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Farewell Lorna Probst

Lorna Probst is a Fintona stalwart. She has been at the School since 1996 and during that time has had a profound impact on the lives of many Senior School girls. It is hard to imagine the Senior School without her.

Upon her arrival, Lorna was employed as the Head of English and was quickly promoted to Head of Senior School where she has spent many hours teaching English, giving advice to students and offering a helping hand whenever one was needed. Most of all, however, she has been a major contributing factor to the academic and personal success of many Senior School girls through her dedication and commitment. For Lorna, the welfare of each student has always been forefront in her mind, and she has gone to great lengths to ensure that the Senior School is a happy, safe and inspiring environment.

At the end of the year, Lorna will leave the familiar surrounds of Fintona to take up an exciting new opportunity in Sydney as Head of the Girls’ College at Pittwater House School on the northern beaches of Sydney where she will be close to her family and be able to spend more time with her much loved grandsons. As she reflected on her time as the Head of Senior School, she conveyed her love of teaching, working closely with a committed and supportive Staff and her involvement in the development of the Years 9 to 11 Leadership Program. But it has been the experience of watching the senior girls grow and mature into remarkable young women with a strong set of values that has given her the greatest satisfaction.

So, at the end of this year, a fantastic Head of Senior School will say goodbye to Melbourne and hello to a new life in Sydney, despite the fact that Sydney is yet to perfect good coffee! Lorna, we will miss you dearly. We wish you the best of luck at your new school and hope that the future is bright for you and your family.

As many of you know, Katrina Brennan was appointed joint Head of Senior School at the start of 2012. We wish Katrina well in 2013 as the sole Head of Senior School.

Happy Retirement to Tess Greatorex

After 25 years at Fintona, Tess is retiring at the end of this year. Tess, who has taught PE at Fintona and who has also taken Yoga classes for staff on Mondays, will be greatly missed. Tess’ black and white portrait photo taken by another talented member of the teaching staff, Nick Capriolo, hangs proudly in the Margaret Cunningham Hall as a lasting reminder of the contribution Tess has made over the last 25 years at Fintona. Tess will continue to pursue teaching and studying Yoga and plans to visit India where she will attend a Yoga Retreat to complete her teacher training. She is also planning to travel to England and hopes in the future to be able to introduce senior students to Yoga in other schools. We wish Tess all the best in her retirement.
Wellbeing has become something of a catch phrase. Rather than treating it as an external, easily applied condition, perhaps true wellbeing comes from inside and evolves from many elements. Some of these may include: a positive attitude, healthy eating, exercise, social connectedness, community awareness, empathy and, for some, spiritual guidance.

Wellbeing encompasses both the physical and mental aspects of being human. It does not guarantee happiness, however, a sense of wellness can help us deal with the difficult times and can ensure that we maintain a zest and enjoyment of life.

At Fintona, we endeavour to enhance the wellbeing of students. Teachers not only instruct and make their lessons interesting and accessible, they also encourage hands-on learning. Incursions, excursions and discussions contribute to this. Intellectual pursuit teaches students how to navigate the complexities of the world. It is a spur to curiosity and can provide enormous satisfaction.

Staff are adept in their knowledge of individual students. They forge good relationships with the girls and allow them to seek assistance with their academic work, in addition to advice on personal issues.

In recent times there has been a focus on unhealthy attitudes towards food. Eating should be enjoyed and shared and include conversation with family and friends. The Tuckshop, under new management, will provide fresh, healthy food in an enjoyable social setting and assist the girls to improve their overall wellness.

Exercise is encouraged through a myriad of school sports and physical activities. A number of electives are also dedicated to promoting a healthy sense of self. It has been well documented that physical activity can improve both the body and mind of people of all ages.

Fintona is a non-denominational school, but our values are shared by the many great belief systems our families belong to. Many philosophers have espoused the same type of values and the ethos practised at Fintona. Our students manifest their own spiritual wellbeing with their strong commitment to social justice and community service. In their generosity they live out that spirit every day.

In the latest survey undertaken by Years 5 to 12, students from every level commented positively on their experiences at Fintona. They feel they are a part of a community and have developed a set of values founded on tolerance, acceptance of individual difference and the skills necessary to articulate their opinions.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Consuls for 2013. The girls chosen are excellent ambassadors. I hope that Saskia Rowson, Pamodi Kodikara, Gillian Lee, Lauren Bleakley and Karyn Tan enjoy their new roles and take advantage of the opportunities for personal growth and development. I would like to thank the leaders of 2012 for their fine work and for being good role models during the school year.

