

veritas

2020 COLLECTOR'S EDITION



BUSHFIRES, A NEW PRINCIPAL AND THEN ... COVID-19.
WE PAY TRIBUTE TO HOW OUR COMMUNITY HAS SURVIVED
– AND THRIVED – THROUGHOUT 2020.

Compassion | Leadership | Excellence | Respect | Responsibility

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Principal Leisa Harper welcomes students back to onsite learning at the end of Learn@Home.

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will only be two editions of *Veritas* published in 2020, rather than the usual three. As a result, this special 'Collector's Edition' will be a valuable keepsake of one of the most remarkable years in our School's 96-year history.

> For Gippsland Grammar updates, visit facebook.com/gippslandgrammar

From The Principal



It is my pleasure to commend my first edition of *Veritas* to you all.

I am very proud of all students, staff, families and broader Community for the support of both myself and the School, since my arrival. I have used the phrase, '*Though we are apart, we can come together*' many times and, this year, I really feel this has been the case. Our Community has managed droughts, bushfires and now COVID-19 and our strength and resilience are unquestionable.

Throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, our students have benefitted from the excellent Learn@Home program delivered by our staff. This program was so successful I was contacted

by many other schools who were keen to hear how Gippsland Grammar was supporting our students through this program. Our success in delivering a seamless education for our students during this time even saw us enrol students during lockdown, which was certainly the first time we have had students join us at School yet not physically see them in person until months after their 'first day'. Again, this has all been possible thanks to the Gippsland Grammar staff who were instrumental in the success of Learn@Home.

Throughout this edition of *Veritas*, you will read about some of the events and activities from our eventful year as well as students' reflections of this time. I hope you enjoy these different perspectives as we reflect on the year that has been 2020 ... which has certainly been unique! There is also a tribute to our Deputy Principal – Academic Liana Cartledge, who is retiring at the end of the year, as well as a tribute to Don and Jenny Gaskill who have worked at the School for an amazing 33 years and to cleaner Janette Gale,

who has been with us for 32 years. I thank them all for their years of service.

As we look towards the end of Term 4 and the end of the year, I encourage all members of our Community to share the spirit that is Christmas. May you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace; the gladness of the season, which is hope; and the heart of the season, which is love.

Here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021.

VERITAS IS MOVING ONLINE

From 2021 *Veritas* will be published as a digital edition and emailed to our Community. This will give us more flexibility to share more news, more photos and more memories. However we will continue to print a small number of hard copies of *Veritas* so if you would like to continue to receive *Veritas* in your mailbox, please call (03) 5143 6388 or email our Development co-ordinator Sarah Guinness at sarah.guinness@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au to register your interest.



New Visual Arts & Technology Centre at Garnsey

Gippsland Grammar has further cemented its place as one of Victoria's leading independent schools with the announcement of a new multi-million dollar Visual Arts & Technology Centre at the School's Garnsey Campus.

Designed by McIlldowie Partners, the 1700sq-m Visual Arts & Technology Centre will feature seven purpose-built classrooms to accommodate specific Visual Arts and Technology subjects taught at Gippsland Grammar's senior campus including Art (2D and 3D studios) Design (Visual Communication Design) Media (including film and editing suites) Applied Computing, Wood Technology and Applied Computing (Robotics and Renewable Technology).

Gippsland Grammar Principal Leisa Harper said she was thrilled about the new state-of-the-art Centre, which will benefit both the School and wider Gippsland communities.

"As well as creating local jobs during the construction phase, our new Centre will enhance the School's programs through an innovative and collaborative approach," Mrs Harper said. "I am very excited to see the project develop and I know students will benefit greatly from this new learning space."

The Visual Arts & Technology Centre will follow the curve of the existing Garnsey Campus oval and will provide undercover tiered seating for spectators to watch games being played on the oval. A highlight of the light-filled design is also a central communal foyer and courtyard, which can be easily transformed to host exhibitions for both the Gippsland Grammar and wider Gippsland communities. There are also plenty of break-out collaborative study areas and workspaces for both students and staff.

Construction will begin in coming months and is expected to be completed for the start of the 2022 school year.



Mrs Harper meets School Captains Ellen O'Brien and Sam Dunnett just before Gippsland Grammar moved to Learn@Home in late March.

Introducing Principal Leisa Harper

Starting at a new school always comes with challenges but nothing could prepare Leisa Harper for her first day as Principal at Gippsland Grammar coinciding with a global pandemic triggering the urgent and unexpected transition to remote learning. But less than two days after arriving in Sale

from Rockhampton in Queensland, Mrs Harper brought forward her expected start date and took over the reins from David Baker on what was to be the first day of the School's remote learning program, called 'Learn@Home'. In the subsequent six months more than 1100 students completed almost 70 days of remote learning before returning to the School's three campuses in early October. On the eve of the students' return to school, Mrs Harper tells *Veritas* editor Zoe Curtis how her early days of teaching shaped the type of educational leader she has become, why moving to Gippsland has been like 'coming home' and speculates that she quite likely knows more about *Star Trek* than people may expect.

Today is exactly six months since you started at Gippsland Grammar. Does it feel like six days, six months or six years?

I'm quite surprised it's six months, at times it feels like I've been here for six years but that's because of the lovely welcome I have received. But, gee, we've done a lot in six months. Of course, it is much different to what I would have imagined but I am so pleased to be here.

