



The Headmaster's Speech Day
Address
and Headmaster's Report

The Scots School

Bathurst and Lithgow

2016

Headmaster's Welcome



The Honourable Mr Andrew Gee, Federal Member for Calare, The Rev Paul Harris, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in NSW, Mr Adrian Lamrock, Chair of the School Board and Mrs Kerrie Lamrock, Mr Tim Hector, Distinguished Old Boy and today's Speech Day Guest of Honour and Mrs Jennifer Hector, Mrs Lynne Fleming and Dr Peter Fleming, Members of the School Board, distinguished guests, parents and friends, students and staff of The Scots School.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to The Scots School Bathurst and Lithgow Speech Day and Presentation of Prizes. This is my sixth Speech Day as Headmaster of The Scots School. I regard the opportunity to lead this fine school as a great honour and privilege. I wish to thank the school community for your commitment and involvement in the life of the school over the last year. If this is your first Speech Day at The Scots School, I offer you a special welcome as you are about to witness something very special. I would like to welcome Ms Tracey Leaf, the new Head of Senior School & Deputy Head of The Scots School to your first Speech Day and I wish you well as you prepare to transition to your new role in the new year. If this is your last Speech Day as a parent or a student, enjoy this moment in a special way today and thank you for entrusting the education of your children to us.

Speech Day is a very special day for the whole school community. It is a day in which we honour the achievements of our students and celebrate the Scots community. This is an opportunity for parents to feel proud of this school and to reconfirm and consolidate the values we share together in the education of our children and students.

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Headmaster's Speech Day Address 2016

Distinguished guests, parents and friends, students and staff of The Scots School; it gives me great pleasure to address you today on the occasion of The Scots School Speech Day and Presentation of Prizes. This year has been a wonderful year in many respects. We have celebrated our 70th Anniversary with a wonderful function in March with the Garden Party at Karralee and opened the Tim Richards Pavilion on the same day. The school has undergone Board of Studies Registration and Accreditation under the expert leadership of Mrs Lynne Fleming and received a glowing endorsement and it has been another year of wonderful achievements in many areas for both individual students and groups.

I encourage all of you to read the Headmaster's Report which will be posted to you next week as it reports extensively on the many achievements and highlights of the school year. A reading of this report will reveal what an exceptional school we have here with so many wonderful opportunities provided for our students and a school culture that expects and encourages students to really be involved and to challenge themselves. The school provides an excellent academic education, a range of challenging and enriching co-curricular activities, strong pastoral care, a community feel which supports our programs and strong individual attention. All of this goes towards developing a strong school culture where core values are not only taught but learnt experientially.

We have enjoyed wonderful moments and great success once again this year and I wish to draw your attention to a few of these achievements:

- The strong sense of community with past students and families joining with current families to celebrate 70 years.
- The continued phenomenal success of our Cattle Team at Sydney Royal where we have been the leading school exhibitor over the last five years.
- The outstanding Highland Jazz Night with our musicians, Pipe Band and Highland Dancers.
- Tremendous sporting success with individual student's reaching representative levels at Combined Independent Schools and NSW State level and Grand Final success for two Netball teams.
- The outstanding commitment of our Pipes and Drums in so many school and community events and a program striving for real excellence.
- A cadet program that has provided opportunities for real leadership for those who are keen to pursue this by attending promotions camps in their holidays and growing personally through the challenges encountered. Two of our students have achieved very high honours with Sgt Jaime Balzke finishing first in her Promotion Course and receiving the Commander's Commendation, and Cadet Under Officer Libby being appointed Course Commander for the Junior Leaders'.
- We have experienced continued excellence in Public Speaking and Debating with a number of students receiving commendations in the Western Region of HICES Debating.
- The Senior School Musical in Term 2 was a great opportunity for a wide range of students in the Senior School.
- And the greatest satisfaction of all has been the wonderful commitment to school work and improvement revealed by many of the students and reflected in their improved academic results, school reports and Presentation Day Awards.

Of course I could add much more and I encourage you all to reflect on your own highlights.

This year saw the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and leadership development for students in Years 9 to 12. It is a highly recognised Award which will benefit our students enormously. The Bronze level students have completed their Practice and Test Expedition and the Silver Award

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students in Year 10 complete their test expedition over the next three days. I am really looking forward to presenting the first Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards early next year.

The Scots School has a fine reputation and provides a wonderful range of opportunities to grow and develop our students. The recent decision of the School Board to restructure school fees is a very positive step which will only enhance the educational opportunities we are able to provide.

I wish to thank all members of The Scots School P & F and the sub groups (Friends of Junior School, The Lithgow P & F, Boarders' P & F, Friends of Pipes and Drums, Friends of Rugby, the Highland Gathering Committee, the TSS Turns 70 Committee and the Blue, Black & Gold Ball Committee) all under the umbrella of the Main P & F and the leadership of President Mr Lindsay Wilde. The contribution of the P & F and its sub groups is enormous and vital to this school. I trust that you take enormous satisfaction with what you have achieved and that the opening of the Pavilion this year will be the symbolic representation of your collective contributions for this generation of parents.

I wish to particularly acknowledge the role of Mr Frank Telfser as President of the Friends of Rugby in being the driving force behind the barbecue area beside the Pavilion, Mrs Lisa Knox as immediate Past Chair of the Friends of Junior School and Mrs Rhonwen Hazell as immediate Past Treasurer for their ongoing work on the Junior School playground and Ms Khili Jenkins and Mrs Julie Tinning for their many years of committed service to the Lithgow P & F and the improvements to the Lithgow Campus this year.

Similarly, I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Immediate Past President of the Old Boys' and Girls' Association, Mr Ian Quant, and his committee for the wonderful effort they have made to connect past students with their School, to arrange reunions and to contribute financially to the Pavilion. I wish the new President of the Old boys' and Girls' Association, Mr Gordon Larkings, all the best as he begins in this role.

I also wish to thank the Chairman of the School Board, Mr Adrian Lamrock, for his care and interest in the school and the School Board for their tremendous support and commitment to the school and regular prayer for our school community. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful School Board who gives of their time freely to provide the governance needed for a successful school.

I wish to acknowledge the work of all our staff – academic and welfare leadership roles, Mr Roohan as Coordinator of the Junior School, class room teachers, Boarding and Health Centre Staff and administrative and support staff for their enormous effort. All that we achieve as a school would not be possible without them. Thank you also to our Chaplain, Mr Gittins for all you do as you lead the School in Christian worship and challenge us with matters of faith in such an engaging and thought provoking way.

I particularly wish to thank the three staff who are leaving for their wonderful contributions to the school. Mrs Ruth Eppleston has been the Science Laboratory Assistant and contributed in other ways too for over thirteen years and I wish her well in her retirement. Mrs Mel Hadley has served with distinction as Head of Girls' Boarding and will be greatly missed. Mr Paul McDonald returns to St Stanislaus' College following two years with us. His contribution as a teacher of Mathematics, Stage Five Welfare Coordinator and member of the Student Welfare team has been exceptional. I ask you to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of each of these staff.

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The other staff member who is leaving the school is Mrs Fleming but I will come back to her at the end of my address to formally farewell her and present a gift from the School.

Thank you to the other two members of the School Senior Management team, firstly the Business Manager, Mr Eveleigh, for his outstanding financial stewardship and to Mrs Fleming for her wisdom and custodianship of the school every day.

I wish to thank my wife Gillian and daughter Genevieve for your ongoing support and love. Your own involvement in the life of the school is encouraging to me every day.

I wish to thank all the parents and students for your continued support for me this year. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable family time over the Christmas Season and look forward to your return next year. For parents who are concluding your direct involvement in the life of the school, thank you for your commitment. Please keep in touch with the school and know you are always welcome to attend special occasions in the life of the school and be an active member of the Black Watch. To Year 12 and other students who are leaving the school, thank you for being a part of this school community. I wish you all the best for every challenge you face and every opportunity you choose to embrace.

Farewell words to Mrs Fleming, Deputy Head of the Scots School

Mrs Fleming leaves The Scots School after 15.5 years of outstanding service. She will be remembered as an exceptional teacher of English with a passion for her subject and the students, a quick wit, a love of learning and the English language and someone who is focused on helping her students. She joined the staff in July 2001 as the Head of English, a position she retained throughout her time whilst adding other senior positions.

In the ensuing years, her outstanding work ethic, her capacity for leadership and her understanding of curriculum and people have resulted in her being appointed to other positions of significant responsibility whilst maintaining most of the positions she already held. Her first Senior Management position was as Director of Teaching and Learning. She has been the Deputy Head since 2008 whilst continuing as Director of Teaching and Learning, Stage 6 Coordinator and Head of English. All of these positions are vital in an excellent school and she has been dedicated and passionate in her approach to all aspects of her leadership responsibilities.

Her commitment and excellence in guiding the staff through the Board of Studies Accreditation and Registration in 2006, 2011 and 2016 is particularly worthy of note. Registration and Accreditation has become increasingly onerous as layer upon layer of regulation is added for the independent sector in order to meet BOSTES requirements and maintain government funding. The main responsibility and work falls on the Director of Teaching and Learning and it must be said that The Scots School has received exemplary reports from BOSTES.

Mrs Fleming's leadership of staff and students as Deputy Head every day, along with her work with Year 12 in preparation for opportunities beyond School, are other significant contributions. She has also been extensively involved in the promotion, recruitment and management planning of the school and has enjoyed her contact with school families by being readily accessible and willing to serve.

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I can personally vouch for her unstinting loyalty and devotion to the school and the students, her sharp intellect, and her capacity for hard work. I am very grateful for the personal support she has provided me as Headmaster over the last six years. The relationship between Headmaster and Deputy is a very important one for the successful organisation of a school and the clear vision provided for staff and students. Also important is a shared belief in the school culture and values which underpin so many decisions.

Mrs Fleming, I wish you all the best for whatever it is you turn to as the next challenge in your life.

On behalf of The Scots School community, I thank you for the dedication, commitment and perseverance you have shown every day and how you have inspired, corrected, encouraged and cared for others over the last 15 years.

I present this gift to you on behalf of the School in recognition of your outstanding service.

I also present a water colour painting creation by Mrs Carol McDonald, on behalf of the parents of the school, which will serve as a daily reminder of your office as Deputy Head.

This is my prayer for each of you this Christmas: be rich in the spirit of giving to others, always mindful of the greatest gift of all, God's son, given to us as our Saviour and Lord.

