

# Newsletter

TERM 1 NO 4

Wednesday 18 March 2015



### ...at the still point, there the dance is...

Addressing Frensham staff and students last week, Mrs Symons drew the above excerpt from TS Eliot's *Burnt Norton* (1935), one of four poems in his work *Four Quartets*, focusing on those precious moments of silence when there is the opportunity to create something important. Introducing her message in the context of sitting alone at Year 9 Camp waiting for students to arrive at a checkpoint, she said:

The magic of this memory is that the group walking down didn't arrive for several hours and I had all that time completely alone, with the natural beauty of the bush around me, completely at that *still point* which Eliot describes.

My responsibilities at that time were marginalised; no one person needed me for anything at all. I wasn't someone's mother, or teacher, or friend. I had my water bottle and a small pack only. It was a beautiful day. It was isolated. The shallow water was crystal clear and I could see forever in my imagination. The only sounds were those of the bush, the occasional plop of a fish, the crackle of something small moving in the undergrowth, but nothing else. I can still remember vividly the power of that quiet time and how I had the time to think and plan and make decisions without any distraction.

Further from her Address, I note:

Research tells us that when your brain is focused without distraction - even the distraction of music - you think, you understand, you create, you imagine, you speculate and you learn. That is, the dance happens. In June 1919 Winifred West said: *In peaceful and quiet surroundings, we may get to the heart of things, and learn to discover our true relationship to the rest of the universe.* So my challenge to you is to value that quiet moment, that still point. From it may come your best decision, your most creative work, your true understanding of yourself, your consideration of how to improve your relationships with others, your sense of gratitude, your resilience, the magic of your future. Eliot calls it *the dance*.

### Welcome to Mme Panaretto – Director of Boarding

Resident since her commencement Sunday 8 March, Mme Panaretto BA, M Ed (USYD), Dip Ed (UC) has energetically immersed herself in the daily life of the School, making fast progress with the learning of girls' names and with gaining an understanding of how boarding works at Frensham. We look forward to introducing Mme Panaretto to the parent community over the coming weeks as she works closely with Mrs Amanda Wansey, Deputy Head of Boarding.

Always at the forefront of our focus in Junior and Senior Houses is student skill development in self-management, to enhance personal organisation, peer relations, physical health and wellbeing, commitment to studies and activities and understanding of shared responsibility for effective House life. Prior to the end of term, we will be assessing the progress of every girl on these measures and will report to parents on the overall outcomes at each year level, with our plans for focus, ahead.

## Boarding – ahead

With three weeks till the Easter break, we thank parents for the sense of partnership offered when we are celebrating achievements and growth, or raising concerns for agreed action; it is always exciting to note positive change. 'We are the sum of *established habits*', according to Aristotle (384-322 BC), where 'good character' is a sum of 'good habits', including habits of mind, habits of heart and habits of action. (Dr Thomas Luckona, State University of New York Cortland)...and the state of the world is the sum of the behaviours of all of us who are in it... Luckona offers a set of 'Top 10 qualities for strong character': *wisdom, justice, fortitude, self-control, love, positive attitude, hard work, integrity, gratitude, humility...*

Thank you:

It is important to acknowledge also the tireless work of Mrs Wansey in the Acting Head of Boarding role, working with Executive staff to oversee our start to the year. Expanded Senior Staff leadership in Boarding in 2015, including Heads of House positions, reflect our commitment to the highest quality care and guidance of all students in the residential/House context.