How long have you worked in education?

Since 1994, so 26 years.

Did you always want to be a teacher?

Yes, since Prep. I was one of the girls who had all their toys lined up in the bedroom to 'teach' them.

What do you love most about teaching?

Being able to help people. When I was at school I had some great teachers and I always wanted to be one who helped students learn too. Then the older I've got it is the belief that I can hopefully make system change to benefit a larger number of students.

Is that what attracted you to being a principal?

I think so. When I was a Head of Department I could see that the work I was leading was making a difference and when I became a Deputy of Academics I oversaw transformational change across the school, resulting in improvements for all students. That made me reflect on the next step of my career so it was quite a natural progression. I've loved each stage for what it is. I remember the things that frustrated me as a teacher and as a staff member, so I always work hard to reflect on my own decisions as Principal with that in mind.

What do you remember of your early days in the classroom?

In my first year as a teacher there weren't many jobs available so I worked in four different schools. One was the poorest school in Queensland at that time and I taught girls who brought their babies with

them to the classroom. So here I was a 23-year-old graduate teacher teaching English to 14-year-old girls with their strollers next to them! But forget what I taught them, those girls taught me that not everyone has the same upbringing and it was inspiring to see how determined they were to get an education so they could get a job. So, every day we worked together as a team and on some days I'd have a baby on my hip because I needed them to concentrate. And while I did teach them English I also taught them a lot of basic life skills and I'm pleased to say we have stayed in touch and they've all gone on and done well: their children have been well educated and they've got good jobs.

That's quite a learning curve for a graduate teacher?

It was. That same year I also taught at a school that had a creche for the children of teachers, which was really forward-thinking. Eventually I ended up at Brisbane Grammar where I was one of just 10 women on staff and I went on to be the first female staff member to have a baby in 120 years.

That sounds like an environment with quite a glass ceiling. Did you manage to crack it?

I did! I will always say Brisbane Grammar was an amazing experience as I was surrounded by people with a wealth of knowledge and it was where I learnt so much about teaching and how to lead. Eventually I left because I had evolved and, at that time, the school didn't have any positions I would apply for. I'll always be proud

of that time because there was a group of young women coming in behind me and I know I put some things in place and showed people in that environment that a woman could have a career and a family.

You've also had a longstanding association with Harvard University in the US?

Yes, Harvard has been an unexpected joy. In 2009 I signed up to do an online course, which I loved, and afterwards I was contacted by the lecturer asking me to do some coaching.

What did that involve?

I taught teams of people, most were from America or England, and would take them through a course over a semester. I also got to do some private coaching of some very high-profile people. But at Harvard you have to go back every two years to be accredited, which I haven't been able to sustain now I'm at principal level, which is my current focus.

Do you have a professional motto?

I know it's cheesy but it's the passion for excellence. I have struggled with schools that refused to use the word excellence because, for me, it's all about excellence and of course that looks different for everyone, it's just about being the best we can be.



Mrs Harper visits the two Sale ELC Transition classes to open the ELC's new bug house and (above right) visiting the Sale ELC class.

Your ears must have pricked up when you realised A Passion for Excellence was Gippsland Grammar's motto too?

Yes! I thought 'ooohhh, I'm going to fit in nicely!'

Tell us about your first few days at Gippsland Grammar?

I can remember knowing I had to start before my planned start date because COVID was rapidly upon us and so when I walked into my first meeting with our Executive team there was no warm-up. Normally I'm very collaborative but, in that instance, I had to be very directive. I just had to sit in the seat and strap in.

While you steered the School through the pandemic you didn't let it derail your bigger plans such as scheduling a 15-minute introduction with every staff member, which you did via Zoom rather than face-to-face. That means by the end of this year you'll have spent the equivalent of 21 hours meeting more than 180 staff.

Wow, that's quite a lot of time! But the interviews were important to me and they became even more important because I arrived when we all immediately started working from home. I just kept thinking everyone has to know who I am, even if it meant I had to work around the clock to do it. I learnt that the School has an amazing staff.

How has COVID-19 changed the future of education?

It's given us a chance to change things and made us realise the world doesn't have to look the way it's always looked. And I'm excited because the past six months has actually worked better for some students and some have been able to concentrate better without the distractions. Does that mean we go all online? No. But maybe we can have some lessons online, or maybe some students do a day at home a week for flexibility.

That would be quite a change.

I just feel that school is like life in that there isn't one size that fits all. So I see coronavirus as an opportunity. Education has not changed since

industrial times and the greatest travesty from this time would be to change nothing.

Did you still manage to find moments of joy throughout COVID-19?

Yes, when I've been able to. I've gone to Bairnsdale on Thursday mornings and I stand near the pedestrian crossing and wave to the parents and greet every child. Also, talking to students in the quad at Garnsey and walking through the grounds of St Anne's at lunchtime. My moments at the ELC's have been magical and have allowed me to connect with our youngest students.

You've recently announced a new multi-million dollar Visual Arts & Technology Centre at Garnsey, which has been made possible due to a \$2 million Federal Government grant. Tell us more about that.

The grant process was already in motion when I arrived but I was able to walk in and use my experience practically to give the School every chance we had to secure the support. Many schools pulled out of the grant process because of COVID but I said I'd rather be told no than not be in the race at all.

What do you think is the biggest strength of our School?

