



# Newsletter

TERM 1 NO 3

6 March 2013



GIB GATE OEG  
Years 5 & 6 Camp

New Skyclimber  
at Gib Gate



NSW Interschools Equestrian Event

## Best Schools in the World:

Research confirms that the best schools in the world have: i) the best teachers ii) the best professional learning for teachers and iii) a customised approach to support of individual students. In my address to parents on Open Day - 'Frensham 100 Years On', I shared the thinking which is driving our approach at Gib Gate and Frensham in each of these areas and I note below my comments re i) teachers:

*'Unlike the relatively short time it can take to achieve significant change to the physical landscape of the School, change from the educational core is much slower to embed because it challenges tried and loved teaching or House-life practices. However, transformation of teaching and learning (which is our ongoing commitment) means our School (at its best) should 'look, feel and sound different' in terms of how students see themselves as learners, how staff define professionalism and how staff and students relate in and beyond the classroom.*

*Change from the inside is all about teachers and we embrace the challenge arising from McKinsey research into educational quality which concludes: 'The quality of the education system cannot exceed the quality of the teachers.'*

*We care about attracting and retaining the best possible teachers: who will feel valued contributors to the staff team and have the tools and opportunities to share responsibility for doing the 'right things' 'as well as possible...' ('Right', being 'effective, research-based practices to improve student learning').*

*And we know we need feedback from students and parents, to check our effectiveness - so we remain open and responsive to criticism - every day. [It was the late Steve Jobs who reminded us that when we are judging our success - 'It is all about the user experience...'] In our case, the views of girls and parents.*

*From student surveys: Frensham and Gib Gate students say that the 'best teachers' are those who are fair to everyone, who help you to be the best you can be [or even better than you think you can be] and who 'expect to see the best'.*

*Research confirms that the best teachers: have strong academic records and good qualifications; are really good people, who 'like and can inspire children'; consider 'improving pedagogy' as core to the routine of teaching and are prepared to work as part of a team where there is agreement that every student can and will succeed.*

Best teachers (*borrowing Sir Michael Barber's words*): 'look at data, 'worry about each student', watch each other teach and are keen to work with mentors and coaches.'

As part of our Evaluating Excellence programme for Gib Gate and Frensham, we continue to ask parents, students and teachers to complete surveys, to ensure we are aware of current perceptions of the quality of our work with students and the effectiveness of our work with parents, in support.

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Particularly important is the quality of shared understanding we can develop with parents to ensure we are mutually supportive of the guidance or challenge we are offering your son or daughter.

Andrew Mullins' *'Parenting for Character – equipping your child for life'* [2005, ISBN 1-876451-66-1] and Carol Dweck's *'Mindset – The new Psychology of Success'* [2006, ISBN 1-4000-6275-6] are two of my favourite guidebooks and are recommended highly to parents of young children and teenagers.

Mullins argues that parents need to help *build* character. It does not just *evolve*. He speaks a lot about assisting teenagers to take control of their lives, by acquiring well-developed habits of thinking, decision-making and acting.

From a chapter about starting early to build strength of character in teenagers he opens with the words of Goethe, (1749-1832):

*'Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is; treat him as he can and should be and he will become what he can and should be.'*

then offers his personal advice:

*'Effective parenting of teenagers begins in the cradle, if not earlier. Don't start when your son or daughter is 12. Most of the hard yards are done before teenage hormones kick in....Upbringing is not about cloning children to conform to your wishes. You are raising them to run their own lives...foster strengths of character consistently and resolutely.'*

#### Acknowledgement to:

- Livija Berzins and Grace Lavender, Year 10, who have earned first round places in the University of Sydney Gifted and Talented Science Discovery Programme 2013, owing to their results being in the top 9.4% of candidates across Australia. Livija (with a score of 99.90) was also awarded a Certificate of Achievement for her equal 2<sup>nd</sup> place nationally;
- Gib Gate and Frensham competitors for their excellent effort and success at the NSW Interschools Equestrian event;
- All who contributed as hosts to visitors on Frensham's Open Day. In addition to those visiting the campus for the first time, we were also very pleased to welcome

parents to the full weekend programme, including the Dinner for parents of new students, the Sunday Service and Concert and the Year 7/8 picnic;

- Contributors to the Year 7 Coffee Shop, raising \$645 for the Charity Fund which is distributed annually to local, national and international charities;
- Host for the Welcome Dinner to parents of students new to Gib Gate and Frensham: members of the WWS Board, Foundation Board, Gib Gate and Frensham Advisory Committees and staff, for their time and warm welcome as table hosts;
- Gib Gate and Frensham swim teams for their achievements in recent local carnivals;
- Staff who have been leading or supporting students within this term's Years 3-12 Outdoor Education and Senior Studies / Senior Leadership Programmes;
- The Community Service Team (Hannah Buschman, Sophie Brosnan, Amelia Caillard, Veronica Cheung, Nicola Lawson and India Strutt) who organised a Mufti Day, raising \$963 for Katuuso School in Uganda;
- Frensham's Show Cattle and Zone Junior Judging teams (Grain, Fruit and Vegetables), for their success at Robertson Show;
- The Mock Trial team - successful against Nowra Anglican College;
- Student presenters at Assemblies and School Services – the standard of preparation and presentation reflect a responsible approach to the privilege of sharing ideas with an audience.

#### Ahead:

##### Gib Gate:

- **Thursday 7 March** – Swimming Carnival, Bowral Pool (K-2) 11.30am-2.30pm
- **Friday 8 March** – Gib Gate Cross Country

##### Frensham:

- **Friday 8 March** IGSSA Swimming Carnival 5.45am-3.30pm
- **Saturday 9 March** Fellowship Cocktail Party, Sydney
- **Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 March**
  - Year 10 Parent Weekend
  - Year 10 Confirmation Service
  - Year 10 Service and Concert (all Years 7-12 to attend)
  - 40 & 50 Year Reunions

##### Sturt:

- **Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 March** – Sturt Short Courses



Julie A Gillick  
Head of Frensham  
Head of Winifred West Schools

**The Winifred West Schools Newsletter on the Website**

The fortnightly WWS Newsletter is located at:  
<http://www.frensham.nsw.edu.au/ch-www-newsletter>  
 and is published on that site and mailed on Wednesday.

**Information Notices sent via Email**

- Influenza Immunisation Clinic letter and form
- Senior Choir involvement at the Confirmation Service
- Letter to parents of confirmees

**AHEAD ~ Term 1**

Th 7	GG: 11.30am-2.30pm Swimming Carnival (K-2) Bowral Pool F: Outdoor Education and Senior Studies Seminars, Years 7-12
F 8	GG: Gib Gate Cross Country GG: 2.00pm Clean Up Australia Day F: 5.45am-3.30pm IGSSA 87 <sup>th</sup> Swimming Carnival, Homebush
S 9	F: IGSSA Round 5 S: Sturt Short Courses F: Show Cattle Team at Moss Vale Show F: Boarding Activity - Berrima F: 6.00-9.00pm Fellowship Cocktail Party, Sydney
S 10	S: Sturt Short Courses F: Boarding activity - Jamberoo F: 6pm Evening Prayers - <i>note calendar change</i>
Week 7	Week A
M 11	GG: Mathematics Camp (selected students)
T 12	GG: 8.45am Early Stage One R-K Coffee Morning, <u>Music Centre – note change of venue</u> GG: 9.30am Reading Workshop (K), Gib Gate Library GG: Mathematics Camp (selected students)
W 13	F: 12.50-2.40pm Year 11 Ancient History Incursion, Macquarie University Museum exhibits GG: Mathematics Camp (selected students)
Th 14	F: 9.00-9.55am National Latin Examination F: 1.45-8.30pm Jamieson Programme, Year 9
F 15	GG: 8.45am-3.35pm Excursion to Fitzroy Falls (Year 3) F: 9.00am-12noon Bell Shakespeare, Years 9 & 10 F: 3.00-5.00pm Year 10 Confirmation rehearsal, Clubbe Hall
S 16	Year 10 Parent Weekend F: 40 & 50 Year Reunions F: IGSSA Round 6 F: 8.30am Year 10 Parent/Teacher Discussions F: 2.30pm Year 10 Confirmation Service, Clubbe Hall
S 17	F: Year 10 Parent Weekend F: 40 & 50 Year Reunions F: 10.00-11.30am School Service and Concert (all Years 7-12 to attend)
Week 8	Week B
M 18	GG: 2.00pm Aboriginal Performance F: Show Cattle Team at Sydney Royal Easter Show
T 19	F: Show Cattle Team at Sydney Royal Easter Show

