

PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Altior et Sapientior

March 2018





From the Principal

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein

The school has annual themes. It was my role on the first day of this year to let students know that the 2018 theme is Peace. Inspired by the centenary of the end of World War I – the tragically misnamed “war to end all wars” – the school wishes every member of its community a life of peace. While no war is satisfactory, and keen not to diminish the trauma associated with other conflicts, the specifics of the Great War – the inconclusive and staggering futility of trench warfare and the attached cost to human life and dignity – were a low point of human experience.

The notion of peace takes numerous forms. There’s “peace of mind”. We refer to “being at peace with ourselves” or “making peace with someone”; we talk about “peace offerings” and “keeping the peace”. In all of these phrases, peace is a revered and desirable state. The purpose of an annual theme is the exploration of another aspect of learning and understanding. Depending upon the theme, it may provide students with insight into the context of their lives or help with the cultivation of a tolerant prospect or increase alertness to and respect for other cultures and languages.

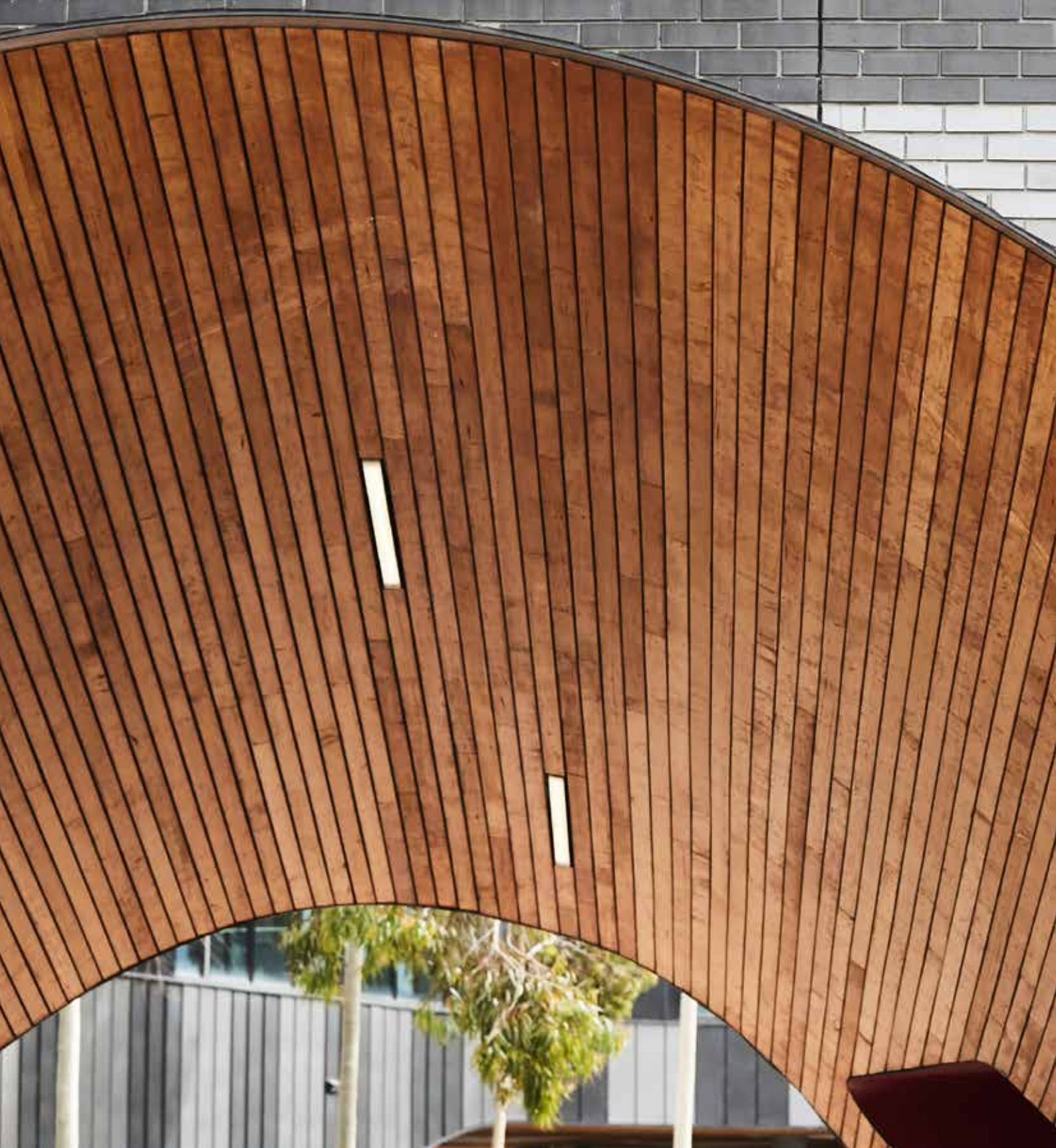
This is also one of the purposes of the overseas study tours that the school sponsors. At one point during December 2017, over one hundred and fifty PEGS students and sixteen staff were overseas on school tours. Whether the tour to NASA, the World Challenge expedition to Vietnam or the basketball tour to the US and Canada, these students were benefitting from the school’s new commitment to internationalism. Until recently, overseas tours tended largely to serve students of foreign languages. Regular tours to China, France and Germany were the norm along with the occasional sports tour, usually to China for soccer, Britain for cricket or New Zealand for netball.

While the evolution to more diverse destinations has included, just to cite 2018, a hockey tour to New Zealand, walking the Kokoda Trail, doing social justice work in Sri Lanka and a cultural tour to Italy, when added to the destinations mentioned from 2017 and the continuance this year of language tours to China, France and Germany, the scope of the school’s overseas tours is impressive. Particularly, the destinations better match a fuller range of student interests and often provide experiences that are generally unavailable to tourists.

Students usually return from these tours with new understandings, new abilities and a greater sense of themselves and their capabilities that, it is hoped, will complement their work and interests at school, especially in the classroom. Overseas experiences and our annual themes are only two of the many ways that the school aims to build upon the extensive and diverse experiences that students enjoy in the classroom. They are part of the school’s efforts further to guide and develop its students.

Tony Larkin

VCE Results 2017



The 2017 VCE results once again provided us with much to celebrate. Three students achieved a perfect ATAR score of 99.95. These students are: Kevin Tran, Allen Xiao and Leon Yeung. Cindy Zhang and Dewmi Abeysirigunawardana, with scores of 99.90, were also duxes of the school. While the academic ability of these students was confirmed when results were released, these students have also modelled generous commitment to our co-curricular programme as well as taking up additional opportunities, demonstrating that a PEGS education can offer students the chance to excel academically while enjoying a broad range of experiences.

All five of these students are holders of School Colours. Allen was the Leader of Chinese Orchestra and Drama, and along with Dewmi, was a key member of our Year Twelve debating team. Leon captained the senior Badminton team for three years. Kevin and Allen were co-editors of Buzz, the student magazine, and within this group are students who also made strong contributions to the Social Justice group. It is always a wonderful reminder of the value of the school's co-curricular programme when we see students so heavily involved in school life producing such outstanding academic results.

