



Principal Leisa Harper and Archivist Tim Gibson with former headmistress Miss Lorna Sparrow's MBE, which has been presented to Gippsland Grammar for safekeeping.

veritas



ISSUE ONE, 2021

Compassion | Leadership | Excellence | Respect | Responsibility

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From the Principal

WELCOME to 2021. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a healthy and happy year ahead. I'm sure I was not the only person who was keen to see the calendar flip over to a new year and over the past month I have particularly enjoyed some opportunities that weren't possible last year, such as being able to attend my first assemblies in person at each of our campuses.

I believe it is important to respect the past, in order to understand the present, so we can plan for the future and this edition of *Veritas* has something from each of those stages for your enjoyment and interest.

Innovation has played a vital role in the School's success since its foundation. Lorna Sparrow is well-known for her hard work and dedication as the Headmistress of St Anne's from 1943 to 1975. On our cover and on pages 4 - 5, you will read about how Miss Sparrow's family has generously donated her treasured MBE and her many degrees to our School for safekeeping and to preserve Miss Sparrow's memory in a place that had such a strong influence on her life. In my time at Gippsland Grammar

I have heard Miss Sparrow described many times as a 'lifelong learner' and some of our Old Scholars have recalled to me how she taught a varied range of subjects. The School is grateful for this most generous gift of memorabilia and thanks Miss Sparrow's family for sharing these memories with Gippsland Grammar.

Innovation as a theme will continue as you read about our new Director of Performing Arts Dr Kevin Cameron and our recent appointments to our Board of Directors. We are grateful for their generosity as they serve our Community through this governance role.

History was written on the water with our rowers winning gold at the National Rowing Championships in Tasmania in March (see facing page). The team has trained hard and faced some tough competition throughout the season and we are proud of all their achievements.

Looking forward, you will read about our new Visual Arts & Technology Centre, which is being constructed at our Garnsey Campus.

Our School is excited about the innovative capacity this new building possesses and the enhanced educational opportunities it will allow us to offer our Art, Design, Media, Applied Computing and Wood Technology students.

No doubt you have already noticed this new-look *Veritas* is bigger and better and, for the first time, published as a digital edition. We hope you enjoy it. As always, I encourage Old Scholars to keep in touch and we would love to see any photographs of births, weddings or special occasions, which can be emailed to our Development Officer Sarah Guinness at sarah.guinness@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au.

One of the many benefits of our COVID-19 experience is that we have come to cherish the opportunities to meet face-to-face. I am particularly looking forward to this year's reunions and may I encourage you all to let yourself be drawn by the stronger pull of that which you truly love.

LEISA HARPER



Rowing Success

GIPPSLAND Grammar has two newly crowned Australian champions in its midst with Year 11 rowers Lindsay Hamilton and Billy Osborne winning gold at the Australian Rowing Championships in Tasmania from March 22-28.

The duo crossed the line at Lake Barrington in first place in the under-19 Double Scull final, narrowly beating teams from Redlands and Ballarat Grammar. Lindsay and Billy also teamed up with Year 12 students Tom Condrón, Alex Coleman and cox Miya Hancock to secure silver in Open School Boys Coxed Quadruple Scull and assistant coaches Eleanor Brinkhoff and Jess Thompson also won Silver in the Club Women's Double Scull event.

Gippsland Grammar's Director of Rowing Nick Bartlett (pictured above with Lindsay and Billy) said the School's amazing winning performances were great achievements after many months of intense training, which the students managed alongside their VCE studies.

"I'm really thrilled for the boys, the program and the School," Mr Bartlett said. "Everyone wants to win a national title and to do it in such style from start to finish was great to see. We're already looking forward to hitting the water next season to start our preparation for the defence of the title in 2022."

Principal Mrs Leisa Harper was also thrilled at the result.

"Our rowers have had an amazing season and to see their success at both the State and National Championship, fills me with both excitement and pride," Mrs Harper said. "And my sincere thanks to our wonderful Head of Rowing, Mr Nick Bartlett. Go Grammar!"

For a full Rowing report, see page 16.





Old Scholar Judith Ruse presents Miss Sparrow's MBE to Archivist Tim Gibson.

Lorna Sparrow memorabilia comes home

LORNA Sparrow's name is synonymous with Gippsland Grammar after the talented young teacher was headmistress of St Anne's Church of England Girls, Grammar School from 1943-1975. Miss Sparrow was a remarkable woman with a true passion for education who will be forever woven into Gippsland Grammar's history books. She died in 1993, yet Old Scholars still remember her fondly and happily share stories of 'Sprog', as she was affectionately known (inspired by the South Australian practice of calling sparrows 'sprogs').

