

veritas

ISSUE TWO, 2021



Compassion | Leadership | Excellence | Respect | Responsibility

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Cover Image:

Year 7 Maths students incorporate the construction of the new Visual Arts & Technology Centre into their classroom learning. Read more on pages 4-5.

Buy school photos:

To purchase photos from many Gippsland Grammar events, please email school photographer Lisa Baker at lisa.baker@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au or visit www.lbphotos.com.au to view the online albums.

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From the Principal

American opera singer Robert Breault once said to 'enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things'. Well, the Gippsland Grammar Community has truly embraced these words over the past term. With all that we were not able to do last year, I feel the flow on effect has been that this year we have all embraced every invitation to enjoy listening to or watching our young people be involved in every opportunity that has presented itself.

Our students have been actively rehearsing for our junior and senior musicals of *Charlotte's Web* and *Matilda*, respectively. These opportunities provide our students with wonderful experiences as well as valuable skills. For some students they will feel at home on the stage and for others it is an opportunity to step outside their comfort zones.

Stepping out of comfort zones goes hand in hand with our Outdoor Program and, in particular, our Year 9 program. Our students continue to learn independence and resilience through activities such as the Melbourne trip as well as the recent Lake Tali Karng

walk where our students push their limits. You can read more about this on pages 8-9.

Our students have talents across many areas, and you will read about a few of these achievements on pages 14-16. We all cheered when Year 8 student Teddy Ripper broke a Gippsland Grammar 50m breaststroke record earlier this year and has since been selected in the School Sport Victoria State Swim Team. We were also proud when St Anne's Year 6 student Xanthe Wade was recognised by Equestrian Victoria following her performance at the 2021 Victorian State Interschool Championships at Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre in April.

Our students have wonderful role models through their teachers and the adults in our Community and I would like to pass on my thanks to Old Scholar Katy Dray, who has been elected as Chair of the Gippsland Grammar Foundation (see page 4). The School's new Board Chair is another well-known Gippsland Grammar Old Scholar, Mr Brendan Shepherd (pictured on the opposite page). Mr Shepherd has been on the Board since 2016 and has held roles on our Audit and Foundation

Committees. I would like to thank Katy and Brendan for their desire to serve our Community and wish them well in their roles.

Another important moment from Term 2 was our Reconciliation Week ceremonies across our three campuses. This year's theme was 'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action', which encouraged us to reflect on how our School could create some explicit signs about how we acknowledge the GunaiKurnai within our Community. Now each campus has the Indigenous, Australian and Torres Strait Island flags flying proudly and it is with much pride that three GunaiKurnai artworks hang in each of our School receptions.

This edition of *Veritas* reflects themes of resilience, commitment, service and opportunity; I hope our students inspire you as they continue to embrace the opportunities that Gippsland Grammar provides.

LEISA HARPER



Students gather in front of the Garnsey flag poles on Monday May 24 to mark National Reconciliation Week. Two Indigenous students shared their stories and Principal Leisa Harper gifted each Campus a framed artwork created by Gunditjamarra/Gunaikurnai man William Harris who grew up in Gippsland and has been painting stories from the region for the past 16 years. Pictured is Acting Deputy Head of Garnsey Kate Ray, School Captains Kate Finlay and Connor Hare, Bairnsdale student Lacey Scott, Deputy Head of Bairnsdale Campus Fiona Carr, Bairnsdale student Liam Richards, Bishop of Gippsland The Right Rev Dr Richard Treloar, Principal Leisa Harper, St Anne's student Harry Stephenson, Head of St Anne's Campus Jie Van Berkel and St Anne's student Aliesha Turnbull.

Gippsland Grammar Board member Brendan Shepherd is Chair of the Gippsland Grammar Board following the Annual General Meeting in May.

Mr Shepherd (pictured) has been associated with Gippsland Grammar for many years; he is himself an Old Scholar and he is also a current parent to Hannah (Year 12) as well as twins Lachlan and Miranda (Class of 2016). Mr Shepherd has been on the Gippsland Grammar

Board since 2016 and is also a former President and Chair of the Gippsland Grammar Foundation, which is an important fundraising arm of our School. Mr Shepherd takes over the role from Mr Mike Oram, who joined the Board in 2013 and after nine years of distinguished service to the School, decided to retire from the Board to allow himself and his wife Carol the opportunity to travel throughout Australia.





