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There has been a great deal of focus of late on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) not just in terms of academic subjects, but also in terms of skills and future employment. PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) results indicate that Australian students’ science and maths results have been declining, especially in Year 9, for several years and anecdotally, this is also borne out across the Australian school sector in terms of declining Year 11 and 12 enrolments in these areas. Fintona has always enjoyed high levels of interest amongst students for maths and science and more latterly, technology and enrolments in senior years across science and maths continue to be strong. 63% of VCE students are participating in a science and 96% are studying a maths, so overall 98% percent of our senior students include a maths and/or a science subject in their VCE studies.

The Globe and Mail article from which I extract my opening quote, goes on to affirm that in a girls only environment, girls can explore their interests and passions without any limitations imposed by gender. They are also surrounded by positive role models who have an obvious love of STEM subjects. This in turn engenders confidence in our students which has an enabling effect on their participation and success. Our STEM week in Term 3, SCART Club, Technology Club and the Science Talent Search are strong indicators that our girls are enthusiastic participants in STEM areas.

Next year, in 2016, as part of a focus on the Middle School curriculum, we are creating a STEM activity room for Years 5 and 6 with a view to including more activities both within the classroom curriculum and also in the co and extra curricular programs. We are also trialling a new Year 10 elective which will be technology based and encourages girls to explore algorithms and coding.

Rather than directly emphasising STEM subjects, we try to include them in a balanced agenda that focuses on intellectual endeavour across a range of subject areas and skills so that our students learn to focus on areas that are sometimes a challenge for them or in which they need to take a risk. We feel that in this way the girls come out with a well-rounded education that gives them choice and opportunity across a range of courses and eventually careers.

Suzy Chandler
Principal
The discipline of science is actively explored by the ELC children throughout the year as part of the inquiry curriculum. Young children learn best when given opportunities to raise questions, explore materials, make observations and predictions, and engage in experimentation in collaboration with others. A curriculum rich in such experiences provides a catalyst for powerful and meaningful learning to occur.

One experience the K3 children participated in this year was the observation of hyacinth bulbs. Over a term, the bulbs were grown in clear glass vases situated in a small hot-house. This provided the opportunity for the children to watch as the root system developed and the bulb gave way to a beautiful flower. Part of the children’s learning allowed for close observation through the creation of fine drawings and water colours.

The K4 children enjoyed participating in different scientific experiments that allowed them to explore concepts such as cause and effect and chemical reactions. Some of the experiments recently undertaken by the children included experimenting with shaving cream and food dye to determine how a cloud becomes saturated with water before it rains, and discovering what happens when you mix vinegar and bi-carb soda together.

It is always a joy for ELC teachers to work alongside our students as their learning and thinking develops. Seeing ourselves as life-long learners, we are surprised what we learn also, as our children draw our attention to things we may not otherwise have noticed.

Cara Mearns
Head of Early Learning Centre
The STEAM philosophy (which includes Art) is ingrained in the PYP curriculum of the Junior School and is explored through the Units of Inquiry in a variety of stimulating ways.

In Term 3, the Prep class inquired into the central idea that ‘We have many ways to communicate’. In one of the Prep’s technology and learning sessions, students used the 2Simple Software program 2DoItYourself to examine the different ways they can communicate using facial expressions such as happiness, anger and surprise. The Year 1 students learnt about how transport and buildings have changed over time. The students looked at the changes that have come about through the invention of new materials for buildings and new engines for transport. Year 2 inquired into ‘How the world works’ and ‘Sharing the planet’ by identifying the plants and invertebrates found in different local, Australian and global habitats. The girls planted and raised seedlings for the Junior School veggie garden. They harvested and sold herbs and vegetables at the Fintona Farmer’s Market which also developed their financial literacy skills. Mrs Helen Kinross led the girls and teachers on an inquiry at the local Maranoa Gardens, an exceptional public resource for Australian plants.

In an exciting start to their Unit of Inquiry ‘How the world works’, the Year 3 students enjoyed employing their creative thinking skills at their Hand on Science incursion whilst looking at the function of simple machines. The girls conducted an experiment to see which machine would whip cream the most effectively. They then looked at gears, pulleys and levers. Year 4 students recently visited Swinburne University where they saw a complex piece of machinery, a robot called Nao, which can play soccer, tell a story, dance, pick up a phone and go for a walk.

The hands-on aspect of STEAM in the Junior School curriculum enables each student to feel enthusiastic about their learning and appreciate the world around them.

Sally Clayton
Head of Junior School

1. L-R: Year 4 students Yasmin Gordhandas, Lucy Parmenter, Sarah Tang and Charlotte Crozier attended the Digital Learning and Teaching Victoria conference at Swinburne University.
2. L-R: Prep students Elise Orme, Lucy Gowdie and Audrey Masters-Fleming use iPads to capture signs and messages around the School.
3. L-R: Year 3 students Charlize Chow and Joanne Tu investigate simple machines.
Middle School

Fintona’s Middle School has high eSTEAM

In the Middle School, the Science Talent Search (STS) competition provides every girl with the opportunity to ‘do science’. The girls produce a tangible final product worthy of communication, ultimately increasing knowledge and understanding of the environment, science, design (engineering), creativity (art), mathematics and technology. In short, Fintona nurtures eSTEAM: a simulation of science in the real world.

STS is mandatory in the Middle School and this year, two major and five minor bursaries were awarded in the Primary Division whilst the Secondary Division recorded six major and seven minor bursaries. In total, 13 Years 5 and 6 students and 25 Years 7 and 8 students will receive medals at the Awards ceremony in November.

