

# The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

## Our First Nations Abbotsleigh girls Brave the Waves and demonstrate incredible courage and gratitude

Mrs Megan Krimmer  
Headmistress

Abbotsleigh is committed to walking alongside our First Nations peoples so that they may 'be empowered to achieve their full learning potential, shape their own futures, and embrace their cultures, languages and identities as Australia's First Nations peoples' (from Mparntwe Education Declaration).

We do this in a number of ways, not least of which is to work in partnership with Yalari to provide scholarships for Indigenous girls and thereby, giving these girls opportunities that they would never in their 'wildest of dreams' have dreamt of. Each girl is incredibly grateful for the phenomenal opportunities that their time and education at Abbotsleigh have given them, and each girl aims to give back to her community in return.

This gratitude was seen in spades at last week's very successful Foundation Sports Lunch, where Myffanwy (Myffy) Wilson (Year 11) demonstrated great courage as she addressed the Abbotsleigh Council and Foundation members, Abbotsleigh Old Girls, parents, staff and special guests in a wonderful speech that highlighted just how transformative an Abbotsleigh education is. As Myffy said about all of our First Nations girls:

"... Each one of these girls has a unique and different story, and they should be proud of how far they have come, sacrificing not being home with family and friends. It is these girls, who we need to learn from, speak with, are changing Abbotsleigh, and when they leave Abbotsleigh, they will seek to make change in their communities and for all Indigenous people. They are the ones breaking the stereotypes and will be the ones who will go back home and give back. Yalari and Abbotsleigh



have granted us an opportunity that will last a lifetime, ... and I cannot say thank you enough."

Myffy, like the vast majority of our Indigenous girls, will be the first person in her family to finish Year 12, attain an ATAR and go to university. As she said last week:

"Abbotsleigh allows for my dreams to be in reach. Without the generous gift of a scholarship, many of them would be left unfulfilled. I would like to thank the Abbotsleigh Foundation and everyone at the Sports Lunch for their incredible generosity – the money you so generously donated will provide the opportunity for more young Indigenous girls to receive the superb education Abbotsleigh provides, and through this, help to 'close the gap', albeit in a small way, but in a very important way, as we walk together on the path of reconciliation. As Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'"

Closely following the lunch, last Friday night saw all our Yalari girls Brave the Waves at the annual Yalari dinner. In the words of Yalari founder, Waverley Stanley, Rita Anuba-Tyrell (Year 7) 'stole our hearts and [transported] us to her island home' when she addressed the audience of more than 500 people and read out the poem she had written about her home in the Torres Strait. Myffy Wilson





also addressed the audience and introduced our Yalari girls who performed two cultural dances that they had performed at our Reconciliation assembly last term. At the dinner, too, Sophia Darney and Chloe Nicholls were honoured as Year 12 students and Yalari scholar, Sheldyn Briggs (AOG, 2016) was joint MC. We warmly congratulate Chloe Nicholls, Abbotsleigh's Yalari Captain, who was honoured with the prestigious Yalari Leadership Award on the night. It was a privilege to be at the dinner and I know that you, like me, are enormously proud of all of our Indigenous girls.

Our Senior School girls' historical and cultural understanding was further enhanced this week at our NAIDOC assembly. As you are aware, NAIDOC Week falls in the mid-year holidays, so in order not to miss the opportunity of celebrating the week at Abbotsleigh, we hold an assembly and other activities during Term 3. This year, with our celebrations falling in line with the Yalari Dinner, we also were privileged to have the families of many of our First Nations girls in attendance and we thank them for giving up their time and travelling to be with us.

At the assembly, our Indigenous girls taught our senior girls about the origins of NAIDOC Week, the symbolism of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, and the meaning of this year's theme, 'Keep the fire burning! Blak, loud and proud', which 'celebrates the spirit of communities and invites all to stand in solidarity and amplify the voices that have been silenced. The fire represents the enduring strength of Indigenous cultures passed down through many generations. It is a symbol of the connection to land and traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

'Blak, loud and proud' empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to stand tall in our heritage and culture. The theme invites all Australians to listen and learn, fostering a society where the wisdom and contributions of Indigenous people are valued and respected...'

The assembly also featured guest speaker, Margaret Wymarra, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman, whose mother's cousin was Koiki Mabo, the man instrumental in achieving the historic Mabo decision which overturned *terra nullius* and recognised Native Title in Australia. Through her mother's story as a nurse, and her own story as a nurse who has pursued education to the highest of levels, including her present involvement in tertiary education, Margaret encouraged all our girls to follow their dreams and passions and to pursue the incredibly important gift of education.