The physical space at each campus is such a blessing. As are the extra-curricular offerings, from music to rowing.



Principal Harper with husband Graham and children Rhys, Phoebe and Georgia.

Mrs Harper's favourite:

TV show? *Big Bang Theory.*

Book? *Pride and Prejudice.*

Genre? Sci-fi. I'm a huge *Star Trek* fan.

Movie? *St Elmo's Fire.*

AFL team? *Brisbane Lions.*

Travel destination? Milan, Italy.

Favourite cuisine? Italian.

Favourite family recipe? Pulled pork and coleslaw rolls.

Hobby? Baking, I like making cakes like hummingbird or frangipani cake.

Karaoke song? *Sweet Home Alabama.*

Item to collect? I'm a big collector of old books.

Plus ...

Dogs or cats? Dogs. We have an eight-year-old boxer called Zander.

Tomato sauce in the cupboard or the fridge? Cupboard.

Pineapple on pizza? Yes.

What are you currently binge watching? *Yellowstone.*

Coffee or tea? Earl Grey tea with a little more milk than you should.

What podcast are you listening to? The Education Lab's wellbeing series – *Making Positive Psychology Work.*

What are you looking forward to in 2021?

I can't wait to see the students in action: I want to attend music concerts, I want to stand on the side of the sports field, I can't wait to see the traditions and the occasions that bring us together as a community. That will be really exciting.

Learn@Home meant you've been working at home alongside your husband Graham, your daughter Georgia, 19, and your 16-year-old twins Phoebe and Rhys. How did you cope?

Well, like everybody, we had to evolve. The funny part was when it came time for the twins to start their music lessons again, we were all tentative about that but there were only some slight reverberations for me during my meetings.

What was it like having a front seat to Phoebe and Rhys's learning?

It was lovely. Before they may have had a test at school and I may not have known about it, whereas this year as soon as they had finished we were able to have a conversation about it. So I felt closer to their learning than I normally am, which was probably the same for many parents.

Do you have a family motto?

We've always come together at the dinner table: we cook together and then it's a bit of an all-in. So prioritising being together as a family has always been a focus.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Inverell on the New England tablelands in NSW and had my first glimpse at Victoria at age 11 when my parents bought a hotel at Corowa on the NSW/Victorian

border. Each weekend Dad used to take us to somewhere special in Victoria and that's where I fell in love with Victoria and its history. We then moved to Brisbane when I was 12 and I have spent the rest of my life in Queensland. Until now!

So moving to Gippsland from Rockhampton is a bit like coming home?

That's exactly how my family describes it. I'd missed the seasons and love the cold winters and warm summers.

Restrictions have made it hard to get out and about but have you had the opportunity to explore much of Gippsland?

The first weekend I arrived we managed to squeeze in a trip to Lakes Entrance and we had fish and chips on the water's edge. I loved that. We've had a walk along the beach at Seaspray and it was so beautiful.



Mrs Harper met each Year 12 student over a series of small-group lunches during the windows when the students were able to learn on-site. Pictured is Mrs Harper with students Bronte Cunningham, Catherine O'Brien, Rebecca Hurley, Jasmine Spencer, Dempsey Doyle and Jacinta Wyld.



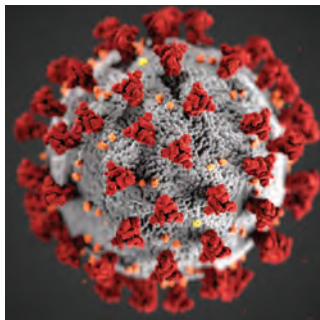
2020

REFLECTION ON A
YEAR THAT WAS



January

A raging bushfire in East Gippsland kills five and destroys homes and livelihoods. Many Gippsland Grammar families are directly affected and Blackwood House is offered as temporary accommodation.



January 25

The first case of COVID-19 in Australia is confirmed.

January 30

Term 1 begins.

March 10

The first Victorian school closes due to a COVID-19 case.

March 11

The World Health Organisation declares the COVID-19 outbreak a 'pandemic'.

March 13

The School's Twilight Fair scheduled for March 21, is postponed. (The event is eventually cancelled.)

March 16

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews declares a State of Emergency and social distancing rules begin.



March 19

Principal David Baker's farewell is reimagined to comply with social distancing restrictions. He enjoys a farewell lap of Garnsey Campus in a golf buggy and he is also the guest of honour at a virtual assembly and senior students serenade him with an open-air rendition of the *Irish Blessing*.



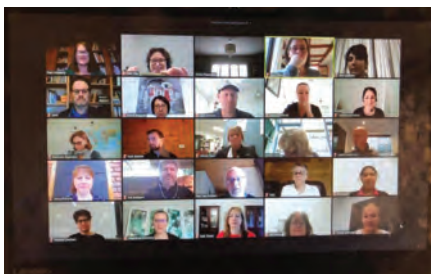
March 20

The Federal Government closes Australia's borders to all non-citizens and non-residents. Ahead of most School events being cancelled, postponed or reimagined, the Sale ELC Easter Hat parade takes place, albeit without families in attendance.



March 23

Premier Andrews announces Stage 3 'Stay At Home' restrictions, which coincides with Gippsland Grammar pro-actively launching its remote learning program, called 'Learn@ Home'. It's also Mrs Leisa Harper's first official day as Principal.



March 24

On day #2 of Learn@Home more than 70 teachers attend Garnsey Campus's first virtual morning briefing.