Foundation Giving Appeal

The Gippsland Grammar Foundation has launched a Giving Appeal to allow the School Community to make a financial contribution towards the completion of the multi-million dollar Visual Arts & Technology Centre at the Garnsey Campus.

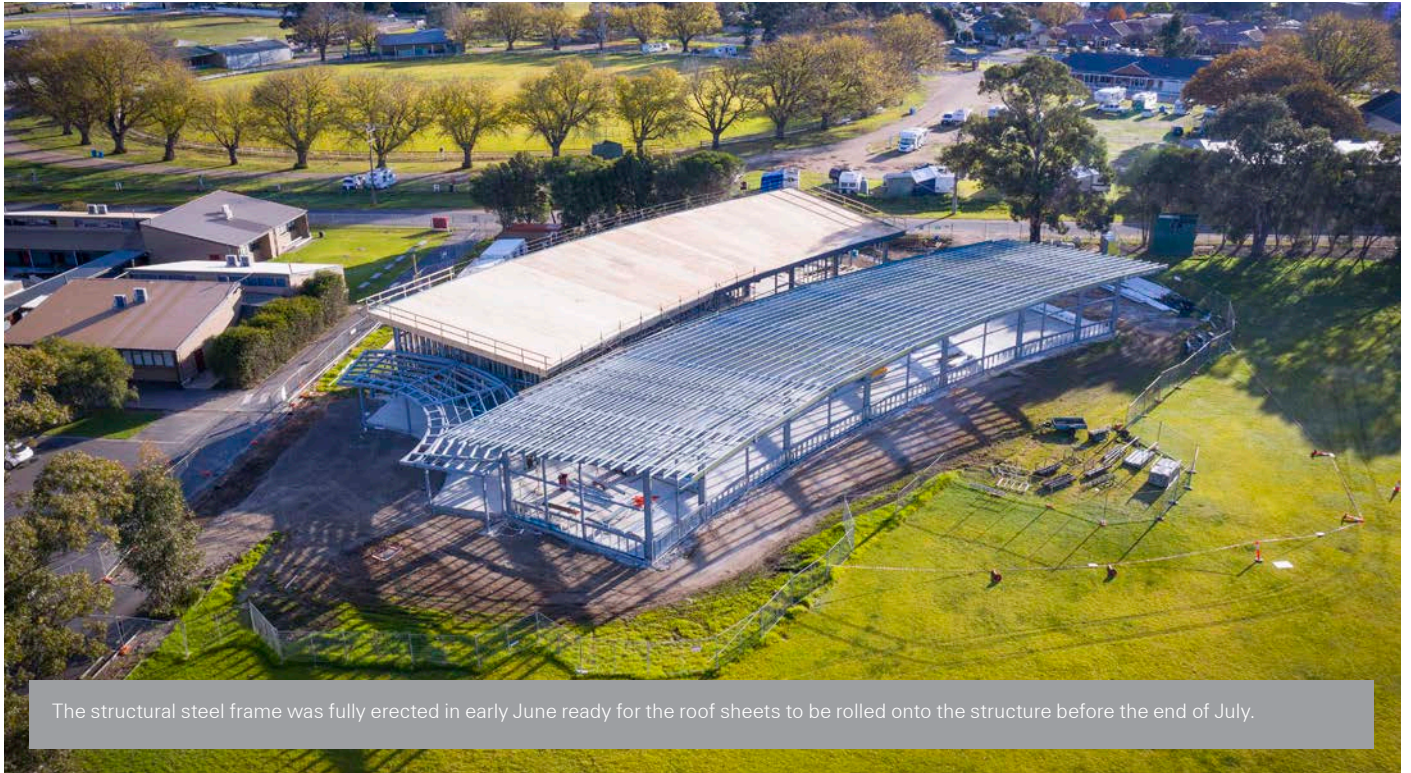
Gippsland Grammar has a strong history of philanthropy and, as the fundraising arm of the School, the Foundation has always played an integral role in supporting capital works projects, which have notably included the \$1.9 million Kukun Kalak building for Years 3 and 4 students at St Anne's Campus (2019) and the \$2.5 million Laurie Payne Sports Centre at Garnsey Campus (2015).