At a recent St Anne's 'Green Grubs' Old Scholars luncheon at Bairnsdale's Main Hotel, chatter and laughter could be heard until Miss Sparrow's niece, Old Scholar from the Class of 1964 Judith Ruse (nee Matthew) made a surprise presentation. Mrs Ruse generously presented to the School Miss Sparrow's briefcase full to the brim with School memorabilia including her Member of the British Empire Medal (MBE) awarded by Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth in 1964 for outstanding service to our School community.

Mrs Ruse said the artefacts and documents painted a complete educational picture of Miss Sparrow and it was only right she gave them 'back' to the School.

"It's the full sequence, not only have you got the MBE but her teacher's registration ... all the references she used to apply for the job (in Sale)," Mrs Ruse said. "And some of those people were, in their day, absolute educational heavyweights. There are letters of congratulations from people like the Governor General, the Victorian Governor, Prime Minister Robert Menzies, the Victorian Premier and leaders of the different political parties, Herbert Hyland I remember."

The actual MBE certificate was signed by Her Majesty the Queen and her husband Prince Philip on New Year's Day 1964. It remains in its original envelope posted to Miss Sparrow from Canberra.

Gippsland Grammar Principal Leisa Harper and Archivist Tim Gibson proudly accepted the treasures.

"The School is both honoured and delighted to accept these wonderful artefacts," Mr Gibson said. "To have all of Miss Lorna Sparrow's degree certificates, her MBE in its original box, various correspondence written to her including a telegram from then Prime Minister Robert Menzies as well as other precious papers is just incredible - all these housed in Lorna's own working briefcase.

"The School will cherish them and house them for the School Community to view and enjoy. Lorna Sparrow was an amazing lady, and this gift will receive appropriate recognition."



A group of Green Grubs from the Class of 1971 attended the Green Grubs lunch for the first time in March and they now plan to attend regularly. These Old Scholars were part of the first cohort of students to finish school combined with the Gippsland Grammar boys, which makes them some of the youngest Green Grubs in the group. Pictured are (back) 1971 School Captain Jan Davis (nee Ingram), Alison Jessep (nee Horstman) and (front) Lynne Glover (nee Fox), Susie Andrews (nee Chalmer) and Gillian McIlwain.

Gippsland Grammar, first established in 1924, has a proud and rich history. Principal Leisa Harper acknowledged the impact the School had on generations of Gippslanders.

"There are stories of inspiration throughout our Community," Mrs Harper said. "Being connected to this great School and its amazing historic story is an honour, not only for me, but for each and every student who is here today, who have been before and who will be inspired by this School in the future. The connection is real and so is the sense of belonging."

For more information about future Green Grubs lunch dates or if any other Old Scholars have memorabilia they would like to donate to Gippsland Grammar's archives, please email Development Officer Sarah Guinness at sarah.guinness@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au.



Mrs Lorna Sparrow was headmistress of St Anne's from 1943-1975.

Miss Sparrow: a snapshot

LORNA Discombe Sparrow was born in South Australia in 1911, the eldest of five children. After finishing school at Adelaide's Methodist Ladies College, she completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Adelaide in 1930 and Master of Arts in 1933, aged just 22.

An opportunity arose for her to take up a missionary teaching position in Singapore in 1942, but the entry of Japan in World War II prevented Miss Sparrow making this career move. Instead, she joined the staff of the King's School for boys in Adelaide before being appointed headmistress of St Anne's Church of England Girls' Grammar School in Sale in 1943, when she was 33 years old.

Miss Sparrow immediately set out to establish many traditions which would continue for the life of the School, such as establishing a house system to encourage sport, scholastic and social achievements in a 'spirit of friendly rivalry'. Under Miss Sparrow's watch the continued to grow and despite many post-war shortages and difficulties, Miss Sparrow added to and improved the School's facilities and a major building fund was organised to build what is now known as the Lorna Sparrow Hall at St Anne's Campus.

Miss Sparrow's contribution to education was widely recognised and in 1964 she was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours list.

In 1959 a decision was made to establish a boys' school and in 1960 Gippsland Grammar School was constituted. In 1971 a decision was made to amalgamate the boys and girls schools and from the start of 1971 the combined School became known as St Anne's and Gippsland Grammar School. After almost 30 years running her own school, there were many adjustments to make but the challenges of the new school were overcome, and Miss Sparrow continued to be very actively involved in the administration of the School until her resignation in 1975.

Miss Sparrow retired to live in Paynesville and enjoyed the chance to do some study. When she died in 1993 a foundation was established to provide a scholarship to a Gippsland Grammar student and this scholarship continues today.

An edited extract from *Life at St Anne's, Gippsland Grammar School and STAGGS* by Ann Andrew

St Anne's farewells Mrs Deacon

IT WAS a bittersweet morning at St Anne's at the end of last year when Head of Campus Jie Van Berkel and students from Mrs Kirsten Rich's McCubbin Year 1 class gathered to farewell longstanding St Anne's volunteer, Muriel Deacon.