The results of the entire cohort were again positive and reflected the fine academic programme offered at PEGS and the willingness of our students to take on subjects that will provide them with an academic challenge. Our median study score was 35 and 24% of study scores were 40 or higher. Our median ATAR score was 88.75.

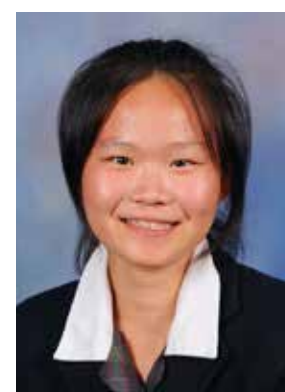
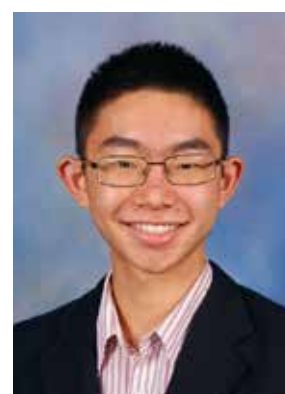
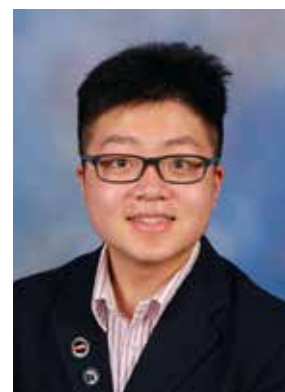
Other statistics of note were:

- 21 students (or 9% of PEGS students) were in the top 1% of students in the state obtaining an ATAR of 99.00 or above
- 28% of PEGS students received an ATAR of 95.00 or above
- 47% of students – over 100 students – obtained an ATAR of 90 or above
- Perfect study scores of 50 were obtained on fourteen occasions, in the following subjects:
 - English: Michael Belbruno, Kevin Tran, Eleanor West, Allen Xiao
 - Further Mathematics: Einon McGrory-Perich, Riley Scarce
 - Physical Education: Jordan Cransberg, Zoe Cransberg
 - Chemistry: Kevin Tran
 - Economics: Rebecca Gibbons
 - Health and Human Development: Victoria Grillo
 - Legal Studies: Rebecca Gibbons
 - Media: Holly Blackmore
 - Physics: Matthew Cheah

When tertiary places were announced in January, a remarkable 74 percent of students were offered their first preference and 18 percent of students were offered their second preference. 98 percent of our students were offered one of their first three preferences. The University of Melbourne again was the most popular destination for our students (33%). RMIT increased in popularity this year (24%), with Monash decreasing slightly (17%), and a slight decrease in the number of students heading to La Trobe (10%). Health Science, Commerce/Business and Natural/Physical Science courses were the most popular for our students, at 24%, 21% and 18% respectively.

The Class of 2017 has much to be proud of in terms of their academic achievements, but more broadly, in terms of the contribution they have made to the school in their time here, and we wish them all the best as they take on new challenges beyond the school gates.

Kate Dullard
Head of Infinity Centre





Preparing for a brand new future

A recent headline “The skills you’ll need by 2020 (and beyond)” grabbed my attention. The writer identified ten skills people will need to be marketable, job-ready and future-proof in the next decade. After some preliminary references to science fiction stories, a DeLorean and the irrepressible flux capacitor, the writer settled into the more serious business of spruiking the skills that will be vital for the workforce in an evolving and increasingly complex future employment landscape. Among the top ten skills cited were Emotional Intelligence, Negotiation, Creativity and also Critical Thinking.

While the article was pitched at those seeking to prepare for jobs of the future, I could see immediately that its author had also, spectacularly and presciently, managed to highlight skills and attributes that are also the key elements of a PEGS education. Here in print were the central tenets of our Thinking Culture and the core understandings that underpin our approach to Care and Wellbeing.

For example, the article contended that in the future, problem solving skills will be indispensable. In fact, Complex Problem Solving was right at the top of the list. At PEGS, we also recognise that students need to develop not only key understandings but the capacity to solve new and complex problems while also collaborating effectively within a team.

Was this just a stunning coincidence? I would suggest it affirms our approach to education. As our Year Seven students ponder a bubble prac in Science, interpret weather maps in Geography and collaborate to solve problems at Maths Games Days, they are already, unwittingly acquiring and demonstrating many of the skills that will equip them for the, as yet only imagined, future. The school has already, through the adoption of the Culture of Thinking and the integration of a broad humanist curriculum, acknowledged the truth of this future trajectory. Thus our students are well placed to be not only competent contributors, but actually leaders of thinking, in the Brave New World that awaits.

Caroline Horton Andrews
Head of Gottliebse House



The Journey Begins

The start of the kindergarten year is an exciting time for children, families and educators.

It is a time of great expectations.

It is when children develop a sense of belonging in a safe, happy, healthy and engaging environment.

It is when caring and respectful relationships are developed and nurtured between children, families and educators.

It is when children begin to develop secure, confident relationships with adults, and happy cooperative relationships with their peers.

It is the beginning of our journey of collaborative play, interactions, friendships, trust, learning and thinking.

Anne Maree Florussen

Director of Kindergartens (Acting)





Care and Wellbeing

Schools play an important role in providing a safe and caring environment for young people so they can develop as resilient learners. At the Essendon Campus, lunchtime Art activities are a renowned aspect of our care and wellbeing programme. These activities assist students develop social competence, make friends and develop secure relationships with significant adults. The Art rooms are safe, engaging and fun places to be and many boys each day head upstairs in the Ian Morton Centre to see Mr Henderson or Mrs Mullen, to get their hands dirty with paint, clay, oil pastels or glue and to spend time with their friends constructing cars, bridges, jet planes and other exciting objects.

Each year, when boys are asked to reflect on highlights of their year, many list visiting the Art rooms at lunchtime as an essential part of their school experience. It is a haven, where boys can enter many and varied worlds, designing castles and machines. Disengagement leads to underachievement, and we know that boys need stimulating, hands-on activities to maintain their love of learning. Initiatives such as the lunchtime Art activities provide an avenue for many of the boys to flourish and gives purpose to their lunchtimes.

Craig McFarlane
Head of Junior School (boys)





Welcome to Junior School (girls)

Changing schools is often challenging for students and families. Leaving friends, teachers they know and a familiar environment can cause students anxiety and stress. For the girls in Years Three and Five who commenced at PEGS in 2018, the transition has been supported in a number of ways.

Changeover Day, when they will step into their new classes and meet their teachers, is an important step. A written invitation from an appointed buddy, which includes an offer of friendship, is one way the concerns of new students are alleviated. For many students their buddy does become a true friend and for others, the matchmaking provides a conduit for other friendships.

While friends are high on the list, students also want a kind and understanding teacher who is able to connect with them. The handover of information and meetings with parents help to develop rapport and reduce parental anxiety.

Difference can be a positive. New students comment on particular activities and classes that are different from their old schools. Specialist subjects like Art, Dance and Music score highly and they love the canteen and an accessible library. This variety adds a dynamism and excitement as does the open areas in which to play.

