ESU Scholarship for a girl who is the daughter or granddaughter of an ex-student, an Artist-in-Residence Grant as well as purchasing uniforms for Indigenous scholars? The ESU also provides support for ESU Netball and Hockey teams.

In addition, the ESU provides morning tea on Commemoration Day as well as morning tea for the Year 11 girls when they embark on their HSC Studies. We have reunions all over the world, and ex-students frequently return to the College as speakers, visitors, participants in Careers Night, Australian Business Week, Garden Party, Mothers and Grandmothers Morning Tea and many other wonderful initiatives.

The ESU is an active and important part of College life and you are encouraged to be a part of it. Please encourage ex-students to update their details and to join the ESU. A Life Membership form can be found on the website www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or obtained from Joy England, Alumni Relations Manager: jengland@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

All' Ultimo Lavoro

Reunion Reports



Class of 1993 Reunion

On Saturday 9 March, 92 ex-students from the 1993 cohort met at the Treehouse Hotel in North Sydney to celebrate our 20 Year Reunion.

On a balmy Sydney night, the outdoor venue proved to be an excellent way to unwind and catch up on all the happenings over the last 20 years. Many people had made a long trek to North Sydney with ex-students coming from as far as the United States, Papua New Guinea and Africa. After initial nerves passed it was as if we were back in the year 1993 with lots of chatter and a steady stream of laughter.

The night was such a success that many commented on not wanting to wait until the 30 year reunion but would dearly like to catch up in five years.

Queensland and Northern New South Wales Reunion

On Saturday 13 October 2012 the annual ESU luncheon for Queensland and Northern NSW was held at ERA Bistro in South Brisbane. This luncheon was attended by 17 *Pymble* ex-students, one PLC Croydon ex-student and former *Pymble* staff member, Mrs Patricia Burgoyne. All ladies enjoyed an excellent lunch and the friendship that is evident between 'girls' from *Pymble* and our sister schools was demonstrated by ongoing laughter and conversation throughout the afternoon. It was a pleasure to have Mrs Burgoyne once again join us at the event.

The 2013 Queensland and Northern NSW luncheon will be held on Saturday 7 September at ERA Bistro, Melbourne Street, South Brisbane at 12.00pm for 12.30pm.

For further information please contact Helen Gibson (Colton, 1963) on email research2@hotmail.net.au or phone 07 5496 6544.

Mothers and Grandmothers enjoy Morning Tea

The annual ex-students mothers and grandmothers of current girls Morning Tea was held for the first time in the Heritage Centre under the War Memorial Chapel. There was a wonderful turnout with over 50 mothers and grandmothers attending. It was wonderful to see so many ex-students there and to hear the chatter and laughter as everyone reminisced about their time at *Pymble* as well as sharing stories of what their daughters and granddaughters are now doing at *Pymble*. The ESU committee provided a sumptuous morning tea and everyone very much enjoyed looking at the archival displays in the Heritage Centre.

It was particularly nice to meet Winifred Ross (Allworth, 1949) who was the first person and also the first *Pymble* girl to be married in the Chapel. The Chapel was first opened in April 1956 and Winifred got married in June, 1956, watched by hundreds of *Pymble* girls gathered on the lawn and attended by Miss Knox.

Sue Everingham (Taylor, 1977), President of the ESU and Vicki Waters, Principal, both briefly spoke of the importance of the ex-students to the College.



Judith Williams (Peterson, 1943), Vicki Waters, Principal and Susan Bourke (McKellar, 1980)



Winifred Ross (Allworth, 1949), Val Friis (Cox, 1959) and Susie Hassall (Friis, 1989)



Mothers and Grandmothers enjoy the Heritage Centre



Announcements

Engagements

- **Alexandra Egan (2000)** to Henry White.
- **Candace Shepherd (2000)** to Michael Chandler in June 2012.

Marriages

- **Christina Chiu (2000)** married Matthew Barlow on 18 November 2012 at Sergeant's Mess, Chowder Bay. Christina's bridesmaids were Anna McLennan (2000) and Andrea Mak (2000).



- **Jennifer 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.



- **Alexandra Fletcher (1999)** married Anthony Wicht at St Stephen's Uniting Church in Tumut in December 2011. Alexandra was attended by her three sisters Penelope (1998), Melinda (2002) and Felicity (2009) and friend Jenny Lee.