I would like to thank Mrs Shane Hamilton and all the girls involved in what was a very special assembly. I would also like to thank our girls in the Mana Allawah club for the great activities they organised, all of which aimed to foster further inter-cultural understanding.



# Chaplain

## First Nations partnerships

Rev Sarah Hobba  
*Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies*

With NAIDOC in the school holidays, our Senior community has celebrated our Indigenous partnerships this week in numerous ways. Senior chapel also had a reflection from two staff members and their church’s partnership with the First Nations community of Minyerri in Alawa Country in the NT and St Barnabas Anglican Church. The partnership is not based on ‘going and doing’ but ‘being with’ and having friendships with those at Minyerri, learning from them. There is unity in our shared humanity and as Christians being brothers and sisters in Christ. This unity and friendship can bridge large distances, different languages and cultural backgrounds. The good news is that Jesus himself has

bridged the distance between us and God, through his death and resurrection, for all people who trust in him. The body is an image often used to highlight that unity we have in Christ through faith and this was the reading in Senior Chapel.

**Romans 12:4-5**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

# Upcoming events

## WHOLE SCHOOL

<b>Abbotsleigh Year 12 2024 Visual Arts exhibition</b>	Tuesday 27 to Saturday 31 August	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
<b>A Closer Look exhibition (NSW Miniature Society)</b>	Thursday 5 to Saturday 28 September	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

<b>IPSHA Travelling Art Show</b>	Monday 26 to Friday 30 August All day	Junior School
<b>K-6 Perform Education incursions</b>	Monday 26 August Various times	Everett Hall
<b>Kindergarten Hot Shots Tennis</b>	Monday 26 August 12-12.45 pm	JS Tennis Courts
<b>Year 3 eye screening with Wahroonga Eyecare</b>	Monday 26 August 12.30-3 pm	Library Annexe
<b>IPSHA Debating vs The King's School</b>	Monday 26 August 1-3 pm	Junior School
<b>Year 6 AFL and touch football training</b>	Monday 26 August 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School



<b>ELC incursion to the ACEE</b>	Tuesday 27 August 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
<b>30 Combined Arts Program</b>	Wednesday 28 August 9.30-11 am	St Lucy's School
<b>IPSHA Athletic Carnival</b>	Wednesday 28 August 8 am-3 pm	SOPAC
<b>Year 3 Act for Kids sessions</b>	Wednesday 28 August Various times	Classrooms
<b>Year 2 Bike Education</b>	Wednesday 28 August Various times	JS Tennis Courts
<b>Year 5 AFL and touch football training</b>	Wednesday 28 August 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
<b>Year 4 Museum of Contemporary Art excursion</b>	Thursday 29 August 3.20-4.30 pm	MCA
<b>Year 1 Cooking Program</b>	Thursday 29 August 8.30-10.30 pm	Outdoor Kitchen
<b>50 and 5G Judith Krause sessions</b>	Thursday 29 August Various times	Classrooms
<b>30 Combined Arts Program</b>	Thursday 29 August 11.45 am-1.20 pm	St Lucy's School
<b>Years 3 and 4 AFL and touch football training</b>	Thursday 29 August 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
<b>Kindergarten and Year 3 Father Daughter Breakfast</b>	Friday 30 August 7-8.10 am	Library Plaza
<b>SDN Debating training</b>	Friday 30 August 7.15-8.15 am	AbbSchool East and West Rooms
<b>5L and 5D Judith Krause sessions</b>	Friday 30 August Various times	Classrooms
<b>Transition (Gourp 1) Hammond Care excursion</b>	Friday 30 August 11-11.45 am	Hammond Care
<b>SDN Debating vs Saint Ignatius' College Riverview</b>	Friday 30 August 4.15-6.30 pm	Abbotsleigh
<b>Year 2 sport training</b>	Saturday 31 August 8-9.30 am	Junior School
<b>IPSHA Saturday Sport</b>	Saturday 31 August 8 am-12 noon	See <b>Parent app</b> for team sheets and venues
<b>Years 3-6 IPSHA artistic gymnastics training</b>	Saturday 31 August 1-5 pm	Gymnasium, Senior School
<b>Year 3 eye screening with Wahroonga Eyecare</b>	Monday 2 September 9.30-12 noon	Library Annexe
<b>20 Hot Shots Tennis</b>	Monday 2 September 12-12.45 pm	JS Tennis Courts
<b>Year 6 AFL and touch football training</b>	Monday 2 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
<b>ELC and Transition ACEE incursion</b>	Tuesday 3 September 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
<b>30 Combined Arts Program</b>	Tuesday 3 September 9.30-11 am	St Lucy's School
<b>Year 4 Cancer Research Fundraiser</b>	Tuesday 3 September 1-1.30 pm	Library Plaza
<b>IPSHA Social Action Expo</b>	Wednesday 4 September 8.30 am-3 pm	The King's School

