

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Bega kwa Bega: Our Girls Brave the Waves as they stand 'shoulder to shoulder' with girls in Tanzania

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress



It was an absolute delight to attend a very special gathering on Monday evening where a number of courageous Abbotsleigh pioneers cooked beautiful African food for their parents and spoke about the incredible experiences they had 'braving many waves' in Tanzania for two weeks in July.

As the first Abbotsleigh school group to visit our partner schools – Bunda Girls' Secondary School (BGSS) and The School of St Jude in Tanzania, our girls, led by our dedicated staff members, Dr Alison Gates, Mrs Annette Ware and Rev Sarah Hobba were indeed pioneers – they were also superb representatives of our school.

The girls certainly gave of themselves and they definitely learnt a great deal; indeed, their experiences were life changing, as they were for the Bunda girls, with whom our girls and staff stayed for a week. Living in the newly built guest house, our girls attended lessons and chapel with the Bunda girls, shared meals and played games, and as such, forged very strong connections with their Bunda 'sisters'. It was fantastic for our girls to meet



Ntoji, Happyness, Elizabeth and Agness, especially, as these are the girls we have all heard about, seen pictures of, and who our Year 7 and 8 girls sponsor, write letters to, and receive letters from.

As AOG Rev Helen Hoskins (1969) who established BGSS said: ... "It was lovely to watch the progress through the week as the Abbotsleigh girls and Bunda girls really got to know one another and to share together in the classroom and other activities in such a beautiful way. This was especially evident in the relationship and sharing with the four girls sponsored by Abbotsleigh. On the first day they were so timid when we invited them into the guest house to meet everyone. By the end they were totally relaxed and relating so well.

... I think the girls' journals and devotion time were highlights for me. The girls were all beautiful in their joy to be with our girls and to experience new things. It was our first time to use the guest house and there are some improvements we will make for the future – fans in the bedrooms, we still need more cupboards and shelves, but on the whole, it worked amazingly well.

... I was also very happy we were able to include a visit to the Shalom Pre and Primary School (SPPS) and the Girls Brigade Sewing Centre. My dream for the future is that Abbotsleigh Junior School might form a partnership with SPPS. It could start with sponsoring some students. I'm looking forward to the time when SPPS graduates will be able to continue on to Bunda Girls' Secondary School and would love to have some specific sponsorships for that. This year is our first graduating class from SPPS."

With her obvious courage, passion and dedication, Rev Helen Hoskins has inspired our girls on many



occasions; indeed, their admiration and gratitude is represented beautifully by Eleanor Zhu (Year 10) below. Our senior girls are committed to continuing to support BGSS which is 'a happy and safe environment for students to live and learn – a place where they can focus on their studies to help them achieve a brighter future.

Often, education for girls is not a priority in Tanzania, and families rely on their daughters to look after the home. Child marriage is common, and there are few choices or opportunities available for girls' secondary education. Even if they gain entry to a government school, the dropout rate is high, usually due to pregnancy or a lack of finances. In a culture where women are not highly respected, even travelling to school, or studying in a co-educational setting, can be unsafe.'

Bunda Girls' Secondary School – Anglican Aid

As our Vice Head Prefect – Service said at the end of her presentation at assembly last week:

"Why shouldn't the hundreds of girls and women in Tanzania have the hope that their dreams of receiving a safe education, continuing on to tertiary education and pursuing a career will become a reality – by standing shoulder to shoulder (*Bega kwa Bega*) with Bunda Girls' Secondary School, this can be possible. Young women are empowered, uplifted and encouraged to chase their dreams, action their passions and make something of their abilities. There is HOPE."

After their visit to BGSS, the girls also had the opportunity to go on a phenomenal safari and to visit The School of St Jude. As Mrs Annette Ware writes:

"We received a very warm welcome when we visited the The School of St Jude in Arusha, which Abbotsleigh's Junior School has supported for many years. Following a presentation on the school's history and its commitment

to fighting poverty through education, the Abbotsleigh girls were treated to an outdoor chapati cooking class, during which time we were joined by the founder of St Jude's, Australian Gemma Sisia."



Upon returning home, the girls gave a special presentation in our Senior School service assembly, and last Saturday, Nimue Davidson (Year 9) and Bethany Hall (Year 9) spoke beautifully when they were interviewed about their experiences at the Anglican Aid Conference held at Moore College.

I commend to you the presentation by our Vice Head Prefect – Service, Sarah Hooper-Mitchell and our Tanzania Pioneers about the central role service has at our school and some of the girls' learnings from Tanzania.

