



Pymble Ladies' College

pymbulletin

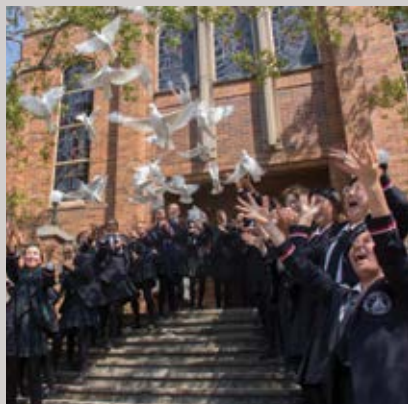
PYMBLE
LADIES'
COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2017
VOLUME 42

*Farewell,
Class of 2017*



Pymble Ladies' College



Front cover

Following their Final Assembly and Chapel Service, our departing Year 12 students assembled on the steps of the Chapel and on Gloucester Lawn for the symbolic releasing of 30 doves.

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.

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Our greatest achievements



Secondary School Speech Night

Another rewarding year of personalised learning at *Pymble* has come to an end.

In Term 4, we officially recognised our girls' achievements, starting with our Preparatory School Celebrations of Learning and culminating in our Junior School Speech Day and Secondary School Speech Night.

The Celebrations of Learning took place in our Chapel, where each girl received an individualised citation acknowledging and celebrating her unique learner disposition and goals, and her growth.

"The girls have developed as courageous and caring individuals who have a growing ability to identify their own achievements and those of their peers," said Head of Preparatory School, Mrs Karen Ahearn.

"Each girl has taken responsibility for her learning through goal setting and questioning, and has developed an understanding that integrity is about pursuing what you believe is right."

Our annual Junior School Speech Day and Secondary School Speech Night in the final week of Term 4 acknowledged our highest academic, sporting and performing arts achievers; students who demonstrated outstanding commitment and citizenship; and recipients of our annual awards, medals and scholarships.

At Speech Day, our Head of Junior School, Mr Nigel Walker summed up our Junior School students' developing learning dispositions perfectly: "Our girls don't limit their challenges, they challenge their limits."

He also acknowledged the role of *Pymble* educators in ensuring students are "stretched at their point of challenge so they move into that uncomfortable zone where they make mistakes and learn something new."

At Speech Night, a highlight was the on-stage interview conducted by our

Co-Captain of Music and The Arts 2018, Sophie Macourt with two accomplished women in academia, Professor Diane Mayer, Dean of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney and Professor Barbara Messerle, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Macquarie University. The professors encouraged students to follow their passions and to be trailblazers, to seize opportunities – even daunting ones that make them feel nervous – and to not worry if things don't work out, as they will have the resources within to make a plan B, C, D or even Z.

Indeed that was the overriding message of Speech Day and Night. As a College, we are strategically and intentionally guiding and challenging our girls with a myriad of opportunities in order for them to develop a deep and rich toolkit of learning capabilities to be future-ready in our rapidly changing world; for jobs that may not even exist yet. We are leading a new economy of education where the currency is Personalised Education and the reward will be our girls' success.

Congratulations to all the girls who received awards in 2017, and especially to our 2017 Dux of the School, Sally Cao.

Finally, it was with great delight that we received notification of the HSC results of our Class of 2017. In addition to their many collective achievements throughout the year as leaders, role models, sportswomen, entrepreneurs, musicians, artists, dancers, actors, debators, roboticists and as kind and engaged members of the wider *Pymble* community, our girls achieved HSC marks of distinction, including four perfect ATARs. Congratulations to our brilliant Class of 2017. You can read about their HSC results in detail on pages 8-11.

Vicki L Waters
PRINCIPAL



Junior School Speech Day



Kindergarten Celebration of Learning

Building the future

“Undertaking the extensions as one project allowed us to maximise the use of the shorter Term 4 and the longer Christmas break to complete the work faster and more efficiently.”

Campus Manager,
Mr Malcolm Boyes

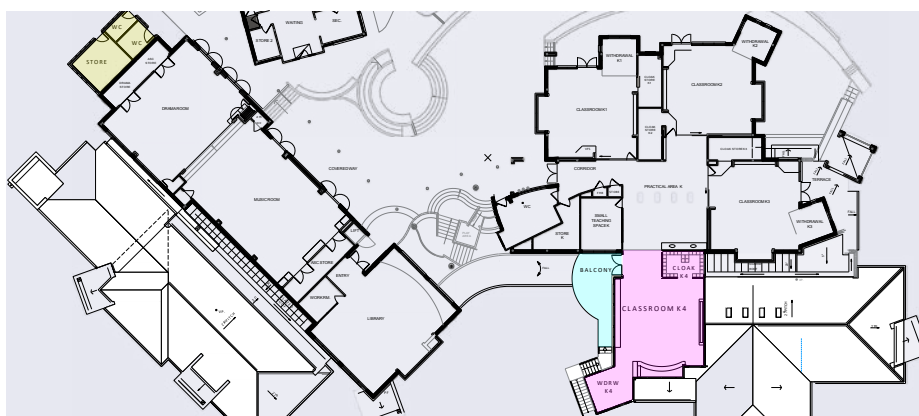
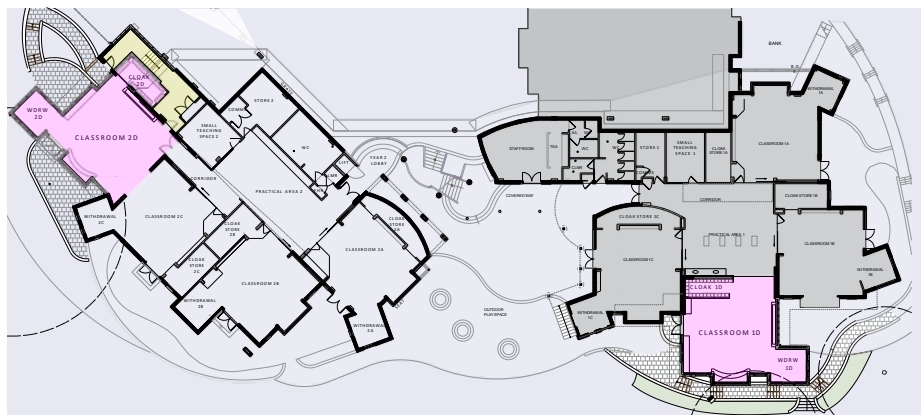
Towards the end of Term 2, we announced the exciting news that we will welcome a fourth Kindergarten class to the Preparatory School in 2018. The increased intake is testament to the outstanding learning, teaching and facilities on offer at *Pymble*.

To facilitate the gradual increase from three to four classes across K-2, and to enable the College to meet growth projections of numbers of school-aged children residing on the North Shore in the coming years, the decision was made to build three new classrooms – one for each year group.

The extensions capitalise on previously unused space in the Preparatory School. One new classroom will extend outwards from the existing Kindergarten practical area, over the Year 1 roof; the second will extend outwards from the existing Year 1 practical area; and the third new classroom will extend outwards from the existing 2C classroom.

Midson Construction was chosen to undertake the project as a result of their experience and impeccable safety policies and procedures. The project management team is led by *Pymble*'s Campus Manager, Mr Malcolm Boyes.

Building is well underway within the securely fenced zones and the project is due to be completed in Term 2 2018. Year 1 classrooms have been temporarily relocated during this time and student learning for all year groups has continued uninterrupted.



Farewell, Class of 2017

After thirteen years of learning and growing from dependence to independence, our Year 12 students wrapped up daily life at *Pymble* at the end of Term 3. The girls' final few weeks were filled with a host of farewell events as the whole College came together to celebrate the departing Class of 2017 in traditional *Pymble* style.

Highlights included a delightful performance of *Little Red Riding Hood* for current Preparatory School girls by Year 12 students who had been at *Pymble* since Preparatory School,

Calendar of events

Tuesday 12 September

- Ex-Students' Union (ESU) Welcome Afternoon Tea

Thursday 14 September

- Farewell Assembly for Connect Group Teachers

Friday 15 September

- Farewell Assembly for students who began their schooling at *Pymble* in the Preparatory School

Monday 18 September

- Year 12 Picnic at Clontarf

Thursday 21 September

- Year 12 Final Assembly and Chapel Service
- Year 12 Valedictory Dinner

a farewell picnic at Clontarf Beach, a Final Assembly and Chapel Service, followed by the symbolic releasing of doves on the Chapel stairs, and the Valedictory Dinner at Luna Park.

"On behalf of the Senior School team, I would like to thank the Year 12 girls for their leadership, creativity, optimism and genuine care for each other and their teachers," says Head of Senior School, Mrs Nikki Wyse.

"They will be greatly missed and we all look forward to hearing their stories in the coming years."



News



The last day countdown to the final bell draws a crowd



A final fond farewell from the Principal



Head of Senior School, Mrs Nikki Wyse



The Preparatory School Choir stole the show with their sweet serenade



The girls go with our blessings



The Final Chapel Service was a time for reflection and giving thanks



Year 11 students presented a rose to each Year 12 girl as she left the Chapel



Surrounded by loved ones



Head Prefects, Zohara and Jess



Goodbye girls...



...we will miss you all!

Take a leaf from the tree of knowledge

The Tree of Knowledge in the Senior School is a lovely tradition in which our outgoing Year 12 students pass on HSC advice to our incoming Year 12 girls in the form of leaves stuck on the tree. Some of the many words of wisdom shared this year included:

"Get a flu shot!"

"Don't be afraid to ask questions and use your teachers if you need help."

"Set a goal that makes you want to jump out of bed in the morning."

"Don't let Year 12 stop you from doing the things you love."

"Do not stress! Pros – none. Cons – pimples, creates more stress..." (the list goes on!)"

SET
A GOAL THAT
MAKES YOU
WANT TO JUMP OUT
OF BED IN THE
MORNING
♥

DON'T LET YR
12 STOP YOU FROM
DOING THE THINGS YOU
LOVE.
You will get through it.
You will survive.

Outstanding 2017 HSC results

We know, guide and challenge our girls to follow their academic and co-curricular passions, giving them the right balance of independence and support to aim high and to succeed in whichever areas they choose.

The best education in the world offers students at every age and stage myriad opportunities to grow, develop and learn; to graduate with the confidence and capabilities to be the next leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators; to be future ready, for whatever that future holds.

This doesn't happen when students sit behind a desk and are told by teachers how things work. That was the old way. Today, real and relevant learning happens when students live the lesson; when they 'do', 'experience' and 'create'.

As the world continues to change, our capacity as a College to look to the future and to provide experiences that enable our girls to succeed requires a different mindset to "this is the way it has always been done". Education needs to be agile, forward-thinking and based on strategy.

At *Pymble*, a key part of our strategy is our Personalised Education pedagogy. We know, guide and challenge our girls to follow their academic and co-curricular passions, giving them the right balance of independence and support to aim high and to succeed in whichever areas they choose.

We literally offer a world of local and international opportunities and experiences for students to develop the skills they require to succeed in tertiary study and in the work environment – skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and problem-solving, not to mention a genuine love of scholarship.

We underpin this deep, rich learning environment with a wellbeing program that prioritises each student's mental and physical health, and a College-wide commitment to our core values of Care, Courage, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility.

Our graduates leave *Pymble* with a growth mindset and the knowledge, passion, confidence and skill set to make a difference in the world.

We congratulate our Class of 2017 for the completion of their personalised education at *Pymble* and for their outstanding HSC results. For students from a non-selective school to achieve four firsts in course, four top ATARs, 25 ATARs greater than 99, 73 ATARs greater than 95 and 126 ATARs greater than 90 is quite simply, remarkable.

Girls, your future awaits and you're future-ready – you're a *Pymble* girl after all.

– Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters



Four top ATARS in Class of 2017



Mrs Vicki Waters with Sally Cao, Christy Hou and Hebe Larkin

Achieving the highest possible Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.95 is no easy feat. The ATAR is a rank from 0 to 99.95 which is used to show a student's achievement in relation to other students. It is the primary criterion for entry into most undergraduate-entry university programs in Australia.

