Fintona’s new Arts Precinct Project announced

Fintona is very excited to announce the launch of the new Arts Precinct Project. Building will begin in November this year and will involve three areas: the Senior School art rooms, refurbishment and internal structural changes to Glencairn as well as the addition of a new flexible teaching space and gallery in the area currently occupied by the old Maintenance sheds. It is expected that the Arts Precinct Project will be completed in early 2015.

Corbett Lyon, a parent, member of the NGV Board, partner in Lyons Architects and the owner of the Lyons House Museum, has designed a superb 21st century teaching, learning and exhibition space which will encourage our students to see creativity as an important component of an education that prepares people for the future regardless of their occupation.

An official launch event, to be scheduled in March 2014, is currently being planned where the Fintona community will be invited to attend and see close up the exciting plans for the Arts Precinct. More details will be available on our website in early 2014.

Suzy Chandler
Principal
This year we set our prospective leaders for 2014 the topic, ‘What does it mean to be a 21st century woman’. We all know the depressing statistics: less than one in ten key executive positions in the ASX 500 are held by women; seven out of the top 200 companies in Australia have a female CEO; 56.2% of ASX 500 companies don’t have any women on their boards; and a gender pay disparity of about 17% has remained virtually unchanged for the last thirty years. Notwithstanding the current situation facing women in Australia, nor the excellent responses given by our Year 11s, perhaps the most important thing to focus on is not the qualities of 21st century women but the qualities of 21st century human beings.

Since women began to fight for equal rights, the dispute has focused very much on how women can level the playing field and what sort of education they need to redress the balance in the work place and public life. Surely in the 21st century we need a new paradigm which involves the development of the qualities that the world needs to overcome present difficulties and give future generations opportunities for growth and fulfilment. Unless men and women work together in the future, then addressing women’s rights alone will not bring about any significant improvements at all.

It may be ironic but I think in a single sex school, we are much more likely to focus on disposition and personality, qualities of humanness, rather than whether our students are necessarily girls or boys. Perhaps we are also thus able to endow our students with skills they will need as humans to take their rightful place on a level playing field as a result. So when I look back on various events during the year, I am very aware that our students, throughout the School are developing or displaying the kinds of qualities that will help them be 21st century people.

As a mentor during the recent Year 6 Exhibition, I was struck by the way my group explored their central idea, overcame any problems they encountered, approached each task with vigour and purpose and revelled in the challenges it presented. Their fantastic outcomes were a testament to their curiosity, tenacity and their ability to work well with each other, using strengths and incorporating their individual idiosyncrasies into their collective work.

Likewise, in July this year on the Danila Dilba trip to Darwin with Year 11 students, I was also aware that here was a group of young people willing to adapt to the different circumstances they found themselves in. They worked hard, talked with and helped groups of people from various walks of life and developed a greater understanding of the circumstances and issues facing indigenous communities. In other words, these young women worked together with others on a playing field levelled by their attitude and response.

And to the Consul speeches, which were remarkable in their variety and content. Whilst the girls spoke mostly about women’s roles, some referred to the fact that humans would need to work together, irrespective of gender, and they all could easily have been talking more generally about human beings.

All of them saw, not just themselves, but each other, as capable of leading the School, of bringing together the student cohort and helping them find their strengths. The speeches were passionate and individual, some delivered with humour and whimsy; some more serious. All were compelling. Which augers well, not just for the School, but for the future when they take their place in the broader society.

Suzy Chandler
Principal
ELC students display their ‘Wishes for the World’

When Wurundjeri elder Uncle Bill Nicholson came to visit Fintona ELC in term two, he shared with the children the Bunjil Creation Story. In Aboriginal culture, Bunjil or eagles, are very sacred creatures. Uncle Bill told the children that ‘...we look after them and they look after us, we keep one another safe.’ Using the nest as a symbol of nurture and support, Bunjil’s Nest draws on the ancient wisdom of Indigenous Australians to provide children with a collaborative art-making experience. Through storytelling and visual arts, Bunjil’s Nest introduced the children to indigenous culture allowing them to explore issues such as the environment and sustainability. When departing, Uncle Bill gave Fintona ELC permission to build our own Bunjil’s Nest which now sits on display in the ELC Piazza.

The original Bunjil’s Nest sculpture sat in the foyer of the Ian Potter Gallery and held 600 messages from students who took part in a project with environmentalist David Suzuki. The theme for our Bunjil’s Nest is ‘Wishes for the World’ and the families were asked to write a message that reflects this theme onto a stick to be woven into our nest. The resulting collaboration is a snapshot of the hopes and dreams of our community and brings to light the thoughtful thinking of our very youngest learners. We invite you to visit our Bunjil’s Nest and perhaps continue its ongoing evolution by adding a ‘Wish for the World’ yourself.