W 20	F: IGSSA Tildesley Tennis Shield F: Show Cattle Team at Sydney Royal Easter Show - School Paraders Competition F: 9.00am-12noon Riding for the Disabled, Year 8 F: 9.00am-3.30pm Year 9 Jamieson Programme, Beverly Hills Intensive English Centre, Harmony Day
Th 21	GG: 9.15am Gib Gate Transition Tour F: IGSSA Tildesley Tennis Shield F: Show Cattle Team at Sydney Royal Easter Show, School and Open Steer Judging Sydney Royal Easter Show begins (until 3 April)
F 22	F: IGSSA Tildesley Tennis Shield F: Show Cattle Team at Sydney Royal Easter Show, State Paraders (qualified students)
S 23	F: IGSSA Round 7 GG: 12.30-2.30pm Summer Sport BBQ <b>(NB: NOT a Closed Weekend as on the Term Calendar)</b>
S 24	F: Easter Service

**PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS****Advisory Committees****2013 Frensham Advisory Committee Contacts**

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2013 Term Dates Gib Gate and Frensham

**Term 1**

Gib Gate & Frensham:

Thursday 31 January – Friday 12 April, 3pm  
[EASTER BREAK is within Term 1: Vacation is from Wednesday 27 March, 3pm – Monday 1 April. Classes resume Tuesday 2 April]

**Term 2**

Gib Gate & Frensham:

Monday 29 April-Friday 21 June, 3pm  
(Boarders return on the evening of Sunday 28 April)

**Term 3**

Gib Gate & Frensham:

Tuesday 16 July-Thursday 19 September 3pm  
(Boarders return on the evening of Monday 15 July)

**Term 4**

Gib Gate: Tuesday 8 October-Friday 6 December 3pm

Frensham: Tuesday 8 October-Sunday 8 December

Ranier Uniform Shop  
Term 1 2013

Mondays: 8.00am – 1.00pm

Thursdays: 12noon-5.00pm

Shop Manager Mrs Cherie Heard

To order goods, please call the Shop:

(02) 4860 2136 [BH] [frensham@ranierdesigngroup.com](mailto:frensham@ranierdesigngroup.com)

**THE CENTENARY  
POOL APPEAL**

The pool we used to have



The pool we need



WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS  
**FOUNDATION**

news

**Welcome Dinner**

Guests at the Welcome Dinner on Saturday night enjoyed a pleasant evening. Hosted by Foundation, this evening launches our year of activities and always provides a good opportunity for parents of new students to meet other parents in their child's cohort. Tables are hosted by Governors and members of the Foundation Board, Frensham and Gib Gate Advisory Committees, and Staff. It is always impressive to see so many members of our community prepared to support this evening in offering a warm welcome to parents of new students.

As reported by Ms Gillick at the Service on Sunday morning, construction of the new tennis courts is proceeding and, if the rain stays away, they will be ready for use in Term 2. This will complete the first phase of The Centenary Pool project and we can then look forward to work commencing on the second, and most important, phase of this project.

In the recent mailing to Frensham Old Girls inviting them to the Back-to-Frensham Weekend on 6 and 7 April, Foundation also included material asking them to consider supporting:

- The Centenary Pool
- The renovations of Clubbe Hall
- Bursaries

In response, the Old Girls are rallying and we are very encouraged by the support received to date.

The Back-to-Frensham Weekend promises to bring many hundreds of Old Girls back to School to share in what is just the first of the Centenary celebrations.

**Donate online**

It is now possible to make a donation to the WWS Foundation online. To make an online donation, follow the link on the Home Page of the Frensham website.

For information about Foundation, please contact Michele Scamps on 4860 2000 or [foundation@frensham.nsw.edu.au](mailto:foundation@frensham.nsw.edu.au)

**Save the Date**  
**'Centenary Ball'**  
**Westin Hotel, Sydney**  
**Saturday 14 September 2013**

## GIB GATE

Week 5 was full of highlights for Gib Gate students, despite the wet weather conditions! On Monday, Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed an excursion to Frensham to use the Science Laboratory to conduct the first set of science experiments, as part of the JASON unit, 'Infinite Potential'. In their absence, Kindergarten to Year 4 were fortunate to be the first classes in the School to try out the new Skyclimber playground equipment and, after returning from OEG Camp on Friday, Years 5 and 6 said that they think the Skyclimber is the ideal preparation for the challenging low rope courses they experienced on camp!



Lily Magill and Jonathan Jansz (Year 4), Harriet Woods and Kyle George (K) – trying out the new Skyclimber at Gib Gate

### Years 5 and 6 Camp Highlights

#### **Year 5 - Mr Hannah (and Mrs Marsh):**

- Students canoeing and swimming in the Wingecarribee River on Day 1. The rain started to fall, but nobody let it stop the fun.
- Students giving every activity a try, whatever the weather, including abseiling.
- Students encouraging and supporting each other and functioning as teams.
- Students coming up with skits for the skit night. Students needed to be willing to compromise and they tried hard to incorporate as many good ideas as possible.
- Watching students' communication with each other improve throughout the camp as they had to solve real-world problems together eg how to empty the water from a capsized canoe, then climb in, whilst in the middle of the river; how to navigate around the extensive bush property using topographical maps; devising fair methods for sharing daily jobs (food preparation, cleaning pots and woks and maintaining a supply of water and equipment for hand-washing).
- Students displaying understanding and flexibility in instances when OEG staff called off activities in the interest of safety (due to weather) and students feeling confident that the substitute activities, such as drama and story-telling games, would be engaging and entertaining.

- By Day 3, although several students wished they had packed an extra pair of shoes or socks, there were no complaints about temporary discomfort.

#### **Year 6 - Ms Horan (and Mr Standen):**

- The enthusiasm of the students to embrace every challenge presented - without complaint.
- Hiking up hills in the rain, singing songs in full voice!
- Listening to the students urge each other on so positively. You could see the difference that it made to those who were apprehensive about something.
- The gentle (yet persistent) encouragement from group leaders for students to take on each challenge.
- The abseiling was amazing! The gorgeous views and the experience of dropping over the side of a cliff was great. The students came back to the top absolutely exhilarated after their drop, determined to have another go.
- Watching students overcome their fear and turning it into something positive.
- A highlight for Ms Horan was when one of the students put a teddy bear in her sleeping bag on the first day, so it was there when she went to bed that night.
- Hot chocolate after a hike in the pouring rain!
- Getting together with all the students on skit night.
- Mountain biking through puddles as big as lakes.
- The students were responsible in their understanding of why the rain sometimes meant activities were changed.