Mrs Deacon had been volunteering at St Anne's for an amazing 18 years after she started offering her services in the campus's Early Learning Centre when Mrs Deacon's grandson Samuel O'Hara started attending as a student in the early 2000s. Samuel is now a 24-year-old police officer and while Mrs Deacon's enthusiasm for supporting Gippsland Grammar students has only blossomed over that time, the impact of last year's COVID-19 pandemic made Mrs Deacon realise the limitations on her ability to be of service with the restrictions in place.

"Being a part of this School has been such a joy for me," Mrs Deacon said. "I mean, you don't do these types of things if you don't want to."

In recent years Mrs Deacon has volunteered in Mrs Rich's class two mornings a week and she describes her role as "a bit of a gopher".

"I knew my territory," Mrs Deacon laughs. "I liked to call myself 'chief organiser' but I was really just there to help. I'd go on excursions and swimming and athletics days. I went on the Old Gipps town excursion each year, which I always loved. And I also loved Grandparents' Day. Sometimes other grandparents even come from overseas to attend that day. Goodness gracious!"

Mrs Rich, who has welcomed Mrs Deacon into her classroom for the past 15 years, agreed the annual Grandparents' Day was always a highlight with Mrs Deacon on hand as support.

"She was often the 'sub' grandparent for those students whose grandparents were unable to attend," Mrs Rich said. "She always made the children feel loved. There's no doubt



Longstanding St Anne's volunteer Muriel Deacon is farewelled by Year 1 students Quinn Broughton and Lexie Elliman

Mrs Deacon has made a huge impact as both a grandparent at the School and as a volunteer."

Mrs Deacon, who is coy about her age but admits she is in her 7th decade, has lived in Sale her whole life and was a nurse's aid by trade. She married her husband Taz at 19 and had the first of her three children at age 20.

When she reflects on her life, Mrs Deacon acknowledges volunteering had always been a focus.

"My mum enjoyed volunteering too," she said. "I started volunteering because I didn't want to become an old lady, and then I just couldn't stop. I've been volunteering for 50 years, including at Catholic College Sale, the Uniting Church and at local deb balls."

Special connection

THERE'S a special connection between one of our youngest students Rio Kent and his School. Rio's great-grandmother Jo Kent was one of the founding members of the JJAJJGAN's, a Parents and Friends group which raised large sums of money for the School from the late 1960s through to 2018. The Garnsey lecture theatre is named JJAJJGAN, a name created using the first letter of each members' christian

name. ELC student Rio is oblivious to the significance of this connection but does love it when he is able to share his School life with his family, such as when his "Mama" (Jo) brings him to the ELC (pictured).

Four-year-old Rio is the eldest child of Old Scholar Tiffany (nee Ray) and Jason Kent and his grandmother is Deputy Head of St Anne's Campus Sheryn Ray.





Introducing our Director of Performing Arts, Dr Kevin Cameron

GIPPSLAND Grammar is thrilled to welcome its new Director of performing Arts, Dr Kevin Cameron.

Dr Cameron comes to Gippsland Grammar from Geelong Grammar and has studied music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Royal College of Music, the University of Western Australia, Arizona State University and the University of Newcastle where he was the first recipient of the award of Doctor of Philosophy in Music. He has studied conducting with some of the world's finest teachers and is a leading mentor for many young conductors in Australia and overseas. Dr Cameron has also appeared with the Sydney, Tasmanian, West Australian, and Darwin symphony orchestras, the State Orchestra of Victoria, the Auckland Philharmonia, the National Orchestra of Ukraine, and many youth and community orchestras across Australia.

Explain your role of Director of Performing Arts? I lead our large team of Music and Drama students and teachers in classroom, ensemble and studio settings across our three campuses. This year I am also the music director of *Matilda*, the Garnsey Musical which will be performed in late July.

What attracted you to Gippsland Grammar? The School has a strong reputation for Music, Arts and Community and 2021 is an exciting time of recalibration and renewal.

What are you looking forward to? After a terrible year of silence in 2020, we need to remind our colleagues, students and community how important music and arts are for everyone in terms of both the head and the heart; and for students to experience this as both active participants and collaborators.

What has been your favourite experience at Gippsland Grammar so far? My Years 7 and 8 Band classes. After all these years I still love starting students on instruments for the first time because who knows where the journey will take them?

What is your best advice for students? This is a great School with many opportunities, but you have to make the choice to make every moment count.

What do you do in your spare time? I'm looking forward to driving my MG more regularly ... and maybe a Cats premiership!

What are you looking forward to discovering in Gippsland? Maybe I'll be able to finally scratch my sailing itch.