## Acknowledgement to:

- A vote of thanks was passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Heads of Independent Girls Schools (AHIGS) for Frensham's outstanding hosting of AHIGS events at the Games Field. **Thank you to Year 9 parents, who for the past five years have been volunteering to share responsibility to maintain this valued service on Saturday mornings. In 2015, Parent Coordinators, Melody Talbot and April Jephcott are thanked particularly, as is Marg Middleton who trains and monitors performance of our senior student baristas.**
- NSW Equestrian Awards recipients: Olivia Barton, Year 10 (Junior Athlete of the Year – Eventing 2014), Madeleine Prell, Year 12 (Junior Show Jumper of the Year – 2014) and the Frensham and Gib Gate Equestrian teams – 2014 Interschools Champions – See photos in Gib Gate and Frensham segments of this Newsletter;
- Mr Bill Houghton on his 6 March retirement, for full commitment to WWS over a period of 17 years as a member of the Maintenance & Property team;
- The Show Cattle team on their success at the Kangaroo Valley, Robertson and Moss Vale Shows;
- Recent Girdle recipients: Sarah Loveridge (Academic Excellence); Katherine Reid and Annie Racklyeft (Service - Clubbe Hall);
- James Martin-Weber and Frankie Nesci (Year 6) on their selection to trial for the CIS Primary Boys Cricket team;

## Foundation – Friday 15 May Major Fundraiser: Progressive Dinner

After the highly successful Bush Dance in 2014, the **2015 Progressive Dinner at Frensham** is one of only two major event fundraisers for this year. (The second is a Cattle Herd Promotion Dinner scheduled for Term 3.) Every effort is made to ensure that all parents are fully aware of the School's capital works goals, for which achievement is traditionally contingent upon Foundation funding. The Progressive Dinner allows guests to see firsthand three areas where progress is essential – starting in Cooper Hall, moving to the Dining Room and on to Clubbe Hall. Each generation of parents is asked to offer support in some way and our Foundation Board urgently seeks parents keen to be involved in organisation, sponsorship or hosting of guests to attend the functions.

Please surprise Ms Michele Scamps, Foundation Appeal Director: - call to find out how you can contribute:

PH: +61 2 4860 2000 Email: [mscamps@frensham.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mscamps@frensham.nsw.edu.au)

## Past Student News - Frensham:

### ▪ Annabelle Chauncy OAM – 2015 Woman of the Year

The 2015 Women of the Year Awards were presented on 4 March 2015 at NSW Parliament House by the Premier and the Minister for Women. Annabelle is joint founder of the School for Life Foundation (SFLF), which focuses on delivering high quality education in rural Uganda. The School for Life Foundation provides the support students need, including health care, clean water, uniforms and three meals a day. Annabelle has commenced plans for the construction of two new schools in 2015.

- Flautist **Ana de la Vega** will perform for Frensham on the last day of Term 1, towards the end of an eight-Concert NSW Tour (25 March to 17 April). The Concert programme features works by Beethoven, Bach and Mozart. **The Tour includes an Easter Vacation Concert in Sydney: 7.30pm Tuesday 14 April at the Conservatorium of Music.** The Sydney Concert flyer notes: *The Homecoming Concert of flautist Ana de la Vega who, after a decade on the European stage returns to home soil with renowned German violinist Daniel Röhn and local virtuoso pianist Evgeny Ukhanov.* TICKETS: <http://www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/id/1784>.