### Years 5 and 6 Student Highlights

#### **Year 5:**

Austin Martin-Weber - *'I think that the low ropes activity was the best because we had to work together to get across.'*

Eliza Duck - *'I loved cooking for everyone because it was really good fun. I also enjoyed abseiling down a 5m cliff because my partner and I went first and it was challenging.'*

Sybella Harris - *'At camp I loved going through the low ropes because we had to work as a team. I loved abseiling too as we had to go down a steep rock.'*

Rowan Maitland - *'The best thing about camp was canoeing!'*

Mimi Stewart - *'I thought canoeing was the best because of all the splashing and going for a swim made it great fun. Hiking up the big hills in the rain and playing games as we walked was also great fun. I also loved the low ropes because you had to work hard with your friends.'*

Emily Baldwin - *'I liked canoeing and low ropes because we had to work together to complete games such as trying to fit 12 people on a small, medium and a big box. Canoeing was the best. I fell in the water about five times because we were playing 'Simon Says'. We had to stand up and change spots in the canoe. We also played a game like 'Fruit Salad', we had to hold all the canoes together and change places with other canoes.'*

Gemma Macaulay-Black - *'Abseiling was awesome and really good fun! I loved hanging out with my friends around the camp fire and making, 'S'mores' to eat!'*

Joshua Mazurkiewicz - *'My favourite thing at the OEG camp was playing the games and I really liked the bush walking.'*

Charlotte Dulhunty - *'At camp I loved the canoeing - my partner was Mimi and we played 'Simon Says'. We had to swap places and Mimi and I bumped into Emily and Angelica and Emily fell off the canoe. Camp was fun.'*

#### **Year 6:**

Zoe Renowden - *'It would have to be raft building because we only had a small amount of equipment and no instructions. The first time we tried to build a raft it tipped over, the second time it tipped over again and the floating bits almost fell apart and the third time we made it the whole raft fell apart and we all got wet and we loved jumping up and down in the muddy puddles.'*

Emily Gubbins - *'The best thing I did at camp was abseiling because I faced my fear of heights. It was a 10m abseil and I had fun because we were able to hang in the air. I also loved mountain bike riding because my group had a competition to see who could get the muddiest.'*

Sophie Arnott - *'The best thing about camp was raft building because it fell apart when we got on it. I liked sleeping in the huts because it was like a big sleep over. I also loved getting wet.'*

Chelsea Pernice - *'The best thing about camp was abseiling! It feels like it's 50m from the ground, and when you go down you can start spinning as your feet come off the wall. It is like freefalling, and such fun! The second best thing about camp is mountain biking, where we went riding through all the puddles!'*

Ella Pernice - *'The best thing about camp was abseiling because I'm in Year 6 now and we are allowed to do a 10m abseil. Halfway down the abseil you stop touching the wall and just hang in mid-air and you spin around as well. Two*

*people go at the same time so you have someone to walk 1km up the hill with until you get back to the top. Our OEG team leaders were lovely and lowered us down the abseil. I had a wonderful time.'*

**Ms Sally Robson, Head of Gib Gate**

#### Curriculum Insights

##### ICAS Competitions 2013

This week a letter will be sent to parents of students in Years 2 to 6 to invite students to enter the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) programme for 2013. ICAS is an initiative of Educational Assessment Australia (EAA). EAA is a not-for-profit organisation owned by the University of New South Wales (UNSW). For students in Years 3-6, competitions are available in English, Mathematics, Writing and Science. This year, ICAS has extended the programme to include Year 2 students in English and Mathematics. ICAS provides an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation against over one million student entries accepted from 6,300 schools in 22 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA.

Students participating in these competitions need a high level of literacy, including highly developed comprehension skills in a 'limited time' situation. Parents should also note that the papers are not based on or designed to test, the syllabus, unlike the mandatory NAPLAN papers which test basic literacy and numeracy skills in Years 3 and 5.

To support the participation by interested children, exam conditions and supervision will be provided and past papers are practised at school. A Sample Assessment will be available also, to familiarise Year 2 students with sitting a pen and paper test, in timed conditions.

The Science competition will be held on Wednesday 5 June, Writing (persuasive text type) on Tuesday 18 June, English on Wednesday 31 July and Mathematics on Tuesday 13 August. Further information is available on the ICAS website: <http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about> or by contacting your class teacher, Mrs Chauncy or Ms Robson.

**Mrs Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching & Learning K-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes**

#### Preschool Reception

Reception children were excited as they watched the trucks and earth-moving equipment digging up the playground on the other side of the fence to place the new 'Skyclimber'.

The children were fascinated by the cement truck so we decided to create our own cement 'machine' in the sandpit using a water trough, pipes, water and sand. This led to imaginary play with vehicles, machines and road works.

Information books: 'Roadworks' by Sally Sutton and 'Amazing Machines' by Tony Mitton were read to Reception children to develop their understanding and knowledge.



*Joel Sheezel and Anthony Neilson (Reception) making cement*

### Preschool Transition

Continuing on with our Investigation on 'A Sense of Wonder' Transition children have been inspired to create their own bird's nest using clay, feathers, twigs and grasses. While the children created a nest, their ideas, feelings and stories were documented and recorded onto strips of paper which were then used to line the inside of the nest. These individual art works will be on display in the Preschool soon.



*Georgina Lewis (Transition) creating a clay nest*

We thank parents for returning forms for the Eye Vision Testing which will take place on Wednesday 20 March.

### **Mrs Belinda Gould, Preschool Teacher**

Creative Arts (Dance): All students will be participating in four weeks of dance workshops commencing next week. Mrs Annabel Lomax, our outstanding dance teacher, has prepared some exciting new dances for each class.

Orchestra: Alexander Martinek (Year 2) auditioned for the Sydney Youth Orchestra last year and was successfully placed in the Speer Orchestra. This is a fine achievement for Alexander as he one of the youngest musicians in the orchestral community of over 400 young musicians, aged 7-25.

Indigenous Performer: All students will be attending a performance by Adam Hill on Monday 18 March at 2pm. Adam presents a programme of song, puppetry, language, stories and didgeridoo, introducing students to various indigenous regions, their instruments, language and songs.

### **Mrs Anne Graham, Gib Gate Coordinator (Administration)**

#### **Sport**

Tennis: Following an outstanding performance at the IPSHA Tennis trials two weeks ago, Chelsea Pernice (Year 6) played in the CIS tournament and was chosen as a reserve for the CIS team to compete in the NSWPSA tournament later this term.

Swimming: We were fortunate with the weather for the Year 3-6 Swimming at Bowral Pool on Friday 22 February, which allowed us to complete all events. It was pleasing to see a high level of enthusiasm from all children, with the House monitors working hard to inspire their teams. It was the closest event we have had for many years with Wilson House finishing just ahead of Jamieson and McCutcheon.

Following this carnival, a team was selected to represent Gib Gate at the Southern Highlands Independent Schools (SHIPS) Carnival at Bowral Pool on Tuesday 26 February. The team also travelled to Homebush for the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) Carnival.

Winter Sports: Notes were sent to all Gib Gate families last week asking children to nominate their winter sports team selections from: Hockey, Netball and Soccer. Selections need to be finalised over the next two weeks with trainings in all these sports to begin before the end of Term 1. Hockey and Soccer teams will begin competitive rounds before the end of Term 1 as well.

Equestrian: The Interschools team competed successfully under the Gib Gate / Frensham banner last weekend – with full results due next week.