The transition to becoming a PEGS girl is supported and nurtured through daily conversations about celebrating achievement and acknowledging their growth through a positive mindset. In a very brief time newness wears off as they throw themselves into their learning.

Christine Hallman

Head of Junior School (girls)





Making meaningful connections

Wellbeing is nurtured by mutual respect and a strong sense of connectedness.

During Term One this year the focus of our Care and Wellbeing programme has been Community and Connectedness. Students at all year levels have engaged in learning activities including circle-time and other conversations which explore our Mutual Respect, Bystander Code of Conduct and ICT policies. On Friday 16 March, McNab and Gottlieb House students participated in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence which encourages young people to make their real and virtual worlds safe and inclusive for everyone.

Prompted by presentations from Cyberbusters and Cyberia, students and staff have also discussed the importance of connecting safely and responsibly on-line. Assisting students to manage their screen time as well as behave ethically and responsibly on-line underpins the "Disconnect to reconnect" initiative that was launched this year. We hope it will support face-to-face connections at home and school.

Our Culture of Thinking is supported by the deliberate use of technology with iPads used daily to access resources and to help students make their thinking visible. PEGSpace allows us to share learning resources and communicate about home learning activities and LearningField gives us access to a vast array of textbooks.

But, we take seriously our responsibility to teach students about appropriate use of technology at home, in the workplace and at school. Our Care and Wellbeing programme encourages students to think about how and when they are using their devices so that they support the connectedness that lies at the heart of our community.

Rebecca Anderson, Marinda Hill, Alison Lochhead and Amanda Stephens
Year Level Coordinators, McNab House



YESS

In Year Eight at Gottliebsen House, students understand the value of self-reliance, independence and giving things a real go. This year is a big step up from Year Seven and part of that is the YESS certificate.

YESS stands for Year Eight Simple Skills and in the programme students get to learn how to sew buttons, polish shoes, tie ties, shake hands and send emails. So far they have mastered threading the needle (not easy!) and we are looking forward to actually sewing on buttons!

The real lesson is learning to look after oneself rather than having to rely on others to carry out basic tasks.

When the buttons are done, it is on to the shoe shining. In Term Two there will be no better ties than those worn by the Year Eight boys!

Clare Langford
Year Eight Coordinator

Simon McInerney
Year Eight Student Coordinator





Transition issues

During their time at school students grow from children into young adults, and their schooling needs to grow with them, providing learning experiences to suit their developmental needs. Each stage of the PEGS experience is designed to be challenging and enriching in its own right, and at the right time, but also preparation for what is to come.

The transition to secondary schooling provides boys and girls with new opportunities to apply what they have learned during their primary years as they enter a new place, with a new and larger cohort. At the Keilor East campus they have access to programmes and resources appropriate to their age, including new opportunities to be involved in sport, music, drama and dance.

During their Middle School years students not only enjoy experiences and challenges that are worthy in their own right, they also develop the skills and dispositions that will prepare them for senior schooling, and life beyond. In class and beyond, opportunities to practise what it means to be courageous, persistent and reflective as well as hopeful, compassionate and active help students becoming their own best version of themselves.

Each year many new faces join us at McNab and Gottliebsen Houses, sharing the experience of moving to Year Seven. It is an important milestone marking their growth into adolescence, with all the joys and challenges this stage of life entails, and we look forward to watching them grow and develop as learners as well as young men and women.

Anthony Simmons
Head of McNab House

PEGS: An AGSV school



Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School joined the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (AGSV), one of Victoria's leading sporting associations, sixty years ago when an application for membership from the Principal, Frank Shann, and Vice Principal, Alec Sloan, was approved. Since then, the school has been an enthusiastic member in the association.

Known mainly for its sports competitions, the association is more than this. Importantly it supports a strong sporting culture among the schools in which good sportsmanship and the pursuit of excellence is applauded. It also holds an annual meeting for its nine Principals, their Executive Assistants and the schools' Student Leaders to further enhance the bonds between the schools.

On Tuesday 27 February, this annual meeting was held at PEGS. In the morning, the Principals, all Directors of the AGSV Board, held their Annual General Meeting; their EAs considered the question 'What is the EA of the future'; and the students discussed how to maximise their leadership roles. Afterwards, they had lunch together providing them with a more informal setting in which to get to know each other and share ideas.

Nina Bilewicz
Vice Principal





The UMNoS Project

Since 2016, the school has been a member of The University of Melbourne Network of Schools (UMNoS) that aims to support schools as they work on improving student learning outcomes. As part of this network we have been introduced to some of the latest research in education and these ideas have been incorporated into professional learning sessions for teachers in all sections of the school. In addition, PEGS has collaborated with other schools with the common goal of improving student writing. This opportunity to share ideas, experiences and expertise is a key feature of the UMNoS initiative. It is based on the premise that schools will achieve more working together than in isolation.

It has been said that good writing is clear thinking made visible. The focus on improving writing for our UMNoS Project has fitted in well with our Culture of Thinking. In particular, we have focused on developing the capacity of our students to reason with evidence more effectively in their non-fiction writing. As part of this school-wide effort, teachers have implemented a range of strategies and selected appropriate thinking routines to develop the ability of their learners to reason in their writing. Furthermore, through the completion of a variety of written tasks across learning areas, the importance of being able to justify their claims or position with sufficient and appropriate evidence has been emphasised to our students.

Ultimately, whether it is a piece of persuasive writing, a source analysis in History or a report for a Science experiment, tasks like these help prepare our learners to apply their reasoning skills in real-world writing tasks.

Sheri McGrath
University of Melbourne Network of Schools Coordinator





Leadership seminar at Infinity Centre

Straight after the flurry of settling back into school, the 2018 Leadership Seminar was held on Sunday 4 February. Students streamed into the IC campus early in the morning, not knowing what to expect. Matt Kershaw, CEO of the not-for-profit organisation yLead, and his smiling yLead volunteers greeted us.

With each of Matt's anecdotes, he made a point about leadership. He explained that you can't expect others to step out of their comfort zone if you, as a leader, are not willing to do so. This really hit home as many of us are afraid to stand out from the crowd for fear of being laughed at or being the "odd one out".

The skipping rope activity was the most outstanding part of the seminar. Everyone had to run under the turning skipping rope and if it touched anyone, we had to start again. Initially, everyone ran at the rope as individuals. After several attempts, we developed a strategy, forming lines and counting in unison. Over one hundred people passed under the rope in less than eight seconds. In addition to lots of adrenaline and laughter, the activity showed us the importance of working together.

I took away many important points for being a better leader. I'm sure others have similarly learnt to inspire others as we deal with the challenges ahead of us.

Ruth Choo
Year Twelve



World Challenge Expedition to Vietnam

Four teams of well-prepared Year Ten and Eleven students boarded flights to Vietnam at the end of last year. Immediately immersed, groups had to exchange foreign currency, book transport and connect to the phone network, all with a limited understanding of Vietnamese. Independence and responsibility were the catchcries.