Julie A Gillick

Head of Frensham

Head of Winifred West Schools

## Parent / Community News

Frensham Advisory Committee 2015		Gib Gate Advisory Committee 2015	
Mrs Pip Crichton	<a href="mailto:pipcrichton@bigpond.com">pipcrichton@bigpond.com</a>	Mrs Rachel Arnott (Chair)	<a href="mailto:rachelkarnott@gmail.com">rachelkarnott@gmail.com</a>
Mrs Helen Gooden	<a href="mailto:jwhgooden@bigpond.com">jwhgooden@bigpond.com</a>	Mrs Caroline Atra	<a href="mailto:caroline.atra@me.com">caroline.atra@me.com</a>
Mrs Katrina Graves	<a href="mailto:graves@jkg.net.au">graves@jkg.net.au</a>	Dr Guy Bashford	<a href="mailto:guy.bashford@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au">guy.bashford@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au</a>
Mr John Hayes	<a href="mailto:hayes.it@bigpond.com">hayes.it@bigpond.com</a>	Mrs Holly de Manincor	<a href="mailto:hollydemanincor@hotmail.com">hollydemanincor@hotmail.com</a>
Mrs Sam Hickson (Sec)	<a href="mailto:jshickson@bigpond.com">jshickson@bigpond.com</a>	Mr Gil Downes	<a href="mailto:gil.downes@neerim.net.au">gil.downes@neerim.net.au</a>
Mr Gavin Martin	<a href="mailto:gavin.martin@ap.jll.com">gavin.martin@ap.jll.com</a>	Mr Stephen Grant	<i>on Leave</i>
Mrs Judy Newton	<a href="mailto:judynewton5@bigpond.com">judynewton5@bigpond.com</a>	Mrs Sarah Lewis (Sec)	<a href="mailto:sarah.lew@me.com">sarah.lew@me.com</a>
Mr Sam Paradise	<a href="mailto:sam.paradice@rbsmorgans.com">sam.paradice@rbsmorgans.com</a>	Mrs Corina Nesci	<a href="mailto:corina@ipxplode.com">corina@ipxplode.com</a>
Mr John Penton (Chair)	<a href="mailto:jbpenton@tpg.com.au">jbpenton@tpg.com.au</a>	Mrs Helen Pernice	<a href="mailto:dandhpernice@bigpond.com">dandhpernice@bigpond.com</a>
Mrs Tina Scales	<a href="mailto:t.scales@bigpond.com">t.scales@bigpond.com</a>	Mrs Zoe Suttie	<a href="mailto:zoeandrobert@bigpond.com">zoeandrobert@bigpond.com</a>
Mrs Melody Talbot	<a href="mailto:melody@talbotnet.com">melody@talbotnet.com</a>	(Chair of FOGG)	

TERM DATES 2015 ~ Gib Gate & Frensham	2015 PARENT WEEKENDS ~ Ahead
<b>Term 1</b> Thursday 29 January-Wednesday 1 April, <b>3pm</b>	<b>REMINDER:</b> all Years 7-12 attend all *Parent Weekend Services
<b>Term 2</b> Monday 20 April-Thursday 18 June, <b>3pm</b> <i>Year 10 Work Experience ends Friday 19 June</i> <i>Boarders return on the evening of Sunday 19 April</i>	<b>Year 10</b> Saturday 21-*Sunday 22 March
<b>Term 3</b> Tuesday 14 July-Thursday 17 September <b>3pm</b> <i>Boarders return on the evening of Monday 13 July</i>	<b>Year 8</b> Saturday 9-*Sunday 10 May
<b>Term 4</b> Gib Gate: Tuesday 6 October-Friday 4 December 3pm Frensham: <i>Boarders return on the evening of Monday 5 October</i> for Tuesday 6 October-Sunday 6 December <b>12.30pm</b> (departure is after the Carol Service)	<b>Year 12</b> Saturday 30 -*Sunday 31 May WWS Birthday ~ Friday 29 May Frensham's 102 <sup>nd</sup> Birthday ~ Sunday 21 May
	<b>Year 11</b> Saturday 1-*Sunday 2 August Saturday 1 August – Year 10 Senior Studies (with parents)
	<b>Year 9</b> Saturday 22-*Sunday 23 August

Ranier Uniform Shop	
<b>Last trading day for Term 1: Monday 30 March</b> (Normal trading hours – 12noon-5.00pm)	<b>All fittings for uniforms are by appointment: Mondays and Thursdays 12noon-5.00pm</b>
<b>Additional Trading Day for start of Term 2:</b> <b>Monday 30 May from 10.00am-3.00pm</b>	Shop Manager: Mrs Michelle Wynn To order goods, please call the Shop: (02) 4860 2136 [BH] or email: <a href="mailto:frensham@ranier.com.au">frensham@ranier.com.au</a>

## WWS FOUNDATION News



**PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

6.30pm **COCKTAILS** COOPER HALL

8.00pm **DINNER** MAIN HOUSE DINING ROOM

9.30pm **DESSERT & DANCING** CLUBBE HALL

the JOHN FIELD BAND



### PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Friday 15 May 2015 at 6.30pm

*A WWS Foundation Event*

*Each generation has its vision of what the world might be... you are needed...  
Please join us ~ in support of progress*

6.30pm Cocktails in Cooper Hall...