Cubby fun at Bairnsdale

TWO modern cubby houses have been built at Bairnsdale Campus, thanks to the P&F fundraising efforts over recent years. Constructed by parent builders Hayley and Adam Dean, the cubbies suit open-ended play and

students have imagined them into factories, schools, houses and shops. Pictured are Foundation students Jed Keevers, Elizabeth Knight, Gemma Dennett, Kloe Dick and Marlon Rijs.

Gippsland Grammar Leadership

GARNSEY



Garnsey Leadership: Acting Head of Garnsey Campus Kate Ray and Principal Leisa Harper with School Prefects (standing from left to right) Wil Hall, Fergus Grubb, Harry Davis, Ashton Hicks, Kai McDonald, Kate Finlay, Ben Crozier, Connor Hare and Jack Burton and (front) Ruby Luckie, Taryn Grubb, J'Amela Bitar, Hannah Ng and Molly Howard.

BAIRNSDALE



Bairnsdale Leadership: (standing back) Damon Veldhuizen, Tom Campbell, Mia Kantzides and Heidi McInnes. Standing middle: Parker Soulsby, Avin Mirabolfathi, Head of Bairnsdale Campus Virginia Evans, Holly Callaghan, Arlo Britten, Charlotte Snow, Charlee Latham, Byron Clarke, Henry Knight, Zeb Linley, Year 6 teacher Todd Cook, Grace Smith, Riley Whelan and Rafael Rodriguez. (Seated front) Bill Prior, Alyssa Witham, Kael Frith and Oscar Blake.



Bairnsdale Campus Captains Parker Soulsby and Avin Mirabolfathi.

ST ANNE'S



St Anne's Social Service Captains: Shevan Fernando, Arna Mesaric, Zara Stasinowsky, Lola Van Berkel, Ava Schuback and Shaven Rajapakse.



St Anne's House Captains: Wellington Binks Captains Aliesha Turnbull and Luca Keppitipola, Deputy Head of St Anne's Campus Sheryn Ray, Cranswick Dargo Captains Alana Crawford and Harry Stephenson, Tisdall Hotham Captains Maizy Duck and Daniel Neilan, Head of St Anne's Campus Jie Van Berkel, Blundell Bogong captains Xavier Plant and Oscar Wilkins.



St Anne's Campus Captains Louis Lazzaro and Mia Goold.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS Q&A



Veritas spoke to School Captains Connor Hare and Kate Finlay about the year ahead.

Tell us about your own Gippsland Grammar experience?

Kate: I came to Grammar in Year 7 and I have been Social Service captain for my class for a few years and took on the role of House Drama captain last year. Gippsland Grammar has helped me overcome any fears or uncertainties and just get involved wherever I can.

Connor: I've attended Gippsland Grammar since Year 7 and I have held Class Captain and SRC positions in most year levels.

What subjects are you currently studying?

Kate: Physics, French, Maths Methods, Specialist Maths and English Language.

Connor: Chemistry, French, English Language, Physics and Maths Methods.

Why were you attracted to being School Captain and how have you settled into the role?

Kate: I was initially attracted to being School Captain when a close family friend Jo Rowand became captain (in 2016). It really inspired me to get involved and try my hardest to be the best leader possible. I never had my heart set on becoming 'Captain', but rather doing the most I can to make a positive impact in our Community.

Connor: I want to create a better-suited environment for us all and settling into the role has been easy due to the support I've received and the events that have been held so far.

How have the challenges of 2020 shaped what you'd like to achieve as School Captain in 2021?

Kate: I would love to bring back our School's culture just as strong as before, showing those who may never have experienced these things what Gippsland Grammar is all about.

Connor: This year I'd like to ensure that emphasis is placed on extra-curricular activities as well as the holding of more social and cultural events for students and staff. In addition, the prefects are in the process of organising study groups which are aimed at making up for some of the academic support lost due to lockdown.

What does your life look like outside of school?

Kate: I live in Sale and work in the Gippsland Centre. I enjoy practicing art when I'm not studying and I also love playing netball as well as piano, running with my dog and socialising with friends.

Connor: I live in Sale and have about a 10-minute drive to school. I do casual part time work where I can and enjoy a break from my studies on the weekends by seeing mates, exercising and getting out of town to camp or to go for a drive.

2020 VCE Success

GIPPSLAND Grammar's class of 2020 was among some of Victoria's highest achieving Year 12 students. An amazing 23 per cent of the School's Year 12 students achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) above 90, which placed them in the top 10 per cent of students in the State. And 55 per cent of students achieved an ATAR above 80, placing them in the top 20 per cent. Gippsland Grammar's Dux for 2020 was Hannah Husodo with an ATAR of 99.65.

