



Pymble Ladies' College



Head of the River

.....

Read all about it on page 36

PYMBLE
LADIES'
COLLEGE

ISSUE 2, 2018
VOLUME 43

pymble
the
river



Front cover
Read about our oar-some success story on page 36.

About Pymble Ladies' College
Celebrating 100 years of education in 2016, Pymble's history has been marked with excellence. The College has gained a reputation for offering extraordinary opportunities with outstanding teachers and facilities. Pymble students aspire to the College motto, 'All' Ultimo Lavoro' – Strive for the highest, graduating with confidence and maturity to embrace the challenges that lie beyond the College gates. A school of the Uniting Church in Australia, Pymble welcomes girls of all faiths in Kindergarten to Year 12 and as Boarders' from Year 7.

Contents

Pymbulletin | Volume 43

Principal's Message

Learning is personal at Pymble2

News

Fourth Kindergarten class opens.....3
We're officially a White Ribbon school ..4
New mobile phone policy4

Personalised Learning

Happy campers rise to new challenges6
Taking learning to new heights.....7
Meet our budding artist.....7
Band sleepover hits the right note8
Hats off to our Easter engineers8
G'day GBE Week!.....9
Miss Honey works the stage.....9
Feel good, learn well.....10

Community

Say 'Aloha' to Icebreaker12
Foundation Day 2018.....14
New Boarders' Orientation.....15
Boarders' Welcome Drinks16
Lunch with new friends.....17
Good mornings!.....18
An in-tents experience19
Fun at the Beach Party21

People and Culture

Pressing for progress on IWD24
Bullying. No way!25
That's what friends are for26
The future looks bright.....26
Being your best self26
Welcome back, Dr Brackett.....27
Linking Literature with STEM27
Staff changes.....28
They came, they saw, they SANG!28

Sustainability

Pymble gives back30
Service learning flows in Enngonia31
Marden House spirit flies high33
Lost property.....34

Sport and Activities

Oar-some First Eight36
Pymble wins hat-trick37
Learning from the pros.....38
Pymble rules the pool at IGSSA.....39
Robotics team is the pride of Pymble41
Football stars to watch!42
Off and running at Cross Country43
Showtime for Cattle Club45

Black Watch Ties

President's Report.....46
Events.....48
Reunions51
Announcements.....53

Principal's Message

Learning is personal at Pymble



Read about our Mobile Phone Policy for Middle and Upper Schools (page 4)



Our Foundation Day tradition continues to bring our community together (page 14)



Our girls were inspired to "speak up even if your voice shakes" (page 25)

Welcome to the second issue of *Pymbulletin* for 2018.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the many highlights and events from the early part of the year.

The College bustles with activity from early in the morning to late at night, as we continue to focus on delivering a world-class personalised education for every Pymble girl. This means offering an extensive range of opportunities that pique her curiosity and speak to her interests and talents, developing and nurturing her love of scholarship and learning, and engaging her mind at her individual point of challenge to ensure her learning never stagnates and always continues to grow.

For families who are new to Pymble, *Pymbulletin* is our triannual magazine that reflects some of the news and events across the five schools – Preparatory, Junior, Middle, Upper and Senior – that comprise the College. The four main sections of the magazine represent the focus areas that drive our *Towards 2020* strategic plan – Personalised Education, People and Culture, Community and Sustainability – and highlight the ways we put this plan into practice every day at the College. As Co-curricular Sport and Activities are so important to the College, it has its own section too, as does the Ex-Students' Union. The 'Black Watch Ties' section is named after the tartan worn by Pymble girls for more than 100 years and provides an important channel of communication between Pymble girls from the past and the present, no matter where they live in the world.

Internationally and locally, education has been a major talking point of late. In Australia, the conjecture has mainly focussed around the Gonski 2.0 report and its recommendations to overhaul the Australian curriculum and steer the focus away from year levels of learning towards individual students' learning progression – much like our Personalised Learning Framework that guides teaching and learning at Pymble. While the great Gonski debate continues, Pymble will continue along the trajectory we identified in *Towards 2020* and continue to foster learner self-efficacy, professional learning and development, and flexibility in curriculum design to ensure our girls are given every opportunity to explore, to use their creativity and to develop the critical thinking and problem-solving capacities that will be so important in their life beyond their school days.

Mrs Vicki Waters
PRINCIPAL

New Kindergarten Classroom Revealed



Fourth Kindergarten class opens

The Preparatory School expansion progressed seamlessly, thanks to the dedication and efforts of our team and also to the weather, which was conducive to building requirements. KD took ownership of their brand-new classroom in early March, and the entire project was completed at the end of Term 2.

As of Term 1 2018, the College increased its Kindergarten intake in the Preparatory School from three to four classes. This is a first in the history of Pymble and a timely move following the NSW Government’s prediction that independent schools will need to accommodate enrolments growth of more than 35 per cent (an additional 70,000 students) between 2016 and 2031.



“We are delighted to be able to welcome more families to Pymble.”

Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters



We’re officially a White Ribbon school



“The White Ribbon School Program supports schools to bring about a commitment to stop violence against women. It builds on existing initiatives to strengthen a culture of respect and equality at all levels of the school community – through curriculum, role modelling from staff, policies and procedures, domestic violence education programs and strengthened family and community partnerships.”

White Ribbon Australia.

Pymble Ladies’ College staff have participated in ‘Breaking the Silence’, an award-winning professional learning initiative for schools that provides foundational knowledge, tools and strategies to develop respectful relationships and domestic violence education programs in schools.

Upon successful completion of the program, which involved several staff members attending professional learning about the nature of violence towards women, demonstrated commitment to raising awareness about White Ribbon and the completion of a school case study, we have been recognised as a White Ribbon School – a strong symbol of a safe, equitable workplace and vehicle for community change.

There are almost 10,000 schools in Australia and fewer than 500 of these are recognised as White Ribbon Schools.

NEW MOBILE PHONE POLICY FOR YEARS 7 TO 10

In Term 1 2018, the College introduced a new Mobile Phone Usage Policy for students in the Middle and Upper Schools (Years 7 to 10).

The policy restricts students from using their phones between 8.15am and 3.15pm on school days, and follows consultations with parents and teachers, observations of the students’ mobile phone usage and discussions with the Year 12 Student Representative Council.

“We noted an intensity in mobile phone usage amongst these year groups, even when they were sitting together in their social groups at recess and lunchtimes,” said Principal Mrs Vicki Waters.

“Our aim is for girls to be more mindful about how relationships are nurtured through face-to-face interaction, to deepen their social skills through being present with others and the environment, and to experience the school day with less distraction to their brains and their bodies,” Mrs Waters said.

Under the new policy, mobile phones must remain in the girls’ lockers during school hours; however, if it is essential for students to check a message or make a call, they can use their phones briefly at their supervised School Office during recess and lunch.

Interestingly, it was noted that Senior students in Years 11 and 12 were much less dependent on their phones and more likely to be chatting face-to-face with their peers during school time.

“Our hope is that the restrictions on mobile phone usage in Years 7 to 10 will create a similar effect in the Middle and Upper Schools, Mrs Waters said.”

Parents are encouraged to convey urgent messages to their daughters through the School Offices instead of via their daughters’ phones.



1

Personalised Learning

Personalised Learning experiences value students' voices, needs, aspirations and passions in authentic ways, because their purpose is to empower those learners to become self-directed and independent. Our Personalised Learning Framework places at its heart the learner attributes of passion, scholarship and self-assurance; its intention is to foster young women who can delight in their successes and failures because these experiences contribute equally to ongoing learning.



2



3



4



4

Personalised Learning

Happy campers rise to new challenges

The Outdoor Education program at Pymble is designed to take students out of their comfort zones and provide age-appropriate challenges and new experiences that encourage teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, resilience, communication and camaraderie.