8.00pm An elegant dinner in the Main House Dining Room

9.30pm Supper Club ~ dessert and dancing to the John Field Band in Clubbe Hall

For more information on WWS Foundation, please contact: Michele Scamps, +61 2 4860 2000 – [foundation@wws.nsw.edu.au](mailto:foundation@wws.nsw.edu.au)

## GIB GATE News



On Wednesday 11 March, Year 6 students, led by Environmental Monitor, Jimmy Koster, enjoyed meeting the Local Bushcare group who are responsible for the transformation of the park area opposite Gib Gate on Old Bowral Road. Supported by local residents, convened by Mittagong resident, Mrs Jonquil Temple, and coordinated by Mr Paul Marshall along with a team of experts from Wingecarribee Shire Council, the volunteers and council staff have been regenerating this area as a native bushland corridor.

Formally known as Rotary Park, the area was in a steady decline before the bush care group decided to regenerate the area last year. The volunteers, with the support of the council have since propagated and planted over 400 seedlings, mainly wattles and other native plants, to create a winter flowering garden for the benefit of local native birds who often struggle to find native food sources during winter in the Southern Highlands owing to large areas of deciduous plants and trees.

The Year 6 students and I learnt a great deal from the group who had prepared native seeds especially for the students to plant as tube stock which will be cared for by council and the volunteers until they grow into young seedlings, ready to plant. The students learnt many interesting facts about native plants, including the special conditions required by many native seeds for germination. Students helped pour boiling water onto Acacia seeds before planting, in order to mimic the natural germination conditions created by bushfires and rain; all enjoyed examining and holding the enormous native Bunya cone, weighing over 10kg.

We are all hoping that the seeds planted will grow into strong seedlings for the Bushcare group, with the assistance of Year 6, to plant in the area before the end of the year. The experience has helped students to understand the power of volunteers in contributing to the benefit of the local community and all remarked on how much better the area looks since the project started, with the addition of beautiful sandstone blocks to limit vehicle access and picnic tables and benches so that people can enjoy the beautiful native vegetation.

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

### Curriculum Highlights 2015

#### Challenge Opportunities for Gib Gate Students - ICAS International Academic Competitions

Gib Gate students from Years 2 to 6 have been invited to enter the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) 2015. ICAS is an initiative of Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), a not-for-profit organisation owned by the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

Children in Year 2 are able to compete in three disciplines - English, Mathematics and Science. Additionally, students in Years 3 to 6 can compete in the Writing competition. In 2015 the ICAS Writing task will assess persuasive writing. In 2014 the ICAS Writing task assessed an aspect of narrative writing.

ICAS provides an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation, against other students who demonstrate a high level of ability. It provides teachers with comprehensive data and parents with the results of the competitions.

Parents are advised that students wishing to challenge themselves by participating in these competitions should note that a high level of literacy, including highly-developed comprehension skills in a 'limited time' situation, are needed for success with these papers, including the Mathematics and Science papers. Parents should also be aware that the papers are not designed on, nor designed to test, the NSW BOSTES syllabus outcomes, unlike the NAPLAN papers which are specifically designed to test literacy and numeracy skills in Years 3 and 5.

In support of the participation by interested children at Gib Gate, examination conditions and supervision will be provided on the scheduled competition date by class teachers and to assist children to prepare, past papers are practised at school in advance of the tests.

**Ms Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching and Learning  
P-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes**

### Enrichment/Activities

#### Term 2 Extra-Curricular Activities

The Term 2 Extra-curricular activities enrolments are open, with students enthusiastic about the range of Art and Craft classes available. Classes have limited places, so please return enrolment forms early to avoid disappointment. Students will be informed if they are not successful in their enrolment.