### **Mr Michael Standen, Coordinator of PDHPE and Sport**

## STURT



### FRIENDS OF STURT

*Joan Dinning (President), Robin Golledge (Secretary), Anna Saminski (Roster Secretary), Bill Dinning, Alan Matthews, Julie Musgrave, Delma Rosemond, Chris Topp, Ruth Wright*

### Special News

New Weekly Class in Pottery: Due to increased enquiries and enrolments for our weekly ceramics classes, this year we have established a new daytime class on Wednesday mornings as well as the current daytime and night-time class on Thursdays. If you would like to enrol please contact Sturt Shop as soon as possible on 02 4860 2083.

Short Courses 2013: The next weekend courses include wood carving with Adam Rish on 13 and 14 April and clay (garden sculptures), woodwork (Shaker boxes) and jewellery-making for kids on the weekend of 27 and 28 April.

Winter School 2013 - 1-5 July 2013: Sturt's Winter School provides an opportunity to rug up and become creative. On offer is an inspiring programme which includes clay throwing with Janet de Boos, wild knitting with Loani Prior, etching with Tony Ameneiro, metal forging with Tracy Hopkirk, botanical art with Leonie Norton and much more. The full programme of 15 different courses is on the website and there are accommodation and meals packages as well to provide the perfect artistic holiday.

### Sturt School for Wood:

The Certificate IV course in Furniture Design & Technology for 2013 is now up and running. Enrolments are open for an individual term of this accredited one-year course, with the opportunity to plan to achieve a Certificate IV over a longer time-frame. Full details of the content of each term can be found on the website. Students enrolling for a term:

- receive relevant course units of competency (subject to satisfactory performance) applicable to the term(s) of study completed towards the Certificate IV qualification;
- receive a statement of attainment for any terms completed at the end of the year;
- are eligible to include work produced at Sturt in the end-of-year student exhibition at Sturt Gallery;
- may apply for Austudy, rent assistance and travel allowance while in full-time education.

Special Woodwork Courses for 2013: These include a four-week intensive beginners' course with Roy Schack in August and a five-week specialist chair-design course with David Uphill-Brown in October.

### Sturt Gallery

*Elements* - 10 February to 31 March

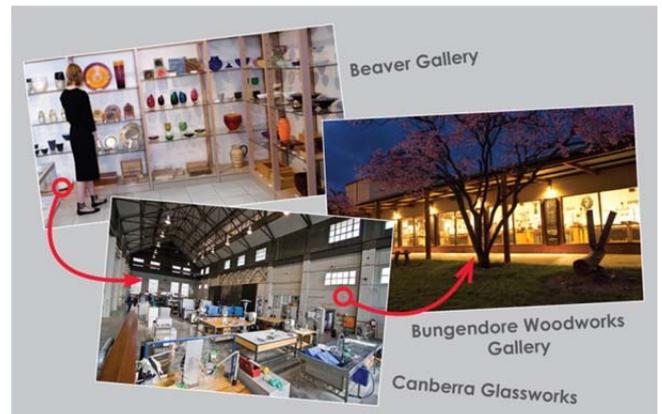
Artists exhibiting in this exhibition are Tony Ameneiro, Kathie Atkinson, Judy Benjamin, Geraldine Berkemeir, Betty Bray, Marianne Courtenay, Tony Deigan, Lynne Flemons, Dorothy Freeman, Gill Graham, Janette Hanrahan, Freya Jobbins, Patti Jones, Robyn Kinsela, Kathryn Orton, Alan Purdom, Sandra Shrubbs, Britta Stenmanns, Peter Ward and Slavica Zivkovic.

*Misanthropology* - The World Art of Adam Rish  
7 April-19 May

As noted in the last Newsletter, this exhibition tells the story of four decades of cross-cultural collaboration by one of Australia's best-known artists, featuring wooden carvings and sculptures. This touring exhibition will also visit Orange, Moree Plains, Cessnock, Manning and the Gold Coast. Adam will deliver a special workshop in Indonesian wood-carving on 13 and 14 April while the exhibition is at Sturt. Full details are available on the Sturt website under Short Course Programme.

### Events

FOS Cultural Coach Excursion, Canberra - Thursday 2 May  
Leaving from Sturt at 8.30am (Range Road parking area), this excursion will visit Beaver Gallery in Deakin, the Canberra Glassworks in Kingston and Bungendore Woodworks Gallery. The return journey begins at 4pm, taking the road through Tarago to Goulburn and on to Mittagong by 5.30-6pm. Tickets cost \$30 for members; the cost for non-members is \$55, which includes one year's membership.



*Beaver Gallery (Deakin), Canberra Glassworks (Kingston) and Bungendore Woodworks Gallery*

Full details of all Sturt courses, exhibitions, residency programmes and events can be found on the website at [www.sturt.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au) or to make a booking or enrolment call 02 4860 2083 or email [shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au](mailto:shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au)

**Mr Mark Viner, Head of Sturt**

## FRENHAM

### Deputy Head

With the Year 7 Weekend, Open Day and the Welcome Dinner over and Outdoor Education Week almost at an end, the School has begun preparations for the Year 10 Weekend scheduled for 16-17 March.

Other events of note scheduled to occur in the next fortnight include:

- IGSSA Swimming Carnival
- The Show Cattle Team at the Moss Vale Show
- Re: Year 10 Parent Discussions and Weekend – **NB 8.30am start to an important plenary session for all Year 10 parents**
- Year 10 Confirmation Service

Over the next few weeks girls will be discussing their extra-curricular involvement in their Form Groups. Year Coordinators will be keen to ensure that the involvement of each student is varied and at an appropriate level, befitting the ethos of the School.

If you are concerned about the involvement of your daughter in the extra-curricular life of the School, please do not hesitate to contact her Year Coordinator or Form Tutor.

**Mr Geoff Marsh, Deputy Head**

### Boarding News

Open Day and the Year 7 Parent Weekend provided girls with opportunities to demonstrate their sense of living and contributing in a community. To ensure that the Houses were presented beautifully, the Prefects organised a Tip Top Tidy Competition on Friday evening. All girls took responsibility for an aspect of Open Day from conducting organised tours, singing in the Choir, organising displays or being part of Frensham 'in class'. Girls in Year 7 in particular assumed special responsibilities with rehearsing for speaking at the Service, the public speaking presentation and their Drama concert items. They spoke with great confidence, reflecting their understanding of the ways that older girls 'pave the way for them' and support them.

Preparation for and returning from Camp are also valuable parts of the learning experience of being in a community. Older year groups share their advice about the planning and all develop their organisation as they pack. Upon return, girls need to work together and consider all members of their Houses when sorting out their belongings.

The excursion to Jamberoo has been rescheduled for Sunday 10 March and Day Boarders are welcome to be involved.

**Mrs Jayme Rafferty, Head of Boarding**

### Director of Teaching and Learning

#### Opportunities to Extend Learning

Throughout the year opportunities are offered to students at Frensham to engage in programmes designed to stimulate and satisfy their love of learning across a range of disciplines and these take place at a variety of educational institutions. In the January and July vacation periods, the Faculty of Education at Wollongong University offers their *Learning Labs* workshops which cover a range of academic disciplines such as engineering, law, robotics, creative arts, history, philosophy and the sciences. Bianca Campbell (Year 9) gained a place in the *Philosophical Dilemmas* workshops in the two-day intensive programme offered in January this year. Presented by Dr Jane Lymer, Faculty of Arts, Bianca 'did' philosophy by learning about and then debating some contemporary social issues, including using Human Rights as the guiding principle for our actions, examining if advertising aimed at children is ethical and questioning if we should allow research into the genetic enhancement of human beings.