Two Year 8 students, Piper Besley and Hayley Duncan, won a major bursary in the STS Experimental Research section and have been invited to enter their project into the National BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards Competition. For more information and a photo of the girls, see Our Young Achievers section on page 9.

Due to our students’ high calibre of entries, Fintona has been awarded an STS School Award. This award recognises the high quality of entries submitted over the breadth of sections in this year’s competition.

Christa Ackermann
Science Co-ordinator,
Science Talent Search Co-ordinator

1. L-R: Year 7 students, Sara Ding and Grace Hordern developed an Animal Optic model which also won them a major bursary in the Secondary Division
2. Maia Edwards, Year 7, studied bee pollination which gained her a major bursary in the Secondary Division
3. Year 6 students and major bursary recipients in the Primary Division, Gabby Walker and Aleen Dhaliwall with their STS entry, a game called Bushfire SOS
When Science and Art unite, creative solutions are generated. At our recent VCE Art and Design Show, held in the Corbett Lyon Gallery, there were a variety of examples where STEAM principles, although not a specific focus, were used as inspiration. Designing future cities as 3D shapes and industrial designs of ordinary household objects using technology were just some examples of how Science and Art work well together.

The annual event provides an opportunity for Year 11 and Year 12 students to display their final work; a culmination of one year of creative endeavour and the result was an eclectic display of work which was of a high standard. We congratulate our students, and staff, on their efforts and wish the Year 12s the very best in their exams and every success in the future.

Brit Biviano
Art Co-ordinator

1. Alex Waldron Clark, Year 12, Future Cities, Cardboard and enamel paint
2. Elena Couper, Year 12, Queenscliff, Pen and ink on paper
3. Sylvie Le Couteur, Year 12, Smita Bhattacharjee, Ink on paper
4. Tamara Ruggiero, Year 11, Orthogonal illustration of a watering can
5. Julia Lee, Year 11, Untitled, Oil on canvas
6. Mona Lisa Taouk, Year 11, Untitled, Oil on Canvas
7. Evony Dinakis, Year 12 Art Captain, Languages, Oil on Canvas
SERVING UP SUCCESS

Serving up success at Melbourne Park during late July was Philippa (Year 8) and Annie Rehe (Year 10) who represented Fintona at the WTA Future Stars Victoria event. This prestigious tournament featured tennis players vying for the opportunity to play at the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) tour finals in Singapore in October. Congratulations to both Philippa and Annie for achieving second place in their respective divisions.

SAMANTHA WINS QUEEN’S GUIDE AWARD

Year 12 student, Samantha Cunningham gained the Queen’s Guide Award in August, the highest achievement for youth members of Guides Australia. The Queen’s Guide Award provided Samantha with an opportunity for extraordinary personal development and greater self-awareness. Congratulations Sam.

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL TEAM IN THE GSV FINALS

The Girls Sport Victoria competition finished on a high note in Term 3 with the Senior Volleyball team representing Fintona at the prestigious GSV finals. To qualify for this event, the girls won every match during the season. This places them in the top four schools in the GSV for volleyball – a remarkable achievement. During the semi-final, the girls, from Years 11 and 12, were relentless in their efforts to overcome their opposition. Ultimately, the girls were unlucky not to qualify for the grand final. This memorable experience will no doubt be a catalyst for success in the future, inspiring other Fintona volleyball teams to strive for greater success.

DANIELLE WINS ENERGY SAVING BIKES

Congratulations to Year 10 student Danielle Goulopoulos for her video entry, ‘What kind of future will you power?’, in the Siemens FutuRide competition. Danielle’s entry was one of 10 overall winning secondary school entries and as a result, Fintona received a set of four power-generating bikes worth more than $4,000. Well done Danielle.

TOURNAMENT OF MINDS SUCCESS

Three teams of students competed in the Metro Central Division of the Tournament of Minds Competition at Deakin University on Sunday 30 August. One Primary Team competed in the Language Literature Division and two teams (one Primary and one Secondary) participated in the Social Sciences Division of the competition. This year has been another successful year for Fintona with students demonstrating great teamwork, eagerness and ingenuity. In particular, the students showed the confidence to showcase their various talents.

A special congratulations to both the Primary Social Sciences team who won their division, competing against fifty other teams from schools in surrounding areas and the Language Literature team for receiving Honours. The winning Primary Social Sciences team were invited to represent Fintona Girls’ School in the State Finals at La Trobe University in September. Thank you to the support of the parents and Mrs Chandler who facilitated the Secondary team of Years 7 and 8 students.

FINTONA’S NETBALL TEAM FLIES INTO VICTORY

In September, our netball team, the Fintona Flyers, consisting of Year 8 girls, successfully beat Ruyton in the Grand Final in the Boroondara competition. Every girl in the team performed very well with the team scoring 23 to 22. Well done on your fabulous achievement girls.

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE SUCCESS - OUR BEST RESULT EVER

The French teachers would like to congratulate our French students on their excellent results in the Alliance Française Poetry Competition. This year has been our best ever result with
32 finalists and three students winning major state prizes. Congratulations to Joanne Tu, who won the First Prize for Year 3, Natalie Lim who won the Second Prize for Year 6 and Sophie Schwerkolt, who won the First Prize for Year 10. What a magnificent effort.