#### Performances

Recently, Gib Gate students experienced two productions performed by visiting artists. Last Wednesday, Preschool to Year 6 listened to and watched the Opera Australia children's adaptation of *Cinderella* by Rossini. They enjoyed the combination of theatre props and costumes, acting, music and wonderful singing. On the final day of term, The Bell Shakespeare Company will return to Gib Gate to perform Andy Griffiths' play, *Just Macbeth!*. The Bell Shakespeare Company commissioned Griffiths to write the play to help introduce young audiences to the works of William Shakespeare and the pleasures of live theatre. This



*Hunter Taylor (Year 6, 2014) and  
Elizabeth Taylor (Year 3)  
NSW Equestrian Awards*

play blends the characters from the *Just!* series with the story and characters from *Macbeth*. The book, *Just Macbeth!* is a slightly revised version of the play. Years 1-6 students will be in the audience for this exciting performance.

### Japanese

On Tuesday, it was the turn of Year 4 students to hold a Skype session with students from Gib Gate's sister school in Japan, Hokuriku Gakuin Elementary School. Students had prepared questions and answers in English and each had an opportunity to communicate with their Japanese counterparts. Next term, Year 4 students will again communicate with the Japanese students, speaking to them in Japanese.

### Clean Up Australia Day

Gib Gate supported this important national environmental day by participating in a 'clean up our playground' on Friday 13 March. All classes were responsible for cleaning an area of the grounds with protective gear provided.

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

### **Sport**

#### Cricket

Congratulations to James Martin-Weber and Frankie Nesci (Year 6) for their efforts in trialling for the CIS Primary Boys Cricket team last week, to represent CIS at the NSW PSSA Carnival in Term 2.

#### K-2 Swimming Carnival

Last week, Kindergarten to Year 2 enjoyed their first Swimming Carnival in The Centenary Pool. The children were involved in many events, ranging from serious stroke races for accomplished swimmers, to novelty events including races on noodles, ducking and diving for objects and swimming through hoops. The children were watched by a large number of parent spectators who commented on the value of the all-weather facility.



*Ryan Berman and Frankie Nesci*

#### Winter Sports

Winter Sports begin very soon with Netball games this week and Hockey the following week. Soccer games will commence in Term 2.

### **Mr Michael Standen, Co-ordinator of PDHPE and Sport**

### **Preschool**

#### Reception

#### Rainbow Inquiry: Art, Science and fine motor development

In the Rainbow Inquiry unit of work in which Reception children are currently engaged, the children created their own artworks by using eye-droppers with a variety of colours of ink. After showing them how the pipettes worked, they explored and experimented with the technique. The children enjoyed watching how the ink was 'sucked up' by the paper and spread in circles. Not only were they engaged in **learning about colours** but they were also developing their **fine motor skills**. Using primary colour inks, they enjoyed watching the colours mix together on their page to **make new colours**. The children were encouraged to make different shapes including small dots, medium dots, large dots, continuous lines and dashed lines as they explored this new painting style. In this way, the children learned about control and focus.



#### Transition

#### Space Inquiry

Children construct ideas about the world from observing and experiencing the world in which they live. It is our role as educators to support, exercise and extend each child's thinking by asking questions which provoke curiosity and questioning.

Transition children are currently engaged in an inquiry unit of work about space. Students looked at the photo of the day of the astronaut and were then asked:

What do you see?

What do you think is going on?

What does it make you wonder?



The 'See, Think, Wonder' strategy encourages students to make careful observations. It also helps stimulate curiosity and sets the stage for inquiry. Vocabulary words include astronaut, rocket, planets, moon buggy, space, shooting star, moon rocks, and spacesuit.