Foundation Chair Katy Dray (pictured with her children Milly and Lucy) said while she understood the uncertainty of the past year had meant many fundraising events had taken a necessary backseat, it was also important to keep looking forward to ensure Gippsland Grammar remained one of Australia's finest regional schools.

"As a School Community we work together to benefit our students and enhance their years of learning," Mrs Dray said. "By making a donation to the Foundation's Giving Appeal, families and individuals will help current and future students the opportunity to enjoy and learn from new experiences offered and the Foundation will be able to ensure the completion of this exciting project, which will no doubt become an important and integral part of the future of our school."

Donations to the Giving Appeal may come in the form of a one-time donation, an annual contribution or a bequest. All donors will be invited as special guests to the opening of the Centre and will be acknowledged in *Veritas*, while all donations more than \$250 will be permanently recognised on the Donor's Wall inside the Centre. All donations are tax-deductable and donations made prior to June 30, 2021 will be deductible for the 2020/21 financial year.

To make a donation: please visit <https://www.gippslandgrammar.vic.edu.au/donations>



The structural steel frame was fully erected in early June ready for the roof sheets to be rolled onto the structure before the end of July.

New Centre already a site of learning

The Visual Arts & Technology Centre continues to make its stamp at Garnsey, both on the campus grounds and in the classroom.

In early June Year 7 Mathematics students began their unit on measurement by visiting the building site to sketch the perimeter of the irregular shaped building site in their workbooks.

They then returned to the classroom to estimate the length of the perimeter, discuss their answers and conduct online research to determine the cost of the temporary fencing.

Year 7D Mathematics teacher Edward Wilson said the students enjoyed the chance to connect their classroom learning to the fantastic new building.

"We've had some great conversations in class about all the people on the building site that are applying Mathematical knowledge, especially measurement," Mr Wilson said. "Then, in a brainstorming session, students thought of roles such as project managers, soil testers, architects, engineers, surveyors, electricians, plumbers, carpenters and the list went on."

Project manager Ken Anderson said that despite a spate of weather interruptions, considerable progress had been made with the development.

"The structural steel frame is now fully erected and preparations for roofing the building are well underway," Mr Anderson said. "Later this month (June) the roof sheeting will be rolled on-site and we hope the roof will be completed before the end of July."

This state-of-the-art Centre will ensure Gippsland Grammar's current and future students will be best positioned to embrace the skills of the 21st century thanks to seven purpose-built classrooms which have been carefully designed for subjects 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).



Year 7 Mathematics students extend their learning beyond the classroom.



VCE Theatre studies students performed *Little Women* in Garnsey Hall on May 18 and 19.



Year 8 student Emma Best enjoys the return to School and the return to sport following the Learn@Home 4.0 in early June.



St Anne's Year 1 students Ella Sands, Murphy Berton and Billie Panayiotou have fun with their Japanese papercraft on May 5 as part of the campus's Japan Children's Day celebrations.



Reverend Edie Ashley gives Bairnsdale Campus Foundation and Years 1 and 2 students a tour of The Abbey at Raymond Island on May 19. The students also planted trees and enjoyed a campfire lunch of potatoes and damper.



Bairnsdale Campus ELC students and their Year 5 buddies catch the ferry to Raymond Island in late May to go on a 'koala hunt'. Above left: Angus Morton, Archie Ford and Olive Linley. Above right: Oscar Coleman and Liam Richards.



At 11am on May 19, astronaut Shannon Walker was beamed to more than 1.8 million students across Australia as she read the book *Give Me Some Space!* from the International Space Station as part of National Simultaneous Storytime. Pictured is St Anne's Deputy Head of Campus Sheryn Ray reading the book to St Anne's students; and (inset) Bairnsdale ELC Transition student Eadie Liston enthralled by the story in the Bairnsdale Campus 'thinking dome'.



St Anne's Year 1 student Hazel Barbetti proudly wears her dad's medal at the St Anne's ANZAC Fellowship on April 23.

A high country rite of passage

Lake Tali Karng is in one of Victoria's most remote locations and only seen firsthand by a minority of adventurous bushwalkers. Despite this, the majority of Gippsland Grammar's senior students can proudly say they have indeed walked along the lake's spectacular shores as part of the School's Year 9 Outdoor Education program.