In 2017, four *Pymble* students earned the top ATAR of 99.95 for their unwavering dedication and passion for scholarship throughout their HSC years. The students, are

- **Sally Cao** (Dux of the School)
- **Christy Hou**
- **Hebe Larkin**
- **Shiyi (Cathy) Zhao.**

"Four top ATARS in one year group is a remarkable achievement," says Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

"Striving for and achieving the highest ranking opens every door of possibility in tertiary studies for these accomplished young women. Coupled with the life skills and values they have developed through their years at the College, our girls are ready to embrace the future."



Mrs Waters presents Sally Cao with Dux of School trophy



Sally was also nominated for inclusion in *ENCORE*

Equal first in course



Congratulations to Shiyi (Cathy) Zhao who not only received a top ATAR of 99.95 but also placed equal first in the Chinese in Context course she undertook at the Saturday

School of Community Languages. "I would like to thank the curriculum office and in particular *Pymble's* Director of Tertiary Studies, Mr Dunk for their ongoing support," says Cathy. "I wouldn't have achieved equal first in the Chinese in Context course without the help from my home school."

Our top achievers



One outstanding *Pymble* scholar, Hebe Larkin, topped the state in three subjects: Classical Greek Continuers, Classical Greek Extension and Latin Continuers. Hebe also placed third in Latin Extension.

A total of 14 *Pymble* students earned a place in the Top Achievers in Course List across a variety of courses:

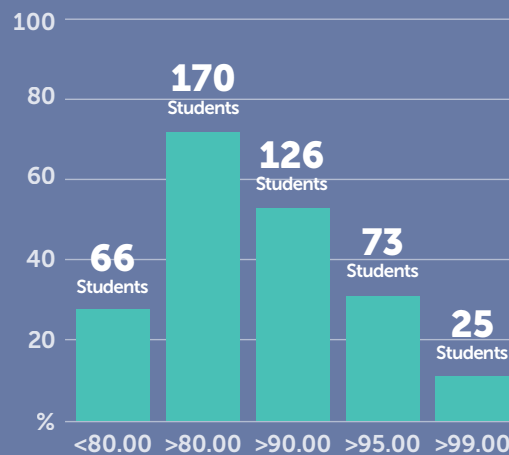
- **Amy Cheng**
3rd in Italian Beginners
- **Nina Coombes**
5th in Italian Beginners
- **Anna Ding**
4th in Italian Beginners
- **Jane Hong**
10th in Biology
- **Christy Hou**
5th in Latin Continuers
- **Madeleine Jang**
18th in Biology
- **Hebe Larkin**
1st in Classical Greek Continuers, Classical Greek Extension and Latin Continuers;
- **3rd in Latin Extension**
- **Amie Long**
2nd in Textiles and Design
- **Cindy Lu**
2nd in Japanese Extension
- **Lauren Park**
9th in History Extension and 16th in English Advanced
- **Emily Shen (Year 11 accelerant)**
16th in Mathematics
- **Annie Xu**
3rd in French Continuers
- **Sun Yu**
3rd in Japanese Extension
- **Shiyi (Cathy) Zhao**
2nd in French Continuers

Pymble's all-rounders

32 *Pymble* students were named in the All-round Achievers list, which acknowledges the results of students who achieved Band 6 results (90 or better) in 2 unit courses or a Band E4 result (45 or better) in an Extension course in 10 or more units:

- Alisha Brighton
- Sally Cao
- Michelle Chai
- Jasmine Chen
- Amy Cheng
- Catherine Chung
- Anna Ding
- Catherine Ge
- Claudia Gibson
- Alicia Goh
- Fiona Guo
- Katherine Halliday
- Claudia Hammond
- Jessica Hiller
- Jane Hong
- Christy Hou
- Madeleine Jang
- Charlotte Jiang
- Hebe Larkin
- Jacqueline Li
- Amie Long
- Michelle Ma
- Lauren Park
- Katherine Sills
- Saskia van Steensel
- Anjali Wijeratne
- Josephine Wilson
- Annie Xu
- Lydia Yin
- Cindy Yin
- Vivian Yu
- Shiyi Zhao

ATARS AT A GLANCE



2017 HSC Results: An Overview

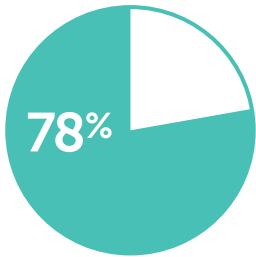
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ALL-ROUND
ACHIEVERS

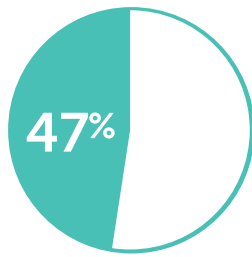


2 UNIT RESULTS IN BANDS 5 AND 6

PYMBLE AVERAGE



NSW AVERAGE



PYMBLE RANKED

20TH

SMH TOP 100
SCHOOLS REPORT

25

STUDENTS WITH
ATARS
>99.00



4

 PERFECT
99.95
ATARS

In 2017, **235** students from Pymble Ladies' College sat for the NSW Higher School Certificate in 46 courses. A further **17** accelerated Year 11 students sat for the HSC examination in Mathematics. On average, **78%** of *Pymble* candidates across all 2 Unit courses offered at the College achieved results in Bands 5 and 6, compared with **47%** of students across the state in the same subjects. In the 1 Unit Extension courses, on average, **97%** were placed in Bands E3 or E4, compared with **91%** across the state.

When compared to the State average, results in Bands 5 and 6 (2 unit courses) and Bands E3 and E4 (Extension courses) have remained consistently high, with student achievement above State level in most courses offered at the College. In 2017, the combined Bands 5 and 6 results were **30% or more** above the State percentages in the following subjects: Agriculture, Ancient History, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Drama, English as a Second Language, Food Technology, Geography, Legal Studies, Mathematics General, Modern History, Music 1, PDHPE, Physics, Senior Science, Studies of Religion, Visual Arts, German Continuers, Italian Beginners and Hospitality.

In the period from 2016 to 2017, the following are examples of percentage improvement in Bands 5 and 6 results: Ancient History **16%**, Business Studies **5%**, Chemistry **5%**, Economics **8%**, English Standard **50%**, Legal Studies **10%**, Physics **12%**, Italian Beginners **32%** and Latin **29%**.

Meet our new Student Leaders



At the end of Term 3, our 2017-2018 Office Bearers were announced amidst great excitement. The new student leaders were inducted into their roles at the commencement of Term 4.

"Pymble student leaders are exemplary role models who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and the ability to reflect the College values of Care, Courage, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility in all they do," says College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters.

"We know that they will make themselves, their teachers and their fellow students proud as they work to better the Pymble community."



DAY SCHOOL POSITIONS

Head Prefect: **Tahire Wijetilaka**

Deputy Head Prefect: **Georgiana Ralphs**

Captains of Sport and Activities: **Lily Bougoure, Annika Mountstephens**

Captains of Music and the Arts: **Annaliese Hall, Sophie Macourt**

Student Representative Council President: **Alicia Chang**

Student Representative Council Vice President: **Sofia Gongolidis**

Schools Co-ordinator: **Caitlin James**

Activities Co-ordinator: **Angela Seymour**

Captains of Community Service: **Phoebe Coles, Daphne Zhang**

Captains of Sustainability: **Ruvanya Mallikahewa, Emily Shen**

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Claudia Green, Georgia Laurie, Sarah Lee, Wendy Li, Carisa Mehra, Gautirya Muralietharan, Emily Shaw, Harriet Smyth, Joyce Wu

SCHOOL LIAISON PREFECTS

Preparatory School Liaison Prefects: **Sally Chen, Giselle Laszok**

Junior School Liaison Prefects: **Kate Soonius, India Thomson**

Middle School Liaison Prefects: **Madeleine Gallagher, Kristen Mihalarias, Sachini Seneviratne**

Upper School Liaison Prefects: **Maxine Betty, Catherine Graham, Phoebe Walker**

Senior School Liaison Prefects: **Jelinna Wang, Hannah Westhuizen**

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Bennett: **Alexandra De Santi, Catherine Miller**

Goodlet: **Zoe Harrison, Abigail Irving**

Hammond: **Maddison Scott, Caitlin Shewell**

Ingleholme: **Imogen Breslin, Caitlin Quinn**

Lang: **Rachel Lowe, Emma Manwaring**

Marden: **Tamsyn Navra, Amelia Trippas**

Thomas: **Charlotte Buckland, Isabella Singarayar**

Wylie: **Eve Parker, Sophie Rothery**

BOARDING HOUSE POSITIONS

Boarding Head Prefect: **Zoe Jones**

Boarding Deputy Head Prefect: **Georgia Laurie**

Performing Arts: **Abigail Irving**

Boarder Representative Council: **Zoe Jones**

Community and the Environment: **Renee Seeto**

Sport and Activities: **Claudia Green**

Marden Prefect: **Ameila Kierath**

Goodlet Prefect: **Dominique Nash**





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.

Stars in our eyes

Learning and entertainment came together in the most delightful way in the Kindergarten – Year 2 Musical, The Mystery Flight.

Held over three days in August, *The Mystery Flight* took audiences on a musical journey from the jungle, to the clouds, to the bottom of the ocean – all from the comfort of the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA).

In the weeks leading up to performances, our girls learned valuable lessons in teamwork, co-operation and performance. They also contributed ideas to movement sequences and developed an understanding that performance requires courage and resolve. "Our girls have demonstrated their unique talents, creativity and courage with an ease and maturity beyond their years," says Head of Preparatory School, Mrs Karen Ahearn.

Congratulations to the girls, and thank you to the parents for your stellar efforts behind the scenes.



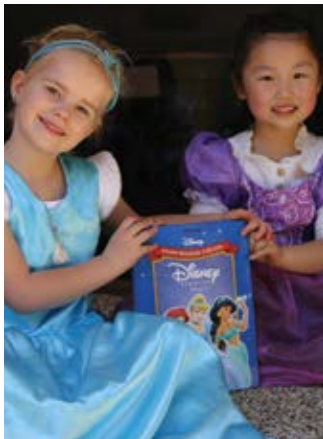
Personalised Learning

Discovering a love of literacy

Book Week is a perennially popular event in Australian schools – and has never been more important than it is today. “Research shows that learning to read is one of the most important factors in school success and that an early exposure to books and stories substantially contributes to success in early literacy,” says College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. “In a world where children are captivated by technology and screens, it is crucial to draw attention back to the art of carefully curated words on pages that give life to characters we love – and love to hate! – and journeys that we share with them.” In August, our girls discovered just how far reading can take them as they participated in a range of fun and educational Book Week activities:

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Our budding readers enjoyed a visit from Louise Park, author of popular children’s books including *Harriet Clare*, *Zac Power* and *Star Girl*. Not only did Louise entertain the girls with story time, she sent them into a frenzy when she appeared in an inflatable dinosaur costume!



Write on!

Girls in the Junior and Secondary Schools celebrated Book Week by participating in Write a Book in a Day. Working together in year groups, the girls only had a few hours to create their own books – no easy feat! In addition to honing their writing and team-building skills, the girls raised money for The Kids’ Cancer Project. Our talented Year 11 team won the NSW Upper School division with their book, *The Banker and the Bird*. Well done to our budding authors!

JUNIOR SCHOOL

In the Junior School, Book Week started with a visit from well-known children’s and teen’s author, Belinda Murrell (*Pippa’s Island*, *The Sun Sword Trilogy*, the *Lulu Belle* series). Belinda was well received by the girls, many of whom were already fans of her work.

Personalised Learning

Springing into Senior School

Between choosing the “right” subjects, thinking about post-school options and getting ready for the HSC, making the move into the final years of high school can seem daunting. That’s where the Year 10 Springboard Into Stage 6 Program comes in. This customised program prepares Year 10 students for Senior School life well in advance of their HSC year.