Ms Cara Mearns
Head of ELC

1. James Noonan getting ready for Aboriginal style face painting with Uncle Bill
2. Yasmine Litsas with her wish … I WANT PEOPLE TO PLANT TREES IN THE WORLD
3. Milla Mustakinovski with her wish… I WISH FOR NO-ONE TO BE HUNGRY IN THE WORLD
4. Allegra Weedon with her wish… I WISH FOR LOVE AND PEACE IN THE WORLD

Fintona’s ELC exceeds the National Quality Standard for Education and Care

On Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 August, Fintona’s ELC underwent an assessment and rating process against the National Quality Standard (NQS) and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. The NQS is a key aspect of the National Quality Framework and sets a national benchmark for early childhood education and care with the aims of raising the quality of Australian early childhood settings and driving continuous improvement and consistency.

We are very pleased to announce that as a result of this process, Fintona ELC has been awarded an overall rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standard.

It is our priority to provide our children and their families with the highest quality early childhood experience and we are delighted to have received such outstanding results.

Ms Cara Mearns
Head of ELC
This year the girls from Years 3 and 4 joined together for the Junior School biennial musical production. Under the guidance of our Drama teacher, Dr Kathleen Buchanan and our Music teacher, Mrs Desley Roy, the girls collaborated magnificently to produce their version of the ‘Rainmaker’. The musical told the story of a brave group of children who sought to save their village during a period of drought. Guided by the wisdom of a range of animals they meet along the way, the children find the rainmakers and save the village.

The musical was a wonderful collaboration between the girls, staff and parents who all contributed to the colourful and spectacular performance.

Mrs Sally Clayton
Head of Junior School

The experience of performing together and the opportunity to work with professional lighting, sound and music was exciting and rewarding for all of the girls and one that they will long remember. In addition, ‘Rainmaker’, enabled the girls to think about natural disasters and how human beings can respond to them in a positive way.

1. Chep (Alana Dimopoulos) dies in the arms of Relda (Zoe Stefanatos), Juanita (Emma Puglia) and Ignacio (Grace Horsey)
2. Chameleon (Sandra Lee) teaches Chep lessons in life
3. Thunder God (Olivia Johnson) and her cronies (Jordan Card, Paris Bianco, Emily Sticca, Judie Chen, Paige Stanley) provide guidance
4. The frogs (L-R: Zoe Coolahan, Lucy Van Der Arend, Emily Sticca, Nancy Wang, Natalie Xavier) provide guidance in the search for the Rainmaker
5. Kongan Hab (Isabelle Moss) and her followers (Ebony Simons, Emily Sticca, Natalie Xavier) create havoc
6. L-R: Apu Illapu (Zara Burk) and Nawbey (Lani McKernan) share the news about the newest Rainmaker
7. L-R: Chep (Alana Dimopoulos) learns much from the Parrots (Ai-Vi Le, Natalie Lim, Mattea Black, Ashley Clausen) and the Bear (Isabella Kirkham)
This year’s Exhibition focused on the Transdisciplinary Theme, ‘Who we are’. Students chose to explore different areas of interest, including beliefs, spiritual, physical and mental health, and what it means to be human. Each group, formed primarily on interests, was guided by a Mentor, a staff member from the School, who met with them on a weekly basis and supported their journey.

The girls researched their questions thoroughly and were encouraged to access primary and secondary sources, which included organising self-initiated excursions and having conversations with experts in chosen fields. Applying what they had learned, students completed visual and written responses, again drawing on their language and visual presentation skills. Importantly, students were encouraged to take some form of ‘action’ so that they could develop skills personally and socially. The girls planned and organised a variety of actions, including taking lessons, performing raps and designing posters to increase awareness of issues.

The Year 6 students were responsible for organising all aspects of the final Exhibition day, including designing the invitation, program, digital reflection, French and Art displays. They jointly constructed Drama and Music performances and wrote explanations to guide the audience.

With plenty of opportunities for leadership, initiative and creativity provided, the girls embraced each assigned task with enthusiasm and dedication. The Exhibition, a culmination of their extraordinary efforts, was an excellent vehicle to demonstrate to the Fintona community, the unique talents of every Year 6 student.

Ms Lisa Broben
Year 6 Teacher

Every year, the Year 6 students showcase the skills and understanding they have acquired from their years engaged in the PYP (Primary Years Program) in a visually exciting, end of term Exhibition.

Year 6 students demonstrate ‘Who they are’

TOP: Lara Norton showing her Yoga Posecards
MIDDLE LEFT: Erin Kontaxis and Ellen Stevenson demonstrate to the Year 3s how a baby was mummified in Ancient Egypt
MIDDLE RIGHT: Hayley Duncan and Kiri Lee performing a rap about being positive
BELOW: Principal, Mrs Suzy Chandler, mentoring her group (l to r) Mayisha Moin, Lily Stevens and Aahana Dudani
During the July holidays, **Jasmine Bettiol, Rebecca Kirkham** and I were fortunate enough to head up to Darwin to assist at Danila Dilba, a health care service for Indigenous Australians (NAIDOC) with which Fintona has developed strong ties over the years.

