

Pymble Ladies' College

Term 4, December 2019

Keeping Up With Our Boarders



What a year it has been! There has been much joy as well as some deeply sad times and all these experiences have brought us closer together as a Boarding community. Thank you for sharing your

beautiful girls with us and for supporting our staff so generously as they strive to deliver the best possible Boarding experience.

Looking back through previous editions of *Keeping Up With Our Boarders*, I feel proud of who we are and all that we have achieved. This edition continues the theme of excellence, with an assortment of stories all highlighting the diverse and talented group that we are.

I hope you enjoy reading about the aspirations and hopes of our new Boarding Head Prefect, Isabel Wilson, as well as gaining a better understanding of some of the portfolios of our new Boarding Prefects, Eleanor Buchanan, Georgia Richens and Isolde Mamo. It is no secret that *Pymble* turns out great sportswomen, and the articles by Claudia Neale and Sally Redpath will leave you without doubt. There is also an assortment of interesting, fun and heart-warming stories that I know you will enjoy.

As always, thank you to our editorial team, led by Anne Graham and our amazing Community Engagement team, who work to produce this wonderful record of our achievements.

Every good wish for a happy and relaxing festive season. I look forward to welcoming you back in 2020.

Mrs Carolyn Burgess
DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

Boarding Head Prefect 2020

Isabel Wilson (Year 12), Narromine

Coming from a small country town, I have always been grateful for the opportunities *Pymble* has offered me, both in Day School and Boarding. I feel honoured and privileged to have been appointed Head Boarding Prefect for 2020, and to follow in the footsteps of those before me; most recently Phoebe Kinsey who, with Isabelle, Onyi and all the Year 12 Boarders, has inspired and supported us all this year. It is equally special to be sharing this journey with Maddie Warden, Annabelle Webb and all our Year 12 'sisters'.

Looking to 2020, the Year 12 Boarders and I hope to focus on wellbeing in Boarding. Feelings of wellbeing are fundamental to our overall health, enabling us to manage difficulties while maintaining hope and being positive about what we want to achieve in life. We also hope to build a stronger and more connected sense of 'sisterhood', establishing closer connections between year groups and ethnicities in Boarding, to ensure Boarders of all ages and backgrounds feel the genuine calm and support that 'sisters' offer. In achieving this, we would be excited to see a growing love for Boarding amongst the Boarders, and an appreciation for the opportunities that *Pymble* provides us through the Boarding experience.

It is hard to believe Year 12 has finally arrived for me. I am excited for 2020. I am incredibly humbled and excited to work with the staff, 2020 Prefect group and importantly, the Boarders, towards enhancing the wonderful community that is Boarding at *Pymble*.





Work Experience in Government Program

Tiarna Williams (Year 12), Corrimal

After arriving in Canberra, I had the opportunity to discuss careers in the Government sector with the

Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt. He said that my goal of studying Law at University in 2021 would open many doors for me. Mr Wyatt was also appreciative that I had intentions to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

During my time at Parliament House, I also met the Prime Minister and used the opportunity to ask some specifics regarding Indigenous Educational Funding.

My day at the Defence Force Academy was exhausting, as they conducted physical aptitude testing and 'executed' the dreaded 'Beep Test'. Experiencing target shooting with military grade weaponry was exhilarating. Later that afternoon, we paid our respects at the War Memorial, which gave me the chance to lay a poppy near my Grandfather's name, on the Roll of Honour. He was a Spitfire Pilot in the RAAF.

Visiting the Australian Federal Police was extremely interesting, as we explored the Forensics Lab, interacted with some clever dogs at the K9 Unit, and learnt all about the Tactical Response Group (TRG) – the guys dressed all in black 'armour'.

At the Head Office of the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), I was informed about a wide variety of career options within the Government. Being selected to feature and be interviewed for an article published by the NIAA completed an amazing week, shared with many inspirational individuals. Many thanks to Ms Howie for organising.