Bushfires and COVID-19 has seen a two-year hiatus of this much-anticipated 'adventurous journeys' bushwalking camp so staff and eager students were thrilled in Term 2 when the entire Year 9 cohort was able to once again return to Lake Tali Karng.

Co-head of Outdoor Education Cass Booth said the anticipation leading up to the year's camp was palpable and, in hindsight, even more appreciated given Gippsland Grammar went into its fourth iteration of Learn@Home not long after the second Year 9 camp returned in May.

"For more than 20 years our students have completed this walk," Ms Booth said. "People might think that the Year 9 students of today are different than those from 20 years ago but our mountains don't change and neither does the challenge of this hike. I smile when a student tells me how they can't wait to tell their parents, cousins or siblings that they have now too also joined the club and completed this rite of passage."

The four-day camp sees the Year 9 cohort divided into two groups to tackle the camp over two separate weeks. The students hike 31km through challenging trails with a maximum elevation of 1600m, descend into the Valley of Destruction and attempt to stay dry during 16 river crossings. They complete maths and science 'classes' along the

way as well as 'Bug Blitz' sessions and while they largely work as a team they also embark on a solo reflection evening which sees them spread out over an allocated area where they set up their own tarp and cook their own dinner. Ms Booth said the solo reflection allow students to reflect on the experience away from electronics and other influences.

"Though other students and staff are close by, the students get a strong sense of accomplishment of being able to look after themselves for the night," Ms Booth said.

"This year the students were challenged with rain and even snow and one of my favourite parts of this hike is seeing the students realise their success. You can see how proud they are of themselves and their peers for getting through such a challenge. There are many stages of the walk when students often say they can't do it and that they want to give up but we remind them that this challenge gets achieved literally one step at a time".

Student India Boag reiterated this sentiment.

"For me, the most challenging part was keeping the other girls happy and motivated while also trying to keep myself happy, which was the role I gave myself," India said. "I am so proud because I made it up the hill and it was the hardest physical change I have ever done".

Tali Oates agreed staying positive was a key part of achieving her goals.

"I was successful in maintaining a positive mindset throughout the day, and I think the support from the other girls and leaders really helped me though that," she said.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAKE TALİ KARNG

Lake Tali Karng is the only naturally-formed deep lake (51m) in Victoria and unlike Alpine lakes in NSW, Lake Tali Karng is permanently deep and is not of a glacial or volcanic origin but instead formed from a landslide off the nearby Sentianlas mountain range about 1500 years ago. This landslide formed part of the walking track down to the Wellington River, which is called the Valley of Destruction.

Lake Tali Karng is a significant area to the GunaiKurnai and out of respect Gippsland Grammar students don't camp at the lake. Our understanding of Tali Karng's significance was deepened this year when Russell Mullet (who is also the parent of current students Sage and Kelsey Walters) spoke to Year 9 students and staff about how they can best respect the area. In particular, Mr Mullet shared insights on Baukin Rock, which is known as a welcoming stone to the GunaiKurnai. As a result, this year's students found Baukin Rock and paused to pay their respects and seek permission to enter the wilderness beyond.



Students pause and reflect at Baukin Rock, considered by the GunaiKurnai as a 'welcoming rock' for the area.



Students had the rare experience of walking up the steep Gillios Track with a blue sky above and snow below.



Group Leader Mick Rippon explains some of the features around Lake Tali Karng as the mist settles on the surrounding Sentinels mountain range.



For each of the 16 river crossings the students had a river-crossing buddy and unclipped their packs in case they fell in. Pictured from back are Sam Elvin, Josh Vanderveen, Matthew McDonald and Rudy Wilson.



Tired but satisfied, the students take in the Wellington Plain scenery and reflect that they are almost finished hiking their 31km.



Each student takes turns leading and navigating the group and has to maintain a pace that keeps the group together. Leading here is Teina Carnachan.

Getting Social



Swimming Success May 3



Congratulations to these talented junior campus swimmers who represented Gippsland Grammar at the Victorian School Sports State Swimming Championships. Year 6 student Zayden won silver in the 12-13 boys 50m backstroke and went on to help his mates place second in the boys' relay medley relay and third in the freestyle relay. Reaching state level is a great achievement.