And From Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

God Bless

MR DAVID GATES
HEADMASTER
8 December, 2016



Introduction of the Guest of Honour - Mr Tim Hector



Mr Tim Hector

I am delighted to welcome Mr Tim Hector as our Speech Day Guest of Honour this year. This year we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of The Scots School Bathurst, so Tim Hector is a very appropriate guest as he was one of the original students of the school and the very first Bathurst resident to attend the school.

Tim Hector was the first day boy, at 6 years of age, enrolled in 1942 at The Scots College Bathurst Branch School. He started school on day 1 of the commencement of the School in Bathurst in 1942 and he was also the first day boy enrolled in 1946 when The Scots School Bathurst was founded.

He was the elder son of the late Ivor Mark Hector who was a member of the first Interim Council of The Scots College Bathurst Branch School in 1942 and a foundation member of The Scots School Bathurst School Council when the School was started in 1946.

Tim was always very involved in all activities of the school. Apart from his academic studies he represented the school in Cricket, Rugby, Tennis and Athletics. He was also a member of the School Cadet Unit in 1949 and 1950. After leaving school, Tim studied Pharmacy before joining his father as a trainee manager in his business – the Bathurst Brick Company. He remained in the clay brick industry until he retired.

After Tim Hector completed his education he returned to The Scots School in 1956 to assist in the formation of the Pipe Band. He did this with his good friend from The Scots College Branch School and Scots College, Mr Hedley Taylor. They did this in conjunction with the School Headmaster of the day, Mr Allan Mitchell, the School Council and the P and F Association. After its formation, the Pipe Band was an integral part of the School's large Cadet Unit. For the first 20 months of the Band's existence Tim Hector acted as Drum Major, as well as instructing members of the Band in Drill, and teaching the drums. Together with his father, Tim also sponsored the first full time Pipe Band Instructor, Mr. Bill Durham, and his wife Cathy, to come from Scotland to Bathurst as part of the Bring out a Briton Scheme in 1958. The Band has gone from strength to strength since that time and today is the 60th anniversary of the Pipe Band playing at Speech Day.

After leaving school he played representative cricket in the Bathurst district until 1979. He also represented combined Western Districts and other Country teams in over 100 representative matches. A real highlight was representing NSW Country against the touring MCC Cricket Team in 1964. He was also a senior Rugby referee in Western NSW from 1954 until 1975 and refereed some high profile matches between Western NSW and touring All Blacks and Fijian touring teams and served for many years in the NSW Country Referees' Association.

Introduction of the Guest of Honour - Mr Tim Hector

Tim Hector's son Andrew also attended The Scots School from 1981-1986 and was Vice Captain in his last year. During this time Tim Hector was a tremendous contributor to the school including such significant projects as the design and construction of the school's Brick Entrance Gates, the donation of the bricks and the organisation of a TAFE brick laying team for the project.

Tim Hector has been involved in numerous local, State and Australian business and sporting events for many years. This includes being appointed in 2000 as the Local Volunteer Coordinator for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay. He is still active in local activities and has been a significant contributor to the Bathurst Probus where he has enjoyed two stints as President.

He has been presented with many awards for his services to business and the wider community including being awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 for his long term involvement at senior level in Cricket and Rugby Union Refereeing throughout NSW.

It is a real honour to welcome Mr Tim Hector, a most distinguished Old Boy, original student and long term friend of the School as the Speech Day Guest of Honour in this our 70th Anniversary year.



Headmaster's Report

Chaplain's Report

The beginning of the year was opened with a commencement service in the Aikman Hall where students were formally welcomed to the school and heard from Micah 6:6-8 about the importance of living as God requires; to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Bowenfels Presbyterian Church has continued to care for the Lithgow students with a Church Service at the end of each school term. These services were followed by the generous hospitality of the Bowenfels' community in providing a delightful morning tea! Mrs. Sue Collins from Bowenfels Presbyterian Church continues to serve The Scots School students by providing and coordinating regular and exciting Scripture lessons. Thanks must go to the many other church volunteers for their wonderful support and care for The Scots School community at the Lithgow Campus.

Sincere thanks must be given to local Scripture teachers from Bathurst who have taken our Junior Scripture classes from Kinder through to Stage 2. Thanks must go to Rev. Tristan Merkel, Mrs. Gillian Gates and Miss Teresa Punnett for making Scripture a delight for the students!

The Headmaster, Mr. David Gates, continues to provide a learning environment where students can further develop their own worldview, discuss how this impacts their daily life, and to engage with the biblical Christian worldview.

Young Life is a group of young people from local churches who run a youth group at the Bathurst Campus on a Sunday afternoon for our boarders. This has been a wonderful opportunity for students to have the added support of older community members who are

keen to see young people thrive in life and in faith. In another opportunity to encourage students in late February Scott Darlow, an indigenous musician and speaker, addressed our school on issues of reconciliation and faith. Also, the band "Iron & Clay" performed for the Bathurst Campus in late June with a Gospel message in the context of youth making good life choices.

In late July, Mr Allen and Mr Woodside, from the Gideon's organisation, presented a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs to each Year 7 student. They also explained the wonderful opportunity it is to have access to God's Word.

In both the Senior and Junior Chapel services our school has been reflecting on the Apostles' Creed which has been a statement of faith for Christians all over the world for at least thirteen hundred years. This has provided a framework for our community to think through the foundational teachings of Scripture.

To conclude the year The Scots School celebrated the birth of Jesus in the traditional form of Lessons and Carols after a big day of Junior and Senior Awards Assemblies and the Ceremonial Parade.

As the Gospel is presented to students, staff and community The Scots School continues to provide the opportunity for serious and honest reflection on what God has done for His people in His Son Jesus.

Senior School Reports

English

The year 2016 has been a busy and fulfilling one for the English Department at The Scots School. The Higher School Certificate (2015) results in English were consistent with

expectations. 84% of candidates in English Advanced achieved Bands 4, 5 or 6 results. 100% of candidates in English Extension 1 achieved Band E3 or E4 results. At Year 10 (2016) level in the Record of Secondary Achievement (ROSA), 79% of candidates achieved Grades A, B or C.

In NAPLAN in Year 7, 76% of students were in Bands 7, 8 or 9 for Reading, for Writing 59%, for Spelling 66% and 68% in Grammar and Punctuation.

In NAPLAN in Year 9, 81% of students were in Bands 7, 8, 9 or 10 for Reading. 60% of students were in Bands 7, 8, 9 or 10 for Writing. 68% of students were in Bands 7, 8, 9 or 10 for Spelling. 57% of students were in Bands 7, 8, 9 or 10 for Grammar and Punctuation.

In the English Competition in Year 7 George Butler achieved a High Distinction. Simi Atluri and Jack Kiernan achieved a Distinction. Claire Ferguson, Samuel Lloyd and Austin Markwick achieved Credits.

In the Spelling Competition in Year 7 Austin Markwick achieved a Distinction. Simi Atluri, George Butler, Sophie Cox, Charlie Harris, Keeran Rajkumar and Liddian Selwood achieved Credits.

In the Writing Competition in Year 7 Sophie Cox achieved a High Distinction. Gemalla De Beuzeville-Howarth and Austin Markwick achieved Distinctions. Simi Atluri, George Butler, Isaac Cove, Claire Ferguson and Samuel Lloyd achieved Credits.

In the English Competition in Year 8 Sacha Spence received a Distinction. Riley Comerford received a Credit.

Tzarina Cashen and Baxter Williams received a Merit.

In the Writing Competition in Year 8 Jade Newham and Sacha Spence received a Credit. Harry Dickenson received a Merit.

In the English Competition in Year 9 Gabrielle Morrison and Laura Salans received a Credit. Charles Flude, Jacob Lloyd, Heming Luo and Anna Wilde received Merits.

In the Writing Competition in Year 9 Anna Wilde and Elizabeth Woodhouse received Credits.

In the English Competition in Year 10 Elizabeth Balzke, Jaime Balzke, Benjamin Brunton, Madeleine Cain, Nicholas Oke, Jessica Rodham, Maxwell Semmens and Mackenzie Thompson received Credits.

In the Writing Competition in Year 10 Maxwell Semmens received a High Distinction, Jessica Rodham received a Distinction. Elizabeth Balzke, Jaime Balzke and Nicholas Oke received Credits. Ben Dickenson received a Merit.

In Public Speaking, the school participated in the CWA, Legacy, Sydney Morning Herald and Lions Club Youth of the Year Competitions. Benjamin McGrath achieved Zone Final representation in the Lions Club competition. Gabrielle Boshier was selected for progression to the regional finals of the CWA competition. Andrew Knox and Gabrielle Boshier were selected for progression to the Regional finals of the Legacy competition, resulting in Gabrielle Boshier named as Runner-Up. Mr. Mottram continues his excellent work in the co-ordination of public speaking in the English department.

In Debating, the school participated in the HICES Competition. The HICES

rounds were against Blue Mountains Grammar, Orange Anglican School, Kinross Wolaroi School and All Saints College. Mrs Lynne Fleming, ably assisted by Mr. Andrew Maher, worked to present our speakers at their best at HICES level. Riley Comerford (Middle 4th equal), Austin Markwick (Middle 6th equal), Gabrielle Morrison (Middle 6th equal), Alice Powell (Open 8th) were recognised for their contribution.

Mrs Ann-Maree Adamson continued her enthusiastic advocacy and instruction of French to students in Years 7 and 8. Mrs Kerry Robinson has extended her learning needs focus to both early morning intensive classes and the Homework Centre. Mrs Angela Davis was a welcome return from Maternity Leave. Mrs Lynne Fleming, Head of English since 2001, departs the English Faculty for retirement. We thank her for her contribution to the teaching of English at The Scots School Bathurst.

Mathematics

In 2016 the Mathematics Department was staffed by: Mr Paul McDonald; Mrs Michelle Simcock, Mr Duane Bailey and Miss Rachel Hughes (Head of Mathematics). Mrs Kerry Robinson and Mr Geoff Hayward continue to provide learning support in our Mathematics classrooms. Depending on individual needs they may work with small withdrawal groups, provide support in the classroom or work one on one with individual students. Mrs Robinson has also provided great support to our Year 7 and Year 8 students in the Homework Centre. I commend the Mathematics staff for their passion and enthusiasm for teaching this subject and for the collegiality and teamwork that they continue to display. We farewell Mr McDonald at the end of this year and thank him for his contribution to our

Faculty. We wish him well in returning to St Stanislaus' College.