I would like to thank Dr Alison Gates, Mrs Annette Ware and Rev Sarah Hobba very much for accompanying the girls on their amazing trip, and Rev Helen Hoskins for all that she did, to not only be at BGSS with our group, but also to facilitate and enhance their experiences in so many ways.



Hope

Sarah Hooper-Mitchell
Vice Head Prefect – Service

Hope is a powerful sentiment that acts as a guiding light, propelling people forward. It is this steadfast hope that instils a deep sense of purpose and belief that tomorrow holds greater possibilities. Hope

is the catalyst that ignites our dreams, inspires transformative change and empowers us to envision a future filled with promise and light.

Serving is one of the most influential actions one can take to kindle hope, for it is a testament to compassion and unity, showing others that their burdens are

shared, they are seen and they are valued. Whether in small gestures or grand efforts, the act of serving reignites a sense of hope in those who may have lost faith in their circumstances or themselves. It is through service that we remind one another of the enduring strength of the human spirit and the powerful bonds of community.

Abbotsleigh girls embody a spirit of generosity, dedicating themselves to serving others each day. Whether through active participation in clubs such as Zonta, Interact or The Freedom Project, or by offering our time to volunteer in aged care homes, fun runs and not-for-profit organisations, we consistently strive to make a difference. In doing so, we are not only extending support to those in need, but we are fulfilling and uplifting others with hope.

Serving others is a reciprocal act, for as Proverbs 11:25 reminds us, "Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Abbotsleigh is founded upon Christian values and embraces this profound truth that those who devote themselves to the service of others will not be left empty, but in turn we will be satisfied and fulfilled. At its core, our Christian foundation emphasises the importance of bringing hope and joy to the world through acts of service.

One of Abbotsleigh's most significant opportunities for service is embodied in our partnership with Bunda Girls' Secondary School in Tanzania. The school was founded by Abbotsleigh Old Girl Helen Hoskins, a powerful and courageous woman who had the passion and purpose for empowering young women in Tanzania through education, granting them hope for a bright future. Our partnership has flourished over the past two years, with Year 8 sponsoring Elizabeth and Agness, and Year 7 sponsoring Happyness and Njoti. Students and staff across our school have played a role in not only enhancing the quality of education, but also the quality of life for the students and their families at Bunda. On behalf of the Service Council and greater Abbotsleigh community, I thank you for generously giving your time, efforts and resources to further this partnership. For it is through collective engagement and collaboration that this partnership has achieved so much already, and it is through this same spirit of unity that it will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.

During the recent July holidays, we were blessed that the girls and staff [on stage] were able to travel to Tanzania and witness first-hand how our school's efforts have brought hope to the students and teachers at Bunda School. Today, they will share their experiences, allowing us to hear about the Bunda school community and the impact our partnership has had, and will continue to have on their lives.

Reflections of Bunda Girls' Secondary School

What is a typical school day like?

The girls are up at 5 am for some prep, followed by chores such as sweeping and raking the school

grounds. Morning Parade is at 7.30 am around the flagpole. This includes singing the school song, a devotion and announcements. Their lessons are the same length as ours. They play sport or do other activities in the afternoons before dinner and then do further prep after dinner. They have long days with early starts.



Michaela Couper, Year 11

What is Chapel like?

Chapel lasts for about two hours. It is very joyful with lots of enthusiastic unaccompanied singing punctuated with soloists. There is a talk, prayers and communion.

Neomi Verma, Year 9

What it is like in the classrooms?

There are about 35 students in each class, and they are very earnest with their studies. Sometimes there is a textbook that can be shared amongst the students, but more often notes are written on a chalkboard by the teacher and recorded meticulously by the girls in their notebooks. Students stand to answer questions and are then applauded by the class. Apart from the science rooms, there are no resources apart from a chalkboard.

Annabelle Cairns, Year 9





What were the dormitories like?

The dormitories are immaculately clean and tidy. There are six girls to each room. Clothes and personal possessions are stored in a metal trunk. They each have a water bucket that they fill from the school's well.

Amelia Gething, Year 10

How did you interact with the girls at Bunda?

We played netball and soccer with the girls. We also had a debate, a disco and games night using cards and board games that we had taken with us. We forged friendships through the exchange of letters.

Annabelle Twyman, Year 10



Sarah Hooper-Mitchell continued:

"The reflections that have been shared today [have helped enhance our understanding and] will enable us to continue to develop our partnership.

