



# veritas

Gippsland Grammar - Issue Two, 2014

## Celebrating 90 Years

Old Scholar, Bev Cook (Hayward) enjoyed meeting one of her former students, Jack Richardson (Year 8), on Commemoration Day - see details on Page 7.



90 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Published for the Gippsland Grammar Community



# From the Principal

As we come to the end of winter, this edition of Veritas allows us to reflect and celebrate our 90 years of excellence in education. You will read of the many events that have brought together our community from across Australia to reconnect with the school and reconnect with familiar faces from the past. At our recent Celebratory Service, I was thrilled to interview one of the most senior members of our community, Mrs Bev Cook, OAM, Class of '43. Bev was able to enthral our audience with her stories from the past and also to pass on the values that were instilled in her as a student at St Anne's. These values are the foundation of our current School values and culture. The students and teachers from the past have all played an important role in the formation of our current School. I would like to thank all members of our community who were involved in the events of St Anne's week and I encourage everyone who attended and those who were unable to attend to keep in touch and maintain your links with the School.

Whilst writing this article, I am very saddened to reflect on two significant events that have impacted on our community this year.

In April this year we lost a dear student and friend to many, Griffin Vollemaere, in a tragic bus accident. Griffin joined

our Bairnsdale Campus in 2013 as a Year 6 student from Bruthen. Early this year he made the transition to Garnsey Campus to join his brother Cordell. Griffin was thriving in his new environment and was quickly establishing a reputation as a competitive sportsman, a deep thinker and a passionate advocate for social justice. Griffin was a much loved son of Brendan and Georgia and a mate and brother to Cordell. We will miss you dearly Griffin, rest in peace.

In June this year the Gippsland Community and in particular the Gippsland Anglican Diocese lost their Bishop, John McIntyre. After a relatively short illness, John passed away peacefully surrounded by his friends and family. As a community we grieve the loss of our spiritual leader, our mentor and our mate. John was farewelled before a large gathering at the Cathedral on Friday June 20. The enormous impact of his death was evidenced by the many wonderful tributes we heard and the many stories that told of his never ending desire to champion those who are marginalised in society. John was a man with strong convictions and values and he lived those values every day of his life.

**David Baker**  
Principal



Photo: (L to R) Rev. Tom Binks, Mr Campbell Bairstow, Mr Jim Beard, Mr David Baker and Mr Mike Clapper joined in the 90th celebrations on Commemoration Day. Our past Principals have a strong connection to the School and enjoyed being part of this special occasion.



# Farewell - Bishop John McIntyre



The opening of the Library Refurbishment at St Anne's Campus in 2008.



The opening of the James Beard Centre at Bairnsdale Campus in 2011.

In June, the Gippsland community lost a great man, a visionary leader and somebody who I was proud to call a friend. Our deepest sympathies extend to his wife Jan and his children Paul, Jessica and Lisa.

In his role as Bishop of Gippsland, John showed a Christian leadership which was never inward looking, never confined merely to the affairs of the church and its congregation. Rather, it was an inclusive and outward looking leadership, embracing all people regardless of race, gender, culture or sexual orientation. John was a staunch supporter of the underprivileged and the under-represented. He took a strong humanitarian stance on many issues which brought him into some conflict with the more conservative elements of the Anglican Church but which was founded always in compassion and concern for all people.

As Bishop, he was an ex officio member of the Board of Gippsland Grammar and served on the Board for over seven years, including four years as Chair. He was also very involved with St Paul's Anglican Grammar School. John approached his involvement with independent schools with a degree of trepidation, having some concern with the potential for such schools to think of themselves as elite. Indeed, he addressed, as a keynote speaker, a meeting of Anglican School Australia, in which he urged such schools to guard against such notions and to ensure that they were fulfilling their initial charter as centres of Christian outreach. There would undoubtedly have been some Principals wriggling a little in their seats! However, John came to appreciate that both Gippsland Grammar and St Paul's tried hard to meet those expectations, with a commitment to service and an earnest desire that both students and parents should not feel any sense of superiority because they could afford an independent education. In a practical sense, John encouraged the links with Rwanda which have become an important expression of community service. I believe that both schools are greatly indebted to John for the efforts which he made on their behalf at both the best and worst of times.