The first day in Darwin was spent exploring Crocosaurus Cove, a crocodile sanctuary. A tour around Kakadu and Litchfield National Park followed. It was a remarkable experience that we shall never forget, having been able to swim in numerous waterfalls, witness intricate Aboriginal cave paintings at Ubirr as well as travel along the Mary River on a boat cruise.

After three days exploring the National Parks, we were finally back in the city ready to begin our work with Danila Dilba. On the first day, we spent the day at the Malak Centre as it was the Clinic’s open day and we were assigned the task of preparing information for the following day’s function during National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Commemoration (NAIDOC) week. Throughout the week, we were also given the opportunity to take part in the NAIDOC week. We represented Danila Dilba at their stand throughout the day assisting in the education of healthy eating and oral hygiene for the wider community.

On our final day in Darwin we were taken out into the Knuckey Lagoon community and were able to gain a glimpse into the lives of Indigenous Australians and how they lived. It was definitely an eye opener and gave us insight into the importance of their culture and how the people rely on organisations such as Danila Dilba to provide them with health care support. Before leaving on the Friday morning we were able to observe the final NAIDOC march through the streets of Darwin as well as watch Aboriginal dancers portray stories about animals through their art form which added another element to seeing a small snapshot of their culture.

This trip was definitely an experience of a lifetime and we all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. We would like to thank **Ms Stockley** for accompanying us along with **Mrs Chandler** for giving us this incredible opportunity.

**Aditi Chaturvedi**  
Year 11

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**Danila Dilba, Crocosaurus Cove and Kakadu**

(L-R) Rebecca Kirkham, Jasmine Bettiol and Aditi Chaturvedi exploring the National Parks in the Northern Territory

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**2014 Consuls announced**

As part of the process of the selection of school leaders, it was my pleasure to interview a number of candidates from Year 11.

The panel, consisting of Mrs Suzy Chandler, Ms Trish Leigh, Mrs Sally Clayton and myself, were impressed by the girls’ enthusiasm for the School, their concern for their fellow students and their ideas and visions, thoughts and aspirations.

This was shown also in the quality of the speeches they presented at assembly; when asked to speak on the topic, ‘What is the role of women in the 21st century?’ The girls reflected in a considered and intelligent way about the nature of gender roles and the capacity of women. The assembly was a most enlightening and interesting one.

The new Consuls and Deputy Consuls have now been chosen:

**School Consuls**

Dimity Hanney and Shona Li

**Senior School Deputy Consul**

Isabelle (Izzy) Frances

**Middle School Consul**

Kate Cranage

**Junior School Consul**

Katie Ashbolt

I congratulate these girls and look forward to working with them in 2014.

**Mrs Katrina Brennan**  
Head of Senior School

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**The 2014 Consuls: Dimity Hanney (top) and Shona Li (bottom)**

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**Aditi Chaturvedi**  
Year 11
Amanda wins Premier's Award

The Fintona community extends its warmest congratulations to Amanda Ngo, who achieved a perfect VCE score in English in 2012, and who furthermore was recognised with a Premier’s Award for English.

On Wednesday 5 June, Amanda and her English teacher Mr Nick Capriolo attended the Award’s ceremony which was held at the Melbourne Convention Centre in Southbank. This is a significant honour for Amanda to excel in VCE English and to be recognised as a top performer in the State. Fintona is very proud of her extraordinary achievement and her display of commitment throughout her years of study.

Amanda attributes her success to her inspiring teachers. She says: ‘Receiving this special award was a lovely occasion and I’m so grateful Mr Capriolo could make it. From the beginning, he encouraged me to aim for the very best I could achieve, and for that I am truly thankful. I would also like to extend my gratitude to every teacher at Fintona, for all the work and belief that they have invested in me over the years.’

Amanda is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts/Law Degree at Monash University. We wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Georgia is a Cross Country champion

Fintona’s Sports Captain, Georgia Griffith, ran in the Victorian School Athletics Championships on the last weekend of October and finished in 1st place. This is an incredible effort from Georgia who is completing her Year 11 studies and training extremely hard. She was also a member of our Senior Cricket team last term. This wonderful result now qualifies Georgia for the National Schools Athletics Championships in Townsville in December. We wish her all the very best.

Mrs Carmen Timms
Sports Co-ordinator

Tournament of Minds Team reaches the Australasian Pacific Finals

Congratulations to our two Tournament of Minds teams that competed in the regional competition held on Sunday 18 August at Deakin University in Bunwoood. Both groups consisted of a mixture of students from Years 5 and 6. They worked very hard over six weeks to prepare their response to a long term challenge and were also required to solve a spontaneous problem on the day.

Our Language Literature team won the regional competition as well as the State finals at La Trobe University in Bundooora and had the honour of representing Victoria in the Australasian Pacific Finals in Canberra. Our Social Sciences team received Honours and the feedback from the judges was very positive.