Melinda (2002), Alexandra (1999), Felicity (2009) and Penelope (1998).



- **Melissa Grounds (2000)** married Ben Mason at St Ignatius College on 3 November 2012. Melissa was attended by Maid of Honour Asha Dooley (2000), and bridesmaids Jessica Blackwood (2000), Laura Earl (2000), Courtney Brown (2001), Elke Dupere (2001) and Tanith Sweetnam.



Jennie Cooper, Jessica Henderson, Annabel and Michelle Lepparde.

- **Annabel Wiseman (2000)** married Martin Roedhammer on 30 November, 2012 in Perth. Annabel's bridesmaids were Michelle Lepparde (2000), Jennie Cooper (2000) and Jessica Henderson.

Births

- **Jenny Bartrop (Gill, 1997)** and husband James welcome with much love their son, Cooper James Gill Bartrop, a brother for Emily. Cooper was born on 29 October 2012.
- **Katie Caistor (George, 1994)** and husband Eddie are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Edward on 10 September 2012, a brother for Josh and Alison. Ben was baptised in the *Pymble* War Memorial Chapel on Sunday 3 March 2013.
- **Annabel Gay (1998)** and Will Evans are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Spencer Frederick on 29 November 2012. Spencer is the great grandson of Joan Gay (Gown) and nephew of Sarah Gay (1996), Kate Austin (McGuiness, 1989) and Kate Reynish (Gay, 1999).
- **Cassandra Hogan (Walter, 1988)** and husband Alan are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Hugh Thomas Spencer Hogan, born on 6 December 2012. A gorgeous little brother for Patrick and Cameron.
- **Jamie Ingle (Turner, 1998)** and husband Andrew are pleased to welcome son, Jonty Oliver, born 26 March 2012. Jonty is the first child for Jamie and Andrew and nephew for Gendy Parry-Okeden (Turner, 1990) and Nicky Lyle (Turner, 1992).
- **Susan Livingstone (Gill, 1993)** and husband Paul welcome with much love their twin sons, Jack Tyrell Gill Livingstone and Samuel Quintin Gill Livingstone, brothers for Thomas, Harry and William. The twins were born on 22 October 2012.
- **Katie Luelf (Evans, 1998)** and her husband Anthony are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first child, Zoe Lucie Luelf, born on 17 August 2012. Zoe is enjoying settling into country life near Griffith.
- **Jessica Stibbard (Wraight, 2000)** and husband Paul are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Harrison Michael Stibbard, born 25 October 2012.
- **Katie Viviers (Porter, 1997)**, husband David and big brother Jason welcomed baby Luke on 22 November 2012.

Vale

- **Mary Barrett (Dettman, 1936)** died on 28 January 2013. Mary was Head Prefect in 1936 and was followed at *Pymble* by her daughter-in-law, Marion Barrett (Pope, 1958) and two granddaughters. After completing an Arts degree at the University of Sydney, Mary became the first woman to work in the Fisher Library in 1943. Women were not permitted to work when they got married and special permission had to be granted by the University Senate. Mary worked there for five years before starting her family. It was ground breaking at the time. Mary continued her close connection with the College when her two granddaughters came to *Pymble*.

- **Julia Beck (Langley, 1945)** died in London on 17 December 2012 after a heart attack. Julia attended *Pymble* from 1938 to 1945. She was a leader in her field with her work in heritage conservation as well as being a pioneering student in 1949 after graduating from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Geology and Mathematics. As a graduate she attended the University of Cambridge Department of Mineralogy and Petrology from 1951 to 1953. She studied for her Master of Arts Urban Geography at the University of Western Ontario in 1980. Julia worked for the Bureau of Mineral Resources (Geology Survey) in Sydney setting up an index to publications on geology in NSW and later, in Canberra, as a petrologist. Living in London, Julia established a reputation as one of the city's most tireless heritage activists, being involved in the conservation movement and in New St James Presbyterian Church as an Elder. She also held the posts of President (1992–94) of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. (ACO), Chairman of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee in London, co-editor of *Brackets and Bargeboards*, co-convenor of a number of ACO conferences including Vernacular Architecture in Ontario (1992) and Conserving Ontario's Towns and Neighbourhoods for the 21st Century (1993). Julia received many awards for her work in heritage conservation including the Lieutenant-Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement (2007) and the Achievement Award from Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Julia very much enjoyed reading in the *Pymbulletin* about the College's progress and the successes of girls at *Pymble*.