As a Board member and as Chair, John was genuinely interested in the life of the School. He was astute and managed meetings well. John and I played snooker together once a week and if this was on a Board meeting night, his efficiency lifted yet another notch! It was in the more informal setting of the snooker room that I got to know John more personally. He was a somewhat better player than I, perhaps

having wasted a tad more of his youth (though I confess that was probably a close run thing). However, I was good enough to give him a competitive game (and he was certainly competitive) and sometimes managed to upset the form guide. If he won, my PA, Kate, would get a text message or email the next morning, so my ignominy could be shared. However, less was said on the occasions when he lost!

In his youth, John was a very good rugby player, having led his school team to a premiership and still had a passion for the game. He also loved music, played guitar well and sang with confidence. However, his great gift was his capacity to communicate, which he could do both at the intellectual level and with the common touch. There would be many people who disagreed with things John said, but very few who would not have respected him as a man of the greatest integrity, wisdom and compassion. John was also a man of great humility, having devoted himself to a life of Christian service and was more surprised than anyone when asked to take on the role of a Bishop. However, Gippsland was most fortunate that he agreed to take up the mantle and he has become greatly loved throughout the Diocese and beyond. John was an inspiration to many, including me, and will continue to be so. Jo and I have lost a great friend and we are still struggling to come to terms with it, but we will always be able to look back with great pride and say, we knew John McIntyre.

**Mike Clapper**  
Principal 2005 - 2012



David Baker's Commissioning Service 2013.

## Staff Conference

In July, guest speakers and experts in their fields came together with Gippsland Grammar staff from Bairnsdale, St Anne's and Garnsey Campus to learn, discuss and understand the research behind the school's new academic care model. Student well-being and academic care is central to the success of each child at Gippsland Grammar and the School is being applauded for the culture it's creating and the "ripple effect" it is having on the community.

"I am thrilled to see what you are doing here," Geelong Grammar's Student Welfare Director John Hendry said. "You are profoundly impacting the students and really making a difference throughout the community."

Former Deputy of St Catherine's Anglican School for Girls in Sydney, Ann Nadge, and Behaviour Matters Director David Vinegrad, echoed John Hendry's comments at the annual conference.

Principal, Mr David Baker said, "Research shows that the personal wellbeing of students will significantly impact on their learning. Giving every student an overwhelming desire to be the best they can be is the ultimate – building relationships with our students and being good role-models is where it all starts. We are all life-long learners. Collaborating with some of the country's leading educators is not only inspiring for us all but gives our community another reason to trust us and to invest in us".

## Staff Awards

Mrs Jan Chalmer has been awarded Life Membership of the Japanese Language Teachers' Association of Victoria (JLTAV). Mrs Chalmer, who has taught at the school since 1983, received her award at the Annual General Meeting of the JLTAV in March. Mrs Chalmer has already been recognised by the Australian College of Educators for her achievements and contribution to the teaching of Language Other Than English (LOTE) at both primary and secondary levels for over twenty years. This latest award is testament to Mrs Chalmer's outstanding dedication to our students and we thank the JLTAV for recognising her continued commitment to teaching language at our School.

Deputy Head of Garnsey Campus, Mrs Kate Arnup, was awarded the 2014 JAT Beard Travel Scholarship, funded by the Gippsland Grammar Foundation. Over the past twelve months, Mrs Arnup has been undertaking training with the Feuerstein Institute to be a Teacher Trainer of the Instrumental Enrichment program which is currently being implemented in Australia as well as in many countries around the world. With a goal of being able to implement the program in depth in our School, the Scholarship funding of \$3000 assisted Mrs Arnup to travel to the Netherlands to attend the 35th Feuerstein International Summer Workshops. Mrs Arnup undertook 92 hours of lectures and workshops to build her knowledge and skills in implementing this highly effective program. The Instrumental Enrichment program is a systematic tool for explicitly teaching all the cognitive functions that a student or adult requires to be a successful thinker. Currently this program is being taught to a group of our Year 7 students and some students at both our Junior Campuses.



