

# veritas



Learn, Live and Lead

ISSUE TWO, 2023

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Principal	2
ANZAC Tour	3
Annie on stage	4-5
Peter Pan on stage	6-7
Getting Social	8
Mother's Day	9
Term 2 in photos	10
Community Connections	11
Equestrian	12

### Cover Image:

Bairnsdale Campus students perform Peter Pan Jr in May

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## From the Principal

*'Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.'*

– Abraham Lincoln

IT IS time to sharpen our axe. This month, Gippsland Grammar's Board and Leadership team began dreaming big, brainstorming and launching the strategic planning process for our School.

We are working alongside Gwen Pinnington Consulting as we map out our hopes and visions for the future and we look forward to joining with our students, staff and community as we formulate and articulate our School's Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan for the next five years. The Leadership team has begun working with staff to collaborate and contribute to aspects of the plan and consultation areas have been established in each of our staffrooms at each campus. In Term 3, we will be expanding this to engage students and families and in doing so we encourage you all to embrace 'blue-sky thinking' as well as implementation ideas and feedback on our thoughts.

This important process will equip our School and our students for a future that is changing and evolving rapidly; new problems, causes, influences, environments and careers require planning that incorporates adaptability. This involves nurturing a School that welcomes positive change and encourages innovation. We want to continue to build a culture of trust and growth.

Some questions we are considering during this process include:

- Why does Gippsland Grammar exist?
- Where do we want to go?
- What do we really care about?
- How do we build a new future while celebrating our history and traditions?
- What culture, structures, systems and resources do we need to execute our strategy?
- What local and global partnerships and relationships can we develop to support our students in being future ready?
- How can we remain adaptable?

When reading this edition of Veritas, I encourage everyone to reflect and celebrate the wonderful things we achieve as well as considering how we can enhance and add to these.

*'Education is the key to unlocking the world.'* – Oprah Winfrey

While I have been involved in strategic planning in some of my previous roles, I must admit that I feel giddy with excitement this time around. What an exciting time of possibilities for Gippsland Grammar and a wonderful opportunity to shape our future together. Let's unlock the world for our students!

**Michele Wakeham**  
PRINCIPAL



Year 11 student Alanna Magee and Year 9 student Sorrell Fraser lay a wreath at Menin Gate Memorial, in Belgium and (right) students at the Eiffel Tower.

## Students Impress in ANZAC Tour

GIPPSLAND Grammar musicians impressed crowds during special overseas Anzac commemoration services in April.

Our senior band and choir performed throughout France and Belgium as part of a 10-day trip culminating with extra special performances at the famous Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium, and the Dawn Service in the Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood on ANZAC Day.

"It was a fantastic event to be a part of," Year 11 student and tenor saxophone player Andrew Crawford said. "To rub shoulders with dignitaries and military officers is an experience I'm not going to forget anytime soon."

The Australian Embassy to Belgium said the Anzac service was sombre and described it as 'incredibly moving'.

"Today, we honour the values that have been invested in the original ANZACs - loyalty, selflessness, courage," an embassy spokesman said. "Very special to have the Dawn Service supported by local buglers and a performance by Australian school Gippsland Grammar. A privilege for us to witness their talents."

The inaugural ANZAC Music and Language Tour was a life-changing experience for the 46 students participating.

Year 8 student Hudson Ray-Daminato, who sings in Choir and plays percussion in the band, said the journey had personal significance.

"My two-times great uncle, Henry James Bird, was an ANZAC soldier in the battle of Somme in World War 1," Hudson said. "My research found multiple letters to and from his family, which we personally possess a war letter from 1916. Henry always signed off his letters with 'from your loving brother/son Henry xxxx.' He was popular with his peers and remembered for his fearless dedication to his duty."

Director of Performing Arts Dr Kevin Cameron said the tour presented an unsurpassed opportunity for students to learn through the lenses of music, culture and language.

"The Tour helped students understand what others have sacrificed in war for them," Dr Cameron said. "To learn the price of service and to glimpse the greatness that collaboration and commitment through music can bring to the individual and the community."

The tour also included concerts in Paris and visits to a number of locations with a significant historical significance to Australians including Amiens, Bullecourt, Fromelles and Pozieres.

Head of Languages Sonia Duggan, who was born in France, said students performing at the French national anthem 'La Marseillaise' at the Arc de Triomphe, Paris, was a trip highlight for her.

"It was a very special moment to witness our Gippsland Grammar students at such a significant location playing such a significant piece of music. Very special, indeed," she said. "It's great to have international travel back on the calendar at Gippsland Grammar."