The students rose to the challenge and were soon off to the adventures that would lie ahead. It was straight onto the busy streets to experience the intensity of Vietnamese daily life. Groups learned to dodge a seemingly endless stream of mopeds just to safely cross the street.

Dinner options were explored. Many went for local delicacies, like fresh street-food - bánh mì, steaming bowls of pho or grilled quail eggs - while others opted for hilarious western-styled restaurants that never quite felt like home.

For one team, a reflective visit to the War Remnants Museum was followed by an overnight bus trip into the mountainous areas surrounding Dalat. Over five days, carrying all their supplies, the group trekked 60 kilometres through pine forests, coffee plantations and small villages, making numerous river crossings.

Afterwards, it was on to the beachside city of Nha Trang. This was a brief respite prior to the community project, where students assisted in either a remote village or island location. Some were involved in restoring and renovating housing for the elderly, some helped to lay the surface for a children's soccer pitch and some painted murals and taught English in schools. They came home exhausted, smiling and laden with souvenir goods.

Russell Dow and Jessica Gorlin
World Challenge tour leaders

National Youth Science Forum



Nine students attended the National Youth Science Forum in January. They were: Anthony Baird, Clare Chen, Grace Chen, Taya Ferraro, Alecia Gianiotis, Isabella Nolan, Isabella Pacillo, Sam Zhao, Mark Ziegelaar.

Grace Chen recalls highlights of the Forum:

Over twelve days at the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) in Brisbane, 180 science students from across Australia were led through the world of science. Each day was filled with interesting lectures and extraordinary lab visits. From virtual reality activities at the University of Queensland Brain Institute to dog surgery at the Animal Referral Hospital, participants were left with their mouths agape and their minds buzzing with questions and ideas.

Although we were allocated to interest groups, we were given insights into other fields of science. At the Forum Dinner at the Brisbane City Hall, the 2017 Australian of the Year, Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, recounted his research on using stem cells to treat spinal cord injuries. During a videoconference from CERN, we heard about the discovery of quarks and the Higgs boson at the Large Hadron Collider.

We were also given the opportunity to choose elective lectures where we learned how science, technology, engineering and mathematics could be applied to other areas including law and sport.

Although sleep-deprived by the end, the NYSF opened our minds to the innumerable opportunities and career paths in science. We were taught useful tips for university and career life, such as grasping every opportunity that comes your way and not being afraid to approach others to start a network. We were provided with the chance to practise our presentation skills. After the lectures and Q&As about life at university and beyond, I can say for certain that I am eager to study science after school.

Grace Chen
Year Twelve



Back Row (L-R) Clare Chen; Anthony Baird; Isabella Nolan; Isabella Pacillo; Sam Zhao
Front Row (L-R) Alecia Gianiotis; Mark Ziegelaar; Grace Chen; Taya Ferraro



NASA visit

A large delegation of students and teachers departed for the US in December to take part in Space School.

The junior group (Years Seven and Eight) travelled to Huntsville and Houston. Their first view of the US Space and Rocket Center was a Saturn rocket and the Space Shuttle silhouetted against the Alabama night sky. Our students engaged in science and engineering tasks, guided by Center staff. Activities included working with astronaut training equipment, completing mission simulations and designing heat shields. When in Houston, the students took part in a wide range of activities including a shark dissection where students related the buoyancy of fish to zero gravity training for astronauts. A visit to the Johnson Space Center (JSC) was inspiring as we saw engineers working on the International Space Station simulator.

The senior group (Years Nine to Eleven) was based entirely in Houston at JSC. They studied the history of space travel, Mars exploration, advanced rocketry, thermodynamics and material science and observed astronauts in training. They visited the Mission Control, the JSC Simulation Building, Rocket Park and the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory. Students participated in a scuba diving session to simulate astronaut training.

Students received college-style instruction in CAD and were asked to design and print a 3D model of a prototype Lunar Rover. The junior and senior groups both had dinner with former NASA astronaut, Dr Leroy Chiao. In all, the experience opened our students' eyes not only to the essential role of science and technology in their lives, but also the awe, scale and scope of human endeavour.

Alexandra Abela and Jacqueline Lupton
Science teachers





Conservation Club News

The Conservation Club has had a fantastic start to the year. With a record 168 members, we began the year with an exhibition of last year's Wildlife Photography Competition. We also undertook some work, with Melbourne Water, surveying the population of growling grass frogs at our recently constructed frog pond at Keilor Park.

Projects for the Conservation Club in 2018 include:

- working with an ecologist to monitor micro bat species in the local area, including trapping and recording the types of microbats using remote sensor cameras near nest boxes at Keilor Park;
- working with Conservation Volunteers Australia to microchip and monitor the endangered Eastern barred bandicoot;
- maintenance of the frog pond at Keilor Park in conjunction with Melbourne Water's Frogwatch program;
- guest speakers from The University of Melbourne, Melbourne Zoo and Wildlife Victoria;
- the ongoing re-vegetation of the Keilor Park site using native plants;
- a 2018 Wildlife Photography Competition and Wildlife Photography Masterclass;
- a weekend camp at the Eildon Camp to continue our ecological audit of the site on the Living Atlas of Australia, utilising the CSIRO's website.

If there is sufficient support, the Club is planning an expedition to Broome in December to work with Conservation Volunteers Australia, monitoring and helping preserve the sea turtle population of north-western Australia.

Any student or parent not yet involved in the Conservation Club is welcome to contact me at Gottliebsen House.

Alex Scott
Conservation Club leader



Pink Stumps Day at Gottliebse House

The House Programme took a different turn this term, with Bradman House initiating a fundraising day in support of breast cancer charity, the McGrath Foundation. Bradman's 'Pink Stumps Day' was a smashing success, with Gottliebse House teachers and students displaying outstanding school spirit as they united in wearing pink, to support a worthy cause. During the week, there was information about breast cancer during form assembly so the boys could appreciate the work of the McGrath Foundation.

On casual clothes day, everyone turned up in pink and many participated in a lunch time cricket competition. Excitement was through the roof at the 'Longest Hit' competition as boys from each form stepped up to take a shot at the chance of winning a pink cap signed by cricket legend Merv Hughes. There were plenty of laughs as students and teachers batted for a cure.

While it was Bradman's turn this time, the other three Houses will each have an opportunity throughout the year to raise money for their nominated cause but we think it will be a challenge to upstage the House named after iconic cricketer Don Bradman.

Well done to everyone who contributed and thankyou to Mr Marcon and all the House Captains for their assistance in running this activity.

Jibran Haddad and **Marcus Camilleri**, Captains of Bradman House
Rodney Clarke, Year Ten Coordinator



Mr Marcon with Bradman House Captains, Jibran and Marcus

Great Heights Season Two

Our lunchtime serial drama *Great Heights* began its journey in late 2016. Early episodes delighted lunchtime audiences at Keilor East in true soapie style, and the full season was performed for a wider audience in March 2017 as *Great Heights Season One: The Boxed Set*. After leaving audiences with a cliffhanger – a gunshot in the dark - at the end of Season One, Season Two promised to be bigger and better than ever when it returned in 2018.