What a fantastic effort!

Ms Amy Miers
Year 5 Teacher

Emma to attend the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School

Year 11 student, Emma Schwerkolt, has been selected to attend the elite Australian Science Olympiad Summer School having achieved an outstanding performance in the qualifying exam in August in which 3,000 students took part.

Emma will join 70 of Australia’s most talented science students at this intensive residential program to earn a spot representing Australia at the 2014 International Science Olympiads. The summer school is held at Monash University’s Clayton Campus in January 2014.

Emma is overjoyed about her achievement and said: ‘I was so surprised to be selected for the summer camp and I’m truly lucky to have the opportunity. I’m really excited about all parts of the camp and I can’t wait to go!’

The students live on Monash University’s campus and with Australian Science Innovations Program staff, have access to
lecturers, tutors, laboratories and support staff to help hone their theoretical and practical science skills. During this rigorous program students learn the equivalent of a first year university course in biology, chemistry, or physics. Students also have the opportunity to make lasting friendships with like-minded students who share their passion for science.

Based on their performance at the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School, thirteen students will be selected to represent Australia at the International Science Olympiads vying for gold, silver or bronze medals.

We wish Emma a fantastic experience and the best of luck in the final selection process.

Ms Christa Ackermann
Science and Senior School
STS Co-ordinator

Science Talent Search success

The Science Talent Search is an annual science based competition open to all primary and secondary students in Victoria. The theme for 2013 was ‘A Century of Australian Science’. Once again, Fintona Girls’ School performed exceptionally well.

The Junior School submitted 24 entries and won nine bursaries to the value of $345. Sixteen bursaries, totalling $775, were awarded to 29 Years 7 and 8 students who submitted entries from Models and Inventions, Games, Photography, DVDs, Posters and Scientific Research categories. In total, 43 girls have been invited to attend the STS presentation day at La Trobe University in November.

A special word of congratulations to the following students whose projects have been selected for entry into the prestigious BHP Billiton Science and Engineering 2014 Awards: Joanna Bleakley and Sanduni Jinadasa (Going Bananas); Ayla Edwards and Chloe Lovett (Sun Smart, No Start!); Sophie Schwerkolt and Pardis Sorati (The Good Oil).

Without the mentorship of the Years 5 and 6 classroom teachers and Years 7 and 8 subject teachers these excellent results would not be sustainable. We thank Mrs Suzie Hannebery, Ms Julie Goldsworthy, Ms Christa Ackermann, Ms Lisa Broben, Ms Michelle Gurry, Ms Vanessa Stockley and Ms Amy Miers for their expert guidance of the girls as well as performing the difficult task of internal and, in some cases, external judging of projects.

In addition, Ms Lisa Broben deserves recognition for her dedication as Primary School STS Co-ordinator for the past seven years.

Ms Christa Ackermann
Science and Senior School
STS Co-ordinator
It is always wonderful to welcome so many fathers and special friends to our annual Father's Day celebrations.

Over at the ELC, the Ginko Kookaburra, Jacaranda Possum and Wattle children hosted their dads at Father's Day breakfast celebrations. Meanwhile, the Banksia children invited their dads to a puppet making workshop and supper and the Ginko Rosella and Jacaranda Joeys participated in a pyjama night complete with a pizza dinner and a storyteller.

The Junior School invited dads for breakfast followed by a special Father's Day assembly. We especially commend those brave dads who participated in a session of aerobics in the courtyard. The Middle School held a breakfast in the Tuckshop where dads had the opportunity to enjoy some delicious breakfast treats with their daughter(s) and meet up with other dads.
France Study Tour was formidable!

For us French language students, the three week September break meant a study tour in France where we had the chance to learn, up close and personal, all about French culture, fashion, cuisine, everyday life and, of course, fine tune our French language skills.

Whilst in Paris, we took the metro every day and ate dinner in local restaurants. This experience made us feel like real Parisians. As well as spending time in Paris visiting many historical buildings, including the very extravagant Château de Versailles, we also travelled to regional France: Normandy, Brittany, Loire Valley and finally picturesque Provence where we were especially enamoured of the town’s stunning beauty. One of the many highlights was spending a day, at a French co-educational high school, Lycée de la Salle, in Rennes, Brittany.

The final days of the study tour were spent in Paris, visiting two of the most anticipated places on the tour – the Eiffel Tower and Disneyland! We particularly enjoyed our final dinner at the Café du Trocadero, a very classy restaurant with a view of the Eiffel Tower.

As a result of our time in France, we feel more confident in our language skills, more independent and responsible, and have a deeper understanding of French culture and the way of life in France.

The France Study Tour was truly an experience we will never forget.

Brydie Parker, Nancy Wu, Suzannah Roushdy, Vanessa Leung, Cassandra Leung, Shirley Tang and Virginia Chen
Year 10 French language students

Annual Music Concert

On Wednesday 28 August the Music Faculty presented their Annual Music Concert which displayed the varied talents of girls from Years 3 to 12. With a new venue organised at the New Hope Baptist Church, the tone of the evening was set with a dazzling drum line performed with lights turning on and off and glow-in-the-dark sticks.