Reach 1700 **Reactions** 235 **Likes** 90

Comments

Jenny Burton Well done Zayden & all teammates, great effort.

Jan Chalmer Fabulous effort!

Jan Saville Great to see this strong tradition continuing, congratulations.



Lake Tali Karng May 5



Last week archaeologist and Gunaikurnai Board member Russell Mullett spoke to our Year 9 students about the cultural significance of Lake Tali Karng ahead of the Year 9 Outdoor Education camps to the Alpine region, about 60km east of Licola (the first group is walking to Lake Tali Karng this week ... we hope they're staying dry and warm!). During his talk, Russell spoke about Baukin Rock, which is known to the Gunaikurnai as a 'welcoming stone' and yesterday the students visited Baukin rock to pay their respects and to seek permission to hike to the culturally significant area. We thank Russell for sharing his knowledge and for any students wanting to know more, Russell's family story is told in the book Jackson's Track, which is available at our Garnsey ISC.

Reach 1610 **Reactions** 120 **Likes** 64

Mother's Day May 9



We can't think of a better Mother's Day present than being served brekkie in bed on a custom designed and hand-crafted timber servery tray. Let's hope that was the case for the mums and special friends of these Year 10 students who have been crafting these servery trays in their Wood Technology classes. Talented students and happy mums!

Reach 1882 **Reactions** 341 **Likes** 65

National Gymnastics May 10



Wishing these two gymnastic superstars, Katelyn and Tess, all the best at the National Gymnastics Championships being held in Queensland later this week.

Reach 1943 **Reactions** 269 **Likes** 115

Comments

Jackie Belot So proud of your efforts and commitment. And your awesome family support. Breathe and Believe.

Liz Foat Good luck Katie and Tess.

Amanda Sanders Good luck girls!



Rowing program May 11



The Year 5 and 6 students at our Bairnsdale Campus have just completed a four-week Riggers Indoor Program during their PE classes, which saw them learn how to use rowing machines through fun and engaging activities. A big thank you to Bairnsdale Rowing Club's Head Rowing Coach Harry Roach and Junior Development Co-ordinator Tim Hamilton as well as our own Director of Rowing Nick Bartlett for sharing their tips and tricks to what makes a successful rower.

Reach 1545 **Reactions** 239 **Likes** 41

SEISA Leadership May 15



It was all about stepping out of their comfort zones for the 15 Year 11 students who recently participated in the SEISA Leadership Day at The Summit in Trafalgar East. The students were supported to push themselves to take a 'Leap of Faith', to climb the 'Summit Window' (a five-storey high-lookout platform the size of an A4 piece of paper) and to walk among the treetops on the 'High Wire'.

Reach 1840 **Reactions** 467 **Likes** 56



National Boarding Week May 19



To celebrate Australian Boarding Schools Association's #NationalBoardingWeek, our Principal Leisa Harper and Acting Head of House Kate Ray visited Blackwood House to thank our students and staff for being part of our Boarding Community and for being such positive advocates for their 'home away from home'. We hope the students enjoy their handball and personalised coffee cup. Happy National Boarding Week!

Impressions 440 **Clicks** 31



Back at School June 8



It's so great to see our students back at School. How fabulous are these photos of Year 8s participating in sport. Learning together, playing together and basically having fun. It's a big thumbs up from us.

Reach 1503 **Reactions** 224 **Likes** 56



ELC learning May 15



At our Bairnsdale and Sale Early Learning Centres, the three and four-year-old kindergarten students are encouraged to have a sense of wonder and curiosity through nature-based experiences. Pictured are Transition students Mia and Lennie who used magnifying glasses to examine leaves collected on a walk around the St Anne's Campus.

Reach 1541 **Reactions** 253 **Likes** 29



Charlotte's Web June 1



TEAM EFFORT: One of our hardworking grandparents Liz helps student Olive try on the costume she's creating for the upcoming Bairnsdale Campus production of 'Charlotte's Web The Musical'. Our sincere thanks to our team of volunteers working behind the scenes.

Reach 2017 **Reactions** 214 **Likes** 66

Comments

Josephine Linley My adorable little granddaughter. So proud. Great work Liz, you are so talented.