Photo (L to R): Geelong Grammar's John Hendry, Gippsland Grammar's Faye Kennedy (Garnsey Campus) and Catherine Bulmer (Bairnsdale Campus). Former deputy of St Catherine's Anglican School for Girls, Sydney, Ann Nadge, Behaviour Matters Director David Vinegrad, Danielle Carpenter (ELC) and Jie van Berkel (St Anne's Campus)



Photo : Jan Chalmer with Prep students at St Anne's Campus





## Russia Tour

The first Saturday of our Easter break saw twenty students and three staff set off for Russia. Our expectations were high for an amazing experience. Arriving in St Petersburg we were welcomed by our guide, Luda and a gloomy sky. Immediately we had a delay because our bus was stuck in traffic. Our first night in a Russian hotel was surprising, as Russian school children and their teachers were running through the corridors, playing until after midnight. The sights and the grandeur of St Petersburg soon took our minds off our logistical troubles. The artistic, historical and cultural treasures we saw during our St Petersburg stay were awe inspiring. The Peter and Paul Fortress, the Hermitage and the Church of the Saviour of Spilled Blood were all highlights. Attending the Mariinsky Theatre to see the ballet La Bayadère was spectacular. The students dressed up for the occasion, making it a real highlight of our trip.

From St Petersburg we travelled to Moscow on an overnight train. In Moscow we met our new guide, Tanya and again saw amazing architectural and artistic treasures. Red Square, the GUM and TSUM shopping malls, painting Matryoshka dolls, Lenin's mausoleum and the Arsenal Museum were some of our experiences. The old Moscow circus was amazing, but most of the students were not so pleased by the animal acts. However, our trip back to our hotel on the Moscow underground allowed us to see the beautiful mosaics and lighting featured in the stations.

From Moscow to Vladimir was only 170 kilometres but it took 4.5 hours due to the poor roads and accidents. The contrast in living standards between rural and urban Russia was evident in the unpaved roads and small wooden houses outside of Moscow. We stayed in Suzdal which was a beautiful small town with predominantly traditional buildings. All in all, the trip was a fabulous experience. I thank my colleagues, Faye Kennedy and Justeen Hahn, for their company and support

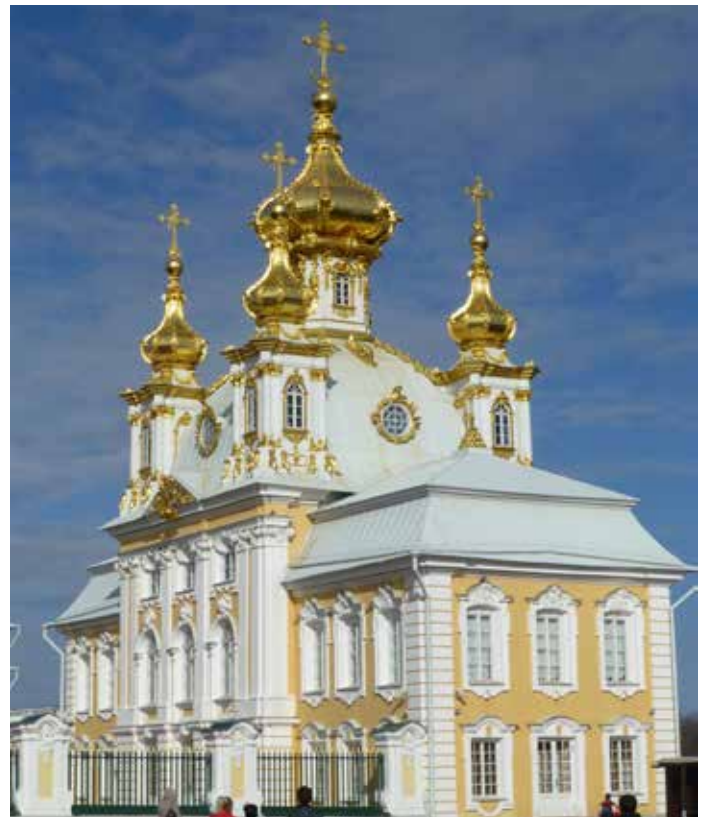


Photo : Palace at Peterhof

on this journey. They join with me in thanking the students for being so great to travel with and for sharing this experience in such a positive and co-operative manner.

**Peter Ries**



Photo : Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg



Photo : Tour group.