- 1 YEAR 2**
Our Year 2 students demonstrated just what can be achieved by teamwork on their day camp to the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation in Narrabeen, where they joined forces to experience kayaking, abseiling and flying through the air on a flying fox.
- 2 YEAR 6**
"Challenge your limits, don't limit your challenges!" The theme for Junior School was a fitting motto for the Year 6 camp to Canberra and Jindabyne, where our intrepid girls climbed to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko, which stands 2,228 metres above sea level.
- 3 YEAR 8**
Year 8 girls left the comfort of their homes, families and Pymble for five days to embark upon their 'Challenge by Choice' camp at either Kangaroo Valley (Extreme level) or Killalea/ Mount Keira (Expedition and Adventure levels), where they experienced many 'firsts' in relation to activities, living arrangements and responsibilities.
- 4 YEAR 11**
The inaugural Camp@School week for Year 11 enhanced and reinforced the culture of our Senior School through activities, seminars, presentations and discussions about student responsibilities and the importance of relationships. The girls participated in activities – in the water, on the dance floor, through strategic games and on the rock climbing wall – as well as leadership workshops and a seminar about how to keep safe in social situations.

*"As teams, we grew together, we helped each other and we pushed each other."
Lara Barnouti and Arshia Bhardwaj*

Taking learning to new heights

Challenge Café is an opportunity for High Potential Learners in Years 7 and 8 to work with Year 11 mentors to extend their learning into new areas throughout the year.

Year 7 students began by exploring the concepts in the ancient Greek play, *Antigone* by Sophocles. The girls discussed the elements of good leadership; whether it is ever 'right' to do the 'wrong' thing; and whether fate is preordained or whether we shape it.

Year 8 students focused on agitating and innovating for change in their world, in their discussions on moral dilemmas and questions, including those below:

- How can you improve the quality of life for marginalised groups through Technology and Science?
- How can you break down barriers facing young people today?
- How can you use music/performance/art to compose or convey a message that gives a voice to the voiceless?
- You are the CEO of a company. You want to shift culture to improve and promote equality. How can you achieve this?
- How can you work within your country to mobilise change for others in a different country?
- How can we break down stigma/stereotypes around gender, mental health, race or cultural identity?



Meet our budding artist



Congratulations to Elizabeth Yu in Year 10 whose oil painting, *Chinoiserie Still Life*, was selected for the Mosman Youth Art Prize. In addition to Elizabeth's formal art education, she currently undertakes after-school oil painting classes with one of *Pymble's* art educators.

Designing learning for High Potential Learners at *Pymble* focuses on the principles that reflect evidence-based practice whereby learning is personalised, deliberately designed, learner-centred, growth-focused, socially-responsible and perspective-rich. It provides students with the opportunities to develop their creativity, collaboration and critical problem-solving skills through enquiry-based learning connected to real-world problems.

Personalised Learning

Band sleepover hits the right note

Our annual Junior School Band Sleepover was held at the College in February. Students enjoyed a busy weekend of tutorials, rehearsals and activities to help their ensembles get off to a flying start for 2018.

A big thank you to *Pymble* staff for hosting the intensive musical development program – and the four parents who kindly volunteered to supervise the sleepover – our musicians made great progress which they shared with their parents at the end-of-camp concert in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts. Take a bow, girls!



Hats off to our Easter engineers

A much-loved tradition in the Preparatory School is the annual Easter Hat Parade. Students are required to engineer their own hat during class time, using recycled, recyclable and sustainable items, and considering construction techniques as well as the overall visual effect.

The final step of the process is when the girls discover the viability of their designs.

Is the egg on top of the hat able to balance?

Does the weight of the chicken make the design unstable?

Is there too much shredded paper for the area of the paper plate?

Students then use their instinctive understanding of real-world scientific knowledge to explain, review and improve their designs in order to parade their hats proudly in front of their families and friends.





“We hope this week was as eye-opening and thought-provoking as it was fun, and we look forward to bringing other GBE initiatives to Pymble in the near future.”
GBE Captains, Alexandria Cung, Melissa Li and Zoe Zhou

G'day GBE Week!

In Term 1, the Geography, Business and Economics (GBE) subject captains collaborated with the GBE staff to create the inaugural G'day GBE Week. The purpose of the week was to widen students' mindsets and challenge them to observe the way that financial and geo-political issues intersected with the way our ever-changing world operates.

- Activities included the following:
- Presentations about marketing in the 21st century, disruptive technologies, data science and startup companies, thanks to a partnership with SP Jain Global Management School (Dubai, India and now in Sydney).
 - The launch of the second year of the *Pymble* Entrepreneurs' Society, dedicated to innovation and using business ideas to tackle social issues.
 - The Middle School Kahoot trivia and general knowledge challenge.
 - 'Bike Blend' event which used kinetic energy to create sustainable smoothies.
 - Easter egg orienteering course around the College.

Feel good, learn well

Q: *What is Mastermind?*
A: *Mastermind is a Senior School program that runs every Wednesday in Connect Time and is designed to promote the interconnectedness of scholarship and wellbeing.*



This year we have worked with feedback from the students to refine and extend the Mastermind program. Students can choose to engage in a range of different learning opportunities, including supervised study, discipline-specific study groups, literacy workshops, reading groups and a range of extension/major work groups.

In addition, a series of seminars will be on offer, all based on the theme of 'Challenging negative thinking, habits and practices'.

To complement the Mastermind program, Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services ran a study skills session focused on helping students identify changes and improvements they can make to their approach to their studies in order to manage

- their academic load in their final years of school. The main areas covered with Year 11 were:
- moving into a Senior mindset
 - working effectively at home and dealing with distractions
 - the importance of independent learning
 - organising resources for school, both paper and digital
 - steps to effective study for assessments
 - increasing the range of study techniques used
 - how often and how to make study notes
 - making study notes brain-friendly.



Miss Honey works the stage with music students

Year 8 Elective Music students had the opportunity to work with Elise McCann, the well-known musical theatre star who recently played the role of Miss Honey in the professional production of *Matilda*. Elise worked with the students in their groups to help give a professional edge to their performances and teach them the finer points of stagecraft and performance presentation.





Community

As a community, we value the relationships we have with each other and we stand together as global citizens, included and valued. Connecting and engaging with members past and present ensures our rich learning community extends through generations to build Pymble bonds that endure. Together, we acknowledge and commemorate our past and present achievements. At home and internationally, community members are committed, loyal and proud to be a part of Pymble.



Community

Say 'Aloha' to Icebreaker

The annual Pymble Parent Association (PPA) Icebreaker is held in February to provide an opportunity for all Pymble parents to meet and mingle with members of the College Council, staff and other parents.

This year we were delighted to welcome more than 730 people to our tropical-themed event on Gloucester Lawn. Thank you to our PPA committee and to the many parent helpers and volunteers, staff and students who helped to make this a memorable evening for the College community.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to make this event such a huge success.

The evening included tropical cocktails upon arrival, pineapples, leis for everyone, a flower arch for selfies and all the themed decorations that transformed Gloucester Lawn into a tropical paradise!



IN PURSUIT OF
FEARLESSNESS

Our Head Prefects also marked the occasion of Foundation Day by announcing the Senior School Prefect body’s 2018 theme – ‘fearlessness’ – as well as the rationale behind the decision.

“Perfection is an unachievable goal, fearlessness is not. All it takes to be fearless is to quieten that little voice that is scared of failure and take one step – one small, energetic, misguided, enthusiastic step towards whatever you want to do or whoever you want to be,” said our Head Prefect, Tahire Wijetilaka.

“It is better to have fearlessly tried and failed than to never have tried at all,” added our Deputy Head Prefect, Georgiana Ralphs.



Foundation Day 2018

On Wednesday 7 February, we celebrated 102 years of providing an exceptional educational experience for girls at the Foundation Day Ceremony on Gloucester Lawn.

It’s tradition on Foundation Day for one of our ex-students to return to the College to address the girls as guest speaker. This year we were delighted to welcome Sarah Morton-Ramwell (2001), a Partner and the Global Head of Pro Bono Practice and Corporate Responsibility at Ashurst International Law firm.

Sarah has worked all over the world in the areas of ‘honour’ crimes, domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking and reproductive rights, during a career inspired by her Upper School years at Pymble.

“I remember sitting in a class in Year 9 and learning that girls in Afghanistan were literally dying for the right to have an education,” Sarah said. “That inspired me to become a human rights lawyer.”

Sarah shared her favourite quote: “Here’s to strong women. May we know them, may we be them, may we raise them.” She also encouraged our girls to identify their own ‘strong women’ role models and mentors, and to be a role model and mentor for others.