Evelyn de Villiers: *'I can see the astronaut has an astronaut suit on.'*

Oliver Wilson: *'I think there is too much air so they can't breathe. What is that thing on his back?'*

Matilda Spong: *'Maybe it is a bed. If he is tired, he could go to bed.'*

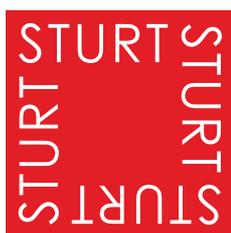
Thomas Castleman: *'I think it is a special back pack that helps him fly really high.'*

Aiden Woolley: *'I thought it was a tank. It turns into a space chair.'*

Xavier Kennedy: *'Maybe if he falls onto his back it turns into a cushion.'*

Bon Doyle: *'I think it pulls him up. If it's not on it might take him all the way up.'*

**Ms Kelly Lees, Preschool Teacher**



## STURT News

### FRIENDS OF STURT

*Chris Topp (President), Penny Hoskins (Secretary), Ruth Wright (Roster Secretary), Denise Sumner (Mail-out Coordinator), Joan Dinning, Bill Dinning, Anne Thomson, Alan Matthews, Julie Musgrave, Michael Harris*

### Propose an exhibition for 2016

We are now inviting exhibition proposals for Sturt Gallery for 2016 and beyond. Full details on the procedure and the Exhibition Policy can be found on our website at: [www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/get-involved/exhibition-proposal](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/get-involved/exhibition-proposal)

**Sturt Coffee by Gilbert's** (of Main St Mittagong) is a stylish pop-up coffee bar operating inside and outside Sturt Shop and Gallery offering barista-made coffees, teas, quality soft drinks, savoury and sweet treats.

**Opening Hours:** 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday

### Sturt School for Wood 2016

Enrolments for 2016 are now open. All details, including application form, fee schedule and term dates for 2016 are available on the Sturt website. For enquiries regarding the 2016 course, please contact Mark Viner on +61 2 4860 2083 or email [mviner@sturt.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mviner@sturt.nsw.edu.au)

### Winter School 2015

This year's winter programme features many new courses including Painting with Cherry Hood, Small Sculpture with Bronwyn Berman, Glass Blowing with Mark Elliott, Ceramics with Sturt's UK visiting artist, Kerry Jameson, and Digital Fabrication with Trinh Vu and much more. Online booking is now available at: [www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/winter-school](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/winter-school) and the printed brochure has been mailed out.

### Short Courses

The 2015 short course programme is now available online. New course options include knitting, weaving, woodwork, sculpture, ceramics and jewellery as well as introductory courses in 3D routing and 3D printing and laser technology in the new Design and Fabrication workshops.

[www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/short-courses](http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/short-courses)



### Sturt Gallery

Of national significance - Ceramics Then And Now by Artists in the Sturt Permanent Collection continues to 12 April.

The Sturt Collection tells the story of Australian craft since the war. This exhibition features new work by a selection of prominent Australian and international artists alongside the historic work currently in the Sturt Collection and include: Les Blakebrough, Patty Wouters, Campbell Hegan, Yasuo Terada, Yasuhisa Kohyama, Svend Bayer, Kevin White, Paul Davis, Prue Venables and Victor Greenaway.

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### ***Clothfabric*** – 20 years in the making. 19 April to 31 May

This exhibition celebrates the distinctive work and creative life of Julie Paterson, artist, designer and writer and founder of the iconic design brand, *Clothfabric*. The exhibition opening coincides with the launch of her book, *Clothbound*, on Sunday 19 April at 11.00am with special guest, **Karen McCartney**, author and editorial director.

#### Events

**Friends of Sturt Committee Meeting** - Sturt Cottage, Wednesday 15 April 2015 at 5.30pm.

Friends of Sturt members are invited to join the Committee for its regular meeting, and to enjoy a glass of wine and preview of the next exhibition ***Clothfabric – 20 years in the making***.

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

- call Sturt Shop on +61 2 4860 2083
- or email [shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au](mailto:shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au)

**Mr Mark Viner, Head of Sturt**

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## FRENSHAM News

### **Deputy Head**

A busy weekend ahead for Year 10 students as we look forward to meeting with the parents of Year 10 girls this coming Saturday when they will have the opportunity to discuss their daughter's progress with her teachers.

In the afternoon, a Confirmation Service for 17 girls will be held at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Mittagong, followed by Afternoon Tea with family and Godparents. These girls will then take their first Communion at a Service in Clubbe Hall on Friday 27 March.