# Annie



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THE audience was fully dressed ... complete with beaming smiles! ... for the Garnsey production of *Annie* in May.

More than 70 senior students were involved in the production either on the stage, in the orchestra or behind the scenes with auditions being held in late 2022 and rehearsals including a three-day 'January intensive' before building up to three times a week as opening night drew closer.

*Annie* director and Drama teacher Christina Kyriakou said that while the commitment required for a school production shouldn't be taken lightly, the rewards were great.

"A production such as this creates an inclusive environment where students come together and share in a common goal," Ms Kyriakou said. "Students nurture each other and leaders emerge all the time. We have Year 11 students working with Year 8 students to choreograph numbers, and small groups of cross-age students work on scenes and sing next to each other. A production becomes like a family where everyone is appreciated and valued no matter how much experience they have had."

Director of Performing Arts Dr Kevin Cameron agreed a highlight of production such as *Annie* was how it brought the School Community together.

"Our students have the opportunity to develop their creativity, collaboration, technical and interpretative skills across so many aspects of their art forms," Dr Cameron said. "Importantly, we

have the opportunity to bring our parents, families, and wider community to our school to enjoy the making of these special memories and formative experiences that can be life changing for our students."

Year 11 student Henry Storer (pictured) has been involved in Garnsey productions since he was in Year 9 and was the student in charge of lighting for *Annie*, which meant he was based at the lighting desk running lighting cues as well as running the backstage projections.

"Working alongside everyone in the productions is always a pleasure," Henry said. "And I have always loved seeing the production come together."



# Reviews are in

## **Martin Richardson:**

Absolutely loved the show. Superb performances by all, great band, well organised backstage crew.

## **Elizabeth Heath:**

Just amazing. So professional on all fronts, and hilarious to boot. Some very talented students at our school! Well done to all.

## **Peta Murray:**

They were amazing. Congratulations and thank you to all of the staff for their amazing commitment, it was a wonderful performance.

## **Colin Radford:**

Congratulations to all involved. My strongest, fondest memories of STAGGS (Class of '84) involve the many school productions that I was privileged to a part of. Great friendships and great experiences that last a lifetime.

## **Nicole Hoernlein:**

Definitely another round of applause! Absolutely loved the performance!



# Bairnsdale Campus Visits NEVER\*LAND

THE Bairnsdale Campus community had the thrill of visiting Neverland in early June for the Campus production of '*Peter Pan Jr.*'

Held just two weeks after Garnsey's Annie production, each of the 144 students at the Bairnsdale Campus was actively involved in *Peter Pan Jr.*, either on stage or behind the scenes.

Director and Music teacher Cara Schaefer said more than 100 hours of rehearsals were held in the four-months leading up to opening night, which was a huge commitment for the students from ELC to Year 6.

"The dedication that our students demonstrated was absolutely fantastic," Mrs Schaefer said. "And it was so

wonderful to see students support each other, work together and improve so dramatically over this time.

"For many of our students, it was their first time performing in a theatre show, so to see them overcome their nerves and have the courage to get up on stage was really special."

Head of Bairnsdale Campus Virginia Evans agreed the experience provided an amazing opportunity for both the individual students and the campus as a whole.

"Observing the talents of our students develop as they committed their time and effort into rehearsals and seeing how disciplined they were in their approach are

evidence of the rich learning experience a production provides," Mrs Evans said. "The result was a culmination of ideas, action and enthusiasm from teachers, parents and grandparents who were all willing to contribute to making the production a success. Mrs Schaefer put her heart and soul into each performance and it was obvious that our students felt her support and encouragement. She did an amazing job, alongside our talented assistant director, Lucy Leeming. A further highlight was the sheer joy of our students performing for their families who watched on with pride and smiles that were clearly directed at their children on stage.

"As Year 3 student, Claire Lightfoot said: 'My whole family came to watch *Peter Pan* and we all agreed that all the practice was worth it – they loved it!'"





## Reviews

### Anne Crowe:

Very professional performance as always. Loved every minute of Peter Pan and loved the community feel. Great job all.

### Fiona Weigall:

Such a great show, congratulations to everyone involved. So much talent and enthusiasm on the stage

### Jane McKay:

It was such a fun show! Congratulations to everyone involved.

# Getting Social



## Henry Seeber May 2



Year 6 student Henry Seeber has won his way through to the School Sport Victoria Tennis State Championships. He qualified at last week's Gippsland Regional competition which fellow students Elena Lazzaro and Max Williamson also participated in. They each played terrific competitive tennis and represented the school with pride.



