

veritas



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Compassion | Leadership | Excellence | Respect | Responsibility

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Cover image:
Senior boys scull at
sunrise on the
Thomson River



From The Principal

We recently celebrated the induction of our 2017 School Captains and Prefects and reflected upon Matthew 5: 13-16, which refers to 'salt and light' in a wonderful metaphor that clearly captures our School values in regard to leadership and our leadership program.

'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its flavour, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

Leadership is one of our core values at Gippsland Grammar. Our School program offers our students many opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of what constitutes good leadership, while

experiencing a leadership role and developing their own, individual style.

We want our students to be shining lights in the community and to strive to achieve their own personal level of excellence in all that they do; however, it is also important that they remember that, as 'the salt of the earth', they are primarily here to serve others. If our students lose their humility and do not approach leadership from a position of service, they risk losing their saltiness and diminishing their humanity and effectiveness overall.

Salt of the earth is a great saying within the Australian vernacular and offers a meaningful metaphor to guide our leadership program at Gippsland Grammar. While our students are incredibly talented and have every reason to let their light shine, they must remain grounded and work alongside those they seek to lead, rather than imposing their leadership from above.

As mentioned in previous articles, we have adopted

the statement 'service learning' to describe our service and leadership program. We have embedded this statement into our Strategic Plan (2017-2019), which helps students develop a deeper understanding of how they can best work with people. A simple way to describe this approach is that we don't do things to people, or for people but, instead, with people. We want our students to maintain their passion and zest for life and to believe that they can, indeed, change the world; however the realities of life can be challenging and sometimes mundane. By fostering a collaborative leadership approach, where the process is as important as the outcome—if not more so—we hope our students will have a lifetime of developing positive relationships that have a profound effect on the people they meet.

Enjoy the many examples of shining lights throughout this issue of Veritas, flavoured liberally with a good dash of salt.



Gippsland Grammar School Captains Gil Aitken and Chloe Haylock, with Vice Captains Tyson Whelan and Caroline Basset



An artist's impression of the dynamic new learning space

New Learning Centre, Years 3-4

The Gippsland Grammar Board of Directors has approved the next stage of the School's Capital Development Plan and commenced planning for the construction of a state of the art learning centre for our Year 3 and 4 students at St Anne's. The building will provide

flexible, collaborative spaces that promote learning and further enhance our position as one of the leading Foundation to Year 12 schools in Australia.

Our fundraising efforts in 2017 will focus on covering a significant proportion of the \$1.4 million required. To this end, parents will notice an additional line on your fee notices, enabling you to make a tax deductible donation towards this centre. We understand that not everybody will

be able to afford this additional expense, but for those who can, we would really appreciate your help.

Stay tuned for more news about how you can be involved in fundraising for this exciting new initiative.



The view from McMillan Street, Sale



Aus Open 2017: A Ballkid's View

Thousands of young people apply to be ballkids at the Australian Open each year. It takes 12 months of preparation and only 20% make it through the selection process. A total of 380 ballkids, including 28 from overseas, lined up for the 2017 Aus Open. Our very own Hunter Pearce (Year 9) was one of them. Here are his reflections on an amazing experience.

I first applied to be a ballkid in 2015 for the 2016 Australian Open (AO). After making it through the first two rounds, I was cut in the final round before the main squad was announced. I had been training once a month in Melbourne so I was disappointed, but I used

the experience to try out again in 2016 and successfully made it to the main squad for AO 2017.

Our shifts rotated every 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the weather and breaks in play. All my matches were on the net, except one where I managed to experience being on the base and serving the players. I soon learnt that the base is much easier than the net and a lot less tiring!

Days went by on the outside courts waiting for an opportunity to go on a big show court. Then on January 19 I found myself on Hisense Arena. I walked out on to the court and looked around; Gael Monfris (seeded 6) was about to start his match against Alexander Dolgoplov (seeded 16); there was hardly a seat left and the atmosphere was crazy. I remember spotting my family in the crowd. They all looked so nervous for me. It was a blast.

During the event everyone has at least one day as a TBA which is basically a rest day, unless you are asked to fill in to cover injuries and illness. The day I was TBA I got lucky and was called up to Rod Laver Arena. I was ecstatic. I walked out on court to where Stan Wawrinka (4) was about to play Jo Wilfred Tsonga (12) in the men's quarter final. I couldn't believe it. I looked around; the place was sold out. No words can describe what I felt at that moment.

My shift changed at the end of the first set which was when Stan and Jo decided to have an argument. I didn't know they were arguing; it wasn't until my dad showed me the video footage with me in the background that I found out. That was pretty cool. It was definitely the highlight of my AO 2017 and an experience of a lifetime.



