From the Principal
Suzy Chandler talks about the importance of creativity in education which is the common theme of this edition of the Fintona File.

Important dates for 2014

VCE Results
ELC
Creative play in the Mud Kitchen

Junior School
Ceramics fire-up the imagination

Middle School
Latin has arrived

Senior School
Meet our Consuls: Sharon Li and Dimity Hanney
New York Art Tour

Our Community
Message from the FPA President
2014 Cabaret Night
The night was another outstanding example of our wonderful school community and talent of both students and staff!

The Outside Classroom
A spotlight on school camps

Meet our Teachers
Brit Biviano and Shannon Kosub

OFA
Alumni Success Stories
News of Old Fintonians
Reunions

Art Precinct plans are launched
The plans for this cutting edge addition to the School have been designed by Lyons Architecture, one of Australia’s leading architectural firms.
Important Dates for 2014

**JUNE**
- Monday 9  Queen’s Birthday holiday
- Friday 27  End of Term 2

**JULY**
- Tuesday 15  Term 3 commences for students
- Friday 25  Dads’ Beef & Burgundy Night

**AUGUST**
- Art Show opening on Thursday 7 at 6pm
- Friday / Saturday 8-9  Art Show
- Friday / Saturday 22-23  School Play
- Wednesday 27  Annual Music Concert

**SEPTEMBER**
- Friday 12  End of Term 3

**OCTOBER**
- Tuesday 7  Term 4 commences for students
- Wednesday 15  Valedictory
- Wednesday 29  VCE exams commence

**NOVEMBER**
- Monday and Tuesday 3-4  Mid-term holiday/Melbourne Cup Day
- Sunday 23  Fintona Food & Wine Festival
- Friday 21  VCE exams finish

**DECEMBER**
- Wednesday 10  End of Term 4 for students

**TOUR MORNING DATES** 9.15am to 11.00am
- Thursday 19 June
- Friday 8 August
- Thursday 4 September
- Thursday 23 October

**OPEN DAY/FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL**
- Sunday 23 November
- Open Day 10.00am to 12pm
- Food & Wine Festival 11.00am to 4.00pm

For more information on our Tours, contact our Registrar, Kathy Byrne on 9830 1388.

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**From the Principal**

The building of the new Art Precinct and the New York Art Tour has made me think a lot about the role of creativity both in a school and more broadly in a social context. I am left in no doubt that it has a vital role to play in an increasingly competitive, crowded and global world. As technology consumes many aspects of our lives, leading perhaps to greater conformity and homogeneity, creativity needs to respond by carving out a niche for individuality, uniqueness and the role of the human brain rather than the machine. And this applies to the arts but also to every other area of human endeavour.

Data released by the Bureau of Statistics in 2013 has found that the creative arts contribute 86 billion dollars to the national economy. This includes 26.6 billion from the design sector and 11.8 from the fashion industry, for instance. Barry Conyngham, Dean of the Victorian College of the Arts, said “the research showed culture was more than a mere luxury or frivolity and instead was a major employer and a generator of wealth.”

A recent study by the University of Sydney’s Education Faculty, completed last year, found that students involved in an arts education have a higher school motivation, engagement in class, self-esteem and life satisfaction. Associate Professor Michael Anderson who conducted the study over two years said, “The study provides new and compelling evidence that the arts should be central to schooling and not left on the fringes.”

Furthermore, I would add, that skills gained during our students’ creative education, not just in the visual arts areas but in so many other areas of the curriculum, will be vital to the future. More and more students need to be creative and imaginative thinkers, be able to apply those skills not just in traditional areas associated with the arts but also in a wide range of areas such as medicine, science, engineering, transport, and research. Creative and imaginative thinking is also a requirement of an increasingly fractious world.

And finally to live, to work, to be surrounded by beauty and the results of creativity, shapes our feelings, our relationships with each other, improves our work, our state both emotionally and mentally and perhaps as the Queen in Alice in Wonderland says “it is only by dreaming about impossible ideas that they become possible.”

Suzy Chandler
Principal
2013 VCE results

With a median study score of 38 and a median ATAR of 95.1, Fintona is the no.1 non-selective school in Victoria (The Age 18/12/2013), our best result on record. More than two thirds of the Class of 2013 achieved an ATAR of 90+ and almost one third achieved an ATAR of 99+.

2013 VCE highlights at a glance

- 68% of students achieved an ATAR of 90+ placing them in the top 10% of the State
- 50% of students achieved an ATAR of 95+ placing them in the top 5% of the State
- 32% of students achieved an ATAR of 98+ placing them in the top 2% of the State
- 16% of students achieved an ATAR of

99+ placing them in the top 1% of the State

- 5 year median ATAR is 94.15
- Median study score is 38
- There were 7 perfect study scores of 50
- 36% of students achieved a study score of 40 and above

We congratulate most especially Esther Le Couteur, Dux of 2013, for achieving an ATAR of 99.85 and for achieving two perfect study scores in English and History.

