

veritas



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Compassion | Leadership | Excellence | Respect | Responsibility

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Veritas

Issue 2, 2017
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Grammar

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Cover image:

The Very Reverend
Susanna Pain high fives
Prep students at Easter.



From The Principal

I recently attended a memorial service at our Bairnsdale Campus to bless a plaque laid in memory of Caitlyn Fischer, from the class of 2015. While at the Campus, I spent time with Caitlyn's family unveiling the Caitlyn Fischer Encouragement Award honour board. Caitlyn died in a tragic horse riding accident in April 2016. It is some comfort to family and friends that she died doing what she loved and was with her beloved horse, Ralphie.

At School, Caitlyn was a quiet and unassuming young lady with a love of learning and a voracious appetite for reading. When I think back to her final year of study, I see someone who worked very hard to achieve great academic results, yet drew very little attention to herself and simply 'got on with it'.

Caitlyn started her Gippsland Grammar journey at our Bairnsdale Junior Campus and her memorial plaque sits under the tree she planted with her Year 6 friends when she graduated to the Garnsey Senior Campus. The tree is now quite large,

offering a tranquil space under its canopy to remember and reflect.

The Caitlyn Fischer Encouragement Award has been created to reward a Bairnsdale student who has similar characteristics to Caitlyn; someone who loves learning, works hard and always gives their best. Caitlyn was a great citizen of our School and epitomised our core values in everything she did.

When we decided to develop this edition of Veritas around the theme of resilience, I immediately thought of Mark and Ailsa and Caitlyn's family. Throughout the trauma of Caitlyn's accident, her family have lovingly supported each other and Caitlyn's large circle of friends, determined to celebrate Caitlyn's life with dignity and respect. Every time I meet with them I am amazed at their positive outlook, their concern for others and their ability to share their loving memories of their vivacious daughter and her joy for life. I admire them enormously for the manner in which they have navigated the most tragic event they will probably experience in their lives. No parent should have to bury their child.

This is not the first time I have spent time with parents under such circumstances and I also pay tribute to the Irvine family, the Vollemaere family and the Adams family as they have worked through similar tragedies with the deaths of Jack, Griffin and Jake.

When I am asked to think about resilience, I think of these families and all they have been through; their capacity to continue living their lives and their determination to commemorate the lives of their children.

As a School we often speak of our values and how our community shows resilience. We intentionally design the learning and growth experiences of our students to help them to develop strength of character and learn how to overcome adversity; how to respond when success cannot be found. This is more complicated than placing students in tough situations and watching them cope, it is about walking with them and helping them to develop the problem solving and deep thinking skills that they need to negotiate life's challenges. The sense of satisfaction when they eventually overcome and succeed is amazing and inspiring to witness and encapsulates everything we believe in as a School.

I hope you enjoy this issue.



Caitlyn and Ralphie
- Stephen Mowbray
Photography



Helping individuals thrive: 2017 Prefects

We aim to create a School environment where every individual is able to thrive and is a valued and respected part of our safe community. Our goals, chosen at the beginning of this year, are about sustainability, community engagement and equity. We have organised associated activities and incentives within the School that we hope will have a positive impact on Gippsland Grammar and the wider community.

We believe that students who feel included and safe in their community are more likely to succeed and will leave our School

with positive memories and friendships for life. As a Prefect group, we hope to encourage acceptance of all students through role modelling appropriate behaviour and promoting the benefits of embracing diversity. Through a focus on the environment, we hope to promote eco-friendly, sustainable habits that students can apply both in and out of school.

So far this year we have worked together to put in place some of our ideas, such as the use of posters, which are displayed across the School grounds. These seek to raise awareness of global waste and inclusiveness, while encouraging students to be more aware of the impact their actions have on the environment and each other.



An inaugural 'O Day' orientation activity introduced the range of co-curricular activities available to all students and promoted the benefits associated with these, including how to get involved and make a contribution to our School. The production of a promotional cross-country video, presented to all students,

encouraged participation, friendly competition and involvement in the 'spirit' of the House.

We intend to continue activities throughout the year to make a lasting difference to Gippsland Grammar and positively influence all students to be part of a safer, more inclusive and supportive school environment, now and in the future.