March 27

Last day of Term 1. Nine News features our Music program, as Gippsland Grammar is one of the few schools to continue music lessons remotely with more than 180 students learning via Zoom from 18 different tutors teaching 12 different instruments.

April 15

Term 2 begins and ABC Melbourne's *Conversation Hour* features a radio interview with School Captains Sam and Ellen about what it's like to be studying Year 12 in the year of COVID-19.



April 25

Students from the School's Australian Defence Force families present a special 'online' ANZAC service to the School Community. *The Last Post* is played from the Garnsey Campus speakers and could be heard across much of Sale.

April 29

Teachers put their own spin on the song *You're Not Alone*, to help pep the spirits of all students.

April 30

Students discover positives about studying at home, such as having pets by their sides and easy access to the pantry.



May 4

ELC Transition Sale students take home a laminated photo of their class mascot 'Morris the Bear', so they can share photos of themselves with Morris during Learn@Home.

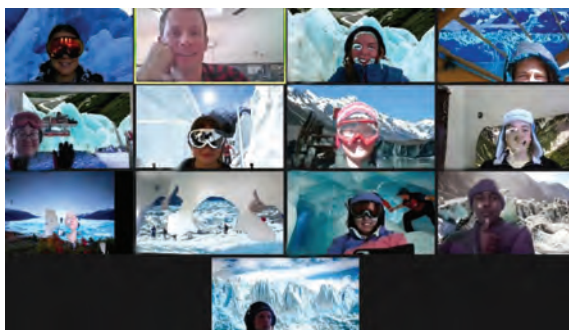


May 13

Win News features an interview with Director of Rowing Nick Bartlett on how Rowing students are maintaining their training during isolation.

APRIL

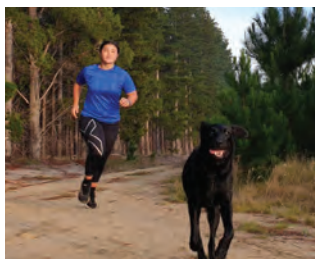
MAY



May 14 In one of the lighter moments of Learn@ Home, Year 12 Geography students surprise teacher Mark Dolbel by changing their Zoom backgrounds to reflect their class topic of declining ice sheets and glaciers.



May 26 Principal Leisa Harper meets the students face-to-face for the first time as she welcomes Foundation to Year 2 and VCE students back to onsite learning. Each Head of Campus, including Virginia Evans (pictured) also greets students at the School gate.



May 28

A virtual cross country is held with students from Foundation to Year 12 completing their own circuits near home.

June 3

Students celebrate Reconciliation Week via Zoom.



June 9

After more than 30 days of remote learning, all students return to School and are greeted by smiling staff.



June 12 VCE Music students and the Garnsey Rock Bands host a lunchtime concert in the Quad.

June 19 Last day of Term 2.

MAY

JUNE

July 8 Metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire return to Stage 3 lockdown.

July 14 Term 3 begins.

July 26 Blackwood House boarding students enjoy a Christmas in July dinner.



July 28 Music students are allowed to perform together.



July 30 Year 12 prefects host the first-ever student-to-student subject expo to assist Year 10 students with their VCE subject selections.



Aug 2 In preparation for compulsory face masks, a team of Blackwood House boarders sew masks for the School Community.



Aug 3 Face masks become compulsory for all of Victoria, including for teachers and all students aged 12 years and older. Metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire go into a six-week Stage 4 hard lockdown.

Aug 5 Victoria hits a grim single-day record of 725 new cases of COVID-19 and Gippsland Grammar returns to remote learning as Stage 3 restrictions return to regional Victoria.

Aug 7 Practical food technology classes occur over Zoom with Food Tech teacher Wendy Ryan remotely instructing students on how to cook scones, yo yo biscuits and minestrone dumpling soup.



Aug 12 Bairnsdale and St Anne's Foundation students celebrated '100 Days at School'. Never before has this milestone been reached while studying remotely.

Aug 13 Gippsland Grammar launches an Online Business Directory, a free service connecting and promoting businesses linked to the School Community.

Aug 17 Students conduct experiments at home as part of Science Week. WIN News features an interview with Head of Science Nadine Williams and Year 12 student Lauren Richards who hopes to study pharmaceutical science medicine at University.

JULY

AUGUST

Sep 18

Last day of Term 3.

Oct 5

First day of Term 4.

Oct 6

Mrs Harper announces a \$2 million Federal Government grant to build a new Visual Arts & Technology Centre at the Garnsey Campus.



Oct 7

VCE students sit the GAT wearing masks, which is much later in the year due to COVID-19.

Oct 8

Bairnsdale and St Anne's students return to onsite learning.



Oct 12

More than 1100 students across the School's three campuses return to onsite learning. Face masks remain compulsory.



Oct 16

Despite many school events being cancelled, Year 12 students who have attended Gippsland Grammar since Foundation (Prep), return to their original junior campuses to say goodbye.

Oct 29

Final day of formal schooling for Year 12 students. In lieu of the traditional BBQ, the Old Scholars Association sponsors a farewell lunch in Neil Forest.



November 11

St Anne's students mark Remembrance Day by watching a pre-recorded ceremony in their classrooms to comply with social distancing regulations (above). Bairnsdale students held an open-air service (below).



Dec 10

Final day of Term 4.