Our Principal, Mrs Suzy Chandler, said: “We are very proud of the Class of 2013 and know that they go off to the next stage of their lives with an outstanding education and a set of values that we hope will carry them through life. We hope that they will maintain their links with the School and also the staff whose dedication and care has fostered these remarkable achievements.”

Tertiary courses and destinations for the Class of 2013

100% 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. ☺

L-R: Proud mum Louise Le Couteur, Principal Mrs Suzy Chandler and Esther Le Couteur, Dux of 2013.
Creativity is about thinking, discovering, exploring and imagining. Early experiences with the natural world have been positively linked with the development of creativity, as well as imagination, and a child’s sense of wonder.

Most importantly, natural materials provide scope for imagination in play which traditional toys alone often deny.

At Fintona’s ELC, we are committed to providing outdoor spaces that are beautiful, varied, and filled with loose materials that stimulate the senses and encourage creative play.

This year the Tranquil Garden Mud Kitchen has been the setting for some powerful imaginative play and creative expression.

The Mud Kitchen’s evolution has been driven by the children as they have played and worked together to define and redefine the space.

Mud meals have been prepared, potions carefully mixed, and magic spells conjured as the children have immersed themselves in their play. In addition, the children have had opportunities to explore the properties of different natural materials as they measure, pour, count, and sort, as well as add and remove ingredients.

As teachers, we are excited to watch the children’s creative learning in this space and watch with enthusiasm as the children continue to enjoy their time together in the Mud Kitchen.

Cara Mearns
Head of ELC
Students in the Junior School have always had many opportunities to develop their creative imagination.

Over the past few years, they have explored basic clay skills and worked on many ceramic projects incorporating natural materials like gum nuts, acorn cups and other seed pods from banksias, sheoaks and tea trees.

One such project completed recently, involving both parents and students, was the creation of bird baths. Together parents and students created small decorated discs which they attached to large clay bowls.

Students and parents applied glaze to the bisque fired pieces to complete the work. Mr Gordon, from Maintenance, mounted the finished bird baths onto wooden posts in the garden.

A turtle then joined the bird baths in the garden. This was created by Prep artists as part of their inquiry into creatures and their habitats. Students used a number of clay techniques and worked wonderfully together to create the turtle.

We have also seen the creation of a sculpture for the vegetable garden linking with the Year 2 classroom inquiry into plants. The sculpture was inspired by the Italian Renaissance artist, Giuseppe Arcimboldo, who painted witty portraits composed entirely from such things as fruits, vegetables or fish.

Naturally our vegie garden lady is composed entirely of vegetables. Each student chose a vegetable and carefully observed its shape. The students utilised a number of clay techniques such as coil and ball rolling and slab construction, to create the head, hair, arms and torso as well as the decorative features of the vegetable sculpture’s outfit.

Monika Maddock
Junior School Art Teacher

1. Prep and Year 1 students Makayla Assimopoulos (left) and Sienna Tang (right) in the garden with the vegetable lady statue
2. Year 1 students (left to right) Annie Holland, Zoe Brown and Isabella Weeden having fun in the garden with the bird baths – a collaborative effort between students and their parents
Students in Year 7 now have the opportunity to learn the language spoken over 2,000 years ago in and around the Italian peninsula. Through the innovative and well-regarded Cambridge Latin Course, students develop a reading proficiency which (by VCE) will permit them to read authors like Vergil, Livy and Horace in the original.

Aside from allowing students to directly engage with some of the finest examples of Western literature extant, learning Latin is an invaluable asset for English. Since more than 50% of English is sourced directly from Latin, Latin students naturally improve their English. Moreover, they can surmise meaning of new English words based on their knowledge of Latin derivatives.

In Year 7, students follow the life of Caecilius, a rich banker who lived in Pompeii. His house was one of the many preserved by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79CE. The Latin forms and constructions are introduced in context as students learn about the daily life of a wealthy Roman citizen: trading at the forum, visiting the baths in the afternoon, hosting a dinner party at night.

A particular highlight for the Latin students was the celebration of the Liberalia, a festival in which a Roman boy became a Roman citizen. To honour this occasion, students created their own bullae (protective charms) which they ceremonially removed before wrapping each other in white sheets and processing down Whitehorse Rd (our forum). After a sacrificial offering of coins and barley, the girls partook of a Roman cena consisting of sweet bread, donuts and (non-alcoholic) wine.

“I absolutely adore learning Latin, as the vocab that I learn enhances my understanding of English”

Aahana Dudani, Year 7 (Latin name Aurelia)
Shona Li

What do you think a Fintona education has given you?
Fintona has provided me with a well-rounded education but I think the most valuable lessons have been taught outside the classroom. Fintona emphasises an education that goes beyond just preparing us for tertiary studies and instead, focuses on preparing us to become contributing members of the society in which we live. In this way, I believe that Fintona has taught me to embrace all opportunities to learn and to realise the potential that we all have to excel at whatever we do.