<b>Year 3 Act for Kids sessions</b>	Wednesday 4 September Various times	Classrooms
<b>Year 2 Bike Education</b>	Wednesday 4 September Various times	JS Tennis Courts
<b>Year 5 AFL and touch football training</b>	Wednesday 4 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
<b>30 Combined Arts Program</b>	Thursday 5 September 11.45 am-1.20 pm	St Lucy's School
<b>Years 3 and 4 AFL and touch football training</b>	Thursday 5 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
<b>JS 70th Birthday Celebration Rehearsal</b>	Friday 6 September 8.30 am-6 pm	State Theatre, Sydney
<b>JS 70th Birthday Celebration Concert</b>	Friday 6 September 6-7.30 pm	State Theatre, Sydney
<b>Year 2 sport training</b>	Saturday 7 September 8-9.30 am	Junior School
<b>IPSHA Saturday Sport</b>	Saturday 7 September 8 am-12 noon	See <b>Parent app</b> for team sheets and venues
<b>Years 3-6 IPSHA artistic gymnastics training</b>	Saturday 7 September 8 am-12 noon	Gymnasium, Senior School

## SENIOR SCHOOL

<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 24 August	<a href="#">Click here</a> for times and venues
<b>Year 7 2025 Family Barbecue 1</b>	Saturday 24 August 1-3 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza
<b>IGSA 7s Wet Weather Round</b>	Saturday 24 August 1-4 pm	Pymble Ladies' College
<b>Touch football and water polo trials</b>	Saturday 24 August 1-5 pm	Top Oval and Aquatic Centre
<b>Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival</b>	Sunday 25 August All day	NSW Conservatorium of Music
<b>Senior Public Speaking Competition</b>	Monday 26 August 12.45-1.15 pm	Assembly Hall
<b>Archdale Debating quarter finals</b>	Tuesday 27 August 4-8 pm	
<b>Year 12 HSC Showcase opens</b>	Tuesday 27 August 5.30-8.30 pm	Various SS locations
<b>Year 9 WABIAD competion</b>	Wednesday 28 August 5.30-8.30 pm	Archdale Library
<b>Year 12 Father Daughter Breakfast</b>	Friday 30 August 7-8.15 am	Year 12 Common Room
<b>IGSA Chess Competition Round 5</b>	Friday 30 August 4-6 pm	
<b>SDN Debating</b>	Friday 30 August 4.30-8.30 pm	
<b>Catch a Rising Star Gala Concert</b>	Friday 30 August 6.30-8 pm	PDCH
<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 31 August 8 am-12 noon	Venues and times to be advised

<b>Year 7 2025 Family Barbecue 2</b>	Saturday 31 August 1-3 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza
<b>Rugby 7s Round 4</b>	Saturday 31 August 1-5 pm	Pymble Ladies' College
<b>Tanzania Tour Presentation Evening</b>	Monday 2 September 6-7 pm	GLC
<b>Australian Interschools Snow Sports Championships</b>	Tuesday 3 to Sunday 8 September	Perisher Valley
<b>Archdale Debating semi finals</b>	Tuesday 3 September 4-8 pm	
<b>Year 8 WABIAD competition</b>	Wednesday 4 September 8 am-6 pm	Archdale Library
<b>AOGU meeting</b>	Wednesday 4 September 7.30-9 pm	Council Room
<b>Year 12 parent ATAR/UAC application information session</b>	Thursday 5 September 7.30-8 pm	Via Zoom
<b>CIA Athletics Carnival</b>	Friday 6 September 8 am-3 pm	
<b>SDN Debating</b>	Friday 6 September 4.30-8.30 pm	
<b>Saturday sport</b>	Saturday 7 September	Venues and times to be advised
<b>Year 7 2025 Family Barbecue 3</b>	Saturday 7 September 1-3 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza
<b>Rugby 7s Round 5</b>	Saturday 7 September 1-3 pm	Pymble Ladies' College