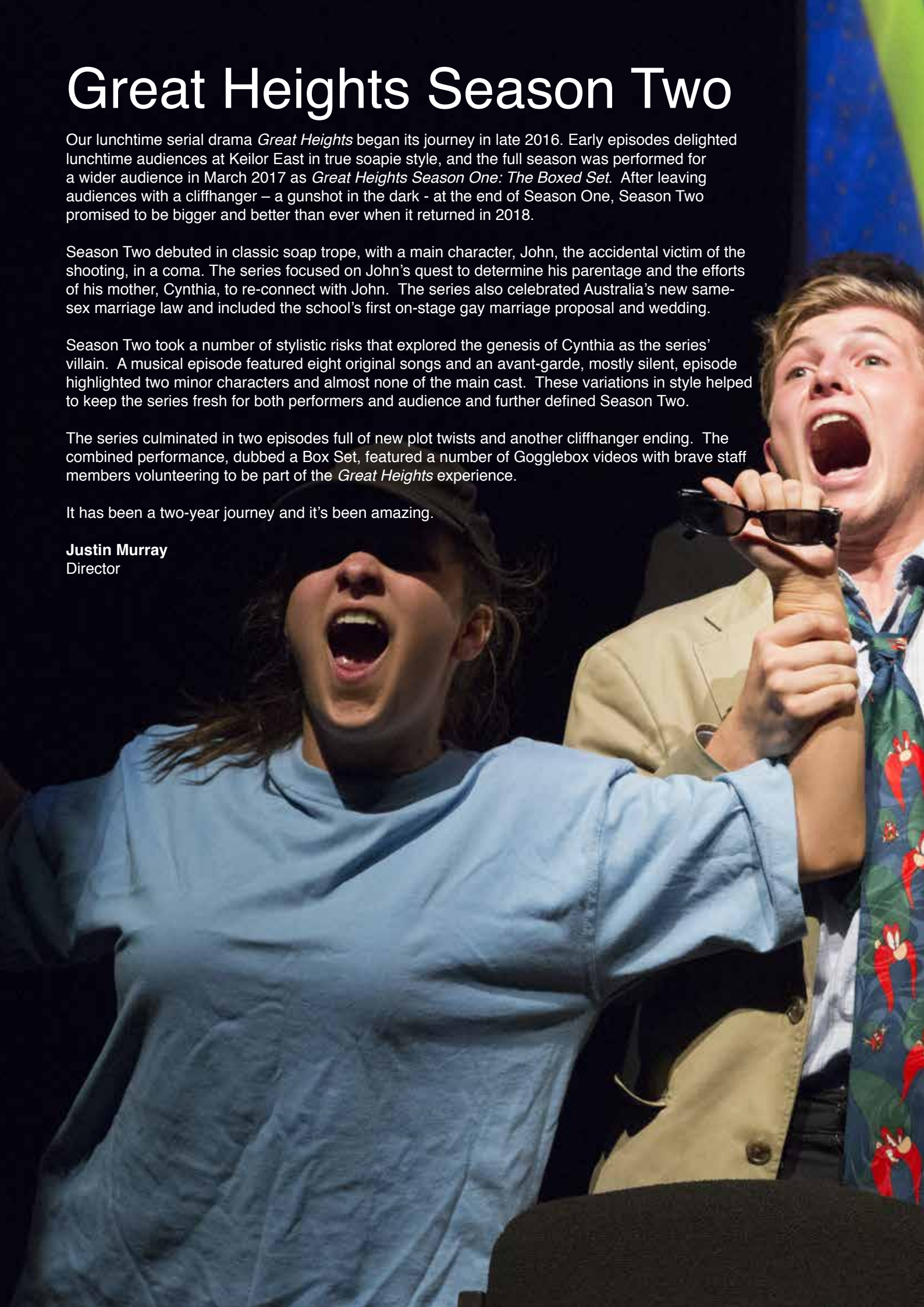
Season Two debuted in classic soap trope, with a main character, John, the accidental victim of the shooting, in a coma. The series focused on John's quest to determine his parentage and the efforts of his mother, Cynthia, to re-connect with John. The series also celebrated Australia's new same-sex marriage law and included the school's first on-stage gay marriage proposal and wedding.

Season Two took a number of stylistic risks that explored the genesis of Cynthia as the series' villain. A musical episode featured eight original songs and an avant-garde, mostly silent, episode highlighted two minor characters and almost none of the main cast. These variations in style helped to keep the series fresh for both performers and audience and further defined Season Two.

The series culminated in two episodes full of new plot twists and another cliffhanger ending. The combined performance, dubbed a Box Set, featured a number of Gogglebox videos with brave staff members volunteering to be part of the *Great Heights* experience.

It has been a two-year journey and it's been amazing.

Justin Murray
Director





New Director of Music



Amanda Rowarth is our new Director of Music. She was born in England to a musical family, moving to Melbourne as a child. She was captivated by music at secondary school and went on to complete a BEd (Music) and MED (Educational Management), both at The University of Melbourne.

Between these two degrees, she studied in London for four years while continuing to teach and performing in chamber orchestras and smaller ensembles in England and Italy. After returning to Australia, Ms Rowarth taught cello at many schools and directed string programs and orchestras. She was also very involved in chamber music, particularly piano trios and quartets.

A talented cellist, Ms Rowarth has a colourful performance background, having played in various orchestras across Europe and Australia. She has an abiding interest in new Australian music and has been involved in premieres of original operas and theatre productions.

Her professional experience includes many musical theatre productions such as *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *A Little Night Music*, *Into the Woods* and *West Side Story* and concerts, tours and recording sessions with artists as diverse as Barry White, Rod Stewart, David Gates, the John Butler Trio, Anthony Warlow, Marina Prior and the National Boys' Choir.

Ms Rowarth was formerly Head of Music (Whole School) at Haileybury College and, prior to that, the Director of Music at Lauriston Girls' School.

Tony Larkin
Principal





New Director of Performing Arts

Jessica Gorlin has been appointed as the school's new Director of Performing Arts. She succeeds Mr Peter Bohmer. Ms Gorlin has held numerous senior faculty and student welfare roles in schools and other organisations. Most recently, she was the school's Business Studies Coordinator. Her involvement in external musical theatre includes production, performance and backstage rolls.

With tertiary qualifications in the Performing Arts from the University of Tasmania and the Victorian College of the Arts, Ms Gorlin has worked with Handspan Theatre, the Melbourne City Opera, Playbox at the Malthouse and Theatre North in Tasmania. Her performance credits include *Peer Gynt*, *Oklahoma*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver*, *The King & I*, *Cavalleria Rustica*, *i Pagliacci* and *La Boheme*.

Ms Gorlin has busily begun the year producing the second season of the PEGS serial drama *Great Heights* and overseeing the initial work for the 2018 senior musical *The Addams Family*.

When appointed Director of Performing Arts, Ms Gorlin said, "I look forward to sharing my creative arts experience and helping students bring their stories to life on stage. I am happy to be working in an area of the school that provides young people with such opportunities for personal development and growth".