S D Chandler
Father’s Day celebrations in the ELC

Towards the end of Term 3, the children of the Early Learning Centre enjoyed hosting wonderful Father’s Day celebrations. The K3 Ginko and Jacaranda groups and the Wattle children enjoyed cooking muffins, pancakes and gingerbread men in preparation for beautiful breakfasts. Meanwhile, the Banksia and K4 Jacaranda children prepared scrumptious suppers for their evening celebrations.

Each celebration was a happy and festive occasion and the children thoroughly enjoyed creating gifts and making preparations for the big day. These events are a wonderful opportunity for our fathers to see their children in the educational setting and to appreciate how creative, competent and knowledgeable they are.

Cara Mearns
Head of the ELC

Adventures in the Big Girls’ playground

The Banksia Room children look forward each week to their trip down to the Junior School’s Big Girls’ playground. The playground, designed by Andrew Laidlaw, who also designed the Ian Potter Foundation Children’s Garden in the Royal Botanic Gardens, provides many opportunities for exploration, investigation, hiding, running and risk taking. The children assist the teachers in loading up the red wagon each visit with clip boards, pens, paper, collection baskets and containers, cameras and magnifying glasses.

It is so important, in the busy world we live in, to stop and take time to appreciate nature. The children have developed a new sense of observing nature, looking at the finer details, and seeing the less obvious that we are often too busy to notice. We are constantly amazed at their ability to find the hidden... small mushrooms, insects, patterns in plants and on trees. We all look forward to this time spent together and to making new discoveries every week.

Debbie Nicholas
Banksia Room Pre-Prep Teacher
In August, every student from Prep to Year 6 celebrated the Olympics at Fintona, participating in 13 sports representing 13 countries. The girls worked together in multi-age teams to create flags and name signs for the opening and closing ceremonies.

In the Margaret Ross Centre, the girls assembled for the Opening Ceremony with the Olympic rings, the athletes and officials’ oath led by Serena Wang and Christina Nguyen.

The ‘Queen’ (our Principal Mrs Chandler) arrived to great applause and declared the 2012 Fintona Olympic Games open. Each country competed in 13 modified events: European Handball, Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Shot Put, Rhythmic and Artistic Gymnastics, Javelin, Table Tennis, Long Jump, Equestrian and the Marathon. We all had a fantastic time!

Andrea Sherburn  
PYP Co-ordinator and  
Amy Cross  
PE Teacher

1. Bronte Brown in the shotput event  
2. Charlotte Crozier playing table tennis  
3. Mietta Morris gets into the true British spirit  
4. Jade Bianco in the equestrian event  
5. Madeline Pynta kicking goals in soccer  
7. Willow Belyea participating in hockey
An experience of a lifetime up North

Fintona has a strong relationship with the Danila Dilba Health Service in Darwin. Over the past five years many girls have had the opportunity to practise community service among Indigenous Australians and experience Aboriginal culture. In July, three students and two teachers went to Darwin to assist at the Health Service. Fintona was represented by Alison Chong, Gillian Lee, Nancy Magliano, Ms Christa Ackermann and Ms Shannon Kosub.

The group were involved in a number of activities which included the promotion of healthy eating, managing a community information stall and providing educational entertainment for the children. They visited four clinics in the Greater Darwin area and experienced first hand the assistance they provide. They also joined a peaceful march to promote Aboriginal rights and recognition of the traditional owners of the land and learnt about the importance of this ancient culture.

Fintona supports the Danila Dilba Health Service and money collected in their name will be used to purchase specialised chairs for the haematology clinic. As a gesture of appreciation, Mr Kane Ellis, the Practice Manager, visited and spoke at assembly. He presented the School with a painting by an Aboriginal artist, especially commissioned by Danila Dilba, in recognition of the ongoing liaison with Fintona. This wonderful painting will take a place of honour next to the Aboriginal flag in the Margaret Cunningham Hall.

Christa Ackermann
Science Co-ordinator
and Community Service Co-ordinator

Here there be DRAGONS

Explorations 2012 was a rip-roaring, wing-flapping, flame-throwing three days! Given the theme of Here there be dragons, the Year 7 and 8 students embarked on the most ambitious and creative projects that saw the writing of books for the ELC and Junior School, a new garden area developed for Moss House, and a stunning dance piece performed. The girls also produced a claymation movie, dragon stories carved into clay tablets in hieroglyphics and a flag that was sewn to adorn the flagpole of our new ‘castle’.

The girls also went to the city to discover the dragons which lurk unnoticed atop the buildings of the CBD and wrote a tale describing what they saw. You might be surprised to know just how many dragons exist unnoticed around us every day.

The three days of Explorations allowed the girls to discover new friendships and new skills and to produce lasting reminders of how you can learn to see the world in different ways if you just take the time to look.