The Year 12 Mathematics students of 2016 proved to be excellent role models for our younger students. A much smaller cohort in the Mathematics and Extension 1 Courses allowed the students to work closely with their teacher, Mrs Simcock. Mr McDonald was charged with the General students and pushed them to achieve their absolute best. Our Year 12 diligently reviewed each Assessment Task with the aim of seeking improvement before the Higher School Certificate. The Mathematics Department looks forward to receiving their results in the coming week.

In July our students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition. This year we entered 165 students, from Year 3 through to Year 12, with some outstanding results, including:

- The Best Student Award is given to the student who achieves the highest standardised score. In 2016 this award was received by Year 7 student Austin Markwick.
- Certificates of Distinction were awarded to Austin Markwick (Year 7) and Elizabeth Coles (Year 10)
- 20 students received certificates of Credit and 55 students placed in the Proficiency category.

As a Faculty we have continued to develop resources to assist our students and their learning. In 2016 we re-negotiated our licence with Mathletics. All students in Year 7 and Year 8, along with students in 9M2 and 10M, were issued with a Mathletics account. The students are able to access this site from home and the boarding houses. This assisted the students with revision for exams and

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provided another platform for learning. We will continue our arrangements with Mathematics for 2017.

We have enjoyed a rewarding and productive year in the Mathematics Faculty and we look forward to 2017.

Science

This year has been one of activity again for the Scots School Science Department. Year groups have gone on excursions and we have performed well in State Science Competitions.

Early first term Year 11 Biology, under the guidance of Mr Harris and Mrs Eppleston, went to study the Mangroves at Sydney Olympic Park. The Students gained knowledge of the ecological system and the Mangrove Environment. This excursion provided valuable preliminary information for the student's HSC work. In the Third term Year 11 Biology went to Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens for an Australian Biota study day. The day involves the Australia Museum, Taronga Zoo and the Gardens collaborating on presenting field work and live specimens supporting theories about why Australia has the flora and fauna it does. It also explains extinction of our mega fauna and the unique variety of our Australian species. The Students were accompanied by Mr. Harris and Mrs. Eppleston. Mr. Harris also took a number of students to represent the school at the Youth Environment Forum in Sydney.

Mr. Harris attended a course at the Human Diseases Museum at the University of NSW. The Course for Biology Teachers covered a range of current genetic research and psychological research into student learning and growth goals.

The School performed very well in the University of NSW Science

Competition achieving 1 Distinction, 14 Credits and 12 Merit awards overall in Years 7 to 10.

In the Australian National Chemistry Quiz, Stephanie Ferguson received a Credit Certificate.

Year 10 Student Research projects were of a high calibre with some students gaining 100% for their projects. Mr. Harris had Oliver Wang whose concept for his research project was original and examined systolic blood pressure; it was called "Colour me calm".

This year the Science Department purchased one Senior Digital Microscope and two hand held digital microscopes. These microscopes will allow students to view specimens of all types through the interactive whiteboard.

The year was very successful thanks to the Science staff, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Dundon, Mr. Harris, and Mr Van Gend. Thanks also must go to our hard working Laboratory Assistant Mrs Eppleston for the efforts she has made and her assistance with excursions this year. Next year she will be taking long service leave before leaving us to join her husband in retirement. I wish to thank Mrs Eppleston for her support of the Head of Science, staff and students and her tireless efforts in making the Science laboratories function in an efficient and safe way. I know the Science staff and students will miss her daily involvement in the Science Department very much.

Information Communication Technology

Within ICT as a learning area, the students continue to produce innovative and creative solutions to the problems they are given. The skills they exhibit in the production of these solutions show

how the students have grown in their knowledge and practical abilities in relation to technology and software usage.

In 2016 the School's Information Communication Network has seen the upgrading of network switches to a Gigabit; this has allowed the transfer of data around the network to be vastly improved. Improved connection speed to Bulkeley and Galloway houses has resulted due to this and new aerials connecting the houses.

The Pavilion has been connected to the network and an interactive screen has been installed.

The technology levy has allowed the school to experience greatly improved internet speed and connectivity this year improving teaching /learning outcomes.

The Network box which controls, protects and filters content of the internet has been updated improving stability of internet connectivity.

In late January interactive screens will be installed in the Agriculture, and Mrs. Chapman's Pre-Kindergarten classrooms.

In 2017, Click View will provided for students and staff; this is a web based method of providing access to a video library for educational videos. Students will be able to access these from home as well as at school due to our improved internet link.

As Information Communication Technology continues to grow and develop within the school, Mr Cameron and Mr MacKenzie continue to be the corner stones of this development. I wish to thank them for their excellent work in this area.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is designed to develop students' confidence, competence and responsibility in designing, producing and evaluating to meet needs and opportunities, and to understand the factors that contribute to successful design and production. Students are developing practical skills that aid them in everyday life as they learn to consider people with individual needs. Throughout 2016, students have been given the opportunity to explore and develop technologies from a variety of areas and for students to develop design projects in areas of individual interest in the latter years.

Year 12 students again produced a mixed range of projects from their identified needs and all produced a final product of a quality of which they can be justly proud. The range of ideas and materials used was once again extensive and a testimony to our students creativity.

These included the following projects: Motorbike Lift Stand, Stock Crate for the back of a utility, Timber Dining Table, Kendo Sports Equipment Stand, Camp Kitchen for the back of a utility, Children's Outdoor Table and Benches, Day Bed from timber found and milled on the family property, Traditional Japanese Fan's and a Pull down Skateboard Storage Rack to be placed above a doorway.

Stage 4 students have been taken through the fundamentals of Technology across a range of areas, learning how to use a range of equipment and machinery safely and accurately resulting in them producing high quality products.

In Stage 5 their skills and knowledge have been built upon with needs being solved in new ways. The design and realisation of Signs this year was

enhanced by the introduction of new scroll forming jigs which allowed for fast and accurate repetitive production of shapes to create the students' ideas. Lamp design was also reintroduced, but this year with the limitation of utilising one of the many shapes and sizes of an Edison globe as the central theme. The coming year will see new faces introduced to Technology and new Year 12 students facing their Major Design Projects. All students will develop problem solving skills applicable to situations throughout life.

HSIE

It has been another busy year in the HSIE Department. The year started with the department going through the final preparation stages for the Board of Studies inspection which provided a good opportunity to reflect upon the teaching programmes and ensure that they represented best practice. I would like to thank all the HSIE staff for the meticulous way they prepared for the inspection and Mrs Fleming who guided the school through the process.

This year also saw a number of staff, Mr Mair, Mr Maher and Mr Doney take long service leave at different times during the year and HSIE staff is to be commended for their work with the students, ensuring a seamless transition whilst covering those staff on long service leave.

This year, Year 7 students visited the Nicholson Museum at Sydney University. This again proved to be a wonderful opportunity for the students to see firsthand Egyptian mummies and other artefacts that they had been learning about in class and learn more about the work of archaeologists and conservationists. Later in the year, the school was again visited by Mr Adams and his Ancient and Medieval History Show. Mr Adams has been visiting the school annually now for a great many

years and our students benefit from his knowledge and the authentic nature of the equipment which they are allowed to see close up.

Mr Mottram, as Head of HSIE, is continually impressed with the willingness of staff to assist students achieve the best possible results. This has become quite evident through the consistent Higher School Certificate results they have been achieving. In Business Studies 40% of the candidature received a band four or above, in Modern History 85% of the candidature received a band four or above and in Studies of Religion 100% of the candidature received either a band four or above.

The students' results in the 2016 Australian Geography Competition were also quite impressive. This year 65,000 students took part in the competition. Across Stages 4 and 5 our students gained 9 Credits, 12 Distinctions and 6 High Distinctions with two of our students being placed in the top 1%.

Next year we are looking forward to introduce Years 8 and 10 in 2018. The new curriculum will offer the students a wider learning experience and new challenges as it addresses changing global issues.

Finally I would like to thank the HSIE staff, Mr. Mottram, Mr. Doney, Mr. Harris, Mr. Maher and Mr. Mair for their professionalism and ongoing dedication to helping every student develop their potential and an appreciation for the humanities.

PDHPE

The PDHPE faculty consisted of Mr. Adams, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Hayward. Our Stage Four and Five program offered a diverse range of theoretical and practical topics focussing on safe risk taking, making informed decisions,

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consumerism, healthy eating habits, developing a sense of self, strengthening relationships and communication and developing personal fitness.

Exciting and rewarding assessment tasks included the healthy habits food guide produced by Year Seven, comic strips about the consequences of poor decision making by Year Eight, analysis of the products and tactics of the fast food industry in Year Nine and coaching Indigenous games to Junior School students in Year Ten.

The Stage Five PASS elective again proved popular to our students. This year they studied units on Coaching, Careers in Sport and Technology in Sport. Our senior classes were the largest that we have had for some time which is testament to the interest that our students show towards physical activity, health issues and sport and the dedication and innovation of the hard working PDHPE staff.

Sport

2016 was another rewarding and successful one for our students. The value of team sport in the school is enormous and it is the reason for expectation that all students take part in a school sports team. The benefits, besides the obvious one of physical fitness, are skills such as: learning to work as part of a team, learning to commit to a team, developing a respect for leadership and the development of a sense of unity and belonging to a team.

There were many memorable moments this year in sport. A real highlight was the opening of the Tim Richards Pavilion. It has been a real luxury to have the students get changed so close to the field and for the students and visitors to the school to find a bathroom without having to hike across the

school campus. The Pavilion also provides a great function area for the post-match receptions and the canteen. The view from the balcony is tremendous and we are very blessed to have the building.

We began the year with the conclusion of the summer sport season. The highlight was the performance of our 1st XI in the ISA Cricket Competition. The team played well all season and were undefeated only to lose a very close final to St Gregory's College. It was a very good achievement nonetheless for the team but unfortunately our second final loss in two seasons.

We again experienced improved results in the WAS Tennis Competition as our team is building in strength and size under the leadership of Mr Doney.

The popularity of basketball continued with six teams entered in the local junior competition. It was a tough season for most of the teams but the skill development across all our players was very evident.

Our swimming season was also very good. The indoor pool was heavily used by the students in preparation for the carnivals. Our inter house carnival was one of the mostly highly participated swimming carnivals in the past ten years and a great day. We had all lanes filled for numerous heats in each age group for all events. We again experienced very good success at the WAS Carnival winning all the percentage shields.