Reach 7788



## Farmer Wants a Wife May 7



Who has noticed some familiar faces and beautiful The Middle of Everywhere locations popping up on this season's episodes of 7plus 'Farmer Wants A Wife'? Farmer Brenton just so happens to be an Old Scholar - Brenton Kuch (Class of 2014), a sixth generation sheep and cattle farmer from Darriman.



Reach 83,345



## Lara Dunkley May 13



Old Scholar Lara Dunkley will play her 50th National Netball League game. The 27-year-old from Yarram now dominates the midcourt for Queensland Firebirds after originally playing with Melbourne Vixens. Join us in wishing her well."



Reach 14,303



## Learning Japanese May 17



Learning Japanese is all part of our Specialist Program in our Early Learning Centres. Japanese teacher Jan Chalmer is our longest serving current staff member. She has been teaching in our School for 40 years. Think about the number of students who can say "Mrs Chalmer taught me to speak Japanese" or "チャーマ先生は私に 日本語を教えてくださいました。" A big thank you to Mrs Chalmer for sharing her passion with all of our students especially the children in the ELC.



Reach 3502



## Joy McKean May 31



Australian country music legend Joy McKean, wife and manager to the late Slim Dusty, and mother to Old Scholars Anne and David Kirkpatrick, died last week. Joy McKean was widely recognised as a pioneer in the music industry as a multi award-winning songwriter and musician. She wrote many of her husband's most famous songs and won the first Gold Guitar awarded at the Tamworth Country Music Festival for the song 'Lights on the Hill'. She was aged 93. Anne Kirkpatrick (Class of 1970) followed in her mother's footsteps and became a successful country singer and musician in her own right. Anne will be featured in a book the School will publish for the upcoming Centenary.



Reach 42,795



## Reconciliation Week June 4



To mark last week's Reconciliation Week our VCE Unit 1&2 Food Studies students VCE Food Studies students learnt about a range of indigenous foods including mountain pepper, red-scented lime and native thyme. And, of course, one they had learnt all the things, they had to cook all the things. And doesn't this plate of saltbush and lemon myrtle kangaroo with a native leaf, succulent and citrus salad look simply delicious!



Reach 3465



# Mother's Day

MOTHER'S Day is always a special time with students at the ELCs and junior campuses hosting breakfasts for their mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, aunts and significant female friends. And at Garnsey, Year 10 Design Technology (Wood) students made timber breakfast trays with a design brief that they be best suited on which to serve their mums brekkie in bed. The St Anne's P&F also hosted an evening celebrating motherhood at the Tinamba Hotel.



Three generations from the one family enjoy the Mother's Day morning tea at St Anne's including (from left) Year 4 student Billy Larsen, Susie Andrews (nee Chalmer, Class of 1971), Emily Larsen (nee Andrews, Class of 1999), and Year 3 student Evie Larsen.



The St Anne's P&F's evening celebrating motherhood featured guest speaker Old Scholar (Class of 1998) Sallie Jones from Gippsland Jersey. Sallie reflected on her own time at Gippsland Grammar and shared her gratitude for how her school years prepared her for later in life.



Cousins Evie and Lenny Dullard with their mums at the Bairnsdale Campus morning tea on May 12.



Director of Strategic Operations and Innovation Kate Ray and Head of Year 10 Clay Hunter with student Charlotte Board and her breakfast tray.

## ELC News

### Giving

ELC students are exploring the concept of caring for others and are being encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to Anglicare so the items can be distributed to Gippsland families in need.

ELC Director Lisa Burgess said by encouraging the St Anne's students in the four-year-old 'Transition' program to donate foods such as cereal, longlife milk, rice, pasta and teabags the students were guided to understand the concepts of social justice and empathy.

"We encourage the children to reflect on how lucky they are to have a home, warm clothes, education, loving families and food," Mrs Burgess said. "Children are never too young to learn about these important themes that we hope they will carry with them through their lives. And by making a donation, they have a tangible example of how they can make a difference."



Hailey De Silva (left) and Arlo McGeogh (right) collected food items to donate to Anglicare.

### Reading

ELC students learnt baby sloths are called slowbies in May when they joined with students from across the country for National Simultaneous Storytime this week. Organised by the Australian Library and Information Association, the picture book 'The Speedy Sloth' written by Rebecca Young and illustrated by Heath McKenzie was read to millions of children in the country at the same time. Our Reception and Transition children gathered to hear the story and enjoyed other fun learning activities throughout the day.