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

Learn@Home Student Testimonials



Arabella Tonkin, Reception (ELC Sale)

During Learn@Home Mummy and I went on a nature walk. We found autumn leaves on the ground and we made a leaf collage. It was fun making it with Mum.



Archie McArthur, Reception (ELC Sale)

During Learn@Home I went on the excavator with Daddy. We made a big hole on the farm and Daddy spun the excavator around. It was so much fun.



Maddie White, Transition (ELC Sale)

I did lots of experiments with my cousins and mum on our farm. My favourite was when we put all different coloured Skittles on a plate with water and all the colours went into the middle. One day it rained and we played in a big muddy puddle.



Ari Brewer, Reception (ELC Sale)

During Learn@Home I played with the playdough and I made a monster.



Emily Gibson, Transition (ELC Sale)

Morris came to visit my house during Learn@Home. We made homemade pizza and I put all the things on it with Morris helping me. Morris and I played on the playground, painted our nails, looked after our new chicks and rode my bike together. I love Morris.



Spencer Van Heurck,
Transition (ELC Sale)

When Morris came to my house we went to the farm and made a fire and played at the river. Morris helped me do my worksheets, we rode my scooter together, went down my slide, made some critters and made gingerbread men too.



Audrey Tait, *Transition (ELC Sale)*

During Learn@Home I did lots of craft with Mumma. I made some caterpillars with pom poms, pipe cleaners and googly eyes. One was called Star and one was called Doug. I put them in my bedroom to play with my Barbies.



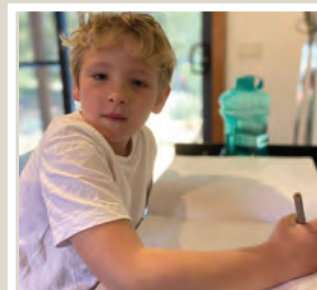
Odette Cook, *Foundation (Bairnsdale)*

Learn@Home was fun and boring: fun because we did singing and dancing to our number songs but also boring because I couldn't talk to my friends. The best part was being able to go on bike rides at lunchtime as a family and eating morning tea together on our deck. (My teacher) Mrs Crowe was very funny on Zoom. My favourite part was when she pretended to be asleep and we all shouted 'wake up Mrs Crowe!'



Elena Lazzaro, *Year 1 (St Anne's)*

2020 has been a crazy year! First we had bushfires and then we had COVID-19. But Mum says whenever bad stuff happens, sometimes good stuff comes from it. Like, I have been really missing seeing my friends and teachers at school but I got to spend more time with my Mum, Dad, Louis and Milla and I learnt how to use Zoom. Netball got cancelled and so did the snow, but I learnt how to play tennis instead and have been doing lots of bike rides around the lake (Guthridge). We couldn't go to Bendigo to see my Nan and Pop but I sent them a letter that I wrote with my new fountain pen and guess what, Pop wrote back and he's never written me a letter before! I'm still working on one thing though ... convincing Dad to let us get a puppy!



Riley Jenkins, *Year 1 (Bairnsdale)*

Learn@Home has been fun! My magic moments have been spending the whole day with Mum. I have also loved riding my bike at every break. It is sometimes a challenge to learn on the computer but I have improved my Zoom skills lots and I can even Zoom in the car. My success has been how hard I have worked at reading and have got so much better.



Reuben McInnes, *Year 2 (Bairnsdale)*

Learn@Home: relaxed, opportunity, learning Zooming, trampolining. I miss the bus. Lockdown.



Bairnsdale Campus Captains **Sorrel Fraser and Joshua Newstead, Year 6**



During Learn@Home, all students have faced a range of challenges but still learnt lots. Learn@Home has taught us to be patient and resilient, which are skills we can take with us into the future. We both feel like we have been thoroughly connected to our class and our teachers. We loved connecting with the whole School during Fellowship. The teachers have done a superb job and have adapted really well. This year we couldn't go to the Halogen Leadership Conference so our teacher has organised some guest speakers like Tim Cope, Tim Bull, Grattan Mullet and Reverend Edie Ashley to come into our Zoom sessions. Our passion for learning has been the same whether we are at school or learning from home.



Piper Jankowiak, Year 3 (Bairnsdale)

I give Learn@Home an 8.5/10. I have really enjoyed wearing whatever I want, I think I am better at maths now and I have even taught my Mum, Dad and sister how to divide on a number line. I have had lots of favourite moments but I really liked the Ocean Blue Science Activity and making pom poms in Art. I also really liked seeing everybody on Zoom each day. The hardest part of Learn@Home has been looking at the screen all day but I can now use the computer better.



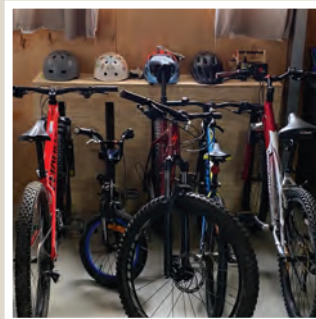
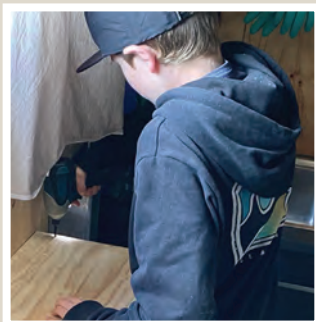
Edward Greenwell, Year 3 (St Anne's)

School this year has been very different to how I thought it would be! Learn@Home has been hard but fun at the same time. I have enjoyed being with my family and going bike riding at lunch time, but have also missed my friends. I liked Science Week because we were able to do lots of fun experiments. I will remember this time forever because it has been so different to normal living.