New Boarders' Orientation

It is always a pleasure to welcome our new Boarders' to their home away from home and to give their families a snapshot of life as a Pymble Boarder through our Boarding orientation program prior to their commencement. We hope you enjoy these 'moving in' photos taken earlier in the year.



It's always exciting to see our returning Boarders' arrive and set up their rooms with new bedcovers, photos and furnishings.



Boarders' Welcome Drinks

Thank you to all the Boarding families who stayed for welcome drinks and to the Boarding Parent Group (BPG) who met with Principal Mrs Vicki Waters, Deputy Principal Mrs Julie Shaw, Boarding Director Mrs Carolyn Burgess, Dean of Students Dr Sarah Loch and BPG Leader Mr Andrew Kierath on the following day.



Year after year, the camaraderie that exists amongst the Boarding community gets stronger and stronger!

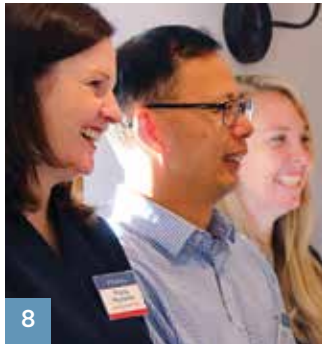
Lunch with new friends

Our New Parents' Luncheon, held in The Pavilion, was a wonderful way for new parents to form friendships and get to know our Deputy Principal, Mrs Julie Shaw, key Pymble staff members and other parents.



Good mornings!

Our Parent Support Groups hosted a number of early morning events in Term 1, as shown below.



- 1 Junior School Parent Group Morning Tea
- 2 Senior School Parent Group Morning Tea
- 3 Junior School Parent Group Morning Tea
- 4 Junior School Parent Group Morning Tea
- 5 Senior School Parent Group Morning Tea
- 6 Preparatory School Parent Group Morning Tea
- 7 Upper School Parent Group Breakfast
- 8 Upper School Parent Group Breakfast
- 9 Preparatory School Parent Group Morning Tea
- 10 Senior School Parent Group Morning Tea

Community

An in-tents experience for Junior School

James Kelso Field was transformed into a village of tents when more than 450 members of our Junior School community pitched in to enjoy each other's company – and the great outdoors – at the Junior School Camp Out. Thank you to our JSPG committee and all the parent volunteers for a memorable weekend of bonding and connection.

“As a new family to the school, it was a truly wonderful opportunity for my daughter to build on blossoming friendships and, of course, for us, as a family, to meet the rest of the Pymble community,” said one new parent to Head of Junior School Mr Nigel Walker.



Fun at the Beach Party



Our youngest students enjoyed an evening of dancing and dining with their parents at the Kindergarten to Year 2 Parent Daughter Dinner in March.

This year's theme was 'Beach Party', ensuring the gymnasium was awash with colour, beach balls and inflatables!

Thank you to our Preparatory School Support Group for hosting this event.

Pressing for progress on IWD

International Women's Day (IWD) is proudly celebrated and supported at Pymble with a range of events for Secondary School students to attend within and outside of the campus, all in the spirit of 'Press for Progress', which was this year's IWD theme.

1 Natalie Isaacs, founder and CEO of 1 Million Women and guest speaker at the Middle School International Women's Day Assembly, inspired students to harness their individual and collective power to act on climate change through the way they live.

2 Leaders from the Upper and Senior Schools represented the College at the United Nations International Women's Day Breakfast at the International Convention Centre Sydney, where they heard from panellists including author and reporter Tracey Spicer, and UN Women representatives Smriti Aryal and Hiba Qasas.

3 Several Pymble girls went along to the Ku-ring-gai Council's IWD event where students heard from a range of panellists – including our Year 11 students and co-founders of ProvokeWoke.org, Zahra Bilal and Melissa Li – on the topic of the advancement of women as leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs.

4 In the city-based offices of News Corp, Senior School students were equally engrossed in the topic of female empowerment in a panel discussion with successful women in sport (three-time Olympian, Melinda Gainsford-Taylor), quantum physics (2018 Australian of the Year, Professor Michelle Simmons) and media (then News Corp's Chief Digital Officer Nicole Sheffield).

The Senior School IWD Committee relished the opportunity to create opportunities for Pymble girls across the five Schools to articulate their voice and express the areas they would like to 'press for progress'.

IWD events continued throughout the week and included the following:

- A lunchtime music session where girls from the different Schools came together to sing songs about female empowerment.
- Women's March poster competition.
- A whole-school photography exhibition representing areas in need of change.
- The sale of purple ribbons to raise money for the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter.
- A College-wide paper chain recognising important women in our girls' lives.
- A Senior School Assembly with two inspiring speakers: English teacher Ms Colby Grace and ex-student Nikki Raftopoulos (2012), who both challenged students to think about how they could support all women, in and outside of our community, and to find their voice.



Watch Pymble events on video.
Youtube.com/c/pymbleladiescollegeaustralia



People and Culture

We are committed to ensuring every student is known, valued and encouraged. Professionally, we nurture a learning culture that celebrates creativity, engagement and critical thinking. Our professional practice is deeply embedded in worldwide research and best practice, and we actively seek to share our expertise, facilities and resources to create a vibrant global educational community. Together we make a difference, within Pymble and beyond.

People and Culture

SAVE THE DATE

Susan McLean will be delivering a presentation to Pymble parents on **31 October 2018**. More information to follow soon.



Bullying. No way!

Friday 16 March was the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Our Middle School students expressed thoughtful messages about the need for action against bullying – including this physical display on Gloucester Lawn – imagining a world free from negative attitudes and reflecting on consequences that result from bullying behaviours.

The Middle School girls also enjoyed a lively and informative presentation by former Police Officer, Susan McLean, now a leading expert in cyber safety and cyberbullying.

“When you imagine a bully, what do you see? Many will see the massive, older student at their primary school that made fun of small kids and tripped you as you walked past. But now, bullies are people behind the screen, harassing and tormenting people anonymously, getting into people’s minds, but not talking to them face-to-face.”

“A message that has resonated in our hearts and has influenced our actions from the session with Susan McLean was ‘Speak up even if your voice shakes’. This phrase tugged at our heart strings and gave us the courage and integrity to stand up, speak out and be safe online.”

– Nina Breckenridge and Faye Chang, Year 8



That's what friends are for...

The Senior School was delighted to welcome back ex-student, Georgia Campbell (2013), who returned to Pymble to speak to Year 12 students at their annual Food for Thought luncheon. Georgia, who was just about to graduate from the University of Sydney, shared her candid advice about how to succeed in the HSC and beyond. Georgia was joined by our 2017 Head Prefect, Jessica Stuart, who also came along to support her younger friends at Pymble.

The future looks bright

Our annual Careers Expo in the Gymnasium was an eye-opener for hundreds of students and parents who attended to seek advice and insights from around 65 tertiary institutions, academies and Colleges. More than 70 industry professionals – ex-students and parents – were also on-hand to speak directly with students about their ideas and plans for the future. The Expo is held in Term 1 every year, for Upper and Senior School students.



BEING YOUR BEST SELF

Years 9 and 10 girls had the privilege of attending a presentation from Mr John Coutis, a double amputee who has defied medical odds and who now travels around the world to inspire thousands of young people to be the best they can be.

In 1994, John was the Australian Disabled Table Tennis champion, just missing selection for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Team. He was also the first person with a major disability to play indoor cricket in Australia and has played grade cricket for Bankstown.

John’s presentation explored notions of resilience, dealing with disability, bullying and overcoming challenges.



Year 6 students all participated in their Leaders' Induction Service. Each girl was challenged to live out the College values, to be a proactive leader (not just a follower) and was presented with her badge.

WELCOME BACK, DR BRACKETT

The College was pleased to host, once again, the Founding Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and Professor in the Child Study Center at Yale University, Dr Marc Brackett – the man who inspired us to adopt the RULER program.

Following Dr Brackett's meetings with staff, student groups worked on their Charter, a collaborative document that helps schools establish supportive and productive learning environments. By working together to build the Charter, everyone establishes common goals and holds each other accountable for creating the positive climate they envision.



