



St Catherine's School

The blue ribbon

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CONNECTING PARENTS, STUDENTS, STAFF AND THE WIDER ST CATHERINE'S COMMUNITY

ISSUE 230 20 May 2016 W6 T2

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Michelle Carroll

This weekend we welcome over 180 past boarders to St Catherine's. Boarding offers a wide range of benefits to students and can deliver the ideal antidote of enabling discovery of one's independence...[more](#)

UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES



Diary Dates

Important upcoming School dates...[more](#)

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



Campbell House News

The ELC welcome back Mrs Alana Moor from Long Service Leave as she shares her joy of returning to see the rapid progress of all the ELC learners...[more](#)

SCHOOL NEWS



From the Director of Student Wellbeing

Evidence suggests the personal benefits of adopting a grateful and appreciative stance are far-reaching in regard to our positivity, resilience and happiness...[more](#)

JUNIOR SCHOOL



Barbreck News and Sport

Read all our Junior School news this week including welcoming Mrs Moor back from Long Service Leave, plans for a farewell assembly for Mrs Rundle, student reflections on Write on Wednesday as well as French Club, upcoming sports dates and Gymnastics...[more](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS



Snowsports Swap

Our eighth annual Snowsports Swap will be held on Sunday 22 May. Join our Snowsports Auxiliary for this amazing event and grab yourself a bargain...[more](#)



Snowsports 'Start of Season' Evening

The Snowsports Auxiliary warmly invites you to celebrate the 'Start of the Season' with a fun and casual evening on Wednesday 1 June 2016...[more](#)



Snowsports Exclusive Screening

The Snowsports Auxiliary presents an exclusive screening and Q&A with the Directors of *The Will to Fly* an inspiring story of the Australian Olympic Aerials Champion, Lydia Lassila...[more](#)



SCOGA Women in Industry

Members of the School community are invited to attend the Women in Creative Industries: Fashion Networking Event on Tuesday 7 June 6.30pm...[more](#)

SENIOR SCHOOL



Computer Modelling Galaxies, Exploring Diamonds and Uniforms for Exchange Students

Students explored computer modelling of galaxies and learnt about the physics of diamonds in our Science curriculum this week. We are also on the hunt for second hand uniforms for exchange students...[more](#)



Music Notes

Congratulations to our Music students who performed at a School Foundation event, along with a winning performance by our students in Sing Off! Rehearsals for Bands Blast are also well underway...[more](#)



Senior School Sport

Results from Senior Netball, Water Polo and Athletics Victoria Road Relay Championships...[more](#)



St Catherine's School Annual Giving 2016

This year, we seek your support for our women of the future during our 2016 Annual Giving program. Our primary focus is to establish a Technology and Engineering Lab for our Years 3 to 8 students...[more](#)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MICHELLE CARROLL



St Catherine's Boarders' Reunion

This Saturday, we welcome over 180 St Catherine's boarders back to School as part of our 120 anniversary celebrations. The Old Girls attending on Saturday have travelled from as far as New York to attend the reunion. Boarding plays a significant role in the history of our School, with the first St Catherine's boarders dating back to the 1890s when the School was located in Castlemaine.

Founding Principal, Miss Jeanie Hood, advertised in the local paper on 7 December 1895, that she was "opening a Ladies College and would receive boarders."

Boarding offers a wide range of benefits to students. As much as parents may feel compelled to shield their children from the concerns of the world, independence could be the greatest gift they have to give. In a time when many parents are hyper-vigilant about staying involved in the lives of their growing children, boarding school can deliver the ideal antidote of enabling discovery of one's independence.

Boarding school is a transformative experience in learning about the real world, something that most people do not get until they attend college or move out of home. The residential environment provides a unique opportunity that promotes camaraderie, honesty, development and trust between students and teachers. It also ensures students are able to immerse themselves in an educational world where learning and growth forms the basis of all their activities.

At St Catherine's, in addition to a structured preparation session to complete homework, our younger boarders receive the added benefit of School provided tutors twice a week to assist with Mathematics, Science and study across all subjects areas. Our older students also embrace their leadership roles through mentoring younger boarders and often provide assistance with both academic studies and social support.

Currently, our Boarding House is running at capacity but we do have some casual boarding places available next Semester. Parents who would like to receive further information about casual boarding placements are invited to contact our Head of Boarding, Mrs Sue Collister on (03) 9822 1285.

Staffing News

I wish to announce that following a dedicated and highly committed teaching career, Mr Owen Hughes has decided to retire from his role at St Catherine's School at the end of this semester.

As both the Deputy Head of the Junior School and a Year 5 teacher, Mr Hughes is well regarded by his colleagues for his professional approach and high level of organisation, in particular the annual development and administration of the Junior School timetable.

Continued...