Run over four days at the end of Term 4, the Springboard Program focuses on equipping students with strategies to meet the expectations of the Stage 6 classroom, while also emphasising the importance of stepping up to embrace new learning experiences. The girls participated in lectures, seminars and small group-based activities where they learned about academic integrity, project management and enhancing their critical-thinking skills. Crucially, the girls also learned how to apply their new knowledge in a practical and sustainable way.



Key learnings

The Springboard Program has enhanced students’ skills and understandings in the following areas:

1. Problem solving.
2. Time management.
3. Working collaboratively and effectively in small groups.



SECONDARY SCHOOL

Our Secondary School students embraced the magic of books – and celebrated the 20th anniversary of *Harry Potter* at the same time – with a series of themed events in the Conde Library, including Potter Feud trivia, a Hogwarts feast, Fan Art and Fiction competitions, a MakerSpace Potions class, and ‘Come as Your Favourite *Harry Potter* Character Dress-up Day’. “The *Harry Potter* theme was an opportunity for the Library to build excitement and enthusiasm in our students, to inspire them to read and enjoy some great novels, and to form a greater sense of community around the Conde Library,” says Library Technician, Ms Amanda Rees. “This has resulted in many students taking up reading *Harry Potter* for the first time.”



Personalised Learning

Greece is the word!

As part of Challenge Café – a unique learning initiative designed to foster an environment where high potential learners can freely exchange ideas – a group of Year 7 girls spent their Friday lunchtimes in 2017 discussing and debating Ancient Greek Drama. Their exploration of gender, ethics and morality in Sophocles' play *Antigone* culminated with a showcase in Term 4. The girls impressed with their delivery of dramatic monologues and their deep understanding of key concepts within the play.

"Challenge Café has created an environment where students, and their ideas, can connect with curiosity, passion and purpose," says Head of Middle School, Mrs Tammy Rees-Davies. "It has highlighted the value of collaboration, and student choice and voice to extend the girls beyond their point of challenge."



Striking a chord

Forty-one members of the Chorale and Chamber Strings enjoyed the musical experience of a lifetime on the *Pymble* Music Performance Tour of Italy. The girls performed in magnificent churches to large – and enthusiastic! – audiences, who showed their appreciation with standing ovations and encores. They competed against internationally-acclaimed choirs in the Leonardo da Vinci International Choral Festival in Florence, where they received Silver and Bronze awards. Our girls were one of only nine ensembles selected to compete in the ultimate Choral Grand Prix where they represented *Pymble* proudly, performing with great energy and musical finesse.

Students also learned valuable new techniques when they participated in two musical workshops led by eminent string and choral clinicians specialising in baroque and 16th century music. "These events were transformative, and the girls and staff learnt so much from the experience," says Director of Music, Mrs Sabina Turner.

Brava to all the students on their wonderful behaviour and fabulous performances.

Classics in the modern world



If you thought studying Classical Languages involved plodding through dusty old copies of *Cicero* and learning Roman numerals off by heart, think again! *Pymble's* holistic Classical Languages program – which begins in Year 8 with the opportunity to learn Latin – has been carefully structured to be relevant and intellectually stimulating, while harnessing a range of disciplines, including History, Philosophy and Linguistics.

“The girls who study Classics participate in a vibrant and collaborative culture of learning”, says Head of Classic and Modern Languages, Mrs Julia Anstey. “They have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities such as a tour of Greece and Italy, drama festivals, Year 8 Classics Camp, reading competitions and classical dinners. Senior students also regularly tutor and mentor junior students. *Pymble* students of Classical Greek and Latin have gone on to study these languages in universities around the world such as Oxford and Cambridge.”

Carpe diem!

Pymble is the only girls' school in Australia to offer Classical Greek to HSC Extension.

Inside Latin camp

In September, 17 of our Year 8 Latin students enjoyed a wonderful weekend away, immersing themselves in all things classical. Girls were assigned to “tribes” made up of students from other Sydney schools with Latin as part of their curriculums. In their “tribes”, students participated in talks on Roman gladiators and the army, a bushwalk which involved hearing stories from Greek mythology in the verdant setting of Elanora Heights, plays, t-shirt decorating, lotto using Roman numerals, and chariot racing. A fantastic time was had by all!



4 reasons to study Classical Languages

- 1 To develop an understanding of the origins of a vast number of words in English.
- 2 To access outstanding literature of enduring value.
- 3 To improve mastery of English grammar.
- 4 To learn about important ancient civilisations and cultures.

All the world's a stage



In Term 3, our Year 6 students took to the stage to perform the Junior School musical, *Misunderstood*. Written and directed by our Junior School Performing Arts Teacher, Mrs Elizabeth Worsley, this bespoke production revolved around the themes of diversity, inclusivity and being a good friend, and reflected the College's five values of Care, Courage, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility. Clever casting saw several students take turns playing each of the main characters, giving more girls the opportunity to shine on stage.

"It was so impressive to see the way in which our Year 6 students carried themselves throughout the preparation and performances of *Misunderstood*," says Head of Junior School, Mr Nigel Walker. "I congratulate them on the way they showed commitment and the way they supported each other and the teachers through the process. The result was simply outstanding."

Key learnings

Year 6 developed and demonstrated valuable life skills while working on *Misunderstood*, including:

- 1 The ability to work towards a common goal with classmates.
- 2 A sense of responsibility to self and others.
- 3 The capacity to step out of comfort zones and try something new.



Global networks

Our Years 3 and 4 girls also took a turn in the spotlight with the Term 4 Cabaret, *A Parisian Tour*. Part of the Years 3 and 4 Showcase of Learning, this event was the culmination of weeks of practice and preparation across the disciplines of French, Music, Drama and Creative Arts. Parents were treated to two lively musical performances, as well as a Gallery Walk featuring colourful and imaginative artworks created by their talented daughters.



As our world becomes increasingly borderless, it is more important than ever that we provide students with opportunities to connect with people outside their immediate environments in safe and productive ways.

Throughout 2017, our Year 5 students have been getting to know students from Bakmun Elementary School in Incheon, South Korea during a series of video conferences and online discussions. Through these sessions, the students are able to see each other, talk to each other and learn about each other, while also developing broader technological and problem-solving skills.

“Australian and Asian schools are connecting digitally in order to develop cultural and language exchange, while fostering understanding between Australian and Asian students and teachers,” explains Head of Junior School, Mr Nigel Walker. “This enables student-centred learning by guiding students to take an active role in teaching Australian culture. Participating in a question-and-answer format about both Australian and Korean culture also fosters discussion, debate and collaborative learning.”



Personalised Learning

Ideas can change the world!



In Term 3, our Year 7 Geographers engaged in deep and collaborative learning as they investigated differences in standards of living around the world. The girls:

- 1 Created fact files on their research countries.
- 2 Developed role plays portraying how particular issues impact people's standards of living.
- 3 Gained unique insights into the work that international organisations do to improve living standards via talks from Caritas and Amnesty International representatives.
- 4 Worked in groups to develop solutions facing their research countries.
- 5 Displayed their works as part of a learning gallery.

"The purpose of this project was for the girls to investigate how standards of living vary around the world and to build empathy towards the lives of people in their research country," explains Mr Liam Hume, Stage 4 Geography Co-ordinator.

"The girls learnt about how the standard of living in their research country differs to that in Sydney, and investigated the barriers which hinder the improvement of standards of living in these countries."



Key learnings

In addition to gaining an in-depth understanding of the globalised nature of their world during this unit, the girls developed and strengthened their **RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY** and **LITERACY** skills.



Market Day reaches fever pitch

Year 9 Commerce students enjoyed an insider's look at what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur when they conceptualised, organised, promoted and ran their own stores for Market Day 2017 – an initiative designed to develop students' learning and understanding of Commerce.

The girls put an enormous amount of effort into their stores ahead of time – in the weeks leading up to Market Day, students designed and placed posters advertising their particular projects around the College, and some enterprising girls even pre-sold orders for pizzas and donuts. This pre-planning and preparation paid off on the day, as the girls maintained their cool and worked effectively together

while serving their eager crowds of customers.

The girls walked away from Market Day empowered by the experience, having developed highly marketable skills that will undoubtedly serve them well in their future entrepreneurial endeavours.



Personalised Learning

Our girls are going places!

What distinguishes a Pymble girl is her readiness to keep reaching, climbing, and striving for the highest. Three of our Year 12 students have shown just how far this mindset can take you, scooping up prestigious honours in their busy HSC year.

From Pymble to the UN

Year 12 student Charlotte Jiang has made history by becoming the first under-18-year-old to be accredited as an International Youth Ambassador at both the United Nations and The European Parliament. Charlotte's appointment followed an internship with the Ariel Foundation and speaks to her passion for politics – a passion that has taken her from a valuable mentorship with College Principal Mrs Vicki Waters, to a life-changing internship with a not-for-profit foundation supporting youth worldwide, to the UN and EP.

"I WANT TO CREATE A DIALOGUE"

After completing her HSC, Charlotte intends to head to New York City, where the United Nations is headquartered. There, she will be able to actively participate in the day-to-day running of the UN, attending sittings, reviewing papers and presenting her own policies. Charlotte says, "I want to create a dialogue between the UN and young people. I want to get their voices to the front of important discussions."

"HAVING A MENTOR IS INCREDIBLY VALUABLE"

Pymble's bespoke mentorship program aims to empower young women like Charlotte to achieve their individual goals, and to help them forge exciting and challenging post-school pathways. As part of this program, Senior School students are paired with senior members of staff in a structured one-to-one mentoring partnership. "This partnership is of great value to both staff and students," says College Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters. "Each of them gains valuable insights and experiences that both enrich and enhance their lives."



Ernst & Young,
here she comes



Competing against candidates from around the state, Laura Glase has earned a coveted cadetship at multinational professional services firm Ernst & Young. As part of her cadet program, which will commence in 2018, Laura will have invaluable opportunities to work with clients and be mentored by senior Ernst & Young staff while studying full time.

"Laura's win came as no surprise, as she has been such a wonderful all-rounder in the *Pymble* community," says Head of Senior School, Mrs Nikki Wyse.

"She is self-directed and constantly seeks for ways to improve her learning. In addition, she is extremely reliable and responsible and highly aware of the needs of others. She will be a genuine asset to any community or organisation."

Legal eagle wins Cambridge essay prize

135 high-achieving candidates wanted it, but only Lauren Park claimed first prize in the University of Cambridge's Robert Walker Prize for Essays in Law competition. This competition encourages students from all over the globe to explore their interest in law by researching, considering and developing an argument about a legal topic that is important to modern society. "I entered this competition because I am very interested in studying Law after school and I thought that this would be a good experience for me to develop my independent research skills and to actively engage my mind in a legal question," Lauren says. Lauren has been accepted into Cambridge University to study law.



Making history today

In Term 4, Year 7 student Sophie Yeeun Ku earned first place in the Year 7 category of the National History Challenge – a prestigious competition run by the History Teachers' Association of Australia. Sophie's meticulously-researched essay on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis received top points from the judging panel.



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 they are a part of Pymble.

Garden Party fun!



Pymble's annual Garden Party is a much-loved event for visitors of all ages and a wonderful showcase of community spirit.

Thank you to everyone who came to support Garden Party 2017, especially our amazing team of stallholders, parent support groups, students, staff and volunteers. The event raised funds for Pymble's Indigenous Scholarship Program, a life-changing initiative based on a vision for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to be educated side-by-side and to stand together as future leaders of community and country.



It's always a treat to meet up with friends at Garden Party



Gelato and big smiles go hand-in-hand



Spoilt for choice at our 40+ market stalls



Community



Stepping back in time at the Heritage Centre



Just try to resist our petting farm!



Hats off to our bush care champions



Artful cake decorating displays



The Knox Pipe Band stopped by



Rides for kids of all ages



Friendly familiar faces



Food, glorious food, thanks to parents, wonderful parents!