Students who joined Hannah as the School's highest VCE achievers were Rebecca Strauss (Sale) with an ATAR of 98.35; Lauren Richards (Rosedale) with an ATAR of 97.6; Lemoni Japhary (Sale) with an ATAR of 96.55; Jasmine Spencer (Forge Creek) with an ATAR of 96.40; Min Min Bao (Bairnsdale) with an ATAR of 96.35; Alice Beyer (Lakes Entrance) with an ATAR of 96.3; Emma Murphy (Sale) with an ATAR of 96.25; Basma Qadeer (Sale) with an ATAR of 95.75 and Faith O'Connor (Sale) with an ATAR of 95.25. Rebecca Strauss also achieved a perfect study score of 50 in Legal Studies.

Principal Leisa Harper said the entire School Community was thrilled to be

celebrating the success of all Year 12 students from those who have had success with apprenticeships, employment and now VCE results.

"Despite so much change and uncertainty, the results that were achieved reflect the care, support, dedication, teamwork of our whole community," Mrs Harper said. "I have shared that although we have been apart, we have come together, and these results are testimony to the hard work of our students and staff. There are many compelling stories of success from a Dux who achieved a well-deserved 99.65 to 23 per cent of our students scoring above 90.

"This represents a great result for all of our students and also for our wonderful teachers who work tirelessly with our students across all year levels. A Gippsland Grammar education is so much more than an ATAR and, for me, the true reflection of success is clearly demonstrated within the character of all of our students."

Mrs Harper made note of the 13 students who secured apprenticeships and traineeships through the School's

VCAL program. "Our VCAL program allows our students to develop direction for their chosen vocation and we are incredibly proud that the VCAL program helped so many of our students find their way into their chosen profession," Mrs Harper said.

While the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's (VCAA) Consideration of Educational Disadvantage was available to Unit 3/4 students in 2020, all students were supported by Gippsland Grammar's Learn@Home program which was implemented during the COVID-19 remote learning periods.

Teachers were able to work with students online every day and manage key assessment tasks to prepare the students for their external exams. Despite these challenges, many students received early offers of university placements throughout Australia.

Gippsland Grammar's 2020 Year 12 cohort included students from across Gippsland, the Latrobe Valley and far East Gippsland. The cohort also included six students from China.



It was a strange year for the Class of 2020. Students posed for this group photo in the Garnsey quad in October when COVID-19 restrictions meant the students had to wear masks and remain socially distanced.

Visual Arts and Technology on track

THE new Visual Arts & Technology Centre at Garnsey Campus has become a hive of activity with construction progressing to schedule as the 1700sq-m building comes to life. Week 8 of Term 1 was a particularly busy day with 37 trucks pouring 268 cubic metres of concrete onto the site before more concrete was poured the following week.

Architect Craig Brown said the Centre would significantly enrich the learning experiences for all Gippsland Grammar students.

"The project has been supported by the VIS BGA (Victorian Independent Schools Block Grant Authority) which has identified this as a 'game changing' new facility for Gippsland Grammar and the region that the School serves," Mr Brown said.

"There are two wings; one defined by the clean and dust free environment for digital design and the other by a more industrious turning of wood into finely crafted pieces of furniture (which creates some dust and noise too!)," he said. "The wings are linked by a gallery for the celebration of student achievement which overlooks a still and calm landscaped courtyard for display of sculptural work."

Mr Brown said the Centre will achieve four main aims:

- relocate the faculty to be closer to the spiritual and academic heart of the Campus;
- co-locate four buildings into one and blending the distinct but interconnected media of 2D, 3D, computer generated, media and wood. The new building will

also create opportunity for robotics and exploration of new technology beyond the constraints of traditional artwork (STEM);

- develop a strong statement on the edge of the main oval about the importance of creativity which fosters the ability in students to solve problems and express their own unique design ideas; and

- create space at the southern end of the Campus for the regeneration of the performing arts teaching and rehearsal spaces. "This has long been held as a vision for the School to unlock the full potential of the Garnsey Campus for the celebration of culture at all year levels of Gippsland Grammar," Mr Brown said.

Construction is on track to be completed by the end of this year.



New Board members

THIS year has seen Gippsland Grammar's Board of Directors welcome two new members, Fiona Reed and David Gittins.

Fiona began her career as a secondary teacher and has subsequently had broad experience as a senior executive in large organisations across a range of sectors as well as working as a management consultant for two global consulting firms.

David lives with his family in Traralgon and has a background in business, spending the past 20 years owning several vehicle franchises across Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley. He is currently chair of Clifton Waters, chair of the Anglican Diocese Finance committee, trustee of the Anglican Diocese and director of the Anglican Corporation of Gippsland.

Fiona and David will join Board Chair Mike Oram and existing directors including deputy chair Brendan Shepherd, the Bishop of Gippsland the Right Reverend Doctor Richard Treloar, Andrew Reynolds, Kate Young, Val Shaw, Val Jones and Helen Rose.