Bee Hotels

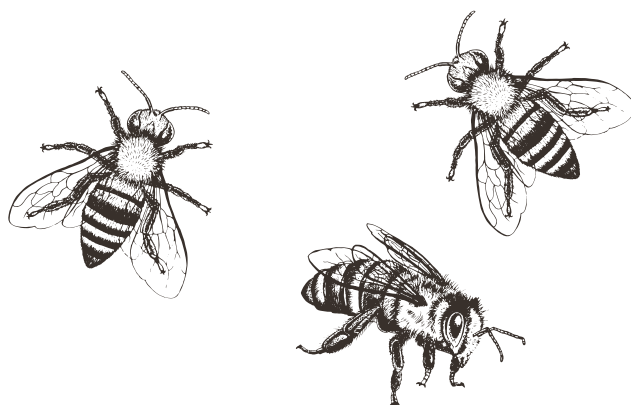
Sydney Auld (Year 9), Coconut Grove, NT and Kyana Cvetkovic (Year 9), Narrabeena

Earlier this year, we had the opportunity to learn about the plight of bees. Bees around the world, including in Australia, are in serious trouble and there is a large decline in bee populations. This poses a threat not only for our food production but our environment, as flowering plants rely on pollinators to survive.

We wanted to do something more to help. We applied for an Environmental Grant through the Ku-ring-gai Council to build two bee 'hotels'. We visited the Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers and received a cheque of \$400 from Mayor Jennifer Anderson.

The bee hotels were designed using Illustrator and built using the laser cutter on the school campus with the assistance of Mr Ellis and Mr Frohlich. They were then filled with dried bamboo – all the great things that native bees like to nest in. We then placed the bee hotels in the Agriculture Plot with help from Farmer Dave, Year 12 student Kirra Middleton-Pierpoint and two resident ducks, Beast and Beauty.

The remaining funds were used to purchase and plant native flowering plants for the bees to feed on all year round.



Links Day

Georgia Richens (Year 12), Young

Links Day is an opportunity for our incoming Year 7 girls to get to know each other, other students and staff, before they officially start in 2020, through a series of fun activities. The new Year 7 girls, who are becoming Boarders, travelled all the way from as far away as Hong Kong and, closer to home, the Central Coast.

The girls and their families were very excited as they started the day with a tour of the Marden Boarding House, accompanied by their 'big sisters'. A jam-packed day was planned from sport to science experiments and ending the afternoon with the usual Boarders Get Baking with the lovely Mrs Weideman. As they ate their delicious brownies with their big sisters, they headed to a barbecue dinner on Marden Lawn. To end the day, they all enjoyed a swim with Boarders from other houses.

To get a taste of Boarding next year, they slept in Marden, not quite in dorms, but close. The sleepover was in the Marden Common Room and I'm sure they all fell straight to sleep as heads hit the pillows.



The BRC

Eleanor Buchanan (Year 12), Milroy

The Boarders' Representative Council, or BRC, is a great way for girls to have an impact upon the Boarding community. This year, we have expanded the BRC to include two representatives from each year group. This provides an opportunity for girls to form friendships with other Boarders of different ages and backgrounds.

Through involvement in the BRC, girls can feel confident in speaking in front of a group and putting their ideas forward. This term, the BRC has already worked to establish compromised technology times during exams, a larger variety of seasonal fruit in the Dining Hall and we are currently working to set up an online 'suggestion box.' I'm sure it will be an exciting and progressive term thanks to the enthusiasm of our newly elected team!

Our representatives are – Ella Jones (Year 10), Greta Roberts (Year 10), Rylee McKinstry (Year 9), Maggie Williams (Year 9), Georgia Stuart (Year 8), Mika Tyson (Year 8), Aspen Moore (Year 7), Stella Robertson (Year 7) and Phoebe Bucknell (Year 6).

Striving For the Olympics

*Claudia Neale
(Year 12), Blaxland*

I started swimming at 18 months when I was screaming wanting to jump in the pool, while my big brother was screaming wanting to get out!