SCHOOL DATES

Friday 20 May

Years 7 & 8 Biggest Morning Tea
Ruth Langley Luncheon 12.00pm
Red Shield Appeal Door Knock 3.30pm
Senior School AFL (After School)

Saturday 21 May

Senior School Cross Country Running (Mercantile) AM
SCOGA Boarders' Reunion 2.30pm

Sunday 22 May

Snowsports Swap 10.00am
Years 7 to 9 Boarders' Program 2.00pm-5.00pm

Monday 23 May

Years 7 to 12 Hockey Training (Before School)
Years 11 and 12 GSV (Before School)
Years 11 and 12 GSV Match (After School)

Year 10 Careers Testing Feedback 6.45pm

Tuesday 24 May

Year 11 Study Day
Years 7 and 8 GSV Training (Before School)
Senior School Cross Country Training (After School)

Wednesday 25 May

Year 11 Study Day
Year 7 (2017) Orientation 9.00am
Years 9 and 10 GSV Match (After School)
Junior School & Senior School Bands Blast 6.30pm

Thursday 26 May

Senior School Cross Country Training (Before School)
Year 11 Examinations
ELC 4YO Grandparents' & Special Visitors' Day
Year 7 (2017) Parent Morning 10.00am
Years 7 & 8 GSV Round 6 (After School)
DAV Senior School Debating Scotch College 6.45pm

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MICHELLE CARROLL

It should be noted that Mr Hughes, who joined the Junior School Staff in 1999, had planned to retire six months ago. The School is extremely grateful that he wished to defer his personal plans to enable Mrs Alana Moor to take a well-deserved Long Service Leave break. During this time, he displayed strong and exemplary leadership skills which were clearly visible during her absence.

Over many years Mr Hughes has displayed great loyalty, dedication and commitment to the School and to our students. I would like to acknowledge his exemplary contribution to all aspects of School life. On behalf of the School community, I wish Mr Hughes well in retirement and many years of enjoyment on the golf course.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Romilly Walker (Year 8) who was recently selected in the State Secondary School Swimming Team representing Victoria (and St Catherine's) at the National Titles in Darwin.

Congratulations also to Laetitia Donato (Year 10) who has qualified for the Australian Open Diving Championships to be held in Melbourne this month.

Well done to Thalia Barbayannis (Year 8) has been selected into the Victorian Junior State Water Polo Team and will be competing at MSAC in July at the East Coast Challenge (ECC).

Great team racing from the St Catherine's Cross Country Team saw the School win the GSV Preliminary Cross Country Carnival for the first time since 2005. Confidence, competitiveness and teamwork were the key focuses as the group went from strength to strength beating a strong Firbank and 2015 Cross Country Championship runners up, MLC.

Sport and Athlete Development Coordinator and Head Coach of Athletics, Mr Lloyd Knight said:

The juniors got the day rolling in style, with nine of the top 15 finishers being St Catherine's athletes. It was a sea of light blue all the way around the course as our Year 7s and 8s worked hard in their running packs to assist and challenge each other to get the best result for the School.

Francesca Demetriou was the fastest finisher, breaking the 12 minute barrier for three kilometres and placing second overall. However, hot on her heels were Isabella Bufé, Alexandra Demetriou, Elodie Ferrali and Chloe Joubert, who all finished inside the top 10 placing fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh respectively.

Lloyd Knight's full report can be found on the Athletics homepage of *mystcatherines* [here](#). We wish the girls well next Friday 27 May at the Division 1 Cross Country Championships at Bundoora Park.

SnowSports Swap

The annual Snowsports Swap will be held this Sunday 22 May, commencing at 10am and concluding at 12.30pm in the St Catherine's Hall. This annual fundraising event provides a great way for families to equip growing children with snowsports clothing and gear at a fraction of retail prices. I encourage our School members to advertise widely to the local community.

Mrs Michelle Carroll

Principal



Congratulations to Romilly Walker, Laetitia Donato and Thalia Barbayannis for their recent achievements in their chosen sports.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE CAMPBELL HOUSE NEWS



Hungry Learners in Campbell House

Having had the privilege of spending four weeks at the commencement of Term on Long Service Leave in order to pursue some further learning in educational settings, my return has certainly seen me marvel at the progress of our learners.

Physically the learners have grown so much! This is certainly matched by their observable growth in confidence, physical and social skills and their hunger to learn.

In Campbell House we view our learners as competent and capable. Therefore our learning environment and the programs, tasks and activities we implement are sensitively geared to the interests and natural curiosity of our young learners.

Educators must be passionate and constantly attentive to the needs and interests of our children – which can be different in all children. As an experienced educator, having been in numerous learning environments, I applaud the staff in Campbell House, without reserve and I thank them for their hard work whilst I was away.

Learning Occurs Everywhere

"The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky"

Margaret McMillan

Exploring, running, playing with natural objects, meeting differences in terrain and materials and time to build, create, dramatise and dream are all essential elements in order to meet the needs of keen young learners.

