

veritas



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Compassion | Leadership | Excellence | Respect | Responsibility

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Cover image:

Bairnsdale's Early Learning Centre students Hayley Maxwell and Jack Lynch riding 'Ralphie' in Caitlyn's Garden.
Picture: Lisa Baker

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From The Principal ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"I have never been as proud as I was the day we opened the garden and then celebrated the life of Caitlyn."



I WELCOME you to our second *Veritas* for the year and hope you enjoy the many and varied stories featured in this edition. As you read you should get an insight into the great sense of community we nurture at Gippsland Grammar while also highlighting the wonderful leadership our teachers, students and parents exhibit to ensure we have a great sense of connectedness and belonging.

To quote the American civil rights activist Cesar Chavez, "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

In April we opened Caitlyn's Garden at our Bairnsdale ELC, which is a wonderful tribute to the life of Caitlyn Fischer who was tragically killed in an equestrian accident in 2016. The creation of this garden is one of the best examples of community I have experienced since I began teaching many years ago as well as being an outstanding example of leadership. Our Head of Bairnsdale Campus Virginia Evans and enthusiastic Old Scholar and current parent Ross Heath worked tirelessly

to lead our community to envisage, design and construct this amazing garden. Many members of the community dedicated countless hours and vast resources to pursue Virginia and Ross's vision, which was created in collaboration with Caitlyn's parents Ailsa and Mark.

As a Principal I have never been as proud as I was the day we opened the garden and then celebrated the life of Caitlyn, who we will always remember.

As I look back on this achievement, it is the authentic leadership shown by Virginia and Ross that stands out as a great example for others. They were motivated by a personal conviction to honour Caitlyn's memory, rather than a desire for recognition or reward. They are truly inspirational leaders of our Gippsland



Caitlyn's brother Kristofer Fischer, Caitlyn's parents Mark Fischer and Ailsa Carr, Principal David Baker and Bairnsdale Head of Campus Virginia Evans.

Grammar community and ideal role models for all of us and I thank them for their efforts.

As a School of opportunity and excellence, we seek out many and varied opportunities for our students to find their passion, to feel a sense

of belonging, to connect with others and to either experience or exhibit leadership. Every page of *Veritas* is filled with these stories: stories of triumph, stories of participation, stories of fun and stories of learning. We recognise the value in all of the opportunities our students

have and we celebrate and acknowledge their involvement and their success.

We are fortunate to have such a supportive and positive community at Gippsland Grammar and I believe this is one of the great strengths of

our School. And it is up to all of us to ensure that this continues to be our strength for the life of our School.

David Baker
Principal

> Read more about Caitlyn's Garden on page 9

Garnsey News

SEISA Surfing

Six students attended the annual South Eastern Independent Schools Association (SEISA) surfing carnival at Phillip Island in April and the School was thrilled to see Year 12 student Reuben Battel take out the title for the senior boys event for the second consecutive year. Reuben is a boarder and is also a passionate surfer who travels home to his family at Mallacoota on weekends where he is able to pursue this passion.



Reuben Battel catches a wave at Keramas in Bali while on holiday.



Year 9 Melbourne Experience students at Parliament House with Labor MP Cesar Melhem.

Year 9 Program

Now in its 21st year, the highly-regarded Year 9 Program focusses on taking the students out of their comfort zones and into the community to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Each year students experience four camps as part of the Program and Term 2's Melbourne Experience saw students relocate to a classroom in the heart of Melbourne's CBD. Over two weeks they explored the city and visited key landmarks including the Eureka Skydeck, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the National Gallery of Victoria.

Principal David Baker said the School's Year 9 Program forced students to look at their individual values and be personally responsible in what is a crucial period in students' learning as they bridge the transition between the junior years of secondary education and the more serious senior years. "It's about giving students' confidence, building trust and giving them the tools to survive in any environment," Mr Baker said.



Year 12 student Kali Irving-Nagle (left) and the Garnsey Choir (right) at The Wedge for our Autumn Concert.

Autumn Concert

This year's Autumn Concert was held at The Wedge in Sale in early May and showcased the musical talent of more than 110 students from our Garnsey and St Anne's campuses.

The Garnsey choir opened the show with a rousing performance of *Since You Went Away* and other highlights of the evening included performances by the Intermediate Jazz Band, Senior Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Sinfonietta and concert bands.

Director of Performing Arts Matthew Goss said this year's annual music camps were also a highlight of the term with students spending a weekend at Waratah Bay under the direction of our current music captains, Ruby McNeill-Johnson and Timothy Valette.