Blackwood House: home away from home

The benefits of attending a boarding school are many and varied according to students at Gippsland Grammar.

"I love boarding for the atmosphere, continuously being surrounded by like-minded and supportive people encourages you to do your best," says Paige Barlow from Gormandale, who hopes to achieve her dream of becoming a doctor.

Billy Adams from Lakes Entrance is this year's Blackwood House Boarding Captain. He

enjoys being able to manage his time better without the need to travel each day. "I started at Gippsland Grammar in Year 3 and moved into the Boarding House for Year 11, mainly for the extra tuition and to improve my grades. Boarding has also been great for establishing new friendships," he explained.

Gippsland Grammar is the only school between Melbourne and the New South Wales border in the east to offer boarding facilities to students. The School acquired and refurbished Manor House nursing home on Raglan Street, Sale, in 2008 to create a warm and comfortable 'home away from home' for casual, part-time and full-time boarders.

Part-time boarding is the perfect blend of home and away living for those students who may not actually live that far away, but have such an intensive schedule of after-school activities during the week that staying on-site is the most logical and comfortable option. A bus operates to transport students to and from Blackwood House to sporting venues around Sale, and boarding staff are adept at helping students meet their commitments. The students travel home on Fridays to enjoy weekends with family.

Stuart Llewellyn is the newly appointed Head of Boarding at Gippsland Grammar. He began earlier this year and brings more than 20 years of teaching experience

to the role. Mr Llewellyn has spent the last 14 years working and living with students in two remote outdoor education camps; The Scot's College "Glengarry" Campus in Kangaroo Valley, NSW, and the Methodist Ladies College "Marshmead" Campus in Mallacoota, Victoria.

"Gippsland Grammar is one of Australia's leading regional schools, which is what attracted me to the role," Mr Llewellyn said.

"The boarding facilities are fantastic. It's inspiring to think about how many boarding students have been before, and the many who will follow, living and learning together in a place they are valued, respected and safe."

My sailing journey: Luca Vuat (Year 11)

I discovered sailing in Year 8 and found myself racing against kids who had been sailing all through primary school. I spent two years in a two-handed, International cadet dinghy and learned how to race using two sails and a spinnaker. I decided to move to a bigger boat last year, after finishing in 4th place at the Yachting Victoria Youth State Championships.

Despite being a novice in the class, my crew mate and I attended the 29er Nationals in Adelaide over the 2016-2017 summer holidays to gain race experience in a fleet and develop our skills. The 29er is a fast, high performance, double-handed skiff and is one of three classes that funnels the athletes into the Olympic training streams. The other two classes are the single handed Laser and double -handed 420 Dinghy. The 29er is the most challenging to sail of the three, being the fastest, which means

that there is no room for mistakes.

Living in a regional area is a disadvantage as there are no other local 29ers to train with. Yachting Victoria training sessions occur after school and Saturdays in Melbourne. As a VCE student working towards a high ATAR, I cannot train as often as the city sailors but I am content to aim for personal bests at each regatta and may continue in the larger 49er when I move on to university in Melbourne.

A place above the bottom 25% was our aim for the State Championships in March. It was hard work to get there but we finished 8th overall, which put us in the middle of the fleet. We also noticed that we are no longer as far behind the same podium-finish sailors we chased after at Nationals. We ended the season with a podium finish, getting a bronze medal at the Club Marine Victorian State Youth Championships in April, hosted by Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

The benefits of skiff sailing extend beyond the fun and challenge of the sport. Nowhere else do I have to concentrate on the task at hand for such a long time!



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The Old Scholars Association launched the *Be Your Potential* Scholarship Fund in 2016. The aim of this scholarship is to enable a student, who could not for reasons financial, social or otherwise, attend Gippsland Grammar.



Arabunna Magic

Reg Dodd's Arabunna Tours explore the ancient, natural wonders of the Lake Eyre Basin while sampling bush tucker and discovering bush medicines and other desert resources. Reg is an Arabunna elder who was born on Finnis Springs Mission, at the Southern end of Lake Eyre. He has been running tours since 1996, firstly as a joint venture with the Marree Arabunna Peoples Committee and Community Aid Abroad, now as an independent Aboriginal enterprise.