Kirstin Bourne
Co-ordinator of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development
A tour in the land of the

THE RISING SUN

As the rest of the school began to unwind on the last Friday of a hectic Term 3, a very excited group of 21 Year 10 and 11 girls, Mrs Suzy Chandler and I headed for Tullamarine airport to embark on a much anticipated journey to the ‘land of the rising sun’.

For the next two glorious weeks, we toured around the country to see, feel, discover and experience Japan first hand. While the girls marvelled at the efficiency of this very fashionable, ultra modern high-tech society and appreciated the extremely courteous, hospitable people with a tinge of quirkiness, they were astounded by the beauty and eternity of the ancient monuments that have stood for well over 1000 years.

The tour also offered the girls an opportunity to test their language skills, and it was gratifying to see them communicate confidently in Japanese. When Mrs Chandler, who had no prior knowledge of Japanese, began to use a few phrases with amazing fluency, one witty girl gave her a nickname of ‘Sushi Chandler’ – all of us thought this was hilarious, including Mrs Chandler herself!

Of all the things the girls got to see and experience, however, the last six days spent with their host families at our sister school, Yokohama Eiwa, would undoubtedly be the time they will cherish most. Not only did they gain an invaluable insight into the Japanese way of life, they formed lasting friendships with so many people in the Eiwa community who so graciously welcomed our girls into their homes and school.

Yoko Kirkman
Japanese Teacher

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Japanese Teacher

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Yoko Kirkman
Japanese Teacher

Yoko Kirkman
Japanese Teacher
WRITERS’ FESTIVAL
where inspiration to write can be found anywhere at all

The Writers’ Festival at Fintona has always been a popular week-long event. This year, the School was overrun with visitors, each of whom shared something in common: a love for all things literary. There were book reviewers, one of whom, despite being the mother of seven, finds time to read 360 children’s books a year, a lawyer who much prefers to illustrate classics such as *The Great Gatsby* and *Hamlet*, another lawyer who discovered that full-time bird watching and writing comedy for television was much more to his taste, a writer of scripts for *Home and Away* and *Neighbours* who has just written an award-winning children’s novel, a mathematician who writes fiction, poetry and is an expert of Greek mythology, and many more.

This year we were very fortunate to secure the hilariously funny Andy Griffiths who formally opened the Festival. He spoke comically but eloquently on how to make fiction sound real. Andy revealed one of his most important writing secrets – the humble notebook that he carries with him at all times.

A big thank you to Ms Emily Belyea, Ms Maree Gilbert and Ms Fiona Longfield from the Resource Centre who managed the smooth running of the event with great style.

Jennifer Johnstone
English Co-ordinator

“From the humorous assembly with our favourite childhood author Andy Griffiths, to the hard work and dedication of lawyer, mother and talented author Nicki Greenberg, all the way to Tom Petsinis’ entertaining and informative session about Homer’s Iliad and David Malouf’s Ransom and finally Paddy O’Reilly’s thoroughly enjoyable creative writing session, the Fintona Writers’ Festival had something for everyone. We learnt that inspiration for writing can be drawn from anywhere at all, whether it be a simple argument with a sibling to our memories of hot Melbourne summers, and for that, we thank you.”

Tara Shokouhi (Year 12)

BELOW LEFT
Year 6 students enjoyed designing, painting and sewing together their cushions with the help of Miss Maree Gilbert and her handy sewing machine in response to a session with illustrator Anna Walker.

BELOW RIGHT
Acclaimed children’s author, Andy Griffiths, in front of his popular books.
Georgia is on track

Year 10 student Georgia Griffith has had an outstanding Term 2 and 3 in the sporting arena for Fintona. In Term 2 in the cross country season, Georgia was a member of the intermediate team which won Division 3. She came second in Division 3 and ninth overall, which was a fantastic effort. In Term 3, Georgia was a member of the athletics team that competed in the GSv Preliminary and Championship Carnivals where she won both 800m events. Her time was one of the fastest which meant she qualified for the GSv finals evening in the 800m race, winning a gold medal for her efforts.

Congratulations to Georgia and for all her hard work and commitment to training. She is a true inspiration to her fellow Fintonians.

Carmen Timms
Sport Co-ordinator

DAV Junior Public Speaking Competition Success

On 1 June, five Year 7 students from Fintona attended the regional rounds of the DAV Junior Public Speaking competition, which was hosted by Avila College in Mount Waverley.

It was the first time any of the students had ever participated in an external public speaking competition and all performed exceptionally well. Joanna Bleakley was successful at taking one of the five winning places and proceeding to the semi-finals. There were 23 students from six public, Catholic and independent schools in the eastern suburbs and most of the students were in Years 8 or 9. The competition was intense and Joanna performed remarkably well with her prepared speech which examined the ‘Fight for Equality’ and whether such a fight is still justified in this day and age.