Transition student Alice Germaine learns about sloths as part of National Simultaneous Storytime.



### Easter

This year our Bairnsdale ELC joined in on the Easter Hat Parade fun and by the smiles on the faces, it was a huge success! Pictured are Year 5 student Alexander Collins with ELC student Xavier Cox at the Parade on the last day of Term 1.

# Term 2 in Photos



The theme of this year's National Boarding Week was 'The Patchwork of Boarding' and the breadth of activities our Boarders enjoyed in the space of just one week included a board games night, a photo competition, a movie and popcorn night and, of course, the annual pool and table tennis competitions. The boarding students also hosted a lunchtime sausage sizzle for the Garnsey Campus to raise money for Animal Aid in Fulham.

The Mitchell River Outdoor Education camp is always a highlight for our Year 8 students and judging by the looks on the faces of the students in this raft, this year's camps didn't disappoint! As well as rafting, students also hike along Mitchell River Walking Track and learn about the European and Indigenous history of the Angusvale campsite.



As part of the 'buddies' program between our ELC Transition and Year 5 students, the St Anne's buddies enjoyed an Autumn walk around the beautiful campus, which was a great opportunity to enjoy the autumn leaves and for the younger students to become familiar with the 'big school'. The older students discussed what is natural versus manufactured and recorded their little buddies' ideas and 'wonderings' for classroom follow-up. Pictured are ELC student Eli Buckingham with his Year 5 buddies Charlie Strachan and Max Del Busso showing their admiration of one of the St Anne's campus old trees



Bairnsdale Campus students and families met Head of Campus Virginia Evans and campus staff at the Wy Yung Bakery bright and early on Friday May 19 to walk together to school as part of the National Walk Safely to School Day. Now in its 24th year, the annual event encourages parents and teachers to teach road safety skills and support the importance of regular walking, not just on this day, but every day.

## Gippsland GRAMMAR

GIPPSLAND Grammar is on the cusp of celebrating 100 years of excellence in Gippsland education and as we prepare for our Centenary year (there is lots going on behind the scenes already!) we have appointed two Centenary



Captains from our current Year 11 cohort who will see through the role Year 12 students in 2024.

Students Abby Crozier and Georgia Steel (pictured) were announced as Centenary Captains at a Garnsey



# Community Connections



## Zaal returns

WE LOVE it when Old Scholars maintain their connection to our school, so we were thrilled at the end of Term 1 when Old Scholar Steve Zaal (Class of 2011) returned to St Anne's to say 'hi' to his former Year 2 teacher Nicky Roberts. Mrs Roberts is still a much-loved St Anne's teacher and Steve is now a bit taller than when he was at school and is also known as Dr Steve Zaal as he owns Chiro Coffs in Coffs Harbour in NSW.

## A gold for Paige

Old Scholar Paige Barr (Class of 2019) won a gold medal in the 'Women's 8+' event at the World Rowing World Cup 2 at Lake Varese in Italy on June 19. Director of Rowing Nick Bartlett said it was an amazing race by Paige (pictured second from the left) and her teammates as their boat powered down the course for a convincing win.

"Having worked with Paige for her final season of school rowing it has been so fantastic to see her continue her rowing journey in the Rowing Australia team," Mr Bartlett said. "Her work ethic, passion and desire to succeed in the sport are all traits that are on show in her performance in this race. All our students should feel so much pride and encouragement from seeing her on the top step of the podium. I can't wait to see her competing at World Cup 3 and the World Championships later this year and everyone in the Gippsland Grammar Community will be cheering her on!"



assembly in May and their role will be to support the School's Centenary committee and to act as a liaison between the School and student body to ensure the student voice is elevated throughout this important milestone in our history.

On accepting the position, Georgia said: "We are really looking forward to taking on this position of leadership and hope to fulfil our opportunity to act as a voice for the student body as we look towards the next 100 years of Gippsland Grammar." Abby said: "Our role will be

to act as an outlet for student voice; we plan to collaborate with teachers, staff and students in order to foster a supportive environment and to make this school the best it can possibly be. Our overarching goal is to act as student advocates in our school, allowing everyone to be actively involved in school life."

Stay tuned to the next edition of *Veritas* for more Centenary updates.

**#GippslandGrammar100**

## REUNIONS

### Friday July 28: St Anne's Day

Old Scholars who attended St Anne's Church of England Girls' Grammar School prior to 1971 are invited to return to our St Anne's Campus for a Fellowship at 10.30am followed by a luncheon in the former St Anne's dining room which is now the St Anne's Library.