Gippsland Grammar has been visiting Reg at Arabunna for many years. We hope to continue the tradition for many more years to come. The trip is open to students from

Years 8-12.

Here's a student report from our visit in April this year.

A group of eight Gippsland Grammar students and two teachers travelled to Arabunna country in the first week of April this year. We flew to Adelaide and spent our first night at the CWA lodge. We explored Adelaide on foot and started bonding as a group. The next day we travelled 10 hours by mini bus to get to Marree, an isolated outback town with a population of approximately 60 people - 70 if you counted us. Here we met up with our tour guide, Reg Dodd, an Arabunna elder who was to show us many different places and tell us lots of stories about Aboriginal history.

After exploring the town around the Old Ghan

Railway station, we slept in our swags on the veranda. The next day we drove to Alberrie Creek, about 70 km from Marree on the Oodnadatta Track, and set up camp outside on the ground. Here we stayed for the next five days. We had the opportunity to fall asleep looking at the stars and sometimes even wildlife; waking up to the sunrise and the occasional mosquito, ready to travel for the day.

Reg told us his stories; the Arabunna history and how the Arabunna people interacted with more recent arrivals from Afghanistan, Britain and Europe. We went to amazing and unique places and saw some of the most beautiful views and animals in our lives. Our travels included places like Lake Eyre, the biggest salt lake in Australia, and the edge of

the Great Artesian Basin, the biggest underground water source in Australia. It was incredible to have the opportunity to see these places.

On the last Saturday it was time to leave Marree and head back to Victoria. We drove for 10 hours, flew for one hour and then bussed back to Sale, arriving at a ridiculous hour of the night.

We would like to thank Mr Ries and Mr Dolbel for making this trip possible and the staff in South Australia who did their best to provide food and swags.

By Flynn Davis (Year 11) and Faith O'Connor (Year 9)

Photographs: Faith O'Connor (Year 9) and Spencer Fox (Year 9)



Old Scholars

Riley McLaren and Lydia Evans (2012) recently graduated from Deakin University where they studied a Bachelor of Creative Arts, Animation and Motion Capture. For their final major project, they created an animation titled 'The Rust Hook', which has been selected to screen at the Melbourne International Animation Festival and the Australian International Animation Festival.

'We're very proud to be screened alongside some exceptional animations and thought we'd pass along the news, as it was at Gippsland Grammar that Riley and I first started working together in VET Media,' Lydia Evans said.

Our congratulations to this talented pair. You can view Lydia and Riley's animation at <http://lydiaevansanimation.com/2016/09/the-rusty-hook/>

Congratulations to **Marlee McMahan (2013)** for her first solo exhibition at Gippsland Art Gallery Sale. Marlee studied Studio Arts at Gippsland Grammar and is now in her final year of painting at the Victorian College of the Arts. Marlee intends to do her Honours in painting next year and no doubt she will make her mark in the visual arts in future.

Alex Waite (2009) performed with chamber music group Affinity Collective at School Assembly at the end of May. Alex completed a Bachelor of Music (Performance) with First Class Honours at the Sydney Conservatorium, where he was a student of another ex-Gippsland boy, Dr Paul Rickard-Ford. His time in Sydney included performing a recital in Theme and Variations' Emerging Artist Series, touring regional NSW, and being selected for the inaugural Estivo Chamber Music Summer School in Verona, Italy. Alex is now back in Melbourne to study with Timothy Young at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).



Alex Waite (2009) and Deputy Principal - Head of Garnsey Campus, Jan Henry

Reunions 10 Years (2007)

Contact Lucy Rash, 0437 196 976, or email lucy.rash@gmail.com to find out more about the event being held in Melbourne in November.

20 years (1997)

Contact Jade Willox (Membrey) on 03 5143 6354, or email willox@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au. A spring event is planned – to be held at Gippsland Grammar.

Have you updated your contact details with us recently?

Please keep in touch so we can share news of upcoming events and activities.

Contact the Development Office on 5143 6315, or email melissa.farley@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au

Vale

HALL, (Adam) Vicki

After a long illness on 21 April, 2017 aged 50 years.