What are your aspirations for the future?
After finishing Year 12, I would like to travel to Europe and spend some time doing volunteer work overseas. However, I intend to study commerce and law at university and follow a career path in the fields of finance and law. Ultimately, I would love to establish my own company where I could allocate a percentage of the profits to charity. Although I may not achieve this goal, I still believe in dreaming big so that we at least have an ambition to guide our everyday decisions.

What would you consider to be the highlight of your time at Fintona and why?
One of my fondest memories of Fintona will be of the times spent in Year 11 and 12, where we would sit outside on the grass in the spring weather and sing along to one of our classmates playing guitar. With the entire cohort housed in the common rooms, it has given us all an opportunity to get to know one another better. I admire each girl’s talents and I love the attitude that we’ve adopted to make the most of our final years through studying hard and knowing how to enjoy each other’s company and to make the most of what school has to offer.

Dimity Hanny

What do you think a Fintona education has given you?
Fintona’s education has given me an ability to think outside the square and collaborate with others in a manner which allows the best outcome for the situation. Fintona teaches girls life skills, especially outside the classroom, which will surely remain for life.

What are your aspirations for the future?
Being extremely unsure about my future in terms of career, this is hard to answer. Yet I do know that I would like to go to university next year and spend a large amount of my future overseas exploring the world.

What would you consider to be the highlight of your time at Fintona and why?
This is a difficult one. Every year is new and fun at Fintona. Having been at the School since Grade 4, I have constantly made new friends and enjoyed the variety of opportunities and learning experiences. So perhaps the highlight of my time at Fintona is the fact I am lucky enough to be a student at Fintona.

Our new Art Precinct is scheduled for completion in early 2015. How do you like to be creative?
I love being creative and whilst I’ve always dreamed of painting and drawing, this area isn’t exactly my calling. I do however, love photography and creating videos to capture holidays and memories of my time as a teenager.
Our New York Art Study Tour was amazing. One of the best things about New York was being able to actually be in all of those famous places I had seen on TV shows and in movies, and realising just how incredible a city it is. There were so many new things to experience, such as the subway, the food, and of course the art galleries which included visits to MOMA, The Metropolitan Museum, The Frick Collection and DIA: Beacon.

Even though we were a school group, throughout the trip we were able to split up into small groups and explore New York by ourselves. This was really good, because it gave us freedom to see what we wanted to see. Some of the highlights were visiting Central Park, the 9/11 Memorial, and the 360 degree views of the city from the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

The buzz, colour and culture of New York will remain with me for a long time to come.

Samantha Grigg
Year 10 student

1. Some students joined jeweller Carrie Bilbo at her studio during a jewellery-making workshop and made their own bangles out of copper, brass or bronze

2. The group outside the famous Flatiron building
MORE VCE SUCCESS
Lauren Bleakley, from the VCE Class of 2013, has been awarded an Australian Student Prize for 2013! This prize, from the Australian Government of $2,000, is awarded to the top 500 Year 12 students nationwide each year calculated on raw (unscaled) scores. Congratulations to Lauren and we wish her all the best in her studies and beyond.

AMY IS A CLASS ACT
We are delighted to announce that Year 11 student Amy Luo has been selected to perform in Top Class in recognition of her exceptional talent as a clarinet player. Top Class is part of the annual VCE Season of Excellence and showcases the most outstanding VCE students from the previous year. This a great honour for her and a testament to her high level of musical skills as well as to Mr Barry Cockcroft’s skill as a teacher.

Last year, at the end of Year 10, she gained an extraordinary mark of 45 for her VCE music performance and is currently considering her options for a career in music while she concentrates on her other VCE studies.

KELLY TO EXHIBIT HER TOP SHOT
Congratulations to Kelly Ang (VCE Class of 2013) who has been selected to exhibit one of her VCE Art folio pieces at this year’s TOP SHOT exhibition.

This exhibition is held annually at the Monash Gallery of Art and selects twenty of the best photomedia work produced by the graduating students of VCE Art, Media & Studio Arts and IB Visual Arts. The exhibition will be displayed in the Bowness Gallery, Monash Gallery of Art, 860 Ferntree Gully Road, Wheelers Hill from 7 May-8 June 2014.

PREMIER’S VCE AWARDS
Congratulations to Year 12 students Aisha Trambas and Weiann Tan who received a Premier’s VCE Award for Psychology and Biology respectively. The Premier’s VCE Awards not only acknowledges the outstanding results of individual students, but also pays tribute to principals, teachers and families who play an invaluable role in supporting and encouraging students during their VCE studies.