By standing shoulder to shoulder – *Bega kwa Bega* with the students of Bunda, we as a school gain invaluable lessons from their experiences, deepening our understanding of education on a global scale. This enriched perspective empowers us to extend our commitment to fostering hope, both within our local community and in more profound and impactful ways across broader society.

Why shouldn't the hundreds of girls and women in Tanzania have the hope that their dreams of receiving a safe education, continuing on to tertiary education and pursuing a career will become a reality – by standing shoulder to shoulder with Bunda Girls' Secondary School, this can be possible. Young women are empowered, uplifted and encouraged to chase their dreams, action their passions and make something of their abilities. There is HOPE."



Thank you to Helen Hoskins

Eleanor Zhu
Year 10

I would like to take this moment to express our deepest gratitude to Helen for her extraordinary work. We appreciate all the hard work, dedication and love you've put into empowering girls in Bunda. Your selflessness is truly inspiring.

Thank you for all your efforts behind the scenes to ensure that everything for our trip went smoothly. Having us at Bunda for a week, showing us the daily lives of Tanzanians beyond just being tourists, was an incredible experience. We were immersed in the lives of the Bunda girls attending classes and morning parade, joining the Sunday church service, dancing and singing hymns together. A particularly memorable moment was during the Choir festival, where we danced and sang 'Lord, I lift your name on high' together with the Bunda girls.

Your bravery, courage and generosity have not only touched our lives, but also taught us the importance of using our education for the greater good, to help and support others.

On behalf of everyone here, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to you, Helen. All of this would have been impossible without your dedication and support in this *Bega kwa Bega* partnership. We are so grateful for everything you've done, and we are truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from you.

Asante sana.



Chaplain

Persevere and keep the faith

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

This is the last week of the Olympic season in 2024 with the end of the amazing Paralympics. Throughout Junior School chapels we have been exploring Olympic themes and those in the Bible who ran towards God and those who ran away from God, with figures like Noah, Abigail and Jonah.

The Apostle Paul spoke of his life being like running a race. As he grew older, he persevered, not in running, but in his faith. He had been through a lot of difficulty and persecution, but he did not give up his faith in God and sought to keep trusting God. He knew that Jesus had achieved the prize for him, by dying on the cross

and coming back to life, so that he could be reconciled and made right with God.

Just as those medallists received their bronze, silver and gold medals, Paul knew that he would also receive the victory prize of being with God. Paul encourages Timothy, and by extension, us, to run the race of life and keep the faith despite the hurdles.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (GNT)

I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day – and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

A Closer Look exhibition (NSW Miniature Society)	Thursday 5 to Saturday 28 September	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 2 sport training	Saturday 7 September 8-9.30 am	Junior School
IPSHA Saturday Sport	Saturday 7 September 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
Years 3-6 IPSHA artistic gymnastics training	Saturday 7 September 1-5 pm	Gymnasium, Senior School
Year 3 eye screening with Wahroonga Eyecare	Monday 9 September 9.30-12 noon	Library Annexe
20 Hot Shots Tennis	Monday 9 September 12-12.45 pm	JS Tennis Courts

Year 6 AFL and touch football training	Monday 9 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
ELC ACEE incursion	Tuesday 10 September 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
5D Hammond Care excursion	Tuesday 10 September 9.30-11 am	Hammond Care
Year 5 Chinese Gardens excursion	Wednesday 11 September 8.30 am-3 pm	Chinatown, Sydney
Kindergarten forces and movement incursion	Wednesday 11 September 9.30-10.30 am	Classrooms
Year 3 Act for Kids sessions	Wednesday 11 September Various times	Classrooms
3L St Lucy's combined arts program	Wednesday 11 September 11.45 am-1.20 pm	St Lucy's School
Year 5 AFL and touch football training	Wednesday 11 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
3L St Lucy's combined arts program	Thursday 12 September 11.45 am-1.20 pm	St Lucy's School
Years 3 and 4 AFL and touch football training	Thursday 12 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Years 1 and 2 Jam on Toast incursion	Friday 13 September 9.30-10.30 am	Upper Music Room
Transition and Kindergarten Jam on Toast incursion	Friday 13 September 10.50-11.50 am	Upper Music Room
SDN Debating semi finals	Friday 13 September 4.30-8.30 pm	TBC
Year 2 sport training	Saturday 14 September 8-9.30 am	Junior School
IPSHA Saturday Sport	Saturday 14 September 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
Year 3-6 Tennis Doubles Competition	Saturday 14 September 1-4 pm	Senior School Tennis Courts
Years 3-6 IPSHA artistic gymnastics training	Saturday 14 September 1-5 pm	Gymnasium, Senior School
Year 3 eye screening with Wahroonga Eyecare	Monday 16 September 9.30-12 noon	Library Annexe
20 Hot Shots Tennis	Monday 16 September 12-12.45 pm	JS Tennis Courts
Years 3-6 tennis doubles final	Monday 16 September 1-1.30 pm	JS Tennis Courts