Dearly loved wife of Tim, loving mother of past students Henry, Lucy and Phoebe, sister of Michelle Sorensen and Natalie Cowley.

Vicki and her husband Tim were staunch supporters of our Bairnsdale Campus during their time in Gippsland. Vicki also designed the refurbished rooms at Garnsey Campus.

'She left on her terms as she had lived life, with strength, grace and dignity,

STONE, Frank.

Past Director of Rowing, teacher and mentor to many.

Died peacefully on 12 May, 2017 aged 67.

Loved husband of Prue. Loving father and father-in-law of Jonathan and Susie, Amelia, Fiona and Steve. Adored Grandpa of Liam, Henry, and Millie.

A life well rowed.

WOOTTON (nee James) Joy Emily (1946)

Born 2 July, 1928. Passed away 16 April, 2017.

Beloved and loving wife of Ray for 66 years. Loving and loved Mother and Mother-in-law of John and Kavita; Sue-Almeda and Mike; Ann (1978 peer year) and Morris; and Howard (1980 peer year) and Sharon. Adoring Grandmother of Nick, Tim and Parisa; Belinda, Tammy, Alex and Jarrad; Laurie and Julian; Benjamin and Samuel. Proud Great Grandmother of Dustin, Hunter, Hudson, Carter, Milla, Amelia and Evie.



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Left to right: Lachie Anderson, Fergus Grubb, Hamish Howlett, Josh Kiernan, Max Conway

Bullseye! Gippsland Grammar shooters perform well.

On 27 April, the 24 member Gippsland Grammar Shooting team made the long commute from Sale to Lilydale to shoot at the Melbourne Gun Club for the Yarra Valley Region Secondary School Shoot.

The students had a tough competition competing against 132 other keen shooters from 10 schools. Some of the fierce competitors included Geelong Grammar, Nagle College, as well as the home ground shooters, Lilydale High.

This shoot consisted of 30 targets including 10 skeet, 10 DTL and finally 10 sporting; testing shooters ability in all areas. Throughout the day competition stayed

tough, with pouring rain to light winds and finally blue skies.

As the day was coming to an end, Gippsland Grammar was closely chasing Nagle college by seven targets in the second round. Gippsland Grammar's 'A' squad of Aaron Barling, Hayden Johnston, Quinn Wade, Sam Davis and Charlie Rankcom ultimately missed out on the team's event to Nagle College once again, with a combined team score of 105/150 with Nagle scoring 110/150.

However, two of the senior boys in the team had individual success. Hayden Johnston placed third in the senior boys with a total score of 25/30, and Aaron Barling took out second place in senior boys after a fierce shoot off against another Gippsland sports academy shooter.

All other students shot extremely well and all new shooters, including juniors, are to be commended for their performance.

Just over two weeks later, on 15 May, Gippsland Grammar competed at the Bairnsdale Field and Game Schools Competition.

The competition was fierce, with 125 students contending. Schools including Yarram, Wonthaggi, Nagle and metropolitan rivals, Lilydale, were present.

Students were tested by 20 targets over two rounds of 10, of predominately the simulated variety. Challenging targets, along with bursts of rain, meant only the best would be successful.

As the competition drew to a close, Gippsland Grammar 'A' Squad was tied for first place with Yarram. Our 'A' squad, comprised of Aaron Barling, Hayden Johnston, Quinn Wade, Sam Davis and Rob McNeilly, held their nerve during a tense shoot off, to win by one target and reclaim the coveted field and game shield for Grammar.

Success wasn't limited to the team format, as

three individual shooters were also successful. Rob McNeilly was in fine form, coming second in Senior Boys, with a score of 16/20 from a Yarram Secondary College student, and fellow Grammar shooter Tom Finlay claimed third in Senior Boys after the shoot off. Congratulations are also to be extended to Susannah Keilly, who came third in Senior Girls after a shoot off against an experienced Nagle competitor. This was Susannah's second completion since learning to shoot clay targets late last year. Great effort, Susannah.