Adventure time!

In August, Year 4 headed to Tallong in the Southern Highlands for an action-packed, two-night camp. The goal? To have fun – and lots of it!

The girls enthusiastically tried out new activities, including:

- A nature walk
- Low ropes course
- Giant flying fox
- Lunchtime cook-out
- Evening games and activities

They returned from camp exhausted, but having thoroughly enjoyed their time with each other, and in the great outdoors.

The outdoor classroom

There is a lot more to school camp than might meet the eye. "At Pymble, we often talk about 'point of challenge' and our desire as educators to ensure each of our girls is appropriately challenged so they can grow as a result", explains Head of Junior School, Mr Nigel Walker. "Our camps in the Junior School are designed to provide gradually increasing levels of challenge, physically, socially and emotionally."



Helping hands

Since its founding in 1916, *Pymble* has focused on community and social action, helping others when they need it most. Students are encouraged to respect, support and care for members of the wider community, and to actively participate in being the change they want to see. Our 2017 Community Service Captains, Amie Long and Mclaine Parsons carried on *Pymble's* proud legacy of Care by creating, organising and running a series of College-wide events in 2017 designed to raise awareness and funds for worthy causes:

NEW INITIATIVES

- The Smith Family House Day Fashion Parade and clothing drive.
- The Smith Family Student2Student Peer Reading Program.
- Preparatory School Teddy Bear Fashion Parade and baby/toddler clothing drive.
- Preparatory School Walkathon for Backpacks for The Smith Family.

CONTINUING INITIATIVES

- Chocolate Easter egg drive for Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter.
- Jacaranda Day donations for Exodus Foundation.
- Bobbin Head Cycle Classic.
- Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.
- Legacy Badge Week.
- 40 Hour Backpack Challenge for World Vision.
- Woolworths Earn and Learn.

Community

Our dads are making a difference

Throughout August and September, we celebrated the special men in our girls' lives with a series of pre-Father's Day father-daughter breakfasts hosted by Pymble Parent Groups

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Our youngest girls were delighted to invite their fathers to the Preparatory School Parent Group's (PSPG) Father's Day Breakfast. Dads were equally thrilled to experience their daughters' progress, learning activities and social development first-hand.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

At the Middle School Parent Group's (MSPG) Father Daughter Breakfast, the spotlight was on the importance of positive father-daughter relationships in a girl's life. "Research suggests that a girl's relationship with her father has a far-reaching influence," says Head of Middle School, Mrs Tammy Rees-Davies. "Dads shouldn't take a back seat, as that direct involvement and encouragement will diminish her insecurities and increase her self-efficacy. This event was just a stepping stone to assist with that development."

UPPER SCHOOL

Empowerment was the message of the morning at the Upper School Parent Group's (USPG) Father Daughter Breakfast. More than 200 Upper School girls and their fathers listened to a powerful keynote address from White Ribbon supporter, Mr Peter FitzSimons. After the address, fathers pledged to stand up and speak out, while their daughters pledged that they would not condone violence, nor promote silence.



"Disrespecting women doesn't always lead to violence but all violence against women begins with disrespect. Only together we can help prevent violence from being a part of our futures."

– Pymble Upper School Student Leader

What is White Ribbon?

White Ribbon recognises the positive role that men play in preventing violence against women. It fosters and encourages male leadership in the prevention of violence against women, based on the understanding that most men are not violent.

Celebrating Boarding at *Pymble*

Our 120 *Pymble* Boarders hold a special place in the hearts and minds of the College community. This year, for the first time, our Boarding Community launched Boarders' Week, which provided an opportunity to share their diverse backgrounds with Day girls and host a range of activities to raise funds for their chosen charity, Aussie Helpers, which supports Australia's farming families.

Highlights of Boarders' Week included:

- **Middle School Boarders** leading a Chapel service on the theme of "Home".
- **Upper School Boarders** inviting Day girls to lunch at the Boarders' Dining Hall, followed by a friendly 'Boarders Versus Day girls' netball match.
- **The "Brekkie Club" Fundraiser**, where Boarders treated students, staff and Principal Mrs Vicki Waters and Deputy Principal Mrs Julie Shaw to a delicious pink-themed breakfast feast on Marden Lawn in support of Aussie Helpers.

The celebrations culminated in the Boarders' Annual Charity Event – an evening of entertainment, music, fine food and auctions to raise money for Aussie Helpers. Led by Head and Deputy Head Boarders, Bridget Titasey and Matilda Milford, and supported by the Boarding Prefects and Year 12 Boarders, this lively community event was a huge success, raising more than \$18,000 for Aussie Helpers.

"The girls can be very proud of themselves for carrying on the legacy of our 2016 Year 12 Boarders – a legacy that brings hope and help to our rural communities, who are the life blood of our existence and sustainability, and indeed, who are the key to our future," says Head of Boarding, Mrs Deanne Elliot.



Jingle belles

The *Pymble* Boarding Houses were transformed into a holiday wonderland as the girls celebrated Christmas in July during the Boarders' Closed Weekend. Complete with a visit from Santa and a massive Christmas tree, it was a jolly good time for all!



"Boarding can be hard until your relationships and connections begin to grow and you start to find your place... when you become a Boarder you automatically become part of a sisterhood."

– *Pymble Boarder*

Community

A showcase of talent

From gorgeous gowns, to thought-provoking artworks to spine-tingling performances, our talented HSC students created some truly outstanding bodies of work in Dance, Drama, Music, Textiles and Visual Arts in 2017. *Pymble* parents and students were delighted to witness Year 12's artistry first-hand as our students proudly displayed their works in a series of showcases throughout Term 3. Enjoy these highlights from the Visual Arts display.



Talking tech!

In today's technologised world, it can be difficult to strike a balance between giving children the time and tools they need to be up-to-date with technological innovations, and ensuring that they are not overindulging in screen time. With that in mind, *Pymble* hosted a viewing of *Screenagers* in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA) on Tuesday 1 August. This important documentary explores how to better empower kids to navigate the digital world while still achieving life balance.

The screening was followed by a very insightful panel discussion with Ms Dania Saab (*Pymble* Lead Counsellor and Clinical Psychologist), Dr Danielle Einstein (ex-student and Clinical Psychologist and Researcher) and Senior Constable Lynda Hart (*Pymble's* Police Liaison Officer). Parents walked away with valuable and useful insights into negotiating screen time and online safety.

6.5

Average number of hours that young people spend in front of screens each day.

Ready for the runway

Each year, *Pymble* celebrates the design skills and creative talents of Textiles students with *Textiles on Parade*. In this unique event, our Years 8 to 11 girls showcase their work in a dynamic fashion parade in the GMCPA, while our Year 12 students exhibit their Major Textiles Projects in a curated static display ahead of submission for HSC marking. "The students put

many hours of work into their designs, particularly in the manufacturing and construction of their unique products – some very clever and expressive results have ensued!" says Art, Design and Applied Technology Textiles Co-ordinator, Ms Heather J Hansby. "*Textiles on Parade* provides a stage for students to shine, and to be proud of their achievements."



Tailor made

Ahead of creating their garments for *Textiles on Parade*, the students in each year group from Years 8 to 11 were given the following design briefs:

- **Year 8 Girls Night In:**
Design and make pyjamas.
- **Year 8 Girls Day Out:**
Design and make a skirt.
- **Year 9 Palm Springs:**
Create an apparel item reflecting resort wear, using the inspiration of "Palm Springs".
- **Year 9 Safari:**
Design a jumpsuit inspired by the idea of being on safari.
- **Year 10 Into the Cosmos:**
Design and produce a costume reflecting a character from the constellation.
- **Year 10 Wildlings:**
Produce a wearable textile art project using the inspiration "wild things".
- **Year 11 Play on Print:**
Create an apparel item in any style inspired by "play on print".



Music student masterclass

Elective music students enjoyed the masterclass of a lifetime when award-winning Russian pianist Andrey Gugnin visited *Pymble*. Andrey was the winner of the 2016 Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia (SIPCA). He shared invaluable critiques, and offered expert advice to students before performing a public recital in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA). *Pymble's* on-going partnership with SIPCA gives the College and our students unique access to world-class musical experts. "The engagement of these outstanding artists to work with *Pymble* students adds another invaluable layer of learning to our already comprehensive and excellent music program," says Director of Music, Mrs Sabina Turner.

Community

College staff give back



Each year when school ends, *Pymble* staff donate their time to support a charity or community group on our annual *Pymble* Gives Back Day. Team *Pymble* rolled up their sleeves to muck in with a range of community service, including:

- Knitting blankets for the homeless.
- Gardening and singing carols for the elderly.
- Packing toiletry bags for the homeless.
- Assisting at Sony Camp.
- Picking up roadside litter.

Sony Camp changes lives

Christmas is a time for giving back, and in December, a group of dedicated Year 11 students from *Pymble* and Shore had the opportunity to do just that when they co-hosted the 18th annual Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp for children with special needs. With assistance from medical professionals and support from parents, staff and community members, the students undertook the responsibility of four days of around-the-clock care and entertainment for children with physical, mental and developmental disabilities.

While campers enjoyed fun activities and excursions on and off the *Pymble* campus, their parents, guardians and siblings revelled in some much-deserved rest and rejuvenation in what, for some, was their only break of the year. The gift of time that Sony Camp provided to campers' families was enhanced by pamper packs donated by the *Pymble* community.

At the end of the camp, students presented each camper with a personalised memento: a scrapbook filled with photos from the four days. Hugs were exchanged, and more than a few tears shed as students and campers said their farewells, each having enjoyed an enriching experience.

GETTING READY FOR CAMP

The success of Sony Camp represents months of hard work and preparation in the lead up to the event. Students were selected through a rigorous application process and participated in a series of interactive workshops in order to mentally and emotionally prepare for the joys, challenges and demands of caring for children with special needs. Members of the broader *Pymble* community supported Sony Camp through a series of fundraisers ahead of time, which helped to provide a wonderful experience at no cost to the campers' families.



Happy Jacaranda Day!



The weather was gloomy, but spirits were bright as we celebrated *Pymble's* annual Jacaranda Day in November. A beloved tradition that has been proudly observed for more than three decades, Jacaranda Day is an opportunity to give back and to give thanks.

Students, staff and members of the College Council and community gathered in the Jeanette Buckham Centre for Physical Education to hear from ex-student guest speaker Rebecca Cuschieri (Mason, 1991) and to donate food and gifts that all five Schools collected ahead of time for the Exodus Foundation. The audience also enjoyed a special choral performance of *Jacarandas From A Special Inheritance*, which was composed to commemorate *Pymble's* 75th anniversary in 1991.



Long-distance learning!

Each year, *Pymble* students and staff make the long journey to Enngonia – a small town in far north-western New South Wales with a population of around 200 people – to engage in meaningful community outreach with children from Enngonia Public School. In the weeks before the 2017 trip, our nine Year 10 student volunteers (all Boarders!) readied themselves by putting together activities and exercises they could share with the children from Enngonia. Their tireless preparation paid off as they enjoyed a wonderful learning experience, made new friends, and gained a deeper insight into the challenges of providing and receiving an education in remote areas.





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.

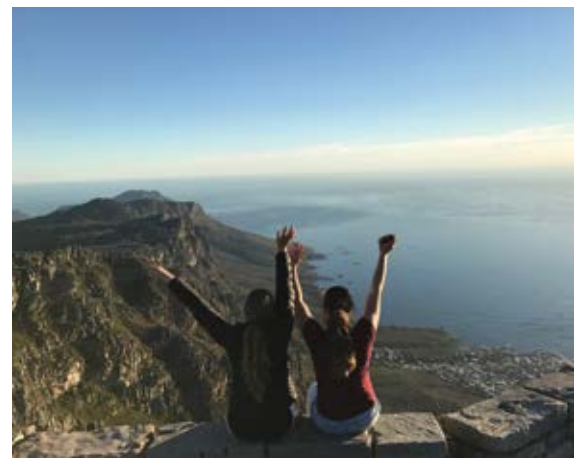
Experience a new world



In Term 3, the Upper School was excited to host 26 students from eight different schools, representing six different countries – Argentina, the United Kingdom, Spain, South Africa, Italy and the United States. These girls and their host sisters developed life-long friendships and were left with lasting memories, including the beloved College tradition of switching uniforms!