Each year Frensham students eagerly await application to be accepted into the Talented Students' Forensic Science Camp held at The Armidale School. Applications are now open for the five-day residential camp to be held from 16-20 April 2013. This programme offers challenging and hands-on experiences of scientific problem-solving and total immersion in the scientific and problem-solving process. If you would like more information on how to apply, please contact Mrs Andrew or Mrs Chauncy or visit the official website: <http://wordpress.as.edu.au/forensic/>

#### Pen & Ink visits Challenge Southern Highlands Inc

On Tuesday 26 February, *Pen & Ink* representatives Bianca Tini Brunozzi, Georgia Duncan, Jasmine Talbot, Rachel Jin and Annika Sallie, accompanied by Mrs Chauncy and Ms Luke, spent time at the Welby Garden Centre and presented a donation of \$800 to Mr Tony McElhinney, General Manager of Challenge Southern Highlands Inc, which provides supported employment in the local community. After enjoying morning tea with the employees, the girls were delighted to be shown what their hard-earned money enabled them to purchase: two lawnmowers, rakes and pruning saws which will now enable Mr McElhinney to provide employment for another team of workers to mow lawns around the local area for businesses and private residences. The girls were also 'shown the ropes' by the employees who taught them many new skills that require patience, concentration and sheer hard work! Included below are some comments from the girls on their return:

*'The trip to Welby Garden Centre was a wonderful experience. We were welcomed so sincerely, having all our questions answered warmly and, by the end of the visit, we knew a lot about the place and the people. We realised that we would have much to learn to match the skills shown by the employees. It is evident that working at Welby Garden Centre provides a sense of connection and independence*

*for each employee. Being given the opportunity to publish our work and to raise funds from the Frensham community for the Centre was a privilege. For all the girls who wrote and for all the friends and families, particularly grandmothers, who read and inspired the publication, thank you — the donations went to a wonderful place. I plan on revisiting, to buy a lot of hybrid tea roses and white peaches...'*



*Pen & Ink representatives at Welby Garden Centre*

*'I have learnt many things from such a positive experience; the best is to know that there are communities in which people are wholly equal, yet as individuals are entirely unique...'*

*'I wasn't sure what to expect from the trip to Welby Garden Centre but last Tuesday I was absolutely blown away. I didn't realise how many people were employed or know about their varying disabilities. The astounding part of the experience was seeing for myself that every single member of the team contributed so confidently to the workload, which most communities struggle to achieve; it opened my eyes to what a community can do to help every member whilst benefiting the community itself as a whole. I am so grateful for being able to contribute to the Centre, and will definitely be visiting again in the future...'*

**Mrs Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching & Learning K-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes**

#### **Director of Studies**

In May 2013, the National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programmes. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement, with each student's level of achievement being reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) has been collected as part of the National Assessment Programme. This information is treated confidentiality and held securely

to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained. The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 14-16 May 2013:

- Tuesday 14 May – Language Conventions test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) followed by a Writing test
- Wednesday 15 May – Reading test
- Thursday 16 May – Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and Data; Measurement and Space)
- Friday 17 May – a 'catch-up' day for any students who missed a test

**Ms Janene van Gogh, Director of Studies – in Residence**

#### **English and Drama**

*"Students of public speaking continually ask, 'How can I overcome self-consciousness and the fear that paralyses me before an audience?' Did you ever notice in looking from a train window that some horses feed near the track and never even pause to look up at the thundering cars, while just ahead at the next railroad crossing a farmer's wife will be nervously trying to quiet her scared horse as the train goes by? How would you cure a horse that is afraid of cars — graze him in a back wood or pasture him where he would frequently see the machines? Apply horse-sense to ridding yourself of self-consciousness and fear; face an audience as frequently as you can and you will soon stop shying. You can never attain freedom from stage-fright by reading a treatise. A book may give you excellent suggestions on how best to conduct yourself in the water, but sooner or later you must get wet... and be 'scared half-to-death'. There are a great many 'wetless' bathing suits worn at the seashore, but no one ever learns to swim in them. To plunge is the only way."* Dale Carnegie

Public Speaking is an integral part of the Frensham experience; speaking tasks are mandatory for all stages of the English curriculum. For some, it is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate their understanding in a medium other than writing; for most, it is a challenge which can be confronting. Therefore, students are constantly exposed to opportunities to practise and refine their oratory skills.

The Public Speaking session during Open Day highlighted the success of the speaking programme offered through English at Frensham. The Heads of Public Speaking, Rebecca McCreath and Bianca Tini Brunozzi, delivered an excellent session which included speakers from across the whole School and explored a diverse range of topics. Year 7 students Andrea Conomos, Lucy Brigstocke, Alice Battcock, Tara Penton, Phoebe Hill and Nina Jephcott shared their insights about life at Frensham for new students. Bianca Campbell (Year 9) celebrated the achievements of two courageous and influential women in the world: Winifred West and Jane Austen. Phoebe Cook (Year 10) shared her understanding and passion for Romanticism through her recitation of *La Belle Dame Sans Merci* by John Keats and Ruby Lowenstein (Year 11) offered a philosophical

observation about the meaning of life. Thank you to all the girls and staff involved in preparations for the day. Upcoming Public Speaking events include the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Competition and the Legacy Junior English Speaking Competition.

### Drama

Year 7 Drama on Open Day was an exciting experience, with participants and observers clearly enjoying the practical demonstrations of Drama in the classroom. It is evident that all the girls in Year 7 are benefiting from being exposed to voice projection, movement and script interpretation techniques. For their concert, Year 7 students performed the legendary *The Lion and Albert* and the sequel *The Return of Albert*. *The Lion and Albert* tells the story of a young boy and his parents visiting the zoo at Blackpool. A most unfortunate thing happens and Albert is eaten by a lion called Wallace. *The Return of Albert* tells of the return of Albert which occurs when Wallace actually 'coughs him up'. The girls transformed these stories into highly amusing pieces which were a pleasure to watch.

**Ms Lee McGuinness, Head of English/Drama**

### **French**

This week, students in Year 9 French began a unit of work on the weather and prepared a '*Quel temps fait-il?*' display for Open Day, which demonstrated what they have been learning. They outlined the differences between the seasons in France and Australia and the different weather patterns. Year 8 also prepared a great display on '*La famille*', with some writing about their own family, while others wrote about an imaginary French family.

Year 11 students are working on Personal Identity while Year 12 students are studying Arts and Entertainment. Girls doing Year 12 French Extension have begun working on the issues set in the syllabus, the first one being 'The outsider versus social order'. The study requires class discussions, which build their confidence and skills and subsequently their enjoyment of the language.

### French Exchange

The incentives for learning French extend far beyond the classroom to the anticipation of visiting the most popular tourist destination in the world. Two Year 10 girls took this route and enjoyed the experience:

*'French exchange is something for which you can never truly prepare yourself. Among the many things I learned in my five weeks in Chambéry (a beautiful town in the Alps two hours from the city of Lyon) was to expect the unexpected. Along with the definite improvement in my spoken French, my most obvious growth has been in maturity and resilience. I will always remember the friends I made at the local high school and I now refer to my French family as my 'other' family rather than my hosts. French exchange was an experience of a lifetime and I would strongly recommend it to anyone ready for an adventure.'* Georgina Quinn

*'In the summer vacation I was lucky enough to go to France on exchange for five weeks. I had a wonderful time and have greatly improved my French. It was a fabulous experience to be completely immersed in the culture, language, winter cold and cuisine. Our group of students, ranging from Years 9-11, left Australia the day after school finished and spent four days together in Paris. We visited sites such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre and we attended language classes. Then I took the TGV (the fastest train in the world) to Lyon, where I was to stay in a small, traditional town called Neuvelles les Dames for the next four weeks. It was very beautiful: from the house, you could see the church tower above the rooftops. I went to the two schools of my host family's daughters where I was in Seconde, the equivalent of Year 10. I participated in Maths, Science and Physics, History, PDHPE, French, English (my favourite!), Spanish, Italian, Latin and German; the number of languages taught was impressive. My host family was generous and warm and showed me a lot of the country. It was very worthwhile and I would love to return.'*

Frederica Romijn

*Félicitations, Georgina et Frederica: un entraînement linguistique excellent!*

**Mme Heininger and Mme Kidner, Teachers of French**

### **Japanese**

Frensham students of Japanese have welcomed back, for the third year, Mrs Yukari Aboud and Mrs Tomoko Sasai as Japanese assistant teachers. Both live locally and attend three Japanese lessons each week, spending time with all students in Years 8 to 12. Yukari and Tomoko teach students about the Japanese culture and participate in speaking activities with students of Japanese. Students are looking forward to working with Yukari and Tomoko again this year.

