IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2015

JUNE
Friday 26 End of Term 2

JULY
Tuesday 14 First day of Term 3 for students
Friday 24 Dads’ Beef & Burgundy Night 6.30pm, Margaret Cunningham Hall

AUGUST
Wednesday 12 to Friday 14 Fintona Art Show ELC – Year 10
Thursday 13 Morning Tour 9.15am to 11.00am
Wednesday 26 Annual Music Concert 7.30pm

SEPTEMBER
Friday 4 - Saturday 5 School Play 7pm Margaret Cunningham Hall
Friday 11 End of Term 3

OCTOBER
Tuesday 6 First day of Term 4 for students
Tuesday 13 Valedictory at 7.30pm Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University
Wednesday 14 - Friday 16 VCE Art Show
Wednesday 21 Twilight Tour 6.30pm to 8.30pm

NOVEMBER
Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 Mid-term holiday/Melbourne Cup holiday

DECEMBER
Wednesday 9 End of Term 4 for students

For more information on our Tours contact our Registrar, Kathy Byrne on 9830 1388 or visit our website at www.fintona.vic.edu.au

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From the Principal

“Buildings should serve people, not the other way around.”  John Portman

Fintona, having completed its last Masterplan in 2015, which covered the Junior School and Early Learning Centre Campus, has embarked on creating a new one to cover the Senior Campus for 2016 to 2025.

A Masterplan is not a detailed set of plans about the specifics or details of each building within the campus, but a set of footprints for new buildings and renovated or refurbished existing ones. It also includes a management system for foot and vehicular traffic and a landscaping plan covering the open or green spaces. It needs to be developed and drawn up and then be passed and endorsed by Boroondara Council. It is an exciting project because it focuses on how the School might develop to take into account future needs and also addresses the education we will be providing students whose future lies far beyond the here and now.

Corbett Lyon has been managing the Masterplan, which has involved a Committee comprised of Heads of School, Faculty Heads, members of Administration, a representative from Maintenance and outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Fintona Board of Management and the Principal. The person driving the Masterplan must be skilled at eliciting responses from a huge range of people, taking that information and weighing it up across a range of expectations and then making it intelligible to a broader audience by synthesising it. This is no mean task!

Corbett has conducted four Masterplan meetings since the beginning of the year and in those meetings has obtained each person’s vision for the future; including elements we want retained on the campus and aspects we identified as preventing us from achieving our vision. Under consideration were things like the ideal classroom size in relation to our projected numbers, the proximate relationship between different Faculties and buildings and our views about flow and green space.

We were offered three planning options to discuss and came to a consensus as to the best one which also included some last minute changes. Corbett and his team of planners, landscapers and traffic engineers will now consult to refine the selected plan and start to bring it to completion, ready to submit later in the year.

Not only has the process generated excitement about the plans themselves, but also optimism and confidence about Fintona’s next 120 years.

Suzy Chandler
Principal

VCE Results

WE CONGRATULATE THE CLASS OF 2014 FOR ACHIEVING ONE OF OUR BEST RESULTS ON RECORD

With a median ATAR of 96, two thirds of the Class of 2014 achieved an ATAR of 90+ and 54% of the students achieved an ATAR of 95+ representing truly exceptional results.

2014 VCE HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- 66% of students achieved an ATAR of 90+ placing them in the top 10% of the State
- 54% of students achieved an ATAR of 95+ placing them in the top 5% of the State
- 35% of students achieved an ATAR of 98+ placing them in the top 2% of the State
- 18% of students achieved an ATAR of 99+ placing them in the top 1% of the State
- Our 5 year median ATAR is 95.1
- There were 5 perfect study scores of 50
- Median VCE Study score was 37 and 37.2% achieved a study score of 40+

TERTIARY COURSES AND DESTINATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2014

98% of our students received a first round university offer and these offers show the diversity of interest among our students from Medicine to Commerce to Fashion.

NEWS JUST IN

We congratulate Anna Wotherspoon (Class of 2014) who received a Premier’s Award for her VCE Studies in both English and Legal Studies and Shirley Tang, Year 12, who received a Premier’s Award for Accounting. We thank also Mr Nick Capriolo, Mr Chris Williams and Mr Craig Colton for their contribution to the girls’ success.

With Corbett Lyon from Lyons Architecture at the opening of the Art Precinct
A focus for all ELC children at the beginning of the year was sea creatures and the ocean environment. Morning Meeting conversations explored different elements of marine life and led to the acquisition of hermit crabs and a new fish tank display outside of the Pre-Prep classrooms for our families to enjoy.

To further extend this investigation the teachers organised a marine life incursion with Wildlife Xposure. This live aquarium display and presentation provided the children with a unique opportunity to learn more about Victoria’s coastal habitats and their rich biodiversity. It also provided opportunities for the children to view and touch live marine animals in a safe, ethical environment.

It was a joy for the teachers to see how the children were able to move between the concrete and the imaginary as their knowledge on this topic grew throughout the term. It is a reminder to us all of how rich learning can happen when children investigate and share ideas over days, weeks and even months.

Cara Mearns, Head of Fintona’s Early Learning Centre, has been made the Vice Chair of the Reggio Emilia Organisation of Australia. This is an achievement reflective of Cara and the Kindergarten’s standing in the educational community. Well done Cara.

As noted by Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emilia approach, the child has a hundred (and a hundred and a hundred more) ways with which they can express themselves. The language of art became a way that many children chose to express their understanding throughout this investigation. This allowed for the creation of many pieces of striking artworks using many mediums such as drawing, painting, collage and clay.