Benjamin Reynolds, Year 4 (Bairnsdale)

Learn@Home was different because it was online. You needed independence, patience and technology skills for Zoom and VOS. There were heaps of challenges through Learn@Home especially technology problems but there were still some good parts like going into breakout rooms on Zoom with friends to have a chat as well as doing some fun learning activities at home.



Parker Soulsby, Year 5
(Bairnsdale)

Learn@Home has been a very different experience for me. My family learnt I was good at technology and I now help them with setting up a laptop to a TV and with other devices. Some of the things I have found challenging are getting distracted by my sisters (as they are only little) and background noise. The best part was break time because I could ride my motorbike or swim in the swimming pool. My favourite moment was logging into Zoom and seeing all of my friends each morning.



St Anne's Campus Captain
Jonah Brown, Year 6

This year sure has been different to what we are used to but that doesn't mean it has been any less fantastic. I remember when we started Learn@Home I was excited to see what it would be like. I found it OK, it was nice being with my family and not having to get up as early but I missed my friends and teachers and realised that face-to-face time can mean a lot. The first day back at school was so awesome, but it came with a few new rules such as better hygiene and sanitising hands more often and lining up on the red lines to maintain physical distancing. Learn@Home 2.0 has definitely been a lot easier. I am very honoured to have been a Campus Captain during this time, it has taught me great resilience and patience.



St Anne's Campus Captain
Gracie Millington, Year 6

Being Campus Captain was going to be a highlight of Year 6 for me as representing the School and showing leadership to all school levels was something I was looking forward to. But that was all taken away by COVID-19, however this pandemic has also been an experience we will never forget too. Spending everyday with Mum and (my brother) Sam has been ... interesting. We have learnt how to best learn and work from home, what Mum does every day at work and that a simple walk outside can reset everyone's mood.

I wouldn't go back and change how I've dealt with COVID-19. It has definitely helped me grow into the person I am today and I've become more resilient and have more confidence in my ability.



Mia Humphris, Year 7

We had no idea who each person was! After we returned to School after the first lockdown I thought I would never have to Zoom again but when we went back into lockdown I was surprised to find it didn't bother me too much. The main things that kept me going were my friends. And I also got all my homework done in the school week so I could completely relax on the weekend, which made it easier. But I did find it challenging being uncertain all the time and not knowing when we were going back. Learning from home has allowed me to do things that I wouldn't be able to do if I were at school, such as making sourdough bread, and making and selling face masks. This experience changed my life incredibly and I will never forget it.



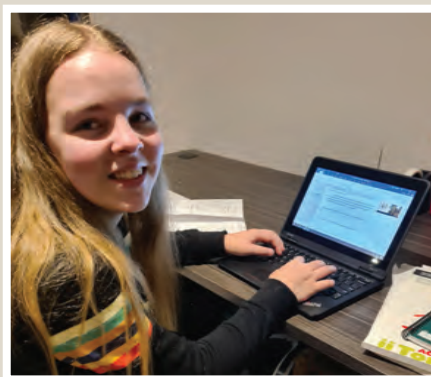
Connor Rogalsky, Year 7

My experience during Learn@Home was nothing like I thought it would be. I thought it would be dull and just sitting in your seat looking at a screen all day but boy was I wrong! Our teachers used all types of tactics to keep us listening and, I have to say, they all worked. My favourite was doing a Kahoot quiz to test what we had just learnt. My favourite thing about Learn@Home was the 30-minute classes, which was a great idea to get us engaged and listening while still doing the work. There is no doubt I will remember this year forever.



Lily Kuch, Year 8

I think Learn@Home has been good for me and reduced a decent amount of stress knowing I have a more stretched out period of time I can complete the day's homework and/or extra work. It feels as though there is more time for other activities and prep time for coming tests.



Sophie Alexander, Year 9

It has been an interesting year for me as a Year 9 student as this is the year that is hailed as the best year at Gippsland Grammar but most things that people say are great about this year didn't end up happening. Despite this, teachers, parents and students have all pulled through to enjoy it as much as possible and I would argue that an entire year of sitting at home, eating food whenever and having half days of school makes this year one to remember.



Harrison Singer, Year 12 VCAL

As part of our VCAL Learn@Home program, we completed five individual projects using the PODR process (Planning, Organising, Doing and Reviewing) in order to monitor performance and continually improve. The projects I chose during Learn@Home were ISO Rowing, Music Recital, Global Big Day, Enrolling to Vote and, my favourite, preparing weeknight dinners. This included searching for ideas and recipes, writing a menu, preparing the shopping lists, doing the shopping and then preparing the meals each night.



School Captain **Ellen O'Brien**, Year 12

I know I speak for many Year 12s when I say finding motivation and remaining positive has been an extremely challenging feat. However, the challenges of Learn@Home; creating healthy routines and study habits, managing time effectively and discovering coping strategies has equipped us with skills that shall serve us into the future, be that tertiary study or in the workforce. While it is easy to

grieve for the year that could have been, comparing our adventure to previous years will only result in anguish. Instead, I challenge you to think of what has come out of these circumstances that you would have otherwise never had the opportunity to experience. For me, without the commute to school, I had more time to explore new hobbies. Having my cat join my classes was an added bonus. I am exceedingly proud of the work everyone has put in this year.