**JOANNA IS ‘BACK TOGETHER’ IN THE TOP 10**

Congratulations to Year 10 student Joanna Bleakley, whose creative writing piece Back Together has been shortlisted in the top ten of La Trobe University’s inaugural Young Writer’s Awards. The aim of these awards is to encourage Year 10 students to enter an original creative writing piece to win cash prizes for themselves and their school.

**SARAH AND ZOE AMONGST OUR BRIGHTEST IN THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD COMPETITION**

Fintona is very proud of Sarah Burger and Zoe Schwerkolt who have both been offered places in the intensive Australian Science Olympiad Summer School. This program covers the equivalent of first year university studies. Zoe, in particular, excelled in Physics and received a prestigious gold medal. Sarah, who excelled in Biology, will however, not be able to take up the offer as she will be on a Japanese exchange program at that time; an exciting adventure in its own right. We wish them both well in their endeavours.

**BHP BILLITON SCIENCE COMPETITION ENTRANTS.**

Two Year 8 students, Piper Besley and Hayley Duncan, won a major bursary in the STS Experimental Research sections. They have accepted an invitation to enter their experimental research project into the National BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards Competition. This competition will be judged at a national level in November.

1. Philippa Rehe at the WTA Future Stars Victoria event
2. Samantha Cunningham gains the highest award of Guides Australia
3. L-R: Coach Amber Guthrie (Class of 2014), Eloise Smith, Audrey Lui, Ursula King, Georgia Ward, Lucy Seale, Monica Zaiocos, Olly Leit
4. L-R: Natalie Lim, Sophie Schwerkolt and Joanne Tu
5. Danielle Goolopoulous putting the bikes she won to good use
6. The winning Primary Social Sciences team. L-R Back: Scarlett Quatermain, Olivia Johnson, Isabelle Moss, Youser Najjar. L-R Front: Zoe Stefanatos, Maya Martin Livia Tropea
8. L-R: Simon Bourke Acting Sport Co-ordinator, Assistant Coach Olivia Payne, Tina Rahimi, Trish Leigh Head of Middle School, Madeleine Roushd, Natassia Carayanis, Ada Roberts, Amy Roche, Tayla McKernan, Wendy Norton Team Manager. L-R Front: Lara Norton, Madeline Pynta, Lily Stevens, Head Coach Mikaela Stanaway
9. Piper Besley and Hayley Duncan researched how viewing mobile devices just before going to bed affects the quality of sleep
10. Australian Science Olympiad winners Sarah Burger and Zoe Schwerkolt
11. Joanna Bleakley wins a creative writing award
In June, our Years 3 and 4 students truly dazzled the audience with their performance of ‘The Pied Piper’. The girls performed with confidence, skill and enjoyment and the parents and staff were very proud of all the girls. What an amazing performance! The biennial production could not have taken place without the passion and expertise of our Drama teacher, Dr Kathleen Buchanan, and our Music teacher, Mrs Monique Plummer, who both worked enthusiastically to bring this wonderful production together. Thank you also to the class teachers, Miss Nina Manning, Miss Lucy Foster, our Art teacher, Mrs Monika Maddock, Mrs Robyn Sundberg who mastered the sound desk, Ms Adeline Han on piano, Mr Jarrod McClusky on percussion and Mrs Monika Edwards on cello.

Sally Clayton
Head of Junior School

1. Angry community members of Hamelin (l-r): Sienna Belle Thomas, Rachel Crawford, Lauren Pitts, Bella Stefanou, Jasmin Muniratna, Elaina Karametos and Paige

2. Mr Brumhandle (Rachel Crawford) struggles to get the inhabitants of Hamelin to clean up their mess!

3. L-R: Gemma Parmenter, Yasmin Gordhandas, Eden Zapis and Katerina Marcus, parents of the children of Hamelin, are angry about their missing children

4. L-R: Hera Thavarasah, Sarah Tang, Charlotte Crozier and Alison Pelusi are the Rats of Hamelin

5. Melissa Paul as the Pied Piper
School Production

By Christopher Sergel from the book by Leonard Wibberley

Every so often a play appears on a director’s desk that is so full of insights into the human condition, so profound in its philosophy and understandings and so replete with lessons on how to live life fully, that it begs to be produced. Unfortunately, this was not that play.

Some plays excite because of their re-imagining of the theatrical form, synthesising the historic conventions of theatre styles into a new and thrilling form. Unfortunately, this was not one of those plays either.

No, The Mouse That Roared, is that other kind of play that warrants a fresh interpretation. It is pure escapist fun. The story is great.

A tiny impoverished nation decides to declare war on America, knowing that it will lose and be granted reparations. Unfortunately, Grand Fenwick wins! It’s David and Goliath meets Dr Strangelove. It has romance, heroism, stupidity and sheep. What’s not to like?

Students were, as always, in charge of stagecraft and responsible for the look and the sound of the show. This year’s production introduces some new faces, both onstage and off. A Year 8 student in the lead role and a Year 7 in charge of costumes. A fine time was had by all. Don’t miss next year’s show!

John Thomson
Drama Co-ordinator
Kate is a new face amongst Fintona staff but as an Old Fintonian, she knows the School very well including some staff members who were once her teachers. She is currently teaching Science, Geography and History, is co-ordinating the successful Life Skills program and is Head of Clarke House.

Having spent a few years teaching overseas, Kate is enjoying being back at Fintona and balancing her burgeoning career with motherhood.