2013 BHP BILLITON NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING COMPETITION SEMI-FINALIST PRIZE WINNERS
Fintona historically enters selected Year 5 to 8 projects into the annual Science Talent Search (STS), a science based competition open to all primary and secondary students in Victoria. As part of the Year 8 curriculum, students design, conduct and report on an experiment of their choice resulting in 12 projects internally selected and entered into STS. We are very proud of the fact that in 2013 three Fintona experimental design projects were nominated by STS judges to be entered into the Australian BHP Billiton Science and Engineering competition and four girls won prizes. Joanna Bleakley and Sanduni Jinadasa (Going Bananas) and Ayla Edwards and Chloe Lovett
(Sun Smart No Starch) were selected as semi-finalists on a national level, for their novel experimental design and superb presentation of their research. Well done to the girls and staff for their efforts.

FINTONA SENIOR AND JUNIOR SOFTBALL TEAMS SHINE!
What a great season our senior and junior softball teams have had. Both teams only had one loss for the season. The senior team went down by one run to Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar after leading throughout the match and the intermediates lost against MLC in their last match of the season.

MCKERNAN SISTERS BLITZ THE POOL!
Briannah and Tayla McKernan swam extremely well for Fintona at the GSV Championship Swimming carnival on Tuesday 18 March. Tayla finished first in the Year 7 A 50m butterfly and freestyle and 3rd in the Year 7 A 50m breaststroke. Older sister Briannah also had an outstanding carnival with first place in the Year 10 A 50m breaststroke and freestyle and third in the 50m butterfly. Briannah was also a member of the 4 x 50m freestyle relay which finished in first place and the 4 x 50m medley relay that came home in second place.

Lani, in Year 5, also had a busy start to the year with multiple swimming carnivals.

On Tuesday 29 April, Lani represented Fintona at the School Sports Victoria State Swimming Championships where she was placed sixth in the 11yrs Girls Butterfly finals. Lani progressed through to the State Champions after competing at a district, division and regional level, where she swam against students from all three school sectors (independent, catholic and government). Congratulations to all three sisters on their outstanding swims at the State Championships!

GSV SWIMMING AND DIVING FINALS EVENING
In the GSV Swimming and Diving Finals evening, Year 12 student, Amber Guthrie made it through in the Year 12 breaststroke. She competed on the night and swam an awesome race to finish in sixth place. This was a fantastic achievement by Amber.

GEORGIA DOES IT AGAIN!!
Year 12 student, Georgia Griffith attended the National Junior Athletics Championships on 15 and 16 March in Sydney. She competed in the 800m and ran a personal best to finish third.

Georgia has been selected for the World Junior Athletics Championships in July which will be held in Oregon USA. She will also compete in two meets prior in Vancouver as lead in events. This is an amazing achievement and we wish her all the very best.

1. Lauren Bleakley, from the VCE Class of 2013
2. Amy Luo
3. Kelly’s winning photographic shot - Blue Fish Lights, a digital print manipulated in Photoshop
4. (L-R): Biology teacher Julie Goldsworthy, Weiann Tan (Premier’s VCE Award for Biology), Aish Trambas (Premier’s VCE Award for Psychology) and Psychology Teacher Di Bereza
5. Semi-finalists (l-r): Joanna Bleakley, Ayla Edwards and Chloe Lovett
6. Fintona’s successful softball team
7. The McKernan sisters (l-r): Briannah, Tayla and Lani
8. Amber Guthrie
9. Georgia competing in the National Junior Athletics Championships
The launch of the new Art Precinct was held on Thursday 20 March and was enjoyed by everyone, including the architects from the highly acclaimed Lyons, members of the Board of Management, and the Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, Mr Tony Ellwood, who congratulated the School on such an important project.

As a Fintona parent and a member of the architectural team for this new arts project, Mr Corbett Lyon described the Art Precinct as an exciting and innovative space that ‘will bring together old and new, facilitate multiple forms of art and learning, a place which will foster collaboration, be engaging, and importantly, which will position the School for the future.’

The new Art Precinct will offer the full gamut of artistic pursuits - in the refurbished art rooms there will be ceramics, painting and printmaking; in Glencairn, students can undertake painting, drawing, photography, film processing, and digital multimedia work and the new art pavilion, which will include a gallery space, will provide a totally flexible, contemporary area which can be used for everything from life drawing, painting, film making, green screen work, textiles and fashion and other new and future forms of contemporary art.

The building is expected to be completed by March 2015.
Plans for the new Art Precinct are launched

1. Exterior shot of the new Art Precinct
2. Another corridor which brings together traditional building elements like the red brick with more contemporary materials
3. View into a wood panelled corridor
4. Multi-purpose teaching space
5. Year 11 Art students (l-r): Elena Couper, Monica Zaicos, Evany Dinakis, Eleanor Seale in front of their digital projection artwork
6. Members of the Art Department (l-r): Margaret Rossborough, Shannon Kosub, Board Member Fiona Scott and Art Co-ordinator Brit Biviano
7. Attending the launch was (l-r): Sannah McColl from Lyons, Tony Ellwood, Director of the NGV, Corbett Lyon from Lyons, Suzy Chandler, Fintona Principal and Amanda McMahon, Chair of the Fintona Board
8. Fintona parents at the launch (l-r): Kerry Horan, Melissa Ferguson, Rola Tal and Sharon Keeble
Our Community

Welcome from the FPA President

The Fintona Parents’ Association (the ‘Association’) would like to extend a warm welcome to all families new to Fintona. I had the pleasure of meeting some of you at the recent New Parents’ Cocktail Party held in February which is a lovely way for new parents to get to know each other a little better.