> *Coming up: The Gippsland Grammar Chamber Music Soirée will be held at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale on Thursday August 1 from 6pm. Free entry.*



Lachlan Wilmot (second from front) at the Australian Junior Trials.

Rowing

The rowing season has ended for the year with 20 students attending the National Rowing Championships in Sydney in late March. Standout results from the event include two A final finishes for Lachlan Wilmot, a B final finish for Ailish McGrath, a B final finish for the Senior Girls Quad (cox Sarah Beyer, Rebecca Strauss, Amy Baker, Paige Barr and Ella Johnson) and a B final finish for the Senior Boys Quad (cox Miya Hancock, Lachy Rose, Lachlan Wilmot, Thomas Phelan-Penson and James Thompson).

Year 11 Ball



The annual Year 11 Ball is always a calendar highlight for our students and this year's event was no exception. Held at the Sale Memorial Hall on May 3, a total of 85 students

danced the night away to traditional dances with a modern twist and the Hall was transformed to a Hollywood/Red Carpet theme.



Back Row: Head of Garnsey Campus Jan Henry, Jane Baker, Principal David Baker, trainers John and Sue Kennedy, Acting Board Chair Vicki McLeod, Head of Year 11 Liz Bullers

Fifth Row: Hunter Pearce, James Lancaster, William Shell, Noah Alexander, Sebastian Segafredo, Archie Ventrella, Aidan Lowe, Lachy Rose, Luke Droppert, Tom Phelan-Penson, Will McKinnon, Luke Steinfort, Harrison Singer, Charlie Stretton, Tom Rankcom, Tyrie Kovco

Fourth Row: Orlando Davidson, William Mwagiru, Nicolas Ierardi, Jonte Treasure, Jamie Jones, Harrison Hopkins, Noah Smolenaars, Charlie Pritchett, Quentin Fuessel, Spencer Fox, Junior Bradshaw, Lachie Hicks, Dec Scriven, Samuel Shelton, Clancy Henderson, Cal Hennig, Jarrod Ingle

Third Row: Catherine O'Brien, Laura Truscott, Ella Halket, Ebony Lee, Sienna Battel, Georgia Bromage, Lisa O'Donnell, Georgie Wharfe, Tilley Gordon, Maya Osborne, Jemima Smith, Tilly Gunther, Isy Duff, George Anderson, Jade Halket, Rebecca Hurley, Sam Dunnett

Second Row: Hilary Nancarrow, Jess Markum, Brianna Marshall, Jess McGowan, Claire Garbutt, Liva Herlenius, Sophie Sewell, Genevieve Piercy, Haylee Wrigglesworth, Megan Fitzsimon, Jasmine Spencer, Dempsey Doyle, Alice Beyer, Elise Hunt, Poppy Llewellyn, Lemoni Jephary, Hannah Husodo

Front Row: Becky Strauss, Faith O'Connor, Lily Stephenson, Kate Oram, Amelia Lazzaro, Shauna Anderson, Ella Johnson, Jenny Wrigglesworth, Amy Baker, Stephanie Rossetti, Ellen O'Brien, Tess Wright, Chloe Stillman, Lauren Richards, Indie Roberts, Emma Murphy, Bronte Cunningham, Min Min Bao

St Anne's News

Digital technology

Since the new state-of-the-art Kukun Kalak building opened at St Anne's Campus in March it has become a hub for all students from Foundation to Year 6 as they develop their Information Communication Technologies (ICT) skills. Digital Technology teacher Evan Lamb and classroom teachers have been working hard to build the ICT capabilities of all students by using a range of devices including Bee-Bots, Dash robots, Spheros, Makey Makey and Lego robotics. Students are immersing themselves in this new frontier.



Year 2 students Evie McMillan-Goss and Felix Baxter programming the Bee-Bots in their Digital Technology class.

Trivia night

Community spirit was alive and well at the St Anne's Parent and Friend's Trivia Night, which was held at the Lorna Sparrow Hall in late May. More than 130 teachers, parents and friends took part in the event, and the highlight was the teacher band that performed as well as Quiz Master Evan Lamb's challenging trivia. About \$10,000 was raised with all funds going towards the campus's new Years 3-6 adventure playground, which will use natural materials and landscaping to create an engaging and adventurous environment for students.

Japanese overseas trip

During the April school holidays, 16 Year 5 and 6 students from our St Anne's and Bairnsdale campuses travelled to Japan on a cultural tour. The itinerary was full and varied with each day holding many new and exciting experiences for the students with learning opportunities going far beyond anything they could learn in the classroom.