- **Diana Margaret Breden (Cudmore, 1956)** passed away on 2 March 2013 after suffering pancreatic cancer. Diana (Bub) was a Boarding Prefect growing up in Quirindi. Diana and her late husband Antony had two children, Timothy and Jane, and six grandchildren. Diana embraced life enjoying time with her family and friends. She will be remembered as an inspiring, courageous and loving person.
- **Patricia Jill Cottee (Stacy, 1959)** passed away on 10 December 2012. Known as Jill, she was active in organising reunions for the 1959 year group.
- **Lorraine Golsby (Tomkins, 1947)** sadly died on 30 January 2013.
- **Fiona Griss (1988)** died on 15 August 2012 from her second battle with cancer. She was a born dancer and was passionate about Ceroc dancing. She finished her HSC at *Pymble* in 1988 and danced her way through her 41 years of life. Fiona will be dearly missed by her friends and family.



- **Sylvia Hartog (Janssen, 1978)** was diagnosed with myelofibrosis in April 2010 at 49 years old and died on 6 January 2013. Sylvia was Head Prefect at *Pymble* in 1978 and much loved by her fellow classmates. A qualified medical doctor, Sylvia spent time in the Republic of Zaire (now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo) in charge of the only clinic operating to Western standards. After the diagnosis of myelofibrosis (disorder of the bone marrow) Sylvia underwent treatment including bone marrow transplant, aggressive chemotherapy and full-body radiation. The treatments were painful and arduous but Sylvia bore them bravely. She was a courageous patient who always kept her good humour and made many friends amongst staff and patients alike. A committed Christian, Sylvia and her family were blessed to know that God was with them in both good and bad times.



- **Ann Kennedy Johnston (1941)** died on 9 December 2012. Over the years, Ann was to prove her capability as an astute business woman and property manager. But under this strong exterior was a gentle woman, who never lost sight of her important objectives in life: the care of her parents, her dogs and the welfare of her livestock. After the death of her father, Ann, who never married, singlehandedly worked the land with an amazing courage that few of her peers could ever match. Her dedication to any job at hand never wavered and if something had to be done, it was done. With Ann's passing, the Moree and Bullarah districts have lost a wonderful woman of integrity and character.
- **Diana Marian Knibbe (Fischer, 1984)** passed away on 26 July 2012.
- **Katherine Margaret Lamont-Rowney (Dixon, 1978)** was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident on 30 October 2012. Kate is survived by her husband Des Rowney and children Lachlan, Bess and Jasmine Lamont. Kate moved to the Scone district in 2005 and quickly became known for her wonderful compassion as she helped people in need as a carer. She was an active member of the community, working as a volunteer with the Tamworth Regional Art Gallery and with the Murrurundi Frontier Festival. She also assisted in setting up the historic cricket match at Thornwaite.
- **Janet Mansfield OAM (Anderson, 1951)** passed away on 4 February 2013. Janet had strong ties with *Pymble* and regarded her school days as being formative. She had many anecdotes of boarding days, including sleeping on the open verandah of Goodlet House. She attended *Pymble* from 1943 to 1951. Janet was a renowned ceramicist and recognised internationally for her work. After attending *Pymble* Janet trained in physiotherapy and later studied ceramics at the National Art School, East Sydney. In 1964, she initiated a career that resulted in 35 solo exhibitions and contributed to numerous exhibitions in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Asia and the US. She is represented in major public collections including in major galleries worldwide. Her work has appeared in international publications and she participated in symposiums, conferences and as a juror in many countries. Janet was a member of the International Academy of Ceramics since 1982, holding the role of president from 2006 to 2012. She received the Order of Australia in 1987 and her contribution to Australian ceramics was acknowledged with the presentation of the distinguished Australia Council Emeritus Award in 1990. Janet was named an Honorary Member of National Council of Education for the Ceramic Arts in 2003 and in 2004 she was awarded a Doctor of Letters from the University of Tasmania. As vibrant as her work was as a creative artist and educator, Janet's transformational influence on contemporary ceramics was perhaps most impactful through her work as a writer, editor and publisher. She authored six books on ceramics, served as the editor of *Pottery in Australia* (1976–1989), established the internationally-respected journals *Ceramics: Art and Perception* (1990–2008) and *Ceramics Technical* (1995–2008) and in 2007 founded Mansfield Press to publish books on ceramics, including 2010's Alan Peascod's *Artist of Exceptional Talent*, and authored a series of books on Australian and international ceramics.
- **Claire Moore (Elliott, 1934)** died on 14 November 2012.
- **Josephine Simpson Cook (1954)** sadly passed away on 29 December 2012.
- **Elaine Roberts (Larkings, 1947)** sadly passed away on 1 October 2012.