This was immediately followed by a fanfare of 30 brass students. Many of the smaller ensembles were combined for the evening to allow the girls to experience the joy of performing with the more senior students. Music ranged from the traditions of Purcell to four new works composed for the evening by the Music Faculty. The sensational finale ‘Light the Fire Within’ saw girls from the three main choirs singing with our full orchestra.

We will also be commencing preparations for the 2014 Cabaret shortly. If you would like to be involved in the Friends of Music that supports this event, please contact Ms Karolina Wojtasik in the Music Office kwojtasik@fintona.vic.edu.au.

Ms Sam Seabrook
Music Co-ordinator

Above: The oboe and clarinet section of the Fintona Orchestra
Art Show 2013

Celebrating the artistic talents of our students

This year Fintona celebrated student achievement in the Visual Arts in two exhibitions. The ELC to Year 10 exhibition vibrantly filled the Margaret Cunningham Hall in August showcasing a wide variety of work; from flying fish, robots made from recycled materials to carefully rendered drawings. One highlight at the opening was a fashion parade of clothes made from the Japanese tie-dye technique Shibori.

The VCE Art Show in October confirmed the creative talents of our Years 11 and 12 students. The School is very proud of the variety and level of achievement. This year students presented a variety of work from installations, movies, digital photography to drawings.

Mr David Keen
Art Co-ordinator

1. Year 9 and 10 textiles
2. Annie Rehe, Year 8, oil pastel on paper
3. Sandra Lee, Year 4, self portrait acrylic on canvas
4. Melanie Chi, Year 7, ink on paper
5. Hayley Heath, Year 12, silkscreen print
6. Jessie Yu, Year 11, acrylic on canvas
7. Grace Stevenson, Year 6, acrylic on paper
8. Ruby Potter, Year 1, collage from rubbings
Great things come from a small package

ART SHOW 2013
Nick Capriolo

Nick Capriolo began at Fintona in 2009. He teaches English in the Middle and Senior Schools and Legal Studies in the Senior School but as well as being a well-respected and talented teacher, Nick actually began his career as an industrial and graphic designer and then later became a lawyer. He tells us more about his interesting journey from the ‘artworld’ and academia to teaching secondary school girls at Fintona.

You have had several, quite diverse careers. When did you know that a teaching career was your true vocation?

After completing an Honours Degree in Literature and Philosophy, I taught at the University of Melbourne in the Philosophy department for about eight years while completing post-grad and working in the law. I found tertiary teaching stimulating but not as rewarding as I subsequently found secondary teaching – it is less fraught with egos and it’s more challenging to teach students to walk rather than run. Also, I soon discovered that besides being the most enervating job, it is one of those careers that you never question the worthiness of what you are doing - it has an immeasurable soul-enriching effect.

As a teacher, where have you worked prior to coming to Fintona?

My first teaching position was at Thomas Carr College, a large, co-educational Catholic school in the Western suburbs. I then applied for a position at Fintona. The contrast between the schools could not have been greater and it was not long before the impeccable behaviour and conscientiousness of the students, as well as the warm collegiality of the staff, convinced me my choice of career was not a mistake. I was fortunate to start teaching Legal Studies for Years 11 and 12, as well as Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, in English. The range of year levels was demanding but engaging.

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

I do find that if a teacher is candid and treats students as possessing the ability to judge the fundamentals of life and learning as capably as anyone else, they respond to the intellectual independence with which you credit them; students of all ages have a keen radar for teachers’ pretensions or incompetence. Also I find humour a great leveller and communal device. I believe that when a teacher and students share laughter, it is one of the most positively nourishing moments.

You love to read. What are your favourite books?

Philosophy is my strongest academic interest and I tend to read philosophical journals and texts. As far as literature goes, I generally read poetry rather than prose, however I keep revisiting the classics; Joseph Conrad and Nabokov are probably my favourites. I also read anything Ian McEwan writes.

Can you tell us what your interests are outside of school?

My external interests include architecture and building; I have been building my own house for the last twenty years. I indulge in photography and painting when I can, but would love the confidence and time to be less of a dilettante and focus on writing and painting. Over the last few years, due to the recent phenomenal technology, I have experienced a belated passion for music of all genres. I wholeheartedly agree with Kurt Vonnegut, another of my favourite authors, for an atheist, music is the closest thing to the divine.
Laura Morris came to Fintona in 2012 teaching in the Junior School and this year taught the Prep class. Her time at Fintona so far may be short but Laura has impressed both staff and students with her professionalism and highly developed organisational skills. Laura has also been selected as the Secretary of the Executive Steering Committee for the inaugural Digital Learning and Teaching Victoria (DLTV). Her selection is a wonderful endorsement of her ongoing commitment to the promotion of ICT education.