Congratulations Cara

Cara Mearns
Head of Early Learning Centre

1. Fine line and ink drawing by Evie Gwynn
2. Gyotaku painting by Anya Sivayoganathan
3. Scarlett Ellis-Williams enjoys the Wildlife Xposure incursion
The Junior School girls regularly inquire into ‘How the world works’. In first term, the Year 1 girls looked at the changes that occur in humans, animals and plants. The girls planted their own lettuce seeds and watched as the shoots started to appear above the soil. They also conducted an experiment by growing cress seeds in the classroom to see what conditions the seeds need to grow. They tested variables of water and sun and made predictions about what they thought would happen. Planting seedlings in the Junior School vegetable garden also enhanced the girls’ understanding.

The girls also hatched chickens and observed butterflies, recording growth and development. A visit from O’Magic Frogs introduced the girls to a range of new and exciting animals that they were able to experience first-hand. Through the concepts of change, form and function the girls learnt much about their natural world and its laws.

Sally Clayton
Head of Junior School

The girls planted their own lettuce seeds and watched as the shoots started to appear above the soil.

1. Julia (left) and Aurelia (right) plant seedlings in the Junior School vegetable garden
2. Tong Tong, examines her seeds
3. Natasia enjoys an experience with a green tree frog
4. Tayla gets to know a stick insect
Fintona has always been a place where girls are given every opportunity to find their strengths and develop them. Testament to this is the establishment of a number of clubs in the Middle School that cater for a variety of interests.

One such club which has proven to be popular with the Middle School students is the Gardening Club, led by Fintona’s very own talented gardener, Helen Kinross.

The Gardening Club began in mid 2014 and is held every Thursday in the Moss House Garden. Its purpose is to educate the girls on how easy it is to grow plants, fruit, vegetables and herbs, the importance of composting, the benefits of worm farms and about how to run a market stall.

So far the girls have planted vegetable and flower seedlings, a potato tower, propagated plants and herbs from cuttings, and have created personalised mother’s and father’s day gifts.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of the Garden Club is the opportunity for the girls to sell the ‘fruits of their labour’ by establishing a Kitchen Garden stall. In trying to emulate a farmer’s market, the girls have successfully sold silverbeet, beetroot, carrots, lettuce, basil, tomatoes, broad beans, rosemary, corn and spinach to staff and students.

The Gardening Club is self-sustaining and funds generated from the Kitchen Garden stalls are used for future plant purchases. The fruit and vegetables are also used by Margaret Rossborough in the Cooking Club.

Helen has exciting plans for the future which include the purchase of a greenhouse to propagate plants over the colder months, buy fruit trees and develop a bush tucker garden featuring indigenous plants.

When Year 6 student, Gabrielle Walker, was asked what she loved the most about Gardening Club, she said, “I can’t believe how delicious the fruit and vegetables taste.”

Trish Leigh
Head of Middle School
What do you think a Fintona education has given you?

**Smita:** The standard of education at Fintona has definitely given me an advantage in my studies. I believe I have been provided with an endless supply of opportunities to improve myself and better equip myself for the world. I have the utmost respect for my teachers and I truly appreciate the lengths they go to in order to guide all the students.

**Eliza:** A Fintona education has given me the opportunity to discover new interests that I never thought I would enjoy, such as photography and public speaking.

Who do you consider to be a great leader and why?

**Smita:** Barack Obama's ability to inspire people worldwide has always impressed me. As I believe a leader should, he treats everyone equally, regardless of race, gender or social status. He balances his family life and his constant work, showing everyone he is a normal human being despite his title. I particularly admire his commitment to creating universal health care in the United States, proving that the health of the individual is a priority, and should be affordable, as I myself believe.

**Eliza:** I think the greatest leaders in my life have been my four parents, as they have to work, look after their families and manage to do it so effortlessly. They are always so supportive of everything I do.

What are your aspirations for the future?

**Smita:** I hope to become a paediatrician. I love working with children, helping those around me, and am fascinated by the human body. I definitely plan to be able to travel the world, experience new cultures, relish in new cuisines and learn new languages.

**Eliza:** Due to my obsessive love of clothing, I aspire to be working in management in the retail industry which will combine my two loves, shopping and people. I also aspire to be happy. Hopefully, in the future I will always be surrounded by family and friends.

What would you consider to be the highlight of your time at Fintona and why?

**Smita:** Fintona has provided me with a lifetime of memories I will always cherish but one aspect of school life I will never forget is camp. Every single year, I have enjoyed camp immensely, appreciating the change of scenery and the ability to become even closer to all the amazing girls in my year level. I enjoyed it all - the fun, the laughter, the challenges, the exercise, and even the occasional lack of plumbing!

**Eliza:** I would consider the girls here to be my highlight. They are absolutely amazing and I definitely feel that I have made some life-long friendships with the girls in my year level. Throughout the School, all the girls are supportive and kind. I have also loved learning here and the amazing teachers. The education I have gained from Fintona is one in a million and I am so grateful for all of the opportunities that have been given to me.
Our Community

Members of the Fintona community have had plenty of opportunities to connect with one another. From last November’s Food & Wine Festival through to Cabaret Night and the High Tea held recently, it is pleasing to see the camaraderie, friendliness and willingness to support the School.