Hunter Pearce in his ballkids uniform

Celebrating Excellence

Taj Duff (Year 8) sailed in the 40th National 125 Championships at the Altona Yacht Club over the holidays and came 5th in the Open event, which saw him awarded a National Junior Championship. Later in January, Taj was awarded 'Most Improved' at the 2017 Australian Minnow sailing championships in Blairgowrie. Taj came 10th overall in a fleet of 60 boats after some intense racing in hot and blustery conditions. Well done Taj!

Tom Stewart (Year 12) was invited to perform at this year's Top Class Drama and Theatre Studies program as part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2017 at the

Melbourne Recital Centre in March. The highest scoring VCE Theatre Studies students from 2016 auditioned in late January, where just 20 were selected to perform. Congratulations Tom!

Andrew Bullers (Year 11) was awarded Cadet of the Year (Army, Sale Unit) at the end of 2016. He was selected to sail on the Young Endeavour from Esperance to Adelaide at the start of the summer holidays and was subsequently awarded the Order of Australia (Association) Medallion in recognition of his commitment to the pursuit of excellence, while demonstrating the ethos of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. We congratulate Andrew on this outstanding award.

Annabel Pearson (Year 10) is known in culinary circles in Dubai as 'Chef Bella'. The enterprising teen turned a diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes—just over 12 months ago—into a positive lifestyle change and an opportunity to promote healthy living to her peers.

Originally from East Gippsland, Annabel's parents fell in love with Dubai while travelling and the family relocated there, where Annabel's father now works for Al Islami Foods.

Al Islami Foods has a long history of working with the UAE Government to promote eating and living well. Annabel, with her passion for cooking and a junior-chef qualification from Dubai's School of Culinary and Finishing Arts, has now taken on an

ambassadorial role with the company, taking the healthy eating message to school children and the broader community.

Her work as a positive role model has seen her recently nominated to receive a Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Community Award.

Bon Appetite Chef Bella!



Taj Duff shows his skill at the helm



Henry Davis
Photo by David Ting.

Henry Davis is thrilled to be studying music at Monash University.

Class of 2016

We are delighted with the VCE results of our 2016 Year 12 students and congratulate them again on an outstanding year.

Dux of Gippsland Grammar for 2016 was Anna Morscheck with an ATAR score of 98.95 and a perfect score for English Language.

- 8% of our students achieved a score above 95, placing them in the top 5% of the state.
- 19% obtained an ATAR score of over 90, putting them in the top 10% of the state, whilst 39% obtained an ATAR score in excess of 80 placing them in the top 20%.
- 92% of the students placed in the top 50%.

The Class of 2016 has now set off for new adventures. We caught up with Henry Davis, who is undertaking a Bachelor of Music in Popular Voice at Monash University in 2017.

Why did you choose this particular course Henry?

Music is my passion. The 'popular voice' course appealed because it is a recent addition to Monash, which means I have the opportunity to be part of something new and exciting.

Where would you like the course to lead?

I hope I can continue my studies to Honours or Masters level. My long term aim is to enter the music industry as a producer or studio manager.

How did you feel when you received the offer?

I was able to find out about my offer quite early at the start of November and, apart from the excitement that I had made it in, I felt relieved that the preparation for the auditions had paid off. After that I could focus on finishing Year 12 and getting the necessary ATAR.

What was your family's reaction?

My family was proud that all the work I had put in over the years had led to the ultimate result.

What are you expecting first year to be like?

I think it will be very busy as I discover what university life is all about! It will be a year of discoveries and making new friends and connections; it may also be challenging adapting to university life, but so worthwhile.

What are you most looking forward to?

I am really looking forward to studying with like-minded people. I am also looking forward to being involved in a new community, meeting new people and getting involved in new opportunities, both within Mannix residential college and as a member of some Monash clubs.

Go well Henry!

Old Scholars News

The Class of 1987

celebrated its 30 year milestone with a reunion in the grounds of Kilmany Park on 18 February, organised by Synda Turnbull. More than 40 alumni travelled from overseas and interstate to be at the event.

Satoko Maekawa was a Japanese Exchange student at STAGGS in 1985 and couldn't wait to catch up with old friends at the event. 'Ako', as she was fondly known, travelled to Australia especially for the reunion and even stayed with her original host family.

The evening included a touching tribute to absent classmates, and promises to reconvene in 10 years—if not before!



Class of 1987 representatives at Kilmany Park



Rob Steel and Oksana Musii

Rob Steel (1996)

completed a double degree in Commerce and Business Systems at Melbourne University before working for Kearney and Co. in Melbourne. In 2006, he moved to the UK and has now been in London for more than 10 years, working mainly in the banking sector. Rob married Oksana Musii on March 5, 2016. The happy couple live in Clapham North. Rob works for Deutsche Bank.