I would also like to warmly welcome all new members to the Association. The Association exists primarily to assist the School in building strong community spirit amongst its parents and aims to achieve this through social activities which are open to parents from all year levels. This year, the Association will invite parents to attend the following events:

• The Dads’ Beef and Burgundy Night on Friday 25 July
• The Fintona Food & Wine Festival on Sunday 23 November

Please put the above dates in your diaries. These events promise to be lots of fun.

Our flagship community event, the Fintona Food and Wine Festival, is a wonderful opportunity for parents wanting to be a little more hands on to volunteer and contribute to the running of this fantastic occasion. If you think you could volunteer a few hours to help out, please let me know.

All of the Association’s activities would not be possible without the wonderful support offered by our Parent Representatives and I would like to thank all parents who have volunteered for this important position.

I, and the Association, look forward to seeing you at these events.

Anne-Maree McKernan
President
Fintona Parents’ Association
bfsam@bigpond.com

Cabaret Night 2014

With an Under the Sea theme, Cabaret Night 2014 was another outstanding example of our wonderful school community and amazing talent of both students and staff.

1. Buick Strings violinist Carly Atkinson
2. Zara Wotherspoon singing “Love is here to stay”
3. Year 7 students performing the song “Hawaii”
4. L-R: Xueni Li and Shona Li performing “Seaside by the Rocks”
A spotlight on school camps

School camps and outdoor activities are one of the most enjoyable aspects of school life at Fintona. The experiences and memories students gain from these outdoor adventures are long lasting and beneficial on a multitude of levels.

Camps, which form an important part of our Outdoor Education program, begin in Year 1 and continue through the Junior and Middle schools, culminating in an expedition style journey in Year 10. Just a few of the highlights include: staying at the Coonawarra Farm resort in Year 5, learning how to surf at Angahook near Anglesea in Year 9 and hiking at Wilsons Promontory in Year 10.

The Outdoor Education experiences give students the chance to enjoy a range of unique and unfamiliar environments where flexibility and adaptability are practised. This can be as simple as cooking tasks or trying any one of the outdoor activities offered including hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling, orienteering and surfing.

Transformations in the girls’ attitudes and outlooks are often a product of camps, but perhaps the greatest gains are seen when the girls return to school with stories to share and new friendships to nurture.

Susannah Shoeffel
Outdoor Education
Co-ordinator, Senior School

Amy Cross
Outdoor Education
Co-ordinator, Junior School

1. Year 7 students rafting as part of the Outdoor Education Day
2. Year 9 students in Anglesea learning to surf
3. L-R: Year 2 students Eden Zapris, Jade Klein and Irena Kyriakos playing at the beach on the Mornington Peninsula
4. Year 10 students hiking at Wilsons Promontory
Shannon joined Fintona in March 2011 as Middle and Senior School art teacher. It was during a ‘gap’ year working as a teaching assistant in a small girls’ school in London that she realised her destiny to become an Art Teacher. Before her career in teaching began, Shannon travelled extensively around Western Europe and had some fantastic experiences, including visits to many of the world’s leading museums and art galleries. Shannon has a Bachelor of Creative Arts degree from the University of Melbourne with majors in visual art and theatre studies and has also a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education at Monash University.

Why did you choose teaching as your career? When I was a teen I was resolutely against the idea of teaching as a profession, mostly because both my parents were secondary teachers and I figured I’d already lived through too many ‘report writing stress periods’ for one life time! But I soon realised that teaching came quite naturally to me. I really enjoy working with teenagers; I like the fact that no day in teaching is ever the same and also I appreciate the relative autonomy I have as a teacher.

Do you create in your spare time? If so what do you do? My interests and skills are varied, but most consistently I design and make my own clothing and accessories. I taught myself to sew when I was about 12 years old and have dabbled ever since. In 2007, I decided to take my hobby a bit more seriously and enrolled in night school at the Melbourne School of Fashion where I studied units in pattern making, garment construction and couture techniques from their Bachelor of Fashion Design. I designed and constructed my now sister-in-law’s wedding gown, for example, and I have made a few frocks for my friends here and there, but mostly I just make things for myself. I majored in Photography at uni so when I’m on holidays I do like to take a lot of creative photos. I’m constantly adding to my skills base - every year I take at least three to four workshops in different craft techniques, which I love.