We entered teams in the NSW All Schools Triathlon event. Our teams had to endure extreme heat and were very competitive finishing in the top third of their age divisions. Unfortunately the senior divisions were cancelled due the high temperatures.

Our students also did quite well with cross country again this year. We had another good Inter House carnival and also hosted the WAS Cross Country. The home track obviously worked to our advantage as we had sixteen students qualify into the WAS team for the AICES Cross Country. We then had three students make the AICES team that ran at NSW CIS.

The winter season saw our school enter teams in Rugby, Netball Girls' football and Girls' Hockey. We also had a fitness group that did a variety of trainings, boot camps and team games each week. We entered three teams in the ISA Division Three Rugby Competition. We enjoyed playing teams which were closer to our ability and almost every match was very competitive. The 1st XV played well above their weights again each week and produced some entertaining football. Our most successful team was the 15s team which continued to build in strength and consistency. The standard of netball at the school continued to improve this year and we had our most successful season to date. We had five of our six teams in the semi-finals of the Bathurst Association Competition. The 1st VII again made the grand final and comprehensively won capping off their undefeated season.

The Girls' Soccer Team entered in the ladies senior competition. Our girls tried very hard all season but struggled to match the strength and experience of the older opponents.

The athletics season was a difficult one this year. The wet winter made preparing for the carnival difficult and the track was quite heavy on the carnival day. However we had a very competitive house carnival which was extremely closely contested between the houses. We also entered a strong team for the ISA Carnival. Our best

result at ISA was a third place in the overall Girls' Division Two. There were nine students selected into the ISA team who competed at the NSW CIS Carnival. George Butler won a medal in the triple jump.

Our school had a strong representation in the Bathurst Edgell Jog and we won the Schools Division once again.

Our sporting program continues to provide a very good choice of activities to cater for both the interests and the abilities of our students. Its success is heavily dependent on the commitment of our staff and the support of the parents and for this we are very thankful.

The Cameron Library

The Library has again been an important part of the academic work of the school in 2016. The most frequent users continue to be the Year 11 and 12 students who come there for their study periods, and the Junior School and Pre-Kindergarten students who come once or twice a week to borrow books.

In last year's report mention was made of six new computers for the Library. Installation of these was completed this year, giving the Library the newest and most up to date workstations in the school, although experience suggests that in the world of computers nothing is ever up to date for long! Thanks to Mr Cameron and Mr Mackenzie for their work in maintaining this equipment.

The library collection has grown a little during the year. One of the most exciting acquisitions has been a 100 CD audio set of all of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets on the Argo label. This recording was made between 1957 and 1972. The Library collection still includes some of the original LPs. None of it had ever appeared on CD, but in

2016, as part of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the complete set was released as a limited edition.

In addition to this, some of David Attenborough's wildlife documentaries have been added to the DVD collection, including his new one on The Great Barrier Reef. Several new Visual Arts books were purchased at Mr Coyte's suggestion and Mrs Garland has advised on the acquisition of some music CDs. All of the CD and DVD discs are available for students to borrow.

It has been a pleasure this year to welcome the Homework Club into the Library on Wednesday afternoons. This is an initiative of our Learning Support teacher, Mrs Robinson. This makes the resources of the Library available after school for students who need extra assistance.

Librarian Mr Maher and Library Assistant Mrs Mackay have been in attendance most of the time, but they have had some very valuable assistance from some of the Resident Staff and the English exchange students to keep the Library open at lunchtime. Additional assistance was provided by Mrs Davis whilst Mr Maher was on long service leave in Term 4.

Creative and Performing Arts

Music

2016 has been another very productive and exciting year for the Music faculty in the Lamrock Performing Arts Centre.

The Junior School choirs have become more confident and both groups performed well at the Bathurst Eisteddfod. The Junior School Performing Arts Assembly in September gave individual students

who learn an instrument an opportunity to perform. The concert was an outstanding success.

The number of students having private music lessons continues to be strong at The Scots School. Rehearsal rooms are well used throughout the week. All students are encouraged to learn an instrument and, in turn, become part of a Music Ensemble. All students are encouraged to perform as soloists and in school Music Ensembles. Elective classes continue to be strong with all three Senior Music courses being offered in 2016.

Music Ensembles rehearse weekly and continue to cater for all musicians. This year the standard of items presented has been high and challenging for students. All ensembles have had the opportunity to perform on numerous occasions throughout the year. These include Parent weekend Chapel Services, Year 7 and 8 Music afternoons, Highland Jazz Night, Bathurst Eisteddfod, Open Day performances featuring Year 11 Music, the opening of the Tim Richards Pavilion, Year 12 Trial Performance evening, Abercrombie House Jazz night in August, Christmas Carol Evening and Speech Day.

The highlight in May 2016 was the production of "Guys and Dolls". This musical showcased many soloists and also featured a large chorus and supporting band. The vocal talent of the cast was a delight in all ways.

The Highland Jazz Night in late July was a wonderful opportunity for solo musicians in Year 12 and all Music Ensembles to showcase their talents. This was a cabaret-style evening whereby the Pipes and Drums were incorporated with the Orchestra.

Our appreciation is extended to all Music students for their efforts both in

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and out of the class during the year. Their dedication in attending rehearsals and ensemble performance opportunities is most commendable. Sean Grabham and Ashleigh Brooking are to be commended on their fine leadership for the year as Performing Arts Prefects.

A big thank you must go to all the peripatetic teachers who come to the school to teach our students on a wide variety of instruments.

Drama

All Drama classes in both the Junior and Senior School have developed their performance skills and knowledge of theatre this year.

Senior students attended ON STAGE in Sydney in February in order to inspire individual and group projects for their major works.

The highlight of 2016 was the musical production of "Guys and Dolls". The high standard and commitment was evident in all facets of production including lighting, sound, stage management and choreography.

The HSC Drama Trial evening further showcased the students' individual performances. Their group performance was well received and showed excellent team work.

Visual Arts

Elective classes in 2016 were strong with students being engaged in different areas of art production. This year there were four students studying HSC Visual Arts. They worked in various mediums from painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and film. Each student made a different body of interrelated work as their main HSC works.

Dance

Students across all stages have been involved in learning Highland Dancing and have performed at various events throughout the year. In particular, the ensembles taught by Mrs Kim Durie, which performed at the Highland Jazz Night, Bathurst Eisteddfod and the Blue, Black and Gold Ball are to be commended for their high standard of presentation.

Pipes and Drums

The Pipes & Drums started the year in the usual manner with the Highlands Steam and Vintage Fair in Oberon where the band led the street march and afterwards entertained the crowds at the Show Grounds. The Pipe Band's next opportunity was to play at the opening of Senior Citizens week in Bathurst.

The Traditional Ceilidh was missed this year to make way for a 70th Anniversary Celebration on the lawns next to Karralee. The band still got to play to an appreciative crowd to all in attendance. The Highland Gathering was the next day where the band played very well in very warm conditions.

For ANZAC Day, the band turned out in full strength to provide marching music for the parade in Bathurst. This year the Pipes and Drums had to march the local school students to the Carillion first then hurry back to march ANZACs and military units to the ANZAC Service.

The Highland Jazz Night was held in Term 3 where the band played traditional music intermingled with some modern arrangements. Our own Highland Dancers once again graced the stage with four traditional dances. I would like to say thank you to the dance instructor, Mrs Kim Durie and

to Mrs Denise Garland for her continuing loyal support to the Pipes and Drums.

The band went on to play at the annual Bathurst Edgell Jog. Many of the band members also ran in the event after the twenty minute musical and marching performance.

The Rydal Daffodil Festival finished off Term Three, but in the holidays the majority of the band members competed at the Australian Pipe Band Championships which were held at Knox Grammar School in Sydney. We travelled to Sydney on the Friday afternoon ready for the two day event. Although the band was not placed, they put in a good effort. Over the two days they played four times in two divisions against very tough opposition.

Term Four is the traditionally busy term for the band and this year was no exception. This year we were first treated to a concert by the Pipes & Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. It was an exceptional performance and our band members were able to stay for a meet and greet at the end of the show. Our first playing gig, however, was The Shetland Pony Super Show held at Bathurst Showground.

This year the Blue Black & Gold Ball was back at the old venue at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre. The ball held significant importance to the band as it was the 60th anniversary of the Pipes & Drums very first performance. The Band performed magnificently uniting meticulous marching and drill displays, music and highland dancing. A special treat at the Ball this year was a stirring rendition of Amazing Grace sung by outgoing students Ben McGrath and Sean Grabham and Old Boy Jonty Boshier. The band's final community

outing was to perform at the Young Cherry Festival before the traditional Cadet Ceremonial Parade and Speech day responsibilities.

I would like to extend a big thank you to all that have been in any way involved with the Pipes and Drums this year. I would especially like to extend this thanks to parents, Friends of the Pipes and Drums Committee and band members.

Agriculture

The Cattle Show Team enjoyed another year with many successes. It was definitely a year of extremes in terms of weather with plenty of rain and there were no complaints from the Agriculture Department. The tremendous rain has made for a fabulous spring and great feed for over summer.

The year began again with two Practical Agricultural Teachers joining us from the University of Kentucky. Kelsie Morris and Katie Conn brought a great deal of energy into the classrooms and quickly became involved with the large Cattle Show Team. They joined The Scots School for 8 weeks and developed a great rapport with the students. Both Kelsie and Katie returned home in May and have since secured permanent Agriculture teaching positions.

During March the first cross ewes were synchronised again with CIDR's and they were joined with the White Suffolk ram. These were then pregnancy tested by Mr Stuart Ferguson via ultrasound which enabled students to determine between ewes in lamb with twins and singles. We had a trouble free tight lambing in August. We currently have 40 lambs finishing off on our crop of Lucerne.

In 2015 the Agriculture Department, was very lucky to have three Limousin heifers donated to the school by a very generous parent and this year another group of parents purchased three Limousin heifers from Jordenspring Limousins. This is a sentimental donation as these heifers were bred by long-time supporter of our cattle program, Mr Terry Dennis, who sadly passed away after losing his battle with Leukaemia. These heifers will ensure that the Jordensprings prefix continues on for years to come. The other Limousin cows were artificially inseminated to Wulf's Excelsior with these calves due to be born late February. In 2018 The Scots School Cattle Show Team hope to exhibit at least threehome bred steers at Sydney Royal.