You completed your VCE at Fintona in 1999. Now that you are back after 16 years, what has remained the same and what have you noticed that is different?

The overall feel of the school is very similar. It is still relatively small, although I think I had only 33 students in my Year 12 class! This enables strong pastoral care and friendships across year levels. The integrity of the original school buildings has been maintained but the ELC, MRC and Art Precinct are fabulous new additions since my time as a student. It was strange and intimidating at first to work alongside some of my own teachers but there is a dynamic mix of experience and youth amongst the staff, who are very supportive of the students, and each other.

What were some of the highlights of your time as a Fintona student?
Highlights of my memories of Fintona include house competitions, especially Drama Day, Shakespeare Day, inter-school sport, and public speaking, all of which still run successfully today.

Before you started your family, you worked overseas in London and Abu Dhabi. Tell us about that and the challenges you faced teaching in these countries?
I was only in London for a year and so most of the teaching I did was casual. It was quite eye-opening as although I was lucky to teach at some excellent schools, I also worked in some pretty rough schools where knowing your subject was the least of your worries. Sadly, the focus for teachers was more on behavioural management.

In Abu Dhabi, I worked at an International School which followed the Nova Scotian (a province in Canada) curriculum. I taught only Year 9 for three years straight! It was exhausting but exhilarating and I found the experience very interesting.

Most of my students were either local Emiratis or Arab expatriates from nearby countries like Syria, Lebanon and Pakistan. They were very respectful of me as a teacher but there were stark differences in our cultural experiences, which led to many fascinating discussions.

What is it about teaching that gives you the greatest satisfaction?
I really enjoy working with young people and feel energised by them. I love that I can never predict what will happen in any given day in a school environment. I am privileged to work across different faculties and delight in seeing students learn, develop and succeed in different ways.

What has been your favourite travel experience? That is a difficult question as I am fortunate enough to have travelled to over 40 different countries. The first time I set foot in Europe was when I landed in Florence to study Renaissance History as Monash University had just set up a campus in nearby Prato. I was blown away by the architecture, art, history and charm of the city. Another favourite trip was with a group of friends, including some of my classmates from Fintona, to South America in my early 20s. We walked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru, spent New Year’s Eve in Buenos Aires and celebrated Carnival in Brazil. From Abu Dhabi, my husband, Dan, and I were lucky to camp in Oman, trek in Nepal, take in the splendours of Petra in Jordan, visit the pyramids in Egypt and ski just outside of Beirut.

Now that I have two young daughters, Evie and Juliet, overseas travel seems like a series of distant memories……but I shall never forget!

I love to travel, try to keep fit, and enjoy seeing films and live music. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

Kate Brooke

Kate is a new face amongst Fintona staff but as an Old Fintonian, she knows the School very well including some staff members who were once her teachers. She is currently teaching Science, Geography and History, is co-ordinating the successful Life Skills program and is Head of Clarke House.
In your career so far, you have been a Maths Co-ordinator for 16 years. Tell us about your previous work experience. I was a long serving member of my past two schools, spending eight years at Tintern and then 16 years at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. As a graduate teacher at Tintern, I was given remarkable opportunities; I oversaw the implementation of the Melbourne University Program for High Achieving Students in Mathematics (MUPHAs) and got to mentor some very talented young maths students from Tintern and surrounding schools. Being Mathematics Co-ordinator at PEGS for 13 years, I had the responsibility of managing a team of maths teachers while ensuring the educational needs of a large number of students were being met. These roles taught me the importance of nurturing and fostering a strong team spirit. With everyone enthusiastically working towards a common goal, you just can’t help but feel swept up with the adrenaline of it all, and inspired to do better and better.

What do you find most satisfying about being a maths teacher? The most satisfying part of being a maths teacher for me is when a student begins to ‘get it’; when they begin to see how things are connected and why something is so. Sometimes it can take a while. Sometimes you have to be patient and just wait till the time is right, as they say nothing worth doing is easy, but when it happens it’s magical.

There is a significant number of girls in the Senior School at Fintona who enjoy maths and do very well at VCE level. Why do you think that is the case? I think it is due in a large part to the importance the School places on the learning of mathematics. Fintona has solid programs in place to support and develop the learning needs of each student. A robust curriculum coupled with substantial and meaningful enrichment and enhancement activities ensure our girls develop broad based mathematical ideas. They are not narrow thinkers. They are encouraged to take a risk, to be creative and critical problem solvers and to persevere.

You, along with Christa Ackermann, Science Co-ordinator, organised the inaugural STEM week at Fintona in August. What do you think the students gained from the variety of activities and speakers? Organising STEM week was great fun. There was a real energy within the science and maths faculty and working with Christa on this was pure delight; she has a true passion for all things scientific. The students (and staff) gained so much.

We were able to hear and see first-hand how useful maths is in so many areas and careers. It opened the girls’ eyes to fields they had not realised were out there and ways in which their passion for maths could be utilised.

What do you like to do when you’re not imparting your deep knowledge of Sierpinski triangles, algorithms and vector mathematics? I love getting down to the beach. We have a family holiday home at Anglesea and my favourite times are spent in the surf with my boys (husband and two sons). For ‘my therapy for the soul’, I enjoy going to the ballet. I’ve been a subscription member of the Australian Ballet for the past eight years. It’s a great chance to catch up with friends and to appreciate a different world of movement, colour and form (without numbers).
The week saw students across many year levels given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of engaging and thought-provoking activities.