# St Anne's Day

Lorna Sparrow Hall at St Anne's Campus was brimming with happy, smiling faces on Saturday 26 July – St Anne's Day. Over one hundred and forty 'Old Girls' gathered for the 90th anniversary of the School, and to remember their old School days. It was the perfect opportunity for old friends to get together, some of whom hadn't seen each other since their days at St Anne's. School archivist, Tim Gibson, provided a fabulous display of memorabilia and photographs, which was a highlight for many.

Following the luncheon, current students and staff escorted their special guests on tours of the campus. The young students were delighted to hear stories from the 'old days', with some in disbelief that the balcony was used as a dormitory, all those years ago.

Later in the afternoon, Marie Potter (Lang - 1947) reminisced about her School days, Wheelbarrow's birthday and other special memories. Then, with Bev Cook (Hayward - 1943) on piano, it was time to sing the St Anne's song and do the old 'War Cry'.

The following day saw the 'Old Girls' joined by current students, past and present parents and staff, Old Scholars and friends at a Service of Holy Communion to celebrate

90 Years of Anglican education in East Gippsland. Several members of the School community participated in the Service, including School Chaplain, Reverend Jon Taylor, former Head of St Anne's Campus, Mr Garry Gray, Old Scholars, Thelma Langshaw (Boucher) and Margret Bampton (Neil), School Captains, Amelia Vuillermin and Al De Steiger, Year 9 student, Caitlin Baker and of course, the delightful St Anne's Choir.

'Old Girl', Jennie Oldfield (McKenzie), helped sum-up the feeling of the occasion with this message. "I found the weekend a very special one. It was very moving to see so many from the '50s and to learn about how their lives had turned out. The overwhelming confirmation was that we had such a forward-looking education from Lorna Sparrow, who instilled in us the message that as women, we must and we're capable of making a strong contribution to society. The other affirming message was that we were all equal", she wrote.

St Anne's Day was indeed a special event in the School's 2014 calendar and one which will be remembered for years to come.

Old Scholars who wish to contact others, should phone Meredith Lynch at the Development Office on (03) 5143 6315 or email [meredith.lynch@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au](mailto:meredith.lynch@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au)



**A:** Helen Blandford, Sue Heaney (McLean), Margaret Langford (Dewar) and Jean East (Minchin) toured the campus with Year 6 students, Jacinta Wyld and Amelia Lazzaro.

**B:** The daughters of two past Headmasters, Reverend HJ (Bert) Neil and Mr Glyn France enjoyed catching up after so many years. (L to R): Sue Gardner (France), Evelyn Jones (Neil), Margret Bampton (Neil) and Helen Dwyer (France).

**C:** Back Row (L to R): Judy Hiscock (Hobson), Wendy Skewes (Andrew), Noeline Rhode (Andrew). Front Row (L to R): Gayle McLean (Brown), Judith McAninly (Missen), Dianne Semmens (Rule) and Susan Michell (Kidd).

**D:** Current students joined Old Scholars and past and present staff members at the School's 90th Church Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

**E:** Jennie Oldfield (McKenzie) and Judy Short (Westcott) enjoyed a tour of the campus with Brianna Marshall (Year 6).



# Celebrating 90 Years



The School's Commemoration Day and 90th anniversary celebration was held on Friday 1 August, at Garnsey Hall. Commemoration Day is celebrated each year to mark the August 1970 decision to amalgamate St Anne's and the Gippsland Grammar School. This year, this special date was chosen to also celebrate 90 years of our School, with students from all three campuses present to witness this auspicious occasion.

It was wonderful to welcome many special guests, including former Principals, Mr Jim Beard, Mr Campbell Bairstow and Mr Mike Clapper, as well as former Headmasters of St Anne's, Reverend Tom Binks and Mr Jim Goode. We also welcomed Old Scholars, Mrs Bev Cook OAM (Hayward – 1943), Mrs Joy Brand (Saxton – 1961) and Mr Les Prout (1972), who participated in the ceremony as representatives of the original schools.