Year 5 and 6 students from Gippsland Grammar in front of the Buddhist temple at Higashi Honganji in Kyoto.

Bairnsdale News - ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Foundation student Ella Stephenson with one of the freshly-hatched chicks.

Baby chicks

The Foundation students had a hands-on experience with the life cycle in April courtesy of six eggs which they cared for through incubation to when they heard gentle cheeping as the tiny chicks broke through their eggs.

Students from other year levels joined in the excitement under the watchful eye of teacher Libby Crowe.

Four-legged friend

Chickens weren't the only unusual addition to Bairnsdale classrooms this term with Mrs Crowe's new golden retriever puppy Wilson coming by for a campus visit each Wednesday. Head of Campus Virginia Evans said it was lovely seeing the students interact with Wilson, who particularly loved leading the Acacia class to Japanese each week, as well as starring as Toto in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Mother's Day brekkie

Bairnsdale's Mother's Day breakfast was a delightful event with some male teachers and dads serving delicious pastries and croissants to the mums and guardians. Parent Lucy Carson spoke beautifully at the Mother's Day Fellowship on both the joys and challenges of being a mum as well as acknowledging her own mother's parenting of her.



Mother's Day pastries were served by Adrian Frith, Patrick Carson, Todd Cook, Brett Glover and Brett Rawlings.



Top: Emily Allouet at Dorothy, Noah Johns as Tinman, Josh Newstead as Toto and Paul Ng as Scarecrow.
Below: 'Dorothy' with Wilson as Toto.

Off to see the Wizard

The Bairnsdale Campus could have easily been mistaken for the Land of Oz this term as the entire student body, as well as talented and generous parents, prepared for the production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Students from Foundation to Year 6 enthusiastically attended rehearsals and

built sets and props for the production which culminated in two successful performances on Friday June 14.

Head of Campus Virginia Evans said a highlight was seeing the children's evident joy and pride in the whole experience.

Caitlyn's Garden

Caitlyn Fischer was a much-loved Gippsland Grammar Old Scholar and was one of the first students to enrol at the then new Bairnsdale Campus in 2006. During her 10 years at Gippsland Grammar, Caitlyn represented the School in swimming, basketball, cross country, athletics, soccer and football and when she completed VCE in 2015 she graduated in the top five per cent of students across Victoria.

Tragically Caitlyn was killed in an equestrian accident in 2016 and since then the School has awarded the Caitlyn Fisher Encouragement Award to

a Year 6 Bairnsdale student who tries their best and wants to continue to grow, learn and improve, as Caitlyn always tried to do. On April 26 Principal David Baker and Bairnsdale Head of Campus Virginia Evans opened 'Caitlyn's Garden' in Bairnsdale's Early Learning Centre, alongside Caitlyn's parents Mark and Ailsa and her brother, Kristofer.

The natural play space has been designed to provide a place for play, for curiosity, reflection, for sensory and tactile exploration and imagination. The centrepiece of the garden is a wooden statue of Caitlyn's beloved horse Ralphie, by acclaimed local wood sculptor John Brady.



Caitlyn's parents Mark and Ailsa during a special Fellowship in Caitlyn's honour.

Reunions Celebrating Excellence

Class of 2009 / 10 years

Sat Oct 19 (Sale)

Contact: Laura Evans
ggs2009reunion@gmail.
com or 0437 059 130.

Class of 1999 / 20 years

Sat Oct 12 (Melbourne)

Contact: Justin Andrews
on justin.andrews@
bayer.com
or 0419 66 11 66.
Or Lou Laing on louise.
laing4@gmail.com or
0413 818 285.

Class of 1989 / 30 years

Sat Nov 9 (Sale)

Contact: Sophie
Davis (nee Derham)
jasozowi2014@gmail.
com or
0429 695 862

Class of 1979 / 40 years

Sat Oct 26 (Sale)

Contact: Helen Drew
(nee Jenkin)
helen.drew61@gmail.
com or 0409 001 010.
Susan Murphy (nee
Campbell) pmu14109@
bigpond.net.au or
0409 450 045.



In January Year 10 student **Taj Duff** travelled to Tasmania to compete in both the Australian Laser National Championships and the Australian Youth Championships. He also competed at the Victorian Laser Championships and the Victorian Youth Championships where he finished first in both events.



Bairnsdale Year 4 student **Charlee Latham** represented Gippsland Grammar at the Victorian Interschools Equestrian Championships at Werribee where she won overall champion. Charlee is now preparing to compete at the Equestrian Australia Interschool Championships at the Sydney Equestrian Centre in October.