Fiona Weigall Looking fantastic Olive!

Ros Cooper You certainly haven't lost the knack of creating great costumes Liz!

Fiona NT Olive, you make a fabulous 'Charlotte'. Thank you to all the helpers.

The Weekly Times June 9



We were pretty chuffed to see our School featured in today's The Weekly Times Education magazine. Our School Captains grace the cover and inside you can read Connor and Kate's thoughts on the value of an Independent education; parent Sharon Mekken reflecting on the experiences of her four children being full-time boarders at Blackwood House and Year 11 student Katie Kerby sharing her dreams to be a leading farmer of the future.

Reach 2637 **Reactions** 286 **Likes** 122



Community Connections



VALE JEAN ASHTON

Just two months after former staff member and founding JJAGGAN member Jean Ashton attended the opening of Ashton Court at Garnsey Campus, the School was saddened to hear of her passing in early June, aged 93.

Principal Harper reflected that Mrs Ashton was thrilled to see the completion of Ashton Court, which was dedicated to Jean's son Stephen following his death in 2016 as a result of mesothelioma. The Ashton family made a significant donation to the redevelopment of Ashton Court, which is the outdoor area where Year 7 and 8 students gather and often play down ball.

Mrs Ashton's daughter Meredith shared with Mrs Harper that her mother had read about the opening in the *Gippsland Times* not long before she was admitted to hospital following a fall and that "it brought back wonderful memories of a truly great occasion. There is no doubt that the creation of Ashton Court was Jean's crowning achievement and we are so very grateful."

Jean's son Stephen attended Gippsland Grammar from 1964-1971 and was a Prefect in his final Form 6 year in 1971 and was also DUX that same year. Stephen enjoyed a successful architecture career and was a founding director of the award-winning architectural firm Ashton Raggatt McDougall (later



Bishop of Gippsland Dr Richard Trelour shares a blessing at the opening of Ashton Court.

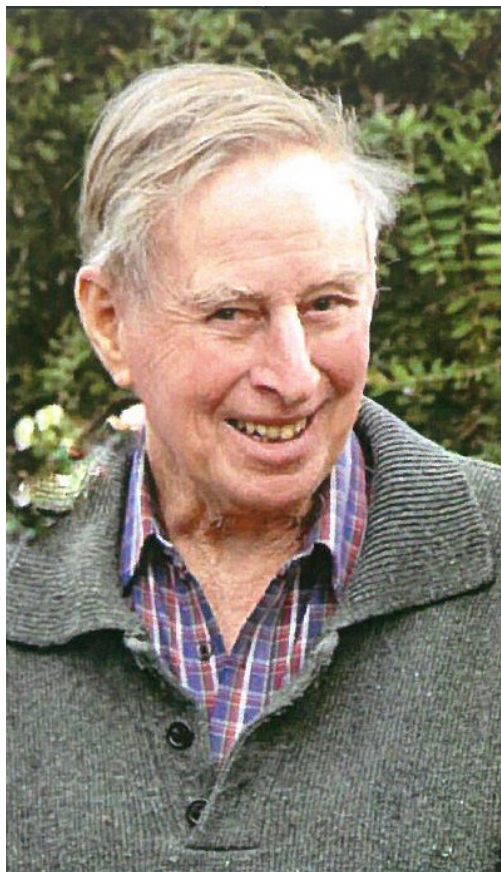


Principal Leisa Harper, Stephen Ashton's daughter Louisa Ashton, Stephen's mother Jean Ashton (dec), Stephen's wife Rosemary Nixon, Stephen's sister Meredith Ashton and her husband Hugh Watson at the opening of Ashton Court, named in Stephen's honor.

ARM Architecture) alongside fellow architects Howard Raggatt and Ian McDougall.

Stephen always retained a connection with Gippsland Grammar and with the many friends he made during his time at the School. In 1991 Stephen was a joint winner of the Old Scholar of the Year Award, which was an award that recognised Old Scholars who had made a personal contribution to the enrichment of our society through community service, dedication, perseverance or creative spirit.