During October the calving of our Herefords began who had been covered by a lovely black Limousin Bull which was supplied by another loyal and supportive parent, Mr Leigh Scott. There were a few very big calves due to the huge amount of feed which caused a few problems with the heifers but the cows all calved well and there are some lovely calves. With cattle prices booming it will be fabulous to watch these grow and follow them to the saleyards in 12 months' time. Llandillo Poll Herefords have assisted us for many years and yet again they are helping us out as they will take all of our Hereford Cows and artificially inseminate them during the next couple of weeks to some superior sires.

A crop of oats was sown in our front paddock under the watchful eye of Peter Ribaux to supply ample feed to the ewes and lambs. The growth of the Lucerne crop was great due to some irrigation and this is aiding in finishing off the lambs. The new improved pastures have proven to be of great benefit in supplying feed. The farm has

been blessed with a lovely spring meaning the stock have ample feed for over summer.

The students have been very busy with Stage 4 Technology working on a unit called 'The Hen House' where the students have learnt about the Poultry industry. The students designed and built some outstanding Hen Houses. The students also hatched out day old chicks using the school's incubator – approximately 40 chicks were hatched out over the year.

Stage 5 Agriculture has worked on Prime Lamb Production, Intensive Animal Production and Pasture Production. The highlight of this course was the Plant Collections – many of these were of Tertiary Education standards. The Year 12 Agriculture worked extremely hard right up until the very end and Year 11 Agriculture are now beginning their HSC studies and are doing so with great maturity and a tremendous work ethic. Due to the floods, the new HSC Agriculture students could not complete their normal three day trip but they did visit the CTLX Saleyards and Cowra Abattoir.

The Cattle Team had another year of great success with another large team of enthusiastic and committed students. The team exhibited at Blayney, Bathurst and Sydney Royal shows with 35 students and 18 steers going to Sydney Royal. It was another extremely successful year with the team being awarded Most Successful Steer Exhibitor yet again. The team is currently in the midst of breaking in the 2017 Cattle Show Team with 23 steers and 7 stud heifers.

Many thanks must go to the producers who supply the team with cattle each year – Mr Terry Dennis, Jordensprings Limousins, Mr Leigh Scott, Meadow Flat, Mr Austin Steer, Trangie, Mr Phil

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Kirk, Peak Hill, Mr Hayden Green, Wagga Wagga, Mr Peter Quirk, Sturt Town, Mr Des Green, Mandurama, Christian and Stacy Allen, Bungendore and The Ferguson Family, Bathurst. There are several parents who continually support the Agriculture program at Scots. Many thanks go to Louise Warry, Leanne Ferguson, Brett Cranston, Shane Ryan, Susan Webb, Leigh Scott, Joe Graham, Stuart Green and Belinda Humphries for their help. The Agriculture Prefect, Hamish Andrews, is an amazing young man with a passion for Agriculture and was a tremendous role model to all other students.

Yet again the Agriculture program owes a very great sense of gratitude to Mr Peter Ribaux and Miss Lorna Rae for their continual support. Peter works tirelessly at improving and upgrading all of the farm resources and is always there to support the students. Lorna continues her support by providing her beautiful property for the department to use. Lorna has also purchased a new Poll Hereford Heifer from Paul Hancock, and we are looking forward to its arrival. Without Lorna the sheep and cattle program would not exist as they do today.

Equestrian Report

2016 has been another busy year for our equestrian students. The team is a group of fabulous riders who all enjoy various disciplines at various levels of competition. Rosemary Webb has been riding Gemma and Mick and they have excelled in all areas. Felicity Webb has been extremely impressive with the talented Riley and they are a team to be reckoned with. Sophie Bingley and Tolmie continue to make huge improvements and Sophie's growing confidence is amazing. Elizabeth Woodhouse is working with a relatively new mount, Dakota and Lana Eastment and Honey are have started show

jumping with ribbons already achieved. Madison Whitley joined the team and her talents lie in mounted games where she has taken out many championships and point score trophies. Jamie and Elizabeth Balzke have recently returned to Equestrian and their horses are a credit to them as both these girls have trained these horses from the very beginning. Grace Dawes continues to flourish in the field of show jumping with her placing at the prestigious NSW State Show jumping Titles at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. She is now progressing to the larger heights and works extremely hard to achieve at this level of riding.

The Scots Equestrian team hosted a Show jump Day in May which was a great success. The school riders all performed extremely well with Felicity Webb taking out 85 cm Champion. Sophie enjoyed her first competitive rounds which was a great achievement. Instead of heading to the North West Equestrian Expo this year the team decided to try a new competition – ISHE in Tamworth. Five riders – Grace Dawes, Felicity Webb, Rosemary Webb, Madison Whitley and Madeleine Nunan all travelled to Tamworth at the beginning of Term 4. It was a fabulous event with outstanding results as follows: Felicity Webb (Reserve Champion Show Jumper – Junior 10-13 years 75cm), Madison Whitley (Reserve Champion – Junior 10-13 years Sporting), Rosemary Webb – 8th Overall (Senior 65cm Show jumper 14 years and over) and 5th overall in 15 years Sporting, Grace Dawes (7th overall in Senior Show jumping 105cm). Grace is a junior but competed in the seniors as she jumps in that height division; she placed 7th overall out of over 30 senior competitors.

The equestrian students have thoroughly enjoyed the regular lessons of Ms Megan Joerg and Mrs Jennifer Wood.

Ms Joeg has been instructing the riders in flat work whereas Mrs Wood has been instructing in show jumping. The riders' improvement due to these fabulously talented instructors has been phenomenal.

Cadet Unit

The 2016 'Cadet Year' commenced under the leadership team led by Lieutenant Phillip Schmarr and assisted by Sergeant David Flude, Mrs Gillian Gates in the Quartermaster's Store and Major (retired) Juri Linins running unit administration for the First Term.

In Term 1, part 1 of a new recruiting practice was initiated. Participation in Cadets became compulsory only for year 8s who could, at the completion of their Recruit training, choose to join the Leadership Development group or leave. Also Cadets was opened to volunteer Year 7s. Recruits were introduced to basic drill, radio procedures, field craft, navigation, basic first aid and principles of leadership whilst returning cadets revised their skills. All cadets completed the compulsory water safety course that included treading water, floatation and clothed swimming.

As well as conducting the training, the Command Group, performed the flag raising and lowering ceremonies at the Highland Gathering. A squad of cadets, including several recruits, participated in ANZAC Day celebrations including the March. Recruit training culminated for Year 8s and the command group with a three day hike conducted by the Outdoor Education Group. Apart from backpacking, activities included cross country navigation, first aid and engineering scenarios. Adventure challenges included abseiling and rock climbing.

A successful Dining In Night was conducted in May at which senior cadets were farewelled and the recruits

presented with Certificates of Completion of Training. A group of Year 7s and 8s elected to continue with leadership training.

Lt Schmarr left the Unit at the end of Term 1. Term 2 saw the return of Major Juri Linins as Acting Officer Commanding the Unit. Training concentrated on leadership development with 22 cadets participating in the training that included developing skills and preparation for the Promotion Courses which were held during the July break at the Singleton Military Training Area. Scots Cadets gained national qualifications at Corporal, Sergeant and Cadet Under Officer ranks. The highlights, and a first for The Scots School Cadet unit, were Corporal Jamie Balzke topping the NSW Cadet Sergeants' Course and receiving the Commander's Commendation and CUO Elizabeth Balzke being appointed Course Commander of the Junior Leaders' Course. Cadets supported the local community by raising and lowering the national flag for the three days at the Bathurst Show as well as participating in the Grand Parade.

Term 3 concentrated on refining field craft, navigational skills and radio procedures. Exercises in camouflage and concealment, first aid and field engineering were conducted. At the School's Open Day, cadets prepared a display of equipment, demonstrated radio procedures and performed several drill displays. The term closed with a successful two day bivouac held on the Scots School campus. The aim was to test all the skills required in preparation for the Annual Field Exercise held at Singleton during the term break and complete recruit training for the Year 7 Cadets.

In Term Four, the second part of the new recruiting plan was started. Participation in Cadets became compulsory for all year 7s who will

continue in cadets until the completion of recruit training at the end of Term 1 2017. Training concentrated on drill practice in preparation for the annual Ceremonial Parade and Remembrance Day observations. The cadets were again commended for their catafalque guard at the city memorial. This year's Reviewing Officer at the Ceremonial Parade was Sergeant David Flude, a long time voluntary supporter of the Unit. CUO Elizabeth Balzke received the Sword of Honour, WO1 Julia Ross received the RSM's Award; SGT Nicholas Oke was recognised as the Most Improved Cadet of the Year and WO2 Jamie Balzke received the initial "Mentioned In Dispatches" award for her dedication to duty on the Promotion Course. The cadet year closed with WO1 Lily Ross and WO1 Julia Ross receiving Long Tan Leadership Awards from the Army at Speech Day.

The 2017 Cadet year will start with The Scots School Cadets attending promotions courses in January both as Trainees and Staff.

The NSW Rural Fire Service Cadets

During the course of this year, eleven students from Years 9 and 10 worked with members of the NSW Rural Fire Service as part of the Chifley/Lithgow Command Area Secondary Schools' Cadet Program.

Under the guidance of O'Connell Brigade members and co-ordinated by Mr Jim Pitcher, students attended sessions on Monday afternoons to learn about bushfire fighting protocols and techniques, and to gain experience in the use of firefighting equipment.

In Term Four the Cadets attended the 2016 Championship and Graduation Day in Portland, where they competed in four timed events, each one

simulating bushfire scenarios. The events were designed to allow the teams to demonstrate their mastery of different fire fighting equipment and techniques used on fire grounds, including setting up hydrants and hoses, using relay pumping equipment and using knapsack water tanks.

The Gold team, consisting of Jake Cranston, Connor Manton, Gabrielle Morrison, Marcus Newbigging, Rosie Webb and Anna Wilde put up solid times in all four events. The Black team, made up of Ben Brunton, Lleyton Hagarty, Jacob Lloyd, Will McDonald and Tim Powell were declared the Champion Team for 2016.

The Scots School Boarding 2016

In 2016 the boarding houses continued strong enrolment numbers particularly in boys boarding where we reached a peak of 55 boys for the second year in a row continuing the trend of strong numbers for boys from Australia and Overseas. The girls' numbers also remained constant reaching a peak of 28 girls.