Bairnsdale Year 5 student **Josh Newstead** enjoyed great success at the recent State Swimming Championships at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre where he beat his previous 50m breaststroke personal best by three seconds and placed second overall with a time of 40.48 seconds.



Year 7 student **Katelyn Henderson** is ranked 2nd in Victoria and 12th in Australia following her performance at the Australian Gymnastics Championships at Melbourne Arena in June. Katelyn competed in the level 6 women's tumbling and it was the third time she had represented Victoria at the event.

Old Scholars



Jade Marshall (2012) has recently had work published on the cover of *Hashtag Oz* magazine. After graduating, Jade studied a Bachelor of Design Arts and now focusses on oil-based large-scale portraits inspired by fashion and fashion photography. Follow Jade at [@instagram/jade.marshall.art](https://www.instagram.com/jade.marshall.art)



Erin Hanna (nee Spain. Class of 1990) lives the life of Willy Wonka in her role at Mars Chocolate UK where she works in the global digital transformation team and, yes, she also gets to eat as much chocolate as she likes during the day. After leaving school, Erin studied accounting at Queensland University of Technology before studying a Masters of Commerce at Macquarie University. Erin then relocated to the UK and she has beaten cancer, which she says taught her to live every day to the full. Erin says she has fond memories of her time at Gippsland Grammar and still has her Year 12 blazer and Year 12 badges.

Vale



The Gippsland Grammar community is mourning the recent passing of **Billy Adams** who died on June 3 after a brave and courageous battle with brain cancer. Billy grew up in Lakes Entrance and attended our Bairnsdale and Garnsey campuses. He graduated with the Class of 2017 however, was initially a member of the Class of 2016.

Marie McDowell passed away on September 24 at age 91. Marie spent her childhood years at Korumburra and attended St Anne's as a boarder during the Second World War when she excelled academically and at sports. In her eulogy, Marie's son Robert said that while his mother loved her time at St Anne's, life was also quite difficult with blackouts and food rationing. At the St Anne's distribution of prizes ceremony on December 21, 1942, Marie was presented with music and sports colours.



Former teacher **Barbara Wheeler** passed away on May 3 at age 77 after suffering from Parkinson's disease. Barbara taught at Gippsland Grammar in the late 1960s and early 1970s and is survived by her husband John Woodside and her sons Cameron and Clayton Wheeler, who both attended the school as boarders in the 1980s.

Shooting

Shooting continues to be popular among our students with more than 70 applicants for the School's shooting program this year. Due to this demand, a new rotating program allows 10 new students each term to either try shooting for the first time or to push for team selection, which means more students than ever are being exposed to the sport in a controlled environment.

The first competition for this year was the Riviera Secondary Schools Championships at the Bairnsdale Field and Game Range. Our A-squad came second to a very skilled team from Orbest Secondary College. Robert McNeilly, Jack Prestney and Lachie Anderson all performed well with Jack taking the overall high gun for the day and Robert placing second in senior boys. The other new members of the A-squad, Fergus Grubb



(From L-R) Shooters Susannah Keily, Robert McNeilly, Jack Prestney, Fergus Grubb, Tom Finlay, Lachie Anderson and Pippa Treasure.

and Harvey Ryan, also competed well. Other pleasing results included Susannah Keily, who placed third in senior girls after a shoot-off for second place and Alice Murray, who placed second in junior girls. Congratulations must also be extended to our new shooters Jack O'Toole, Cooper Barr, Ella O'Doherty, Aden Mills, James Westman, Matthew Harrington and Fletcher Stasinowsky for their fantastic efforts at their first competition for the year.

Our second competition was held in early May at Melbourne Gun Club where each shooter faced 30 targets from three separate disciplines. A slightly adjusted A-squad of Robert McNeilly, Jack Prestney, Lachie Anderson, Fergus Grubb and Thomas Finlay were too good for the competition on the day and shot 102/150 to reclaim the shield for the third time. Individual shooters Pippa Treasure placed second in Junior Girls, Lachie Anderson won in senior boys and Susannah Keily

put in an outstanding effort to win the senior girls, shooting an impressive 22/30 targets.

Overall, it's been a pleasing start to the year with another successful season well underway. A big thanks goes to coach Gary Howard and his band of helpers including Geoff Glass, Len Baker, Peter Anderson and Grahame Vaux at Longford as well as Noel Cleal at RAAF Base East Sale.

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A PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE
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