Linking Literature with STEM

In Term 1, three teachers from the Macquarie University Junior Science Academy visited the Preparatory School to provide hands-on science workshops. The aim of the workshops was to promote discussion about what scientists do, and how they go about deducing information using the scientific method.

The opportunity for the STEM morning was made possible through the 2017 Jeanette Buckham Grant. The focus of the grant was to link literature with STEM activity and to utilise the skills of Macquarie University staff as expert partners.

The picture book *11 Experiments That Failed*, by Jenny Offill, was one of the books used to promote discussion, and the workshop that followed provided the girls the opportunity to see that there can be error in Science.



People and Culture



Meet **Mrs Melissa McMahon**
Director of Professional Practice

Mrs Melissa McMahon started in the newly-created role of Director of Professional Practice in Term 1. She has 20 years of experience in education, most recently at St Leo's Catholic College as the Director of Teaching and Learning, and her qualifications include a Graduate Diploma of Education and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons).

Mrs McMahon has held a variety of roles including Head of Learning Area (English), tutor and classroom teacher. She has taught at schools including Cranebrook High School, Blue Mountains Grammar School, Mater Maria Catholic College, Sydney Church of England Grammar School (SHORE) and St Leo's Catholic College.



Meet **Ms Tricia Allen**
Director of Teaching and Learning

Ms Tricia Allen joined *Pymble* in 2017 as our first High Potential Learning Co-ordinator. Ms Allen has more than 25 years of teaching experience and has held a number of key leadership roles throughout her career. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Education, Masters of Special Education and a Diploma of Educational Coaching. She has been employed across a range of independent schools including Loreto Normanhurst, Loreto Kirribilli, Abbotsleigh, Knox Grammar School and Tangara. She has also worked overseas at Maben House in Scotland and in the tertiary environment at Macquarie University.



Changes to Middle School leadership team

In 2018, we welcomed to the Middle School leadership team **Mrs Jacinta Wells** (left) and **Mrs Carolyn Diakoumis** (right).

Carolyn Diakoumis worked alongside Mrs Katie White (Deputy Head of Middle School – Year 7) in Term 1 and will continue to hold the position of Acting Deputy Head of Middle School – Year 7 for Terms 2 and 3 while Mrs White is on maternity leave.

Mrs Jennifer O'Donnell (Deputy Head of Middle School – Year 8) returned from long service leave at the start of Term 2 as Acting Head of Middle School to replace Mrs Tammy Rees-Davies (Head of Middle School) who will be on maternity leave in Terms 2 to 4.

Jacinta Wells will take on the role of Acting Deputy Head of Middle School – Year 8 for Terms 1 to 4.

They came, they saw, they SANG

The Student Alliance Networking Group (SANG) comprises about 140 students in Years 9 to 11 from girls' schools all over Sydney, including 12 students from *Pymble*, and provides a forum for young women inspired to make a difference in their schools and local/global communities.

This year's theme for SANG is 'Press for Progress, Action for Change'.

The girls are tasked with forming groups and researching a topic – such as domestic violence and the gender pay gap – and creating a two-minute advertisement to present to the Principals of all participating schools in Term 4. The SANG cohort meets each term, however smaller working groups collaborate on their projects throughout the year.



Pymble gives back

While students enjoyed their first day of holidays at the end of Term 1, Pymble staff spent the day in service for charities and organisations on our annual 'Pymble Gives Back' day.

Staff engaged in knitting, quilting, gardening, sorting donations, assisting with events and helping out as kitchen hands, just to name a few activities, for people who need all the care and support they can get. A lovely and meaningful way to round off the term for us as a team.



Sustainability

We embed high-level sustainable practices in every area of Pymble life – in educational, operational and wider community settings – as the way to protect and guide our future. Social and personal responsibility, as well as economic and environmental initiatives are evident throughout the College, influencing others to make positive changes.

Service learning flows in Enngonia

Six of our Year 10 students travelled to Enngonia in New South Wales with Reverend Punam Bent and Pymble's Out of School Hours Care Co-ordinator, Ms Fi Stevenson, to attend a mini camp with students from local schools including Enngonia, Louth and Wanaaring Public Schools, as well as Bourke Walgett School of Distance Education.

The annual service learning journey to Enngonia is in partnership with Pymble Uniting Church and Knox Grammar School and represents a unique opportunity for students to engage and support students in the Australian outback. During this year's visit, students and staff were able to witness the coming of the river Warrego from Queensland to Enngonia, a natural phenomenon that inspired Reverend Bent to pen a poem, opposite.



COMING OF THE RIVER WARREGO IN ENNGONIA

A prayer by Reverend Punam Bent

Creator God, from whom the living waters flow, we stand in this sacred place and meet the river Warrego.

We remember Your people of old who still gather here today, the Murrawari, Kuna, and Budjiti people who travelled from the North and care for this land.

We praise You that the once dry riverbed, which awaited the coming of the river, is now filled and nourished. As we witness this wonder of creation, we pause and reflect on Your presence in the dry riverbed and its need for nourishment.

As we stand together in community and welcome the river, the cracked earth is filled with Your living waters.

We praise You with the voices of the children gathered around us. As we walk with the river, which meets the land with such joy, we thank You for the wonder that is Creation, and see Your hand displayed in all that lives and moves and has its being.

Make us mindful of each other, and of our memorable times in Enngonia, where the communities live and work together with the children to make it a meaningful and flowing existence.

Like the river Warrego, meeting us in its time and place, may we find meaning and purpose in giving of ourselves to those places that most need nourishing and loving.

*In Your most Precious name we pray.
Amen.*



Marden House spirit flies high

.....

Every year, our eight spirit Houses host a fundraising event to support the charity of their choice. In the last week of Term 1, Marden House held a 'Jumbo for Joy' day to help raise funds for The Rotary Club of Turramurra to support the Qantas Jumbo Joy Flight, an

annual event that takes disabled and disadvantaged children and their carers on a 90-minute joy flight over Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. They were joined by Rotary and Qantas representatives, students and staff, who supported the bake sale and paper plane flying competition.



Lost Property and Second-hand Items

.....

The Pound, as *Pymble's* lost property and second-hand shop is known, is a hidden gem in the Secondary School.

If your daughter needs to search for a lost item or is looking to buy something second-hand, such as a hat, cap, sports bag, school shoes, stationery or jumper, the Pound is the place to visit.

Unnamed second-hand items are individually priced for sale, ranging from \$1.00 to \$30.00 (cash only).

The Student Representative Council runs the Pound with the assistance of teachers.

Money raised throughout the year is donated to the College's nominated charity. This year funds will go to The Smith Family.

The Pound is open on Wednesday and Friday during term time at 1.00pm. It is located between RV2 and RV3.



Oar-some First Eight crowned national champions

Pymble's reinvigorated Rowing program has made a big splash!

Rowing at Pymble has a long and proud history of excellence, however much water had passed under the bridge since Pymble Rowing last claimed the National title.

All that changed on Sunday 25 March, when Pymble's First Eight crew capped off a stellar 2017/18 season by winning the Schoolgirl Eights event at the Australian Open Schools Rowing Championships, held at the Sydney International Regatta Centre. The crew, comprising Phoebe Coles, Mackenzie Penn, Eliza Johnson, Eliza Entwistle, Sophia Carmody, India Thomson, Hannah Westhuizen, Olivia Hunt and Allyson Campbell, was awarded the Sydney Cup for the first time in 13 years.

The A-Final of the Championships included the fastest crews from NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia.

The Pymble Rowing crew had a highly successful 2017/18 season, winning several major regattas, including the NSW State Championships and the prestigious NSW Schoolgirl Head of the River for the first time in six seasons.

“Their success is the culmination of meticulous preparation over the past seven months to develop the strength, fitness, technique and mental toughness to achieve the ultimate goals of winning Head of the River Regatta and being the fastest Schoolgirl Eight in the country.” Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters



Sport and Activities

Pymble is balanced in its passions, demonstrating to students that true success comes from a holistic approach to education; this approach equally values academic success, music and cultural pursuits, sporting achievements, community service and personal wellbeing.



Sport and Activities

Pymble wins hat-trick at inaugural AFL competition

In Term 1, 75 Pymble girls in Years 7 to 12 competed in the inaugural AFL NSW Independent Girls' School Competition, despite the fact that many of the girls had never played an AFL match in their lives.