Tony Larkin
Principal

Swim team – pre-season camp

At 4:40 am on 22 January this year, a group of our finest began their journey to Cairns for a swim training camp. For the first session we joined the Melbourne University Propulsion Club as they prepared for the Commonwealth Games trials in February. This set the tone for the tour.

On Day Two, after another swim session, the students travelled to the Botanical Gardens to test themselves on the gruelling running circuit. To everyone's surprise, our youngest swimmer Koby Lack (Year Seven) completed the most laps. Afterwards, our head coach, Seb Bettiol, hosted a series of team bonding challenges, including the establishment of teams for the PEGS swim camp cup. The camaraderie between our swimmers was extraordinary.

On Day Three, following a morning training session, we took busses to the rainforest at Mossman Gorge, and a rainforest it was; torrential rainfall flooded the paths during our visit.

As the sun rose on our last morning, students knew what was to come. It was time for the PEGS Relay Cup, with various relays, tandem and precision swims and the bomb competition. At the end, Team Sam and Team Jeffrey took the bickies.

Throughout the camp, new friendships were formed across year levels. As a group, the team became closer than ever. We're hoping that will be to our advantage as the team goes into this year's AGSV competition.

William Laidlaw and Kate Robinson
Captains of Swimming





USA/ Canada Basketball Tour

Twenty boys from Years Nine to Eleven participated in the school's USA/Canada basketball tour in December 2017. The seventeen-day tour visited San Francisco, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles.

The boys were split into two teams. Our senior basketball coach, Liam Glascott, coached one team while I coached the other. Each team played eight games during the tour. The quality of the competition was quite exceptional and each of our two teams managed to win two games.

To support their basketball skills further, the boys had a workout at Shoot 360 - a basketball training facility in Portland where the boys were given a high intensity training session designed to improve their shooting and dribbling. The boys also toured the University of California, Berkeley and Portland State University. To top off some amazing basketball experiences they attended a college basketball game in Portland and a NBA game between the LA Clippers and Phoenix Suns at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Apart from the extraordinary sporting experiences, the boys also visited the World of Science in Vancouver and the Future of Flight Museum at the Boeing Factory in Seattle, rode bikes over the Golden Gate Bridge, had a trip to Alcatraz and did some skiing and tobogganing at Grouse Mountain. At Tacoma, near Seattle, the boys did some voluntary work at a mission for homeless men.

By far the most impressive highlight was the manner in which our boys conducted themselves. Everyone had a memorable and successful trip.

Graeme Sharman

Deputy Head of Section, Junior School (boys)

From the Archives

Brigid Cooper Archivist

In exploring the 2018 PEGS theme of Peace it has been interesting to see how wartime and the transition to peacetime affected the students at the school during key moments in Australia's history.

Since 2014 we have been commemorating the centenary of World War I. 2018 marks one hundred years since the official end of the war, known as the Armistice, acknowledged annually on 11 November as Remembrance Day.

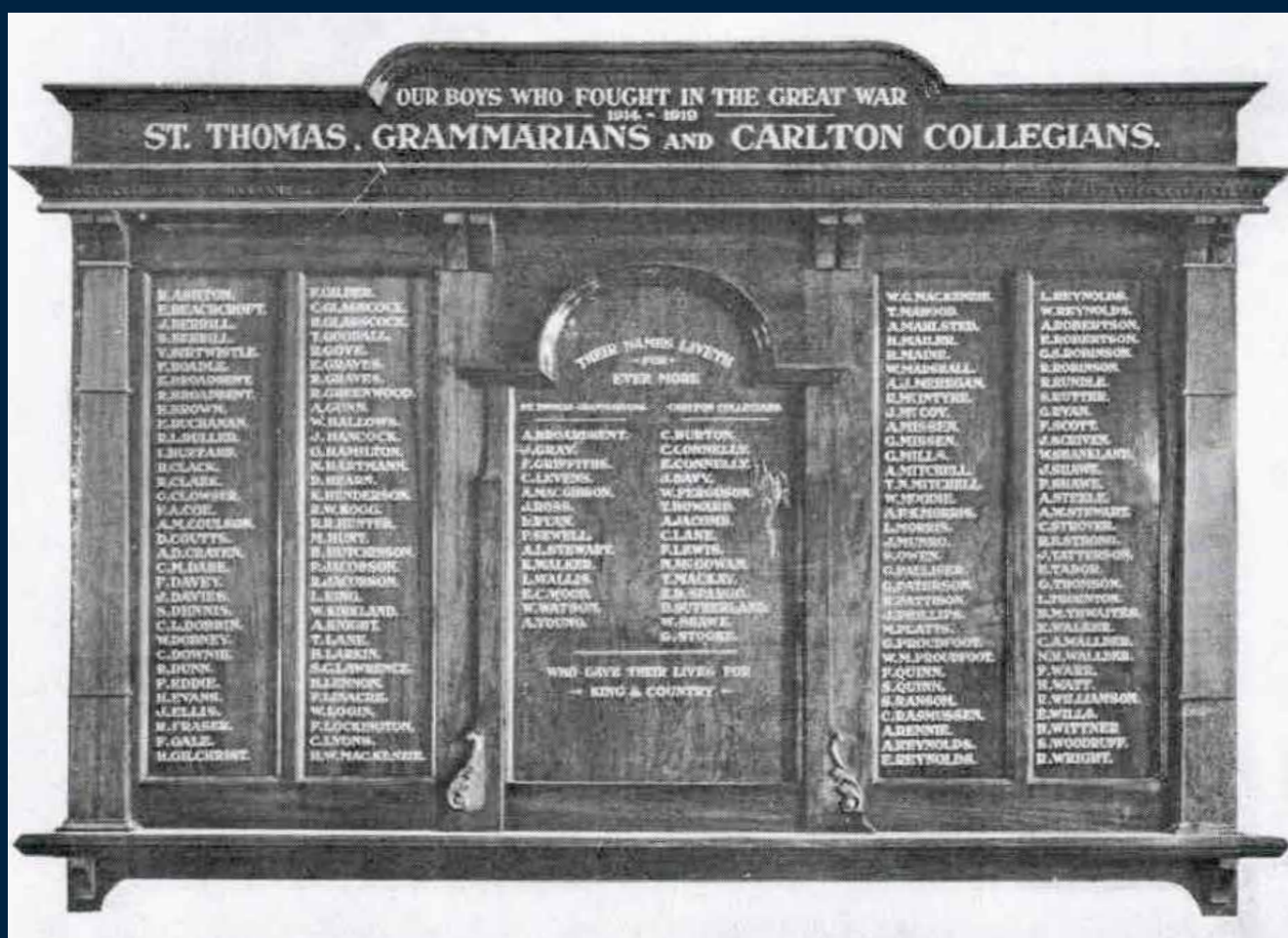
The students, parents and staff of Penleigh Presbyterian Girls' School and St Thomas' Grammar School were naturally very aware of the war. Here are some snippets from their annual magazines so you can read, in their own words, their thoughts about peace and what it meant for them personally, and for the country as a whole.