On Friday 31 August, Joanna attended the semi-finals of the competition and blew away the competition by taking second place! The adjudicators highlighted Joanna’s impromptu speech performance as being a stand out. The topic was ‘The Power of One’ and Joanna spoke about Neil Armstrong.

The Grand Final of the competition will be in November of this year, where Joanna will compete against the best speakers in the State. I am thrilled for Joanna, and wish her every success in the Grand Final. At Fintona we are fortunate to have a long standing Public Speaking program and it is particularly pleasing to see young speakers flourishing and experiencing success.

Suzan Davies
Public Speaking Co-ordinator

Alliance Francaise

Congratulations to Saffi Kiellerup in Year 3 who won the Year 3 Alliance Francaise Competition overall; Joanna Bleakley who won the Year 7 level overall and Chee-Rae Loi and Nivedha Seevanayagam in Year 5 who came second and third respectively in the Drawing Competition.

Science Talent Search

We are pleased to announce that the Year 5 to 8 Science students will receive the Hugh McKnight Encouragement Award to recognise the high quality of the entries received for the Science Talent Search. This is the third award Fintona has received in the last four years from Science Teachers of Victoria.
Annual Music Concert showcases fine Fintona talent

Our Annual Music Concert was held on Thursday 16 August. It was a marvellous success and included performances for all of the large ensembles across the School and some of the chamber groups. The program included a diverse range of offerings which kept the audience completely engaged. I would like to thank everyone involved; the students, who performed to such a high standard, the Music Staff, who work so tirelessly to produce wonderful performances from our girls, and all of the other Staff who assisted in the preparation and running of the concert. Over 250 girls were involved in the performances which is extraordinary considering the size of the School. Well done girls!

Pip Robinson
Music Co-ordinator
OUR AMAZING ART
SHOW 2012

This year’s Art Show once again showcased the amazing creativity and imagination the students have at Fintona. The exhibition included a range of artworks from students in ELC to Year 12. Many families, friends, staff and students admired the girls’ artistic talents which included photoshopped images, oil paintings, paintings on goache and so much more.

David Keen
Art Co-ordinator

1. Gabriella Walker, Year 3
   Charcoal on paper
2. Zoe Johnson, Year 1
   Papier Mache sculpture
3. Carlin Lyon, Year 12
   Gouache on paper
4. Pollyanna Dowell, Year 6
   Acrylic on canvas
5. Esther Le Couteur, Year 11
   Acrylic on Canvas
6. Kel Ang, Year 11
   Photoshop image
Chris Williams has been a teacher at Fintona since 2008. He teaches Year 12 Economics and Accounting, Year 11 Economics, most Commerce electives, Year 8 Geography and Year 7 History.

He is a Year 10 Tutor and the Ower House Teacher. To keep things balanced, he is also Fintona’s Junior Tennis and Soccer Coach. His skill in all things numerical is well known around the traps and he puts this into practice by working with the Year 4s in mathematical problem solving. While many students speak highly of Mr Williams’ classes, his biggest fan is his two year old daughter Scarlett who provides endless hours of entertainment. Even the lack of sleep has no effect when she comes running up to him and jumps into his arms at the end of the day. And she loves coming to Tutor group on the odd occasions to meet the ‘big girls’!

You weren’t always a teacher. What is your background and why did you make a change to education?

I come from a Commerce background and most recently prior to teaching, I was an investment analyst for a Funds Manager, valuing Australian companies on the stock market. I have a Masters in Applied Finance as well as other commerce post graduate qualifications. I loved what I did but decided that I wanted to make a difference in the world and hopefully change people’s lives. Investing people’s money was personally satisfying but I wanted to have a more direct influence and had a passion to work with children.

What is the most satisfying aspect of being a teacher?

There is nothing more satisfying then seeing the growth in an individual from Year 4 right up to seeing them graduate from Year 12. To see a student ‘get it’ who has struggled with a topic in class, after spending one on one time with them, is really satisfying.

What do you think the students find appealing about your classes?

I hope they like that the classes are linked to the real world, and that I am able to bring my real life experience to my classes. They are able to use many of the skills they learn in class in their own lives, and most importantly they understand the world around them, how it impacts on them and how they impact it. My classes tend to be quite interactive and the students really enjoy the hands on learning that enables them to apply their skills and knowledge.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I play football for Hawthorn Amateurs in the winter and cricket for Bulleen in the summer. I also love reading, and am working my way through the collection of Charles Dickens (halfway thus far) with my favourite book being *David Copperfield*.

The next World Challenge expedition will be *Amazoning*!

