

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

‘Bee Connected’ –
Abbotsleigh celebrates
Harmony Week and looks
forward to our 140th
Birthday Autumn Fair!

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

In what has become a lovely tradition at Abbotsleigh, girls and staff across the School have celebrated Harmony Week. Last Friday, the Junior School girls wore orange stickers and a group of girls, together with Miss Jacqui Lofgren, gave an excellent presentation on the importance of Harmony Week in Junior School assembly. This week, Year 12 SRC Leaders – Phoebe Peng, Jessica Qui, Chelsea Stephens and Emily Yan delivered an inclusive and thought-provoking presentation that not only recognised Harmony Week, but also highlighted the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I commend to you the extract of the presentation delivered by our Year 12 SRC Leaders, which can be found in this week's edition of *The Shuttle*.

Bee Connected at the 140th Birthday Autumn Fair

The ‘buzz’ of excitement in the lead up to tomorrow's Autumn Fair has been palpable. I am looking forward to seeing every girl and every member of our community at the fair where yummy food will be in abundance, including fantastic produce provided by our boarder parents, all manner of exciting goodies will be on sale, and mystery artists' works of art will be auctioned – I wonder if you have seen these online already – they are absolutely superb! Girls and their friends also will be treated to a fun photo booth, crazy hair and face painting, and many other wonderful activities, and everyone will be entertained by our talented Abbotsleigh musicians.

A very special event at the fair will occur at 12 noon, where, in the Peter Duly Concert Hall, our new library will



be officially opened – we would love you all to come along to be a part of this special ceremony.

Our girls will be wearing their sports uniforms at the fair so that they are easily recognisable to visitors who may need to ask for assistance with directions and so on, and it would be great if parents could wear anything that you might have (scarf, hat, etc) in yellow or black, our Abbotsleigh colours, to help celebrate all things Abbotsleigh for our 140th Birthday.

Given the forecast for heavy rain tomorrow, all activities and food have been moved either indoors or well under cover, so you needn't let the wet weather put you off.

Please note the following:

- **Parking:** There will be no parent parking onsite
- **Opening of the Betty Archdale Library** at 12 noon will take place in the Peter Duly Concert Hall. Please be seated by 11.45 am
- **Student performances** will be in the Peter Duly Concert Hall – the schedule is included on the Abbotsleigh Birthday Fair map
- **All stalls** will be located in the Judith Poole Sports Hall
- **Food trucks and a coffee van** will be located in the lower car park underneath the Judith Poole Sports Hall
- **Abbotsleigh boarder parent barbecue** will be located at the Aquatic Centre end of the main car park under the synthetic field
- **Abbotsleigh Community Authors Collection** is in the Betty Archdale Library
- **Mystery Masterpieces** artworks in the iHub, ground level
- **Second hand clothes (Year 11)** in the iHub, ground level
- **Archives display** in the iHub, lower level
- **Devonshire tea (Year 10) and Second hand books (Year 8)** in the Year 12 Common Room
- **Matt Willey, Artist in Residence** Stairs outside the iHub

I look forward to seeing you all on this great day of celebration at Abbotsleigh!

Please note: There will be no onsite parking on Saturday, so we encourage families to take public transport where possible. We also ask that if you are parking in the local area, please be respectful of our neighbours and do not park across driveways.






Opening of the Betty Archdale Library
 Saturday 29 March 2025
 12 noon



View the masterpieces in person in the iHub at the Abbotsleigh Autumn School Fair

- All artworks are 30x30 cm
- Bids start at \$100
- The online auction is **now open** and closes at 2 pm on Saturday 29 March

Click here to bid

Artworks can be collected from the iHub between 2.30-3 pm or by arrangement with the Cossington Smith Gallery

Harmony Week and the call for the elimination of racial discrimination

Phoebe Peng, Jessica Qui, Chelsea Stephens and Emily Yan
 Year 12 SRC Leaders

Harmony Week (17-23 March) celebrates the country's cultural diversity and promotes inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians. ... People are encouraged to wear the colour orange as orange signifies 'social communication, meaningful conversations, freedom of ideas, and mutual respect.' (From: [Harmony Week – Everyone belongs](#))

The 2025 Harmony Week theme is... 'Harmony – we all have a role to play' and the message of 2025 is: 'Everyone belongs!' This encompasses the celebration of Australia's cultural diversity, allowing everyone to feel a sense of belonging, regardless of cultural heritage, cultural identity and linguistic backgrounds. This theme allows us to feel valued and 'Bee Connected' within the community.

[Last Friday 21 March also was] The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. While Harmony Week celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity, it is also important to focus on the urgency of combatting racism wherever and whenever it arises.



HARMONY WEEK

In the spirit of the 2024 Multicultural Framework Review's findings and recommendations, we encourage everyone to observe and acknowledge this day.

Australia has a wide community of multi-cultural people. People from all over the world have been coming to Australia, [especially] since the gold rush in the 1850s, beginning the larger immigration of European cultures.

Post-WWII immigration was another contributor to our diversity, as it saw people from many different parts of the world settling in Australia after the war. It is important for us to be respectful and inclusive of all cultures, allowing Australia to foster a sense of belonging for every person to step onto its shores.