Of course, we have a Red Cross House Badge on one of our windows. The Iva's don't lag behind in patriotic work and you may often see us plying our knitting needles. Our money-box in French Red Cross week collected £1 7s. 6d., and each Monday Nancy Vale (a school prefect) takes up the money we bring for the Belgian Relief Fund.

The Penleigh Magazine, December 1918, p.13

Now that the war has ended a move will, no doubt, be made by the Grammar School Council in the matter of an Honour Board. The matter has already been discussed in the Council, and a sub-committee was appointed to take up the question as soon as the opportune time has arrived. In all, some eighty-one "old boys" have donned khaki, a result of which the school may reasonably be proud.

Didymus: The Journal of St Thomas Grammar School, Essendon, December 1918, p.15



The World War I honourboard for St Thomas' Grammar School and Carlton College, now hanging in Woollacott Hall at Junior School Boys.

Every Penleigh girl, from the youngest to the eldest, is an important factor in the life of the school. "Each of us, like the tiny ants, may add his little grain to the general store of good." We need never think, then, that any one of us is of no consequence. One of the many great lessons the nations have learnt afresh during the last four years, is the old truth of "Each for all, and all for each." The value and responsibility of the individual citizen to the country or nation has been revealed on every hand, and what is true of the country or nation is equally true of the school.
The Penleigh Magazine, December 1918, p.1

The year is now drawing to a close, and the joy-bells will soon be ringing at Xmas. This Xmas there will be added joy for all of us, for it will be celebrated with peace on earth. A few weeks ago everyone was overjoyed to learn that Germany had accepted the severe armistice terms of the Allies, thus admitting her utter defeat, while a short while after the Germany navy, last remnant of the country's power, surrendered to the British. The end of the Great War has come suddenly, for, at the time of the last issue of "Didymus," the situation of the Allies in France looked very bad; but in the last six months the tide at last turned, and the Germans were gradually driven back till they saw there was no hope of the world-conquest for which their arrogant Kaiser had schemed.

Therefore let us celebrate this Xmas with great joy and cheer, remembering to thank God "from Whom all blessings flow."

Didymus: The Journal of St Thomas Grammar School, Essendon, December 1918, p.3

About a month before the beginning of our Christmas holidays we decided to hold a bazaar to raise money for the Red Cross.

As the day was fine there was a very good attendance. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Mountain, the Mayoress of Essendon, in the big schoolroom, which was decorated with the flags of the Allies. During the afternoon two concerts were held there.

In the first room on one's right hand as one entered by the front door were the Xmas Gift Stall and the Sweet Stall. The Xmas Gift Stall was prettily decorated in pink, and here one could buy many articles useful for putting in soldiers' parcels or for Xmas gifts. The Sweet Stall was arranged in pale blue and gold.

Opening off the verandah was the room in which the Produce Stall was erected. This was decorated in brown and gold, and it had a good supply of flour, jam, eggs, pickles, etc. Dotted here and there in the shade were small tables at which refreshments were served. These were also served in the Kindergarten room, which was decorated in our School colours.

Altogether the bazaar was very successful... - Total £74 10s. 0d.

The Penleigh Magazine, December 1918, p.17



*A photograph from the 1918 Penleigh Magazine showing a patriotic moment!
 (PEGS Archives [PH06170])*

Friends of PEGS News



Friends of Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School (FoPEGS), the parent association of the school, offers opportunities to strengthen the school community across campuses by organising events at which parents can socialise and network as well as fund raising events which allow significant contributions to many school projects.

The Ladies Lunch held on 1 December 2017 saw many happy faces at the Lakeside Banquet and Reception Centre. The day was a great success with those in attendance enjoying the opportunity to socialise and savour the wonderful food and atmosphere.

Events planned for 2018 include a Gala Dinner to be held on 2 June, the Annual Craft Market on 13 October and the Ladies Lunch on 30 November. We hope many parents will take the opportunity to join us at these happy school community events.

FoPEGS dates for the diary:

2 June – Gala Dinner

13 October – Craft Market

30 November - Ladies Luncheon



PEGS Business Network



The PEGS Business Network is dedicated to providing business, networking, industry insights and opportunities for the broader PEGS community. This includes former students, parents and current students.

The network is available for the PEGS community to assist in business and introductions along with employment and career opportunities.

We are pleased to announce our upcoming business luncheon with celebrity chef and former student Shannon Bennett has SOLD OUT.

On Friday 20 April 2018 guests will experience an exclusive event at Vue de Monde's event space at the Rialto and hear Shannon's business story. Guests will experience amazing food and spectacular views whilst networking with the PEGS business community.

Our next event is scheduled for June with details to follow. If you would like further information about the PEGS Business Network please contact the PEGS Business Network Coordinator, Lisa Leask on 03 9016 2181 / lisa.leask@peg.vic.edu.au

We look forward to you joining the PEGS Business Network in 2018!



PEGS BUSINESS NETWORK

DINE WITH SHANNON BENNETT AT VUE EVENTS

SOLD OUT

Join us for this event exclusive for 2018, dining at the award winning Vue Events at Vue de Monde restaurant and hear from Head Chef and former PEGS student, Shannon Bennett on this amazing business journey, lessons and the importance of sharing his passion.



PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED and will provide great insight and networking opportunities at the event.

Date: Friday 20th April 2017

Venue: Vue Events at Vue de Monde, Level 55 Rialto South Tower
525 Collins Street, Melbourne

Time: 12noon - 3pm

Lunch includes: 3-course menu with beverages

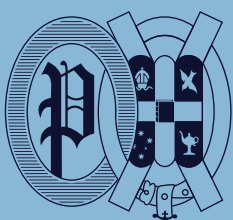
Guest Speaker: Shannon Bennett

Price: \$150 per person

BOOK NOW



For more details contact PEGSBN coordinator Lisa Leask on (03) 9016 2000 or lisa.leask@peg.vic.edu.au



PEGS BUSINESS NETWORK

Former Students' Association News

Alumni Spotlight Renton Millar, Class of 1993

Renton Millar completed his VCE in 1993. He was recently appointed coach of the Australian Skateboarding team for the 2020 Olympics and is a Member of the World Skateboarding Technical Commission.

What have you been doing since leaving PEGS in 1993?

It's been a long time! I have had a career as a professional skateboarder and I have been able to travel the world and live my dream while building a great family life. After my pro skateboarding career I started my own business running skateboard events, teaching and working in administration of the sport. At the moment I am on the S2020 Commission, working with the Skateboarding Program for the Olympics in Tokyo. I am a Director of the Australian Skateboarding Federation and also on the Technical Committee for World Skate, which works with the International side of the Olympic program. There's a lot of work to do. Prior to inclusion in the Olympic program, skateboarding was an extremely well developed sport with big industry support but its administration was underdeveloped.

During your time as a student at PEGS, what did you like most?

The people - it was a great environment and as I attended from Prep to Year 12, it felt like family.

Was there anyone who inspired you?

Some schoolmates who have gone on to great success include Shannon Bennett, Curtis Stone, Dustin Fletcher, Brad Sheldon and Dom Ambrogio.