Jean's connection to the School was also significant; Jean taught at Gippsland Grammar and was a founding member of JJAGGANS, a Parents and Friends group that raised large sums of money for Gippsland Grammar from the late 1960s through to 2018. The name JJAGGAN is made up of the first initial of each of the founding member's names, with Jean's initial representing the second 'J'. Jean was also a founding member of the committee that launched the 1965 recipe book *Is Emu on the Menu*, which combined recipes with information about historic Gippsland homes, an unusual strategy which proved a huge success; the book was reviewed internationally and remains the most complete record of Gippsland homesteads in print. Jean recently presented Gippsland Grammar with a rare first edition of the book, which remains popular at local bookstores.



VALE STUART BAIRD

Gippsland Grammar was sad to hear of the passing of former rowing coach Stuart Baird on April 8, aged 88. Stuart has been described as a "wonderful man" and "a great rowing coach at Gippsland Grammar. Always kind and supportive". There is a boat named in his honor and Stuart's three daughters Susan (Class of 1983), Jillian (Class of 1984) and Kirsty (Class of 1988) were all Old Scholars.

Old Scholar and former rower Ailish McGrath who trained under Stuart said she had fond memories of her time with Stuart.

"It was an honour to be coached by him in his final season," Ailish said. "After Stuart left the club his spirit and legacy remained through the numerous students he had coached; stories about him were told and new athletes gained some insight into what for them is only a name on a boat.

"Most notably told is the story of how Stuart did push-ups with some of his female athletes in support of their training despite the fact he was 80-something. I remember how other coaches would sit by and observe Stuart's coaching, learning from him as much as the students did, and how happy he looked every time we got off the water, win or lose."

CATCH UPS

Old Scholars: meet at Portside in Sale at 5.30pm on Thursday July 22 for drinks and tapas. \$25/per person, pay on the night. RSVP to sarah.guinness@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au

Green Grubs: meet at the Warragul Country Club at noon on Thursday October 28 for lunch. RSVP to June on 0417 380 820 or Joy on 0407 289 652.

FAMILY NEWS

Gippsland Grammar is always excited to hear about any engagements, marriages or births from Old Scholars. We also request news of any deaths of Old Scholars or former staff so we can pass this on to our Community. Please email Marketing Manager Zoe Curtis at zoe.curtis@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au.

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:

The dates for these joint reunions are:

Class of 2010 and 2011
Joint 10/11 year reunion
Saturday November 6

Class of 2000 and 2001
Joint 20/21 year reunion
Saturday October 23

Class of 1990 and 1991
Joint 30/31 year reunion
Saturday October 16

Class of 1980 and 1981
Joint 40/41 year reunion
Saturday October 9

Class of 1970 and 1971
Joint 50/51 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.



veritas

GOES ONLINE

This digital edition of *Veritas* allows greater flexibility to share more news, more photos and more memories with our Community.

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.



Swimming teacher Simone Langshaw and Year 8 student Teddy Ripper, who has been selected in the School Sport Victoria State Swim.

Swimming

Year 8 student Teddy Ripper was selected in the School Sport Victoria State Swim team in early June.

The 14-year-old, who is also a member of Sale Swimming Club, is currently in fine form boasting a new-found level of determination to be the best swimmer he can. Dropping more than 11 seconds off his 200m breaststroke at the 2021 Victorian Age Championships, Teddy swam 2:41:56 to take the silver medal. His previous personal best time for this event was 2:53.14. At the same championships he came third in the Boys 13 100m Breaststroke, stripping 1.11 seconds to record another personal best swim.

The Year 8 student broke a 50m breaststroke at Gippsland Grammar's swimming carnival earlier in the year. He swam it in 36.22s and secured the age champion medal too.

Teddy's mum Miriam Ripper said swimming had always been part of her son's life.

"I was that mum, taking him to lessons once a week since he was six-months-old," Miriam said. "He began swimming competitively when he was in Grade 3. He does have a love and passion for it."

School Sport Australia would host the School Sport National titles in Brisbane in August and Miriam said she hoped COVID-19 restrictions would not have an impact.

Swimming Victoria also recently announced Teddy had qualified for its Junior Talent Squad, providing integrated performance pathways for athlete success within the state and on the national and international stage.

Gippsland Grammar teacher Simone Langshaw - who has been appointed manager of the Victorian girls' 13-19 year-old squad for the same School Sport Australia Championships - said she had enjoyed watching Teddy develop over the years.