The ceremony included readings and musical performances from all three campuses, a special rendition of Happy Birthday to the School and the lighting of the birthday cake by Old Scholar, Mrs Cook and current ELC student, Luca Keppitipola. The highlight of the ceremony was Mr Baker's on-stage interview of Mrs Cook, who reminisced about her days at St Anne's in the 1940s and how much the School still means to her. Mrs Cook is one of Victoria's longest serving registered teachers and at the age of 88, still teaches music at Swifts Creek P – 12 School. In 2008, she received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for service to the community of East Gippsland, and to Music. Several of her former primary students were thrilled to have the chance to catch up with Bev again, including Jack Richardson (Year 8) who is now a boarding student.

Following the Fellowship service, special guests enjoyed a light luncheon in the Chapel of St Anne and all students received a traditional Commemoration Day cupcake.



Ella Halkett (Year 6) and the St Anne's choir.



Principal, David Baker interviewed Old Scholar, Mrs Bev Cook (Haywood).



Luca Keppitipola (ELC) blows out the 90th birthday candles.



Cupcake time for Year 11 students, Brayden Haney and Shreya Maheshwari.



Old Scholar, Les Prout represented the Old Boys of Gippsland Grammar School.

## Claudia's Greatest Shave

When Year 11 student, Claudia Martin, decided to support the 'World's Greatest Shave' event for 2014, she set herself a fundraising goal of \$10,000. She made plans to donate the funds to the Oncology unit at the Bairnsdale Regional Health Service and the Leukaemia Foundation, but never expected the overwhelming support of her venture nor its eventual outcome.

Whilst shaving off her long, auburn hair was a big decision for Claudia, she acknowledged that it is a decision not given to cancer patients. She just wanted to make a difference and show her support for three family friends with terminal cancer.

The shave was undertaken in front of students at Garnsey Campus, where a barbeque and live music was supplied to show support for the event. Staff member, Rupert Stephenson, also joined in the shave to support Claudia on the big day. To start off proceedings, Claudia's sister, Jane, cut off her ponytail, then hairdresser, Kirbie Banks continued to shave the remainder of Claudia's long locks.

Claudia had the total support of her family, friends and the School community. With a final total exceeding \$22,000 to be donated to such a great cause, she is justifiably proud of her efforts.



Photo: Claudia Martin shaved her head and raised more than \$22,000 for cancer research.

## State Show Jumper of the Year

Courtney Shears (Year 12) has been named Equestrian Victoria Young Show Jumping Rider of the Year and now has her sights set on the World Cup circuit.

Courtney was awarded the title at a glamorous evening held at Melbourne's Crown Casino in July. She was among many of the state's best riders who applied for the prestigious award and made it to the finals.

While on-horse performances were part of the award assessment, riders also underwent a range of activities including fitness training, stress management and people skills, public speaking and interviews.

"It was amazing, I was not expecting to win at all," Courtney said.

Mum Marion Shears credits Courtney's success in part to her school environment.

She remembers her daughter being a very shy, little girl when she started at Gippsland Grammar Early Learning Centre.

"Gippsland Grammar has certainly helped Courtney become the confident young lady she is today," Mrs Shears said.

Courtney has represented Gippsland Grammar at many interschool events over the years, even competing at the National championships.

Courtney and her mount Kijimakala are now training for Sale Show Jumping

Club's Grand Prix to be held in November. This event will attract world class riders and more than 400 horses.

Courtney plans a GAP year in 2015 to focus on her riding. Together with her parents she will follow the World Cup show jumping circuit around Australia – it's the pinnacle of the sport in this country.



Photo: Courtney Shears is all smiles after winning the Show Jumper of the Year.





Music is alive and well and living in Gippsland Grammar (with apologies to Jacques Brel)...And this year we are thrilled to have a fantastic group of ten students doing VCE Music Performance, the largest for many a year. These students are making a fantastic contribution to the School's music and setting the bar for those who follow.