On Frensham Open Day, Year 8 and 9 sample lessons in Japanese were conducted and students and visitors experienced traditional Japanese activities, including calligraphy and origami.

**Ms Stephanie French, Teacher of Japanese**

### **Latin**

On Open Day, as usual, the activity in the Latin Room was Latin Bingo. Players were given playing cards with Arabic numerals while the actual numbers were called out in Latin. For those who were not familiar with numbers in Latin (most of the players!), they each had a card with the Latin number and Arabic numeral next to it: unus - 1, duo - 2, tres - 3 etc. Although some of the numbers are quite complicated (eg undequinquaginta — 'one from 50' = 49), it was not long before the structure of the numbers became familiar and excitement mounted as only one number was needed to call out 'habeo' — 'I have it'. Several parents joined their daughters in playing and agreed that it was a lot of fun.

An innovation this year has been 'Word of the Day', thanks to a Christmas present of a calendar with a different word for each day. Not surprisingly, many are derived from Latin. An interesting example is the adjective 'malapert', meaning 'impudently bold' or 'saucy'. It first appeared in English in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and was a favourite of Shakespeare. The prefix 'mal' comes from 'malus', meaning 'bad' and 'apert' comes from 'apertus' meaning 'open', the whole word meaning something which is open or honest in a bad way. It also exists as a noun – a bold or impudent person.

**Ms Liz Stephenson, Senior Teacher in Latin**

### **Community Service**

On Tuesday 26 February, the Community Service Team of Hannah Buschman (Head), Sophie Brosnan (Vice Head) and team members Amelia Caillard, Veronica Cheung, Nicola Lawson and India Strutt organised a Mufti Day to raise funds for the School for Life Foundation, which has built Katuuso School in Uganda. School for Life was co-founded by Old Girl Annabelle Chauncy in 2008 and its aim is to 'break the cycle of poverty through education'. Katuuso is not only a school for primary students but also a vocational school for adults. The first stage opened in January 2011 with 80 children aged 4-7 years in Nursery and Primary 1; another 40 were enrolled in January 2012 and a Primary 2 class was opened.

The school uniform of Katuuso is pale and dark blue and the Frensham girls were asked to dress in these colours. They took this to heart and Morning Prayers was a scene of myriad shades of blue. Although the girls were asked to donate \$3, there were generous donations of up to \$20, raising \$963 for this very worthwhile cause.

**Ms Liz Stephenson, Community Service Coordinator**

### **Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)**

In Year 12, Geography students have commenced their second unit, Urban Places. They are currently examining the role of world cities as 'command and control centres' in the global economy, using London as a case study. Students in Economics are preparing for an assessment task by examining Australia's place in the global economy; areas of study have included trade, exchange rates and protectionism. Modern History students are investigating the role of Stalin in the Soviet Union, focusing especially on Stalinism as a totalitarian system. Business Studies students are completing an assessment task which requires them to evaluate the use of marketing strategies by businesses such as Domino's Pizza Enterprises Ltd, to achieve goals.

As an enrichment activity, students in Year 11 Business Studies have been enrolled in six teams in the ASX Share Market game, which begins on Friday 8 March. They have begun researching the public companies in which they

intend to invest a virtual \$50,000 and are learning about what it is like to invest in the Share Market.

Students in Year 11 Economics have begun an investigation into the role of consumers and business in a market economy and are analysing media articles to assess influence. Year 11 Geography students are beginning a unit on Global Development and are preparing for an assessment on global population. They have also completed the first stage of their Senior Geography Project. This involved handing in a proposed aim and hypothesis which they will then investigate over the remainder of this term and into Terms 2 and 3. Year 11 Modern History students are preparing for an assessment on the decline of the Romanovs, focusing on formal essay techniques and question analysis.

In Year 10, Geography students are working on an assessment on geographical issues. As part of this task, the students undertook fieldwork at Rose Valley on Thursday 21 February. History students are completing an assessment task on the Vietnam War to be finalised in class on Monday 11 March. Students in Elective History are working on an assessment on 'A Personality Involved in the Holocaust' and examining how their chosen personality worked within the Nazi regime.

In Year 9, Geography students are continuing the study of 'What Makes Australia Unique', with the current focus being on weather and climate. They are also working on a Natural Hazards assessment task; current weather and climatic conditions mean they have numerous recent events to use as examples. History students have commenced an assessment task on World War I.

In Year 8, Geography students are working on an assessment task on Global Inequalities, focusing on the role of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in dealing with inequalities. History students have commenced a unit on the Aztec civilisation and the impact of European colonisation on these people. The assessment for this task will be source-based.

In Year 7, Geography students have commenced an assessment task on World Heritage sites; they are also continuing to develop their geographical skills. In recent lessons they have been focusing on field sketches and using topographic maps. History students have commenced a study of Ancient Egypt. The work completed in class will act as a model for the activities they will complete for an assessment task on Ancient Greece.

**Mrs Jacqueline McCarroll, Head of HSIE**

Mock Trial: Last Friday, Frensham's Mock Trial team began the 2013 season with a civil case against Nowra Anglican College's Mock Trial Team at Moss Vale. Our 'magistrate'

was a local solicitor and this round does not count towards the point score.

Frensham's team has changed somewhat since the first meeting. Those who performed on Friday were: Alice Hood, *aka* Andy Raphael, the plaintiff; Caitlan Mahony, *aka* Drew Hunter, second witness; Phoebe Cook, solicitor; barristers Cara Bowdern (who stepped in at the last minute) and Ruby Lowenstein; and Julia Herbert as court officer.

As the plaintiff, Frensham presented its case first, alleging that the defendant, Parker Services Pty Ltd, had failed as the bailee to take appropriate steps to ensure that the plaintiff's car, a BMW M3 coupé, was secure while it was being serviced. The Frensham witnesses had learnt their scripts perfectly and both were able to deflect cross-examination questions from the defence. As second barrister, Ruby effectively shut down cross examination from the defence barrister. As first barrister, Cara's questions elicited an admission from the first witness for the defence that she had breached her duty of care. This admission effectively won the case, with the Mock Trial being awarded to Frensham. Court officer, Julia Herbert, was very effective, as was solicitor, Phoebe Cook, with all participants indicating their enthusiasm for Mock Trial and expressing interest in trying other positions.

Congratulations go to the team. Each girl was willing to be flexible and to commit much time to ensuring that the whole team performed well. Special thanks also go to Bianca Tini Brunozzi and Mr Jowett for their ongoing support.