The Scots School is a genuine boarding school where the population of boarders make up approximately 40% of the Senior School numbers. In recent years we have also had steady enrolments for Year 6 Boarders. Our boarders are a mixture of students who come from many different countries and rural and urban Australian centres who live, work and play in the wonderful environment of The Scots School. Boarding students add to the cultural environment of the school where they share their culture, values and experiences with each other. They come from a variety of cultures and backgrounds including overseas students from China and Japan, Sydney, rural NSW and the Northern Territory.

Headmaster's Report

Our boarding houses provide contemporary living in a home away from home environment. We encourage and challenge all boarding students to take on a multitude of experiences and opportunities available to them. Boarding staff aim to develop our boarding students into resilient, tolerant and responsible young citizens who make a difference in their own lives and others around them.

The houses continue with our stages of refurbishment with both houses seeing some changes in 2016 with further projects to be undertaken in 2017. Our Boarding P&F plays a significant role in improving the facilities for our students.

Bulkeley House

Bulkeley House is managed by Mr Duane Bailey who is also the Director of Boarding. Mr Bailey has over ten years' experience in boarding particularly working with boys. Mr Bailey works very closely with the Boarding Team including Mr Andrew Maher, Mrs Margaret McKay and the Head of Galloway House Mrs Melinda Hadley.

Bulkeley House has undergone a range of improvements which include: replacing all mattresses over a three stage process, two new pool tables, new lounges in the Junior Common Room and the beginning of new shower cubicles and timing of the bathrooms. Further upgrades are planned for 2017.

Galloway House

Mrs Hadley is Head of Galloway House. She provides exceptional leadership and is well respected by the students in Galloway House. She has the ability to develop positive relationships with the girls through her fair and consistent approach, ability to

get to know them on a personal level and to be a constant figure in their lives. Mrs. Hadley leaves Galloway House at the end of 2016. Her work in Galloway House has been exceptional. She is an excellent role model for the girls and her legacy within the House will be everlasting. Her work is extremely appreciated by the students, parents and staff.

The House consisted of girls from as close as Oberon, others from Condobolin, Nymagee, Tullamore, Gillieston Heights, Cowra, Forbes and International girls from South Korea, Japan and Indonesia.

Galloway House improvements 2016 include: a new pergola in the courtyard, new fridgedryer and washing machine, upgrade of laundry facilities to accommodate all senior students, installation of blinds on windows surrounding the courtyard, wall heaters installed in downstairs dormitory, new exercise equipment, new storage cupboard for the junior students and upgrade of lights in senior and junior common areas followed by painting of the ceilings.

Earlier in the year Galloway hosted two Kentucky University agricultural students who made a wonderful contribution to the house with their support and interaction with the girls.

Boarders P&F

Our boarders P&F are significant contributors to the improvements made within the boarding houses. The Heads of Houses and our parents jointly work together to see many projects come to fruition. The parents are extremely supportive of the school and boarding and make the transition for many new families coming to The Scots School as seamless as possible. Many parents volunteer their time on boarding weekends to assist with a variety of

fundraising opportunities with all funds raised going towards their children's experiences and facilities in the houses. The boarding P&F are a very strong community group at The Scots School and their work and effort is greatly appreciated by the students and staff.

The Scots Junior School

Pre-Kindergarten

It has been another exciting and fun-filled year in Pre-Kindergarten during 2016. Staffing for our two classes remained the same, with Mrs Kylie Price on the Blue Class, Mrs Chelsea Chapman with the Gold Class and Mrs Rebecca Fabris working between the two rooms. We had a beautiful and energetic group of students this year that came in with a very enthusiastic approach and wonderful attitude to learning new things.

The beginning of the year saw the children settling into classroom routines, making friends and working in a new school environment. It didn't take long before we commenced our formal learning program, exploring the Jolly Phonics single sounds and early mathematical concepts. It was wonderful to see the students engaging with their learning and proud of their recall and results when achievements were made.

Some highlights from events and activities at the school throughout the year were: Family Fun Day, Easter Hat Parade, Mother's Day Celebrations, 80s Disco, Pet Day, The Gigalees Crazy Circus Show, Fathers' Day BBQ/Book Fair and the We Love Whales performance.

We were fortunate enough to take part in a new gross motor sports program with the help of one of our parents called 'PlayBall'. Coach Phoebe assisted the students in building their

coordination in an active and fun way through group and individual skills based lessons.

Our program is so packed full of experiences some of which take place in our local community. The Scots School bus is such a highlight for our classes when we travel to the Bathurst City Library, the Dinosaur Museum and Annie's Ice Cream Parlour.

The Kindergarten Link Program with Mrs White for three terms this year assisted our students to mix with the Kindergarten class whilst taking part in specialised themes each term. Gross Motor skill development, Literacy Links and Music were our areas covered this year. This is a valuable way for our children to interact with Mrs White in her classroom and then, in turn, assists with the ease of the Term 4 Kindergarten Orientation Program.

Our Pre-Kindergarten Graduation Afternoon Tea is a lovely event to reflect upon, late in Term 4. The children have grown and matured in many and varied ways where they are more equipped to cope with new situations. They have had so many individual and group successes, their skills and knowledge set them in good stead to commence that next chapter of Kindergarten.

We acknowledge and congratulate Mrs Price who has worked so hard over the last few years to complete her Bachelor of Education (0-5yrs) Degree whilst working here at The Scots School. She will graduate in December and continue to add her valuable wealth of experience in our Pre-Kindergarten program.

We had the welcome addition of Miss Jess Power during Term 3 with the extended hours with the After School Supervision program. She has been an asset to the service while she is currently studying her Bachelor of Education

degree. She has also worked closely with our Pre-Kindergarten students filling in on a casual basis for staff.

To conclude our busy year, a Christmas Picnic was held on the Aikman Hall lawns for all of our Pre-Kindergarten families to attend. It was a more informal way to finish our term and the children enjoyed joining in for the activities outside before heading into the hall to sing a few festive items.

It was a wonderful year packed full of many memories and special occasions. It is always lovely to see families return with their younger siblings and meet new ones as well. The growth that the individual children achieve throughout the year is amazing when you reflect on where they started. We wish them well for their adventures in Kindergarten.

Kindergarten – Year 6

Staffing

In 2016 Kindergarten was taught by Mrs White, Year 1 by Mrs Sarah Willis, Year 2 by Mrs Lyn Inglis, Stage 2 by Mr Hugh Hunter and Stage 3 by Mr Anthony Roohan. Mrs Anne Marie Adamson taught French to all classes whilst students have also enjoyed weekly Drama lessons with Miss Alexandra Dunkley and Choir with Mrs Denise Garland. Stage 3 have benefited from Visual Arts lessons with Mr Martin Coyte, Science and Technology and Christian Studies with Mr Samuel Gittins and Personal Development and Health with Miss Dunkley. Miss Dunkley also commenced Dance lessons with Stage 2 and 3. In March we said thank you to Mrs Weal after many years of dedicated service in the Junior School Office and we welcomed Mrs Kath Parnell into the role.

Academic

The Scots School has a proud history of academic excellence and in 2016 our staff have worked hard to build on this history. The school has spent \$3000 on a new home reading program and reading benchmark assessment kit which has allowed greater consistency across our classes to ensure that students are reading at their instructional level. Similarly, the continuation of the Jolly Phonics program through to Year 5 has created an opportunity for a consistent approach to the teaching of spelling in the school.

In February, we introduced the PAT Maths online assessment tool in Mathematics. This allows us to identify areas of strength and areas for development in Mathematics for each child and on a whole class basis as well. This assessment also led us to introduce our Mathematical problem solving groups on a Friday. The groups have enabled students to work at their level and be exposed to a wide variety of problems that contain multiple steps and mathematical language.

Staff have continued to spend time looking at data, data relating to what our students have learned and what they still need to know or what we need to review. This is an extremely important part of our practice and one that guides how and what we teach.

Our students demonstrated much strength in NAPLAN in 2016. The level of achievement in Year 3 is particularly noteworthy:

- 69.3% of students in Year 3 achieved a Band 5 OR 6 in Reading.
- 38.5% of students achieved a Band 6 in Writing.
- 53.9% of students in the top two bands in Spelling.
- 53.8% of students in the top band in Grammar.

Headmaster's Report

- 69.35 of students in the top two bands in Number, Patterns and Algebra.

No students were below National Minimum Standards.

Just as our students are life-long learners so too are we as teachers. All the staff has taken the opportunity to further their own professional learning in 2016. They have participated in a training day with the AIS on implementing Geography and History in our school in 2017. Mr Hugh Hunter attended a workshop on integrating technology effectively in English. Mrs Sarah Willis and Mr Anthony Roohan attended a course on inquiry based learning in History and Mr Roohan attended several days on implementing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Creativity and Mathematics) and Project Based and Student Centred Learning. Mrs Inglis has undertaken training in planning and programming in Mathematics along with Mrs Pringle in Geography.

Every Tuesday, the staff meet to talk about student welfare and to plan ahead and review current practice. We use the School Improvement Tool to review an area of practice and set goals for improvement in our school. Our focus of review this year was building a culture that promotes learning. Using the tools rating system, we ranked ourselves highly and set several goals to raise the bar even higher.

All students in Years 3-6 participated in the ICAS Competitions in English, Spelling, Writing and Science. We achieved outstanding results in all areas. In Writing, Emily Brown was awarded with a credit whilst Lillian Gittins, Marym Shawki and Ellie Moorhead achieved Merit awards. Year 2 also participated in the English competition with resounding success. Distinctions were awarded to Lillian Gittins,

Benjamin Reynolds and Marym Shawki. Credits in English were awarded to Amir Shawki, Imogen Smith, Logan Sollorz, Lucy Roohan, Jake Spinks and Oscar Yordanoff whilst Merits were awarded to Joseph Baraz, Toby Harisson, Chelsea Price, Jacob Brown and Catani Reynolds. In Spelling, a Distinction was awarded to Marym Shawki whilst Credits were awarded to Grayson Jacobsen, Joseph Baraz, Benjamin Reynolds, Lucy Roohan, Jed Spinks, Amir Shawki, Jake Spinks and Emily Brown.

In Science, a Distinction was awarded to Amir Shawki. Jake Spinks and Morgan Still were awarded a Credit whilst Merits were awarded to Marym Shawki, Chelsea Price and William Host.