Vale

Nigel Dawkins

(1982) passed away on 1 December 2016. Sincere condolences are extended to Nigel's family, including his brothers, Michael (1972), Tim (1973) and Tony (1978).

Karen Gard (1988)

passed away suddenly at home in Mudgeeraba QLD, on 6 December 2016, aged 45. Sincere condolences are extended to Karen's family, including her parents, former Deputy Principal of Gippsland Grammar, Mr Colin Gard and his wife Barbara and Karen's sister, Amanda (1992).

Helen Hall (nee Christensen, 1957)

passed away on 23 September 2016, aged 76. Helen received a kidney transplant some 15 years ago, giving her a chance to enjoy her five grandsons. She was a great supporter of the sport of synchronized swimming and was Secretary at club, state and national levels for more than 20 years. Sincere condolences

are extended to Helen's family, including her sister, **Jean Chatfield (nee Christensen, 1958).**

Helen Patton taught Japanese at Gippsland Grammar from 1988 to 2000. Upon her retirement, she generously funded the creation of a Japanese Garden at the McGhee Street entrance of the Garnsey Campus. Mrs Patton passed away on 15 February 2017. Our condolences to her family.

John Leslie OBE, passed away on 14 December, 2016 aged 97. Mr Leslie, a local philanthropist and staunch supporter of the School, was the inaugural President of the School Foundation in 1985. He had a great vision for the School and was a major donor to many School projects, most recently the Laurie Payne Sports Centre at Garnsey Campus. Mr Leslie regularly attended School events and will be sadly missed. Our sincere condolences are extended to Mr Leslie's extended family and friends.



John Leslie OBE



Paige Barr

Jack McGrath

Rowing

At the mid-point of the 2017 rowing season, Director of Rowing, Peter Campbell, shares his reflections on his second year with the Gippsland Grammar rowing program, which he describes as a journey of development and collaboration.

We started the year with high expectations, given the success we had experienced in the 2015-2016 season. The aim was to build on that success with a program that produced more consistent, high level performances. With this in mind, we developed

a partnership with Tom Wheeler of ReActive High Performance in Sale to plan a season that would optimise our strength and conditioning training.

To complement this approach, we sought Assistant Rowing Coaches with sports physiology, or strength and conditioning qualifications, at a tertiary level. Andie Hinitt and Katherine Shaw joined the team and immediately built upon the work established by Tom. They also provided advice on nutrition, rest and recovery methods and injury prevention and rehabilitation.

Carol Moorehead, an experienced senior coxswain from Queen's University Belfast, joined the team as our Coxswain Coach.

An effective rowing program needs clear short, medium and long term goals. One of our long term goals is to increase the number of active rowers in the program.

Our junior program had already doubled in membership from the previous year, with the vast majority of students coming to us as the result of a positive Learn to Row experience early in 2016. To continue this exciting

pattern of growth, we introduced rowing as part of the Physical Education curriculum for Year 7s in Term 3 (2016). We were delighted to find that we subsequently became heavily over-subscribed for the Learn to Row course in Term 1, 2017.

We aim to foster a love of the sport in our juniors and teach them how to train, so that they will want to continue rowing through their intermediate and senior years.

Meanwhile, the seniors and intermediates have continued their progress, working tirelessly to meet the demands of strength



Ailish McGrath and Hollie Rowand



Campbell Czempinski, Lachlan Wimot, James Thompson, Patrick Horne (Bairndale Rowing Club) and Miya Hancock



Jessica Thompson

and conditioning training, erg workouts, rest and recovery sessions, on-water sessions and, of course, school work. To balance this level of commitment, with a social life and paid employment, is quite remarkable and highly commendable for any young person.

Many of these athletes started the season with the goal of achieving a place on the team selected to attend the Australian National Rowing Championships. For our final year students, this is their last chance of realising that dream as a school athlete. They have participated wholeheartedly in a

meticulously planned training program that combines technique, endurance, strength, power, cardio-vascular capacity, speed, flexibility and mobility. The intention is for our rowers to achieve peak condition and performance as the season culminates.

As this issue of Veritas goes to print, the rowing program is poised and ready to perform at the target regattas of the season. We are aiming for personal best performances from every athlete when we compete at the NSW School Boy Head of the River (all boys, racing at the Olympic course in

Sydney) and the Victorian Head of the School Girls (all girls, racing in Geelong). This is the chance for our athletes to show the skill, fitness and passion they have worked so hard to finesse.

We congratulate the following athletes, who have already secured their position in the team attending the Nationals:

Competing in the Under 17 Women's Single Scull – Paige Barr.

Competing in the Under 17 Women's Double Scull – Ailish McGrath and Hollie Rowand.

Competing in the Under 17 Men's Quadruple Scull

– Campbell Czempinski, Lachlan Wimot, James Thompson, Patrick Horne (from Bairnsdale Rowing Club) and their coxswain, Miya Hancock.