"Teddy has become a very accomplished and competitive swimmer, building on his strength and skill set, and it is great to see," Mrs Langshaw said. "I am really excited for him. This opportunity is something he has been working towards for a couple of years."



Gippsland Grammar Equestrian team members Ella O'Doherty, Charlee Latham and Xanthe Wade.

Equestrian

Equestrian Victoria CEO Matthew Brown visited St Anne's in May to present year 6 student Xanthe Wade with two awards following her performance at the 2021 Victorian State Interschool Championships at Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre in April.

Xanthe was awarded Champion Primary School Rider and also received the Nan McArthur Trophy for the highest performing primary school rider from across the State.

Mr Brown praised Xanthe's efforts over the five days of competition, which saw students from across the state come together to compete in a wide range of Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines including dressage, jumping, combined training, show horse and novelties.

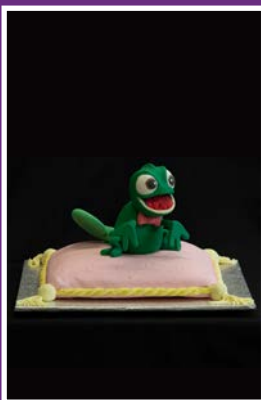
"Someone of Xanthe's age ... could arguably be included in a pathway to representation at the 2032 Olympic games," Mr Brown said.

But, for now, Xanthe is just aiming for interschool nationals in September.

"I've wanted to get to nationals ever since my brothers have been to nationals," Xanthe said.

Xanthe and her horse Paris are part of Gippsland Grammar's Equestrian team.

Bairnsdale Campus Year 6 student Charlee Latham and her pony Merivale Park Giorgio came runner up at the State Interschool Primary Show Horse Champions qualifying for the second year in a row to represent Victoria at the Australian Interschool Championships. Year 10 student Ella O'Doherty was runner up State Interschools Secondary Show Horse Champion and will also represent Gippsland Grammar at the Nationals.



Sweet Stuff

Yr 9 Home Economics students have produced a sweet selection of decorated cakes this term including a bee hive (by Maggie Westman), Winnie the Pooh (by Zara Tacey), Pascal the chameleon (by Amira Gunn), Cookie Monster (by Nina Tantaró) and Olaf the snowman (by Isabel Foat).



A farmer of the future

Katie Kerby was recently recognised in *The Weekly Times* Education magazine as a 'leading farmer of the future'

Australia's largest rural newspaper gave the nod to the Year 11 student after she was this year awarded a Sale and District Agricultural Society Scholarship to help her achieve a Certificate 3 in Agricultural Studies at Horsham's Longerenong Agricultural College, while also completing a school-based traineeship in agriculture at Longford's Mawarra Genetics.

This means Katie manages a study load that finely balances schoolwork with cattlework and with her ambitions firmly set on a career in agriculture she is also quite a driven entrepreneur.

In 2017 the then 12-year-old set up her own Hereford stud, 'Karinya', on her family farm at Lake Glenmaggie.

"I started with one animal and now I have 13," Katie told *The Weekly Times*. "I am trying to build a solid foundation herd with an excellent genetic base. I am interested in eventually cross breeding cattle for the commercial (meat) market."

Katie absorbs as much knowledge as she can, whether it is at school, at work in the cattle yards or at college. Some would call

it a tricky juggling act, but the sixth-generation farmer takes it all in her stride, grateful she's doing what she loves.

"I work at Mawarra one day a week and at their large events, go to school the other days, and then college for one full week about every two months," Katie said.

"Gippsland Grammar and Mr Henderson (the School's careers and vocational education and training advisor) have been amazing fine tuning my schedule so I can complete my VCE while learning on the job."

Gippsland Grammar Principal Leisa Harper said helping students realise their dreams and purpose in life was part of the regional School's objective.

"A passion for excellence is our School motto. I live by this every day and encourage students to do the same whether they are in the classroom or at home.

"There is a pathway to success for every individual student – for some it's making it to the end of the Monkey Bars without falling off, for others it's achieving a top ATAR score or obtaining a VCAL certificate. It all requires commitment and dedication, and ultimately that is success."

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Gippsland Grammar
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