Incidentally, a number of our past music students are really doing well. Singers Maddie Crombie and Anna Dyer are making great strides at the Melbourne Conservatorium and both have found their way into the prestigious Opera Scholars program. Laura Evans, now in her 4th year at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide, has been given the great honour of the loan of a fantastic (and very expensive) Gagliano violin, which was recently gifted to the Conservatorium. In the meantime, Evan Lynch, Nick Robinson and Connor McIndoe have all found their niche at the newly established Australian Institute of Music (AIM) Campus in Melbourne and are loving the intensity of the coursework and fantastic facilities. Niamh Hassett is pursuing her musical theatre interests at Monash University and of course, older School music alumnus Dan McKimm, is back at School, teaching music. Nelson Woods is making a name for himself in the rarefied air of Tuba playing, having been at South Melbourne's ANAM and is shortly off to Boston to study. Anna Melville is now a senior program manager at the Barbican Centre in London and Lucy Rash is currently making her mark at the MSO administration. It is really wonderful to see so many of our former music students doing so well in the world beyond School.

Closer to home, music continues to thrive at each of our campuses: St

Anne's are very busy preparing for Annie, whilst classes at the Bairnsdale and St Anne's campuses also have their annual Spring Concerts as a focus. Musicians and ensembles at the Garnsey Campus presented a much applauded Autumn Concert in May and are now busy rehearsing for the Spring Concert on 17 October, as well as performances at the forthcoming La Trobe Valley Eisteddfod. SCHOIR, our twelve voice select senior vocal ensemble, directed by Mrs Jenny Candy has impressed throughout the year and "Mr M", the jazz trio with Martin Pang, Ross Anderson and Daniel Clark continue to impress, no more so than on St Anne's Day, at Lorna Sparrow Hall.

A highlight of the year to date was the visit of the St Michael's Grammar European Tour Choir in May, where they shared a joint workshop and concert in the Chapel of St Anne with our Choir.

Music played a big part at our recent 90th Birthday celebration, with all three campuses presenting items as the School rejoiced in the achievement of this milestone .... And will no doubt be a huge part of the centenary in 10 years' time, hopefully in our very own Performing Arts Centre!

I would like to conclude by inviting everyone to join us for the lunchtime and evening concerts that are scattered across the semester, as well as for the staff concert to be held on Sunday 9 November – it should be a cracking concert celebrating our wonderful staff.

**Colin Iversen**  
Director of Music and Head of Performing Arts



## Music Performances

### TERM 3

**Friday 5 Sept 7.00pm**  
Middle Years Concert  
*Chapel of St Anne*

**Tuesday 9 Sept 12.45pm**  
Lunchtime Concert  
*Chapel of St Anne*

### TERM 4

**Sunday 5 October 2.00pm**  
VCE Solo's Concert  
*Chapel of St Anne*

**Friday 17 October 7.30pm**  
All Groups Spring Concert  
*Garnsey Hall*

**Tuesday 21 October 12.45pm**  
Lunchtime Concert  
*Chapel of St Anne*

**Friday 31 October 7.00pm**  
Upper Years Concert  
*Chapel of St Anne*

**Sunday 9 November 3.00pm**  
Sunday Soiree  
*Chapel of St Anne*

**Wed 19 November 6.00pm**  
Junior School Soiree  
*Chapel of St Anne*

**Friday 5 December 7.00pm**  
Middle Years Concert  
*Chapel of St Anne*

# Staff Tour to Rwanda



A delegation of six Gippsland Grammar teachers consisting of Annie Crowe (Bairnsdale campus), Tracey Grubb (St Anne's campus), Julie Jago (St Anne's campus), Penelope Monger (Garnsey campus), Leah Stoffels (Garnsey campus) and myself were joined by Mr Nick Carter from St Paul's Anglican Grammar and Reverend John Batt from the Neerim South parish, to travel to Africa during the July holidays hoping to provide professional learning support to teachers in the secondary and primary schools of Gahini, Rwanda. With a long relationship between the Anglican dioceses of Gippsland and Gahini, this visit was the first in our commitment to support the teachers and schools in their aspiration to improve student outcomes and be the best in Rwanda. Following a few days of rest and relaxation in Pilansberg National Park, South Africa, including both a road safari and a balloon safari, the team travelled to Rwanda and our official welcome was at an alumni service held at the Gahini Secondary School on Sunday morning.