All Grammar shooters are to be commended, as all members produced strong scores especially our junior students in Tim Morgan, Fergus Grubb, Callan Kerby and Jack Prestney, despite challenging targets, rain and, for some, pre-existing injuries.

Overall, the day was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

Hitting the right note

Term 2 saw Gippsland Grammar welcome a new Director of Performing Arts. Mr Matthew Goss was previously the Director of Music at Dulwich College in Shanghai. He and his family join our School community after a busy term in China. Mr Goss is an accomplished saxophonist and brings a broad range of experience to the role. He recently produced the 2017 Autumn Concert, to great acclaim.

"This was the first Gippsland Grammar concert I have been involved in. I had a good idea of what was in store for us, as the concert followed on from our music camps at Rawson, where I met many of the musicians and parents for the first time. The camps provided our students and staff with an excellent opportunity to engage in intensive rehearsals. On a personal note, they gave me a great chance to get to know everybody a little better.

I had heard so much about Stephen Taberner that I thought it

impossible for one person to live up to this lofty reputation. I soon found out there was no problem there! Stephen Taberner is a singer, songwriter, double bass player, composer, choir leader and a great guy. Over the past six years, he has become a fixture at Gippsland Grammar, with the ability to bring out the very best in our students in such an engaging and inspirational manner. We were delighted to have him in attendance at the Autumn Concert.

I want to thank parents for their ongoing support of music at the School.

I have been delighted by the standard of musicianship and passion for music displayed by our students and their families.

Of course, our program would be nothing without the dedication of our music staff. A special thanks to Sue Bryant, our Music Administrator, for her management of the Music Department and to our instrumental staff for their dedication and commitment to our musicians."



Celebrating Excellence

Melody Jefferis (Year 10) and **Enola Jefferis (Year 8)** were the junior champions at the Victorian state titles for the 125 class of sailing dinghies, held at Yarrowonga Yacht Club over the Labour Day weekend in March. Congratulations girls.

Darcy Wade (Year 11) recently won gold at the Western Australia State Pentathlon Championships, making him the WA state champion. He is also the current Victorian and Queensland state champion and runner up Australian title holder. The World Championships is fast approaching and Darcy will fly out to Hungary to represent Australia in the World Championships in late June. The next event after the World Championships is the Oceania Championships in Japan in September, where the Australian Youth Olympics representative will be selected. Good luck Darcy!



Darcy Wade in the green and gold

Taj Duff (Year 8) placed fourth in the Minnows class of the Victorian Youth Sailing Championships in April, hosted by Royal Brighton Yacht Club. Taj is now a member of the Victorian Sailing Team, a high performance coaching program for aspiring junior, youth and under 24 aged sailors. With support from Gippsland Grammar, Taj is balancing his Year 8 schooling, with a rigorous training regime both in Melbourne and on the Gippsland Lakes.



Taj Duff

Linus Rodda (Year 11) and **Joey Rodda (Year 9)** recently competed in the National Junior Beach Volleyball Championships in Perth. Linus played in the Under 19 age division, where he and his team mate won three out of seven of their games; a great result in tough competition. Linus was subsequently recognised at the Victorian State Team awards, with the Coaches award for 'Best Teammate'.

Joey captained the No 1 Victorian Under 15 side, only narrowly losing the gold medal match to Queensland, 9-17, in the deciding set.

Joey was recognised as Victoria's Under 15 'Most Valuable Player' and has been selected as an emergency in the Victorian Indoor State Schools Victoria Under 16 team, to compete in the National Championships in Western Australia in August 2017.

Jessica Thompson (Year 12) will represent Australia at the Junior World Championships in Lithuania in August. Jessica, Gippsland Grammar's Senior Rowing Captain, will be rowing in the Junior Women's 8 as part of the Australian Junior Rowing Team. Rowing Australia established a 'Pathway Program' to find the top crews in country. Jessica was selected to take part in the program after top performances competing for her School in single scull events at state trials and at the national titles in Sydney earlier this year.

Milla Bennett (Year 7) won overall bronze in the Under 14 Girls National Water skiing titles held in Perth over the holidays. Milla won bronze in the jumps and tricks sections and fourth in the slalom, to take out overall third place. This great achievement has served to inspire Milla to continue to strive to compete internationally in water-skiing and we wish her well as she pursues her goals.