Ever since I was a little kid and performed in my first competitive race at five years old, I have wanted to strive to reach my ultimate goal of making the Olympic team, hopefully by 2024. Recently I competed in the Australian Short Course Open Championships in Melbourne. My journey there was a great experience stepping into an all age stage against the best swimmers in Australia. I competed in eight events including the 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m, 100m and 200m backstroke, 50m and 100m butterfly and 200m individual medley. Holistically speaking, my best race was the 200m backstroke, placing fourth in the final and coming away with a three-second Personal Best. This has given me the belief and motivation to train harder.



Sustainability in 2020

*Isolde Mamo (Year 12),
Cartwrights Hill*

As the new Prefect for Environment and Sustainability in the Boarding Community, I am very excited to implement new strategies for reducing our waste and ensuring everyone loves the food they're served!

I am eager to set up new ways of recycling different things I didn't even know we could. For example, I have found an organisation that helps recycle all dental care products, old stationery items and even bread clips! I am also looking into donating our excess food to organisations such as OzHarvest so that we can aid our local community and reduce the amount of waste we produce. Along with the other fantastic Boarding Prefects, I am very excited for what our year holds, and I would love anyone who has any recycling or food ideas to contact me to make it a great year!

Boarders Get Baking

Jess Cant (GAP staff), Shropshire, UK

This term has been both an exciting and tasty time for the girls participating in Boarders Get Baking, joined by the Gaps. We have concocted a huge variety of baked treats, from yummy chocolate brownies to banana muffins, and everything in between! My highlight was our trip to Maggio's Bakery. It gave us all a great insight into the bakery's heritage and philosophy, as well as being taught the production process and traditional recipes used in a real bakery. We even got to see the staff, in action, kneading and mixing.

Afterwards we were treated to a delicious sample of both sweet and savoury goods made at Maggio's (I would highly recommend the meat pie!), and we were each given the chance to fill our own chocolate doughnut. Our time spent baking is ideal for the girls to interact in an informal setting and is the perfect way to unwind at the end of the week. If you enjoy laughing, chatting, eating sweet treats, and you wish to develop the skill set to make them too, then this is the perfect opportunity to give Boarders Get Baking a go.

I would encourage all girls to come along. It doesn't matter even if you're the type who can just about burn a cake, let alone bake it. Mrs W does live demonstrations for her foolproof recipes, and you can't go wrong... at least we haven't so far!



Where Are They Now?

Sally Redpath (Macready)
1995 to 2000

Recently I was out walking when I ran into Gillian Moore, the Principal at *Pymble* throughout my time and someone I admire and respect. We are now neighbours. It was more enjoyable seeing her here than at 5.00am during Year 12 Muck-up when we had placed all the younger girls in the Common Room in the middle of the night, but they escaped through side doors. When trying to muster them back, I bumped into the Principal walking her dog.

I have fond memories of my days at *Pymble*. Coming from a country town, I was amazed at the facilities. Here I formed some of my best relationships – and I'm not referring to the Kings boys that all 18 of us used to phone on the one outgoing line!

My next few years at *Pymble* were spent playing and attending every sport and event possible ... the Arnott's cream biscuits and missing prep time was a huge drawcard. The 2000 year group was incredible, and we had some great times. I love that almost 20 years on, I still run into people from school and we reminisce about our time at *Pymble* together.



I was fortunate to have the opportunity to row while at school. The shed at Leichhardt – a dilapidated old building where white crosses were painted on the floorboards that you should not tread on (there were more with crosses than not) – bears no resemblance to the current one. My first experience was in a wooden tub coxless quad, tied to a piece of rope where we would row one or two strokes before being pulled back. Luckily, I improved, and we had some successful years. A few highlights were winning the Under 16 and Under 17 Quad Scull at the NSW State Championships and being selected into the first VIII, winning Head of the River in 1999. My final year in 2000 I had the privilege of being the Captain of Boats and stroking the first VIII. We were the first *Pymble* crew to win the Schoolgirl VIII at the Australian National Rowing Championships – a feat that has been repeated many times.