GETTING READY FOR EXCHANGE

If your daughter is preparing to transition into the Upper School, she will soon have access Pymble's broad range of academic, cultural, leadership and language exchanges. As part of these immersive programs, girls travel to a range of countries, where they are fully engaged in the life, activities and educational environments of their host countries. Students from these countries are then reciprocally hosted at Pymble. These experiences contribute substantially to the Upper School's philosophy of providing learning experiences which are personalised and challenging, while giving students the chance to build independence and resilience on a global stage.



100+

Number of Upper School students who participate in Pymble's exchange programs each year.

A taste of life at Cambridge

"Each student in the Cambridge Summer School Program was mentored by a specialist in their field who provided invaluable inspiration, help and guidance,"

– Head of Upper School,
Mrs Melissa Boyd



Six of our high-achieving Year 10 students enjoyed a taste of university life when they travelled to England to participate in the University of Cambridge's Summer School program. In addition to meeting and exchanging ideas with teachers and students from around the globe, the girls enjoyed an immersive and intensive program of classes, group discussions, educational and cultural visits as they explored their chosen subject areas – Law and Science. "Each student was mentored by a specialist in their field who provided invaluable inspiration, help and guidance," says Head of Upper School, Mrs Melissa Boyd.

"Congratulations to Katrina Woo, Isabelle Nguyen, Selena You, Sophia Carmody, Paige Jackson and Sophie Mok who represented *Pymble* so proudly."



Fun Facts

- The University of Cambridge was founded in 1209, and is one of the world's oldest surviving universities.
- Cambridge graduates include scientist Stephen Hawking, writer A.A. Milne and actress Emma Thompson.
- The university's affiliates have received more Nobel Prizes than any other institution – 96 affiliates have been awarded the Nobel Prize since 1904.

Girls get down with social media

Saving lives with solar

One of FairBreak's first initiatives is working with the SolarBuddy organisation to install solar lights in off-the-grid communities in Africa, India and Papua New Guinea where women and children are dying from the effects or the malfunction of kerosene lamps.

"The work our students are doing with FairBreak really can change the lives of women and children around the world," says Head of Upper School, Mrs Melissa Boyd.

"Being involved in such an important global initiative and learning how to use the communication channels they love in a real-life business application is an invaluable and empowering experience for our girls."

Pymble's commitment to ensuring that our students have practical and useful skills for their lives beyond the school gates has led to an online world of opportunity for our Year 10 girls.

Thanks to an ongoing partnership with Women's International Cricket League (WICL), four of our forward-thinking Year 10 students now have a role on the social media team for FairBreak – a WICL program that aims to create pathways for women to have better access to opportunities, education and high-level performance roles.

These students undertook training by FairBreak's professional social media consultant in a series of face-to-face, virtual and online learning sessions. This equipped them to take on responsibility for creating branded content that grows and engages the FairBreak community. They learnt how social media for business differs from personal use, how to create effective marketing content for Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram, and also gained an understanding of analytics and reporting, which are key skills in today's digitised world.



People and Culture

Coming home to *Pymble*

2017 was a bumper year for guest speakers at *Pymble*, including ex-students:

- 1. Olympian Chloe Dalton (2011):** Chloe scored huge points in the Upper School with stories about her career as a Rugby Sevens gold medallist.
- 2. Ella Bache CEO Pippa Hallas (1992):** Senior School girls came face-to-face with Pippa, who shared her advice about believing in yourself and maintaining a positive outlook in all situations.
- 3. Social Justice Lawyer Kathleen Heath (2007):** The verdict was unanimous in the Senior School when former Fulbright Scholar Kathleen argued her case for choosing a career that you love: inspirational!



Words from the heart

Upper School students were thrilled to meet 2005 Young Australian of the Year, Khoa Do in Term 3. Khoa shared stories of his inspirational journey, and discussed the challenges he has faced along the way. Khoa was born in Vietnam but left with his parents and brother, comedian Anh Do, in a small fishing boat at the age of two. Since settling in Australia, Khoa has worked extensively with marginalised communities in film, collaborating with homeless youth, former prisoners and refugees, and is the first-ever filmmaker to have been awarded the

accolade of Young Australian of the Year. The girls were rapt during his presentation, and were left with a great deal to ponder. Khoa's visit was part of a broader *Pymble* program providing our girls with opportunities to interact with the best and brightest minds from a range of fields, including science, sports, business and entertainment. These interactions give students a unique insight into post-school opportunities, as well as offering a fresh perspective on important issues that concern every global citizen.



Welcome to *Pymble*



Mr Wayne Mitchell is our new Head of Sport, replacing Mrs Ainsley

Webster and responsible for managing the operational aspects of the sport portfolio across all year groups at the College. Wayne is new to *Pymble*, coming to the College from his most recent position as Director of Sport at the Independent Girls' Schools Sporting Association (IGSSA).

Staff news



At the end of the year, we farewelled our Deputy Head of Junior School,

Mrs Anna Plant who will take maternity leave ahead of the birth of her first child. We wish Mrs Plant good health and happiness during this special time. Our Junior School Performing Arts teacher, Mrs Elizabeth Worsley, will take on the role of Acting

Deputy Head of Junior School during Mrs Plant's leave.



Creating a culture of care

We all have someone in our lives who motivates us to try a little harder, or to be a little more adventurous, or to laugh a little more! This year, Preparatory and Junior School students had chance to be the givers and receivers of this kind of inspiration as part of the *Pymble* Peer Support program.

The program kicked off earlier in the year, with Year 6 Leaders undergoing training to become Peer Support Leaders. The girls learnt how to facilitate structured activities with groups of students from Years 2 to 4. This enabled them to work on building positive relationships across the school, to enhance their leadership abilities, to improve organisational and time management skills, and to develop mechanisms to assist with the transition to secondary school. Peer Support is now a permanent fixture on the Junior and Preparatory School calendars, with the girls meeting up for regular sessions during term time.

THE BENEFITS OF BUDDIES

Having a sense of personal responsibility and the ability to lead others with confidence are invaluable skills in the classroom – and in life. In 2017, we encouraged our younger students to develop these skills by buddying up our Year 2 students with girls from Kindergarten. And, for the first time, we matched our Year 5 students with buddies from Year 1 in preparation for becoming Peer Support Leaders in 2018. Our new buddy leaders have enjoyed being stretched by the challenges of goal setting, while their capacity to strive for personal growth through specific strategies and support has also been enhanced. To quote one of our young leaders, "being a buddy is the most exciting thing ever!"



Sister act

The spirit of mentorship and connection is one that lasts the entirety of a *Pymble* girl's schooling. Just ask our Years 9 and 10 students, who participated in our Big Sister, Little Sister program. As Big Sisters, Year 10 students act as coaches to our Year 9 girls by providing support and advice in relation to time management, study techniques and organisation. Big Sisters are responsible for checking in regularly with their Little Sisters, sending best wishes at important times – such as exams and birthdays – and encouraging them to take part in the exciting and academically challenging opportunities *Pymble* has to offer. Our Boarders also get to feel the sisterly spirit, with Years 10 to 12 students acting as Big Sisters to girls in Years 7 to 9, helping them to overcome homesickness and providing guidance in stressful times.



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.

Our kids are teaching kids!



Look out, world – our Year 8 students are environmental leaders in the making! Year 8 shared their visions for environmental change when they convened and ran the Kids Teaching Kids (KTK) 2017 Conference in Term 3.

This initiative is a part of the Year 8 Science Earth Environment Design Solutions (SEEDS) topic in Science, and aims to raise awareness about local and global environmental issues, while encouraging the next generation to take responsibility for the future of our planet.

The girls prepared 65 interactive and informative workshops for visiting primary school students from Mosman Preparatory School and Knox Preparatory School, as well as current Year 6 *Pymble* students. The workshops were focused on sustainable living, and what each and every student can do to make change happen. Our students and their guests also enjoyed illuminating presentations from environmental change champions, Emma Treadgold from Ku-ring-gai Council, and Ettore Altomare from Oz Harvest.

The KTK Conference was a fantastic event for all, and a fitting end to the hard work our students put into their SEEDS Projects.



Key Learnings

In addition to developing a deeper understanding of the importance of sustainable practice, the girls picked up a number of key skills while undertaking this project:

- 1 Time management.
- 2 Public speaking.
- 3 Peer engagement.
- 4 Leadership.
- 5 Self-guided learning.



Service with a smile

Throughout Term 3, our Years 9 and 10 students readily took up the challenge of engaging with the wider community, and, over the course of the term, developed valuable communication and leadership skills, as well as a keen sense of what it means to be an active member of both a local and a global community.

YEAR 9 COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our Year 9 girls were involved in a number of community service projects throughout Term 3, including:

- **Uniting Northaven Turramurra:** Working with senior citizens, the girls helped to provide lunches, entertainment and client interaction by assisting with feeding patients unable to do so themselves, playing games, reading, conversing and writing letters.
- **Easy Care Gardening:** Students discovered their green thumbs as they weeded, mulched, pruned and composted gardens for senior citizens.
- **The Bridge Relay for Homelessness:** Our Year 9 girls provided valuable support in preparing and running this event, which raises awareness of homelessness within the community through a 24-hour relay across the Harbour Bridge.

YEAR 10 SERVICE LEARNING

Year 10 displayed remarkable maturity and compassion as they undertook their service learning projects in Term 3. These projects included caring for the elderly; disability service for adults and children; promoting environmental sustainability and care; remote and rural community outreach; assisting with Indigenous communities and education; combating homelessness, working with refugees, asylum seekers, newly-arrived immigrants; providing services for women and shelters for victims of abuse; and care for animals.

The girls commemorated their hard work with a reflection day focusing on what they had learnt while undertaking their service.

Key Learnings

In addition to developing a keen sense of civic responsibility, our girls took a great deal away from their experiences, including:

- 1 Responsibility to self and others.
- 2 Problem solving.
- 3 Communication skills.
- 4 Maintaining composure in challenging situations.
- 5 Compassion for others.



Service learning in Tanzania



In September and October, 13 Year 10 students travelled to Tanzania for their service learning project. This is the fourth year that *Pymble* students have undertaken service learning in Tanzania and represents our ongoing commitment to empowering children through education.

The girls assisted in the renovation of a classroom at Moivaro State School, laid rocks and taught classes at East Meru Community School using workbooks and classroom resources they had prepared ahead of time, and learnt about the importance of education at the School of St Jude.

According to the students, "All of us learnt more about the global community and others' lives and daily experiences. There were moments that were truly eye-opening, beautiful, confronting, inspiring, and some that just left us all speechless. When three of us were lucky enough to visit the house of one of the children at The School of St Jude, we were overcome with emotions. The way they lived in a house half the size of our bathrooms at home was extremely confronting and challenged all of us to think about the importance of our materialistic lives back in Australia. The experience taught us invaluable life lessons that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives."

"Throughout our trip, we were able to interact with many people, which was both incredible and inspiring."

Sustainability

Time for change

We aim to embed high-level sustainable practices in every area of College life, and to influence others to enact positive changes locally, nationally and internationally.

Our 2017 Sustainability Captains, Kiri Mitchell and Belinda Zhang did a wonderful job of spreading the message of sustainability by spearheading a number of College-wide initiatives, including:

- Selling KeepCups.
- Installing and changing the location of Recycling Bins around the College.
- Staging a World Environment Day photo competition.
- Installing nine Water Stations.

The profits from the KeepCup initiative were used to adopt three humpback whales (Jojo, Witold and Humpfree) on behalf of *Pymble*, while the profits from the other initiatives went towards 1 Million Women, which empowers women to act against climate change.