On Sunday, we welcome the Class of 1975 to the 40 Years On Reunion who will join the whole School at the Year 10 Service and Concert; we look forward to their impressions of Frensham today.

This weekend also, five Year 10 students will be participating in the Model United Nations Assembly [further information regarding MUNA, is available in the article from the Human Society & Its Environment faculty].

**Mr Geoff Marsh, Deputy Head**

### **Boarding News**

All travel requests have now closed [per CountryLink]. If a student requests transport to go to a destination to a friend's house at the End-of-Term or Start-of-Term it may not be possible to accommodate the request, due to seat restrictions. Please consider an alternative option in case your daughter's request cannot be met. Please contact Amanda Wansey, Deputy Head of Boarding [awansey@frensham.nsw.edu.au](mailto:awansey@frensham.nsw.edu.au) should you require assistance in this regard.

**Mrs Amanda Wansey, Deputy Head of Boarding**

### **Director of Teaching and Learning**

ICAS International Academic Competitions for Frensham Students - Opportunity and Challenge

Frensham students in Years 7 to 10 participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) in the disciplines of Science, Mathematics, English and Writing each year. These are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. New ICAS tests are developed annually for each subject in each year level by subject matter experts and are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess students' skills and are relevant to what students are learning at school. With the development of the Australian Curriculum, ICAS have continued to review assessment frameworks to ensure they remain relevant in [English](#) (including Writing), [Mathematics](#) and [Science](#). In 2015 the ICAS Writing task will assess persuasive writing. In 2014 the ICAS Writing task assessed an aspect of narrative writing.

Each test is taken at the student's school and is administered by teachers under examination conditions. Administration Guidelines are provided to schools to ensure that the same conditions are afforded to all students participating in ICAS.

Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

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ICAS provides an opportunity for students to gain valuable practice in taking a challenging pen and paper test under strict timed conditions while supported by teachers in their classrooms. They learn to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in an external assessment situation. It should be noted that ICAS test papers are not designed on, nor designed to test, NSWBOSTES syllabus outcomes, unlike the NAPLAN papers which are designed to test basic literacy and numeracy skills in Years 7 and 9 and also provide teaching staff with valuable information for teaching and learning.

Frensham teachers use the ICAS detailed school reports as a component of a student's overall academic achievement for the year. Full participation by all students provides the school and teachers with comprehensive reporting of results, including the ability to compare and monitor both the student's and the school's current performance and learning progress to previous years. In addition, it enables staff to identify potentially gifted students for further enrichment and to identify areas of development in an individual student or group of students. It adds to our systematic collection and study of all student assessment data. Participation also assists with future planning and resource allocation.

Certificates of achievement are awarded as follows: High Distinction to the top 1%; Distinction to the next 10%; Credit to the next 25%; Merit to the next 10% and Participation Certificates to all. Students are commended for their efforts and achievement at Prayers and awards received are published in the School Newsletter.

**Ms Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching and Learning  
P-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes**

**Director of Studies**

Year 12 students are approaching a formal assessment period over the coming weeks. The school-based assessment tasks in each course, when completed, will contribute 50% towards their final HSC course marks, with the HSC examinations contributing the remaining 50%. Semester 1 reports for Year 12 are currently being written and will be mailed before the end of term. While the coming vacation period is an important time for Year 12 students to relax and refresh, it is also expected that at least 30 hours will be allocated to completing Prep set by their teachers, to help consolidate previous studies, develop major works and projects and prepare for the term ahead.

Year 11 students have adapted well to the demands required of senior students and the rigour of the Preliminary HSC courses. They have recently signed the BOSTES subject confirmation forms to ensure correct enrolment in their subjects. Efficient work habits and skill consolidation are essential elements of their HSC studies.

Using Sean Covey's 'The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens', as a reference, students are establishing or strengthening the habits of Self-Mastery. These include:

- Habit 1: Being Proactive (taking responsibility),
- Habit 2: Beginning with the End in Mind (goal-setting) and
- Habit 3: Putting First Things First (prioritising).