In 2015, you and your students will be working in the new Art Precinct. What are you looking forward to the most about working in this exciting new space? The design of the new Art Precinct is unique and creative. I feel privileged to have played a part in the design of this teaching and learning space. I believe that the environment in which you work or learn impacts heavily on your productivity and success. The new Art Precinct is going to provide us with a visually stimulating and aesthetically pleasing space that doesn’t compromise on functionality, which I’m pretty excited about.

Who and what do you find inspiring? I have a lot of friends who work in creative industries and they inspire me a great deal. I am obsessed with Instagram where I follow a wide range of creative people. Blogs like The Design Files, The Sartorialist and Pinterest are all places I draw a lot of inspiration from. I’m drawn to the work of many of the Modernists for example, Frida Kahlo, Lee Krasner, Ed Ruscha, Egon Schiele; and Contemporary artists like Tracey Emin as well as fashion designers like Yves Saint Laurent, Alexander McQueen and Toni Maticevski. I love all films by Wes Anderson.

What else do you like to do outside of school? Melbourne has a fantastic arts scene. On any given weekend I could be attending a theatre performance, a gig, a gallery, a festival or design market; or simply hanging out with my friends and family, or my dog, Lola. Idling the hours away in a café that serves excellent coffee is also an essential activity!
Brit Biviano

Brit Biviano joined Fintona in Term 4 in 2012 as Acting Art Co-ordinator and was permanently appointed Art Co-ordinator in 2014. With a Bachelor Arts (Visual) from Deakin University and a Bachelor of Teaching from the University of Melbourne, Brit has been teaching since 1999. He will be completing his Masters in Fine Arts at Monash University later this year. Brit is also an accomplished artist in his own right having recently sold out his paintings at a local exhibition.

When did you develop your love for art and what did you do prior to Fintona?
While I was in secondary school I enjoyed Art classes and was encouraged by my teachers to continue on with Art. After Art school, I was drawn to teaching as a profession. I have worked at a number of independent schools in Melbourne since leaving university.

As well as co-ordinating art full-time at Fintona you are also a practising artist. Tell us a bit about that.
I really enjoy painting when I get the chance and throughout the years I have had a number of group and solo exhibitions - both locally and overseas. My last exhibition was well received and was personally successful. I like to work in oils but also like to explore other painting materials. I draw inspiration from a variety of sources including contemporary popular culture, music, film, books – pretty much anywhere. I also take a lot from art history as well as contemporary Australian art and artists.

Further developing what we already do. The new art spaces will allow us to improve and strengthen our Art curriculum, as well as offer more vocational based applications of Art, particularly design and textiles (fashion). There is great enthusiasm among students and Staff and this will inspire some interesting ideas and produce even more outstanding work.

As the new Art Co-ordinator what is your vision for art at Fintona?
First and foremost I would like the students to enjoy Art, and more importantly, to become aware of the visual art around them and how important it is in our world. Art is at the heart of what we do as individuals and collectively, as a society. It teaches us about who we are and what we value, both on a personal level and in a cultural sense. Furthermore, Art provides students with opportunities to develop problem solving skills in a creative way and it also strengthens their visual literacy. These things, in my opinion, are vital, particularly because of the rate of change we are experiencing in regard to technology, the environment, politics and vocational expectations.

In 2015, you and your students will be working in the new Art Precinct. What are you looking forward to the most about working in this exciting new space?

Apart from painting in your spare time, what else do you like to do outside of school?
I really enjoy being with my family especially my two year old son. I also have a keen interest in photography as well as going to the footy (I barrack for Geelong), listening to music, and reading. I also like to travel and rate visiting Budapest and Berlin as two of my favourite travel experiences.

1. One of Brit’s still life paintings Autumn Stack
In February this year, The Weekly Review again featured four of our past students. Read their stories right here.

**Sue Stoyles**
Attended/Class of 1974  
CV/ Circumnavigator

In 2012 Stoyles circumnavigated the world by yacht. Her sailing career began after working for 10 years in health administration. After a two-year Pacific-circle sailing adventure, Stoyles and her husband took up a new career living and working on privately owned yachts all over the world. Their role involves navigating, sailing, cooking, yacht management and watch keeping. Stoyles’ 21 years at sea have taken her to 53 countries on 17 yachts; she has sailed 114,000 nautical miles. Despite months at sea, she still has a fantastic group of school friends who remain her best friends.

**Shan Morrison**
Attended/Class of 1987  
CV/ Specialist Continence and Women’s Health Physiotherapist

Morrison is one of four Fintonian generations including her grandmother, mother and her daughter. Morrison was a House Captain, and studied physiotherapy at La Trobe University. She is a fellow of the Australian College of Physiotherapists and Director of Women’s and Men’s Health Physiotherapy. One of the largest of its type in Australia, the practice specialises in managing pelvic floor disorders (bladder, bowel, prolapse and chronic pelvic pain). “I left Fintona feeling like I could achieve anything I dreamed of. I feel fortunate to have a career that I love and three wonderful children.”