A special welcome to our new families and I hope your daughter (or son if you are in the ELC) have settled in well.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your assistance and attendance and I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Anne-Maree McKernan
President, Fintona Parents’ Association

REMINDER

DADS’ BEEF AND BURGUNDY NIGHT
Friday 24 July
Margaret Cunningham Hall
6.30pm to midnight / $30 per person
Visit our website under Events to book your ticket.
New Parents’ Cocktail Party

1. L-R: Brendan and Jennifer Flynn and Neil and Louise Hordern
2. L-R: Rowan Hill, Lili Cao, Chris and Konstantinos Monos

Cabaret Night

3. L-R: Ai-Vi Le and Chloe Spencer, both in Year 5, performing the ABBA classic, Mamma Mia
4. Amy Roche, Year 8, on stage as part of both in Year 11, performing an ABBA medley
5. L-R: Briannah McKernan and Victoria Accadia, both in Year 11, performing an ABBA medley

ANZAC Commemorative Planting

6. On Friday 24 April, our Principal Suzy Chandler and Year 12 student Aisling Monahan-Dowling were joined by Rotary Club of Camberwell President, Richard Stewart, and the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP to unveil a commemorative plaque and plant the Lone Pine in a special place in Fintona’s garden

Fintona Plant Out

7. On Sunday 24 May, many members of the Fintona community gathered at Yellingbo for a planting in the Reserve to protect an endangered bird species
Our Community

Grandparents’ Day
(ELC, Junior and Middle Schools)

Mother’s Day
(ELC, Junior and Middle Schools)

8. Hunter Cotterell, ELC, with his grandparents

9. Sisters Tayla, Year 6, and Alannah McKernan, Year 8, with their grandmothers

10. Lucy Gowdie, Prep, with her grandparents

11. Yasmin Gordhandas, Year 4, with her grandparents

12. (L-R): Sisters Elaina (Year 4) and Kathryn (Prep) Karametos with their mum

13. Aarushi Michailescu, ELC, with her mum

14. Philippa Rehe, Year 8, with her mum

15. Eliza Truscott (far right), Year 12, with her stepsister and stepmother

16. Caidynce McLaughlin, Prep, with her mum and grandmother
FINTONA GIRLS DO WELL IN THE BOROONDARA LITERARY AWARDS

Late last year, two students received prizes in the 2014 Boroondara Literary Awards. Lucy Seale (now in Year 11) won first prize in the Courage in Adversity poetry section, a new category set up to commemorate the First World War. Clarissa Kwee (Year 12, 2014) was highly commended in the senior prose section of the awards. Excellent work girls.

ZO E WINS BRONZE AT THE AUSTRALIAN MATHS OLYMPIAD

Last December, Year 11 student, Zoe Schwerkolt, was one of only 25 students nationwide invited to attend the week-long ‘School of Excellence’ residential camp at the University of Melbourne organised by the Australian Maths Trust. During this time Zoe had the opportunity to work with maths professors and other maths experts from across Australia.

Her performance was highly commendable. Following her success at this camp, she was then invited to participate in the Australian Maths Olympiad in February this year; a gruelling eight hour exam, open only to a very select group of high achieving maths students.

We are very pleased to announce that in March, Zoe was awarded a prestigious Bronze certificate, placing her in the top 28 maths students in Australia. Remarkably she is the second placed girl in the group.

She continues to inspire others and we are delighted that she has established a Maths Club for young and able girls in Years 7 and 8. They are encouraged to come along once a week during a lunchtime to work on some maths problems and to share their love of maths.

Well done Zoe.

SENIOR DIVERS MAKE A SPLASH IN THE POOL

In March, our three senior divers: Abella Man, Cailin Hassed and Sabina Xiao, all in Year 12, performed extremely well at the Division 3 Championship Carnival winning their senior division. Abella competed in the A division and finished fourth while both Cailin and Sabina won the B and C divisions respectively. What a fantastic effort by our girls.

JUNIOR A SOFTBALL TEAM FINISHES ON TOP

Fintona’s Junior A softball team finished the season on top of the ladder to qualify for the GSV finals.

The team came up against some very tough opposition in their first final with Star of the Sea. The match was played at a very high standard but unfortunately Star was the better team and advanced to the next round.

Congratulations to our team on a super season and we are looking forward to next year already.

Our Young Achievers

Back row L - R: Anna Pantazis, Tayla McKernan, Chloe Mallamaci, Lily Stevens, Dash Reid, Joanne Lau Front row L to R: Nivedha Seevanayagam, Carly Atkinson, Hannah Monos, Georgia Truong (Absent: Hannah Jacobs)
Our Young Achievers

**SENIOR SOFTBALL TEAM QUALIFIES FOR FINALS**

In March, our senior softballers finished the season on top of the ladder and competed in the semi-finals at Jells Park. In a very close contest against St Margaret’s, Fintona displayed some fine fielding and confident running between bases to keep themselves in the game. It came down to the last few innings and St Margaret’s finished in front 13 – 8. It was a hard fought match from the Fintona side.

Congratulations to Kasey Stanaway and her team.

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**BALWYN ROTARY FOUR-WAY-TEST AWARD**

Congratulations to Year 11 student, Zara Wotherspoon, who was a semi-finalist in the Rotary Balwyn Four-Way-Test competition held last Monday night at the Balwyn Library. Zara applied the principles of Rotary to her argument that in commemorating war, the ‘whole’ context of both sides’ views must be acknowledged. Speaking with flair and poise, she discussed the recent commemoration of the Australian Gallipoli campaign.

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**YEAR 6 SWIMMING SENSATIONS**

In April, five Year 6 students swam at the Victorian Schools State Championships at MSAC. The girls all swam extremely well and should be very proud of their results as this event includes all primary schools in Victoria (independent, government and catholic).