School Captain **Sam Dunnett**, Year 12

As we shut down our computers for what we assumed would be our last ever Zoom class, the Year 12s set our eyes on the resumption of various postponed events that we had looked forward to since Year 7. The few weeks that we spent back at School together - despite the limitations - was the morale boost that everyone needed before unfortunately we all headed back into the second






and much tougher Learn@Home. There was however a silver lining, which was being able to click into homeroom with a hoodie on and a coffee in hand. The innovation that staff and students have used throughout Learn@Home has been great to watch and experience and has made me realise even more that this is a student-focused School, which will now be one of the first things that comes to mind as I look back on my Year 12 experience with Gippsland Grammar.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We love keeping in touch with Old Scholars but to do so we need your updated contact details. If you have recently moved, have changed your email address or can't recall ever receiving an email from us, please email our Development co-ordinator sarah.guinness@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au with your current details. This is particularly important as from

next year *Veritas* will arrive in your inbox rather than your letterbox (see page 2).

HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

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Farewell Liana Cartledge

After a distinguished 40-year teaching career, including 21 years at Gippsland Grammar, the School's Deputy Principal – Academic Liana Cartledge is retiring at the end of 2020.

During her time at Gippsland Grammar Mrs Cartledge has been a member of the School's Executive team.

Mrs Cartledge has completed her Masters of Organisational Leadership and was a key driver of the School's successful Academic Care model, which is the educational philosophy adapted by Gippsland Grammar seven years ago. It's an achievement of which the longstanding VCE English, Literature and English Language teacher is most proud.

"In the last decade there has been significant changes in understanding the science

of learning," Mrs Cartledge said. "We have come to learn more about how the brain works and how we can use that across teaching and learning. Our Academic Care model incorporating the precepts of Visible Learning helps students become assessment capable and employment ready so they can manage in whatever workplace they're in."

Another career milestone Mrs Cartledge reflects fondly on is the introduction of VCAL to the School's curriculum.

"That was very satisfying as I felt that met a need and it was a socially just thing to do," she said.

A passion for English and linguistics has ensured Mrs Cartledge has always found significant personal enjoyment in teaching English, Literature and English Language and texts that have stood out throughout her time in the classroom include *The Great Gatsby*, *1984*, *The Longest Memory* and the works of Shakespeare.

"There have been many wonderful works and you develop a great appreciation for them all as you study them and teach them," she said.

Mrs Cartledge is also grateful for the leadership opportunities she has pursued over the past two decades.

"Being a part of the School's Executive has given me a lot of professional fulfilment," she said. The trust I've been afforded by various principals and the Board and the staff has been humbling. And I'm really grateful for it because I was pushed to take risks that I was only confident to do because I knew people had faith in me."

Deputy Principal Jan Henry has worked alongside Mrs Cartledge for 21 years and says Mrs Cartledge's contribution to the young people in Gippsland has been enormous.

"She has been critical in both developing a vision for teaching and learning at Gippsland Grammar and also the implementation of this vision," Ms Henry said.

As Mrs Cartledge looks forward to her final Valedictory – "I have always loved these beautiful celebrations that honour the hard work of the students." – she is also looking forward to continuing her own personal learning in retirement.

"Oh I'll always continue to learn," she laughs. "I've set myself a technical challenge of improving my sewing and I'd like to go back to my roots and learn Italian. I'm looking forward to spending more time in my garden, travelling and to be helpful to my children and my grandchildren."

As for her advice to students: to find a career they are passionate about.

"I've been a teacher all my life and I love it," Mrs Cartledge said. "Every day I've been happy to come to work and interact with young people and my colleagues."

"Teaching is worthwhile and it does make a difference – I wouldn't have done this for 40 years if I didn't feel that."



Farewell Don and Jenny Gaskill

The strength of any School is often the longevity of its much-loved teachers and Don and Jenny Gaskill have certainly been that for Gippsland Grammar.

The Gaskills arrived at Gippsland Grammar in 1987 and after a fulfilling

and rewarding 33 years working at both the St Anne's and Garnsey campuses, the husband-and-wife duo will retire at the end of 2020.

Mr and Mrs Gaskill say the decision to farewell the School Community they have considered an "extended family"

has been a difficult one, but both are leaving with a lifetime of memories and also with excitement at spending more time with grandchildren, holidaying outside of school holidays and, for Mr Gaskill, improving his golf handicap.

"Gippsland Grammar has been our family for 33 years," an emotional Mrs Gaskill said.

Mrs Gaskill's first job was at the Boarding House before she moved to St Anne's Early Learning Centre when it opened in 1992. In the 28 years since Mrs Gaskill has been a pillar at the ELC and says each day has brought its own rewards.

"One of my favourite traditions is the ELC Christmas concerts," Mrs Gaskill reflects. "It's a super way to end a super year and it showcases not only our children but also the School and our great Community."

ELC Director Mrs Lisa Burgess has worked with Mrs Gaskill for the past 16 years and said Mrs Gaskill will be missed terribly at the ELC.