Year 6 AFL and touch football training	Monday 16 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
AbbSchool Drama Recital	Monday 16 September 6.30-8.30 pm	Everett Hall
Transition ACEE incursion	Tuesday 17 September 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
5G Hammond Care excursion	Tuesday 17 September 9-10 am	Hammond Care
3L St Lucy's combined arts program	Tuesday 17 September 9.30-11 am	St Lucy's School
5L Hammond Care excursion	Tuesday 17 September 2-3 pm	Hammond Care
Year 3 Act for Kids sessions	Wednesday 18 September Various times	Classrooms
3L St Lucy's combined arts program	Wednesday 18 September 11.45 am-1.20 pm	St Lucy's School
Year 4 WIRES Fundraiser	Wednesday 18 September 1-1.40 pm	Library Plaza
Year 5 AFL and touch football training	Wednesday 18 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 3 Combined Act for Kids Program	Thursday 19 September 10.50-11.50 am	Year 3 Classrooms
Years 3 and 4 AFL and touch football training	Thursday 19 September 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 5 Bush Dance	Thursday 19 September 6.30-8.30 pm	Everett Hall
Transition (Group 3) Hammond Care visit	Friday 20 September 11-11.45 am	Hammond Care
Years 5 and 6 with Year 12 for final assembly	Friday 20 September 12-3 pm	Everett Hall
Year 2 sport training	Saturday 21 September 8-9.30 am	Junior School
IPSHA Saturday Sport	Saturday 21 September 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
Years 3-6 tennis singles competition	Saturday 21 September 1-4 pm	SS Tennis Courts
Years 3-6 IPSHA artistic gymnastics training	Saturday 21 September 1-5 pm	Gymnasium, Senior School

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 7 September	Click here for times and venues
Year 7 2025 Family Barbecue 3	Saturday 7 September 1-3 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza
Rugby 7s Round 5	Saturday 7 September 1-4 pm	Pymble Ladies' College
Year 12 HSC Drama Group Performance Showcase	Monday 9 September 6-7 pm	
Women in Business Breakfast	Tuesday 10 September 7-8.15 am	Dining Hall
Archdale Debating grand final	Tuesday 10 September 4-8.30 pm	PDCH
Year 12 English Standard excursion to 'Curious Incident'	Tuesday 10 September 6.30-9 pm	Belvoir St Theatre
Bronze Duke of Edinburgh camp (Year 9)	Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 September	
Year 7 WABIAD	Wednesday 11 September 8 am-6 pm	Betty Archdale Library
Year 12 Welcome to the AOGU lunch	Wednesday 11 September 12.45-2.05 pm	Year 12 Common Room
APA Book Club	Wednesday 11 September 7-8.30 pm	Junior School Library Auditorium
Year 10 Self Defence Workshop	Thursday 12 September 8.20- 11 am	Sports Hall
2023-2024 Prefect Dinner	Thursday 12 September 5.30-7.30 pm	RSR
New Senior School Leaders Workshop	Friday 13 September 8.20 am-3.25 pm	GLC
IGSA Chess finals or Round 7	Friday 13 September 4-6 pm	
SDN Debating	Friday 13 September 4.30-8.30 pm	
Saturday sport	Saturday 14 September	Times and venues to be advised
Abb Lib	Tuesday 17 September 6-8 pm	PDCH
Year 10 Elective Geography excursion	Wednesday 18 September 8 am-3.25 pm	
SS Music Tour Bon Voyage Concert	Wednesday 18 September 6.30-7.30 pm	PDCH
Year 10 Languages excursion	Thursday 19 September 6.30-7.30 pm	

Leadership Induction Service	Friday 20 September 9.30-10.30 am	Assembly Hall
Women in Construction/Lipman session 2	Friday 20 September 2.10-3.25 pm	iHub
IGSA Chess finals or Round 8	Friday 20 September 4-8 pm	
SDN Debating	Friday 20 September 4.30-8.30 pm	