### Saturday October 7: Decades Reunion

Old Scholars from the cohorts of 1963 (60 years), 1973 (50 years), 1983 (40 years), 1993 (30 years), 2003 (20 years) and 2013 (10 years) are invited to this year's 'Decades Reunion' at our Garnsey Campus for drinks and afternoon canapes from 3-6pm. More details to come.

### Saturday January 13, 2024:

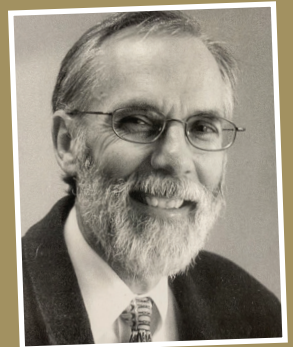
#### Metung Summer Drinks

All Old Scholars from every cohort are invited to these waterside drinks at the Metung Hotel, which is a lovely, casual opportunity to catch up for those who live in, or holiday on, the Gippsland Lakes over the summer break. More details to come.

**Invites to all of the above events will be emailed to the relevant Old Scholars closer to each event so please email [development@gippslandgrammar.au](mailto:development@gippslandgrammar.au) if your details need to be updated.**

## VALE

Gippsland Grammar is sad to hear of the passing of the following members of our School Community.



Former Board Chair **Martin Kent** passed away aged 79 on April 29. Dr Kent served on Gippsland Grammar's Board for nine years from 1989 to 2007, five of those as Board Chair. Dr Kent was also a past parent and he is survived by his wife Sandra and his two children Stuart Kent (Class of 2004) and Jennifer Kent (Class of 2007).



Former teacher **Janice (Jan) MacLean** of Perry Bridge passed away aged 82 on June 8. Jan taught Art at Garnsey for 12 years from 1983 to 2004. In the 1990s Jan had a lot to do with the Japanese Sister School programme and co-ordinated the physical exchange and hosting of students. She also ran the Shooting program and gained her ticket as an Approved Firearms Safety Instructor via Victoria Police and appears in photos of the School shooting team up until 2004.



The equestrian team of Emily Wagstaff, Annabelle Webb, Jack Gilbert and Xanthe Wade after winning third in the state at the Victorian Championships. And Lachy Black is all smiles with some of his award haul.

## Equestrian

GIPPSLAND Grammar's equestrian team is gearing up for the nationals following great success.

At the Victorian Interschool Championships Year 9 rider Annabelle Webb (second from the left) qualified for the nationals. Annabelle was one of our School's top riders whose scores were calculated to create a School team, which placed overall third.

Annabelle teamed with Xanthe Wade (Year 8), Emily Wagstaff (Year 7), and Jack Gilbert (Year 2), to take third place at the State titles held in the April school holidays. Initially, the association awarded Gippsland Grammar second place, however a re-count confirmed

Toorak College won with 545.5 points, Tintern Grammar was second with 513.5 and Gippsland Grammar placed third with 492. Regardless, it's a great result. Together they competed across different disciplines including showjumping, sport horse, dressage, combined training and show horse, along with 460-odd other riders and 628 horses from across the state at the National Equestrian Centre in Werribee.

Siblings Mitch (Year 1) and Lachy (Year 2) Black, also qualified and participated in the highly regarded event. Lachy has since gone on to win the Interschool Showjump series day held at Boneo and champion of the day at the Victoria Equestrian Interschool grandfinal. He also came overall third and fourth in the freshman level for the entire series.

## In other news:

Xanthe Wade (right) is one of two Australian riders chosen to participate in the France leg of the Global Amateur Junior Show Jump Tour. Xanthe will fly to Paris on June 30.

Riders with an appropriate skill level and competition results were invited to apply. Xanthe said the experience would include high performance training (in a foreign country, on a borrowed horse with an international coach), educational sessions and rider fitness and would culminate in a competition and a visit to the Olympic Centre being built for the Paris event next year. The 14-year-old said she was looking forward to meeting riders from other countries and the possibility of creating a steppingstone to future international riding.

Only 12 riders (from Canada, Japan, USA, New Zealand and Australia) will take part.

And the Year 8 student has also just been invited to Bath, UK, in August for the Laser Run World Championships after a strong performances at the Australian Modern Pentathlon Championships in Melbourne and the National Laser Run Championships in Sydney. Laser Run is the running and shooting phase of modern pentathlon and Xanthe will compete in the under 15 section.