Each player spent Week 1 practising the basic skills of AFL – handballing, kicking, marking and working as a team – in preparation for their first match. Then they took to the field and never looked back. At the end of the season, our Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams walked away as undefeated winners of their divisions.

Pymble will be hosting the competition again in Term 1 2019.



“The players’ commitment to learning the skills of a new sport and the development of their ability in such a short amount of time was impressive to witness.”

AFL Co-ordinator, Mr Michael Jenkins.



LEARNING FROM THE PROS

Who better to help our players prepare for the season than Premiership-winning Sydney Swans players Dan Hannebery and Nick Smith, and their coaching staff?

Dan and Nick (pictured below) were generous with their time and advice during and after the skills training session, answering questions about their training regimens, nutrition and game-day preparation.



Alice Mitchell in Year 11 was selected into the Under 18 NSW Girls Team.



Sport and Activities

Pymble rules the pool at IGSSA

Congratulations to all of our divers and swimmers whose outstanding performances contributed to Pymble winning the 93rd IGSSA Swimming and Diving Carnival.

Our swimmers broke a 17-year drought – and seven records – to win the swimming competition.

New Swimming Records

Senior 4 x 50m Medley Relay: **Georgia Peregrina, Emma Rhall, Claudia Fydler and Eloise Riley**

16 years 50m Freestyle: **Claudia Neale**

12 years 50m Backstroke: **Hayley Johnston**

15 years 50m Backstroke: **Elizabeth Gan**

12 years 50m Breaststroke: **Bella Zhang**

12 years 50m Butterfly: **Hayley Johnston**

6 x 50m All Age Relay: **Bella Zhang, Jenna Coghill, Siobhan Dubois, Isla Mason, Isabella Riley and Georgia Peregrina**



YOUNG DIVING CHAMPS

Congratulations to all our Preparatory and Junior divers who competed at the Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) Diving Championships in April. This event showcases the best of the state divers from all NSW primary schools and is a tough event to qualify for, with a high level of competition.

Well done to our girls:
8 YEARS SPRINGBOARD
1st: **Addison Woods**
3rd: **Ellie Rowe**

9 YEARS SPRINGBOARD
3rd: **Arabelle Mumford**
4th: **Annie Pennington**

11 YEARS SPRINGBOARD
5th: **Annabel Shanahan**



And the winner is ... Wylie



Congratulations to team yellow, Wylie House – winner of the 2018 Secondary School Swimming Carnival House Cup.

Record-breaking Riley



Special congratulations to Eloise Riley in Year 12, who competed as one of our eight best swimmers in the Open 50m Championship at the 2018 Secondary School Swimming Carnival. Eloise swam the race in 26.55 seconds, breaking the standing record of 26.73 held by Kate Heal since 2011.

Diving Highlights

17 years 1st: **Paige Jackson**

16 years 1st: **Mikaela Ward**

15 years 1st: **Kennedy Cooper**

14 years 1st: **Emily Pearson**

13 years 1st: **Anya Rudenko**

12 years 3rd: **Indi Tishler**

Team Event 1st: **Shakira Tyson, Abigail Partridge, Georgia Spanswick and Lucy Robertson**

Junior Springboard Champion: **Anya Rudenko**

Intermediate Springboard Champion: **Kennedy Cooper**

Senior Springboard Champion: **Paige Jackson**

Open Platform Champion: **Kennedy Cooper**





Robotics team is the pride of *Pymble*

.....

Term 1 was an exciting time of growth and opportunity for our *Pymble* Pride Robotics team. The girls competed in the international FIRST Robotics Competition South Pacific Regional, where they ranked seventh after the qualifying rounds and made the semi-final in an alliance – a significant improvement since their foray into competitive robotics in 2017.

The girls also won two team awards – the Safety Award for “harnessing both common sense and rigorous discussion to create a fun and effective safety culture” and the Excellence in Engineering Award to celebrate their “clean and elegant” robot design.

OFF TO TEXAS...

At the end of Term 1, our Robotics team received a last-minute invitation to the FIRST Championship in Houston, Texas. Pymble Pride competed against some of the best robotic teams in the world, and placed 26th out of 67 teams in its division.



Football stars to watch!

.....

Congratulations to...

Rachel Lowe (Year 12) and Julia Vignes (Year 11) who were selected to play in the Under 19 Young Matildas Football Team against Thailand in March. Captained by Rachel, who scored the first goal, the Matildas won 2–0. Rachel also played in the Australian Open Women’s Football Team in the Algarve Cup in Portugal, and Julia played for Sydney FC in the W-League Grand Final against Melbourne.



Champion House
GOODLET

Champion Sport
NETBALL

IMOGEN GARDINER
the fastest four-kilometre
runner

ABIGAIL BALLHAUSEN
the fastest three-kilometre
runner

CATHERINE MILLER
who went on to compete at the
World School Cross Country
Championships in Paris in the
Under 20 age group, where she
came 33rd overall in the
individual race and was thrilled
when the Australian Individual
Girls team placed first.

Off and running at *Cross Country*

.....

We were blessed this year with beautiful
running conditions for both the Junior School
and Secondary School Cross Country Carnivals.

A total of 450 students competed in seven age groups in the Secondary
School Cross Country on Tuesday 27 February. Congratulations to the
following girls who placed in their age group:

	1	2	3
12 Years	Abigail Ballhausen	Elizabeth Tyson	Jessica Colbran
13 Years	Emily Pearson	Caitlyn Tan	Sienna Bond
14 Years	Jessica Bird	Jessica Tyson	Kristen Cook
15 Years	Charlotte Lowe	Ella Koster	Nicola Farquharson
16 Years	Imogen Gardiner	Ashlie Edwards	Sally Guthrie
17 Years	Georgina Sargent	Edita Grinbergs	Maddison Everingham
18 Years	Catherine Miller	Georgia Cooper	Eliza Entwistle



Champion House
MACKELLAR

Forty girls competed in the
Independent Primary School
Heads of Australia (IPSHA)
Cross Country in April, where
Ellie Beck placed second in
the 12 Years category and the
following students placed in
the top 20 in their age group:
Amelia Bicego, Diana Attinger,
Phoebe Paleologos, Sachi
Smith, Sophia Slater, Darcey
Hawkins, Jessica Slater
and Meredith Reynolds.



A total of 516 girls – including Year 2 students, for the first time in College
history – competed in five age groups in the **Junior School Cross
Country** on Thursday 22 February. Congratulations to the following girls
who placed in their age group:

	1	2	3
7 Years	Gemma Dixon	Lera Dubrovina	Sasha Dubrovina
8/9 Years	Maya Ostapenko	Amelia Bicego	Eloise Fisher
10 Years	Sachi Smith	Diana Attinger	Zoë Hart
11 Years	Darcey Hawkins	Arabella Cox	Sophia Slater
12 Years	Ellie Beck	Jessica Slater	Gemma Middleton



Showtime for Cattle Club

Hats off to the *Pymble* Cattle Club for their excellent teamwork and achievements in cattle showing and parading in Term 1.

Castle Hill Show Results

- Champion School Steer: Nigel
- Reserve Champion School Steer: Nemo
- Senior Junior Cattle Judge: **Georgia Laurie**
- 17 Years Parader: First place to **Georgia Laurie**
- 17 Years Parader: Highly Commended to **Jemma Lang MacPherson**
- 15 Years Parader: Third place to **Grace Collins**
- 14 Years Parader: Highly Commended to **Lucy Glendinning**

- Champion Parader: **Georgia Laurie**
- Herdsman Competition: First place to *Pymble* Team (**Ella Gray** and **Georgia Laurie**)
- Young Farmers Challenge: Second place to *Pymble* Team (**Ella Gray**, **Jemma Lang MacPherson**, **Olivia Virgona** and **Erin Willock**).

Sydney Royal Cattle Show Results

- Schools Steer Competition, Middleweight Class: Third place to Nigel
- Open Steer Competition, Heavyweight Class: Highly Commended to Nemo
- Schools Steer Parading: Fifth place to **Ella Gray**
- State Parading: First place to **Georgia Laurie**



Pymble Ladies' College
EX-STUDENTS' UNION (ESU)

President's Report

This year's Ex-Students' Union (ESU) committee is having a lot of fun working together – we are of similar ages and most of us currently have girls attending Pymble.