The next bunch of intrepid Fintonian World Challenge Adventurers leave on their expedition to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in mid November. Sweetening the experience will be the filming of a travel diary for a top rating TV show which will be shown on free to air television next year (and maybe at Cannes too!).

Away for a month, they will do volunteer work in a school or village in the Amazon Basin, trek 5000 metres up a volcano to the crater and a glacial lake, trapse through the Amazonian rain forest before heading off to the Galapagos Islands where they can snorkel, relax and come out of their shells.

Should be an ‘amazoning’ experience!

Craig Colton

Humanities Teacher and World Challenge Adventurer

The November expedition to Ecuador will be Craig’s fourth. Considering most teachers involved in this important program participate only once or twice, Craig has shown a commitment and dedication which was acknowledged at a recent World Challenge Expedition Preparation Conference. Craig was recognised for his ongoing contribution and support of numerous trips, as he is only one of a handful of teachers in Victoria who has been on three or more expeditions.
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 2011/12, the following families have kindly given to the Building Fund through their voluntary contribution on their fee statement.

A
Mr D & Mrs A Abzatz
Mr J & Mrs P Alberti
Mr S Aprico & Mrs P Martinelli-Ap rico
Mr M & Mrs D Ashbolt
Mr T Assimakopoulos & Mrs C Baho
Mr C & Mrs M Atkins
Mr O Auda & Mrs T Rasoul-Auda

B
Mr C & Mrs S Bakas
Mr R & Mrs S Balgovind
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Mr J & Mrs J Lim
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Mr P & Mrs L Perera
Mr M & Mrs L Perren
Mr R & Mrs S Perrins
Mr F & Mrs S Persile
Mr M & Dr I Petre
Mr W & Mrs L Pickering
Mr M & Mrs J Pymain
Dr C & Mrs A Prasanna
Mr D Puglia & Mrs N Robinson

Q
Mr W Qian & Mrs Y Liu
Acknowledgements

Annual Giving Program 2012

Through the generosity of this year's Annual Giving, we will be commissioning a sculptor to create an artwork for the Margaret Ross Centre. The Library Fund and Scholarship Fund have also received continued support. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Fintona Community, and thank you for your support of the 2012 Annual Giving Program.
Reunions

Class of 2007
Five Year Reunion

On Friday 14 September, the Class of 2007 gathered in the Tracks Bar of the Amora Hotel in Richmond for their 5 year reunion. The night provided a fantastic opportunity to catch up on everyone’s news and achievements since leaving Fintona in 2007 in a casual environment.

It was a lovely occasion for everyone who attended and sparked many great memories from our school days. Thank you to everyone who attended and made the night so enjoyable.

Tara Winney ‘07

Class of 2002
Ten Year Reunion

On Saturday 28 July, the Class of 2002 celebrated their 10 year reunion at Cherry Road House.

It was a fantastic night as girls reconnected with old friends and reminisced about school days. The reunion was also a wonderful opportunity to catch up on everyone’s experiences over the past decade. Travel, study and careers were certainly popular topics. We all enjoyed receiving our reunion booklet which will hopefully help us to keep in touch with old friends. Thank you to everyone who attended the reunion.

WA Reunion

Looking out to Rottnest Island on the horizon back up the Swan River, and down to Fremantle Port on a glorious sunny afternoon, on 12 May, Old Fintonians were present and noise levels were very high as the annual catch up began. Country girls are finding it more difficult to attend, but rang or emailed their news. Later, it's all brought together with a précis form ‘Order of Meeting’, then round the table to hear each member's highlights for the year. Travel is always high on the agenda for those living in WA, jobs and occupations, and of course, families. There are a variety of interests among those who attended; a forty-year age group range with the love of Fintona as the common bond.

Our next meeting will be held on the Saturday of the Mother's Day weekend 2013. Any Old Fintonians visiting WA in May please do join us.

Tara Winney ‘07

Reunion Dates 2013

1963
50 year Reunion
Friday 15 November
6.30pm - 8.30pm

1973
40 year Reunion
Friday 22 March
6.30pm - 8.30pm

1983
30 year Reunion
Friday 16 August
6.30pm - 8.30pm

1993
20 year Reunion
Friday 17 May
6.30pm - 8.30pm

2003
10 year Reunion
Friday 21 June,
6.30pm - 8.30 pm

2008
5 year Reunion
Friday 6 September
6.30pm - 8.30 pm

1962 and below
Friday 23 August
Art Show Afternoon Tea,
2pm - 4pm

Interstate/Country Reunions

Benalla
Wednesday 17 April
12 noon,
Benalla Art Gallery

WA
Saturday 11 May

NSW/ACT
Thursday 12 September

QLD
Saturday 26 October

SA
Sunday 27 October

Check the website in December 2012 for the final interstate dates.
OFA

Janet Dorothy Larner (Wright ’28) 17/5/12
(Congratulations to the following past student on the birth of her baby:
Robyn Satorre (Bailey ’98) and husband Archie welcomed twins Noah and Bailey on 16 February 2012. Dennis Kiellerup performed a Naming Ceremony for the boys with Tania Collier (Lithgow ’98) and Rosemary House (Thom ’98) named as the boys’ guardians.