The first week of our visit enabled our teachers to observe classes, meet teachers and develop training materials. Rwandan teachers have large classes of up to 45 students, rows of wooden desks with 2 to 4 students in each, limited classroom resources, no computing or internet facilities or student owned textbooks, blackboards which are difficult to read and a traditional assessment regime of examinations. All classes from Years 4 – 12 are taught in English, and this in itself presents many challenges for teachers as the language of instruction was changed from French to English only four years ago. Gahini Secondary School has about 960 students, all boarders who sleep in dormitories of 64 students in bunks that are four beds high. There are two primary schools in Gahini: Shining Star with about 140 students and Gahini Primary with about 900 students, who come to school in two shifts for the day - morning 7:30-11:30 and afternoon 12:30-4:30. We learned that in Year 7 there are 14 year olds right through to 20 year olds, so in any one year level there are a wide range of ages: this may be because the students have not had access to a school until an older age, that their parents have not been able to afford to send the students to school until now or the fact that there is no 'automatic' promotion from one year level to the next.

After our observations and discussions with teachers, we established a focus for the professional learning. In the secondary school, the focus was on activities to enable more student-centred learning and in the primary school, guided reading and the use of story books was explored. In each school we located a wide of range of resources in the School libraries

and some time was spent in discussion about ways to use these resources. In the secondary school we planned a conference only to receive a phone call to notify us that the next day had been declared a national public holiday! However, as the week progressed, our Gippsland delegation made a number of presentations to the staff, with 2 very full days of conference presented for secondary teachers and many demonstration classes presented in the primary schools. I commend our teachers on their hard work, perseverance and commitment and enthusiasm for this project.

Our time in Africa was a wonderful experience and we learned much about Rwanda and ourselves.

## Jan Henry



Photo : A History Class



Photo : Staff Members, Julie Jago and Penelope Monger in a Primary School Class





**David Bartlett** (2009) and **Lisa Bennie** (2009) both studied at Deakin University in Burwood, graduating last April. The graduation ceremony was held at Deakin's Waterfront Campus in Geelong. David graduated with a Bachelor of Sports Development with Distinction. He works fulltime at Football Federation Victoria and is also completing his Masters of Business (Sport Management) at Deakin University. Lisa graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Financial Planning). Lisa works fulltime at Hamilton Wealth Management in Glen Iris.

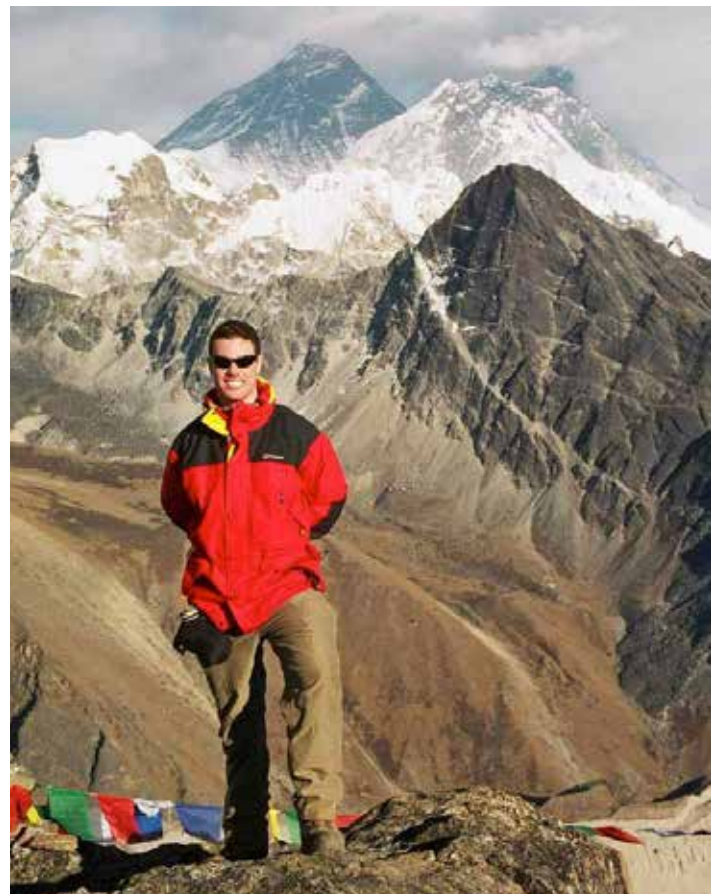
Left: David Bartlett and Lisa Bennie at their graduation ceremony.