**Lani McKernan** competed in the 12/13yrs 50m Butterfly and was placed ninth overall. **Mia Pope** was placed seventh overall in the 12/13yrs 50m Backstroke.

Our open 4 x 50m Medley relay team (**Lani McKernan, Mia Pope, Olivia Johnson and Zara Burk**) was placed fifth overall and the 4 x 50m Freestyle relay team (**Lani McKernan, Mia Pope, Olivia Johnson and Gabby Walker**) came a very close fourth just missing out on the bronze medal.

It was an amazing effort for these girls to make the state finals in the first place, so if you see them please congratulate them.

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**ROWING SQUAD ACHIEVES GREAT RESULTS IN THIS YEAR’S REGATTA**

The Head of the School Girls (HOSG) Regatta is the pinnacle event of the school girl rowing calendar. Over 2,000 rowers compete on the Barwon River over three days with more than 10,000 spectators cheering them on. This year, Fintona had 22 rowers competing in Open, Year 10 and Year 9 events. The Squad had a number of outstanding results including **Molly Horan** winning a bronze medal in the Year 9 single sculls while the Year 10 squad qualified all the way through to the semifinals! Further to this, all Fintona crews posted personal bests at the Regatta.

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Molly Horan with her coach Olivia Honore
The School Community celebrates the opening of Fintona’s new Art Precinct

It was a proud moment for the Fintona community when our exciting new Art Precinct was officially opened on Thursday 28 May in front of 140 guests.

The Director of the Bendigo Art Gallery, Ms Karen Quinlan, was thrilled to open the building and congratulated the School for its vision and appreciation of art.

We heard from a number of special guests including Mr Corbett Lyon, former Fintona parent and co-founder of Lyons Architecture who designed the beautiful, light-filled space. From the outset, our Principal, Mrs Suzy Chandler, and Mr Corbett Lyon together with the support of the Fintona Board, had a clear vision for the space: it had to foster collaboration, be engaging and position the School for the future. Judging by the response from the guests who attended the opening, the building certainly lives up to this vision.

The new Art Precinct will offer an array of artistic pursuits including ceramics, painting, printmaking, drawing, photography, film processing and digital multimedia work. In the new Corbett Lyon Gallery, the space will be flexible where students can undertake everything from life drawing, painting, film making, green screen work, textiles and fashion.

Not surprisingly, the Art Department is thrilled to be working in the new building and Art Co-ordinator, Brit Biviano, described the new surrounds as “inspiring and contemporary”. Art Captain, Evony Dinakis said: “The Art Precinct is fantastic. It’s so large and bright. I’m sure the girls’ creativity will soar.”

To celebrate the opening of the new Art Precinct, a competition was run by the Art Department and Evony which involved submitting a portrait in any type of media. The judges had a difficult time choosing a winner in each of the three categories but were delighted to announce that the prize of $100 went to:

Middle School Division
Mia Pope, Year 6

Senior School Division
Shanisse Tan, Year 10

Open Division
Julia Lee, Year 11

1. Mia Pope’s winning portrait in charcoal
2. Shanisse Tan’s winning photographic portrait
3. Julia Lee’s winning self-portrait, oil on canvas
“The Art Staff are very much looking forward to working in this fabulous new space and to the inspiration and creative outcomes that will be achieved within its walls.” Brit Biviano, Art Co-ordinator
Fintona’s new
Art Precinct
Goodbye Amanda

After seven productive and successful years as Fintona’s Chair of the Board, the community says goodbye to Amanda McMahon. Suzy Chandler, our Principal, has a few parting words.

I have mixed feelings about our departing Board Chair, Amanda McMahon. I am sad to see her stepping down after eight years on the Board, seven of them as Chair, but happy for her that she can now pursue her numerous, other interests.

Amanda left Fintona in 1980 and during her school years made many close friends at the School whom she still sees regularly. When Amanda left university, she embarked on a career in HR and worked for 14 years both here and in the UK in that field. Her industry experience in the private and public sector includes time spent at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Sirocom (UK), the Victorian Department of Education, Toyota and the Alfred Hospital.

She also established her own consulting business while living in Adelaide, providing HR services to a variety of businesses during their set up phase. She has a particular interest in the areas of Performance Management, Strategic Planning and Organisational Development. All of these experiences have enriched her contribution to the Board immeasurably, especially in her role as Chair.

In her time on the Board, Amanda has updated the Board Handbook, overseen the writing of a New Board Members Handbook, changed the way minutes are taken and recorded to make them more focused on action and ensured a swifter resolution of such actions, increased the profile and the community’s familiarity with both the Board and the Fintona Company. She has also continued to run productive meetings with the Board’s focus very clearly on the future.

She has managed the Board’s acquisition of new property in Cherry Road and the planning and completion of the new Art Precinct, the development of the School’s history and some positive changes to the management of funds that have all contributed to our current very positive position.

We will all miss Amanda’s warmth and enormous enthusiasm for the School but know she can leave assured that she leaves the Board and the School in fine fettle and well able to move towards its next 120 year in a spirit of optimism.

Suzy Chandler
Principal
DANA FLEMING, 
NEW CHAIR OF THE 
FINTONA BOARD

Dana Fleming was a Fintona student from Prep to Year 12, having graduated in 1988 and returned to Fintona as a Board member in June 2013. Dana brings a wealth of experience as a tax advisor in the financial services industry and is currently a Corporate Tax Partner at KPMG. She has a daughter in Prep at Fintona. We warmly welcome Dana as Fintona’s new Chair of the Fintona Board and in this interview we get to know more about her strong vision for Fintona’s future, what qualities her education gave her and where we might find her on the weekends away from work.