I spent a gap year in Scotland, returning to start my degree in Education and continuing to row representing NSW and Australia at the World University Games. In 2007, I had a chance to be part of a four-person crew to row from New Zealand to Australia across the unforgiving Tasman Sea. It required very little rowing, a lot of preparation, backup plans and fit out. On 29 November 2007, we set off from Hokianga Harbour, NZ and spent 31 days rowing two hours on, two hours off, across the Tasman. Despite almost hitting a

container ship, huge swells, adverse weather, losing our drogue, strong currents, sharks, flying fish, squid attacks, blisters and way too much freeze-dried food, we arrived safely on 30 December. Making landfall at Watsons Bay at 4.30am, we were joined by Customs and a flotilla of boats who escorted us to Neutral Bay. It was a world record and truly a life-changing experience.

My spirit of adventure is still alive. I have kayaked across Bass Strait, completed a variety of adventure races up to ten days in length, run ultra-marathons, and travelled to some incredible places. My latest challenge was walking the 100km Oxfam Trail while breastfeeding my baby twins at each checkpoint.

I am blessed to be working as a PDHPE teacher and Year Advisor at another girls' school, which allows me to live my dream of inspiring and making a difference in the lives of my students. I hope that one day my children will have the opportunities that *Pymble* provided: a great education, the Boarding experience, the chance to be involved in the many activities that school offered, exposure to leadership, and many friends including staff and students past and present.



Thanks For The Party

Victoria Hamilton (Year 9), Narromine

On behalf of the Boarders, I extend our sincere appreciation for the generosity of parents, staff and students for their support in the lead up to, and on the day, of Garden Party. It was a fantastic turnout! Thank you to the Wilsons for organising everything that was sourced and sold at the produce stall, to Mel Hamilton for guiding our Boarders through cooking curries and sausage rolls, and to Year 9 Boarder, Eloise Wilson, who organised making and packaging candles.

The generous contributions of all parents who helped out was fantastic; from the dads who whipped up exceptional steak sandwiches, to the orange juice stand, mums who worked on the produce stall and those parents who sold a record number of raffle tickets for "the cheapest car money can buy". An important thank you goes to Mrs Burgess who organised our Boarders' Corner, the best stall on the day!





Who Do You Think You Are? Miss Constance Mackness BA OBE

Lou Webb (Coddington, 1984)

It's not every day that *Pymble's* Archivist, Mrs Enid O'Carroll, has a family seeking a *Who Do You Think You Are* moment in the Pymble Ladies' College Heritage Centre. This is so for the Webb family: Duncan, Lou and Annabelle (Year 11 Boarder) who were tasked with researching a member of the family tree, Miss Constance Mackness, and her association with the College between 1916 and 1918. What was revealed in the archives is a first for the College and for *Pymble* women.

Constance Mackness, a country girl, was born at Tuena Creek, near the Bathurst goldfields region in 1882. She was first educated at a small bush school at Coniston Creek and her commute each day consisted of walking nearly ten kilometres. Constance furthered her education by receiving a place as the first female student of the selective Fort Street Model School, where she shared a classroom with Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson, later receiving a bursary to The University of Sydney. Constance graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, receiving First Class Honours in English, French and History. The degree was conferred in May 1901 by the Duke of York, who was later known as King George V.

Dr John Marden, *Pymble* Founder and Principal, first selected 22-year-old Constance Mackness to teach at Presbyterian Ladies' College Croydon in 1903. He aspired to select highly qualified staff for the College who specialised in their chosen area. Constance taught history – both Ancient and Modern – for a period of 13 years. During her tenure she was appointed to the position of Second Mistress.

In 1916, PLC *Pymble* was opened for educating girls in the "traditional subjects of physics, chemistry, biology and the classics, Dr Marden believed they would be better equipped to become 'pure, gracious and noble [and that their] influence would be the best and the highest.'" Dr Marden selected his staff for the new College upholding this belief.