Obituaries

Gwynneth Mary Margetts (Ellis ’39) 11/11/11
On leaving Fintona, Gwynneth trained as a secretary and worked for a solicitor in the city until her marriage to Ronald Margetts. Ron’s sister, Anne Bridges-Webb (Margetts ’52), also attended Fintona. On Gwynne’s first day at school as a Year 7 student, she met Dorothy Tudor (Pettigrew ’40) who was to remain a close friend all her life as well as Gwen McIlwraith (Holmes ’40). Gwynne and Dorothy were both members of the Anglican Church and spent many happy hours at seminars together and in later years enjoyed picnics in the Dandenongs. The Margetts, Tudor and McIlwraith families spent many happy times together when their children were growing up. Gwynne died peacefully on 11 November 2011 after suffering a stroke. She is survived by her daughter Hilary, son David, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Dorothy Isabel Tudor (Pettigrew ’40) 28/5/12
Dorothy passed away on 28 May 2012 after suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease for many years. Dorothy was a gifted student at Fintona, attending the school from the age of six in Burke Road under Annie Hugheston and later when the school relocated to Balwyn. Dorothy was Head Prefect in 1940 as well as holding the positions of Drama and Debating Captains (she was only 16). Unable to attend university because her father suffered a stroke in her final years at Fintona, Dorothy attended secretarial college and then worked for a number of years at the CSIRO before marrying Graham Tudor. Dorothy was a devoted member of the St. Silas Congregation, Mothers Union and the wider community. She taught Divinity in local government schools for many years before accepting a position at Firbank. Dorothy was devoted to her family, friends and service to anyone in need and is sadly missed by her four children and ten grandchildren.

Deaths

Gwynneth Margetts (Ellis ’39) 11/11/11
Jennifer Robinson (Purves ’60) 2/4/12
Elaine Jalland (Bush ’45) 17/5/12
Janet Dorothy Larner (Wright ’28) 23/5/12
Dorothy Tudor (Pettigrew ’40) 28/5/12
Aase Munch (Wassard ’21) 18/7/12
Elizabeth Danne 12/9/12
Pioneer Teacher of Biology and Social Biology at Fintona from 1960-1979
Annabel Brownell (Rylah ’58) 17/9/12

Robyn Satorre with husband Archie and twins Noah and Bailey

Annabel Brownell (Rylah ’58) 17/9/12
Annabel was the daughter of Sir Arthur Gordon Rylah and Lady Rylah (Ann Flora Flashman) who was also an Old Fintonian. Annabel passed away on 17 September 2012 and is survived by her children, Catherine, Gordon, Ian and Alistair.

Obituaries

Janet Dorothy Larner (Wright ’28)
Janet’s daughter, Judy Hollow, let us know that her mother sadly passed away in May 2012. Janet attended Fintona from 1922 to 1928 and was good friends with Dot Renard. As a special request, Judy asked for some Fintona roses from the garden to be used at her Funeral. Luckily there were a few buds in bloom to fulfill this wish.

Aase Munch (Wassard ’21)
Aase was born to Danish parents in Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn on 7 February 1905. She was one of four daughters. The family lived in Rathmines Road, Hawthorn and Aase attended Auburn State School and then Fintona, which at the time was situated in Burke Road, Camberwell. Aase worked as a dental nurse and upon her retirement played croquet at Auburn Heights Croquet Club until that closed, when she moved to Glenferrie Hill Croquet Club. Aase was a keen croquet player representing the club in Pennant and travelling widely to support Australian teams when playing interstate or abroad. Aase continued to play into her 99th year. At the celebration of her 100th birthday, attended by a representative and photographer from the MCC, she wielded her mallet for the final time suggesting she was now ‘too old to play anymore’. She continued to visit the Club for social events until her health declined but she remained interested in MCC activities to the end. Aase was 107 when she passed away and was Fintona’s oldest living past student. Flowers were sent to the funeral on behalf of all Old Fintonians.

Aase’s family writes: ‘Our family has had a long association with Fintona. Aase’s sister Hansine Hansen (Wassard) was an early student, my sister Kaye Berry (Hansen) attended as did my wife Margaret Hansen (Macgill) and her sister. Our two daughters, Libby O’Sullivan and Fiona Jagger were also there.’