Tell us a little bit about your professional background and what motivated you to become a Fintona Board member.

Before becoming a partner at KPMG, I was fortunate to experience living and working in both London and Amsterdam and was able to travel the world extensively. My fondest memory is of six months backpacking around Central and South America with fellow Old Fintonian Caitlin Granowski on US$10/day in 2000! These experiences gave me a great appreciation for how privileged we are in Australia and how lucky I was to have grown up here.

I truly loved my time at Fintona and am certain it laid the foundations for me to be able to achieve leadership responsibilities within my firm. I am a strong believer that we need more female leaders in our society and so when contemplating how I could best contribute in this space, for me there was a natural alignment in joining the School Board and playing my part in supporting our girls in becoming the best they can be. The ongoing success of our students and Fintona is my motivation and is truly a rewarding experience for me.

Reflecting back on your time at Fintona, what do you think a Fintona education gave you?

Fintona gave me a strong sense of self belief and the confidence to have a go. It taught me that you should not be afraid to fail and when you do not succeed it is simply another way of learning. Most importantly, it taught me to be true to myself and my values. In an increasingly complex world, these are the foundations of my resilience and have given me the ability to be flexible and innovative, qualities that have stood me in good stead throughout my career and life.

What do you think are Fintona’s best attributes?

When I reflect on my time at Fintona, what first springs to mind are the wonderful teachers that I had and the care (and patience!) they brought to the classroom every day. In a small school like Fintona, I felt they understood me and nurtured me to achieve the best I could, both academically, and as a well-rounded individual.

As Chair of the Fintona Board, what is your vision for the future and what steps is the Board implementing to make the vision a reality?

Retaining the unique qualities and attributes of our small school is the Board’s first priority. Fintona is a community and this creates an environment where everyone: staff, parents and girls, feel respected as individuals. It is also important to continue to look forward and to this end, the Board is currently undertaking a renewal of the school’s Masterplan. This will provide a solid blueprint to upgrade and build new facilities that will provide inspiring, flexible and modern teaching spaces for the future. I am truly excited at the opportunity and challenge of bringing this vision to reality.

Where can we find you on the weekend?

On my weekends I like to spend time with family and friends and catch up on missed Game of Thrones episodes! 🎥
Lucy Foster

Lucy Foster is currently the Year 3 teacher in the Junior School who came across to us this year from Lloyd Street Primary (also an IB PYP accredited primary school). She is passionate about teaching the PYP curriculum and believes that there are many benefits. Lucy, originally from Gippsland, began her career as a podiatrist. In our interview with Lucy we find out what made her leave a successful career behind as a podiatrist to pursue Primary School teaching.

What made you change your profession from podiatry to teaching?
I loved my job as a podiatrist and got to take part in some amazing experiences. These included travelling to Fiji to educate the doctors and nurses about how to care for the high risk patients to help decrease the rate of amputation and deaths from wounds. I also worked in collaboration with other health professionals in a paediatrics clinic to assess, diagnose and treat health issues in children. I found that my favourite part of being a podiatrist was being an educator and working with children, so I decided to head back to university to study Primary Education. Teaching is my passion – it’s not my job, it’s my career.

You have come from another International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program PYP accredited primary school. What, in your opinion, is the main benefit for students in teaching the PYP?
While there are many benefits to the PYP curriculum, I think the main benefits are students gaining a conceptual knowledge that they can apply across all learning areas and the holistic approach to the development of the whole person. Also the action and promotion of continued, life-long learning is an important outcome.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Eat! I enjoy cooking and hosting dinner parties, but I especially love eating out. I relish in trying new restaurants and cafes, and frequenting my favourites. At the moment, my spare time is also being taken up by the process of moving into our new home, which is exciting and stressful at the same time.

Alice Kemp

Alice Kemp is Fintona’s very first and only Latin Teacher who began here in 2014. Latin was a compulsory subject in Year 7 when Alice went to school and she instantly fell in love with the language of Ancient Rome. While at university, Alice wrote an Honours thesis in Italian on Dante’s Inferno and looks forward to returning to Italy to practise her Italian. She is currently completing a Masters in Latin education.
You chose to become a Latin teacher. What led you to this decision?
I loved Latin right from my first exposure to the language which was in Year 7 and teaching Latin seemed to be a way of getting to know it even better! I like the historical aspect of the language and enjoy the grammatical challenge of unlocking meaning in any given sentence.

What do you think the students get out of learning Latin?
They gain a deeper knowledge of the English language and Latin gives them an excellent grounding in second language acquisition, in particular Romantic languages.

Your Latin classes are not just about learning Latin but about gaining an appreciation of life during the Roman Empire. What cultural activities have you planned for your students?
The Latin students celebrate two festivals – toga day (also known as Liberalia), to mark the coming-of-age of a Roman boy when he assumed the white toga of manhood, and the Vestalia, a festival sacred to the Vestal Virgins who tended the perpetual sacred flame housed in the Roman forum. In both ceremonies, the girls don Roman attire and enjoy Roman-style food. These festivals are very much enjoyed by the students.

You are running ‘Fintona Funfit’ classes for senior school students after school each Thursday. Is this another interest?
Yes. Keeping fit and active is another interest of mine and I find that exercise is an excellent way to de-stress and take stock of life!