Literacy Support has been led by Mrs Kerry Robinson. We also welcomed Mrs Gillian Gates to the role of teachers' aide and many students have benefited from the Multilit program and daily reading at instructional level. This has been a wonderful addition to our program and many students who have worked with Mrs Gates have made outstanding progress.

Our Public Speaking Program was a highlight of our year. Growth in confidence and skills were evident across each of the rounds and the standard was consistently high throughout all grades. Finals were held in October and our finalists were acknowledged at our Awards Assembly. Lillian Gittins, Catani Reynolds, Hannah Hilliard and Ava Pickup represented the Junior School at the CWA Public Speaking Competition.

A focus on narrative text leading up to the Author's Award resulted in some outstanding and creative writing being produced by our students. In addition, the Illustrator's Award, which sees

students illustrate part of their story, revealed some artistic flair and talent from within our school.

Our Stage 3 students enjoyed the challenge of the HICES Debating Competition where we attained one win in the preliminary rounds. It was great to see our students eager to participate, take on a new role and learn more about the art of debating.

In Term 3, our Stage 3 students entered the Newcastle Permanent Building Society Mathematics Competition. Tyler Puzicha and Kirilee Scott were both awarded Certificates of Merit for their achievement.

In 2016 we also enhanced our weekly award system as we introduced Lion Awards. Lion Awards aim to recognise specific areas of student learning and it is wonderful to listen to these at our Friday assembly. Citizen of the week has been another addition to our program as our students strive for excellence in all aspects of school life.

Resourcing

Throughout the year, the Friends of Junior School has continued to raise funds for our playground and lunch seating space. This space was designed to provide a beautiful and shady area for the students to sit and eat which is close to the Junior School and to improve the surface quality and landscaping within the existing space. We greatly appreciate the work that the FOJS has put into financing the project. The students love their new space and enjoy both eating and then playing in the area. Special thanks must also go to all those who attended the working bee which involved landscaping the space and to Matt Still for constructing and fitting the new ladder and the

Chapman family for constructing the pirate ship.

Resourcing the PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Kit has enabled us to benchmark every child in the school as we completed resourcing levels 0-30 throughout the year. We will continue the resourcing of this program in the new year.

Up grading the staff kitchen also took place in April and the staff now have a clean and comfortable space to take a short break during their day.

In 2016, we also introduced extended After School Supervision hours until 6 o'clock. We welcomed Mrs Georgia Yordanoff and Miss Jessica Power into this role and we hope that this is a service we can offer into the future.

Sport

There have been many sporting highlights in 2016 including our Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals. Lang was our 2016 House Swimming champions, whilst Flynn took out the Athletics Carnival and Browning the Cross Country Carnival. Many of our champion swimmers and athletes were selected to represent the school at the various HICES Carnivals and with resounding success. Tyler Puzicha (Shot Put) and Laura Scott (Shot Put and Discus) gained selection in the HICES Athletics squad and competed at the CIS Athletics Carnival in Sydney. Tyler was outstanding in the Senior Girls' Shot Put and threw a massive 8.28m to take the gold medal and progress to the State Athletics Carnival. As a school we were successful in winning the percentage shield at both the HICES Swimming and Athletics Carnivals.

In the Winter Sport season, we fielded three netball teams with Mrs Sarah Willis coaching our Lionesses, Mrs

Kylie Price and Mrs Anne-Marie Adamson our Cubs and Mrs Chelsea Chapman our Cuddly Cubs. Skills were developed throughout the season at Wednesday training sessions and some tough games on those cold Saturday mornings. Our Lionesses staged the comeback of the century to win the U12B Grand Final for the second year in a row. At full time, the girls still trailed by 2 points but dominated possession in injury time to score a further 5 goals to take the game 22-19. Special mention must also go to our senior students who assisted in coaching roles throughout the season including Daisy Heilman (Lionesses) and Mia Bremner (Cubs).

Our Under 7 Rugby boys had a huge season with Mr Hunter at the helm. This year we played a series of Friday evening clashes against All Saints featuring a barbecue dinner. The boys also took part in several regional gala days throughout the season and took to the field before our First XV early in the season. The boys' skills developed throughout the season and there were many spectacular tries and passes made throughout the season. Special thanks goes to Mr Kelvin Price and Mr Matthew Still who assisted Mr Hunter in the coaching of our team.

Mrs White and Mrs Inglis have coordinated and coached our Under 7 cricket teams in both the 2015/16 and current season. Our cricketers have had a lot of fun refining their skills and they certainly love the opportunity to take a free hit off the tee. This season we were very excited to launch our first U/9 Cricket Team.

In Term 2, we were very fortunate to obtain Sporting Schools Funding to offer all students a four week gymnastic program at ASPIRE Gymnastics. The students certainly learnt many new skills on the equipment and were very eager to try new positions and movements.

More recently, Kindergarten-Year 4 completed a two week intensive swimming program with Mrs Sharon Inwood leading to improvements in confidence and stroke development. Many students also took up the opportunity to be a part of an after school squad to develop their techniques in preparation for future carnivals.

In Equestrian, Madison Whitley competed in the Inter-Schools Horse Extravaganza in Tamworth in early October. Madison was awarded the reserve high point score for her outstanding achievement. Well done Madison!

Students have also received coaching during PE lessons from specialist coaches from NSW Country Rugby League and we held our first ever triathlon. The students were very excited to be a part of a team from across the grades and participated in an event for a worthy cause. This fund raising event was the idea of Year 4 student Claire Halpin and the students successfully raised \$300 for the Bathurst Early Intervention Service. Throughout the year, our students have been exposed to numerous sports and activities during PE lessons in order to expose them to as many areas of interest as possible.

Co-Curricular Activities

Once again, the Junior School offered a range of co-curricular activities throughout the year. Mrs Inglis led our Chess Club every Tuesday and there were opportunities to compete in annual events like the NSW Junior Chess League.

Many students have benefited from Speech and Drama lessons with Mrs Belinda Boshier which have resulted in improved confidence, dramatic skills and articulation.

Headmaster's Report

At the end of Term 3 we were very fortunate to witness some of the creative talent in our school at our Performing Arts Assembly. All of our students who learn an instrument or who are learning to sing and undertake Speech and Drama had the opportunity to perform.

Camps and Excursions

Stage 3 travelled to Canberra in August as part of their study of Federal Government. The accommodation and food was fantastic and there were many wonderful highlights including the War Memorial, Parliament House, the National Arboretum and Cockington Green.

In April, Stage 2 and Year 2 went on an excursion to Abercrombie Caves to coincide with learning about National Parks and Wet and Dry Environments. The students had a fantastic time learning about the history of the area along with some of the characteristics of the flora and fauna in the region.

Spiritual Awareness

Every Wednesday Mr Gittins led our weekly chapel service with enthusiasm, passion and purpose. The students enjoyed every opportunity to sing and praise God and our Kindergarten students did a great job each week by leading the Lord's Prayer. Weekend Chapel services were well attended by the majority of students. We also enjoyed a special visit from Scott Darlow as he performed his hit song 'Solid Rock.'

Every Thursday, Mrs White and her Crusader group met in the Kindergarten room to share a Christian message, sing songs and play games. Weekly scripture lessons were taught by Mrs Gillian Gates (Kindergarten and Stage

2), Mr Tristan Merkel (Stage 1) and Mr Samuel Gittins (Stage 3). We appreciate the work of each of these teachers and thank them for the time and energy they put into teaching our students about our God.

The Easter Hat Parade was a magnificent occasion for our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten- Year 2 students. The parade involves our students presenting the story of Easter amidst a background of song and dance.

We continued to support our Sponsor Child, Masilaby bringing in a coin to the first Chapel of the month. We also had an ice-cream day in Term 4 to raise some extra money to help Masila and his family.

Operation Christmas Child was well supported once again with many families returning one or more boxes for this very worthwhile program to provide a Christmas gift to a child who wouldn't usually receive one.

Peer Support Program

Our Peer Support Program continued in 2017 with a focus on positive relationships. Year 6 leaders were trained to deliver lessons to mixed age groups throughout Term 3. The program focussed on qualities of friendship, resolving conflict and looking out for one another.

Pet day

At the end of Term 2 we held our first ever Pet day. The Pet Day was officially opened by Mr Gates as he fed a carrot to Tex the horse who galloped over from the far side of the oval with Madison Whitley on board. It wasn't long before 30 dogs and a whole range of cats, chickens, rabbits, fish, hermit crabs and even a snake were paraded in front of the students. Students were

also very fortunate to listen to a presentation about caring for animals from Mrs Clare Harisson and some even got to feed the lambs and calves with Mr Leigh Scott.

Creative and Practical Arts

Many students continued to or began private instrumental lessons in 2016. Our students are very fortunate to learn from some very well qualified and competent musicians.

Our K-2 and Primary Choir rehearsed weekly and prepared items for the Bathurst Eisteddfod and Christmas Carol Evening. The choirs have developed under the guidance of our Head of Music, Mrs Denise Garland. Highland Dancing was taught by Mrs Mary Weber (K-4) and Mrs Kim Durie (5-6) and our students were provided with many opportunities to impress an audience including at Father's Day, the Highland Jazz Night and the Blue, Black and Gold Ball.

In Term 2 we all went back to the 80s as we got dressed up for our '80s disco. A great night was had by all as each class prepared some set dances and jived away to some of their favourite contemporary songs. Parents even had the opportunity to join in for a few dances including "Turn back time" and "Take on me!"

Special Events

The Family Fun Day in February was a great way to welcome new families and reconnect with each other at the start of the year. There was lots of fun to be had on the giant slip n slide, jumping castle and Mr Whippy. The HICES Leadership Day at St Paul's Cranbrook provided our Year 6 group with a wide range of opportunities to identify and refine their

leadership skills at the start of the year. This group have been exceptional leaders in 2016 and they have set a wonderful example to our younger students.

Many of our students attended the ANZAC Day March in town with thousands of locals. Once again, it was a warm day and it was great to see so many of our students paying their respects with patience, reverence and awe.

Our Mother's Day Morning Tea took on a different feel this year as we welcomed our mothers into our classrooms for a range of exciting mathematical and scientific challenges. The food was great and our students loved having the opportunity to work with their mums in the classroom.