Each year the ESU committee contributes to the College and organises/participates in a range of events. The ten members have a varied mix of backgrounds and skills. Read on to learn a little more about them.

Li-Enn Koo (1991) – President

After ten years at *Pymble* I went on to study Economics and Law at the University of Sydney before working as an ECM analyst at Macquarie Bank. Curiosity about the wider business world saw me complete an MBA and become a strategy consultant at the Boston Consulting Group. We moved to Hong Kong, where I took a different career path in a range of senior Asia HR Director roles at Morgan Stanley and Barclays. Our family of four moved back to Sydney in 2014, so that my children (a boy, now 16 years old, and a girl, now 14 years) could go to high school here. I'm now HR Chief of Staff at QBE. I enjoy connecting past and current students, as well as collaborating with the College and broader *Pymble* community in my role as President of the Ex-Students' Union. We welcome everyone to get involved.

Robyn Soonius (Whyte, 1983) – Vice President, Governance

After leaving school, I undertook a cadetship with Ernst & Young and completed a Bachelor of Economics degree and the Professional Year to become a Chartered Accountant. I then worked for KPMG for nine years in Sydney and the UK. After deciding to transfer from chartered to commercial accounting, I became CFO (Asia Pacific) for Systems Union, a UK-based international accounting software company, and I often travelled to our offices in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore. I've been on the ESU committee for nearly four years and have a daughter at *Pymble* in Year 12. I'm interested in fostering strong connections between ex-students and the College through the ESU.

Kristen Faahan-Smith (Wood, 1987) – Vice President, Events

After leaving *Pymble* in 1987 I was offered an accounting cadetship with Mann Judd while I completed my Bachelor of Economics at Macquarie University. I then spent 12 years in London working for Lloyds Bank in the Treasury Department where I met my husband and both our daughters were born. We spent a few years in Asia, living in Singapore and Hong Kong. We have been back in Sydney for 11 years now, and both our daughters are at *Pymble* – Lauren in Year 12 and Brooke in Year 10 – third-generation *Pymble* girls. I have recently retrained as a Teachers'

Assistant but am spending this year supporting my Year 12 daughter.

Helen Jarvis (Fisher, 1989) – Treasurer

After completing an Economics degree, I worked with Accenture (Change Management consulting) in Melbourne, Sydney, San Francisco and New York. While my three children were little I retrained as a Counsellor and a Mediator. We also spent several years living in Malaysia. I currently run a conflict resolution and training business, volunteer with Girl Guides and am on the Board of KYDS Youth Development Service. My son started a degree at ANU this year and I have two daughters at *Pymble*: Grace (Year 11) and Amy (Year 9).

Peppy Mitchell (1987) – Secretary

After school I studied Arts and Law at the University of Sydney, while working as a paralegal with Clayton Utz. I then backpacked through Europe and worked for the Japanese Government for a year as an Assistant Teacher in rural Japan. For the past 30 years I have worked with corporate law firms, first as a front-end construction lawyer with Phillips Fox, then on a merge team with DLA Piper and now as In-house Counsel and Risk Manager with DibbsBarker. My daughter, a fourth-generation *Pymble* girl, is currently in Year 9. I cherish our College grounds and enjoy the *Pymble* community of staff and students, past and present.

Stay in touch with our global network of ex-students. Join the ESU Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/PymbleESU

President's *Report* continued

Nicola Hoffman (Adam, 1987) – Assistant Secretary

I completed an English/Linguistics/ Computing degree and worked in Language Analysis then Corporate Communications. After having three children I began teaching and am currently teaching English and ESL. I am also the Literacy Co-ordinator at Chatswood High School and am studying Applied Linguistics part-time. My two boys, Patrick and Thomas, are in Years 12 and 10 respectively, and my daughter Sophie is in Year 8 at *Pymble*.

Joanna Bertoline (Mason-Jones, 1988) Merchandise Officer

After completing a secretarial course, I worked in the Banking and Finance industry in International Banking Services for a number of banks in Australia and England. I have travelled extensively throughout Europe and North America. I am currently working for SWIFT which provides platforms that banks, corporates, capital markets and market infrastructures use to help conduct their business. In my spare time I'm a passionate supporter of the Sydney Swans.

Annie Corbett (Wong, 1992)

After leaving *Pymble* in 1992 I accidentally fell into nursing at Royal North Shore Hospital after following my best friend there. I then completed my Bachelor of Nursing at UTS.

For the past 23 years I have been with the NSW Ambulance Service where I am now the Paramedic Superintendent in the Sydney Control Centre – the busiest operational centre in the Southern Hemisphere. I have been on the ESU Committee since 2008 and am also a member of the ESU Choir. For the past five

years I have been running the Champagne and Chicken stall at the Garden Party. I believe in giving back to the College that gave me my amazing education and upholding its traditions and beliefs.

Romilly Madew (Evans, 1984)

After leaving *Pymble* in 1984, I completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Sydney. My family – husband David, and kids David Junior, Arielle (Year 11 at *Pymble*) and Nathaniel – lived on our winery and rural property at Lake George up until 2008 when we moved back to Sydney due to my work. Since 2006, I have been the CEO of Green Building Council of Australia. I am also President of Bilgola SLSC, a member of the federal government's Cities Reference Group, Independent Chair of the Currawong State Park Advisory Board, and a board member of Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Chief Executive Women. When I was at *Pymble* I participated in as many sports as possible and this hasn't changed. I am an active lifesaver, ocean swimmer and runner.

Gill Ross-Edwards (Clark, 1976)

After finishing school I trained as a Registered Nurse at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. I have also spent many years busy with family and work, and living overseas. My daughter Annabel left *Pymble* in 2010 and I had three boys attend Barker College. For the ESU committee, I have been involved in organising the alumNOW exhibitions.

All' Ultimo Lavoro

Li-Enn Koo (Lau, 1991)
PRESIDENT
EX-STUDENTS' UNION
pymble.exstudents@gmail.com
Pymble Ladies' College
PO Box 623

The Alumni Office will soon be sending out a survey to all ESU members. If you would like to help ensure our committee is more representative of membership or have ideas on ways that the ESU could better serve membership, we would love you to take a few minutes to respond; it will really help us with our forward planning.

2018 Ex-Students' Events and Reunions

DATE	EVENT
Saturday 25 August	Class of 2003 15-year Reunion
Saturday 15 September	Class of 1958 60-year Reunion
Saturday 22 September	Garden Party
Saturday 13 October	Darling Downs and Northern New England
Saturday 20 October	Class of 2013 5-year Reunion
Thursday 25 October	Pymble in Orange
Saturday 28 October	Melbourne Reunion
Saturday 3 November	Class of 1998 20-year Reunion
Saturday 10 November	Class of 1983 35-year Reunion
Saturday 10 November	Class of 1973 45-year Reunion
Saturday 17 November	Class of 1963 55-year Reunion
Friday 23 November	Class of 1978 40-year Reunion

Events

ESU Networking Breakfast
Monday 23 October



The ESU hosted its annual Networking Breakfast at DibbsBarker in the city.

The event was well-attended by various year groups and everyone was inspired by the talk given by our ex-student Guest Speaker, Christine Bartlett (1977), who is also an experienced CEO and Senior Executive.

Christine highlighted her journey after leaving the College, through her University days and into the workforce, while also managing a family. Christine truly inspired us all with her can-do attitude and knowing that, as women, we can certainly have it all and succeed incredibly in what we set our hand to.

We thank Christine for her time and also DibbsBarker for hosting us and, finally, thanks to the ESU Committee for the organisation of the event.



Jacaranda Day
Wednesday 8 November

The College welcomed Rebecca Cuschieri (Mason, 1991) as the guest speaker for last year's Jacaranda Day event. Rebecca was joined by our Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters, College Council members, as well as staff and students who led the ceremony, which included reflection, giving thanks and donations and gifts on behalf of the College community to the Exodus Foundation.



Pymble Golf Day
Wednesday 22 November

The *Pymble* Golf Day, supporting the Ex-Students' Union, was held at Avondale Golf Club with more than 100 in attendance – 75 golfers and around 25 who just came for the delicious luncheon, including current parents and ex-students.