"What being a Sustainability Captain meant to me"

"The experience was fulfilling as it gave me the opportunity to attempt to solve real-world problems and also leave behind a legacy." – Belinda

"Not many people can say 'my school has three whales', and I'm proud we made that happen." – Kiri



Moving in the right direction

The *Pymble* spirit of Care was proudly on display when our youngest girls marched around the Main Oval as part of the Preparatory School Smith Family Walkathon. The girls challenged themselves to complete as many sponsored laps of the Oval as they could within an hour, the proceeds of which contributed to the purchase and filling of 200 backpacks for 200 children. These backpacks will be distributed by The Smith Family in time for the start of the 2018 school year.

"Each of our girls can appreciate what other children of a similar age may value at the start of a school year," says Head of Preparatory School, Mrs Karen Ahearn.

"A school bag, lunch box, drink bottle, pencils and stationery mean so much to young children. Each student contributed to the walkathon with an understanding of how they could show care for other children in a simple, but practical way."

Bridging the gap in NAIDOC Week



NAIDOC Week is an annual event celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements. To commemorate NAIDOC Week 2017, our Preparatory and Junior School students enjoyed a performance of *Let's Bridge the Gap* with Fred and Todd Reid, while our Secondary School Chorale group gave a stirring rendition of Paul Jarman's *Pemulwuy*. Observance of NAIDOC Week promotes cultural reflection and encourages the girls to think about the contributions that Indigenous Australians have made and continue to make to our country and society.

Hands-on learning

As part of NAIDOC Week, Year 2 engaged in interactive learning activities around Indigenous Australia. Before heading to the Australian Museum, the girls participated in a See-Think-Wonder routine, where they contemplated the purpose of traditional tools:

- Thinking about the coolamon:
"I think they put food in there to share it." – Sophia Chen
- Wondering about the spear:
"I wonder if children were allowed to use it." – Jemma Hung
- Wondering about the fishing net:
"I wonder how many times a day they needed to fish to provide food." – Ashleigh Song

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee



Key learnings

The girls developed key educational and environmental skills in this incursion, including:

- 1 Creative thinking.
- 2 Applying scientific knowledge.
- 3 The importance of reducing our environmental footprint.
- 4 The benefits of recycling.

Everything old is new again

At *Pymble*, we are constantly seeking out new ways to model sustainability and encourage eco-friendly behaviour in our students. To that end, the Preparatory School recently welcomed Helen and Lisa from Reverse Garbage into their classrooms. This creative reuse centre aims to make a difference in the world by reducing waste and creating change in the way we look at resources. Helen and Lisa showed the girls how to make a wonderful puppet using nothing more than coffee cups, plastic balls, skewers, bottle tops and off-cuts of fabric and ribbon. "Kindergarten loved making their puppets and discovered that they could make their special new toys move," says Head of Preparatory School, Mrs Karen Ahearn.



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 pursuit, sporting achievements, community service and personal wellbeing.

Rugby at Pymble



In a first for Pymble, 2017 saw the introduction of Rugby Sevens as a competitive sport for our girls.

More than 80 students from Years 8 to 12 attended an introductory Rugby workshop in Term 1. In Term 2, *Pymble* entered a team in the Sydney Junior Rugby Sevens Competition to help prepare players for the College's inaugural State Championships in the middle of the year. Our team finished in fourth place in NSW, a great result for a rookie team.



In Term 3, *Pymble* added an Under 14 team and an Under 16 team to compete in the Sydney Junior matches on Saturdays. Rugby Sevens skills and training were also incorporated into the Year 7 PDHPE syllabus for a four-week cycle in Term 3.

"Interest in Rugby Sevens was spurred on by Olympic fever, when our girls saw ex-student Chloe Dalton and her team win Gold for Australia in the sport," says Rugby Sevens Co-ordinator, Mr Michael Jenkins. "The game has attracted many students keen to have a go at the sport they have seen their brothers and fathers playing."



Partnering with the professionals



In Term 3, *Pymble* formalised a partnership with the Macquarie University Sydney Rays rugby team to connect students with empowering new opportunities on and off the field.

The partnership gave our Rugby players access to the expertise of Rays players, coaches and support staff and provided hands-on learning opportunities for students interested in gaining experience in sports marketing, media and event management. Our girls trained and played alongside their rugby heroes, including ex-student and Olympic gold medallist, Chloe Dalton, and worked with the Rays' media and events team throughout Australia's first national women's Rugby Sevens competition, the AON Uni Sevens.



Pymble's Under 18 Rugby Sevens team also played the curtain-raiser game against Gordon during the Festival of Rugby at Macquarie University, winning the game – and winning over the crowd – convincingly.

Sport and Activities



Movers and shakers

The 2017 Eisteddfod Dance season ended on a high note! The *Pymble* Jazz White Eisteddfod Group won the Sydney Eisteddfod Jazz Finals at the Sydney Opera House, while the *Pymble* Contemporary White Eisteddfod Group took first place in the Contemporary School Dance Section at Dance Life Unite Nationals and was also named the overall Dance Life Unite National School Troupes Champions 2017. We congratulate all of our Eisteddfod students for achieving wonderful results and placements across the 2017 Eisteddfod scene.

SUPPORT IS KEY TO SUCCESS

The Eisteddfods capped off a successful year for *Pymble's* Dance program, which has seen all of our dancers achieve personal goals and challenge themselves both creatively and athletically. "Our *Pymble* dancers have been so successful this year due to their diligence, training, spirit and love of Dance," says Curriculum and Co-curricular Dance Co-ordinator, Miss Katrina Cluff. "Developing a skill takes time, but our dancers are now at a point where they have had excellent teachers and facilities supporting their dance endeavours for many years."

PYMBLE'S CUSTOMISED PROGRAM IS UNIQUE

"The customised *Pymble* Dance program caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 12, and fosters growth of all styles and levels," says Miss Cluff. "The hard work and consolidation of the dancers' skills comes from the integrated programming and facilitation of the 72 classes a week and the management, strategic direction and support provided from the College.

"Our Dance staff are passionate, experienced and talented creatives who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our girls and continually produce age appropriate, challenging and audience-pleasing routines," she says.



Our girls are IGSSA champions!

2017 has been a massive year for Independent Girls' Schools Sporting Association (IGSSA) sports, with our girls achieving fantastic results in IGSSA Athletics, Gymnastics, Hockey and Netball.

ATHLETICS

Thursday 17 August was a huge day for the Pymble Athletics team, who swept the IGSSA Athletics Carnival with a massive 200-point lead – the biggest winning margin by any school in IGSSA history! Sienna Bond and Emilia Duncan were named the Junior champions, while Kristie Edwards was the Senior champion. In addition to achieving many impressive individual results, our girls also earned the following trophies:

- Champion School.
- Division 1 Winners.
- Final Winners in Junior, Intermediate and Senior.
- Relay Winners in Junior and Senior.

Our girls are knockouts!

In December, four Pymble Athletics teams competed in the Australian All Schools Athletics Knockout Championships. The girls ran, threw and jumped their hearts out for their team and for Pymble and we came away with a clean sweep – first place in the Juniors, Intermediates and Senior division, which is a first in Knockout Championships history! Our Senior B team also came tenth overall in Australia, which was also a fantastic result.

These outstanding achievements are a true reflection of our girls' hard work and sportsmanship, the dedication of their coaches and the individualised and specialised nature of the College's training programs.

"We hope our girls become better versions of themselves by participating in a variety of programs at Pymble, and we trust the skills and values they have built will serve them well in years to come," says Director of Sport and Activities, Mr Cameron Anderson.

GYMNASTICS

On Friday 27 October, Pymble's talented and dedicated rhythmic and artistic gymnasts competed in Division 1 of the IGSSA Gymnastics Carnival – the biggest school-based competition of the year. Both teams finished in second place and, with these scores combined, Pymble was named the Champion IGSSA School for 2017.

HOCKEY

Both our Senior and Year 7 teams made it to the IGSSA grand finals where they competed in nail-biting matches. Although our Senior team was narrowly defeated in extra time and drop off, our Year 7 team went on to take first place with a 1-0 victory.

NETBALL

Pymble had a total of 10 teams in the IGSSA grand final, which was a phenomenal effort. While all teams acquitted themselves admirably, our Senior Firsts team must be singled out for special mention. The 11-strong side scored a six-point win over Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College and won the IGSSA Firsts Trophy. For our three Year 12 girls, Jemima McCalman, Kristie Edwards and Annabelle Gillings, that makes six out of six Firsts grand final wins in their Pymble careers!



Swim stars take the plunge

Determination and hard work have paid off for Year 11 student Darian Quadrio, who was selected to join Swimming Australia's Talent Identification (TID) Squad. This prestigious and highly-competitive squad is led by a team of coaches and swimming specialists at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), including Darian's Pymble coach, Miss Leanne Speechley, who has also been selected as one of the squad coaches.

"Selection onto the coaching team means a great deal, due to the fact that the team gets exposed to best practice, latest and greatest swimming and coaching techniques as well as new skills from the best of the best within the country," says Director of Sport and Activities, Mr Cameron Anderson.

For Darian, it's a huge achievement to make it onto the squad, which identifies and develops high-performing athletes who have the potential to represent Australia at national and international events.

Darian credits her success to the support of the *Pymble* swim team and coaches. "Getting a sporting scholarship to attend Pymble Ladies' College – not to mention the amazing pool facilities, teachers, coaches, team mates, and *Pymble's* Elite Sportswomen's Program (PESP) – have had a huge impact on where I am now," says Darian.



Inside the PESP

The *Pymble* Elite Sportswoman's Program (PESP) supports elite athletes to strive for their highest in academic and sporting pursuits. Former *Pymble* PESP athletes include Australian national cricket and soccer star, Ellyse Perry and W-League footballer, Rachael Soutar. To learn more about the PESP and the *Pymble* Athlete Education Program, visit the *Pymble* website.

Pymble receives Lifesaving Awards

The Royal Life Saving Society has presented *Pymble* with two of its highest honours – the Royal Life Saving Society Australian President’s Award and the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth President’s Award. “Royal Life Saving NSW was thrilled to have presented the RLS Commonwealth President’s Award to the Principal of Pymble Ladies’ College,” says Royal Life Saving Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Macallister. “It is the first time a school in Australia has won this prestigious award, which is highly sought after throughout the Commonwealth countries worldwide”.



“As a college we feel strongly about giving our students the skills and awareness they need to look out for the wellbeing of others – particularly in a country like Australia where we are renowned for enjoying water-based activities and sports.”

– Principal, Mrs Vicki Waters

Did You Know?

Year 9 students have the opportunity to achieve the Bronze Medallion, which allows them to safely carry out water rescues, while developing their judgement, swimming technique and survival skills at the same time.

Easy ways to upskill

From chess, to dressmaking, to taekwondo, there's a wide range of Co-curricular activities to challenge the mind, body and spirit at Pymble! Here are three activities that your daughter may like to try:

Work-ready skills



Pymble Co-Curricular offers work-ready skills to Senior Students through programs such as the Barista Course, Responsible Service of Alcohol and Workplace First Aid Course, which are all held on campus.

Touch typing



Being able to type well is a vital skill in a technologised world. Junior School students have the chance to take up touch typing courses throughout the year in order to develop and enhance their typing skills.

Art courses



Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 can take part in after-school art classes in a variety of mediums. Under the tutelage of experienced art teachers and practitioners, students can learn ceramics, oil painting, drawing and photography.

Sport and Activities

Challenge: accepted!

Does your daughter a) love a challenge, b) enjoy helping others, c) have natural leadership skills, or d) all of the above? Then she could be the perfect candidate for The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award!

WHAT IS IT?

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, or Duke of Edinburgh for short, is a youth development program that aims to empower participants to achieve their potential, no matter where they are, who they are, or what they do. The Award is divided into three, progressively-challenging levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To earn their Award, each participant must learn a skill, improve their physical wellbeing, volunteer in their community and experience a team adventure in a new environment.