- **Leonora Mary Rose Nesbitt** former student and staff member passed away quietly on 7 January 2013 a few weeks after her 98th birthday. Miss Nesbitt taught Modern History at the College from 1945 to 1979. She had a passion for history and inspired an interest in history in the many students she taught in her 35 years.

Former students Barbara Bailey

(Hindmarsh, 1947) and Margot Fleming (Sabine, 1947) reflect on their memories of Miss Nesbitt below.

In 1945 our 3A History class sat in our classroom on the colonnade, waiting for our new history teacher to arrive. We should explain that 3A would be Year 9 today, and most of us would have been 14 or 15 years old.

We should also explain that World War II was still a reality and many of us had close family in war zones. An impact of the war was that many of our teachers had returned to teaching from retirement to fill the gaps because so many younger teachers had joined the armed services.

After a succession of co-opted history teachers in walked Miss Nesbitt, straight back, academic gown, remote and rather severe demeanour. The subject we were studying as we remember was the French Revolution. We all had our text books ready. But she didn't even ask us to open our textbooks! Instead she began to tell us about the root social causes behind the revolution and she didn't even read from the textbook! As the shock wore off, we began to realise that we should be writing down some of this wealth of material our new teacher was showering on us.

Miss Nesbitt began a current affairs discussion group for those students who were interested. We used to meet in the old school library during the post-war days when prisoners of war and concentration camps were being liberated, the Allied occupation of Germany and Japan had begun, the United Nations was but an idea ready for germination, there was plenty to discuss.

Many of Miss Nesbitt's students went on to further studies at university, some to science, some to medicine, some even to history but all of them had been exposed to that keen, analytical mind that she brought to her pupils. Miss Nesbitt went on to serve the College in many other capacities after our time but we will always remember that inspiring and challenging educator who walked in the door of our history classroom in 1945.

Be involved with the ESU

- **Netball**

At the completion of Year 12 last year, *Pymble* ex-student Evie Murdoch (2012) pulled together a team of ex-students to form the inaugural ESU netball team. The team played on Monday nights in the local Ku-ring-gai Netball Association Spring Competition. The team was very thankful for the support shown by the ESU and wore their *Pymble* colours with pride to each game. The team is hoping they will play again in 2013 and if anyone is interested in playing they will be welcomed with open arms. If you would like more information, please contact Evie Murdoch (2012) on email evie.murdoch@gmail.com

- **Ex-students Hockey Team – sponsored by the ESU – join us!**

We are looking for ex-students to play in the ESU Hockey Team. It is great fun and a good way to stay fit and meet up with other ex-students of all ages. We play all our games on a Sunday and are part of the North Shore Hockey competition. The ESU does a great job of sponsoring the team which keeps the costs down as well. So if you feel like dusting off your hockey boots and joining the team please contact Bridget Maritz (2009) on email me.bridget@hotmail.com

- **ESU Choir – Come and sing with us!**

The ESU Choir has been established for many years and we actively welcome new ex-students to join us. The choir rehearses during the month of July for the Commemoration Day service which is being held on Sunday 28 July at 10.30am.

All *Pymble* ex-students who can sing in tune and have some experience singing in choirs are welcome to join. If you would like to join contact Jillian Cranney on email gcranney@bigpond.net.au or 0408 969 268.