We had a last-minute change of guest speaker due to Ellyse Perry (2008) being called to play for Australia against England to retain the Ashes. We were, however, very fortunate to have Stirling Mortlock, former Wallabies Captain and Member of the Order of Australia, step in and entertain us with rugby and general life stories.

The winning golf team for 2017 was Ian Sweeney, Paul Sproules, David Woods and Michael Woods – some of our Preparatory School fathers.

The winner of the raffle and a weekend drive in a new Mercedes Benz was Sally Todman (Frazer, 1972).

Well done to the ESU Committee, in particular Larissa de Carle (1987) and Kristen Faahan-Smith (Wood, 1987), for organising the day and to everyone who attended.



Events continued

Foundation Day
Thursday 8 February



It was *Pymble's* birthday in February and the whole College gathered to mark the occasion. This year we celebrated 102 years of providing an exceptional educational experience for girls, on the glorious Gloucester Lawn.

We were thrilled to have ex-student Sarah Morton-Ramwell (2001) to be the Guest Speaker for the day. Sarah is a Partner and the Global Head of Pro Bono Practice and Corporate Responsibility at Ashurst International Law Firm. Take a look at page 14 for more on this momentous day.

International Women's Day
Friday 9 March



As part of this year's International Women's Day theme, *Press for Progress*, we were fortunate enough to hear from engaging female speakers such as Nikki Raftopoulos, an ex-*Pymble* student and Head Prefect of 2012, who spoke on

the importance of perseverance and determination in a society which so often prevents women from breaking the 'glass ceiling'. Nikki challenged us to think beyond the common narrative of success and to look at women doing extraordinary things every day in their ordinary life. Nikki completed undergraduate study of Medical Science at the University of Sydney, then Honours in Medical Science, a Masters in International Public Health at UNSW and is now studying postgraduate medicine at Notre Dame University. Her path to success has been anything but easy – Nikki spoke of the barriers she faced when trying to gain entry to medical school; having failed the GAMSAT (the entry-level exam for medical school) on several occasions and each time being increasingly motivated to attempt the exam again. She travelled the world, building resilience and self-worth along the way. It was through this "never give up" mindset and determination to succeed that she did not let these barriers hinder her from following her dreams – instead those barriers became challenges and learning experiences. Her encouraging story of hard work, commitment and resilience has inspired *Pymble* girls to follow in her footsteps; to follow their dreams, to *strive for the highest*, and to stay dedicated to their ambitions, no matter how unachievable they may seem.

AYRA KASSAM (YEAR 11) AND MELISSA LI (YEAR 11), INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMITTEE 2018

ESU Soiree
Thursday 15 March

Art and old friends went hand-in-hand at the recent *Pymble* Ex-Students' Union Social Evening. Ex-students from 1976 to 1999 enjoyed the chance to catch up at the event, which was kindly hosted by Peter and Chris Wright from Paintings Drawings Prints in Pymble. Congratulations to Rachel Carney (Robinson, 1988) who won the gift certificate of \$230 from the gallery. Thank you all for coming and see you at the next ESU event!



Indigenous Scholarship Morning Tea
Tuesday 20 March

Each year the Alumni Department hosts a lovely morning tea to celebrate the special bond between our ex-student Indigenous Scholarship (ISP) donors and the Indigenous girls who attend the College. We are very fortunate to have generous members of our ex-student community who value and appreciate the wonderful opportunity that is afforded to our lovely Indigenous students.

Mothers and Grandmothers
Morning Tea
Thursday 22 March



It was lovely to see several generations of *Pymble* girls at our annual event. This special occasion gave our ex-students the opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and reminisce about their school days in the company of their daughters and granddaughters currently attending *Pymble*. Thanks for sharing a memorable morning at the College, ladies!

Food For Thought Year 12 Luncheon
Friday 6 April



Careers Expo
Monday 9 April

Pymble students and parents received valuable information on a wide range of career options at our annual Careers Expo, which featured more than 65 universities, colleges, businesses and

organisations. Thank you also to our wonderful parents and approximately 70 ex-students who came along to share their professional insights and career advice with our girls.



It was lovely to welcome back Georgia Campbell (2013), who returned to *Pymble* to speak to our Year 12 students at their annual Food for Thought luncheon.

Georgia, who is currently working at RuralCo, and who graduated from the University of Sydney at the end of April,

shared her candid advice about how to succeed in the HSC and beyond.

Georgia was joined by our 2017 Head Prefect, Jessica Stuart, who also came along to support her younger friends at *Pymble*.

Reunions

Class of 1947 70-year Reunion
Saturday 29 July



Eight delightful ladies from the class of 1947 gathered in the home of Jeanette Rickard (Mackenzie) to celebrate their 70-year reunion. They were all so happy to be together, hear about the College and, of course, laugh at their wonderful memories of their time at the College. It was so delightful to meet these ladies and to see the strong bond they still hold after so many years graduating from *Pymble*.

KATRINA CORCORAN
ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER

Class of 1957 60-year Reunion
Saturday 21 October



Sixty years on and we could still gather 60 of us for a fantastic reunion celebration. Some came from as far as the UK, Canada and New Zealand, and many from interstate together with a wonderful contingent of Boarders'. We laughed, ate, celebrated, renewed old friendships and caught up on times past. A tour of the College, DVD and photographs, memorabilia and copies of our school reports – the College did us proud. It was a very special day.

MARGARET SCOTT (WRIGHT)

Class of 1967 50-year Reunion
Saturday 4 November



Seventy-five 'girls' gathered to catch up on the last 50 years. As we said then, "It's not often that you have a room full of women and we know how old everyone is!" After an informative tour of the College with Alumni Relations Manager Katrina Corcoran it was back to the Senior School Centre in the Kate Mason Building for a lovely long lunch catered for by the College. Many memories and photos were shared, and then some continued on to the Greengate Hotel afterwards. It was wonderful that so many made a big effort to get there – we had 11 come from interstate and 20 from regional NSW. We also paused to remember 16 of our cohort who have passed away since leaving the College. Many thanks to our College helpers Katrina and Carrie for the Ex-Students, and the College Archivist Enid for her assistance with memorabilia and screen presentations.

**SUE MACDONALD (SEVIER) AND
JOC CHADWICK (PARKHILL)**

Class of 1982 35-year Reunion
Tuesday 14 November

Thank you so much everyone who attended for making this night fabulous! You are an amazing group of ladies.

GENEVIEVE RECHNER

Class of 1988 30-year Reunion
Saturday 5 May



It was a fantastic night of celebrations at the Greenwood Hotel in North Sydney, with girls coming from all over the world to be part of the event. The most wonderful part was how the years can just disappear and you can continue friendships from where you left off 30 years ago. It was incredible to see nearly 100 ex-students sharing life's challenges and successes and reminiscing about the good old days at *Pymble*. Everyone had such a great time that we are now going to be organising an annual get-together!

ILANA STONE

Class of 1992 25-year Reunion
Saturday 18 November

It was lovely to catch up with the 50 or so ladies from the 1992 leavers. All the ladies that came were in great spirits and enjoyed regaling in the good old days with so many laughs! We were lucky to have some of our overseas and interstate ladies and appreciated the effort that was made by them. We missed those that couldn't make it and hope to see them at the next event.

We must thank the Tilbury Hotel for looking after us.

SARAH GERLACH

Class of 1997 20-year Reunion
Saturday 25 November



The class of 1997 met for their reunion at the Senior School Centre in the Kate Mason Building. The ladies enjoyed self-guided College tours and viewing all the changes to the College over the past 20 years.

FELICITY DAVIDSON (PEARSALL)

Canberra Reunion
Saturday 24 March



The Canberra Reunion was held at the Canberra Yacht Club in Yarralumla. The luncheon was attended by those who lived in and around Canberra, including some from the Southern Highlands, NSW. Sarah Loch, Dean of Students at *Pymble Ladies' College*, and I were fortunate to attend.

It was so lovely to see some new faces this year and also those who attend every year along with a mother and daughter – two generations – who attended together. We are already looking forward to the next luncheon.