Robogals, a group of Monash female robotics engineers, started the week with a workshop for the Year 7 students. Who would have thought a robot could dance to One Direction! The Years 5 and 6 students were treated to a fintona maths trail produced by the Year 9 students using iPads and QR codes. Tuesday arrived and the Year 8s ventured into the city to look at the mathematics of the architecture of Swanston Street on the Mathematical Association of Victoria’s maths trail. A super day was topped off with a visit to explore outer-space in spectacular 3D at the Centre for Astrophysics at Swinburne University.

Paper Planes, the movie, kept the younger students entertained during lunchtimes and gave them plenty of ideas and inspiration for Fintona’s Paper Plane Contest. The Engineering Link Group, TELG, brought in working engineers from industry and the armed forces to work with the Years 9 and 10 girls on Thursday in a variety of workshops aimed at highlighting the diversity of careers in engineering. Parachutes were designed and tested to cushion the flight of an egg from a second floor balcony (many survived) and exacting calculations were pondered in producing the right gear ratio to ensure the mechanical car completed the time trial with precision.

On Friday, the senior levels came together to hear from four leading Australian scientists and mathematicians in the STEM mini conference. Perhaps one of the most dazzling displays of STEM@Fintona was the formation of the Sierpinski triangle made with 2187 coins and the money raised went to the organisation Big Brother-Big Sister, a group that sets up mentoring programs for disadvantaged and at risk students.

STEM week at Fintona delivered all that it promised. Many students were challenged and inspired and finished the week wanting more. Teaching maths and science is about ensuring we fuel and promote the right passion in our teachers so that they are knowledgeable and energized to educate and invigorate the STEM learners of tomorrow.

Cathy Devlyn
Mathematics Co-ordinator

Christa Ackermann
Science Co-ordinator

STEM is the common denominator

Motivated and excited by the current focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), the Science and Maths faculties decided to organise a STEM week at Fintona.
1. Year 8 students on the maths trail in the city, spotting a quatrefoil at St Paul’s Cathedral
2. Chloe Li and Emily Sheerin building a Lego car to learn about gears in the Mechanical Engineering workshop
3. Students studied the pinwheel design of Federation Square
4. The Sierpinski triangle taking shape with the help of Senior School girls
5. Year 10 students (l-r): Haileina Shi and Victoria Chapman building a circuit as part of the Electrical Engineering circuit
6. Year 7 students (l-r): Mia Lewin, Olivia Daly and Jacqueline Xavier working with robots
7. Chloe Spencer, Year 5, taking NEO, the humanoid robot for a stroll
Fintona embraces Digital Technology

Fintona Girls’ School established a new position, a Technology and Learning Co-ordinator K – 12 and Laura Barker, formerly a teacher in the Junior School, has had the opportunity to create and develop this position throughout 2015.

This year, Laura has worked across the School helping teachers meaningfully integrate the use of digital technologies thus providing educators with opportunities to shift from teacher centred to student centred learning.

In the Junior School, Laura has had the opportunity to work with each of the classes on tasks that link into their PYP Units of Inquiry. Activities included programming small floor robots (BeeBots), creating time lines and reflections using mixed media, making animated water cycles and producing digital stories.

In the Middle and Senior Schools, Laura has worked with a range of classes to help teachers embed technology within their subject content so that technology is used as a meaningful tool. Some tasks included working with the LOTE classes to create interactive presentations to assist with their written and spoken language acquisition, exploring the power of Excel with Commerce students to help with budgeting as well as exploring Augmented and Virtual Reality with Art and Maths students, a technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user’s view of the real world thus providing a composite view.

In addition to in-class support, Fintona now has a ‘Girls who Code’ club which has been established to help develop students’ computational thinking and enhance their ability to problem solve.

Staff have also taken part in various professional learning sessions to help them enhance their technological ability.

Further to her classroom teaching and teacher training, Laura has also developed a draft strategic plan for a whole school approach to learning and technology, which takes into account various philosophical, pedagogical, physical and practical considerations.

Students and staff have responded favourably to Laura’s ideas of engaging with digital technologies and she is looking forward to further opportunities in 2016!
Celebrating Father’s Day
ELC, Junior and Middle Schools

Dads’ Beef and Burgundy Night

The Fintona Parents’ Association once again hosted a special night for Fintona dads on Friday 24 July. This was a great opportunity for Fintona dads to meet and mingle over a BBQ meal and a glass of red. The dads can’t wait to do it all again next year. So to all you Fintona dads, put Friday 18 March 2016 in your diary for next year’s Dad’s Beef and Burgundy Night.

Anne-Maree McKernan
President FPA

1. Lily and James Gumley
2. Zoe and Peter Neil
3. Isabella Weedon (Year 2) with her dad Mark and sister Allegra (Prep)
4. Mila Masalkovska (Prep) with her dad Nick
5. Hannah Smit (Year 6) with her dad Terry
6. Rachel Crawford (Year 4) with her dad Byron

Dads enjoying socialising at the Beef and Burgundy Night
The Board and Management acknowledge with sincere appreciation the philanthropic gifts made by all members of our community: parents, grandparents, alumni, staff and friends. Please accept our thanks for your support. In 2014/15, the following families have kindly given to the Building Fund through their voluntary contribution on their fee statement. 

Note: Building Fund donations from 1/7/14 – 30/6/15.