When did you know that a career in teaching was your true vocation?
Although I was involved in teaching, such as swimming coaching, when I was at school, I never imagined it to be my ‘true vocation’. It was only when I was working at Sibford School in the UK that I realised I was destined to become a teacher. I haven’t looked back since!

Tell us about your time as a teacher in the UK?
When I finished school, I was placed in a Quaker School in Oxfordshire called Sibford School. I spent a year working in the Junior School with children aged between four and eleven years old and loved every minute of it. After leaving the UK, I came back to study a Bachelor of Education at Melbourne University. Upon graduating, I secured a teaching position at Melbourne Grammar Grimwade and was there for five years when I successfully applied for my current role in the Junior School at Fintona. During my time at Melbourne Grammar, I also completed my Master of Education at Melbourne University.

What do you like to do outside of work?
When I am not at work, I thoroughly enjoy spending time with my family and my dog Millie. I love to exercise, whether it is going to the gym, walking up in the hills or riding my bike into the city. I also enjoy cooking, playing the cello and most recently, sewing my own clothes.

As a relatively new teacher to Fintona, what have been the most rewarding aspects of your work?
I believe that the children I teach make my job so satisfying, especially how I have the chance to start their school learning journey. The Prep children are so excited about their learning. This puts a smile on my face every day! In addition, the lovely community of staff and parents make Fintona a rewarding place to work.

Describe the community in the Junior School.
The community in the Junior School is very intimate so you are able to get to know all of the children and staff. Each member of staff is very dedicated in relation to the social, emotional and intellectual needs of the children. In addition, it is always nice to work with a team that are so committed to their job!

Overall, I feel that the Junior School is an ideal place to work.
Building Fund donations

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 2012/13, the following families have kindly given to the Building Fund through their voluntary contribution on their fee statement.

Note: Building Fund donations are from 1/7/12-30/6/13

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mr V Zubenko & Mrs T Derevyanko
Dr R & Dr Y Zwar
Annual Giving Appeal 2013

We are very grateful for the generosity of the Fintona Community, and thank you for your support of the 2013 Annual Giving Appeal towards the Library, Scholarship and Building funds.

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Mr J Yu & Mrs N Ho

Z
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Mr V Zubenko & Mrs T Derevyanko
Reunions

CLASS OF 2008
5 YEAR REUNION

The Class of 2008 caught up for their 5 year reunion on Friday 6 September. Over 20 girls attended and it was a lovely night spent catching up, laughing and reminiscing. It was excellent to see some of our favourite teachers in attendance too. Although many of us still see each other, it’s great to take time out to hear what everyone is doing as our lives get busier and take us in different directions.

Ellie Cooper

CLASS OF 2003
10 YEAR REUNION

On Friday 21 June 2013, the Class of 2003 got together at Cherry Road House to celebrate their ten year reunion. It was a fantastic chance for everyone to catch up and share their stories about engagements, weddings and careers. It was a lovely evening and we even walked out the door singing the school song - the Fintona spirit continues to burn strongly for the Class of 2003!

Kate Cramer

CLASS OF 1993
20 YEAR REUNION

None of us could quite believe that it had been 20 years since we had left school – were we really that old? About 20 of us gathered at Fintona on Friday 17 May and it didn’t take long for the noise to escalate, especially as the wine was flowing. We all had a great time catching up on everyone’s news; exciting careers, marriages, babies and where we were all living. Of course, there was much reminiscing about our school days and being part of such a small year level meant we all had many stories to tell about each other. A fantastic night was had by all with about half of us managing to kick on into the wee hours of the morning!

Thank you to Kate McPhee for organising and for Ann Hawker, Sue Woolley and Julie Goldsworthy for attending. We look forward to the next one!

Sophie Baker
A great night was had by all girls who attended the Class of 1983 reunion on Friday 16 August. Everyone enjoyed catching up on news and reminiscing about school days. There were many laughs over how everyone had changed from the photos that OFA President, Ann Hawker had kindly put on display for the night.

**CLASS OF 1958/59 REUNION LUNCHEONS**

For 12 years, a group of Old Fintonians from the Classes of 1958 and 1959 have been meeting for lunch. The group would love to welcome new faces, if you’re interested in attending a lunch during 2014, please contact Mel Marsh (Merilyn Seward ‘58) at marshmeldon@bigpond.com or (03) 5984 4436.

**WA REUNION**

On Saturday 11 May, ten of us gathered at the home of Julie Dickinson (Adams ’53) for our annual WA OFA gathering. We learned of the sad passing of Barb Speirs (Grosser ‘44) a long term member of our WA group. Libby Chisholm (Box ’52) brought along a cassette tape of all the school songs. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to the School Song, the Leaving Song and March Militaire.