ESU News

- **Happy 100th Birthday from the ESU**

Congratulations and best wishes to ex-student **Bertie Lloyd (1924)** who celebrated her 100th Birthday on 14 November 2012. Bertie attended the College in the 1920s when Miss Nancy Jobson was Principal.



To celebrate her special birthday Bertie and her niece Jenny visited the College on 14 December 2012 to enjoy tea with the Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters and ESU Committee Member, Mrs Katrina Corcoran (Hum, 1987). Tea was followed by a tour of the College and a visit to the Heritage Centre to view the *Pymble* archives on display.

When asked about her time at *Pymble*, Bertie had many fond memories. "It was a very happy school," said Bertie. "I remember we all used to have horses and some girls would ride to school and keep their horses in the paddocks where cattle were grazing. We were lucky enough to have a swimming pool which was quite something in those days. Students had to learn First Aid. Our Principal, Miss Jobson was a fine woman, kind and understanding and we remained friends until she died. Grey House was Miss Jobson's home and some girls boarded there. Miss Jobson was very strict about our appearance. We had to wear hat and gloves and never dared take them off. Prefects would give us a detention if we took them off. Lots of girls walked to the train from school in what we called a 'crocodile'.

I remember Miss Gorst who had long thin legs and Miss Cotton who was the gym mistress and always wore white. They were great fun! Everyone saw a doctor when they came to the College. Dr Susie O'Riley was small and plump with a mass of white hair. She was very clever and if she found anything not quite right, she made sure it was corrected. I am very proud of being a *Pymble* girl."

Bertie is the first in a long line of generations of her family who attended the College. Her sister Billie and her nieces Jenny Kaan (Staniland, 1957) and Jill Mason-Jones (Staniland, 1961) followed. Bertie's great nieces also attended and her goddaughter, Jill Rowe (Pickering, 1968) also went to *Pymble*.

We look forward to welcoming Bertie back to *Pymble* again. In Bertie's words, "Any girl who goes to *Pymble* is a very lucky girl, it is a wonderful school."

- **Foundation Day Speaker 2013**

Tamara Prochnik (2007) was the guest speaker at the Foundation Day Service for 2013. She spoke beautifully to the assembled girls about her experiences as a *Pymble* girl and how it stood her in good stead for the development of her career as an interior architect. Tamara worked on the project and was a finalist in the Spirit of Barangaroo Qantas Awards. Tamara and her family visited the Heritage Centre after the service and spent some time looking at the archives and reminiscing about her school days. Our ex-students are a valuable source of inspiration and the ESU thanks everyone for giving so freely of their time and expertise.

• Singing in the College Chapel – Ali Manifold (2005)

Recently a friend reminded me of a story. Apparently in Year 10 I had decided I was going to be an opera singer. My friends raised an eyebrow, smiled and let it go, possibly assuming that I would 'get over that'. However it's now eight years since that conversation and I am still working hard to make that dream a reality.

Last year I was awarded the AIMS/Sundell award from the Opera Foundation Australia, which took me to Austria for a six-week intensive 'opera boot camp' course. I was one of six Australians among hundreds of students, young professionals and emerging artists from America. It was an incredible experience to hone my craft and focus solely on singing. Whilst away I was given the opportunity to sing in public ten times and take part in the Meistersinger competition. With some of the best singers in America it was a tough crowd, but somehow I sang well enough to progress through to the final round where I was chosen as the winner.

Recently I was given the privilege of singing once again in the College War Memorial Chapel, with my colleagues Francis Greep (piano) and Agnes Sarkis (mezzo soprano). It was an absolute joy to sing for such a wonderful audience, that included old school chums (a wonderful surprise!), family, friends and even my headmistress from school days. Singing in the Chapel was incredibly special for me as it was one of the last places I sang when in Year 12 I performed my final HSC music exam. To sing there again felt like I was coming home.

My concert was a fundraising event to help raise money towards a European audition tour at the end of this year. I am keen to return to the German speaking world and the United Kingdom in the hope that I can audition and be accepted into a young artist program. I must sincerely thank Pymble Ladies' College for all their support, in my schooling years and beyond, as they helped shape the woman and the singer that I am today. The school motto often crosses my mind before a big performance or audition, and I will certainly strive for the highest in my career in the years to come.