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I love swimming (most days I swim at my local pool) and also reading, generally novels. Charles Dickens is one of my favourite authors and I have read all his novels.

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Fintona’s New Staff in 2015

We welcome most warmly the following new staff to Fintona. Our staff are one of our greatest assets and we are confident the new staff will be excellent additions. We wish them a long and happy association with our School.

**TEACHING STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simon Bourke</td>
<td>Sport Co-ordinator</td>
<td>until the end of the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Brady</td>
<td>PE Sport Teacher</td>
<td>for 12 months until Term 2 in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristie Dowell</td>
<td>ELC Assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicola Davidson</td>
<td>Year 5 – Terms 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Foster</td>
<td>Junior School Teacher – Year 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fran Hyde</td>
<td>ELC Teacher</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Le Get</td>
<td>Commerce Teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen McCormack</td>
<td>Art Teacher until the end of 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowena McDowell</td>
<td>Music Co-ordinator until Term 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Mendonca</td>
<td>French Teacher – Junior School and Middle School</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Norman</td>
<td>French Teacher - until the end of 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Reynolds</td>
<td>Teacher/Librarian</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**ADMINISTRATION STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ciel Richards</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Perrett</td>
<td>Music Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Rouchel</td>
<td>Publications Assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reunion Dates
2015

2005 - 10 Year Reunion
Friday 19 June
6.30pm – 8.30pm

1985 - 30 Year Reunion
Friday 24 July
6.30pm – 8.30pm

2010 - 5 Year Reunion
Friday 23 October
6.30pm – 8.30pm

1965 - 50 year Reunion
Saturday 14 November
12 noon

UK / Europe Reunion
Saturday 11 July, 12 noon
Lunch at Browns Restaurant,
Mayfair, London

Art Show Tour
& Afternoon Tea
Thursday 13 August,
2pm – 4pm

1958 & 1959 Luncheons
Monday 10 August 2015
Glenferrie Hotel, Hawthorn

Monday 9 November 2015
Kirks on the Esplanade,
Mornington
Contact: Mel Marsh (Merilyn
Seward ’58) 5984 4436 / 0407 855 538

INTERSTATE/COUNTRY
REUNIONS
NSW/ACT
Thursday 10 September
(50th Year Reunion)

QLD
Saturday 31 October

SA
Sunday 8 November
Success Stories – Fintona Girls’ School Alumni

In February this year, The Weekly Review again featured four of our past students in a careers article. Read their stories here.

DR CAROLINE HOFFMAN OAM
Attended \ Class of 1973
CV \ Director of service delivery, research and evaluation

Dr Caroline Hoffman has spent more than 25 years in healthcare, receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia last year. She began her career as a social worker before switching to nursing and going to Britain in 1985. In 1993, Caroline moved to supporting people with cancer at the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine. She is Clinical and Research Director at The Haven, a British charity that provides free psychological support and complementary therapies to people with breast cancer.

JENNY MCLEISH
Attended \ Class of 1978
CV \ Forensic crime scene draftsperson

At school Jenny loved music, art, craft and Lego. She studied architectural drafting at RMIT, but got a job in the Victoria Police Drawing Office in 1987. This led to a career drawing serious crime scenes to scale for use in court. Jenny is attached to the Forensic Services Department’s Major Crime Scene Unit. She is Victoria’s only forensic crime scene draftsperson. “Fintona gave me the confidence to get involved and commit to things – with small schools there’s nowhere to hide and a knowledge that everyone needs to contribute,” she says.

LOUISE BAWDEN
Attended \ Class of 1999
CV \ Olympian

Louise combined her Fintona study with everything from basketball and athletics to diving. She loved physical education and left Fintona at the end of Year 11 to join the Australian Women’s Volleyball team in Canberra. This led to a spot in the Sydney 2000 Olympics team, which finished ninth. After completing a Bachelor of Communications and Journalism and playing professionally in Europe, Louise switched to beach volleyball. She competed in the 2012 Olympic Games and is now in training with partner Taliqua Clancy for the 2016 Olympic Games.

OLIVIA CRANWELL
Attended \ Class of 2005
CV \ Opera singer

Olivia sang in school choirs, took voice lessons and was Music Captain in Year 12. She studied a Bachelor of Arts (Music) at the Victorian College of the Arts and a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne, where she won a scholarship for its first Master of Music (Opera Performance). After many years with the Victorian Youth Opera, she sings with the Victorian Opera as a soloist in the Victorian Opera Gala and the Opera Australia chorus. “Fintona taught me to have the confidence to pursue my dreams and helped foster a love of music,” she says.
Deaths

The Fintona community is saddened to learn of the deaths of:

Betty Plant (Barrett ‘31) 6/8/14

Nancy Bowman (‘36) 15/10/14

Judith Dean (Muntz ‘46) 17/11/14

Marjorie Gough (Trott ‘36) 27/12/14

Janet Ablitt (O’Brien ‘46) 11/1/15

Mavis Tottenham (Harkness ‘38) 23/1/15

MERLE GILBERT (GOLDSWORTHY ‘37) 28/2/2014

Merle was a keen student (1925 -1937) and a very proud Fintonian. While at School, Merle excelled at sports, especially swimming, hockey and tennis. Sylvia Eady (Bowman) was her frequent tennis partner and together they enjoyed much success on the court. In her final year, Merle was a Prefect and House Captain. Merle made many friends at Fintona, including Headmistress Miss Cunningham; many of whom she stayed in contact with throughout her life.