Classrooms, always seen by most as "the place for learning" are definitely only one such offering. The outdoor environment is an equally valuable place. Curriculum guidelines from the Early Years Learning Framework and the parallel use of the Reggio Emilia approach are identifiably evident in both the classrooms and outdoor environment in Campbell House.

Evident to keen observers are the ways in which staff attend to aesthetics, organisation, thought, provocation, communication and interaction.

Lots of fresh air, space, opportunities for imaginative and creative play and a myriad of other outdoor opportunities assures the maximum chance for children to thoroughly enjoy themselves, whilst also making links in learning, building confidence and acquiring new skills. We ask families to endorse these practices at home in order for them to become routine.

Weather permitting, we emphasise and encourage the provision of outdoor opportunities for all young children. The photos in this week's *Blue Ribbon* attest to the enjoyment and learning made available through outdoor play.

Continued...



- 1 Serena Ma and Ellie Damiris extending upon their inquiry of dinosaurs in the outdoor learning environment
- 2 Yallissa Goh, Margaret Shao, and Jin Xuan (Celia) Chu enjoying leaf throwing
- 3 Lucy Venema and Blake Kwong about to embark on a search for creatures in the garden
- 4 Finley Thomson and Teegan Gobel extending their gross motor skills in the outdoor learning environment
- 5 Marianna Qin and Casey Newitt engaging in imaginative play in the sandpit pretending to be builders at work

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE CAMPBELL HOUSE NEWS

Health and Hygiene

With the weather now much colder, the risk of winter ills and infections is of course much higher.

Sick children must be kept at home in order to avoid spreading infections to others in Campbell House and also, we are well aware that those who are ill, recover more quickly in their own family environment. The busy program coupled with the proximity to others in particular in the colder weather is not the place for children who are unwell.

A reminder to families that staff model thorough hand washing practices throughout the School day and also encourage appropriate wiping of noses and disposal of tissues.

We ask families to endorse these practices at home.

Mrs Alana Moor

Head of ELC and Junior School



- 1 Nicholas Lincoln and William Day enjoying outdoor cooking
- 2 Putting out a fire by our resident Campbell House firefighters

JUNIOR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



Glad to Return!

It was indeed an absolute delight to return to Barbreck and observe the growing maturity and focused work habits of our Prep to Year 6.

I thank Mr Owen Hughes and Junior School staff for a wonderful commencement to Term 2, 2016.

I had a four week opportunity to pursue and explore professional long term interests in other settings afforded me a richness difficult to describe. Education in remote places and various very different learning settings brings much food for thought, particularly in an area of high personal and professional curiosity. That being the preservation of learner motivation in the care of professionals who are attentive, enthusiastic and set high standards.

Applause well deserved for Barbreck staff. Constantly striving to harness and maintain learner motivation. I am aware of their contributions in a detailed manner.

Farewell to Mrs Di Rundle

After 25 years of service at St Catherine's School, the much loved Mrs Di Rundle left us at the end of 2015. Upon leaving, Mrs Rundle had very complex knee surgery. It is taking significant time to recover mobility.

We are delighted that Mrs Rundle is now able to travel to St Catherine's and we can farewell her and celebrate what has been an outstanding career in education.

On Tuesday 19 July, Barbreck students will hold a farewell assembly for Mrs Rundle.

Parents are warmly invited to attend the assembly 8.50am–9.30am and then join Mrs Rundle for morning tea in the Barbreck Library at the conclusion of the assembly.

We are really looking forward to the opportunity to thank Mrs Rundle for her huge and numerous contributions to the girls in her care and the School.

Write on Wednesdays

A large group of students in Years 5 and 6 avail themselves of a place in the After-School Write on Wednesday program. With an emphasis on increasing vocabulary, reviewing and teaching grammar, improving punctuation and exciting the desire to write, the Wednesday group are given different tasks each week and we all love the hour of learning together.

Numerous Year 5 students have now committed to the Term 2 program. They are always excited and highly engaged in the pursuit of further writing skills. They also totally immerse themselves in the chance to have a "free write" after provocation/stimulus are provided.

The resulting work is so varied! It ranges from factual understandings to totally fictitious material as well as the insertion on many occasions of humour, challenge and the inevitable twist!

Comments from the writers about their experiences are many. We provide, for reader interest, just a few sample comments:

"Write on Wednesdays is like popping candy. It is sweet and exciting and every so often there will be an exciting pop of surprise. Every week there is something new and you are always with your friends. My favourite activity is the nine letter word! I would much rather be at Write on Wednesday than at home."