Tell us about your appointment as coach for the Australian Skateboard Team – 2020 Olympics.

At present I am the National Coach for the Australian Skateboarding Federation and we have taken some

skaters to the Australian Institute of Sport. In a new development the S2020 Commission is now in charge of the Australian High Performance Skateboarding program. I have a permanent seat on that commission, representing the Australian Skateboarding Federation. The S2020 Commission has a key role in developing the program. Whether I remain the National Coach for the Tokyo Olympics depends on my other commitments and also the decision of the S2020 Commission. At present my preference is to concentrate on the organisational side of things over coaching. I'm lucky; I have a few roles that I can potentially play with Olympic Skateboarding.

What is your biggest sporting or professional accomplishment?

I have made a living from skateboarding for the last twenty years and continuing to have a pretty solid excuse to skate as much as I can is an accomplishment I enjoy on a daily basis. Sharing a podium with my childhood hero Tony Hawk was pretty memorable too.

What's your favourite memory of PEGS?

It's hard to isolate one memory, but I have great memories of my whole time at PEGS and the great people whom I went to school with.

What advice would you give to young PEGS alumni?

If you want to do something, make it happen. Work hard. Don't believe anybody who says it's not possible.

What do you do in your spare time?

I have an amazing wife and two wonderful kids. Skateboarding is my passion as well as my job, so when I am not working with skateboarding I am involved in the sport for fun. I also like to snowboard as well as surf.



2017 Golf Day

The Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School Former Students' Association Golf Day was held at the Northern Golf Course in Glenroy.

80 participants including school suppliers, staff, current and former students enjoyed a great day. The overall winners of the Ambrose competition were former students, Mark Stephens and Lucas Elliott, and current teachers at Junior School (boys), Scott O'Keefe and David Graham.

Runners up were the Grant Thornton team consisting of Adam Pitts, Charlie Bell, Michael Cunningham and Daniel Kave. Third place went to the National Australia Bank team consisting of James Birt, Warren Gregory, Greg Denison and Adam Cusick.

Thank you for the support of school suppliers who made the event possible as major sponsors for the day. These included Fuji Xerox, Grant Thornton, Konica Minolta, McIldowie Partners, National Australia Bank, NGS Super, Nelson Alexander Real Estate, Noone Imagewear, Premier Office National, Reflex Technology Group and Rider Levett Bucknall.

We would also like to thank the businesses that supplied prizes on the day including A Grade Cleaning, Ambassador Air Conditioning, ARG Planning, Calder Park Property Services, Garnett Electrical, McBride Charles Ryan, Consolidated Property Services and Ryan Bus Services.

Special thanks for organising the event to Lisa Leask and to Harry Fisher and Victoria Pitliangas for helping on the day.

Mina Pitliangas



Second Place – Grant Thornton



Third Place – National Australia Bank



Winning Team, Mark Stephens, Lucas Elliott, David Graham and Scott O'Keefe

FSA Functions 2018

10 Year Reunion – Saturday 28 July 2018

20 Year Reunion – Saturday 25 August 2018

30 Year Reunion – Saturday 8 September 2018

40 Year Reunion – Saturday 20 October 2018

Golf Day – Monday 17 December 2018

For more information on these events, or to assist with your upcoming reunion, please email fsa@pegs.vic.edu.au

Private Functions

Golden Girls' Luncheons - 11 July and 14 November

Botanical Hotel, 169 Domain Road, South Yarra at 11:30 am. Contact Judith Ross on 0417 538 335

PEGS Business Network Functions

Event 1: Dine with Celebrity Chef Shannon Bennett - SOLD OUT

Date: Friday 20 April 2018

Time: 12noon – 3pm

Venue: Vue Events @ Vue de monde

Level 55 Rialto South Tower

525 Collins Street

For further information please contact the PEGS Business Network Coordinator, Lisa Leask on 03 9016 2181 / lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au.

LinkedIn:

PEGS Business Network's specific purpose is to connect former PEGS Students and Alumni in business, creating business opportunities for all members while also keeping in touch with and contributing to the greater PEGS Community.

To request membership, please login to LinkedIn and search for '**PEGS Business Network**'

Facebook

If you have a **Facebook** account, please search for **PEGS Former Students' Association** and **PEGS Business Network** and 'like' our pages.

Announcements

Honours

Gregory Ross Hocking (EGS 1960 - 1971) received an AM (Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2017 "for significant service to the performing arts as a conductor, director and theatre manager, and to the development of the Melbourne comedy industry."

Professor Mark Peter Umstad (EGS 1973 - 1978) received an AM (Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division) in the Australia Day Honours 2018 "for significant service to medicine in the field of obstetrics, particularly complex pregnancies, as a clinician, consultant and academic."

Norman Warren Allan (EGS Bursar 1976-1990, Past Secretary, PEGS Board of Management) received a OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division) in the Australia Day Honours 2018 "For service to education."

Wedding Anniversaries

Keith and **Judith Ross (née Tardif) (Penleigh 1950 - 1951)** celebrated their 60th anniversary of their wedding, which was held on 10 August 1957.

Deaths

Elisha Maree Gercovich [Class of 1998], sister of Jarrod [Class of 2001] and Stephen [Class of 2006], on 2 December 2017, aged 37.

Cameron Grant [Class of 1978], son of Janice (nee Craine) (Penleigh 1944 - 1949) and Gregor Grant, brother of Mark [Class of 1975] and Kirsty [Class of 1985], on 1 December 2017, aged 56.

Wilma Hartley (née Dowsett) (Penleigh 1947 - 1949), wife of Kevin, mother of Kay [Class of 1980] and Carol [Class of 1983], on 26 January 2018, aged 82.

Shane Alan Hughes (PEGS Music Staff 1990 - 2017), on 4 February 2018, aged 60.

If you have any information you'd like to share, please send an email to Lisa Leask at lisa.leask@pegs.vic.edu.au





2018 Dates for the Diary

April

16 April – Term Two begins
23 April – Suzuki Concert Two
26 April – String Concert One
30 April – Piano Concert One

May

1 May – Brass Concert
3 May – Guitar Concert
8 May – VCE Concert
10-12 May – Drama Performance
14 May – Synthesizer Concert
16 May – Percussion Concert
17 May – Woodwind Concert
21 May – Vocal Concert
28 May – Senior School Concert One

June

13 June – Junior School Concert
25 June – Senior School Concert Two
29 June – Term Two ends

July

17 July – Term Three begins
30 July – Suzuki Concert Three

August

1-4 August – Musical Performance
21 August – One School Day
27 August – PEGSFest commences

September

3 September – Suzuki Concert Four
5 September – VCE Music Recitals
7,8 September – Dance Show
14 September – Term Three ends

October

8 October – Term Four begins
17 October – VCE Music Concert (Yr 11)
18 October – Piano Concert Two
22 October – String Concert Two
23 October – Valedictory Dinner
29 October – Suzuki Concert Five

November

26 November – Junior Christmas Concert
28 November – Suzuki Concert Six and Break-up

December

10 December – Carol Service
12 December – Term Four ends

Contact details: newsletter@pegs.vic.edu.au