**Hannah Greenwood**
Attended/Class of 2005  
CV/ Actor

Always creative and making short films for school projects; Greenwood was a Junior Vice-Captain and Year 12 House Captain. While at school she appeared on TV shows, Noah and Saskia, High Flyers, Horace and Tina, Legacy of the Silver Shadow, Stingers, State Coroner, Blue Heelers and Short Cuts. Greenwood studied at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and acted in Neighbours and the State productions of One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. In 2013 she performed in Simon Stephens’ Pornography, a play about the London bombings.

**Sarah Spottiswood**
Attended/Class of 2006  
CV/ Lawyer

Spottiswood was a School Consul and Swimming, Hockey and Athletics Captains. She studied Law and Arts at Monash University, majoring in Japanese and Politics, before working at a law firm in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the Women’s Aid Organisation in Malaysia. Now part of the federal government’s legal team, she joined the Australian delegation to the Japanese government’s Ship for World Youth Program and has won several legal awards: “Fintona encouraged me to broaden my world view and to give back to the community.”
Do you have any Fintona memorabilia to donate?

Recently Fintona had glass fronted cupboards built in either side of the fireplace in the Tourmont sitting room with a view to being able to display memorabilia. The cupboards are lockable and are designed to enhance the original Victorian décor of Tourmont, making them an attractive addition to an important area of the School.

We are hoping Old Fintonians who would like to donate items to the School will feel happy to see it displayed in Tourmont. If you have anything to donate, please call Ann Hawker, the Archivist and President of the OFA.

All Old Fintonians are of course welcome to visit the School and can ring the Executive Assistant to the Principal, Pamela Young, on 9880 4427 to make a suitable time. ♦

Suzy Chandler
Principal

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

Virginia Jamieson (Lighton ’53)
24/4/13

Grace Swinnerton (’31)
30/7/13

Anne Janette Moora Adams (Taylor ’59)
27/10/13

Pam Gabler (Jefferson ’57)
19/11/13

Helen Kostos (Southwell ’71)
1/1/14

Helena Thomas (Jaboor ’51)
9/1/14

Elaine Brownbill (Burnham ’49)
14/3/31 – 20/2/2014

Elaine passed away on 20 February 2014 at the nursing home she had lived in for the past three years in Camberwell.

Elaine was born on 14 March 1931 in Canterbury and moved around the corner to Balwyn where she lived her entire life with her family (when not travelling abroad). She was married to John and they had two children, Tony and Sally and three grandchildren, Robert, Lisa and Lily (Stevens) who is currently at Fintona in Year 7.

In 2012 she was featured in the Fintona File in an article about three generations of Fintonians, Elaine, Sally and Lily. This was such a huge thrill for mum; she even wore her old school blazer. >
Fintona was a huge part of her life and with that came friendships, many spanning 75 years or more. In fact, the morning of her passing, one of the carers, an old Fintonian herself, sang the School Song with mum and told us her eyes lit up and she had a big smile. It was to be her last real communication to sing with ringing voices girl! After singing, getting her hair done and nails painted, she went to sleep waiting for lunch………..

I love you Mum. ♡

Sally Brownbill (‘84)

Louise grew up in Canterbury and initially went to school at Strathcona before attending the Senior School at Fintona. Lou and I were good friends during those Fintona years but after leaving school, Lou did nursing, I went in another direction, and we lost touch with one another. Lou and husband John had several moves before settling on their farm in Mount Gambier where they raised four children, Tim, Robert, Richard and Sally. With the eventual arrival of nine grandchildren back in Victoria, Lou and John bought a beach house in Blairgowrie. Lou adored her family and life became one big holiday when all the adults and children regularly got together at the beach.

Louise Greenall (Hull ’58)
11/10/1940 - 8/3/2014

My husband, Don and I live in nearby Sorrento and were fortunate to reconnect with Lou at this time but sadly John’s health failed and he died in 2008. The Mount Gambier property was sold and Lou moved permanently to Blairgowrie and made many new friends in the area. Because Lou was always a ‘people person’ and had gathered many friends over the years, she welcomed many guests to stay in her home. Lou was especially pleased to be included, and to renew old friendships, at our Class of 1958/59 Fintona lunches which we hold every three months. I was pleased too to reconnect with Lou’s older sister Joan Goff who also attended Fintona.

It was a great shock when Lou was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago and underwent chemotherapy treatment. The news didn’t deter her; she wished to live life to the full and did so. Life went on, and for a long while Lou was her usual fun-loving self until this year when she eventually lost her long battle and died at her Blairgowrie home aged 73. Lou was an inspiration to all who knew her. Throughout her illness she remained positive, never complained and never gave in. She was not in denial, but being strong and being brave was the way Lou coped. We all had such admiration for her fighting spirit, her resilience, and the way she faced what remained of her life, a life which was cut way too short.