Competing in the Under 19 Women's Single Scull and the School Girl Single Scull – Jessica Thompson.

Competing in the Under 19 Men's Single Scull and the School Boy Single Scull – Jack McGrath.



St Anne's students make a splash!

Inter House Swimming

Wellington Binks took out the double in this year's Inter House Swimming Sports in Sale winning the Garnsey Campus event by a narrow margin of 46 points, and then backing

it up the next day with a win in the St Anne's Campus event.

The Bairnsdale Campus event was held a week later, where Tisdall Hotham took home the trophy.

Congratulations to all those students who

won age champion medallions and to the general student cohort, who displayed great sportsmanship throughout the carnivals.

Our House swimming carnivals would not be a success without the assistance of many parent helpers who volunteer

their time; we are grateful for your support.

'It was really great getting a ribbon AND getting out of the COLD pool.'

**Jessica Martin,
Year 4, St Anne's**



Chinela Otuonye, Georgia Shell, Cohen Frith, Thomas Swinn and Monty Richardson proudly hold the trophy for Tisdall Hotham in Bairnsdale



It was a hard fought battle but Wellington Binks won the day at the Senior School Inter House Swimming Carnival



(L-R): Ashlee Robertson, Zoe Czempinski, Lily McCormick and Madison Augustine make some new friends

Rwanda Experience

Since 2011, a group of Gippsland Grammar students have been fortunate enough to experience an 'alternative schoolies' trip to Rwanda in November each year. The trip is designed to challenge the school leavers in a new environment, whilst engaging them in the service of others and providing a raft of

special memories. Here is a trip report from **Zoe Czempinski (2016)**.

In November last year, we travelled to Rwanda to celebrate the completion of our VCE studies. We began our trip in the village of Gahini, staying at Seeds of Peace which overlooked the stunning Lake Muhazi. We spent our time in the village painting blackboards for the senior school students, teaching and playing with the local children at the primary

school and singing with the 'Rays of Hope' choir which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were thrilled to become close friends with two older students, and passing on guitars to both Jimmy and Guilene at the end of the trip was a highlight. Similarly, we loved spending our afternoons with five local boys; swimming, dancing and playing cards. Our time in Gahini was cherished, as we experienced for ourselves the relationship between the Anglican

Diocese of Gippsland and Gahini, and were privy to the lives of the generous and faithful Rwandan people. For our final few days we enjoyed a safari at Akegera National Park, which was incredible. Anyone on the trip would recommend this amazing cultural experience, which allows the relationship between the Gippsland Diocese and the Gahini Diocese to continue to flourish.

2017 School Leaders

Gippsland Grammar provides a range of leadership opportunities for students at all levels. We support and

challenge our student leaders to develop in their roles throughout the year. Already we are seeing them grow in confidence

as they make their individual contribution to the school community.



St Anne's Campus Captains, Rose Dallimore and Aussie Bauer



St Anne's House Captains and Vice-Captains (L-R): Tisdall Hotham: James Westman (Vice Captain), Amity Grumley (Captain); Wellington Binks: Amalie Pullman (Vice Captain); Zane Waixel (Captain); Cranswick Dargo: Ella O'Doherty (Captain), Aden Mills (Vice Captain); Blundell Bogong: Jessica Board (Vice Captain), Baxter Pearce (Captain)



2017 Prefects: Back Row (L-R): Xavier Monacella, Henry Turnbull, Tom Anderson, Tyson Whelan (Vice Captain), Principal, David Baker

Middle Row (L-R): Nichil Nowrungsah, Jake Holland, Jasmine Doultree, Christine Turra, Megan Keil. Gil Aitken (Captain), Deputy Principal – Head of Garnsey Campus, Jan Henry

Front Row (L-R): Caitlin Baker, Grace de Steiger, Chloe Haylock (Captain), Caroline Basset (Vice Captain), Nellie Hunt



Bairnsdale Year 6 Leadership Group
Front, seated, (L-R): Abigail Carr, Siennah Mair, Chinela Otuonye, Tess Venables

Middle, (L-R): Member for East Gippsland Tim Bull, Gippsland Grammar Head of Bairnsdale Campus Virginia Evans, Curtis Wilmot, Gil Aitken, Quinn Carmichael, Chloe Haylock, Cohen Frith, Ashur Brownlie, Mackinley Campbell, Matilda McInnes, Holly Whitelaw, Claire Jones, Caroline Basset, Edward Courtier, Jess Robinson, James Ritchie, Tyson Whelan, Georgia Shell, Che Buckley, Gippsland Grammar Principal David Baker, Year 6 leadership educator Penny Rankin

Elevated back row, (L-R): David Ng, Layla Kenny, Thomas Swinn, Monty Richardson