Georgia Cook (Year 8) and **Ellie Jarvis (Year 7)** travelled to Disneyland during the holidays to dance. Performing in shows every day and being art of the Disney Parade was an exciting

and eye opening experience for the girls and others from their Bairnsdale Dance School.

Will Murray (Year 4) competed in the Peter Horobin Saddlery Equestrian Interschool State Championships held at Werribee Park over Easter. Will had a very successful weekend placing first overall winning Champion Rider on his mount Linbil Southern Cross. After placing first and second in the first two events, he automatically qualified to compete for Victoria at the Nationals, to be held in Toowoomba in Queensland during the September school holidays. Congratulations Will.



Will Murray

Debating and public speaking

It seems our students have the gift of the gab! Gippsland Grammar dominated at the recent SEISA Cultural Festival in Public Speaking, Debating and Chess, held at Garnsey Campus on 4 May, winning the Junior Public Speaking, Junior Debating and Overall Debating.

Leading the way with visible learning

When you visit any classroom at Gippsland Grammar you see students learning, you see students thinking - really thinking – it's visible and there's a sense of success and confidence in the air.

Students are being taught to think – a life skill the School is gifting students to thrive in the 21st century.

"Anyone can google the answer but we are teaching the ability to understand," Deputy Principal – Academic, Liana Cartledge emphasises.

"Using more than 20 years of research by Professor John Hattie and Harvard University, and a drive to continually to seek school improvement, we are tweaking the way all of our teachers teach ...it's making our students more responsible for their own learning and giving them the ability to extend themselves," Mrs Cartledge explains.

The co-educational School, celebrating its 93rd year this year, developed its customised Solo Taxonomy learning table which Mrs Cartledge says drives every lesson in every class.

"It shows students where they are with their learning, and what they need to do to get to where they want to be, and we are giving them the skills and the

language, to know what to do when things get too hard and hence focussing

on the persistence and resilience needed to progress."

Bursting with excitement even the Prep students can easily articulate their own learning and how it is progressing.

"These are our thinking zones," explains six-year-old Judah Levchenko, "It's all about our learning ... like when you know how to write really big words and connect other people's ideas to your own ideas then you know you are in the green zone (have a deeper understanding)."

"I like green, I like to work to get to the green (thinking) zone but sometimes I am in 'unistructural' which means I can define, draw, find, label something