Annabel Brownell (Rylah ’58)
Annabel was the daughter of Sir Arthur Gordon Rylah and Lady Rylah (Ann Flora Flashman) who was also an Old Fintonian. Annabel passed away on 17 September 2012 and is survived by her children, Catherine, Gordon, Ian and Alistair.

Elaine Jalland (Bush ’45) 17/5/12
Elaine was a boarder at Fintona and was the Goddaughter of Ms Olive Gordon, the Vice-Principal. She was also the mother-in-law of Karin Jalland (Dahl-Paulsen ’75). Elaine passed away on 17 May 2012.

Births

Gwynneth Mary Margetts (Ellis ’39) On leaving Fintona, Gwynneth trained as a secretary and worked for a solicitor in the city until her marriage to Ronald Margetts. Ron’s sister, Anne Bridges-Webb (Margetts ’52), also attended Fintona. On Gwynne’s first day at school as a Year 7 student, she met Dorothy Tudor (Pettigrew ’40) who was to remain a close friend all her life as well as Gwen McIlwraith (Holmes ’40). Gwynne and Dorothy were both members of the Anglican Church and spent many happy hours at seminars together and in later years enjoyed picnics in the Dandenongs. The Margetts, Tudor and McIlwraith families spent many happy times together when their children were growing up. Gwynne died peacefully on 11 November 2011 after suffering a stroke. She is survived by her daughter Hilary, son David, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

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Conditions to the following past student on the birth of her baby:
Robyn Satorre (Bailey ’98) and husband Archie welcomed twins Noah and Bailey on 16 February 2012. Dennis Kiellerup performed a Naming Ceremony for the boys with Tania Collier (Lithgow ’98) and Rosemary House (Thom ’98) named as the boys’ guardians.
Vale Mrs Elizabeth Danne – an inspirational teacher

10 April 1920 - 12 September 2012
BSc (London), Dip Ed (London)

Born and educated in England, Mrs Danne came to Australia as a war bride in 1946. Four children later, she returned to full-time work as a teacher. She was thus in the vanguard of married women with children returning to their careers. A fully qualified biologist, she was much in demand, and in her 20 years of teaching at Fintona (1960-79) was a role model to generations of students. Under her tutelage, we learnt about the water cycle, the intertidal zone, human sexuality, the anatomy of rats (with one student fainting onto her rat overpowered by the smell of formaldehyde), the structure of the eye, and the evolution of flowering plants, among much else. She enthusiastically adopted the new genetics following the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953: ‘I became more and more a Darwinian and...brought all the teaching on random selection etc. to the beginning of the year’ (thus reversing the standard teaching order).

In the 1970s, when Elizabeth Butt was the Headmistress, Mrs Danne was instrumental in bringing about substantial change at Fintona. Drawing on the ideas of Social Biology espoused by Delys Sergeant, she initiated greater contact between the Junior and Senior schools, the abolition of prizes and better sex education. It was during her watch that condoms first appeared in Fintona classrooms. Her practice of informing girls about STDs was not always popular with parents, but her commitment to sex education did not waver: when the AIDS epidemic took hold in the 1980s she prepared a paper on the subject for the Fintona Board. She was the first teacher to be elected to the Board and served from 1980 to 1987.

Comments made by former students attest to her qualities. They recall her great personal beauty, her silvery voice and her precision with words (‘if the liquid in the test tube didn’t change colour, it was never to be “no result” but rather, “no reaction”’). They emphasise her ‘sparkling enthusiasm’ as well as her uncompromising standards. One said, ‘She was demanding of one’s intellect and ability to work hard...She set us extra reading to follow up if we wanted, and this added immensely to the richness of the subject.’ Another summed up: ‘She was elegant and clever and you wanted to do well for her.’ All agreed she was approachable and respectful of her students. ‘She was the best teacher I had, along with [geography teacher] Mrs Reichl. I nearly became a biologist because of her.’

After retirement Mrs Danne spent time with her children and their offspring (her husband Geoffrey having died in 1986). She developed her artistic skills, held offices in Al-Anon, and read on radio for the print-handicapped. A woman of firm Christian faith, she died in September 2012, after a brief illness.

Sarah Brenan and Mary Lush, with thanks to contributors to the Danne wiki page

NOTE: A fuller account of Mrs Danne’s life is at http://www.oral.fintonahistory.com.au/index.php?title=Elizabeth_Danne You will need a username (fintonamember) and password (FintonaFile12) to enter; you can add information if you wish.
A plaque is placed in the Fintona garden in honour of Jean Gunn

It was an honour to be invited to place a plaque in the Fintona garden to commemorate mum’s service to the Red Cross. It is an organisation that she was passionate about as she felt the funds raised helped to support many people and communities in need. Mum loved the camaraderie amongst the ‘girls’ and really enjoyed the card parties and the trading table. The March Appeal was a fundraising highlight. Mum always announced to the family, the grand total of monies she had raised, with considerable fanfare and great pride. We often teased her about the cream cakes she made for the trading table but she staunchly defended her culinary decisions with the comment that they always sold out! Mum gave years of willing service to the Red Cross Organisation and in so doing cherished the great friendship and love from the wonderful friends she made along the way.