Alison Smith (Pyper ’50) sent us her news from Mt Barker. Three of our regular members, Judy Williams (Gray ’63), Robyn Imberger (Loane ’64) and Anna Clapin (Wood ’48), sent their apologies. We enjoyed hearing everybody’s news and we all had a wonderful afternoon.

Next year’s afternoon tea will be held on Saturday 10 May (Mothers’ Day weekend).

Rebecca Vercoe
(Johnson ’82)
0438 832 195
revercoe@yahoo.com

**ACT/NSW REUNION**

The NSW and ACT reunion was held on the 12 September in the wonderful setting of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli. The delicious luncheon was enjoyed by many familiar old girls and some very welcome new ones. Some had travelled from as far as Canberra for the day.

At the end of the lunch we had a special round table chat time to exchange our latest news with the group and Ruby Kirwan recited two of her latest very amusing poems. Next year we are planning two reunions: Saturday 5 April (tbc) and Thursday 11 September.

Barb Shaw (‘67)

**NORTH EAST VICTORIA REUNION**

This year the North East Victoria Old Fintonians have had two gatherings at the Benalla Art Gallery.

In April, 20 of us, plus one male who brought his mother, had a wonderful lunch beside the lake. We had a wide range of ages and long distances travelled by some, including from Dromana, Melbourne, Mansfield, Shepparton, the Kiewa Valley and Tocumwal. There were lots of laughs, reminiscences, updates on general news and overall conviviality.

Our recent gathering on 9 October had all the ingredients of the April get-together, but with only 14 of us, as those from further afield decided, regretfully, that once a year was enough. The weather was a typically beautiful North East day being warm and sunny, so again we sat out on the balcony beside the lake. Each time we meet we have been fortunate to have some new faces to welcome, so if you receive an invitation, please come along.

Our next reunion is at 12 midday on Wednesday 19 March at the Benalla Art Gallery.

Jane Derrick (‘60)
(03) 5765 2351/0439 2020 37
Reunions

2013 ART SHOW AFTERNOON TEA

On Friday 23 August, a group of Old Fintonians returned to Fintona for the annual OFA tour of the Art Show followed by an afternoon tea at Cherry Road House.

Many comments were made about the high standard of students’ artworks and the wonderful Year 6 students who acted as tour guides for the afternoon. Thank you to David Keen, Art Co-ordinator for hosting the tour.

Births

Congratulations to the following past students on the birth of their babies.

Anna Clarke (’04) and James Zuidland welcomed a son, Kai James on 21 April weighing 4kg.

Brooke Wilson (Dujela ’96) and Matthew welcomed a daughter, Zoe Giselle Wilson on 30 June 2013, weighing 3.17kg.

Deaths

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

Ann Melville (’53) 24/3/13
Virginia Jamieson (Lighton ’53) 24/4/13
Vivienne Taylor Mother of Jessica Taylor (’03) 29/4/13
Helen Stuart Tyson (’45) 10/5/13
Dr Freda Pamela Daniel (’41) Mother of Michele Sharples (’68) 30/5/13
Julie Alston (Greenwood ’45) June 2013
Margaret Berlin (Robertson ’59) Margaret’s grandmother Helen Ampt (Boyne) was the first President of the OFA.) 25/7/13
Barbara Spicer (Mcllwraight-Smith ’48) August 2013
Jane Burgess (Woodard ’49) 21/10/13

INAUGURAL UK/EUROPE REUNION 2014

The OFA together with Rose Maddern-Wellington (’85) an Old Fintonian residing in Belgium, are excited to announce a date for the first overseas reunion for Old Fintonians’ living in Europe and the UK. The reunion will be held at a restaurant in central London on Saturday 5 July, 2014. Past students and staff permanently residing or on working holidays are warmly invited to attend.

Please contact Kate McPhee at kmcphee@fintona.vic.edu.au or Rose Maddern-Wellington at roseanna.wellington@gmail.com if you are interested in receiving an invitation.
Welcome to the following new members of the Fintona Girls’ School Company:

Alison Banova (’80)
Catherine Bates (’04)
Suzy Chandler
Andrea Lewis (’85)
Eris McKinnar (’02)
Deborah Seifert

The Fintona Girls’ School Company oversees the Board of Management’s governance of the School. Membership to the Company is open to all past students and past and current staff. You can join the Company at any time and be as active as you choose, but for many former students and staff it has provided an avenue to stay connected to Fintona and gain valuable experience as a Company Director.

If you are interested in joining the Company, please contact Hirian Hinson, Company Secretary on (03) 9830 1388 or access a company membership application from the website at www.fintona.vic.edu.au

Have you thought about joining the Fintona Girls’ School Company?