Lilli Holmes Year 6



- 1 Mia'Chanel Kelly and Arabella Foote graphing during Mathematics
- 2 Elleina Dharma is enjoying learning new sounds
- 3 Prep students working together to sort, count, graph and interpret data
- 4 After many Preps worked collaboratively on building a Zoo, students learnt some basic mapping skills during a Mathematics task and created their own map brochure for the Zoo.
- 5 Shaikha Aljneibi and Holly Farrer challenged themselves to build a tower taller than themselves after learning about measuring height

JUNIOR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL

"Write on Wednesday is a time where creativity flows. Each week we all walk out of the library knowing that we have achieved something in that session, whether it be a really great story that you are proud of, or working out the nine letter word that no one else got. W.O.W is an amazing opportunity for all young writers. It is a space where you can be yourself, be confident and be a writer. I love Write on Wednesday because the opportunities are endless. There is a lot of independence and freedom."

Madeline Powell Year 6

"My writing sparkles like Christmas lights."

Chloe Marshall Year 6

"It is not just a writing class. It is where experienced teachers help students be creative and learn new concepts from literature."

Paula Chen Year 6

"Write on Wednesday is a place where writing is made real"

Emilia Searby Year 6

"I enjoy Write on Wednesday because you learn how to write fast and think fast."

Jeneath Wong Year 6

"We learn new things about different ways to write our stories every week and the fun never ends."

Lucy Bainbridge Year 6

"I did not know how many different ways of writing were possible. I love all the fun activities we are given that help us to create amazing pieces of writing."

Sarah Marriott Year 6

Attention to Detail and Focus

There is no doubt that effective learning is paralleled by the establishment of high expectations, a learning atmosphere that assists and demands pride in tasks, attention to detail and a focus which enables the positioning of sound skill acquisition and links to be meaningful.

Now, well into Term 2, the 2016 Prep students have developed astonishingly in these critical areas.

Under the outstanding care and guidance of Mrs Jessica Easton, assisted by Mrs Kate Bourke and all specialist staff, much is expected from our young learners in gentle, appropriate but exacting ways.

The 2016 Preps have responded in kind. The standard of their work ethic and desire to learn more and more, are remarked upon by current staff and also by those visiting the Prep class on any given day. Maintaining motivation is a crucial element and it must commence at a young age and be attended to on an ongoing basis. Certainly motivation is prized by all educators in Barbreck.

Le club Français de Barbreck

Term 2 has been an exciting time for the Barbreck French department, with the launch of two French language groups; Les Lucioles and Le club de soleil which meet weekly on Thursdays.

Les Lucioles (Translating to The Fireflies') consists of 17 very enthusiastic Years 2 and 3 students who love speaking French and enjoy learning about French culture and conversation. We begin each meeting with the recital of the Group Motto, or 'La devise des Lucioles', followed by a French language activity where students must recite, interact and ask questions using newly-learned French vocabulary. The highlight has certainly been the decoration of 'biscuits à la Française' made in the shape of a traditional French café.

Le club de soleil (The Sun Club), the winning name suggested by Angela Yu (Year 6) in our naming competition, consists of 24 Years 4, 5 and 6 students. Le club is an opportunity for these students to practice more advanced dialogue in a motivated environment. We begin each week with a rendition of a 'La Marseillaise', which the students learned and rehearsed during the first few weeks. Other activities include the presentation of French poems over some melted cheese and ham croissants and the production of an ebook based upon the story of *Arc-En Ciel* (*The Rainbow fish* by Marcus Pfister).

Students who are interested in applying to join either of the language groups will have an opportunity to do so at the end of Term 2. Students and their parents must complete a consent form, which can be picked up from the Junior School Office. There are no places left available for this Term.

Mr Andrew Gold

Junior School French Teacher



1 French Language Group

2 Mia Upton, Rachel Carton, Portia Gowrie and Hollie Pringle

3 Ana-Safiya Barmare, Katherine Graham and Ava Colosimo

4 Mattea Demetriou, Arabella Bertalli and Caroline Marcel

JUNIOR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

Upcoming Sports Dates

District Cross Country

Date: Monday May 23 2016

Where: Kooyong Park

Time: 10 years, 11.30am

9 years, 12.00pm

11 years, 2.30pm

12/13 years, 1.00pm

Presentation, 1.30pm

Wednesday 25 May

Cross Country Team photo, 8.45am Barbreck

Snowsports App

Do not forget to sign up for the St Catherine's Snowsports App so you can keep up to date with all the news.

Snowsports 'Start of Season' Evening

The St Catherine's School Snowsports Auxiliary warmly invite you to celebrate the 'Start of the Season'

Wednesday 1 June 2016

7.00pm – 9.00pm

at the home of Rebecca and John Clark

79 Rose Street, Armadale

This is a free event however bookings are required for catering purposes, please [click here](#) to make your bookings.

We encourage all parents who have an interest in Snowsports to attend. The evening will be an informative and casual night providing a great start to the forthcoming season.

Cross Country Skiing

If you have skills in ski waxing and would like to help out with waxing our 105 pairs of skis then please contact Mr Tom Crebbin tcrebbin@stcatherines.net.au

We plan to wax on Wednesday 25 May at 3.00pm and Friday 27 May at 3.00pm at Barbreck. Any assistance would be appreciated along with waxing irons, brushing and waxing benches.

Mr Tom Crebbin

Junior School Head of Physical Education

St Catherine's Gymnastics Club

Does your child...

- Cartwheel around the house?
- Jump and flip on their bed?
- Spend more time climbing off the ground than being on it?
- Seem to be more 'monkey' than 'human'?
- Love the Campbell House PMP program?

If you are looking for an after School program that encourages your child to be active while developing their balance, coordination, strength and flexibility the St Catherine's School Gymnastics program might be the perfect activity for your child.

There are currently places available on Monday and Wednesday 3.30pm–4.45pm for ELC 4YO to Year 4 children. ELC children can be collected from After School Care. Senior classes for Year 5 and above are also available.

Whether your child is a beginner or wishes to improve their skills there is a place for them to work with our enthusiastic coaches. More information is available on [mystcatherines](#). Term 2 enrolments will be on a pro rata basis and are via the above link. Queries should be directed to Mrs Cherie Johnstone cjohnstone@stcatherines.net.au

Mrs Cherie Johnstone

Gymnastics Coordinator



1 Yalissa Goh (ELC)

2 Daisy Cameron (ELC)

3 Arabella Foote (Prep)

4 Kaixuan (Isabelle) Cao (Year 2)

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING

It is not joy that makes us grateful, it is gratitude that makes us joyful

Brother David Steindl-Rast

Consider a time when you have shown gratitude to someone. Was there a change in your mood as well as lifting their spirits? Evidence suggests the personal benefits of adopting a grateful and appreciative stance are far-reaching in regard to our positivity, resilience and happiness. A Harvard University Study has concluded that "expressing thanks may be one of the simplest ways to feel better."^[1]

Mr Hugh van Cuylenburg's recent parent presentation 'Teaching Resilience at Home', focussed on three key factors shown to increase resilience in children. He urged St Catherine's parents to focus on instilling behaviours that value and demonstrate gratitude, mindfulness and empathy.

There are particularly strong links between gratitude and mindfulness. Mindfulness encourages us to savour the moment. Author Eckhart Tolle expresses this as being "at ease in the here and now and at ease with yourself"^[2].

Through gratitude and appreciation of what is good in our lives now, we can avoid the temptation of always looking to future happiness, while forgetting to actually experience and savour happiness in the present. In his presentation, Hugh spoke of the way our society has become consumer driven and how our happiness has become dependent on material success or possessions. Having experienced life in a remote Himalayan village several years ago, he was struck with the way the villagers, including the children, some of whom were homeless, were able to maintain such a positive and happy outlook on life. A common thread in the community was the gratitude they expressed for what little they had. This life changing experience inspired Hugh to study the correlation between expressing gratitude and innate happiness.

Positive psychology research has shown that practising gratitude is consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude has been found to help people "feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships."^[3]

Hugh's presentation outlined how the benefits of practising gratitude for as little as 21 days, can alter a person's perspective on life and have many other benefits. He explained that after this period, the brain is rewired to retain a pattern of scanning the world, not for the negative but for the positive. Notably, after 42 days, studies have shown that those people are "less likely to get sick, have higher levels of energy levels, feel happier, are more enthusiastic, are more attentive, are more determined, are more optimistic, have a better quality sleep and have lower levels of depression and anxiety"^[4]. The neurological benefits of the release of oxytocin which occurs when an act of kindness is performed contribute to this increased level of contentment.

So how do we cultivate gratitude? Hugh offered parents some simple strategies to encourage their children and adolescents to practise gratitude. He discussed the benefits of keeping a gratitude journal and urged parents to ask their children 'what went well?' each day, as a means of focussing on the positives.

This ability to adopt a positive outlook to their present situation, irrespective of challenges they may face, is a message we strive to send our girls. Strategies we use to build resilience within the girls include Gratitude Journals, What Went Well Today? discussions, Gratitude Letters, Reflection Writing, 'The Best Thing About My Day' blogs, Random Acts of Kindness, 'RAKtivist' blogs, Gratitude Trees, Wellbeing Wall, Motivation Tree and Post-it- Gratitude Notes.

[Click here](#) to view Hugh's 'Teaching Resilience at Home' presentation on *mystcatherines*.

Ms Merran O'Connor

Director of Student Wellbeing

References:

http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/in-praise-of-gratitude

Tolle, Eckhart The Power of Now Hodder Headline (Sydney, NSW Australia)

http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/in-praise-of-gratitude

Van Cuylenburg, Hugh 'Teaching Resilience at Home Presentation'



The Illawarra Dining Room Gratitude Tree which was constructed as part of the Sunday Activities Program.

SCIENTISTS IN SCHOOLS, YEAR 9 SCIENCE AND UNIFORM CENTRE NEWS



CSIRO Scientists in Schools Program

Year 10 students recently completed an Astronomy unit with their Science teachers to extend and ignite their curiosity about Astronomy. The students enjoyed a presentation from Dr Loren Bruns, Astrophysicist, at the University of Melbourne who shared the findings of his eight year PhD research project involving computer modelling of the galaxies.

Year 9 Science

Mr Garry Holloway, Geologist and Gemologist, presented a 40 minute lecture to Year 9 Science classes this week. Mr Holloway discussed the physics of reflection, refraction, dispersion and scintillation in relation to diamonds. After spending more than decade working with scientists from Moscow University and India, he explained to the students his work in the field of diamond cut research and diamond gemology.

Ms Vanessa Jackson-McRae

Head of Science

Uniforms for Exchange Students

The Exchange Student Program would welcome donations of uniform items suitable for a Years 9 or 10 student. Both academic and Sports uniform, summer and winter, are required to outfit our visiting girls.

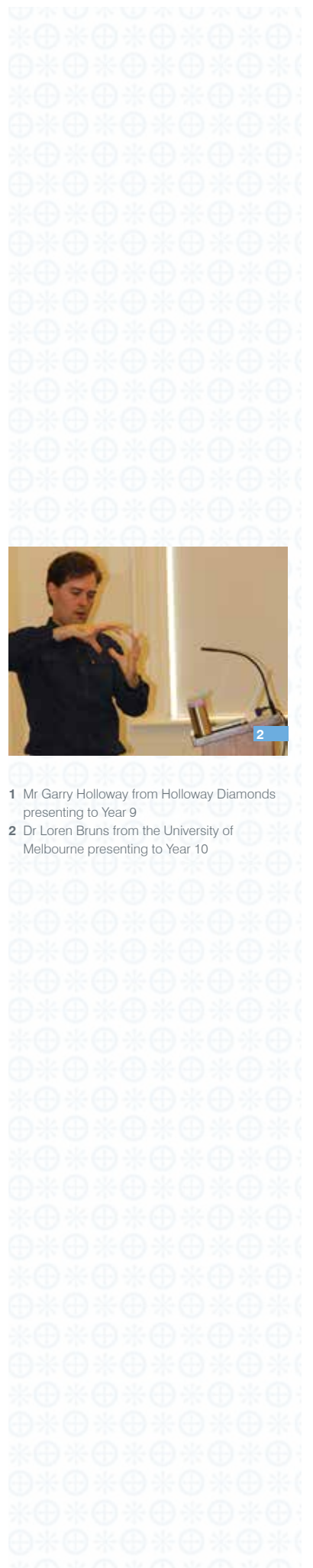
If you have surplus or outgrown items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the Uniform Centre during our operating hours. We have an exchange student wardrobe which will not meet the demand of our French exchanges next Term, and our host families would greatly appreciate being able to borrow clothing and bags in reasonable condition.

We have received our second delivery of winter skirts and pinafores, skivvies and shirts.

Snowsports families should visit early to make necessary purchases, as the delivery time for new orders and sizes not in stock can be up to 12 weeks.

Mrs Vikki O'Neill

Uniform Centre Manager



1 Mr Garry Holloway from Holloway Diamonds presenting to Year 9

2 Dr Loren Bruns from the University of Melbourne presenting to Year 10

SENIOR SCHOOL MUSIC NOTES

*"When I hear music, I fear no danger. I am invulnerable. I see no foe.
I am related to the earliest times, and to the latest."*

Henry David Thoreau

Foundation Event

Many thanks to the following students who participated so admirably at the Foundation event on the evening of Tuesday 10 May at AFL House: Georgina Cheale, Ingrid Crossing, Alexandra Cullen, Frances Curtis and Sona Kocharyan continued their high standard of saxophone ensemble playing.

Amber Chapman and Phoebe Edwards sang beautifully and were accompanied by our now semi-famous staff combo, organised and led by Deputy Head of Music and contemporary pianist extraordinaire Mr Tim Collins, and including Mr Dean Hilson (alto saxophone), Mr Leigh Olsson (trumpet), Mr Saska Ayris (drums on this occasion!) and myself playing the bass guitar part on the keyboard.

A highlight of the evening for me was spending time getting to and from the event via public transport with the girls. This was an easier option than setting up all of the equipment, which the 'boys' undertook! Our beautiful girls were a pleasure to be with. They are highly intelligent, sophisticated yet fun young women, and a credit to the School.

Sing-Off!

The annual student-led Sing-Off event has been and gone. Held at Genezzano FJC College last Friday 13 May. I am delighted to announce that St Catherine's School and St Kevin's College teamed up to win the combined item!

With lovely adjudicating by Mr Greg Mills, known to many as the Musical Director of events as prestigious as the AFL Grand Finals (12 in all), Good Friday Appeals and Young Talent Time. He was on the lookout first and foremost for singing in tune. Someone after my own heart, I must say.

I am continually delighted by the maturity of our Senior students in this fully student-driven event. Their choreography, simple but effective, costuming and attention to detail were outstanding. The sophistication of all of the music from the School on the night was inspiring. All proceeds for the evening were donated to the Smith Family. Congratulations to Ruby Smith and her team of girls: Danae Barbayannis, Clare Cameron, Amber Chapman, Georgina Cheale, Phoebe Edwards, Sabine Harms, Annabel Hartmanis, Sofiya Hay, Megane Janssen, Mackenzie Leyden, Amelia McDonald, Grace Nicolas, Eliza O'Donnell, Whitney Portwine, Angela Sexton, Katherine Zhao, These girls were accompanied by the wonderful band: Greta Chen (Drumkit), Harrison Giavris (St Kevin's College - Lead guitar), Charlotte Weir (Rhythm Guitar), Sidonie Bird de la Coeur (Electric Bass).

Bands Blast

Sunday 15 May saw the majority of our Wind and Percussion players meet at various times throughout the day for intensive rehearsals in preparation for our upcoming Bands Blast, which will be held on Wednesday 25 May from 6.30pm in the Dorothy Pizzey Hall.

This event will be a wonderful opportunity for cross-age interaction and a wonderful way for younger students to see the progression possible within the instrumental Music program. Hearty thanks to Mr Saska Ayris, Mr Tim Collins, Ms Jess Farrell, Mr Leigh Olsson and Ms Maria Pisani, for their dedication and extra effort on a Sunday. Having a larger block of time to concentrate fully on the music was also greatly appreciated by those students in attendance.

Music Administrator

Our Music Administrator Mrs Robyn Miller is doing a wonderful job, scouring through emails to ensure that all past matters have been dealt with. Thank you all so much for your patience as we have now found a wonderful solution to our situation. Your kindness has been much appreciated. I ask families with previous or new queries to feel very free to seek assistance via email or telephone:

Music Administrator: Mrs Robyn Miller Tel: 9828 3014 email – music@stcatherines.net.au

Mrs Jenny Mathers

Head of Music



Students and Music staff performed at the St Catherine's School Foundation event held at AFL House this week.

SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT



Athletics Victoria Road Relay Championships

Great results from the Athletics Victoria Road Relay Championships over the weekend.

Well done to the 40 St Catherine's Girls who raced at the Athletics Victoria All School Schools Road Relay Championships. Everybody did extremely well, improving their times and race performances.

The highlight of the morning was the Under 14 Navy Team who finished third out of 33 Teams. This Team included Francesca Demetriou, Ava Lansell, Alexandra Demetriou and Chloe Joubert.

Mr Lloyd Knight

Sport & Athlete Development Coordinator - Head Coach of Athletics

Senior Netball

This week our Senior Netball teams played against PLC. Our girls showed massive improvements in their skills across the board and are beginning to demonstrate more effective teamwork. Against a tough opponent, both teams improved on last week's efforts.

The A Team was defeated by PLC 36-10.

Players: Isabella King, Alexandra Stopp, Georgia Deacon, Clare Cameron, Chloe Page, Lucinda Kelly, Elysée Dubois and Lucy Church.

The B Team was defeated by PLC 32-10.

Players: Amelia McDonald, Cluny Gilmour, Zara Seyfort, Danae Barbayannis, Georgia Bickford, Brittany Pearson, Rose Hogan and Sasha Christian.

Mr Chris Jones

Director of Sport

Water Polo

After another sluggish first quarter the St Catherine's girls came back strongly. The last quarter was another nail biting one with St Catherine's drawing level with Toorak College but to no avail as the girls from Toorak College scored an impressive goal to give them a six to five victory against our gallant team from St Catherine's.

This week's special mention goes to Catherine Mytton who played in goals in the last quarter. The players were:

Year 12	Annie Anezakis	Natasha Fowler	Georgie Gleeson	Ella Swann
Year 11	Sarah Fenton	Catherine Mytton	India Watson	
Year 10	Charlotte Fortey	Charlotte Sinclair		

Ms Jeanette Gunn

Teacher in Charge of Water Polo



Ava Lansell, Alexandra Demetriou Chloe Joubert and Francesca Demetriou



COMMUNITY NEWS

SNOWSPORTS EVENTS & ST CATHERINE'S ANNUAL GIVING

Snowsports Swap

Please join the St Catherine's community at our eighth annual Snowsports Swap on Sunday 22 May. Offering the best new and second hand gear for sale to get ready for the winter Skiing season.

The Swap is growing and getting better each year. The idea of recycling second hand Ski equipment works well within the School community and also far and wide outside the School. It is a fantastic event and an enormous benefit for families with growing children who need to size up with skis, boots and clothing each season. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Mrs Jodie Cody and Mrs Sally Joubert
Snowsports Swap Coordinators

Snowsports 'Start of Season' Evening

The St Catherine's School Snowsports Auxiliary warmly invite you to celebrate the 'Start of the Season'

Wednesday 1 June 2016
7.00pm – 9.00pm
at the home of Rebecca and John Clark
79 Rose Street, Armadale

This is a free event however bookings are required for catering purposes, please [click here](#) to make your bookings.

We encourage all parents who have an interest in Snowsports to attend. The evening will be an informative and casual night providing a great start to the forthcoming season.

Snowsports Exclusive Film Screening – *The Will to Fly*

The Snowsports Auxiliary presents an exclusive screening and Q&A with the Directors of *The Will to Fly* an inspiring story of the Australian Olympic Aerials Champion, Lydia Lassila.

The Will To Fly is the story of Olympic Champion Lydia Lassila, who as a young mum, against all the odds competing in one of the most dangerous sports in the world, dares to reach for an almost impossible dream and in doing so, helps pave the way for women in sport.

Saturday 4 June
2.30pm for 3.00pm screening
Village Cinemas Jam Factory, Chapel Street South Yarra
Tickets available [here](#)
Adults \$25 Students \$20

Snowsports Auxiliary

St Catherine's School Annual Giving 2016

Through our 120 year history, St Catherine's School has educated generations of remarkable young women. Over this time, we have also received strong support for all our students through the generosity of our School community – current and past parents, friends, teachers and Old Girls.

Thanks to the generous gifts of our School community in 2015, Annual Giving supported the renewal of the iconic Clocktower classrooms, enabling contemporary learning spaces for our girls to learn new languages and study Humanities.

Annual Giving also provided scholarships to a diverse range of talented young Indigenous and rural girls who may not otherwise have been able to attend our School. Thank you!

This year, we again seek your support for our women of the future by inviting you to make a tax-deductible donation to our 2016 Annual Giving program.

Continued...



COMMUNITY NEWS

ANNUAL GIVING & SCOGA NETWORKING EVENTS AND SCHOOL SURVEY

Our primary focus for funds raised this year is to establish an exciting new Technology & Engineering Lab for our Years 3 to 8 students. To capture the imagination of our girls and to build their skills for the future, the Lab will feature virtual reality technology; an Australian first in girls' education.

Through our Annual Giving Program this year, we are also seeking philanthropic gifts for scholarships for rural girls and Indigenous students from across Australia, enabling these girls to receive a quality St Catherine's School education.

By working and giving together, we can ensure that our girls have the best possible facilities and programs for their all-round development and provide the best start for their life beyond School. It is a wonderful investment in our girls and their future.

Thank you for supporting our girls to become true women of the future through these projects. Your generosity will make a real difference to our girls and their education. To view our Annual Giving video [click here](#) or to learn more or donate visit our website [here](#).

Mr Wayne Kent

Chair of St Catherine's School Foundation

St Catherine's Old Girls Association (SCOGA) Women in Industry Networking Events

Throughout 2016, SCOGA, are hosting a series of career specific events to facilitate networking among our members and the School community. Through these events we hope to celebrate talent, share knowledge and experience, and make and maintain connections with each other and the School.

The events for 2016 include:

- Women in Creative Industries: Fashion Networking Event
- Women in Banking and Finance Networking Event

Women in Creative Industries: Fashion Networking Event

At this event we will host a panel of speakers who will discuss a range of topics, provide an opportunity for Q&A and networking with Old Girls and the School community who work in the fashion industry, including fashion design, photography, modelling, textile and graphic design and brand management etc.

Date: Tuesday 7 June 2016

Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Ellis Street Studios, 16 Ellis Street, South Yarra

Student tickets: \$30 per person

Professional tickets: \$40 per person

To register for this event [click here](#)

Speakers

Clementine Lilley ('02) – Senior Textile/Graphic Designer Product Development, Voyager Solo Distribution

Bridget McCall ('98) – Director, LIFEwithBIRD

Jill Clegg ('64) – HUSK

For further information about any of these events, please contact Mrs Phoebe Norman (Olsen '95) at

phoebe_norman@icloud.com

Mrs Phoebe Norman (Olsen '95)

SCOGA President

St Catherine's School Communication Survey

In an effort to gauge the effectiveness of our level of communication with our School community, we invite our School community to please participate in a five minute online survey. This anonymous survey will assist St Catherine's to continue to provide you with School news efficiently. The survey is available [here](#). Thank you for your input.

St Catherine's Marketing and Communications Team