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- Mr S J Eun & Mrs H Jung
- Mr D J & Mrs M R Evans

**F**
- Mr X Fan & Mrs R Liang
- Mr I Fang & Ms B Wu
- Mr D & Ms K Fedele
- Mr F Fei & Mrs L Lu
- Mr J Feng & Mrs H Niu
- Mr B & Mrs E Fernandes
- Mr D A & Mrs M Fitzgerald
- Mr M J & Ms J Fowler

**G**
- Mr F Gao & Ms X Bai
- Dr Y Gao & Ms W You
- Mr G & Mrs E Georgiou
- Mr M & Mrs D Giang
- Mr B Gill & Mrs M E Baker Gill
- Mr S & Mrs S Gillies
- Mr J L & Mrs M G Gonsalves
- Mr K A & Mrs J Gordhandas
- Mr M J & Mrs A N Gracie
- Mr J S & Mrs M R Gumley
- Mr J Guo & Mrs P Hui
- Mr P Guthrie & Mrs W Leong

**H**
- Mr L Hall & Ms S Ting
- Dr R & Dr B Hamilton
- Mr L Han & Ms L Huang
- Dr M & Mrs K Hassed
- Dr S & Mrs M Hillman
- Mr S A & Ms M Hills
- Mr K & Mrs B Ho
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Sereshi
Mr J Kiellerup & Ms J Mulhauser
Dr D & Mrs L King
Dr J Kioussis & Dr E Gray
Mrs C Klein & Mr M J Klein
Mr D Kon & Ms Y L Chew
Mr K Kontaxis & Ms Y Wadsworth
Mr Y Kuang & Mrs A Hu
Mrs S Kumar & Mr R Kumar
Mr Y Kwong & Ms M Lok
Dr A & Mrs S Kyoong

Mr D & Mrs K Miles
Mr J & Mrs H Mitchell
Ass Prof K Moinuddin & Mrs T Islam
Mr Y Mok & Ms M Fung
Ms C E Monaghan
Mr K & Mrs C Monos
Mr M R Morris & Ms J C Brett-Morris

N
Mr S & Mrs L Nania
Mr G Neave & Ms C Ang
Dr P R & Dr J Neil
Mr P & Mrs H Nguyen
Mr M M Nihalsingha & Mrs A R De Silva

O
Mrs D M O'Brien
Mr K Ong & Mrs M Ting
Mr T Ooi & Ms S Khor
Dr A Opat & Ms F Symons
Dr R M Orme & Dr M J McCann

P
Mr J R & Mrs J L Pace
Mr J & Mrs R Parker
Mr S H & Ms E K Parmenter
Miss J Pearce
Mr A & Mrs S Pelusi
Mr M & Dr I Petre
Mr C R Pike & Ms G Meyer
Mr H Poon & Ms S Tang
Dr A S & Mrs A B Powles

R
Mr M Rahimi & Dr M Jalilian
Mr T D Rayson-Hill
Mr S A & Mrs F Reid
Mr S Roberts & Ms L Condon

S
Dr S Salimi & Dr M Horriat
Mr S D & Mrs N Santharajah
Mr P T & Mrs D J Schroeder
Mr S S & Mrs N Seevenayagam

Mr S G P Shen & Mrs E C Fan
Mr Y & Mrs F Shibata
Mr D Shires & Ms J C Crawford
Mr J D Shirley & Mrs J Wu
Mr K Shu & Mrs N Zhou
Dr A Singh & Dr P Bordbar
Dr C Solnordal & Dr A Dennis
Mr B & Mrs J Spencer
Mr G & Mrs J Stanley
Dr G & Mrs A Stefanou
Mr D & Mrs R Sticca

T
Mr E & Mrs E Tan
Mr G Tan & Mrs S Wang
Mr S & Mrs A Tan
Mr D Tang & Mrs S Li
Mr Z Tang & Mrs Y Yu
Mr F & Mrs A Tankir
Dr A S Thavarasah
Dr J & Dr N Thomas
Mr M A Thomas & Ms A J Rowe
Mr M M Thompson & Ms K M Parker
Mr T H Tran & Dr T T T Cao
Mr M J & Ms K Y Tropea
Mr C & Mrs S Tsigaridis
Mr J Tu & Ms R Yang

V
Dr O D & Dr F Valianatos
Mr M A & Mrs A S Van Der Arend
Mr E & Mrs C J Vasilas

W
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Mr D S & Mrs V A Waldron
Mr M Walters & Ms F Mason
Ms E Wang & Mr J Luo
Mr H H T Wang & Ms A Chui
Mr J Wang & Ms L Liu
Mr J Wang & Ms D Qiu
Mr L Wang & Ms C Liu
Mr X Wang & Mrs Y Shao
Professor P & Dr L Waring

Mr M D & Mrs S Weedon
Mr T J & Mrs C L Wells
Mr J Wen & Ms H Cao
Mr R D & Mrs A Whitehead
Mr R & Mrs I Willis
Dr N & Mrs K Wilsmore
Dr A S K & Mrs S L A Wong
Mr R S Wotherspoon & Ms T S Penovic
Mr S X Q Wu & Ms X Lu

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Dr D & Mrs P Xu
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Mr E F Yakop & Mrs L Dwijayanti
Mr Y Yan & Ms J Qin
Mr B Yang & Ms Y Wang
Mr Z Yang & Mrs H Shan
Mr M Ye & Mrs J Cai
Mr Y Ye & Ms Y Sheng
Dr W & Mrs S Yousefi
Mr K Yu & Mrs K Chan
Ms S Yu
Mr Q Yuan & Ms J Zheng

Z
Mr J & Mrs D Zaicos
Mr S Zamani & Mrs F Abbasi
Mr C P & Mrs G Zapris
Mr W Zhang & Mrs H Deng
Mr H X Zheng & Ms L Lin
Mr Y Zhong & Ms J Liu
Mr C Zhou & Ms Y Shen
Mr G Zhou & Mrs J Chen
Mr G Zhou & Ms H Yi
Mr V Zubenko & Mrs T Derevyanko
We are very grateful for the generosity of the Fintona Community, and thank you for your support of the 2015 Annual Giving Appeal towards the Library, Scholarship and Maths & Science Activity Room funds.