Fiona Reed and David Gittins

Getting Social



Staff Day January 27



It was perfect weather and the perfect setting for all #GippslandGrammar staff at yesterday's Professional Learning Day at Raymond Island's Abbey, a very special place our School has been associated with for many years. We began with a traditional welcome and smoking ceremony from a Gunaikurnai elder before staff from all three campuses enjoyed a welcome to the year by Principal Leisa Harper then sessions of yoga, relaxation and a tour of the Abbey by Rev Edie Ashley. Bring on 2021! #LearnLiveLead #APassionForExcellence

Impressions 934 **Clicks** 202

Comments

Judy Taylor What a positive and purposeful way to begin our 2021 school year.



Leadership Assembly February 9



School Prefects were inducted at a special Leadership Assembly yesterday. As tradition would have it, a Junior School student visited as witness. Board chair Mike Oram was also on hand

to assist during the ceremony, which was livestreamed into all senior school classrooms.

Reach 2937 **Reactions** 260 **Likes** 103

Comments

Jackie Belot Well done you will do yourselves and the school proud. Blessings and prayers as you take up your roles this year.

Vicki McLeod Proud of you all. X

Sera Elizabeth Little superstar!



Caitlyn Fischer Garden February 17



Wow, how beautiful does the Caitlyn Fischer Garden look? The growth in the last 12 months is extraordinary. Children in the Early Learning Centre at Bairnsdale barely notice however, they simply play and explore the natural, sensory space as they too grow and develop. This garden honours former Gippsland Grammar student Caitlyn Fischer who was tragically killed in an equestrian accident in 2016 just after she completed Year 12 in 2015. Her family, supported by the Bairnsdale community, came together to create this beautiful outdoor space.

Reach 3240 **Reactions** 194 **Likes** 127

Comments

Ailsa Carr The garden is looking amazing and the photos of the children enjoying the space are so beautiful.

Bernadette Place Lovely way to remember a beautiful person

OZ Open Ballkids February 19



Huge shout out to these Australian Open Ballkids - Aden Best (Year 11) and Baxter Pearce (Year 10) - who have been volunteering at the international tennis event. Keep an eye on the TV tonight; both have been selected to participate in finals on Rod Laver Arena. Aden is part of a 12 person squad officiating for the women's grand slam double final and the men's single semi-final while Baxter is the flag bearer. Well done boys.

Reach 3006 **Reactions** 290 **Likes** 148

Comments

Scott Pearce Thank you to the school and teachers for your support and expertise in remote learning

Zondra Kay Drysdale Very Cool indeed!!!

Jennifer Wilkins Congratulations to both boys a job well done



Rowing Success March 1



Gippsland Grammar Rowing has been named second best school/club in Victoria. It was a great weekend at the Victorian State Championships. Our medal tally included nine gold, nine silver and two bronze. The Junior Boys State Championships was also held this weekend and we managed to bring home two golds, a silver and a bronze.

WIN News Gippsland visited our Rowing Captains this morning.

Reach 3477 **Reactions** 373 **Likes** 192

Comments

Max Toms Well done and congratulations to all crews and coaches, and to the support staff who made all this possible. Congratulations to the rowers and for their dedication to the sport.

Harrison Singer Congratulations on such an amazing result.

Jacinta Fleming Congratulations Nick and all the team, sensational

Rupert Stephenson Congratulations to you Nick and all the athletes, coaches and parents



Agricultural Scholarship March 4



Congratulations to Katie Kerby who has been awarded Sale and District Agricultural Society's 2021 scholarship. Katie is a Year 11 student doing a school-based apprenticeship in agriculture. She said the \$1000 scholarship would help with her study fees at Longerenong Agricultural College, Horsham, which she began this week. Katie is working hard completing her VCE, while completing a Certificate 3 in Agriculture Studies and working part-time at Mawarra Genetics Longford. She is also managing her own Hereford stud. Keep up the great work Katie.

Reach 3444 **Reactions** 554 **Likes** 162

Comments

Gail Pattison Congratulations Katie. GO GIRL.

Jan Gilmour So thoroughly well deserved. Well done!

Dot Rowley Congratulations Katie. Great to see.



Flute Donation March 16



Class of 1983 Old Scholar Mandy Robinson recently donated her much-loved flute to our music department and the instrument is now in the musical hands of Year 8 student Mia pictured with our Performing Arts Director Dr Kevin Cameron. Mia will use the flute in her music lessons and classes and has already put it to good use by using it to play pieces including 'Der Nunnentanz', 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'Gone Troppo'. What a lovely way for our Old Scholars to share their passion for music with one of our current scholars. #LearnLiveLead #APassionForExcellence

Impressions 1077 **Clicks** 38

Comments

Brian Dodds Well done! It's great to see young musicians receiving opportunities to develop further.



Happy sticks

FOUNDATION students at the Bairnsdale Campus Leadership induction and welcome Fellowship charmed the audience with a rendition of *Happy Sticks*.