KATRINA CORCORAN
ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER

Melbourne Reunion
Sunday 24 September



Once again the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club kindly hosted the annual Reunion with *Pymble* girls attending from the classes of 1942 through to 1993. Despite the span of approximately 50 years, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon and sharing stories of their time at the College and hearing from Alumni Relations Manager Katrina Corcoran about the growth and changes the College has undertaken over the years. Thank you to Sally Totman-Marshall (Totman, 1993) for her organisation and assistance on the day and for each year bringing the lovely memento of the guest book, which is signed each year by all attendees and has been going since Miss Knox's time.

KATRINA CORCORAN
ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER

Toowoomba Reunion
Saturday 14 October

The fourth *Pymble Ladies' College* ex-student luncheon for the Darling Downs – Granite Belt – Northern New

England and North Western NSW region was held at the Park House Cafe in Margaret Street, Toowoomba. This was just after the Carnival of Flowers and so the city was still in bloom and still in festival mode. Sixteen ladies attended and included several who travelled up to Toowoomba from the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Glen Innes and Moree. There were another 30 ladies who were not able to attend. Everyone enjoyed sharing stories of their time at *Pymble* and the years since being part of the College. The ladies had been students at *Pymble* in the 1940s to 1970s and included a lady who had recently turned 90. The passing of two ex-students was noted with sadness. The 2018 luncheon will be held on Saturday 13 October 2018 at the Park House Cafe, Margaret Street, Toowoomba.

HELEN GIBSON (COLTON, 1963)

UK/Europe Reunion
Saturday 18 November



The, slowly becoming annual, UK/ European Reunion lunch was held in London on 18 November, 2017. Around 22 of us enjoyed a delicious Italian meal. Afterwards each of us introduced ourselves and lots of hilarity ensued as tales of naughtiness and mischief were regaled. We are now looking forward to the next reunion in June 2018.

FIONA SCHREUDER (HAYMAN, 1986)

Announcements

Births

Gillian Evans (1993) and husband Frank Maret welcomed Alexander Georges Evans-Maret on 27 April in London, where they have lived for 17-plus years. "Alexander is very much a Londoner and 'Brexit-proof' as he is Australian, British, French and American," says Gillian. "He is our first child, whose arrival after many, many years of fertility treatment has brought great joy! We are looking forward to bringing Alex to Australia later in the year to see family and friends and to learn to love Vegemite."

Sophie David (Armstrong, 1998) and her husband Dionysius welcomed their second child, daughter Victoria, on 8 March 2017, a sister for their two-year-old son Alexander.

Vales

Barbara Knox (Blackwell, 1947)
24 June 1930 – 17 November 2017.

The College lost a dear member of the *Pymble* community last November with the passing of Barbara, aged 87.

Barbara attended the then Presbyterian Ladies' College at Pymble from 1939 until her leaving year in 1947, when she undertook the role of Head Prefect and Head of Lang. As Head Prefect, she played a key role in the history of the College, representing her fellow prefects at the planting of our now 70-year-old jacaranda tree to commemorate the visit of Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Gloucester.

Barbara represented the College in tennis and hockey and went on to achieve a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sydney University. She was a Librarian at Loreto Kirribilli from 1981 to 1993.

Barbara and her extended family enjoyed a long-standing connection to the College over several generations. The connection began with her aunts,

Betty and Eleanor Blackwell, and continued through her sister Judy Durie (Blackwell, 1944). In 1958, Barbara married Miss Dorothy Knox's nephew, Hugh Knox, in the College Chapel and their daughters also attended *Pymble*. Alison Knox (1981) uniquely held the same position as her mother of Head Prefect in her final year.

Barbara's brother, David Blackwell, served on the College Council and as Chairman, and still has a presence at the College today through the building named in his honour, the David Blackwell Music School.

Barbara is remembered by her friend Margaret Coleman (1946) as thoughtful and unassuming, caring for Miss Knox in her later years and maintaining an interest in the College by attending various functions.

Barbara outlived her husband Hugh by one year and is survived by her daughters Catherine Knox (1977), Alison Knox (1981) and Janet Knox (1983), son Robert and grandchildren.

Elizabeth Anne Trappl (Webster, 1945)
29 April 1928 – 21 June 2017

Elizabeth attended then Presbyterian Ladies' College at Pymble during her second form year (Year 8) because Chemistry was offered. She was very successful academically and in sport, reaching high standards in Science and Mathematics. After she left school, Elizabeth went to Sydney University and gained a Bachelor of Science in 1949. Her main interest was Pathology, working voluntarily at the blood bank. She worked at Randwick Military Hospital making microscope slides and learning to identify diseases, and later worked at Crown Street as a haematologist. She enjoyed immensely the class reunions held by past pupils in her year at PLC *Pymble*.

Elizabeth travelled to England working at Central District Hospital, Middlesex, and later at Maudsley Hospital as a haematologist. Returning to Australia, she married in January 1955 and settled in Dorrig, NSW, farming, working at the local hospital as a pathologist and later obtaining her Diploma of Education and becoming a teacher in Mathematics and Science. She also enjoyed reading, weaving and running a cooperative craft shop.

Elizabeth is survived by her two daughters Monica and Heather, her four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Judith Ransley (Horsman, 1957)
1941 – 2018

My sister Judy valued her time as a member of the then Presbyterian Ladies' College community. She began her education in Kindergarten in 1946 and sat for her Leaving Certificate in 1957. Judy then took a secretarial course and accepted a position at the Reserve Bank in the city where she enjoyed her time. She fulfilled her dream to travel overseas and meet her English relatives. She travelled with her long-time school friend, Jane Simpson (Tout, 1957), and they had a wonderful year. After Judy returned home, she married Richard Ransley and was blessed by the birth of a daughter, Rachel, and a son Michael. Judy and her family moved to Queensland, where she brought up her two children and was loved by her six grandchildren. Judy became very interested in the history of our parents and produced an amazing book for us all. She called the book *What are we but our Stories?* (Colonial Press, 2008). Sadly, Judy developed ovarian cancer and passed away on 23 February this year. She was a perfect reflection of the motto: "Once a *Pymble* girl, always a *Pymble* girl".

MARGARET WILSON (HORSMAN, 1961)

Mrs Kathryn Butt
25 September 1950 – 28 January 2018



In February, we farewell this beloved former staff member. Kathryn joined *Pymble* as an Assistant Year 4 teacher in 1980. In 1982, she became Mistress in Charge of the Preparatory School, a role that later became known as Head of Preparatory School. The purpose-built Preparatory School we know and love today was planned and built during Kathryn's time at the College, and opened in May 2000. The Preparatory School Library was later named in her honour, on the occasion of her retirement in 2012, following 32 years of distinguished service.

Kathryn (pictured above, centre, in 1982) was remembered by one of her students at the time as "a kind, fair and gentle lady."

Kathryn passed away peacefully on Sunday 28 January 2018. She is survived by her adoring husband and travel partner of 45 years, Graham, her loving sisters-in-law, Judith and Judyth, nieces Leanne, Janelle and Fiona, and nephews Matthew and Anthony.

Engagements

Yolanda Zhu (2010) and Daniel Marr (Knox, 2006) became engaged on 19 December 2017. They are due to be married on 6 October 2018.

Weddings

Jemma Cranney (2003) married Robert Rawson at St Stephen's Uniting Church, Macquarie Street Sydney on 23 September 2017. The wedding was attended by *Pymble* girls Stephanie Johnson (Bragg, 2003), Poppi Denison (2003), Lauren Thompson (Blockley, 2003) and Sarah Cranney (2005).



LEFT

Zoë Unwin-Hakewill (2013)
Zoë Unwin-Hakewill and Lachlan Callister were married on 29 January 2018. Zoë worked at *Pymble* for a period of time and met Lachlan at the Sony Camp in 2012. The ceremony was held at the Pymble Ladies' College Chapel and performed by Reverend Lorenzo Rodriguez Torres with the reception at The Langham Sydney. The wedding was attended by ex-student Amanda Gillespie (Speake, 1986), with Ashley Duncan (2014) as one of Zoë's bridesmaids.

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Pymble Ladies' College

“ Their success is the culmination of meticulous preparation over the past seven months to develop the strength, fitness, technique and mental toughness to achieve the ultimate goals of winning Head of the River Regatta and being the fastest Schoolgirl Eight in the country. ”

Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters