

PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



# Altior et Sapientior

The Principal's Newsletter December 2015







# From the Principal

Term Four is a succession of events that mark the end of the 2015 school year for different groups within the school. These include final music rehearsals, party days at the Junior Schools, special presentation assemblies, Christmas concerts and the Carol Service. The first of the groups to finish the school year were our Year Twelve students whose final school day was Tuesday 20 October. Their day included a “long breakfast” in the school gymnasium, the Year Twelve revue in the southern courtyard of the Infinity Centre, their final assembly when School Colours are presented to Year Twelve students and special presentations were made to the recipients of Principal’s Awards and the valedictory service where the Senior and Junior Choirs helped our most senior students to conclude their time at the school.

That evening, our students, with their parents, met at the Function Centre at the Moonee Valley racecourse for their Valedictory dinner. The student valedictorian, Jackson Howard, weaved his message around his peers’ words from previous Yearbooks. For example, Sila Kasapgil, while in Prep, wrote, “If you don’t have any friends you would be very lonely. If you see someone alone, you should ask them to play with you. That’s a great way to make friends.” Citing the strength that can be drawn from friendship, Jackson spoke about the character of the year level and experiences shared at school during the last thirteen years.

Our guest speaker, Ms Janet Whiting, an eminent lawyer and prominent leader in the arts, spoke about the springboard that parents and the school had provided our Year Twelve students. She exhorted our students to develop parallel careers doing things of value, to give themselves generously to others and to learn from all of their experiences. The night concluded with a video that featured events from 2015 as well as images of our Year Twelve students from earlier years at the school. Many photographs were taken at the end of the evening as students and parents thanked particular teachers and the school for their support.

Other events in recent months have been as diverse as a commemoration assembly to mark the centenary of the battle of Lone Pine (held around the school’s Lone Pine tree at the Keilor East campus), the ever-successful Craft Market, Art Week in the Middle Schools as well as other art shows held at the Senior and Junior Schools and the spectacularly-lit Junior Schools’ Principal’s assembly that celebrated our 2015 Year of Light theme.

In a milestone year that has seen the consolidation of the school’s secondary sections on one campus and the commencement of further developments at both Junior Schools, the 2015 school year has concluded with a radiance of activity. Our students and teachers deserve to be proud of their involvement with the school and its legion of activities.

**Tony Larkin**



# Opening of new McNab House

There was an atmosphere of subdued excitement and anticipation on Wednesday 26 August as the girls of McNab House made their way to the HR Stevens Music Centre. They had no idea what to expect. They knew, after two terms at the Keilor East campus, that McNab House was at last to be officially opened.

Members of the McNab family and invited guests filled the first rows of the auditorium. Mr Ian McNab, our guest speaker, spoke on behalf of and about his family's long-term involvement with the school and of what it was like to be a student at the school in the 1960s. Georgia Kerr (Year Nine) responded. Referring to her parents, who both attended PEGS, she spoke impressively about the connections between her time at the school and her parents' experiences.

The school orchestra played stirringly, the choir sang lustily and, as the end of the opening approached, large and colourful balloons and streamers descended from above to engulf the delighted girls. Amid screams and laughter, the new McNab House was officially opened.

**Meg Benney**  
Head of McNab House





# Mrs Benney is leaving

During recent months, Mrs Meg Benney has been completing a series of “lasts”. She has taught her last class, marked her last exam, written her last student report, held her last staff meeting and led her last assembly. Her impact and influence on the three thousand or so students who have attended the Middle School (girls) during her time as Head of Section will also last. Her commitment to the education of adolescent girls, the development of common decency and the rich engagement of students will endure in the hearts and minds of our students.

Mrs Benney joined the staff of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School in 1985 as Biology teacher at the senior school, then known at McNab House. Appointed Head of Middle School (girls) at the Moonee Ponds campus in 1989, she has been the school’s longest serving Head of Section.

Her understanding of the merits of an academic education, her highly refined sense of what is just and appropriate, her ability to reflect creatively and her unflinching dedication to the school have been among the hallmarks of her tenure as Head of Middle School (girls). At the start of this year, she completed a full cycle at the school, returning to Keilor East, but as the Head of the new McNab House.

Mrs Benney will be greatly missed by a school that has appreciated everything that she has done for its students and staff. She leaves the school with the kind thoughts, exceptional respect, good wishes and great thanks of all who have worked with her.

**Tony Larkin**  
Principal



# ICT opportunities

Curriculum is typically written in schools for students with average talents and interests, even though we know that there are very few, if any, average students. While this traditional approach benefits some, it frustrates many.

To engage all students, a school's curriculum should be written to accommodate students with a range of abilities and learning styles. In other words, rather than being written for the average, it should be designed for students across the range of abilities. Schools that understand this goal have started making efforts to personalise learning but they have often been hamstrung as they have been unable to deliver fully a curriculum tailored to students with different styles and abilities within the traditional classroom.

The integration of digital technology enables teachers to provide more fully learning opportunities that are personalised. Having the ability to research widely enables students and teachers to bring current ideas and information into the classroom, extend the understanding of students and provide additional support when needed.

The use of apps also offers astonishing opportunities. For instance, LearningField, an app used in the Middle Schools, enables teachers and students to select from nine texts in most subjects. From these nine, teachers select a text or texts for each unit that supports the needs of their class and students are able to access additional texts when they are looking for extra support or an extension to their knowledge and understandings. LearningField is only one of the apps that teachers are integrating into their practices.

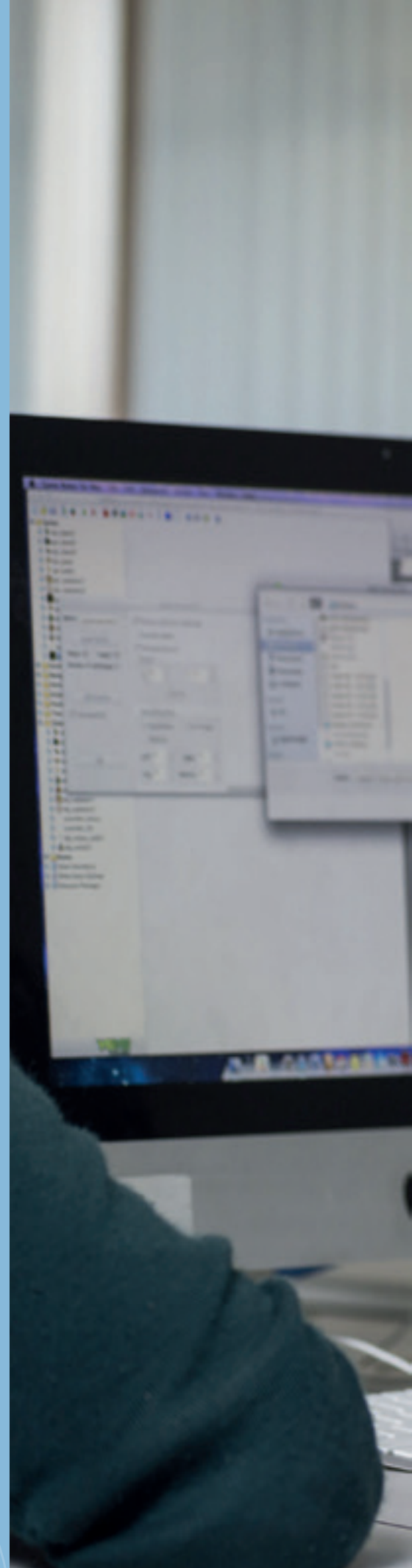
Our teachers have been working with ICT educational consultants to become more familiar with and to select apps that assist them to support the curriculum, personalise the learning of students, are appropriate for particular age groups and a range of abilities and encourage deep and creative thinking to support learning.

The introduction of PEGSpace, the school's digital learning management system, is another tool that teachers, students and parents will be able to access to support individual student abilities and needs. The use of an electronic Diary and the Due Work function, both introduced at some sections in 2015, helps students manage their time and assists them to meet all expectations. It also allows parents to view the work that is being set and provide parents with information that helps them support their children. Early next year, a Parent Portal will be introduced that will hold even more information for parents, including guides for the safe, responsible and creative use of iPads.

Our students also have the opportunity to develop the skill set and basic understanding of digital languages. Code Club is an additional activity that has been offered to Year Nine students since 2014. Not only is it suitable for students with an interest in computers and coding, students of languages and mathematics have also enjoyed coding.

Modern technology is proving to be a great tool for teachers and students to enhance and personalise thinking and learning.

**Nina Bilewicz**  
Vice Principal







# New library for our Middle Schools

A new Middle School library opened this year as part of the redevelopment of Gottliebse and McNab Houses. Situated on the first floor, above the main administration block, the library has magnificent views of the city skyline and the playing fields at the Keilor East campus.

The library is a large open space with flexible areas for multiple classes as well as collaboration and independent reading and research. The previously separate boys' and girls' book collections have been combined, providing a larger, more comprehensive range of reading materials which are regularly augmented with new releases. Digital resources are always available through the library website and students have access to desktop computers and printing facilities.

The school also introduced self-checkout machines and an enhanced stock management system. Students and staff can log onto the school's web-based OPAC system, from school or home, to locate, request and use resources.

While the library is widely used during class time, students have also voted with their feet. Counting recess, lunchtime and after-school only, there have been over thirty thousand visits to the new Middle Schools library from February to October this year.

It is very fulfilling to look around this new space and to see a hive of activity with girls and boys mingling, learning, reading, creating, collaborating, thinking and relaxing. The new library is clearly the cultural core of our Middle Schools.

**Kerrin McCrum**  
Director of Library Services







## The journey at Gottliebsen House

Every year, a new cohort of Year Seven students embarks tentatively on their Middle School journey. Each group follows in the footsteps of many generations of boys who have also negotiated the turbulent, challenging, delightful and affirming years that constitute this phase of their lives and education.

As they commence their journey, Year Seven boys are wide-eyed, uncertain and expectant. They look up to the older boys in the schoolyard as role models, to be the ones to furnish the necessary clues regarding “how it is all done”. It is vital to the success of their journey that when they look up and ahead, they see what various writers refer to as “good men” to provide them with the best role models. This perspective confirms the importance of learning from experience, developing values and a clear moral compass and growing into good men with the guidance of older students.

The four-year journey sees Year Seven boys transform into restless, perhaps uncertain, adolescents, unsure how to meet their social, academic and personal challenges. At these times, when they are “questing and testing the water”, just as they need good role models, they also need clear, firm boundaries. When they come into contact with these boundaries, they need to hear that they have made a bad choice and adjust their behaviour in order to do better next time. The school’s rules and established expectations constitute the boundaries that enable students to explore and grow.

It is for this reason that I hope every boy at Gottliebsen House might make some mistakes. Let him push these boundaries while he is still surrounded by good role models and committed teachers who will tell him when he has erred and help him to move forward and do better next time. Let him clearly hear the message that the behaviour may be bad but the boy is not – he has simply made a poor choice from which he can and should learn. If the community at Gottliebsen House permits this type of experiential learning to occur within a supportive and attentive environment, then it will have served its students well as they make that critical journey from boyhood to being the best men.

**Caroline Horton Andrews**  
Head of Gottliebsen House



# Thinking and Learning beyond the classroom

Matthew Cheah and Allen Xiao are two students in Year Ten at Gottlieb House. They share a common approach to learning that is characterised by enthusiastic participation in a range of activities and a passion for certain fields of learning. This year has seen them each achieve recognition in their areas of interest, not only at school but also well beyond the school gates.

For both boys, the opportunity to become involved in any project that takes them and their thinking beyond the parameters of daily school academia is a chance to be relished and savoured. Keen thinkers and ardent scholars, each is already the recipient of School Colours in acknowledgement of his academic contribution and each continues to maintain a high degree of application to all matters academic.

In Matthew's case, Mathematics has long been a focus and source of pleasure. This year, Matthew received his fourth consecutive individual medal in the Australian Mathematics Competition. He also received the Prudence Certificate for getting the highest number of consecutive correct questions.

Allen's achievements extend across many fields. In addition to his school-based studies, he achieved first place in the state final of the Goethe Institute German poetry reading competition. Allen also won the regional finals in Years Seven and Eight and the state final previously in Year Nine. As testament to the breadth of his academic strength and breadth, Allen achieved the rare distinction of a top Victorian student in the University of NSW English competition.

While the school is justifiably proud of Matthew and Allen's achievements, it particularly commends them on their attitude towards thinking and learning that has driven these achievements. They are both living proof that curiosity and persistence, in conjunction with a passion for inquiry and a willingness to take on intellectual challenges, are key ingredients of a rich and rewarding life of the mind.

**Caroline Horton Andrews**  
Head of Gottlieb House









# Kindergartens exceed National Standards

The kindergartens have recently completed the new assessment and rating cycle administered by the Department of Education and Training. The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a benchmark for the quality of children's education and care services across Australia. The PEGS kindergartens have been rated Exceeding National Quality Standard under the National Quality Framework (NQF). This is the highest possible rating.

The kindergartens' strengths, as noted in the summary assessment comments, were their stimulating learning environment, the meaningful interactions between educators and children and the holistic approach shown to caring and educating each child. The Exceeding National Quality Standard rating is an incredible endorsement of the staff and programmes at our kindergartens.

**Pam Hocking**  
Director of Kindergartens





# Maths Talent Quest

## success for our Junior Schools

The Maths Talent Quest is a national competition conducted annually by mathematics associations across Australia. The quest asks its participants to conduct an investigation into an area of mathematics that significantly affects our everyday lives.

The school has a long and proud record of success in the contest and our students have previously won numerous state and national awards. 2015 was a stellar year for the school. More than fifty students from our Junior Schools submitted entries and twenty-five entries were judged to be at a standard for consideration by the state judging level.

The following entries went on to win awards at the Maths Talent Quest ceremony held in October at La Trobe University:

### National Award winners

William McDonough and Kristian Fisticaro (Year Two) - The cost of feeding animals at Melbourne Zoo  
Liara Perumal (Year Two) - The comparison of prices at major supermarkets

Liara's entry was judged to be the best investigation and most outstanding project completed by a primary student in Australia.

### High distinctions (national level)

William Cheah (Year One) - The geometry involved in designing new classrooms

### High Distinctions

Sebastian Eve (Year Two) - The mathematics of raising a chicken  
Yasmin Ritter (Year Four) - The number of staff members needed at a school canteen  
Alana Galtieri (Year Six) - Angles of reflection in tennis  
Krystel Parras (Year Six) – Constructing a vertical garden

### Distinctions

Sophia Megna (Year Two) - Making Cookies  
Cameron Woolley (Year Three) - The amount of water absorbed by a fir tree  
Louisa Zhu (Year Three) - What constitutes a healthy biscuit?  
Samantha Lupton (Year Three) - The mathematics of paper planes  
Aaliya John (Year Five) - The importance of choosing the right golf ball  
Shreshtha Siwach (Year Five) - The geometry of Queens Park  
Laura Hartland van Driel (Year Five) - The mathematics of microbes  
Lauren Cheah and Lauren Bui (Year Six) - The number of rectangles on a chessboard

These wonderful entries resulted in Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School being one of only five schools to win a National Outstanding School Award in this year's quest.

We congratulate all the students who entered the contest in 2015 for both the quality of their work and their dedication to the subject.

**Peter Maher and Craig Rayner**  
Junior School Mathematics Coordinators



# PEGSponentials

Each year as part of The University of Melbourne's Open Day, the Melbourne University Mathematics and Statistics Society (MUMSS) sponsors a Schools Maths Olympics. This competition provides an excellent opportunity for school students to apply their problem-solving skills. Teams of five students compete in an exciting and fast-moving event that combines physical and intellectual challenges. The problems are based more on lateral thinking than manual calculation. The PEGS team, dubbed the PEGSponentials, won the day after being second in 2014.

The top five teams from the MUMSS competition are invited to the University Maths Olympics where school teams are pitted against teams of university students and academic staff. While clearly a tougher competition, the PEGS team finished third overall, defeating all but two teams that consisted of postgraduate students and university lecturers from the Mathematics department. This is a clearly an exceptional achievement from a very talented team of young school mathematicians.

## Theo Vlantis

Maths Enrichment Coordinator

Infinity Centre



*Pegsponentials: Matthew Cheah, Alan Guo, Jacob Abdunour, Chenuka Wijayasinghe, Max West*



# Shining a spotlight on Science

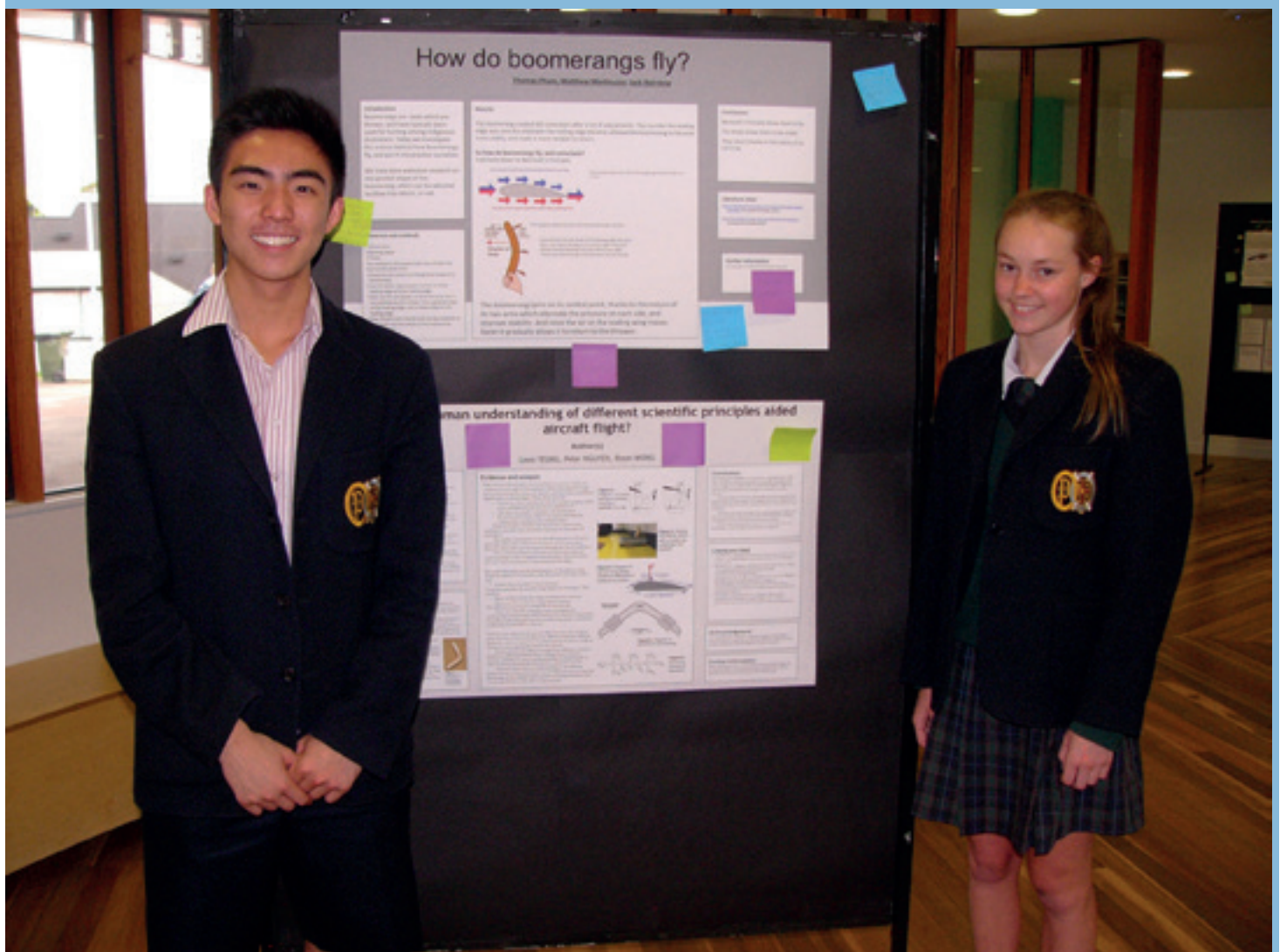


From Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 November, Year Ten students exhibited snapshots of their year's work in Science. "Shining A Spotlight on Science" was an expo-style exhibition across the five Science elective areas in Year Ten. Student-authored scientific posters provided a distillation of their discoveries around carefully crafted essential questions: How does science enable us to solve crimes and shed light on mysteries of the past? How can we determine if there is life beyond our Earth and how did complex life begin? Do chillies have antimicrobial properties? How can we learn about flight from nature? What is society's reaction to cybernetic enhancements and will science go too far?

Also on display were 3D printed models of aerofoils and "Cyborg Beast", roving EV3 robots, mock crime scenes, gel electrophoresis units and augmented reality views of Mars rovers. Throughout the course of the expo, students enthusiastically attended their stands. They engaged with parents, teachers and their peers, inviting discussion and promoting inquiry.

Our guest speaker was Dr Rohan Dowd, a former student and Senior Accelerator Scientist at the Australian Synchrotron. Dr Dowd's enthralling address, entitled "Synchrotrons: Engines of Discovery", drew together many of the themes studied by the students through the school's Year of Light.

**Alexandra Abela**  
Year Ten Science Curriculum Facilitator



# Redesign Your Wellbeing: The Six-Week Challenge

For many individuals, the keys to wellbeing do not lie in complicated routines or elaborate rituals. For most, the keys to wellbeing are quite simple. So simple, that we often forget “the little things” that can have great influence on restoring and consolidating our sense of wellbeing. This notion propelled the development of Redesign Your Wellbeing: The Six-Week Challenge.

On Monday 3 August, the challenge was launched at McNab House. It aimed to engage students in simple routines that are known to help improve wellbeing. For example, students were set weekly challenges such as drinking 2-litres of water per day, getting at least 9-hours of sleep each night and getting 60-minutes of exercise per day.

The Redesign Your Wellbeing challenge culminated on R U OK? Day on Thursday 10 September when we reminded ourselves of the importance of regularly and meaningfully asking our friends, colleagues, and family, "Are you ok?"

The Redesign Your Wellbeing challenge highlights important life-long skills that help everyone to overcome personal struggles and to cope with life's challenges. It serves to highlight that all individuals can improve their wellbeing by incorporating small changes into their daily or weekly routine.

**Geri Abdilla**  
School Psychologist







*Shrine of Remembrance Young Ambassadors: Emma D'Aprano, Elena Tragas, Ellena Szentirmay, Grace Chen and Sarah Barrett with the wreath laid by the school at the Shrine of Remembrance*

# The Shrine of Remembrance Young Ambassador Programme

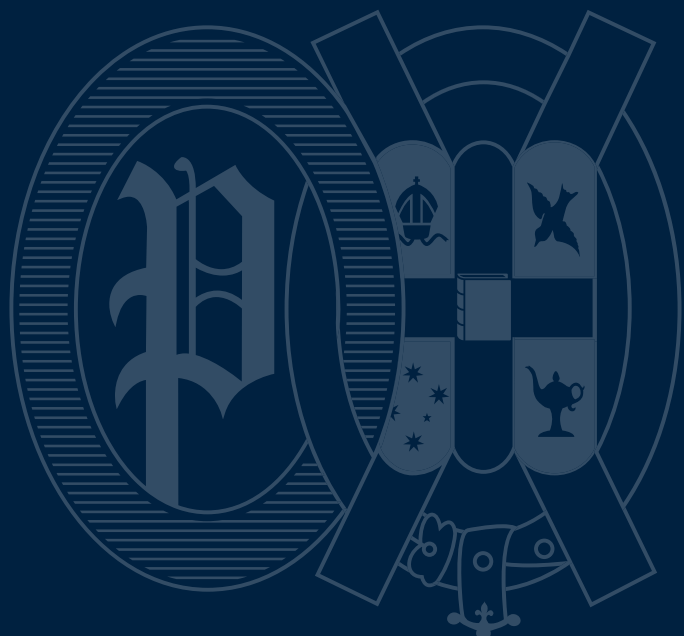
In September each year, ten Shrine Young Ambassadors are appointed to act as leaders and representatives of future generations at the Shrine. In 2015, five Year Nine students from McNab House were selected as Ambassadors in this prestigious programme. Since their appointment, they have undergone extensive training and have travelled to Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives in preparation for their official duties at commemorative services such as Remembrance Day. On 11 November, our students led the official party to the Shrine. They were the only school students permitted inside the Sanctuary during the Ray of Light ceremony. Thomas Stephens (Prep) represented all PEGS students by laying the poppy wreath created by staff, parents and students from McNab House. We commend our five students for volunteering to serve our community and encouraging other young people to understand the importance of remembering and honouring Australia's service men and women.

**Amanda Stephens**  
Year Nine Coordinator

# Celebration Day

Our Year Twelve students finished their formal secondary schooling in high spirits. On their last day of classes, they arrived in fancy dress. With the day's theme being P, we saw, among many things, princesses, penguins, punks, prisoners and police. After Periods One and Two, there was a combined Tutor Group meeting, after which, students moved to the oval when the memory of a strict regime of classes, homework and SACs were put aside and the close and enduring bonds between students became apparent. While enjoying the school barbecue, our departing students participated in sumo wrestling, enjoyed the jumping castle and participated in the inaugural Tutor Group tug-of-war competition. Ms McEwan's tutor group prevailed as the 2015 champions. The day was rounded off with many "interesting" karaoke performances. The good-natured laughter and genuine, resounding applause typified the positive conclusion to a memorable year.

**Kate Dullard**  
Head of Infinity Centre







# Soccer success for Jonathan

What would it be like to represent your country at a World Cup in the planet's most popular sport? For an answer, we need only to ask our 2015 soccer captain, Jonathan Vakirtzis, who represented Australia during the FIFA Under 17 Soccer World Cup in Chile in October this year.

In one of the greatest sporting achievements by a PEGS student in recent memory, Jonathan was so highly rated by his coaching staff that he played every minute of four games against Germany, Mexico, Argentina and Nigeria. Jonathan did his family, his school and himself proud taking on the world's best young players.

He displayed the same skill and determination that we've seen from Jonathan during every game he played with the PEGS Firsts soccer team since Year Nine. He was a member of the PEGS team that visited China in late 2012 and our AGSV Premiership team in 2013. In addition, he has taken his studies seriously and performed well academically. Jonathan completed some of his VCE examinations while in Chile this year. His achievements are amazing and he is an extraordinary example of a passion for soccer and commitment to his studies.

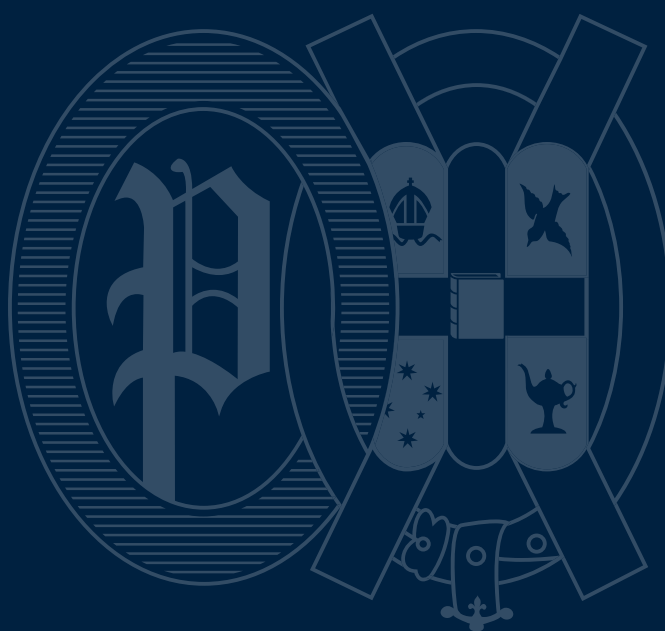
**Colin Cooper**  
First XI Soccer Coach



## Ski trip

This year's ski trip was held at Mount Buller from Wednesday 26 to Sunday 30 August. Twenty-six students competed in alpine skiing and snowboarding events over five days. All skiers made great strides to improve their technique and skills with many personal bests witnessed. The parents of our skiers were also out-in-force helping with race duties and accompanying the skiers around the mountain on non-competition days. The weather generally held and, although the slopes became icy, the skiing was of a high standard. All of the students had fun and learned a great deal about race skiing. Everyone is looking forward to competing again in 2016.

**Catherine Lane**  
Director of Sport





# Speaking out on international issues

Our students have relished opportunities to formulate and express their opinions on current issues and have achieved some outstanding results in recent competitions. The intellectual endeavours and associated successes of our students in the Evatt Trophy has long been an immense source of pride to the school community. Given the chance to represent the current nation-states on the United Nations Security Council, students at the Infinity Centre actively engage with contentious global political issues by debating and negotiating potential solutions. This year, the journey began with the Evatt-in-Schools programme under the tutelage of successful Evatt-veterans from our former student community. This featured a friendly practice-round between classmates where students could ease themselves into the hectic battlefield of diplomacy and debate.

Our students were battle-ready for the preliminary rounds of the interschool Evatt Trophy competition. This year's topics ranged from people smuggling to extreme political parties. Participants were given insight into the difficulty of resolving global conflicts and aligning the differing viewpoints from many nations. The competition is a great opportunity to hone essential life-skills such as teamwork, cooperation, negotiation and public speaking.

One of the participants in the Evatt Trophy, Thao-Mi Bui (Year Twelve), is not only a fine public speaker, she is also a talented writer and was awarded the John Button Memorial Prize for her essay that critically analysed Operation Sovereign Borders. Thao-Mi's clear and logical thinking, the depth of her research and the compassion she showed for those in dire need were ultimately persuasive.

Most recently students from McNab House have achieved outstanding success in the Grand Final of the UN Youth Voice Victoria Speaking Competition, with Mirella Wong (Year Eight) winning the Junior Division and Liefke Davey (Year Nine) winning the Senior Division. Vani Datta (Year Ten) received an Honourable Mention in the Senior Division of the competition. All three girls will now have the opportunity to compete in the National Finals to be held in Canberra in April 2016.



*UN Youth Voice Victoria Speaking Competition achievers: Mirella Wong, Vani Datta Liefke Davey*







# Concerto Concert

On Sunday 30 August, the auditorium of the HR Stevens Music Centre resounded to the *Star Wars* theme, played by the school's orchestra. This was the introduction to the 2015 Concerto Concert. After a photo display that introduced the seven soloists, the three hundred-strong audience settled into an afternoon of incredible music.

Our seven soloists, Richard Potter (trumpet), Kimberley Cao (violin), Miriam Flores (flute), Mark Yin (piano), Jared McCunnie (tuba), Sarah Wang (cello) and Helen Cai (piano), having successfully auditioned in March this year, displayed the extraordinary musical skill and courage that is necessary to perform a concerto.

While the soloists were extraordinary, the senior orchestra, in various configurations, provided incredible support, accompanying every performance throughout the concert.

**Peter Chaplin**  
Director of Music











# Peter Pan Jr

The biennial musical has now become an annual event. The presentation of the school's first musical for students in Years Six to Eight was a highlight of this year's incredibly active performing arts programme. Disney's *Peter Pan Jr* was performed over three nights to sold out houses at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre in August. It provided many younger students with the opportunity to experience the personal, social and educational benefits that music theatre can provide. But perhaps, more importantly, it was also a whole lot of fun!

For three nights we laughed and sang along with the cast as they took us on a fantastic adventure to Neverland. We marvelled as Peter (Angelo Vasilakakos), Wendy (Ariadne Daglis), John (Joshua Boulton) and Michael (Zachariah Kozman) really did "fly"; we booed and hissed the dastardly, yet hilarious, Hook (Dana Murfett) and her equally comic side-kick Smee (Linkin Leigh) as they plotted our hero's demise; we were mesmerised by Tinker Bell (Lucy Stubbs) and her tinkering... bell! Most of all, we simply admired the talents of every member of the fifty strong cast, all of whom were ably supported backstage by a small army of students and staff. The overall professionalism of the show was testament to the hard work that each member of the cast and crew had put in over many months. I suspect that the musical is here to stay!

Thanks go to all of those who sprinkled some fairy dust on this production and helped us to create an experience of lasting joy for everyone who was involved.

**Peter Bohmer**  
Director of Performing Arts



# Friends of PEGS

With the end of the year approaching and an array of successful events across the calendar, the Friends of PEGS has again met its objectives of building a sense of school community while financially supporting projects that benefit our students.

The most recent major event was the Annual Craft Market. Prior to the day, the tireless work of committee members, led by Mrs Lyn LoMoro, ensured everything was in place. All stops were out from early Friday morning through to late Saturday evening with a stellar effort by volunteers, class representatives and the committee. Four hundred parents supported the day.

Kids of all ages enjoyed more rides than ever and the addition of a jumping castle, photo booth and show bags gave the Craft Market a great carnival atmosphere. The seventy market stalls proved to be very popular and the White Elephant stall once again took centre stage. A range of great food kept everyone satisfied into the late afternoon.

Preparations are already underway for the 2016 Craft Market. If you would like to be part of the event, please contact me to make sure you are kept up-to-date with our plans.

Our final event for the year, the Ladies' High Tea, was held at the Grand Hyatt on Friday 4 December. This is another event that strengthen bonds between community members.

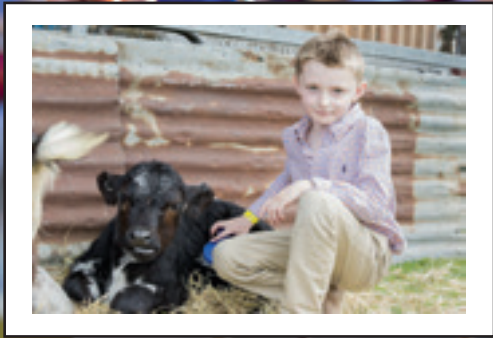
In 2016, the Friends of PEGS will again run its outdoor movie night in the courtyard at the Infinity Centre. The movie, and date, will be circulated to parents at the start of next year.

On behalf of the Friends of PEGS Committee, I would like to offer our thanks for your support in 2015. We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

**Nic Burt**  
President









# From the Archives Brigid Cooper Archivist

## Donations from daughters

Mrs Ingerid Barnes, from Mallacotta in East Gippsland, has contacted the PEGS Archives. She has donated a Penleigh hat badge, which belonged to her mother, Mrs Dorothy Heuch (née Laver). Dorothy lived in Mantell Street, Moonee Ponds and attended Penleigh Girls' School from 1911 to 1918. Her father was well known in the local timber industry and her brother, John, attended Melbourne Grammar School. Having no school photographs of her mother, Ingerid was delighted that we found one in the Penleigh Magazine.



*Dorothy Laver's Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School hat badge. (Donor: Ingerid Barnes [PEGS04963])*



*The 1918 Penleigh Tennis Four: Fay Tabor, Hazel McDowell, Winnie Drysdale, Dorothy Laver. Photographer: Agnes Montgomery. (The Penleigh Magazine 1918 [PH06164])*

Ms Wendy Hynam-Smith has donated book prizes and an engraved, silver napkin ring on behalf of her mother, Mrs Margaret Hynam-Smith (née Mills), who is currently living in Castlemaine. Margaret was a student at Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School from Kindergarten (in 1928) to 1939 when she was a Head Prefect, member of the Magazine Committee and Vice-President of the Christian Union Executive. After leaving Penleigh she was part of the Ad Altiora committee for some time.

At age 92, Margaret is still very active in the Castlemaine community, particularly the Red Cross, that presented her in 2010 with a Laurel Wreath for Fifty Years service.



*Mrs Margaret Hynam-Smith (née Mills) at Government House in May 2010 receiving the Red Cross Laurel Wreath for Fifty Years service to the Red Cross from Mrs Jan de Kretser. (Source: Wendy Hynam-Smith)*



*A silver serviette ring won by Margaret Mills at the Penleigh Sports in 1932. (Donor: Hynam-Smith family [PEGS04964])*



# Visits from brothers

## Frank and Edward Shann

After more than fifty years, Frank and Edward Shann returned to Raleigh Street. They lived upstairs, in what is now Gresham Robinson House, while their father, Dr Frank Shann, was Principal of Essendon Grammar School from 1952 to 1962.

Their memories included ball-games in the hallway, the bedroom they shared, the family's first television, courtesy of their mother's position on Children's Television advisory committee, young Frank's biology dissections on the balcony outside his parents' bedroom, having the run of the schoolyard and classrooms at weekends and tree-planting at the new Keilor East site.

One of the most intriguing stories was the family pastime of listening to multiple radio stations on Saturday afternoon and publishing up-to-the-minute VFL football match results via a chalkboard hung from the front of the school. Locals came to rely on this information, some even popping out from the Essendon match at Windy Hill, to check the other scores. The two brothers shared the coveted role of writing on the chalkboard.

Professor Frank Shann, AM, is now at the Royal Children's Hospital as Professor of Critical Care Medicine. Dr Edward Shann is an Economic Consultant. The school was pleased to renew the connection with the Shann family and we hope to see them at future school events.



Brothers, Edward and Frank Shann revisit Raleigh Street with Brigid Cooper and Tony Larkin



The Lloyd brothers — John, Ernest and Evan — winners at the Athletics Sports 1951. (The Triune 1951, Photo: "the Sun News-Pictorial" [PH04612])

The Lloyd Brothers - John, Ernest and Evan - winners at the Athletics Sports 1951. (The Triune 1951, Photo: "the Sun News-Pictorial" [PH04612])

## Ern Lloyd

To celebrate his eightieth birthday, the family of Mr Ernest Lloyd organised a mystery bus trip that stopped at significant places around Melbourne. One stop was his old school, Essendon Grammar School, where he was met by schoolmate, Arthur Stubbs, and school Archivist, Brigid Cooper.

Ern and two of his brothers, Evan and John, came to the school from Essendon Primary School and stayed on, even after their father, Mr Cameron Lloyd, a member of the School Council, died suddenly in 1948. Their sister, Claire had attended Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School. Their mother, Mrs Gertrude Lloyd, was President of the Essendon Grammar School Mothers' Social Group and also taught music and speech at the school.

Between 1948 and 1951, Ern's list of leadership and sporting achievements at the school was impressive, including appointments as Prefect, Captain of Napier House, Athletics and the First XI Cricket, Vice-Captain of the First XVIII; and the awarding of both the Middle School and Senior School Learmonth Prizes.



School mate, Arthur Stubbs dresses up to surprise Ern, John and Evan Lloyd outside their old school. (PEGS Archives)

# Former Students' Association News

## PEGS Hockey Club Champions

PEGS Hockey Club has capped off another successful season with five teams making it into the finals. The Vic League 2 and Vic League 2 Reserves Men's teams won their respective premierships. Both sides will be promoted into the highly competitive Vic League 1 next season. The finals were extraordinarily exciting. The Vic League 2 side came from 0-2 down at half time to win their game 3-2. The Vic League 2 Reserves team took the game into penalties after drawing 3-3 at full time.

PEGS Hockey Club welcome all players no matter what skill level or age. For more information please contact club president, Aran Smith, at [aranjssmith@gmail.com](mailto:aranjssmith@gmail.com) or [pegshc@hockeyvictoria.org.au](mailto:pegshc@hockeyvictoria.org.au).



## PEGS Soccer Club

The inaugural season of the PEPS Soccer Club began in ecstatic fashion with a win over the previous season's premiers. This set the tone for an eventful winter. Former students and friends from all backgrounds were unified by their love of the game, regular hot meals and a yarn after training. This created a great friendly and welcoming culture at the club. If you are interested in joining the club, please look at the PEPS Soccer Club Facebook page for updates. Please be quick; we have grand plans for the club.

We appreciate the school's support for our vision. The efforts of Mr Alex Stephenson to initiate the club have been extraordinary. The PEPS Soccer Club is definitely up and running.

**Lloyd House**  
Class of 2011



# Alumni Spotlight

## Q&A Estelle Stathoulis, Class of 2008

*Estelle Stathoulis is a member of the three piece band 'Tequila Mockingbyrd'. She was recently invited by the Australian Defence Force to perform for the troops in the Middle East.*

*What have you been doing since leaving PEGS in 2008?*

I went to uni and completed an undergraduate degree. During this time I met Jess and Josie. We jammed a little but didn't take the idea of a band too seriously. After graduation, I did a bit of travelling and after I returned the three of us got our heads together and said, "Let's do this."

*During your time as a student at PEGS, what did you like most? Was there anyone who inspired you?*

I really enjoyed being involved with music. My guitar teacher, Bill Tomasini, invited me to join the guitar ensemble after a couple of lessons and urged me not to "pussy-foot" around in my practice lessons. He told me that I was good enough to play first guitar parts. The Music House soon became a second home to me, especially during VCE, as I was there three to four times a week, for rehearsals or music lessons. I guess the inspiration to start a band came from leaving school. I went from playing twice weekly with the guitar ensemble and stage band to not playing at all. I suffered withdrawal.

*Tell us about 'Tequila Mockingbyrd' and your time in the Middle East.*

After winning a competition to open for the Baby Animals and the Superjesus in May this year, Dave 'Higgo' Higgins (ex-Triple M presenter) took us under his wing. We've played at great venues such as the Hi-fi bar (now Maxx Watts) and have just come back from touring with Thirsty Merc. We released an EP of four tracks last year and have just finished a full-length album that we will launch in February.

We were approached to go to the Middle East by the Entertainment Department of the Defence Force. For us, it was not only an honour to be asked to play for our troops but one of those "once in a lifetime" opportunities. Our reception from the troops was something I'll never forget. Everyone was so welcoming and so grateful for the distraction from their daily jobs. I cannot emphasise enough how well we were looked after in the Middle East.

*What's the most rewarding part of your work?*

It's always amazing to be on stage, having fun playing your songs and to see others enjoying it and shouting your own lyrics back at you. At the end of the day, our job is to entertain and it's what we love to do.

*What is your favourite memory of PEGS?*

Getting to be a part of the first PEGS musical *Little Shop of Horrors* was a special memory for me. We had such a ball putting on the show. It was my earliest memory of having the confidence to sing solo.

*What advice would you give to young PEGS alumni?*

Anything you could want to do in life is possible if you work at it. Don't take no for an answer and go for it.

*What do you do in your spare time?*

I'm trying to juggle my performance career and Master of Journalism. I also have a black belt in karate so I love to keep these skills up. More often than not, my spare time is filled with playing gigs or going to gigs. Melbourne has the best music scene in Australia and we're spoilt for choice!



# 20 Year Reunion Class of 1995



Saturday 29 August saw the Class of 95 celebrate its twenty-year reunion. The Kent Hotel in Carlton played host to eighty former students reminiscing about “old times” whilst listening to Coolio’s *Gangsta’s Paradise* and the *Stayin’ Alive* remix by N-Trance.

Catching up with friends and classmates from twenty years ago was a daunting prospect but from the moment we entered the room, the warm, friendly atmosphere calmed the nerves and the next four hours were spent discussing jobs, kids, past-times, interests and, most importantly, memories of school life.

It was a shame the venue closed at midnight. Quite a few revellers headed out and partied until “the early hours”. The night can only be described as a great one and we feel very fortunate that the school provides opportunities like this for its former students to get together.

The reunion’s organizing committee was Joanne Kakafikas, Scott Gowland, Nick Kakalis and Angela Rogers (nee deBoer). The organisation support from Sandra Bates (Former Students’ Association) was critical.



20 year reunion committee: Nick Kakalis, Joanne Kakafikas, Scott Gowland, Angela Rogers (nee deBoer)



# 30 Year Reunion Class of 1985

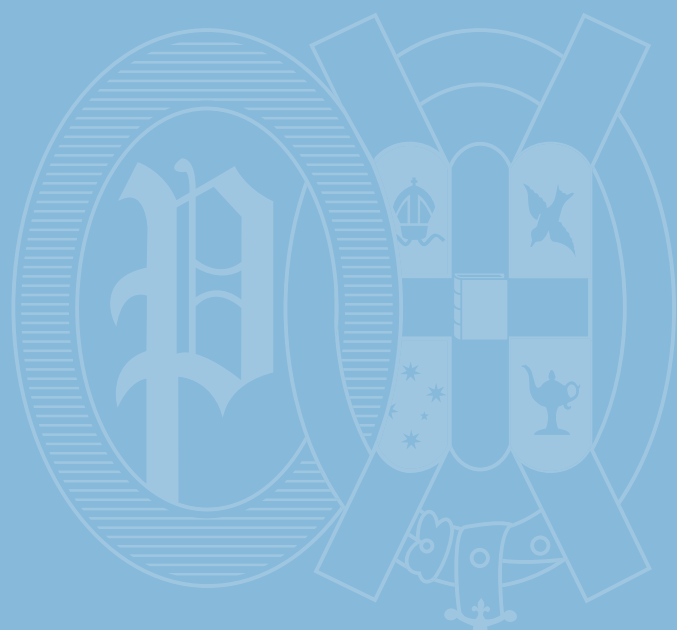
1985 was the year Essendon crushed Hawthorn in the Grand Final, *Neighbours* was launched on Channel 7 and we completed Year Twelve. We had big dreams and, many of us, had big hair to match! Thirty years later, it was with much excitement that we headed to The Kent Hotel in Carlton on Saturday 24 October for our thirty-year reunion. The response was overwhelming. Almost one hundred people attended, some coming from interstate and overseas.

The room was buzzing with the same comfortable atmosphere that we had enjoyed at school. Many reminisced about the fun times and the various antics we got up to. It was lovely to see so many people reconnecting and simply picking up where they had left off. Others chatted at length with people they had not been close to at school. The number of past students who have chosen to send their own children to PEGS was notable.

The organising committee - Jenny McKenzie, Chris Sikavitsas and Michael Wicks – need to be thanked. The support of Sandra Bates, Leigh Philpot and Anthony Simpson, all from the Former Students' Association, must be mentioned.

The overwhelming sentiment from a very successful evening, despite some bleary eyes on the next day, was our anticipation of our next reunion.

**Anita Alweyn** (nee Ram)





*40 year reunion organisers: Marian Wensor and Henry Gomizel*

## 40 Year Reunion Class of 1975

The PEGS Class of '75 kicked off its forty-year reunion at the Kent Hotel on Saturday 31 October. More than forty past students attending thanks to the wonders of social media and frantic phone calls.

After ten years since our previous reunion, we were very excited to meet again and share stories of teachers, events and amazing feats of sporting prowess. There was lots of laughter and "remember when" moments.

After forty years, the combination of a few drinks and poorer eyesight meant that we had to get close-and-personal to read the nametags of unrecognisable classmates. While our faces may have started to age, old friendships were quickly reignited and ageless. Hopefully we will do it again at our next reunion.

Sandra Bates from the Former Students' Association was critical to the success of the reunion.

**Marian Wensor** (nee Lee) and **Henry Gomizel**





# FSA Functions

**AGM** - 14 March

**Football Lunch** - more details to come

**Hockey Breakfast** - more details to come

**10 Year Reunion** - 30 July

**20 Year Reunion** - 27 August

**30 Year Reunion** - 22 October

**Golf Day** - 12 December

For more information on any of these events, please email [fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au).

## Private Functions

### Golden Girls' Luncheons

9 March, 13 July, 9 November at Cafe Domain, 171 Domain Road, South Yarra at 11.30am.

Contact: Judith Ross - 0417 538 335.

## Facebook

If you have a Facebook account, please search for PEGS Former Students' Association and 'like' our page.

Our aim is to establish and foster friendships between the former students of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School and its founding schools.

## LinkedIn:

## PEGS Business Network

We invite you to save the dates below for the PEGS Business Network major events for 2016. Further information to be provided in the New Year.

### 2016 PEGSBN Launch Event

Friday 8 April

Venue: TBC

Times: 7.00am - 9.00am

### Budget, Business and Economy Breakfast

Friday 27 May

Venue: TBC

Times: 7.00am-9.00am

### Olympics and Business Of Sport Breakfast

Friday 5 August

Venue: TBC

Times: 7.00am - 9.00am

### End Of Year Celebration

Friday 25 November

# Announcements

## Births

**Colleen O'Loughlin** ('04) and **Anthony Simpson** ('96) (Former Students' Association President; Girls 1st XI Hockey Coach), a son, Harper Chase, on 2 October 2015

## Deaths

**Jennifer Jane Crighton (nee Price)**, previously **McLaren** (Penleigh 1947 - 48) on 11 December 2014.

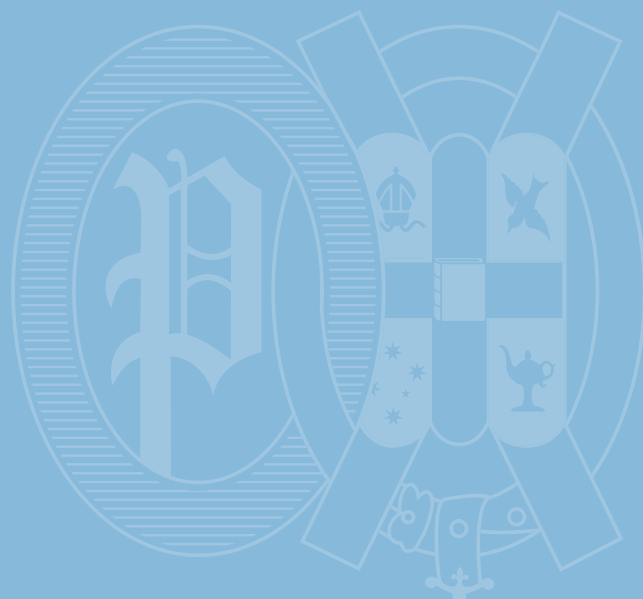
**Lorraine Frances McGregor Neill (nee Dawson)**, previously **Allibon** (Penleigh 1952 - 54) on 18 May 2015.

**Gypsie (Sarah) Kemp**, previously **Burt** (Penleigh 1948 - 53) on 9 January 2015.

**Robert William Malcolm (Bob) Fulton** (EGS 19?? - 61) on 19 August 2015.

**Jessie Williams (nee Bottoms)** (Penleigh 1912 - 18, then PLC) on 23 October 2015, aged 108.

If you have any information you would like to share, including your marriage, birth of children, career changes or travel plans, please email [Sandra.bates@pegs.vic.edu.au](mailto:Sandra.bates@pegs.vic.edu.au)



# Dates for the Diary

## Term dates 2016

### Term One

Monday 1 February - Wednesday 23 March

### Term Two

Monday 11 April – Friday 24 June

### Term Three

Tuesday 12 July – Friday 9 September

### Term Four

Monday 3 October – Wednesday 7 December

## Former Students' Association

14 March - Annual General Meeting

30 July– 10 Year Reunion (2006), Kent Hotel, North Carlton

27 August – 20 Year Reunion (1996), Kent Hotel, North Carlton

22 October – 30 Year Reunion (1986), Kent Hotel, North Carlton

12 December – Golf Day

## PEGS Business Network

8 April – Launch Event

27 May – Budget, Business and Economy Breakfast

5 August – Olympics and Business of Sport Breakfast

25 November – End of Year Celebration