After graduating, Merle trained as a physiotherapist in Melbourne and in London, then worked at the Alfred Hospital and also in private practice, before joining the RAAF where she worked as a physiotherapist for three years until the end of the War.

Merle later married Richard Gilbert, a dairy technologist, and had three children. She concentrated on her family for many years then worked again in physiotherapy.

Merle passed away at the Lorne Hospital in the company of her children and grandchildren.

Merle’s last words of advice to her family and friends were …. “enjoy your life”, and “JUST GET ON WITH IT!”. These words resonate with her very practical, resourceful and adventurous spirit.

DR SANTHA TRAILL (‘87) 26/12/14

Dr Santha Traill MBBS, DRANZCOG, FRACGP died unexpectedly in her sleep on Boxing Day 2014 while on holiday in Brisbane with her family. As a student at Fintona for 12 years (1976-1987) Santha made many friends and excelled in a range of subjects, including Art, French, Physics and Maths. She was a member of the School orchestra and took part in fencing, all while dancing ballet outside of the School. After Year 12, Santha studied medicine at the University of Melbourne and then specialised as a GP. In 1996 she also gained a Diploma in Obstetrics.

Santha had a keen interest in rural and aboriginal health, which began with a placement with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Derby while at university. She worked in numerous Victorian towns (including Shepparton, where she practised at the Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative), and in the Northern Territory, where she worked in Alice Springs and with the Wurli-wurlinjang Health Service in Katherine.

In 2002, Santha and her partner, Tim Adam, moved to Castlemaine. Santha took up positions at the Lyttleton St Clinic and the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC) and became a counsellor and group leader with the Australian Breast Feeding Association. She also completed a Certificate in Emergency Medicine. It was typical of Santha that once she identified an area she wanted to learn more about, the next step was to undertake formal study to advance her knowledge.

Santha exemplified the School motto – ‘Age Quod Agis’. Old Fintonians attended both the small service for Santha’s family in Brisbane and the very large service at Campbell’s Creek Community Centre where it
was standing room only. Many patients have spoken of Santha’s caring and professional manner and her willingness to go ‘the extra mile’. BDAC’s flag flew at half-mast after hearing the news of her death. Santha will be sadly missed by all who knew her – not least by Tim and their three children, Oberon, Yindi and Aleka.

Alison Duxbury (’87)

JANET ABLITT
(O’BRIEN ‘45)
11/1/15

My memories of Janet begin with school days at Fintona, and walking up the elm tree drive to the Senior School classrooms. Janet and her sister Sylvie, another Fintona friend, belonged to a family who loved classical music and was also prepared to express their individuality in lively ways. Janet maintained her love of music to the end of her life.

Janet was greatly influenced by Fintona’s teaching staff especially Miss Beatrice Chilvers, an important teacher and Vice Principal of the School who expressed enthusiasm for poetry and the plays of Shakespeare, Mrs Nicholls who introduced discussions of a wide range of topics, and the remarkable Headmistress, Miss Margaret Cunningham, who encouraged an inquiring mind and opportunities for individual research. All these experiences remained influential in Janet’s life.

After leaving school, Janet travelled to the United States of America to study chiropractics. We lost touch with each other and not till the 1970s did we meet again. This was after I discovered that Janet Ablitt, wife to Ronald and mother to Susan and Marianne was Janet O’Brien, and thus our friendship blossomed.

Janet was a great lover of nature, a faithful member of the Australian Conservation Foundation, protester over the destruction of forests, and a person who was prepared to work for the proper care of our environment. She succeeded my husband Keith Tarrant as President of BRASCA (Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association) chairing meetings, writing letters and submissions to the authorities, attending local Council meetings, and settling on her knees to plant and weed our precious foreshore. For years she was the active Junior Vice President of the Port Phillip Conservation Council.

Janet loved the sea and the bush. She became one of our intrepid Black Rock Clock Tower early morning swimmers. Apparently undeterred by cold, she and her good friend Frances Seidel swam in the winter months. It was Frances, the architect, who, after Janet decided to move from Victoria Street Sandringham, divided her land and designed the home where Janet lived for close to twenty years.

Swimmers remember Janet tucking her beautiful long fair hair into a bathing cap, crossing the sand to the water and breast-stroking parallel with the shore. Later we would dress, settle close to the foredune, drink thermos tea and catch up with the news of the day.

One notable day, I drove Janet to meet Marianne out past Moe and the three of us, in pouring rain, climbed from the Mount Baw Baw car park to the summit of Mount St. Gwinear. My dream had been of a sunny day, but the rain was unrelenting and we huddled next to a boulder eating lunch before tracking back to dry clothes and the car.

We swimmers formed a dinner group, sharing delicious meals at one another’s homes. More recently Frances, Janet, my son Jon and I continued the tradition. We always appreciated Janet’s cooking with its special recipes.

The Beaumaris Poetry Club remembers Janet reciting poems she liked and sharing in long readings of ‘The Rubiayat of Omar Khyam,’ ‘St. Agnes Eve’ ‘The Ancient Mariner’ and others.

Our School ‘Leaving Song’ refers to ‘years of joy and sorrow to live bravely through’. Janet did live very well through the years and I would like to conclude with words from a poem by W.J. Cory. They are about a friend of his but I think they apply to Janet.

They told me, Heraclitus, they told me you were dead, They brought me bitter news to hear, and bitter tears to shed. I wept as I remembered how often you and I had tired the sun with talking and sent him down the sky. And now that thou art lying, my dear old Carian guest, a handful of grey ashes, long long ago at rest, Still are thy pleasant voices, thy nightingales awake; For death he taketh all away, but them he cannot take.