Chosen for the new PLC *Pymble*, Dr Marden brought Constance across from Croydon and appointed her to First Mistress of First House (Marden).

This would be considered an important historical appointment as the first woman elevated to such a role at PLC *Pymble*. This position would be crucial for Dr Marden as now he had two Colleges to uphold everything – educational, religious, administrative and financial.

Taking up the PLC *Pymble* position of First Mistress would later place Constance in good stead; after three years at the College (1916 to 1918), she followed in Dr Marden's footsteps and became the Foundation Principal at Presbyterian Girls' College in Warwick, Queensland, in 1919. There she served for 32 years and for her service was awarded an OBE by King George V. It is interesting to note, one year later in 1920, Dr Marden retired and the newly-appointed First Mistress of First House, Miss G Gordon Everett, became the first woman Principal of PLC *Pymble*.

All' Ultimo Lavoro



*Isabel Wilson –
Head Boarding Prefect*

I have felt beyond privileged to attend a school as diverse and enriching as *Pymble*. For me, the past five years in Boarding have been shaped by the incredible staff, friends made, and opportunities provided – to which I owe my whole heart.

Boarding is a unique experience. To be away from home, friends and family is one of the most challenging yet rewarding things I have ever done. It is important to make acknowledgement of all Boarding parents and carers that make these incredible opportunities available to us. To you, we are all eternally thankful.

Looking forward, Maddie, Annabelle and I are keen to promote wellbeing and sisterhood among girls in Years 6 to 12 with the rest of the Boarding Prefect Body and Year 12 girls. To embrace the 'unending chain' of which we so often speak. Boarding is so special and holds a very significant place in my heart. I am so excited to lead through the next year, as we venture forward into another incredible year in Boarding at *Pymble*.

*Madeline Warden –
Deputy Head Boarding Prefect*

I started Boarding at *Pymble* in Year 7, all the way from Walgett, a small country town nine hours from Sydney. It has been a massive journey and I am excited and grateful to represent Boarding alongside Isabel, Annabelle and my Year 12 Boarding sisters.

Boarding at *Pymble* has opened my eyes to the world around me and helped me to recognise how fortunate we are to attend such an incredible school. My favourite memories from Boarding are the times spent sitting around chatting to whoever is around. Through these conversations I have learnt so much about my fellow Boarding 'sisters' and myself. That for me is the best part about Boarding, there are so many different people with different stories, and there is always something interesting and new to learn.

I aim to enhance this loving and respectful environment in which every Boarder feels welcomed and valued. I also hope to strengthen the relationship between Day girls and Boarders to ensure each girl is aware

of the wide network they can rely on in being a part of the *Pymble* family.

Boarding is a big part of what makes me who I am. It has set me up with lifelong connections and helped me to develop independence and resilience. I cannot thank my parents and the Boarding community enough for this part of my life. It is a privilege to lead in this special family.

*Annabelle Webb –
Deputy Head Boarding Prefect*

As Boarders, we come together from all parts of Australia and overseas. I'm from Warren, a small town of 2,000 people in regional NSW, just about the same size as the *Pymble* community! The experience of starting Boarding in Year 7 has taught me a vast amount of responsibility and provided many opportunities which would not be possible at home.

While Boarding has its challenges, I feel so fortunate to have been given the chance to attend a prestigious school like *Pymble*. It is also an absolute honour to culminate my Boarding experience as Deputy Head Boarder for 2020. Isabel, Maddie and I cannot express how excited we are about the year to come.

Our vision for 2020 is to provide a sisterhood full of support for the Boarding girls and to create an open environment to support the wellbeing of each other. My particular passion is for mental health and I recognise the challenges of homesickness, especially for our new Boarders. I cannot wait to work on initiatives to promote a real sense of flourishing within our Boarding community. I am grateful for the amazing opportunity and I look forward to the year ahead and all that it entails.