"Jenny has taught hundreds of Gippsland Grammar students and has been a calm, caring and nurturing educator to each and every one," Mrs Burgess said. "She has always been the first to identify the child or family who needs extra support or understanding and her kindness and empathy for others is evident in all of her interactions."

While Mrs Gaskill has a passion for early childhood education, for many years she was also been able to indulge her second professional love: netball.

"My love has always been sport so when I was asked to coach the school netball teams I jumped at the opportunity," she said. "I coached both senior and junior netball teams from 1989 when the teams were competing in the Sale Netball Association competitions so it involved coaching and playing on a Monday and Thursday after school and on a Saturday.

Working in preschool and coaching the older girls in netball was a perfect combination."

Mr Gaskill's passion for sport has also dominated his time at the School where he has worked as a PE teacher in various capacities at both St Anne's (1987-2000) and Garnsey (2000-2020), where he is currently the Head of Sport.

Mr Gaskill said both the junior and senior campuses presented their own career highlights.

"I particularly enjoyed my time at the junior school," Mr Gaskill said. "Being one of the few, and initially the only, male member of staff I was regularly in demand to accompany school excursions and camps, which were always a highlight. And watching children's physical skill development from Prep to Grade 6 was very rewarding.

"Since taking on the role of Head of Sport (at Garnsey) I have greatly appreciated the friendly and supportive staff and without their help, the program couldn't exist.

"I will miss watching our elite students perform at interschool swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals and sporting matches as well as the

enthusiasm of our less-competitive students participating in alternative sports every Thursday. I like to think that the vast majority of our students find a lifelong love of physical activity."

Head of P.E. Mr Chris Ray said: "Don's passion to provide a meaningful and robust sporting competition for our students has been a constant source of inspiration for me personally and the entire Physical Education and Health Department," Mr Ray said. "I'm sure there are a great number of people out there in our School Community who have developed their passion for being active and healthy under Don's watch. We will miss Don as a colleague and an educator and wish him and Jenny all the best in their well-earned retirement."

When asked to share their final reflections of their time at the School, both were pensive and clearly emotional about saying goodbye.

Mrs Gaskill says she has particularly loved being able to teach the children of some of her former students while Mr Gaskill is definitive about the impact of Gippsland Grammar on not only himself and Mrs Gaskill, but on the wider Community.

"After teaching in many schools prior to Gippsland Grammar, I quickly came to the realisation that this School has something special," he reflects. "Over the years, the friendliness and respect the students and parents have toward the teaching staff, the compassion and support for staff as an employer ... have kept me here much longer than I first envisaged.



Farewell Janette Gale

Cleaner Janette Gale is also bidding farewell to Gippsland Grammar after a remarkable 32 years' service. Cleaning Supervisor Sharon Bates said Mrs Gale, affectionately known as 'Netty', was a valued member of her team who has worked across the Garnsey and St Anne's campuses as well as the Boarding House during her career at Gippsland Grammar and that Mrs Gale would be "missed terribly" for both her unwavering dedication to her job as well as for her generous cooking skills. "Any longstanding staff member would have sampled Netty's chilli sauce and jelly slice," Miss Bates said. "We're all very sad to see her go but we also think a break is well deserved after 32 years of service."



Old Scholars Rob and Tom Lightfoot now manage Lightfoot and Sons.

Foundation news

The Gippsland Grammar Foundation would like to thank the School Community for its support of its recent fundraiser, Grammar's 'Gippsland Dozen'. Four local wineries with connections to our Community joined forces to offer carefully-curated boxes of half dozen or dozen premium Gippsland wines. More

than 100 boxes of wines were ordered over the six-week selling period, raising valuable funds for Gippsland Grammar's new Visual Arts & Technology Centre. The Foundation would like to thank all who supported this fundraiser and would like to extend a particular thank you to the four wineries: Lightfoot and Sons, Tambo Wine, Blue Gables and Glenmaggie Wines for their ongoing support of our School.

Vale

Gippsland Grammar is sad to hear of the passing of former Boarding House Mistress Mrs Pat Jacques, who died on October 27, aged 86. Mrs Jacques took over from Miss Lorna Sparrow as the Boarding House Mistress from 1976 to 1980, and she continued to perform relief duties at the Boarding House throughout the 1980s. When Mrs Jacques tendered her resignation in 1980, the then Gippsland Grammar Principal Mr Jim Beard replied with his thanks "for the care and attention you have given the many girls who have been in your care. At the time of your commencement, I felt that it would be very difficult to find anyone to adequately follow Miss Sparrow, and was very grateful when you came along at a time when we most needed you." Mrs Jacques' five daughters – Michelle, Yvonne, Lynne, Prudence and Joanne (dec) – are also Old Scholars of the School.

Reunions

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the planned reunions for this year have been rescheduled for 2021 and will occur as joint celebrations with the cohorts due to reunite next year. The dates for these joint reunions, which will be held at Garnsey's Chapel of St Anne are:

Class of 2010/2011

10 Year Reunion
Saturday November 6, 2021

Class of 2000/2001

20 Year Reunion
Saturday October 23, 2021

Class of 1990/1991

30 Year Reunion
Saturday October 16, 2021

Class of 1980/1981

40 Year Reunion
Saturday October 9, 2021

Class of 1970/1971

50 Year Reunion
Monday October 18, 2021

The date for the Five Year Reunion for the cohorts of 2015 and 2016 is yet to be confirmed and will be advised next year. This event will be held in Melbourne.

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