Jane Clarke ’71

Join the Fintona Girls’ School Company

In 1962, a time when the women’s movement was only just beginning to gain momentum, the Headmistress and owner of Fintona, Miss Cunningham, announced that on her retirement she was leaving the School to its students. It would become incorporated and be governed by a board of management appointed by a Company whose members were either former students or staff of Fintona. So remarkable was this announcement, it was reported in The Age.

The board is required under the School’s constitution to have a minimum of four Company members appointed as Directors and the board reports to the Company at an AGM held in May each year. If you are eligible and interested in becoming a Company member, the board would welcome applications for new members particularly from those who left between 1980 - 2000, who are under represented. You may also indicate if you are interested in a board vacancy when one arises in the future.

Further information is available on the website and applications are available from the Alumni Coordinator, Kate McPhee who can be contacted on 9830 1388.

Jane Clarke ‘71

The OFA is now known as the Old Fintonians’ Alumni

We would like to advise that the Old Fintonians’ Association is no longer an incorporated entity and will now be known as the Old Fintonians’ Alumni [still OFA]. Ann Hawker has been appointed the President of the new OFA. She has been teaching at Fintona for close to 26 years and is also the School’s Archivist. Needless to say, her knowledge and history of Fintona is extensive. We congratulate Ann and know she will make a wonderful President.

Ann Hawker

Amanda McMahon
Chair of the Fintona Board of Management
Thank You Andree

At the recent OFA for Charities AGM, on 1 August 2012, a special presentation was made to Andree Peter as a thank you for all the years she has been sending out the Birthday Cards to all Old Fintonians over 80 years. This is the 20th year that Andree has been sending these greeting cards on behalf of the OFA and we are most grateful for all her tireless efforts in this regard.

Andree Peter and Suzy Chandler, Principal

News of Old Fintonians

Celebrating 50 years of marriage next year

Dawn Whitten writes: ‘I am writing to let you know that I went to Fintona till 1956. I played tennis, basketball and enjoyed school leaving in Intermediate. I worked at Warburton Franke in the city for 12 years. I met my husband at a Saturday night dance and we were married on 14 May 1963 at Canterbury Presbyterian Church. I was living in Canterbury Road at the time. We moved to Trafalgar in 1966 and had a farm for 17 years. Our 50 years of marriage will be next year, my husband John is in a nursing home in Drouin’.

Important Dates for 2013

TERM 1 (8.5 weeks)
Friday 1 February Term 1 commences for students
Monday 11 March Labour Day
Thursday 28 March End of Term 1
Friday 29 March Good Friday
Sunday 31 March Easter Sunday
Monday 1 April Easter Monday

TERM 2 (11 weeks)
Tuesday 16 April Term 2 commences for students
Thursday 25 April Anzac Day
Monday 10 June Queen’s Birthday
Friday 28 June End of Term 2

TERM 3 (9 weeks)
Tuesday 16 July Term 3 commences for students
Friday 13 Sept End of Term 3

TERM 4 (10 weeks)
Tuesday 8 October Term 4 commences for students
Monday 4 Nov Mid-term holiday
Tuesday 5 Nov Melbourne Cup Day
Wednesday 11 Dec End of Term 4

Open Evening, Tour Mornings and Scholarships

TOUR MORNING DATES 9.15AM - 11.00AM
Tuesday 19 February
Wednesday 8 May
Wednesday 19 June
Tuesday 23 July
Friday 23 August
Wednesday 23 October

TWILIGHT OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 6 March 6.30pm to 8.30pm

SCHOLARSHIPS

Closing Date for Applications Sunday 24 February
Scholarship Testing Day Saturday 2 March

For more information on our Tours, contact our Registrar, Kathy Byrne on 9830 1388.
Open Day 10am – 12pm. Visit our website to book.

SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER

Food & Wine Festival 11am - 4pm

Gourmet food and wine stalls + Boutique beers + Children’s amusements

Come and experience Fintona by joining us on Open Day to...
• Meet our Principal, Mrs Suzy Chandler, students and staff
• Tour the ELC, Junior and Senior School campuses
• Discover why we are among the highest performing girls’ schools in Victoria

79 Balwyn Road, Balwyn. For more information visit our website or call 9830 1388.

www.fintona.vic.edu.au