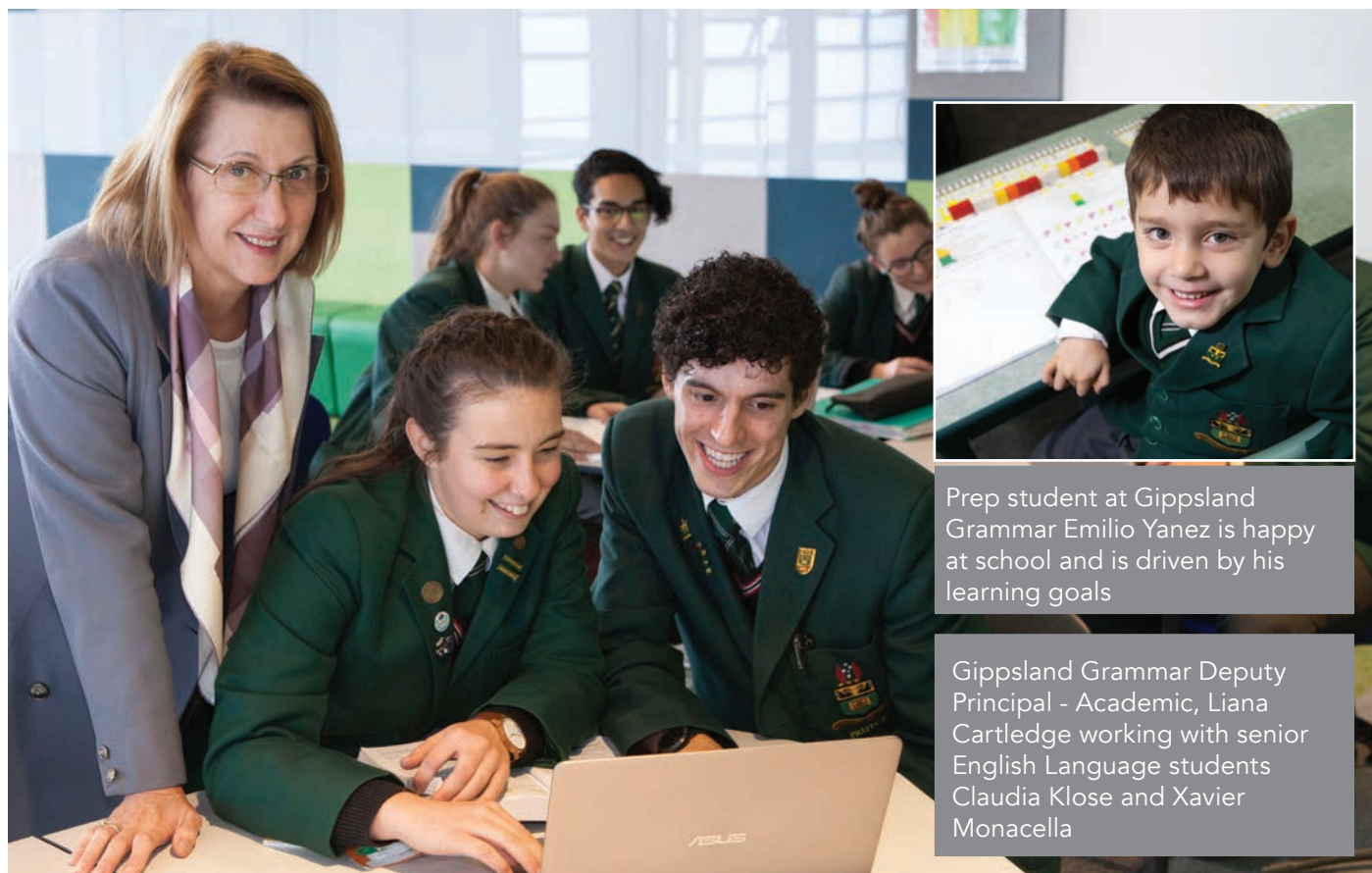
... but once I know more about it, it's like 'relational' and I connect ideas, link, explain and compare," Prep student

Safiulla Syed clarifies.

Watching the younger students use school-established hand-signals to recognise and communicate their individual learning stage, only further demonstrates the success of this way of teaching and thinking.

School success is measured in many different ways. VCE results are just one such measure.

A total of 19 percent of Gippsland Grammar's students obtained an ATAR score of more than 90 putting them in the top 10 percent of the state, while 39 percent obtained an ATAR in excess of 80 placing them in the top 20 percent.



Prep student at Gippsland Grammar Emilio Yanez is happy at school and is driven by his learning goals

Gippsland Grammar Deputy Principal - Academic, Liana Cartledge working with senior English Language students Claudia Klose and Xavier Monacella

Going bush!

The Outdoor Education Program at Gippsland Grammar is an integral part of each and every student's educational experience. It is aimed at specific curriculum outcomes defined by year level and has strong cross-curricular links to several other subject areas. Students are provided with

the opportunity to explore their capacity for leadership, resilience, teamwork, communication, community membership and much more through participating in the program. Whilst at times students may find conditions tough, they generally look back on their time on their program as rewarding and full of lifelong memories.

This year our Year 8s visited the Mitchell River National Park, where they hiked and rafted through the spectacular Mitchell River Gorge. Year 9s visited the area near Lake Tali Karng in the Alpine National Park. The lake is believed to have been formed about 1500 years ago, when a massive rock slide collapsed into the valley damming the waters of Nigothoruk Creek and what is now

known as the Wellington River. The water runs underground from the lake to emerge as the infant Wellington River 150 metres below in the Valley of Destruction. Our students completed the challenging 45 kilometres walk over four days.



'It is honestly one of the hardest things I've ever done and I am really proud of myself for finishing it.'

Jack Burton 8A

'I didn't want to come, but it turned out to be the best camp. I loved it!'

Ella Hill, 8B