I will miss her, we all will. ♡

Mel Marsh
(Merilyn Seward ’58)

Helen Kostos
(Southwell ’71)
20/11/53 - 1/1 2014

Mother of Stephanie (‘04)
Daughter of Margaret Southwell (Lock ‘40), sister to Julie Swift (Southwell ’66). Treasured memories of our school days, shared life experiences and our special dinners. We will miss you greatly. ♡

Your 1970 Dinner Friends
News of Old Fintonians

Congratulations to:

Dr Heather York Schnagl ('71) who was awarded a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to education as a school principal and through roles with professional organisations.

Kelly Ang ('13) who has had one of her VCE Art folio pieces selected for this year’s TOP SHOT exhibition. Refer to page 10 of this edition for more details.

OFA for Charities

The OFA for Charities raised nearly $1,000 for the Mirabel Foundation at a card party held at Fintona on 10 April. A number of raffles were drawn for baskets of Easter Eggs and a lovely embroidered table centre donated by nursing friend Anna Kovacs who lives in Canada and is 94 years old was won by Heidi Carros. We would welcome new faces to join our committee as we are all getting older and you would be welcomed with open arms.

Andree Peter (Secretary)

Reunions

Class of 1964
50 Year Reunion
FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 2013

1. L – R: Janet Cooper (Lobban), Janet Schapper (Scovell), Judy Williams (Gray)
2. L – R: Rosemary Cooke, Megan Short (Williams), Pamela Farmer (Forster)
3. L – R: Margaret Brinsden (Westley), Georgie Stubbs (Donaldson)
4. Class of 1963

1. L – R: Janet Cooper (Lobban), Janet Schapper (Scovell), Judy Williams (Gray)
Class of 1974
40 Year Reunion
SATURDAY 15 MARCH, 2014

1. Class of 1974
2. L – R: Saandi Vizgaudis (Moran), Sally Aiyelokun (Urie), Sue Stoyles, Anne Southwell, Anne Grindrod (Ross), Virginia McLauglan (Thompson)
3. L – R: Meredith Long (Anderson), Sue Wardrop (Townley), Marianne Crowe (Hart)
4. L – R: Pam Stuart-Menteth (Chapman), Monica Lowen
5. L – R: Lorna Downey (Carragher), Ros Rimington (Fookes), Jane Rodgerson

1958/59 Luncheon
MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 2014
BRIGHTON BATHS CAFÉ

SA Reunion
SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 2013
OFA Annual Golf Day

Twenty Old Fintonian golfers gathered at Metropolitan Golf Club for our annual get together last November. We returned to Metro for the second year in a row so that we could honour Ann Randall who had sadly passed away since the 2012 gathering.

The winner on the day was Kaye Joubert (Neville-Smith) with a great score of 40 stableford points. Kaye left Fintona in 1949, so do the maths and appreciate what a wonderful effort that was! Second place was Sally Eastoe, followed by Penny Inge (both daughters of Ann Randall) and Kari Sheer (Elder) respectively. These four women will represent Fintona in the Annual Inter-School Golf Challenge Cup at Woodlands Golf Club.

If anyone would like to join us for our annual golf competition, please contact Sally Syme at salsyme@optusnet.com.au.

Sally Syme ('74)

QLD Reunion
SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER, 2013

Reunion Dates 2014

1964
50 year Reunion
Friday 14 November
6.30pm – 8.30pm

1984
30 Year Reunion
Friday 25 July
6.30pm – 8.30pm

2004
10 Year Reunion
Friday 20 June
6.30pm – 8.30pm

2009
5 Year Reunion
Friday 24 October
6.30pm – 8.30pm

Art Show Tour & Afternoon Tea
Friday 8 August,
2pm – 4pm

1958 & 1959 Luncheons
Monday 11 August
Brighton Baths Café, Brighton

1. Back row (L – R): Daniele Williams (Lucovich), Mary Dixon (Harris), Joan Claringbould (Alder), Barbara Gunn, Diana Deane, Jessica O’Bryan Seated (L- R): Mandy Dixon (Dick), Moria Jane (Bailey), Michelle Harris (Lucovich) and Adele Outteridge (Samuel)

2. L – R: Mary Dixon (Harris), Daniele Williams (Lucovich), Barbara Gunn

3. L – R: Jessica O’Bryan, Diana Deane

Interstate/ Country Reunions
Benalla
Benalla Art Gallery
Wednesday 8 October

NSW/ACT
Thursday 11 September

QLD
Saturday 25 October

SA
Sunday 23 November

UK & Europe Reunion
Saturday 12 July
7.30pm
Browns
47 Maddox St
Mayfair, London
FINTONA FILM
Have you seen our new Fintona Film?
Take a look on our website at
www.fintona.vic.edu.au