### **Ms Judy Bradley, Mock Trial Coordinator**

#### **Jamieson Programme**

*'Exposure to challenges, in a secure environment, can awaken in young people a belief in themselves which will stay with them throughout their lives...'*

In Week 6, all students are actively involved in Outdoor Education Week as follows:

Year 7: The girls will be camping in the Lower Holt, which will involve learning basic camp-craft such as setting up camp, cooking, camp hygiene, teamwork, environmental awareness, orienteering, map-reading and navigation. They will also be engaged in activities such as mountain bike-riding, abseiling and bushwalking.

Year 8: Students will experience an expanded view of their local environment through hiking, canoeing and bike-riding from one destination to another, with overnight camping included. They will undertake a full range of camp activities, including campsite selection, map-reading and navigation, cooking and camp hygiene.

Year 9: This will be a practice Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Level Camp. Students will canoe on Tallowa Dam

(subject to weather conditions) and hike parts of the Moreton National Park. Camp crafts and navigation skills will also be tested, with emphasis on supporting each other.

Year 10: This expedition will meet the requirements for a Silver level Duke of Edinburgh's Award trip. Students will commence the expedition at the Tugalong staging area and hike through the Outdoor Education Group property at Biloela. This will be a self-catering trip and girls will be encouraged to take leadership roles in navigation, camp setting-up and cooking.

Community Service for Year 9 students and interested senior students continues on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. This is a delightful quote from one of the Year 9 students, after her first visit to one of the local nursing homes: *'We met a lovely girl... She's 93 years old'*.

Year 9 students visited the Sydney Jewish Museum and the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque on Thursday 28 February, as part of the Religious Studies component of the Jamieson Programme. The girls listened to informative presentations about the nature of both the Jewish and Islamic religions. These presentations gave the students an insight into the lives of Australians who belong to the Jewish and Islamic faiths and of how religion fits into their daily lives.

A brief outline of the activities at the Jewish Museum, written by one of the students, is included below:

*'On 28 February, Year 9 set off for Sydney on a Jamieson Programme excursion. The first stop was the Jewish Museum, founded by Jewish Holocaust survivors. We were introduced to our lecturer, Ari, who briefly explained about Jewish ways and holy books. We were then shown around the Museum and provided with information which thoroughly explained the timeline of the religion of Judaism; we also saw an example of the Torah. The Museum was very interesting and we learnt a lot about the Jewish religion.'*

In addition, Year 9 students listened to a presentation from Dr Kathleen Bokey on adolescent health and eating disorders. A student reflection is included below:

*'On Thursday 28 February, Dr Bokey spoke to us about eating disorders. She made us think about the effects of anorexia and taught us that it is not only a physical disease but also a mental disease; 150,000 women die each year of anorexia. On average it is estimated that 1% of females in their teens and early 20s develop this eating disorder. Studies have shown that 10-15% will die of complications arising from anorexia nervosa. If you have a friend who you think has an eating disorder, please do talk to them because it is a very serious problem. Some signs of anorexia are: sudden and severe weight loss; obsessing about food, weight and appearance; lying about weight and food intake; abusing diet pills or laxatives; and exercising excessively.'*

**Mrs Jacqueline McCarroll**  
**Jamieson Programme Coordinator**

## Mathematics

The first meeting for 2013 of the Frensham Mathematics Club took place on the evening of Tuesday 26 February. Led by Rebecca McCreath and Isabeau Gavel, the group included students from Years 9-12. The girls explored several problems and mathematical tricks that could be solved using techniques from Algebra and Equations that they have studied in class.

Logic puzzles were presented to the girls who then shared their solutions with the rest of the group. It was insightful for each participant to see how very different other girls' thinking and solving strategies were from her own. Willa Robinson (Year 9) demonstrated a unique way of looking at each problem that involved sophisticated reasoning and explanation.

Spatial problems were also presented and solved during the evening. Georgina Quinn (Year 10) gave an impressive performance in solving these problems.

It was an enjoyable evening, presenting many challenges, but the mathematical tools were readily available to solve real-life mathematical problems.

*Algebra is generous; she often gives more than is asked of her.* [D'Alembert]

## Ms Sue Wymer, Head of Mathematics

### Music

Senior Music students gained a great deal by seeing and hearing the HSC *Encore* Concert. They were asked to put themselves in the shoes of an HSC examiner and to critique, in terms of marking criteria, the items they liked the most as well as the performance they liked least.

Open Day and the Year 7 Parent Weekend provided Frensham musicians with many performance opportunities; the Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Madrigals all performed on Open Day, as well as many individuals who either practised their instruments in the Music Centre as guests walked by their open doors or entertained Café patrons from the STC Balcony. Ms Flora Benson was conducting the Junior Choir and the Café Musicians were particularly well supported by Mr Richard Starr as accompanist and sound engineer.

In the Year 7 Concert, the Madrigals sang one of the most famous and beautiful madrigals in the repertoire: *The Silver Swan* by Orlando Gibbons. The music is special but the lyrics also deserve a mention.

*The silver swan, who, living, had no note,  
When Death approached, unlocked her silent throat.  
Leaning her breast upon the reedy shore,  
thus sang her first and last, and sang no more:  
"Farewell, all joys! O Death, come close mine eyes!  
More Geese than Swans now live, more Fools than Wise."*

In Music classes, Year 7 students have been learning about Duration and playing rhythms with 'found objects' from the School environment. The final item in the Concert featured all of Year 7 as they performed a piece using sticks and body percussion.

Parents of choristers are reminded that all Senior Choir members are expected to support the Confirmation Service on Saturday 16 March. The Service is being held in Clubbe Hall and choristers should be ready to rehearse at 1.45pm.

## Mr Michael Spencer, Head of Music

### Science

Year 12 Physics, Chemistry and Biology students are commended for their decoration of the display boxes in the Schavemaker Centre for Science and Technology. The displays offer an interesting insight into what is being studied in each class. As Carl Sagan said, '*Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.*'

In the last few weeks, Year 12 Chemistry students have completed units on electro-chemistry and nuclear medicine, where they have learned how batteries produce a current and investigated the applications of radiation to industry and medicine. They are now studying 'The Acidic Environment' and have been looking at indicators, making natural indicators and studying equilibrium. The students have also just completed a major assessment task, writing their own examination questions and answering them, for the topics 'Production of Materials' and 'Chemical Monitoring and Management'.

Also in Year 12, Physics students have been studying generators and transformers, doing experiments with solenoids and magnets. Biology students are studying the elective topic 'Communication', which looks at the brain, the eye, the ear and the larynx, and how these are used to allow humans and other animals to communicate. They have just completed an assessment task on a range of topics relating to the human eye, such as photoreceptor cells, cataracts, refraction, myopia and hyperopia.

In Year 11, Chemistry students started the year learning about physical and chemical reactions and how they are applied to extract valuable resources from the environment. There has been an emphasis on laboratory technique, accuracy, reliability and validity as they quantitatively analyse a range of mixtures.

Students of Year 11 Physics are studying the science of communication and the physics of waves. They are developing their mathematical physics skills and applying them to experiments such as using the concepts of resonance and standing waves to measure the speed of sound in air.

The Year 11 Biology class has been looking at cells, the chemicals found in cells and the concepts of diffusion and

osmosis across semi-permeable membranes. Students have been exploring all these concepts through practical activities which are helping to develop their skills. The first assessment task on the chemical components of plant and animal tissues has just been completed.

**Mrs Alison Andrew, Head of Science**

### **PDHPE**

Year 8 Focus: Students are currently completing a theory unit titled 'Healthy Relationships and Living in Harmony'. They have discussed the qualities that are valued in positive relationships and have identified a variety of strategies and behaviours for negotiating caring, respectful relationships.