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
25 Year Reunion	1988 Leavers	Saturday 24 August The Treehouse, North Sydney, dinner	Vanessa Kyrikos (Black) E: vanessa@voom.net.au M: 0419 412 811 Caet Peterson (Mowat) E: caet@optusnet.com.au M: 0409 655 413
30 Year Reunion	1983 Leavers	Saturday 2 November, 7.00pm The Treehouse, North Sydney, dinner	Rowena Stulajter (McMurray) M: 0400 485 296 E: plc.pymble.1983.reunion@gmail.com Jenny Cole (Hart) E: plc.pymble.1983.reunion@gmail.com Join us on Facebook – PLC Pymble Thirty Years
35 Year Reunion	1978 Leavers	Saturday 19 October, 12.30pm to 3.00pm Heritage Centre, lunch	Merry Hughes E: mezza30@gmail.com M: 0411 436 155
40 Year Reunion	1973 Leavers	Saturday 12 October, 5.00pm to 11.00pm Senior School Centre Atrium, dinner	Janette Norrie (Morell) T: 02 4369 6528 E: janettenorrie@hotmail.com M: 0414 696528 Sally Gulson (Sherman) E: fgulson@bigpond.net.au
45 Year Reunion	1968 Leavers	Saturday 19 October, 12.00pm Senior School Centre Atrium, lunch	Sue King (Bristow) E: Suses@westnet.com.au Margaret Parrett (Whitney) T: 02 9416 6031 E: marcol@bigpond.net.au
50 Year Reunion	1963 Leavers	Sunday 13 October, 12.00pm to 3.30pm, Senior School Centre Atrium, lunch	Louise Allison E: ruffcat2@bordnet.com.au Alison Watson (Ferguson) E: aliwatson9@optusnet.com.au Alison Kearns (McCutcheon) E: isla2821@gmail.com
60 Year Reunion	1953 Leavers	Sunday 28 July (Commemoration Day 2013) 10.00am to 5.00pm, Senior School Centre Atrium, lunch	Meg Henderson E: Megh1@tpg.com.au
65 Year Reunion	1948 Leavers	Sunday 28 July (Commemoration Day 2013) David Macfarlane Centre, lunch	Ruth Alcock (Inglis) P: 02 9449 5263 E: vda@tpg.com.au Joan Scougall (Cadwallader) T: 02 9966 5507
70 Year Reunion	1943 Leavers	Sunday 28 July (Commemoration Day 2013) Heritage Centre, lunch	Alison Hale (Neild) T: 02 9327 4923

Global and Regional Pymble Ladies' College Reunions and Functions in 2013

Event	Year	Date	Contact
Melbourne	All ex-students in the area are very welcome	Date and venue TBA	Sally Anne Totman (1993) E: sally.totman@deakin.edu.au M: 0409 710 066 Natasha Heughan (Conde, 1992) E: natashah@people.net.au M: 0419 831 112
Brisbane	All ex-students in the area are very welcome	Saturday 7 September, 12.00pm for 12.30pm ERA Bistro, corner Melbourne and Merivale Streets, South Brisbane	Helen Gibson (Colton, 1963) E: research2@hotkey.net.au T: 07 5496 6544
Griffith	All ex-students and their families in the area are very welcome	Saturday 15 June, 6.00pm to 8.30pm Il Corso Restaurant, 232 Banna Avenue, Griffith	Rebecca Pearce, Community Marketing E: rpearce@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au
Tamworth	All ex-students and their families in the area are very welcome	Saturday 27 July, 6.00pm to 8.30pm Monty Room at the Powerhouse Hotel	Rebecca Pearce, Community Marketing E: rpearce@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

Chicago – A Musical Vaudeville

A brilliant production of song, dance and drama performed in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts from 6 to 9 March 2013.



Pymble Ladies' College




Pymble Ladies' College
Avon Road, PO Box 137
Pymble NSW 2073 Australia

Tel: +61 2 9855 7799
Fax: +61 2 9855 7766
Email: communityrelations@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au

A school of the Uniting Church in Australia
'All' Ultimo Lavoro' – Strive for the Highest

Follow *Pymble*:

  www.facebook.com/PymbleLC
 www.twitter.com/PymbleLC