The importance of harmony in Australia is to promote inclusivity, respect and a sense of belonging within Australia's multicultural society.

Chaplain

Harmony

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Our Senior School chapel series has been focusing on Celebrations. Rev Rowena McMicking recently shared how it is interesting to observe that the idea of celebrations of thanksgiving is widespread across diverse cultures throughout the world. It seems to be a fundamental human impulse to express gratitude for what we receive from the earth, other people and ultimately from a higher power, with examples of festivals such as the Moon Festival in China, or harvest festivals in the UK and the US.

The ancient Hebrews had several celebrations focused on giving thanks to God, including Passover, the Festival of Booths and Pentecost. These festivals involved offerings and communal rejoicing, reflecting a universal desire to acknowledge and give thanks to God for blessings received. It was during the festival of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover when Jesus had been crucified, that thousands of people gathered in Jerusalem. As reported in Acts 2, people of different nations over the world at that time heard about Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection and believed. This enabled the initial good news about Jesus to spread to many areas of the world.

We give thanks for all people and for the message of Jesus' love and reconciliation to God, which is for all humanity and surpasses the divisions that often cause separation.

Acts 2:5-11

[When the day of Pentecost came...] There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own languages? We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia, from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, both Jews and Gentiles converted to Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia – yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Good of the Hive art installation	Ongoing	Senior School campus
A Studio Community exhibition	Wednesday 27 March to Saturday 26 April	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Abbotsleigh Autumn Fair and opening of the Betty Archdale Library	Saturday 29 March	Senior School campus Click here to read more

Mystery Masterpieces at the Abbotsleigh Autumn Fair	Saturday 29 March	iHub
AOGU Generations Breakfast	Thursday 3 April 7-8.30 am	JS Library
Term 2 concludes	Thursday 10 April	
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resouces	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Vacation Care is now open for bookings		Click here to download the program and book
Student portrait re-shoot	Monday 31 March	Due to poor lighting on some of the portraits from our recent photo day, some girls will be having their portrait re-taken. Your daughter may be involved in this, therefore please ensure she is dressed in full summer uniform and her hair tied back with the correct ribbon/scrunchie.
Parent teacher interviews	Monday 31 March to Thursday 3 April	
Year 6 CRU FIT excursion (Selected students)	Tuesday 1 April 11.45 am-3.15 pm	Barker College
IPSHA Cross Country Carnival	Wednesday 2 April 8 am-12 noon	The King's School, Parramatta
Years 1-3 Gateways excursion (Selected students)	Thursday 3 April 9 am-3 pm	Corpus Christie Catholic Primary School
Year 3 Taronga Zoo excursion	Friday 4 April 8.30 am-3 pm	Taronga Zoo
Years 4-6 Gateways excursion (Selected students)	Friday 4 April 9 am-3 pm	Corpus Christie Catholic Primary School
JS Production rehearsal	Friday 4 April 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
JS Production rehearsal	Saturday 5 April 3.30-5.30 pm	Everett Hall
ELC and Transition visit to the ACEE	Tuesday 8 April 8.30 am-2.30 pm	Abbotsleigh Centre for Environmental Education
Years 4-6 Easter Service	Tuesday 8 April 8.30-9.15 am	Chapel, Senior School
Years K-3 Easter Service	Tuesday 8 April 9.30-10.15 am	Chapel, Senior School
Year 6 Public Speaking Competition	Tuesday 8 April 2-3 pm	Everett Hall
T-2 Easter Egg Hunt	Wednesday 9 April 2.30-3 pm	Bundarra Court and Lawn
Year 5 Earthquake incursion	Thursday 10 April 11.50 am-12.45 pm	JS Auditorium

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 29 March	Click here for times and venues
Year 12 Ancient History and Year 12 Aboriginal Studies excursion	Tuesday 1 to Wednesday 2 April	Canberra
Year 10 English Regency Afternoon Tea	Tuesday 1 April 2.10-3.30 pm	Gymnasium
Year 10 Mandatory Geography field trip	Wednesday 2 April 8.20 am-3.25 pm	Long Reef
Lunchtime Futures talk: Studying overseas	Wednesday 2 April 1.20-2.10 pm	Careers Office
SS House Cross Country Carnival	Friday 4 April 12.30-3.30 pm	Senior School campus
Bunda fundraiser Mufasa movie afternoon	Friday 4 April 4.30-6.45 pm	Hornsby Odeon Cinema
Saturday sport and IGSA finals/playoffs	Saturday 5 April 8 am-2 pm	Times and venues TBA
Year 7 camp	Monday 7 to Thursday 10 April	Lake Macquarie
Year 12 SOR excursion	Monday 7 April 8.20 am-3.25 pm	Auburn
Year 11 Geography field trip	Monday 7 April 12.45-5 pm	Cabbage Tree Bay
Year 11 Geography field trip	Tuesday 8 April 12.45-5 pm	Cabbage Tree Bay
Lunchtime Futures talk: ACU	Wednesday 9 April 1.20-2.10 pm	Careers Office
Boarder travel day	Friday 11 April	
China Cultural Study tour departs	Friday 11 April	