REUNION DATES 2014

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

1974
40 Year Reunion
Saturday 15 March
12noon

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

1994
20 Year Reunion
Friday 16 May
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 10 February
Venue in Melbourne TBC

Monday 12 May
The Baths Restaurant,
Sorrento

Monday 11 August
Venue in Melbourne TBC

Monday 10 November
The Baths Restaurant,
Sorrento

INTERSTATE/COUNTRY REUNIONS

North East Victoria
Benalla Art Gallery
Wednesday 19 March

WA
Saturday 10 May

NSW/ACT
Saturday 5 April
Thursday 11 September

QLD
Saturday 25 October

SA
October TBC

UK and Europe Reunion
Saturday 5 July
7.30pm at central
London restaurant

Please check the website in December 2013 for the final interstate dates
“In 2012, I completed circumnavigating the globe by yacht after 20 years living and working on privately owned yachts with my husband David. Our journey has taken us to 51 countries on 16 different yachts and over 103,000 nautical miles.

In 1992 we set off from Mornington on a 42’ yacht built by David and his Dad for a two year adventure into the Pacific. Our adventure took us east to Tonga and into the North Pacific then back south through the Solomon Islands. People often asked us what we did all day while we were cruising but we were never bored. In remote places we had to fend for ourselves, catching fish, baking bread, making yoghurt and endlessly fixing things on the boat while monitoring the weather. In between we met wonderful cruising folks, many who were sailing around the world, and this is what led us onto a career on the water.

On returning to Australia in 1993 we could not settle down. So, when one of our cruising friends suggested we sail to Singapore on their yacht, we jumped at the chance to avoid going ‘back to work’. Each time it was ‘just another couple of months’ then we’d get ‘back to work’. We were then approached with the offer of a paying crew job and have been doing this since 1995 on medium sized yachts that the two of us can run on our own.

The yachts on which we work are mostly 18 – 24 metres and privately owned. David is Captain and engineer and does passage planning, navigation, driving, repairs and sailing. I cook for the guests, help with the sailing, stand watches and basically anything else that needs doing.

Many of the last 15 years have been spent on the East coast of the US for summers and the Caribbean for winters. One year we took the masts off a ketch and motored up the Hudson River from NYC, through the Erie barge canal and into the Great Lakes for the summer. We were in North Cove Marina, right under the Twin Towers in New York City in May 2001 and sailed past the smoldering rubble 10 days after 9/11. Last year we did our second Panama Canal transit then sailed across the Pacific through Galapagos, French Polynesia, Samoa and to Tonga where we crossed the line of our circumnavigation.

Like most things in life there are a positives and negatives. We have been to amazing places, we love meeting new people and making new friends from all over the world. I love discovering new foods and learning how to prepare them. On the other hand, we often don’t know where we are going or what we are doing next, as we wait for a decision from the owner. The weather can be truly terrifying and guests not always easy to look after. The job also takes us far from family and friends and we have missed out on major events in their lives. I am very lucky to have a fantastic group of school friends who continue to remain my best friends even while I routinely abandon them for months or years at a time.

Sue Stoyles (’74)
Sue and her husband David are currently sailing across the Pacific.

Sue Stoyles (’74) circumnavigates the globe

The OFA congratulates Sue on her remarkable sailing achievement. Here is an account of her 20 year journey.

Premier’s Award
Congratulations to Amanda Ngo (’12) who received a Premier’s Award for her perfect score in VCE English in 2012.

For more information about Amanda’s remarkable achievement, see page 8 of this edition.
### Important Dates for 2014

#### TERM 1 (9.5 WEEKS)
- **Friday 31 January**: Term 1 commences for students
- **Monday 10 March**: Labour Day
- **Friday 4 April**: End of Term 1
- **Friday 18 April**: Good Friday
- **Sunday 20 April**: Easter Sunday
- **Monday 21 April**: Easter Monday

#### TERM 2 (10 weeks)
- **Wednesday 23 April**: Term 2 commences for students
- **Friday 25 April**: Anzac Day holiday
- **Monday 9 June**: Queen’s Birthday holiday
- **Friday 27 June**: End of Term 2

#### TERM 3 (9 weeks)
- **Tuesday 15 July**: Term 3 commences for students
- **Friday 12 September**: End of Term 3

#### TERM 4 (10 WEEKS)
- **Tuesday 7 October**: Term 4 commences for students
- **Monday 3 & Tuesday 4 November**: Mid-term holiday/Melbourne Cup day
- **Wednesday 10 December**: End of Term 4

### TOUR AND SCHOLARSHIP DATES

#### Tour Mornings
- **Tuesday 18 February**
- **Wednesday 7 May**
- **Thursday 19 June**
- **Friday 8 August**
- **Thursday 4 September**
- **Thursday 23 October**

#### Twilight Open Day
- **Wednesday 5 March**
- **Sunday 23 November**

#### Open Day/Food and Wine Festival
- **Sunday 23 November**
  - **11.00am to 4.00pm**

#### Scholarships
- **Closing Date for Applications**: Friday 21 February
- **Scholarship Testing Day**: Saturday 1 March

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Email: fgs@fintona.vic.edu.au

**www.fintona.vic.edu.au**
A CONSISTENTLY HIGH ACHIEVING INDEPENDENT GIRLS’ SCHOOL

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