Vale Janet.

Valerie Tarrant (nee Clayton, then Johnston ‘46)
Reunions

Class of 2009
5 Year Reunion
FRIDAY 24
OCTOBER, 2014

1. L – R: Georgia Bailey, Hazel Patterson, Georgia Rendell, Stephanie Freemantle
2. L – R: Lillian Le, Tanya Nunes, Prue Cauley, Michelle Chua, Aimee Grogan, Principal Mrs Suzy Chandler
3. Class of 2009

Class of 1964
50 Year Reunion
FRIDAY 14
NOVEMBER, 2014

1. Class of 1964
2. L – R: Katrina Preistley (Armstrong) and Lyn Boothby (McKenzie)
3. L – R: Helen Francis (Mullins), Katy Burroughs (Kemp), Jean Johnston (Hayward)
1. Class of 1975
2. L – R: Jill Summerfield (Christian), Wendy Alexander (Whitford), Caroline McNally (Lofts), Mandy Nixon (Dick)
3. L – R: Lucinda Murray, Glenys McDonald (Caithness)

Class of 1995
20 Year Reunion
FRIDAY 15 MAY, 2015

1. L – R: Sharon Moodie, Lorie Zrna (Tonkin), Kate Chamberlain (Warren)
2. L – R: Nicola Wheeler, Tina Bruce, Claire Swincer (Abery)
3. Class of 1995
The 2014 OFA South Australian Reunion was held on Sunday 23 November at the home of Diana and Graeme Pinkney, which is located in the midst of the picturesque Fleurieu Peninsula, about 55 kilometres south of Adelaide. It was a small gathering this year but with partners always joining us there was certainly no shortage of interesting conversation. These gatherings are most enjoyable with delicious food and good wines and we are hoping that our reunion this year on Sunday 8 November will see more South Australian Old Fintonians joining us. Diana Pinkney

We had a lovely afternoon at the home of Judy Williams (Gray ‘64). There were 11 of us including Katrina Chisholm (now an honorary WA Old Fintonian), the daughter of our founding member Libby Chisholm (Box ‘53) who sadly passed away last year. We received apologies from Suzanne Fairlie (‘50) and the Pyper sisters, Alison Smith (Pyper ‘50) and Elspeth (‘46). We enjoyed catching up on everyone’s news and had a toast to Libby Chisholm, who along with Kate Collin (McIlwraith-Smith ‘53) began finding and meeting up with other Old Fintonians in WA in the 1970s. Rebecca Vercoe

L – R: Joey Duncan (Judith Harrison ’55), Prue Jay (Love ’67), Kirriann Radcliffe (Hicks ’56), Diana Pinkney (Goodson ’65), Sue Vandeleur (Leaver ’57)

L – R: Suzanne Harcourt-Smith (McGrath ’58), Julie Dickinson (Adams ’53), Lynette Clayton (Handley ’52), Judy Williams (Gray ’64), Rebecca Vercoe (Johnson ’82), Margaret Bruns (Loughnan ’44), Jennifer Matthews (’77) Standing L - R: Sarah O’Sullivan (Harold ’83), Kate Collin (McIlwraith-Smith ’53), Anna Clapin (Wood ’48)
1958/59 Luncheon
MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY, 2015

OLD FINTONIANS FROM CLASSES OF 1949/50 CATCHING UP FOR LUNCH IN JANUARY

L – R: Jennifer Hearn (Brown), Angela McPherson (Cuming), Lois Keipert (Vaughan), Betty Rankin (Guy), seated - Rosanne Sansom (Best), Barbara Hyett (Sutherland), Elizabeth Pittman (Lusty), Barbara Nankervis (Lee), Elizabeth Jamieson (Owen)

JOIN THE OFA FACEBOOK GROUP

Please join the Old Fintonians’ Alumni Facebook Group to keep up to date with Alumni news including reunion dates and photos, past students’ achievements, and School community events and news. The group is also a great way to reconnect with old school friends. If your contact details change, feel free to private message the School via the page too. Old Fintonians’ Alumni (Official) - https://www.facebook.com/groups/ofafintona

NEWS OF OLD FINTONIANS

Congratulations to Stella Que (’14)
Stella Que who completed Year 12 last year has had her passage analysis on Mrs Dalloway and The Tempest in the 2014 Literature examination printed as an exemplary response in the Chief Assessor’s examination report. This is a wonderful testament to Stella’s hard work and ability.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Whether it’s a new career, engagement, wedding, travel adventures, retirement news or a special award, we would love to share your news in the Fintona File and on the OFA Facebook page. Please contact Kate McPhee, Alumni Co-ordinator, kmcphee@fintona.vic.edu.au or 9830 1388.

OFA ANNUAL GOLF DAY
Monday 8 December, 2014

L – R: Winner - Marg Picken (Mill), CB Runner - Anne Breadmore (Neville-Smith), Longest Drive - Libby Day, Nearest the Pin - Jane Rodd (Archdall)

OFA FOR CHARITIES

Seated L-R: Marcia Rogerson, Diana Parker, Suzanne Davidson, Joan Etherington
Standing L-R: Jennifer Parker, Diana Birch, Helen Murray, Barbara Fotheringham (Froz), Sally Stoyles, Biffy Robertson, Andree Peter

We would love some new faces to join our Committee which supports the Mirabel Foundation. We hold two card parties a year at Fintona. Please contact Andree Peter on 9859 6359.