Pictured are Fynn Ivey, Jed Keevers, Maggie Klingner, Elizabeth Knight, Marlon Rijs and Casper Saik.



Community Connections



AUSTRALIA'S RICHEST LITERARY PRIZE

OLD Scholar Dr Laura Jean McKay was awarded the \$100,000 Victorian Prize for Literature in February for her debut novel *The Animals in That Country*. Dr McKay attended Gippsland Grammar from 1990-1992 and now lives in New Zealand where she lectures in creative writing at Massey University.

Dr McKay said she remembered well studying at Gippsland Grammar from Years 7-9, particularly the amount of time she spent in the library.

"I remember the STAGGS library so well," Dr McKay said. "(It) was a sanctuary for those days when being a teenager was too much - days that most people remember, but especially future writers who spend too much time in their heads. I still love libraries and it's now my job to live in my head. Receiving an award like the Victorian Prize for Literature for this work is such an honour and also an affirmation that reading and writing is meaningful."

The Animals in That Country was released early last year and, in a timely coincidence with the COVID-19 pandemic that was sweeping across the globe at that same time, Dr McKay's debut sci-fi novel is also set in a world coping with a pandemic after the novel's protagonist Jean becomes infected with a strange flu that allows humans to communicate with animals.



AFLW SUPERSTAR

MEGAN Fitzsimon (Class of 2020) made her AFLW debut this year and played two senior games for Melbourne against Richmond and Gold Coast Suns. It's been a whirlwind few months for Megan who moved to Melbourne the day after her final Year 12 exam last year and has been there training and playing football ever since.

Megan's mother Fran Fitzsimon said it had been a "whirlwind" watching her daughter's professional sporting career take off.

"It's been very exciting for our family to watch," Mrs Fitzsimon said. "It's been overwhelming really. We were at Inverloch for a few days when we got the call that the club (Melbourne Football Club) was going to present her with a jumper and that she'd been picked for round one. Then we got flown up to the Gold Coast to watch her first game against the Suns, then we watched her second game against Richmond at Casey too."

A groin injury saw Megan's seniors run put on hold for a few weeks but she has continued to play Reserves and has also begun studying a Bachelor of Paramedicine at Monash University.



veritas
GOES ONLINE

This first issue of *Veritas* for 2021 is significant as it marks the first edition of the tri-annual magazine as a predominantly digital edition, which will allow flexibility to share more news, more photos and more memories.

Current families and all Old Scholars will receive a link to the digital copy via an email, which is why it's more

important than ever to ensure the School's records are up-to-date. So if you have recently moved, have changed your email address or can't recall ever receiving an email from us, please email Development Officer Sarah Guinness at sarah.guinness@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au to update your records.

A small number of hard copies of *Veritas* will be printed so if you would like to continue to receive *Veritas* in your mailbox, please register your interest with Sarah Guinness at the email address above.

FROM GIPPSLAND TO BIRMINGHAM

AT 35 Anna Melville (Class of 2003) has been appointed as the Head of Artistic Planning for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Anna grew up in Maffra and attended Garnsey Campus from Years 7-12.

Music teacher Colin Iversen began teaching Anna in 2000 when Anna was in Year 9 and said he has proudly followed Anna's career, which he described as "a wonderful story of major international success".

"Anna was always a born organiser and was a terrific leader throughout her school years," Mr Iversen said. "The School's music program was central to her student years and I think gave her the opportunity to learn how to work with others and provide leadership which has all come to this appointment. Anna is a testament to perseverance, resilience and always looking forward and I think the School can be truly proud of its role in her life story."

Ms Melville spoke to *Veritas* about her life since leaving Gippsland Grammar.

What have been your career highlights?

Since leaving school I studied music performance and musicology at the University of Melbourne before realising I was better at bossing around musicians rather than being one (something which now seems glaringly obvious given how bossy I was organising the choir, House music competitions, and various other musical shenanigans whilst at school). I then worked behind the scenes in artistic planning and music programming at Victorian Opera, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Barbican Centre in London, and the Australian Chamber Orchestra in Sydney, before landing my new gig in Birmingham where I will be moving to in April. The first conductor of my new orchestra was (English composer Edward) Elgar so it is a little daunting but highly exciting to be working with such a prestigious and well-established institution.

Standout memories from your time at school?

I have many fond memories - mostly ones that took place in the Music department building. I remember painting a hideously bright mural there (which I think has now being painted over) with

my friends was a particular highlight. Teaming up with Hannah Moore in starting a choir and nailing *One Day More* from Les Mis at the Yarram Eisteddfod was another highlight.

Do you remember any particular teachers?

If the then Director of Music Colin Iversen hadn't let me start a choir, supported mine and Vicky Falconer-Pritchard's 'Christmas Extravaganza' concerts, or encouraged my various ambitions I have no doubt I would not be packing my suitcase to the UK for my new adventure right now.