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Deaths

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

**Mervyn Hogg (Rogers ‘36)**
19/11/14

**Audrey Flockart (‘48)**
14/4/15

**Dorothy Ley (Bennett ‘30)**
15/4/15

**Margaret Heap (Bennett ‘53)**
26/6/15

**Margaret Vaux (Eakins ‘41)**
10/7/15

**Christina Milic (‘05)**
14/8/15

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**Peggy Oram (Weymouth ‘41)**
27/9/26 - 26/6/15

Peggy passed away in Sydney after a long illness. Throughout her years at Fintona she was an active team member of the tennis and hockey teams. After graduating from Fintona, Peggy undertook a course at Stott’s Business College then joined ICI Australia in the Melbourne Head Office as a stenographer. During 1950 she travelled by ship to London where she worked at ICI London. Whilst in London she met and became engaged to John Thompson Oram, and on their return to Melbourne they were married in 1952. They made their home in Bardwell Park, Sydney where her husband, John was a banker. In 1954 their son David was born followed in 1957 by Susan. Our condolences to Peggy’s family and friends.

**Moira Jane (Bailey ‘48)**
7/5/30 - 30/7/15

Moi passed away peacefully in Brisbane surrounded by her loving family.

It was only a few months ago when she was tidying the house that she found an old Fintona photo of the whole school. She could name all but four girls in the photo. This was an indication of how much she valued her school years and the friends she made. She chose to become a nurse after finishing school. This was a career choice that truly reflected her loving and caring for others.

Moi married Graham in 1955 and they had three children Peter, Libby (‘75) and Helen (‘78). She was a loving Nanny and great grandma. Moi and Gray went on to live in different parts of the country and travel the world many times.

Moi set her family the highest possible example of what it means to be unselfish and generous, sensitive and happy with who you are, to be honest and totally trustworthy.

To all her wider family and friends whose lives she touched, you all know how much she enjoyed a good laugh, and how much she demonstrated her love, generosity, her interest in friends and her great desire to help others. She helped so many through their times of trial.

Mum we miss you.

**Helen Jane (‘78)**
A WORTHY RECIPIENT OF AN OAM – DR VALERIE TARRANT

Congratulations to Dr Valerie Tarrant (Clayton, then Johnston ‘47) OAM who received the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year’s list of Queen’s Birthday Honours. Valerie received her OAM for service to conservation, the environment and community history.

Since the late 1960s, Valerie has influenced changes in local council policies.

A highly respected individual, Valerie has been a leading member of numerous committees and groups. Valerie was one of the founding members of the Black Rock and Sandringham Conservation Association which was formed in the 70s and was an important member in helping to establish the ‘conservation movement’ in the Bayside area. She is also a member of a range of environment and conservation organisations, community history and community service groups.

Valerie was Dux of Fintona in 1947 and has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree, a Diploma in Education and a Masters in Education degree from the University of Melbourne, a Diploma in Theological Studies from Moore Theological College (University of Sydney) and a Doctor of Philosophy from Deakin University. She is the author of numerous academic articles and several books including the best-seller, Bayside Reflections and Conserving Australia.

Victoria was required to submit both a written and video application highlighting the work she had done with technology in the classroom, in particular, iTunes U and using it to create a ‘flipped’ classroom for her Year 8 History students. Congratulations on your IT achievements Victoria.

FAMILIAR FACES ON THE FINTONA BOARD

Whether it be attending reunions, reading the Fintona File or having a son (in the ELC) or daughter attend the School, there are so many avenues for Old Fintonians to maintain links with Fintona. It’s great to see a large contingent of the current Fintona Board being Old Fintonians.

Victoria Spicer-Stuart (Spicer ‘01) RECEIVES AN APPLE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

Victoria Spicer-Stuart (Spicer ‘01) recently visited Singapore to receive an Apple Distinguished Educator Award.

The Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) program is a relationship program focused on educational excellence and leadership. ADEs are part of a global community of education leaders recognized for doing amazing things with Apple technology in and out of the classroom. In the ADE Class of 2015, seven teachers were chosen from Victoria and were joined in Singapore by other technologically savvy teachers from all over the Asia-Pacific. ADE Institutes were also held in Europe and North America.

Victoria Spicer-Stuart with her ADE Award

Dr Valerie Tarrant OAM, after the medal ceremony at Government House

L – R: Dana Fleming (‘88), the Board Chair, Eris Yap (McKinnar ‘02), Catherine Vickers-Willis (Maxwell ‘78), Jackie Besley (Robertson ’86), Jane Rodgerson (’74)
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OFA FOR CHARITIES

At the card party in September, the OFA for Charities raised over $2,000 for the Mirabel Foundation. Around 50 Old Fintonians attended the day and are to be thanked for this great result. Card parties are held twice a year at Fintona. Please contact Andree Peter on 9859 6359 if you’re interested in coming to the next one in April 2016. It’s always lots of fun.