HOW CAN IT HELP MY DAUGHTER?

"Doing Duke of Edinburgh builds students' leadership skills, gives them an edge in tertiary entrance, and more generally, enhances their status as an 'all-rounder'", says Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator, Mr Stuart Clarke.

SOUNDS GREAT! WHEN CAN SHE START?

Admissions into Duke of Edinburgh are ongoing throughout the school year and students can join as soon as they meet the age requirements – 13 years and 9 months for Bronze, 15 years for Silver and 16 years for Gold. This year, 120 *Pymble* students embarked on the program.



"How Duke of Edinburgh has empowered me"

Duke of Edinburgh Captain Ruvanya Mallikahewa shares how Duke of Edinburgh has helped her expand her horizons and develop her skills:

- 1 **Music:** "Through the Skills section of the Award, I have steadily developed my musical abilities and have enjoyed learning to perform my favourite piano compositions."
- 2 **Sports:** "Duke of Edinburgh has been instrumental in allowing me to pursue my passion for tennis. As part of my Physical Recreation section, I have continued to refine my tennis on a weekly basis, which has given me the necessary skill to be selected into the *Pymble* Tildesley Tennis Team."
- 3 **Challenges:** "The Adventurous Journey section has challenged me to live beyond my comfort zone, through which I have forged friendships to last a lifetime."
- 4 **Service:** "It is the Service section that has perhaps been the most valuable of my Award journey. I have had the honour of working with diverse groups of people, which has not only allowed me to take initiative, but has also enabled me to make a real difference in the community. I am looking forward to volunteering at a remote hospital in Sri Lanka as part of my Residential Project, having already volunteered at the *Pymble* Out of School Hours Care and at medical centres."
- 5 **Leadership:** "Duke of Edinburgh has instilled invaluable qualities in me, including compassion, self-assurance and adaptability, which have driven me to seize new opportunities and embrace leadership roles that I would have otherwise overlooked."

Let it snow



Pymble is a long way from the snow fields, but that didn't stop our Snowsports team from achieving some outstanding results in Term 3. Competing at the Australian Interschools Snowsports Championships at Mount Buller in September, the girls excelled, and made themselves, their families and their coaches incredibly proud with their excellent results. Particularly noteworthy was the 2017 Division 3 Alpine A team of Kyra Wheatley, Isabella Green, Laura Papworth and Claudia Braysich, who won gold for the third year running at Nationals. Our overall points results were:

- 5th Place: Champion Secondary Girls School
- 6th Place: Champion Primary Girls School

"The students on our team, and their families, have committed enormous resources and time to this sport, and the girls' results speak for themselves," says Mr Stuart Clarke, Co-ordinator of Snowsports. "We have some of the best ski teams and individual members in the country. We wish all the team our warm congratulations."



Why I love Snow Sports!

From playing in the snow, to learning how to slalom, there is a whole lot to love about Snow Sports! Just ask our youngest member of the Snow Sports team, Hilary Eysers, who is in Kindergarten. "I made lots and lots of new friends and did so many different types of skiing like Giant Slalom, moguls, the half pipe and terrain park," she says of her first Snowsports season. "I love my *Pymble* team jacket and I have been wearing it on the snow even after the racing season finished!"

Good sports!



At the end of each school year, *Pymble* recognises the achievements of our finest athletes at our annual Sportswomen's Awards Night. Our 2017 event was hosted by sports journalist, television presenter and radio host, Erin Molan, who shared her personal journey of overcoming countless hurdles to break into the industry of her dreams. Special guests included ex-student and Olympic skier Danielle Scott (2007) and Olympic gold medallist Charlotte Caslick, who is widely regarded as the world's best female Rugby Sevens player. These elite athletes delivered inspiring words about the importance of determination, resilience and perseverance when it comes to achieving your goals.

The outstanding efforts of 130 individual students and teams were recognised on the night, including:

Team of the Year: Football Senior Firsts

Representative Team of the Year: Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association (IGGSA) Athletics Team Members

Sportswoman of the Year: Kristie Edwards

15 students who represented Australia in sport in 2017: Imogen Breslin; Freya Clarke; Georgia Duncan; Nicole Freestone; Imogen Gardiner; Isabella Green; Edita Grinbergs; Elizabeth Hogg; Emma L Jones; Rachel Lowe; Mackenzie Penn; Sarah Turner; Julia Vignes; and Kyra Wheatley.



Just keep swimming

With 11 records broken by seven girls, many personal bests smashed and a number of state qualifying times achieved, the 2017 Junior School Swimming Carnival was a resounding success. Two records – the 11 Years 50m Breaststroke, which was broken by Grace Gerreyn and the 12 Years 50m Backstroke, which was broken by Jenna Coghill – had been held since 1993 and 1995, respectively.

Just as impressively, we had a greater number of heats in the 50m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly events, as well as in the 100m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley events, than ever before. “This is exciting because it shows the Junior School girls’ improvement in skills and confidence,” says Director of Sport and Activities, Mr Cameron Anderson.

Well done to all who competed and many thanks to parent volunteers for supporting the girls on the day.



Best in show



In October, *Pymble's* Cattle Club competed in the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza where one of our steers was awarded Heavy Middle Weight Champion Carcass and Middle Weight Jackpot Champion Carcass. Our second steer also placed in competition.

All girls competed in Junior Judging and in Parading, in which Ella Gray placed fourth in her heat, Jemma Lang Macpherson placed sixth in her heat and Georgia Laurie placed first. Georgia also won the 17-18 years Junior Judge and was awarded Champion Junior Judge of the show, across all ages – a phenomenal achievement.

“Schools with huge Agricultural programs and facilities do not achieve what we have in a year with both steers and students. To say I am proud is an understatement” says Cattle Club Coach, Mrs Fiona McWilliam.



President's Report

We've had a great time on the ESU committee this year, contributing to the College and organising or participating in a range of events.

Our most notable contribution this year has been the completion of our pledge, which commenced in 2014, of \$100,000 to the College's Centenary Sports Precinct. The precinct will be a wonderful part of *Pymble* students' lives for decades to come. We thank the College for recognising the ESU's ongoing role with the water feature at the precinct. It has five 'fingers' reaching for the sky, signifying the College's five core values of Care, Courage, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility. I encourage those of you who have not had the chance to see it, to join an Ex-Students' Tour. You will be amazed by how much the College continues to change since we were at school!

This is the third pool that I have seen at the College. I recall being in Year 3, standing on the diving block at the swimming carnival and looking out into a haze of bulldozers digging up the area near the pool, as preparations started for the building of the Jeanette Buckham Centre for Physical Education pool. I am sure that many of you have similar and even longer memories of that pool!

A sincere thank you to all ex-students who have sponsored the Indigenous Scholarship Program (ISP) over the past 10 years and who continue to do so. This year, we supported the College's ISP by sponsoring school uniforms for two indigenous scholars. A group of ex-students also supported the College's 10th Anniversary Indigenous Scholarship Program Celebration Dinner, which was a fabulous night learning about the deep 10-year history of the ISP from early inception to today's program. It has undoubtedly changed the lives of around 20 scholars. The College also

held a 10th Anniversary Indigenous Scholarship Program Morning Tea to thank ex-students who are supporters of this program.

This year, we sponsored scholarships for two daughters of ex-students and supported the Artist in Residence Grant – given to Dr Kristie Spence for the development of the College's first Robotics program. I was extremely impressed by how quickly the College developed the program. The girls are already competing in many competitions and winning awards. I am delighted that the ESU could play a small part in this initiative, which helps many girls to develop critical skills for the future, including in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), project, coding, strategy and construction.

In Term 2, Year 7 Film students helped us to create videos of ex-students at the Annual Careers Expo. I thank them and also the ex-students who gave us their time, providing career advice at the Expo and on camera.

In Term 3, we held our Commemoration Day Chapel Service, which celebrates and commemorates the dedication of the College in 1919. It was a music-filled day as we heard from guest speaker, composer Dr Alicia Grant (1996) about her *Pymble* memories. Our wonderful Ex-Students' Union Choir, led by Jillian Cranney, and our soloist Hayley Noble (2016), sang to us beautifully. Reverend Lorenzo and Reverend Punam led a thoughtful service with readings from our ESU scholars. After the service, we had a delicious high tea on the colonnade where many old friendships continued and new ones were formed.

Thank you to all ex-students who made delicious chicken sandwiches and then helped to serve them at our famous Chicken and Champagne Stall at Garden Party 2017. We were all exhausted but had a wonderful time pulling together. We hope that you were able to stop by our Crested Goods Stall, where we showcased the products of ex-student, Emily Aked (1988), who owns Bespoke Gifts Australia. We would love to hear from other ex-students who have similar small businesses that we could help to showcase to the *Pymble* Community.

Thank you also to those who came along to our Golf Day on Wednesday 22 November 2017 at Avondale Golf Club. This was a lovely occasion to get together with a few friends for a catch up over lunch.

Be sure to link with us on social media, through our private group on Facebook (look for *Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union*) and on LinkedIn (remember to update your profile with *Pymble Ladies' College* as your school).

I end by asking you to help us to be relevant to you. Please contact anyone on the Committee to give us feedback and to make suggestions. Most importantly, I encourage you all to get involved. We meet every six weeks, generally on a Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Heritage Centre under the Chapel. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be on the Committee to come to meetings. I hope to see you soon.

All' Ultimo Lavoro.

Li-Enn Koo (Lau, 1991)

PRESIDENT
EX-STUDENTS UNION

pymble.exstudents@gmail.com
Pymble Ladies' College
PO Box 6233



Events

Commemoration Day 2017 Sunday 30 July

Commemoration Day is a beloved annual event that celebrates the founding of the War Memorial Chapel. This year's Commemoration Day was held on Sunday 30 July. Current and former students, as well as staff and members of the wider *Pymble* community were treated to a morning of quiet reflection, followed by a lovely morning tea hosted by the Ex-Students' Union (ESU). Reverend Lorenzo Rodriguez Torres and Reverend Punam Bent officiated the Chapel Service, while current *Pymble* students delivered heartfelt readings. Attendees were also treated to beautiful singing by soloist Hayley Noble (2016) and a performance by the ESU Choir, led by Jillian Cranney (Stacy, 1972). Our guest speaker was Dr Alicia Grant (1996), who delivered an inspiring address about the role of women in the world of classical music. We give thanks for all who attended and encourage everybody to keep the last Sunday in July 2018 free to enjoy this unique ex-students' event.



Commemoration Day



Welcome back to *Pymble*

The sun was shining and the *Pymble* Jacaranda was in full bloom as former students joined us for a tour of the College in October. The ladies enjoyed a wonderful morning wandering around the grounds, where they reminisced about their school days, before heading to the Heritage Centre for an intimate morning tea. If you are curious to see how *Pymble* has changed since you were at school, or would like to catch up with old friends – and meet new ones – come and join us for a free tour of the College! We always enjoy the company of ex-students of all ages, as well as daughters and granddaughters of former *Pymble* girls who we hope to see attending the College in the future. The tour dates for 2018 are:

- Monday 19 February
- Tuesday 22 May
- Thursday 26 July
- Friday 19 October

Each College Tour departs from the Heritage Centre (below the Chapel) at 10.30am and finishes with morning tea in the Heritage Centre. If you are interested in taking a College Tour, please don't hesitate to contact the Alumni Department at alumnirelations@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au, or on (02) 9855 7304. All ex-students are welcome to attend – we would love to see you again!



Ex-Students' Tour

Donate to the *Pymble* Archive

The *Pymble* Archive is a wonderful treasure trove of resources that tells the story of the College. From old school books to medals, these materials help bring the past to life for current *Pymble* students and make memories come alive for former students.

We are always looking for new resources to expand our collection and to use in displays, at reunions, to help with queries and to enhance learning. If you'd like to discuss donating material to the College Archive, contact Archivist Enid O'Carroll at eocarroll@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au.