In practical lessons, students have been practising various movement skills associated with Athletics. After Outdoor Education Week, students will begin a new practical unit focusing on Gymnastics.

It is pleasing to see that many Year 11 students have completed training to gain their gym licence. These students are now able to use the exercise equipment in the Parker Gymnasium after hours.

**Miss Erin Gray, Head of PDHPE**

### **Sport**

#### Wet Weather Arrangements for Saturday Sport

Owing to the short season for all IGSSA Sports, every attempt is made to play the interschool matches and cancellations of Saturday Sport are rarely made before Saturday morning, unless a venue notifies IGSSA that the facilities will not be playable prior to this. Information concerning play can be found on the IGSSA website: <http://igssa.ahigs.nsw.edu.au>. SMS Weather Information: Using your mobile phone, SMS your keyword to **19922767**. Messages cost 55c per message sent. Your keyword is the name of the sport and the first initial of the venue; for example, playing Softball at Frensham, **TEXT 'softball'**. A return SMS will be sent that gives you the status of your venue – open or closed.

Cross Country: Training will start in Week 7 on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6.30am. All girls who would like to be part of the Cross Country team must attend these training sessions for the rest of the term. The IGSSA Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday 10 May at Frensham.

Football and Basketball: Trials for Team 1 and 2 for Football and Basketball will begin in Week 7 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 6.30am. Football will be on the Games Field and Basketball will be in the Parker Gymnasium. All girls in Years 10–12 who wish to be considered for these teams must attend these trials. If selected in Team 1 or 2, they will continue training for the remainder of the term at these times.

Swimming: The Swimming team has been training well this term under the guidance of the new Swimming coach, Mrs Jenny Balla. Mrs Balla has been building girls' strength and confidence in pool sessions four times per week and also in the occasional dry-land session when Mittagong pool has been unavailable.

On Wednesday 13 February a team of 23 girls travelled to St Catherine's School, Waverley, to compete in a twilight carnival against four other IGSSA schools. The emphasis of this carnival was on participation, giving the girls an opportunity to race before the IGSSA Swimming Carnival. As well, the Southern Highlands Twilight Carnival was held on Monday 4 March at Bowral Pool from 4.00-8.00pm.

The IGSSA Swimming Carnival will be held at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Friday 8 March. The bus will depart from Frensham at 5.45am and return at around 3.30pm. If there is a change in return time, the School will be contacted. The Carnival starts at 8.30am (with a warm-up at 7.30am).

Results from the Southern Highlands Twilight Carnival and the IGSSA Swimming Carnival will be published in the next Newsletter.

**Mrs Jane Crellen, Head of Sport**

### **Equestrian News**

Twenty-two students from Gib Gate and Frensham represented the School at SIEC for the State Interschools Equestrian Championships from 28 February to 2 March, with approximately 74 schools involved.

The students competed in all disciplines — dressage, hacking, vaulting, show jumping, eventing and combined training — with extremely successful results in all classes. The final school and individual point scores will be announced over the next two weeks on the EA NSW website and a full list of individual results will appear in the next Newsletter.

While the weather was mostly testing with considerable rain, the participants rallied, supported each other, and performed extremely strongly. Clean clothes managed to be found for events and wet-weather gear appeared miraculously. The cooperation within the team was excellent, with everyone lending a hand when time was short and horses needed preparing.

Thanks go to Elizabeth Hoy (2012) and Emma Reid (Year 9) who helped all the competitors throughout the competition. Special mention is made of the parents who managed the extreme conditions with great calm and filled in with extra volunteering whenever necessary.

**Mrs Trish Symons, Equestrian Team Manager**

### Frensham Show Cattle Team

With the ongoing wet weather in the Southern Highlands, it was no surprise that the Robertson Show was held on a drizzly day. However, that did not dampen the spirits or enthusiasm of the 20 members of the team who attended on Saturday 2 March. The results on the day were as follows:

Lightweight steers: 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Gene', Savannah Kelly;

Heavyweight steers: 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Tucker', Camilla Milne; 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Ollie', Annabelle Cruikshank;

Junior Paraders: 1<sup>st</sup> 'Gazza', Mia Withers;

Intermediate Paraders: 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Simba', Catriona Fraser; 4<sup>th</sup> 'Gene', Savannah Kelly;

Senior Paraders: 1<sup>st</sup> 'Gazza', Jessica Alker; 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Goofy', Annabel Locke; 4<sup>th</sup> 'Gene', Mimi Wylie (competing in an older age group);

Westons Steer Competition: 1<sup>st</sup> 'Gazza', Mia Withers; 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Tucker', Camilla Milne; 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Milo', Tyler Smith-Mailler; 4<sup>th</sup> 'Gene', Savannah Kelly; 5<sup>th</sup> 'Gilbert', Sophie Currenti.

The last local Show at which the Show Cattle Team competes is on Saturday 9 March at Moss Vale.

On Friday 1 March, six Year 12 students, Jessica Alker, Annabelle Cruikshank, Emma Lipscomb, Annabel Locke, Emma McCrabb and Sophie Meredith, also attended the Robertson Show to compete in the Zone Junior Judging Finals for Grain, Fruit and Vegetable, Sheep Fleece and Merino Sheep. Although this was the first time any of the students had competed in these events, they all performed admirably.

The first event was the Grain Judging, where the competitors had to class and rank four samples each of canola, barley and wheat and then orally present to the Over-Judge the reasons for their choice for one of the grains exhibited. Out of the 15 competitors from a variety of schools, Frensham took out the top three places: Emma Lipscomb (1<sup>st</sup>), Annabel Locke (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Sophie Meredith, (3<sup>rd</sup>). Fruit and Vegetable judging was next, with the competitors assessing tomatoes, cucumbers and apples. Although this event attracted more competitors, Frensham still achieved outstanding results with Sophie Meredith and Annabelle Cruikshank placing second and third respectively. While the Fleece and Merino Sheep Judging competitions were cancelled due to wet weather, Emma McCrabb and Annabelle Cruikshank were selected as the two Zone representatives to compete in the State Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Wednesday 27 March. Emma Lipscomb and Annabel Locke will represent the Zone for Grain Judging and Sophie Meredith for Fruit and Vegetable Judging in the State Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Thursday 28 March.



*Junior Judging placegetters - Emma Lipscomb, Annabel Locke, Annabelle Cruikshank and Sophie Meredith*

### Ms Leonie Harris, Coordinator Show Cattle Team

#### Visual Arts

On Tuesday 19 February Year 8 students participated in an Incursion to the Upper and Lower Holt with Mrs Spencer and Ms Farmer, as part of their study of Visual Arts. In Term 1, the specific unit of work in Visual Arts focuses on the landscape, and we are fortunate to be able to base some of the practical experiences for girls in the beautiful natural bushland of the Upper and Lower Holt, which form part of the Frensham campus. On the day, the students made a series of drawings, exploring ways to depict receding space in a two-dimensional artwork with quick, intuitive mark-making and organisation of tone. Students were able to practise observational drawing skills and apply techniques to render imprecise forms such as the foliage of trees and expanses of meadow.

The students returned to School by mid-afternoon to attend a demonstration and workshop conducted by local artist Kim Shannon. Beginning in the Drama Studio, Kim showed the girls examples of her own work and discussed specific processes, involving layered paint to depict still-life arrangements of Australian flora. At the conclusion of her presentation, Kim was on hand back in the Art Studio with Mrs Spencer and Ms Farmer to assist students to begin their small still-life studies in oil paint. We thank Kim for offering her time so generously and sharing her insightful observations and unique skills with Year 8.

### Mr Phil Alldis, Head of Visual Arts & Design