Do you get many opportunities to return to Gippsland?

I've spent the past eight years in London and Sydney so sadly have not had much time to return to Gippsland though my family recently sold our Maffra home and moved to Lakes Entrance, so I hope to visit that part of Gippsland more in the future.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I like to travel as much as possible and I am partial to baking ... look out Great British Bake Off 2021!

Follow Anna at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anna-melville-5a3b2a54/>

Reunions

FINGERS are crossed that COVID-19 restrictions will allow the 2021 (and the postponed reunions from 2020) to continue as planned. The 10, 20, 30 and 40-year reunions will be held at Garnsey's Chapel of St Anne, while the 50-year reunion will be a lunch at a venue TBC. Old Scholars are asked to make sure their contact details are up-to-date to ensure they are invited to their cohort's reunions. Please email Development Officer Sarah Guinness at sarah.guinness@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au with any updates.

The dates for these joint reunions are:

Class of 2010 and 2011
Joint 10 year reunion
Saturday November 6

Class of 2000 and 2001
Joint 20 year reunion
Saturday October 23

Class of 1990 and 1991
Joint 30 year reunion
Saturday October 16

Class of 1980 and 1981
Joint 40 year reunion
Saturday October 9

Class of 1970 and 1971
Joint 50 year reunion
Monday October 18

Please note, the date for the joint five/six year reunion for the cohorts of 2015 and 2016 is yet to be confirmed and will be advised with those Old Scholars via email.

Gippsland Grammar celebrates its centenary in 2024 and the School looks forward to creating and maintaining strong links with its Old Scholars in the lead up to this momentous occasion.



Rowing



The boy's squad at Scotch Mercantile: Alex Coleman, Thomas Condron, Matthew Thompson, Cameron Rule, Lindsay Hamilton, Jonty Condron, Regan Farley, Lachlan McCole, Billy Osborne, Rhys Harper, Camden Beyer, Anthony Smith, Ethan Davies, Thomas Gilham, Hagen Cook, Evan Lewis. (Not pictured: Jack Campbell, Lagan Joshi, Jadah Frith, Samuel Reynolds and Thomas Miles.) Photo: Ailish McGrath.



The girls squad at Head of the Schoolgirls: (top row, l-r) Amy Hoernlein, Louise Godfrey, Katie Waller, Miya Hancock, Eleanor Brinkhoff, Sarah Beyer, Freya Hamilton, Elana Krcevinac, Malia Wheal and Rhianne Grimble. (middle row) Lily Reynolds, Jess Thompson, Lucy Hodges, Ace Wilson, Lily Dwyer, Ailish McGrath, Kaylah Young, Hannah Roberts, Zahrarose Beaty, Jess Norman, Ella Gerrand, Scartlett Tavasci, Ivy Johnson. Averil Watkinson, Zoe Hoernlein, Tilly Fox, April Harrison, Tali Oates, Zara Rozite, Anastacia Buhagiar, Emma Best, Ruby Lindrea, Ruby Christian, Head of Rowing Nick Bartlett and Harry Roach. (Not pictured: Olive Blake.) Photo: Ailish McGrath

THE past 12 months has been a rollercoaster for Gippsland Grammar Rowing. In March last year the Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta was cancelled the day before the event and one week later we also received confirmation that the Nationals and the Rowing Dinner would not be happening either.

Fast forward to the start of Term 4 and things were looking up; we were back on the water, regattas were happening again and students and coaches looked with optimism towards the possibility of Rowing Camp and a full Term 1 of racing. Which is exactly what has happened.

Our Rowing Camp in January was a wonderful experience with students from Year 8 through to Year 12 in attendance as well as several Old Scholars. The days were long and the sessions were tough (and there were plenty of new blisters formed) but everyone had a fantastic time before attentions turned towards racing at Barwon and Ballarat.

Our early forays into racing this year were highly successful with a good number of wins at the Barwon and Wendouree Ballarat Regattas. Seeing the new Year 8 rowers getting stuck in and racing hard was a real

highlight of the rowing season. At the three State Championship Regattas at Barwon, Ballarat and Nagambie Gippsland Grammar finished second on the medal table with nine golds, nine silvers and two bronze medals. This achievement also placed the School second in the Victorian Rowing Club Championship; a tremendous achievement.

Following the high of the State Championships training began in earnest for the Head of the School Girls, Scotch Mercantile and Nationals - the exact three regattas that were cancelled last year. At Head of the Schoolgirls

in March the girls had an amazing experience and represented the school with aplomb from Year 8 all the way to Year 12. Our Senior Women's squad came home with two Open Division 1, 4th place finishes which was a fantastic achievement to top off a tough year. In March we finished our season off in style at the Australian Rowing Championships in Tasmania (see page 3) before celebrating together at the Rowing Dinner on March 31.