We have recently received a number of kind donations, including photographs, school badges and pockets, documents and early-school publications such as uniform lists and prospectuses. We were particularly delighted to receive some items related to Barbara Knox (Blackwell, 1947) and Sylvia Burrell (Barclay-Smith, 1929). Kind thanks to ex-students, family and friends who have passed items on to the College Archive.



Treasures from the Archive

Black Watch Ties

Reunions

Class of 1962 55-year Reunion Saturday 9 September

In September, the Class of 1962 held a reunion luncheon at the *Pymble* Heritage Centre. The day kicked off with a tour of the College, where attendees had fun remembering their days at *Pymble* and admiring all the new additions to the buildings and grounds. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and everyone is looking forward to catching up with their old friends at their 60-year reunion in 2022.



Class of 1962 55-year Reunion

Class of 1963 Reunion Monday 16 October

Thanks to the hard work and organisational skills of Sue Willard (Locke), 14 Boarders from the Class of 1963 came together for a fun-filled day in Sydney. Many of our attendees travelled to Sydney from regional New South Wales in order to catch up with their friends. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get a hit of city culture, including a visit to the Archibald Prize exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW. Lunch at Settlement on Quay was filled with laughter and remembrances of everyone's time at school.



Class of 1963 Reunion

Class of 1977 40-year Reunion Saturday 14 October

The 40-year reunion for the Class of 1977 was held on Saturday 14 October. The celebrations comprised of an optional College Tour and a cocktail party held at Roseville Golf Club. Before the reunion, we set up a Facebook page that attracted over 70 members, and we were really pleased that we had close to this number at the cocktail party.

Our class came from far and wide, travelling from New Zealand, Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and country New South Wales. It was such a happy event – we had so much to catch up on that the noise level in the room barely subsided from start to finish! A booklet was compiled, which featured photos from then and now, as well as a collection of our most vivid memories from our school days. For the Class of '77, our most poignant memories were sun-tanning our legs in the Amphitheatre, the Giant Stride, foot classes, musicals, ensembles and plays, Muck-up Day and other silly antics. Above all, what we all remembered was our enduring friendships, which we valued so highly both then and now. The opportunity to get together again and reignite these friendships provided a special time for us all.

JENNY HARVEY (MORGAN, 1977)



Class of 1977 40-year Reunion

Class of 2007 10-year Reunion Saturday 6 May

Held at the Frisco Hotel in gorgeous Woolloomooloo, the Class of 2007's reunion was a smashing success! Over 60 former students were at the reunion, with attendees flying in from all states across Australia. Everyone was excited to reconnect and to discover all the exciting adventures they had each embarked upon over the last decade. Looking forward to the next one!



Class of 2007 10-year Reunion

Update your contact details by completing the form in the ESU section of the College website

Announcements

Class of 2012 5-year Reunion Saturday 7 October

The Class of 2012 gathered for Bottomless Bellinis in the Champagne Room at The Winery, Surry Hills. The chatter and laughter was wonderful to be a part of – it was like nothing had changed as old and new friends caught up over canapés and chocolate cupcakes. It was a truly special afternoon and one that was made possible by the unique friendships and memories formed at *Pymble*.



Class of 2012 5-year Reunion

Hunter Valley/Newcastle Reunion Saturday 12 August

On a lovely Saturday afternoon in August, a group of ex-students gathered for high tea at the vineyard of ex-student Jan Gartelmann (Atkinson, 1960) in Lovedale. Although everyone's leaving years were different, each attendee shared the special bond of being a *Pymble* girl. Many had wonderful stories to tell about their life journeys, career paths and families. Thanks to Alumni Relations Manager Katrina Corcoran for attending the event and a very special thanks to Jan for her wonderful hospitality.

New York Reunion Saturday 16 September

On September 16, a group of *Pymble* ex-students gathered together for a reunion lunch at Atlantic Grill on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. There was great excitement as we reconnected with those who we had met last year and had the opportunity to meet new faces, too. There was much reminiscing about our days at the College, as well as a great deal of interest in current happenings. The group enjoyed watching a video message from Principal Mrs Vicki Waters and were honoured to have Melinda Graham from the College Council join us and share news of *Pymble*. A terrific afternoon was had by all and the procurement of a private room this year made possible a great deal of merrymaking, including a rousing rendition of the *School Song*! It was a special day with a wonderful group of women. We partied late into the afternoon with everyone declaring they were looking forward to next year.

KATE LANCELEY (1987)



New York Reunion

Vale

Bertie Lloyd (1928) 1912 – 2017.

In September, members of the College, including Principal Mrs Vicki Waters, had the honour of attending the funeral of one of our most beloved ex-students, Bertie Lloyd. Bertie was just shy of her 105th birthday when she passed away and she will always be a treasured member of the *Pymble* community. In April last year, we were honoured when Bertie, as our oldest ex-student, unveiled the plaque for the new Centenary Sports Precinct – something that all the students vividly remember. Bertie loved the College and came back to visit whenever she could. Bertie had many relatives who attended *Pymble*, including her great-great niece, who is currently in Year 6. Bertie will be sadly missed, though always fondly remembered by the College and everyone who knew her.

Florence Barbara Valentine (Hewitt, 1946) was in Form VIA at *Pymble* in 1946. Florence lived most of her life in Brisbane, but was fortunate to return to Sydney with her daughter, Beth, and visit the College in 2001. Florence and Beth enjoyed a guided tour of *Pymble*, where Florence was suitably impressed.

Continued over page.

Black Watch Ties

Announcements

Isobel Florence Baxter (Livie 1950) passed away on 28 July 2016 in Goulburn, aged 83 years, and **Valerie Patricia Virgoe** (Livie 1956) passed away on 26 September 2016 in Melbourne, aged 77 years. Both my sisters greatly valued their school days at *Pymble*, reflecting with fondness on their friendships and happy days at the College. My beautiful sisters' passing, while bringing sadness to all the family, has also been an inspiration to us, and to the medical teams who attended them throughout their cancer treatment. Issie and Val had oesophageal cancer. They were remarkably courageous, uncomplaining and dignified. Their cheerfulness and smiling faces were always there to greet us, defying the battle that they were both enduring. Their inner strength was extraordinary. Issie, widowed, is survived by her son Marshall, her daughter Diana and four grandchildren. Val is survived by her husband Richard, their three daughters, Katrina, Sally and Vanessa, and six grandchildren. Issie and Val's great gifts to love, support, overcome adversity and to "Strive for the Highest" will live on through their families and mine.

Christine Davies (Livie, 1958)

Elizabeth Todd, a former teacher at *Pymble*, passed away 31 July 2017, aged 98. Elizabeth taught at the College until 1948, before going on to have an illustrious career in music and receiving an OAM.

Felicity Ann Pyke (Standish, 1950), OAM, passed away on 22 September 2017 after a long battle with bone marrow cancer. Loved wife and confidante of Bruce, treasured mother of Jonathon, Simon and Nicholas, and grandmother to five adoring grandchildren. Felicity attended the College between 1947 and 1951. She was awarded an OAM for her many years of community service, particularly in relation to the disadvantaged in both Australia and Indonesia, and with Wrap With Love. She was so proud of the girls at her old alma mater who supported the Wrap With Love organisation. She had been NSW Central Coast Co-ordinator of Wrap With Love for many years until her illness forced her to stand down. She would dearly love for their contribution to continue in coming years.

Julie Hutchence (Gaulton, 1976) 5 May 1958 – 28 May 2016. Julie was the eldest daughter of Arthur and Margaret Gaulton of Peace Avenue, Pymble. Her father's professional postings meant that she had already attended the Presbyterian Ladies' Colleges in both Melbourne and Perth by the time she arrived at her third PLC (the College's former name) with her sisters, Anne (Gaulton, 1977) and Gabrielle Arnold (Gaulton, 1980). Julie retained the fondest memories of her schooldays at the College. Some of the friends she made there remained close friends for the rest of her life. In 1975, Julie's father was posted to London as a diplomat for the New South Wales Government. The family followed. It was a time for exploring. They took the opportunity to travel around Europe, where Julie was keen to try out the French and German she had learned at the College. Julie completed her studies in the UK and took a Bachelor

of Science (Economics) in Government at the London School of Economics. By the time she had completed her course, her parents and younger sister, Gabrielle, had returned to Sydney's North Shore. Anne remained in Europe, studying as an art conservator, before finally returning to Australia. It was in London that Julie met television journalist, Keith Hutchence. They were married at St Swithun's Church in Pymble in 1981, before returning to the UK. For more than 30 years, they lived in a village just outside Oxford, where Julie was the first Australian to be elected as a Parish Councillor – she could always be found running the Cake Stall at the Summer Fete. She loved entertaining, cooking and spending her holidays in France. Her professional posts ranged from Studies Secretary at the Royal United Services Institute, to being an Administrator at University of Oxford. But Julie would have said her greatest achievement was her son, Charles, who now works in finance. Julie died suddenly – and unexpectedly – while undergoing tests in hospital in Oxford. Besides her son, she is also survived by her husband, Keith, mother Margaret, as well as her sisters Anne and Gabrielle. At the start of her funeral in Oxfordshire, a bell tolled 58 times – once for each year of her all-too-brief life. At the close of the service, all the bells rang out. Among the many who gathered to say goodbye were two old friends from *Pymble*, who just happened to be passing through. Julie attributed her love of languages and, in particular, French conversation, to her time at the College. She generously left a bequest for *Pymble* that will contribute to the enhancement of learning support for French conversation, in memoriam.

Ex-Students' News

Convenors needed for 2018 Reunions

We have started planning our 2018 *Pymble* reunions. If you think you can assist with the organisation of your reunion by acting as convenor, then we would love to hear from you! Convenors are the contact point for their Year Group and for the Alumni Department. We are happy to work with you and will of course offer advice and guidance should you need it. The College will assist you with selecting a venue (either on the College grounds or somewhere external) and we will also do the invitations (by email and mail). If you are having your reunion at the College, then we can organise the menu and room set up for you. Convenors are needed for:

- **2013** – 5-year Reunion
- **2003** – 15-year Reunion
- **1998** – 20-year Reunion
- **1993** – 25-year Reunion
- **1983** – 35-year Reunion
- **1978** – 40-year Reunion
- **1973** – 45-year Reunion
- **1963** – 55-year Reunion
- **1958** – 60-year Reunion

Please contact the Alumni Relations Department at alumnirelations@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or on (02) 9855 7304 if you would like to convene your reunion.

Treasurer wanted for the ESU

The ESU is looking for a qualified accountant to fill the role of Treasurer on the ESU Committee. This is a great opportunity to perform an autonomous role and to gain experience at managing the finance and governance functions of a small incorporated organisation. The skills and experience you will gain from this role are easily transferable to larger organisations in the marketplace. In addition, having this voluntary, community-focused role on your resume could be highly regarded when applying for promotions and other job opportunities in your career. The role also provides opportunities to work with other female professionals who can offer peer support and monitoring. For more information, please contact ESU Secretary Robyn Soonius (Whyte, 1983) at robyn271@bigpond.com.

Share your stories with students!

We are seeking ex-students who would like to be guest speakers at College events such as Foundation Day, International Women's Day, Jacaranda Day, or who are happy to speak to particular Year groups about their journeys since school, as well as their studies and/or career paths. We like all types of stories at *Pymble* and would love to hear yours! If you are interested, please contact Alumni Relations Manager Katrina Corcoran at kcorcoran@pymblelc.nsw.edu.au or on (02) 9855 7304.

2018 Ex-Students' Events and Reunions

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 6 March	Indigenous Scholars Morning Tea (Invitation Only)
Thursday 29 March	Mothers' and Grandmothers' Morning Tea (Invitation Only)
Saturday 19 May	Class of 2008 10-year Reunion
Sunday 29 July	Commemoration Day
Sunday 29 July	Class of 1948 70-year Reunion
Sunday 29 July	Class of 1968 50-year Reunion
Saturday 22 September	Garden Party

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