Similarly, it was great to see all our dads spend the morning with us as we celebrated Fathers' Day with our Annual Book Fair in the new location of the Tim Richards' Pavilion. Special thanks must go to Mrs Lynda Scott and her band of helpers who did an outstanding job in organising the Book Fair. Over \$3800 was collected from the Book Fair with many parents not only buying books for their children but sponsoring books for our mini library as well. Many thanks goes to everyone who donated a book for this great cause and to all those who assisted on the Barbecue or prepared the delicious breakfast.

Mrs Lynda Scott also did a tremendous job coordinating Book Club throughout the year. Each term our students are able to order books through the Ashton Scholastic Book Club. This is a wonderful way to encourage reading and a love of books in your home. Bonus points earned through Book Club also allows teachers to purchase additional books and resources for their classrooms.

Unfortunately, our Bike Safety Day was washed out but we must thank Mrs Rhonwen Hazell who put a considerable amount of time into organising the event. We thank Rhonwen for all her work coordinating this event over many years.

The French Christmas Concert was another treat. Mrs Adamson did a fantastic job preparing the students for this annual event. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and the items were very cleverly constructed with some delightful singing and accents.

Healthy Harold arrived at school in August with his message of living a healthy and active lifestyle. Some students were even fortunate enough to receive a cuddle from Harold whilst Year 6 even got to see where he lives. Harold is always a highlight and the Life Education Van is always a welcome addition to our PDHPE program.

More recently, our Stage 3 students took part in the Mighty Minds Muster. This year was the 10th anniversary of the muster and it was bigger than ever before. We welcomed students from Blue Mountains Grammar School, Kinross Wolaroi Orange, Holy Family Kelso, Assumption Bathurst, St Patrick's Lithgow and St Joseph's Oberon for a day of exciting challenges in Engineering, English, Maths, Creative Arts and Drama. This year the muster had a special Olympic feel to it. We appreciate the help from families across the school that provided cakes and slices to feed the hungry young guests. We had two teams performing on the day and both worked well as a team on the day to achieve a bronze award.

Our Kindergarten Orientation program was a huge success. Our 2016 class were very excited to spend two days with Mrs White and meet their buddies

who will continue to assist them in transitioning to school in the New Year. The Year 6 mini fete was a fun and memorable day. There was something for everyone with a \$10 pass enabling students to have access to a jumping castle, face painting, obstacle course, hair spray, water sponge tossing and a guessing competition.

The mini fete was followed by the Year 6 Graduation Dinner. The night was a lovely way to mark the end of an era in the education of our Year 6 class. Brooklin Jenkins, Kirilee Scott and Cameron Toning began school at Scots in Pre- Kindergarten whilst Charlie Watkins and Joanna Morrison began in Kindergarten. Jorja Hazell, Charlotte Holliday, Ellie Moorhead, Tyler Puzicha, Madison Whitley, Jerry Hwang and Tony Tang have joined us along the way. We thank them for the contribution they have made to the life of our school and wish them every success in the future.

Friends of Junior School

The Friends of Junior School Committee has worked tirelessly throughout the year to raise money and organise activities that will make our Junior School an even better place to learn.

Fundraising efforts have included the Highland Gathering, 80s Disco, running the canteen at our sporting carnivals including WAS Swimming, barbecues, Christmas calendar, pie drive and of course the Mother's Day Cookbook. I wish to commend our committee consisting of Mrs Lisa Knox, Mrs Rhonwen Hazell and Mrs Carolyn McRae along with a much wider group of parents who regularly attended meetings and assisted in varying capacities throughout the year. Special mention must go to Mrs Knox (3 years as Chairperson) and Mrs Hazell (5 years as Treasurer) who have led this

Headmaster's Report

group for many years. Your contribution will long be remembered.

Valuable funds have been raised by this group in a fun and social environment which helps build a tremendous sense of community. This year the major expenditure item of FOJS funds was the revitalisation of the playground. Without your financial support the conversion of this space into a lovely landscaped eating and play space would not have been possible. The staff and students are most appreciative of the support of the FOJS and for all the parents who have assisted and supported our school in 2016.

I look forward to working with the new committee consisting of Mrs Melanie Jacobsen, Mrs Celia McKay and Mrs Carolyn McRae in 2017 and I encourage as many parents as possible to join this group.

Parents and Volunteers

Thank you to all members of our school community who support us through the day to day life of our school. Whether you have helped with covering books, assisted in coaching, cooked cakes for a carnival, taken photos, visited assemblies or special celebrations or performances, we say thank you.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Hazell, Jenkins, Moorhead, Morrison, Puzicha, Topping, Watkins and Whitley families who are leaving the Junior School.

Finally I would like to acknowledge our hard working and dedicated teaching staff. They certainly work very hard to provide your child/children with a quality learning environment and individualised learning program. I am very grateful for all that they do and look forward to another great year in 2017.

Lithgow Annual Report

2016 saw 29 children enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten with several joining us again in 2017. The K-6 class began with 12 students, two kindergarten, two Year 1, two Year 2, one Year 3, one Year 4, two Year 5 students and two Year 6 students.

Lithgow staff consisted of Ms Danni Lemcke (Term1) and Mrs Tennille Jenkins in the Pre-Kindergarten class as Room Leaders. Ms Aranka Arpasi assisted Room Leaders. Ms Donna Fimognari (Terms 1, 2 and 3), Mrs Jacqueline Scott (Terms 3 and 4) and Ms Iona Berg (Term 4) assisted with cleaning. Mrs Erika Pringle taught the K-6 class. Weekly Scripture lessons were taken by Mrs Collins, and assisted from time to time by Mr Lang, from the Bowenfels Presbyterian Church. Chapel Services were conducted by Rev Ian McDonald, Rev David Stone and Rev Richard Lee. Students greatly enjoyed these lessons and services. The parish ladies extended hospitality with beautifully prepared morning teas. Mrs Kim Durie continued to teach Highland Dancing lessons after school on Tuesday. From the Mitchell Conservatorium of Music; Mr Graeme Hunt taught Guitar Lessons on Wednesdays, and Mrs Anna Smith provided Music and singing lessons each week which complimented the K-6 units of work and also provided private piano lessons for students.

Each week students travelled by bus to the Lithgow Library Learning Centre on the Presbyterian Church bus to borrow and return books, enjoy a story, and participate in craft activities. Mr Foxley, our wonderful bus driver from the Presbyterian Church, drove us to the Library each week and accompanied us on our excursions. Kellie Drengenberg led story time at the Library with the Pre-K-Year 2 students and Mrs McLean for

facilitating lunch orders each week. We could not function as effectively without the support of these wonderful people.

Community involvement saw students representing our school at the ANZAC parade and Clean Up Australia Day. Additionally onsite we have had many highlights and special events. The Life Education Van and Tour De Cure visited, and with a culturally diverse school community we again held our annual Harmony Day luncheon with a twist as students designed the menu and created advertising. Students performed the poem 'A Sunburnt Country', danced a Samba and sang a South American song for guests during Carnivalé, which was greatly enjoyed by all. The donate-a-book event also added many new book resources to the library. Students presented the play "A Strange Toy" at the end of Term Four. All students, families and friends look forward to these occasions. A mini-fete and barbecue lunch catered for by the P&F Association followed the Christmas Concert.

Each Tuesday advanced Pre-K students joined the K-6 class for Reading Groups and on Friday Pre-Kindergarten joined K-6 for an assembly, sport, social experiences and literacy activities. This was a most worthwhile experience, and one which has been very popular with all involved as it proved wonderful peer-skilling opportunities.

Excursions for the year included trips to The Scots School Bathurst for Swimming, Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals, participation in the Leaders' Assemblies, Public Speaking Competition, Mighty Minds Muster, Gymnastic lessons, Guys and Dolls performance and presentation of the Authors' Award. Kindergarten-6 also visited Rouse Hill and the Blackheath Glassblowing studio. Guest speakers included Debbie Rayner from

LASARS and Jacinta for Inclusion Week.

Our Open Afternoons across the year saw many prospective families investigating our wonderful facilities and subsequently enrol in the Pre-Kindergarten or K-6 Class in Lithgow. After school supervision has continued to provide families with support.

The P&F have continued to seek opportunity for a bus shelter. Fundraising saw school resources enhanced with the purchase of new blinds in every classroom, furnishing of the library and booth seating for contemporary learning spaces which the children have enjoyed engaging with. Book Club, Toy Catalogue and Calendar orders assisted resourcing across all areas and Tour De Cure provided support to improve resources for healthy living and lifestyles.

All Staff look forward to the adventures and activities that the year ahead may bring.

K-6 Lithgow Report

During Term One, K-6 studied the 'Processes of Change'. Students explored food processing, and how advertising influences food choices. They chose and marketed a product and produced this for our annual

Harmony Day lunch. Always well supported, this was a wonderful day to share food and stories. We would like to thank the parents who came to help setup, decorate and coordinate the lunch on this day, particularly Ms Khili Jenkins, Mrs Julie Toning and Mrs Renee DiFranco. Students also explored the process of change in the Australian wool industry. An excursion to Rouse Hill, looking at McArthur's contribution to farming and historical changes was enjoyed by all.

The 'Fabric of Society' formed the focus for Term Two. This involved exploring materials and their properties including structures in society. Students recorded a performance of 'Danny in the Toybox' to present to parents at the Student Led Conferences. In Science, students explored fair testing and drawing scientifically labelled diagrams. An excursion to Blackheath and Keith Rowe Glassblowing culminated the unit.

Coinciding with the Olympics, students studied Compositions in Term Three from a family, community and country to a global perspective. Brazil as the host country provided inspiration for a Samba Dance performance for parents and friends and a Carnivalé Parade where students shared knowledge of their chosen country with an audience.

Term Four was very busy. Students studied the concept 'Systems' looking at machines and mechanisms. The school presented a performance of 'The Strange Toy', a nativity based play from the perspective of toys in a toy box. Students performed with style and the mini-fete afterwards was enjoyed enormously. We thank the P&F for their efforts and the K-6 Bathurst students and staff for their support of this day.

Additionally many students were awarded major prizes in the UNSW competitions, Authors' and Illustrators' Award, Speech programs, sporting events and academic events. Lithgow students enjoy working with The Scots School Bathurst campus for these opportunities.

While this year has been very busy, many more exciting learning experiences await us after a well-deserved holiday. We are saddened to see Brooklin and Cameron move on to High School. We wish both the greatest success. Please remember the door is always open and we would appreciate you letting us know from time to time about your continued achievements.