OFA/COMPANY MORNING TEA

Each year the OFA and the Fintona Company host a morning tea for Year 12 students. Principal, Suzy Chandler, presents each girl with an origami crane charm as a reminder of the special Fintona tradition when the Year 12s enter their final exam rooms to discover 1,000 origami cranes made by younger students hanging from the ceiling to wish them success and happiness. Dana Fleming (’88), Board Chair and OFA President, Ann Hawker also spoke at the morning tea about the numerous opportunities to stay connected with Fintona after leaving school.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANDREE

For over 20 years, Andree Peter (Joubert ’52) has been sending birthday cards on behalf of the OFA to Old Fintonians who are turning 80 years and over. In August, it was Andree’s turn to receive her first OFA Birthday Card.

Reunions

Class of 2005
10 Year Reunion
FRIDAY
19 JUNE, 2015

1. Class of 2005
2. L – R: Susannah Schoeffel, Lauren Clingan (Seit)
3. L – R: Natasha Van Der Waarden, past teacher, Carolyn Crawford, Jacqui Blum, Hannah Greenwood
Class of 1985
30 Year Reunion
FRIDAY
24 JULY, 2015

NSW/ACT
Reunion
THURSDAY
10 SEPTEMBER,
2015

1. The NSW/ACT reunion group
2. L – R: Gaylene Van Gulik (Peters), Sarah-Jane Mead, Pearly Khaw, current teacher, Ann Hawker, Simone McCallum, Lisette Evans (Betton)
3. L – R: Current teacher, Julie Goldsworthy, Roseanna Wellington (flew in from Belgium), Nomiki Georgiadis (Yatzakis)

Art Show Tour and Afternoon Tea
THURSDAY 13
AUGUST, 2015

1. L- R: Andree Peter, Diana Parker, Helen Murray, Suzanne Davidson, Margaret Moyle, Pat Rixon, Barbara Fotheringham, Elizabeth Butt OAM, Mary Fiore
2. Barbara Fotheringham ('55) with Year 7 tour guide, Hannah Jacobs
I am absolutely delighted to tell you that a biography of Annie Hughston, arguably the founder of Fintona Girls’ School, *The Lady Principal, Miss Annie Hughston 1859-1943* was published online in August in the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB) (http://adb.anu.edu.au/essay/16). It will also be part of the next volume of the ejournal *Using Lives: essays in Australian biography and history published by the National Centre for Biography* (ANU), which also publishes the ADB. Under-educated for the role she ultimately played, a feminist, entrepreneur and adoptive mother, Annie Hughston is impressive yet hard to come to grips with.

The essay is a tour de force in its historical and contextual analysis of women’s education in the early 20th century. The article is peer-reviewed and its publication is recognition of the quality and rigour of the research and output of the Fintona OHG. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors Mary Lush, Lis Christensen, Prue Gill (Harper) and Libby Roberts (Parker) and the other members of the Fintona OHG for their contribution in creating this work, which will ensure Annie Hughston is acknowledged as an Australian educationalist, and not just someone who is known and remembered by the Fintona community.

This biography of Annie Hughston is a companion to the Fintona OHG’s podcast of the memories of Hughston-era students which can be found with more information of Fintona’s history generally at www.fintonahistory.com.au. I do encourage you to read the Annie Hughston biography (http://adb.anu.edu.au/essay/16) and we await with great interest the forthcoming publication of the OHG’s article on her brother William Hughston who co-founded Fintona with Annie, which has been accepted for publication in the Victorian Historical Journal.

Congratulations to the authors and the Fintona OHG on both these achievements.

**Dana Fleming**
Chair, Fintona Board
UPCOMING EVENTS

REUNION DATES 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class of 1976</th>
<th>40 Year Reunion</th>
<th>Friday 18 March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2011</td>
<td>5 Year Reunion</td>
<td>Friday 29 April</td>
<td>6.30pm – 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Class of 1996</td>
<td>20 Year Reunion</td>
<td>Friday 13 May</td>
<td>6.30pm – 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Class of 2006</td>
<td>10 Year Reunion</td>
<td>Friday 3 June</td>
<td>6.30pm – 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Class of 1986</td>
<td>30 Year Reunion</td>
<td>Friday 22 July</td>
<td>6.30pm – 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Class of 1966</td>
<td>50 Year Reunion</td>
<td>Saturday 20 August</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
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Art Show Tour & Afternoon Tea
Thursday 18 August
2pm – 4pm

1958 & 1959 Luncheons
Monday 8 February
Glenferrie Hotel, Hawthorn

Monday 9 May
Kirsks on the Esplanade, Mornington

Monday 8 August
Glenferrie Hotel, Hawthorn

Monday 14 November
Kirsks on the Esplanade, Mornington

Contact: Mel Marsh
(Merilyn Seward ’58)
Tel: 5984 4436 / 0407 855 538

INTERSTATE/COUNTRY REUNIONS

North East Victoria (Benalla)
Wednesday 16 March
Wednesday 12 October

WA
Saturday 7 May

NSW/ACT
Thursday 8 September

QLD
Saturday 29 October

SA
October/November TBC

SAVE THE DATE

To celebrate Fintona’s 120 year Anniversary in 2016, a special event for all OFA members will be held next year.

OFA 120th Anniversary High Tea
Sunday 23 October, 2016
Leonda By The Yarra, Hawthorn

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