**Simone Martin** (Langford – 2000) studied medicine at Monash University, graduating in 2007. Since her intern year in 2008, Simone has been doing post-graduate training to become a general paediatrician and neonatologist. She has approximately two years of training left between the two programs. Simone's husband Brad, is doing rural General Practice training, so the couple spent six months last year in Heyfield, then six months in Leongatha. They're now living in Bairnsdale for twelve months. Simone works part-time at Gippsland Paediatrics in Sale and part-time in the newborn intensive care department at RCH in Melbourne. Simone and Brad are enjoying their time in Gippsland, with the rivers, mountains and beaches keeping them well and truly entertained. They have also been warmly welcomed into church communities in the local area.

**2004 Homeroom, 12 Cowling**, had a reunion at the Gippsland Palace, Sale in June. Nine members of the group attended, with eight others being overseas or interstate. 'Gordo' reports that it was a lovely night and they may plan another get together in 2015.



Photo: Gordon Cowling, Elena Roberts, Paygen Holmes, Tom Plunkett, Tristan Howard, Patrick McIvor. Front: Julia Noble, Chloe Batchelor, Hayley Cowie, Melissa Knight.



**Simon Gregory** (1989) sends his regards from London. Following his graduation from Columbia and London Business School's EMBA Global program, Simon founded a start-up called RareBridge.com. The online professional network is growing fast; and a focus on cross-community conversations provides an alternative approach to LinkedIn. Simon has also been travelling; cycling and ski mountaineering in the UK and Europe at every spare moment. Simon's Russian wife, Marina, has just received Australian permanent residency, so a return to Australia may be on the cards in the not too distant future. Simon's sister, Natasha (1992), lives in Gippsland and is married with three children.

## Special Day for Mums

A Mother's Day breakfast was hosted at Bairnsdale Campus in May. Organised by the staff and campus Dads, the Mums enjoyed a relaxed morning off and breakfast with their children. Breakfast was followed by Acacia's fellowship devoted to Mothers. All mums received a lovely fresh flower and the highlight was undoubtedly the beautiful story "My Mother Says the Strangest Things" acted by Mrs Carr with her class. A parent reflection was also heard from Jessie Ng, mother of Hannah, David, Grace and Paul. Many thanks to all those who assisted with this special morning.



Photo: Mrs Jessie Ng with her children Hannah (Year 5), Grace (Year 2), Paul (Prep) and David (Year 3).

## Athletes shine in Inter-School Events

Gippsland Grammar has had a successful inter-school track and field season. Our athletes competed at two independent school carnivals in May, winning both events and coming home with several age champion medals.

The South Eastern Independent Schools Association (SEISA) carnival was held at the Casey Fields Athletics Track in Berwick, and included teams from St Paul's Anglican Grammar, Newhaven Grammar, Beaconhills College Pakenham and Beaconhills College Berwick. At this event, seven Gippsland Grammar students were declared age champions; Ellen O'Brien (U13 girls), William Mwagiru (U13 boys), Millie Dunnett (U14 girls), Jake Holland (U15 boys), Jessica Thompson (U15 girls), Sam Whelan (U16 boys) and Ellie Anderson (U17 girls). The relay results were also outstanding, with six first places, six second and two third places, overall placing in every relay event.

The Independent Country Co-educational Schools (ICCES) carnival was held at Lakeside Stadium at Albert Park. This carnival attracted entries from Girton Grammar, Hamilton College, Goulburn Valley Grammar, St Paul's Anglican Grammar, Highview College and Bacchus Marsh Grammar. At this event, students competed in their Year level age groups, with Jake Holland (Year 9), Sam Whelan (Year 10) and Alex Lawson (Year 11) being declared age champions.

Teacher-in-charge of Athletics, Miss Jenny Dyke said, "To finish almost three hundred points ahead of the other schools at the SEISA carnival was a sensational effort, as most of the schools are larger than Gippsland Grammar. Being able to back up the win, four days later at the ICCES carnival, highlighted the commitment of the students and the value of our training program."



Photo: (L to R) Members of the Gippsland Grammar athletics team, Alex Lawson, Millie Dunnett and Ellie Anderson.



curious . committed . creative . challenged . independent . inspired . passionate

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