The concept of 'getting your personal act together before you can become a good team player' is key in developing skills which will be essential in a rapidly changing world. How are these key skills being developed for students?

- Establishing consistent study habits and routines
- Developing the ability to work independently
- Taking responsibility for clarification of understanding – being proactive in seeking support from teachers when needed
- Managing time and leading a balanced life
- Developing an understanding of their academic strengths, areas of passion and an understanding of themselves as learners

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

**English and Drama**

Drama

The selection for this year's Birthday Play is the Australian classic, 'Away' by Michael Gow. The play opens with a school performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and it explores the timeless Shakespearean themes of suffering, regeneration and reconciliation. It is set in Christmas 1967 and it is a time to re-enact the rituals of the summer holiday. Three Australian families set out separately but are driven together by a storm. At times funny and yet painfully truthful, 'Away' explores the comedy and tragedy of their lives.

Behind the scenes, preparations have commenced in earnest, with students from Years 10, 11 and 12 completing the audition process. Once casting decisions have been finalised, rehearsals will commence. This will be Ms Fiona Shannon's first

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production for Frensham and she is delighted to be working with girls who are passionate about and deeply committed to their craft

### **Mrs Sally Hannah, Senior Teacher in English and Drama**

#### English

*'In one afternoon 50 years ago, so much of our turbulent history -- the stain of slavery and anguish of civil war; the yoke of segregation and tyranny of Jim Crow; the death of four little girls in Birmingham; and the dream of a Baptist preacher -- all that history met on this bridge...'*

*'We honour those who walked so we could run. We must run so our children soar. And we will not grow weary. For we believe in the power of an awesome God, and we believe in this country's sacred promise...'* Barack Obama.

These are quotations from a speech made by Barack Obama at the Edmund Pettus Bridge Selma, Alabama to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches. There were three protest marches to demonstrate the desire of black American citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote, in defiance of segregationist repression. This speech honours those who, often under great personal sacrifice, thought not only of themselves but who served others and desired a just world for all.

Year 10 students have been exploring *'To Kill a Mockingbird'* by Harper Lee as an Extension Reading text as part of their Power unit which has also included a study of *'Macbeth'*. This book is set in Maycomb, Alabama and explores the terrible prejudice and injustice of a community where racism is embedded in every aspect of life.

Early next term, Year 9 students will commence a close study of *'The Help'*, a novel by American author, Kathryn Stockett. The story is about black maids working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early 1960s. While Jackson is a more modern and urban world than Maycomb County, it also conveys how destructive and insidious discrimination can be. It also provides the reader an insight into the world of courageous black women who were 'doubly silenced' because they were women and black. These books expose students to a very different world and context from their own. They highlight exactly why the Selma marches were needed to change the destiny of people who were literally and metaphorically enslaved. They also wanted to explode the thinking of a group of people who had the belief they were somehow superior and who failed to see that we are all human.

Year 12 Extension 2 English students participated in a workshop on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Beverly Hills Girls School. The first session involved two students who had achieved outstanding HSC results and who shared their insights and learning experiences when composing a Major Work.

This session was followed by an intense and informative unpacking of what investigating a Major Work at the highest level entails. Students were then given opportunities to move into workshops which were specifically directed to assist them with their chosen form. This year, we have students completing Major Works in Film, Speech, Short Story and Critical Response. In some sessions students were encouraged to share aspects of their Major Works and all were directed to consider 'where to next.'

The final session involved a detailed analysis of the Reflection Statement. All sessions were run by experienced Extension 2 HSC markers. Girls and teachers gained a great deal from the day; it enabled them to connect with others who were involved in the challenging process of completing a work which must be outstanding in all areas of investigation, process, concept and composition. It also allowed them to build on their skills and approach for the next two assessments, the Report and Draft, with fresh determination and focus.

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

#### **French**

It was a pleasure to meet so many Francophile parents [from all corners of the state] among the Year 7 cohort at the Parent Weekend.

Students in all year groups at all levels, are now preparing for their Term 1 Assessment in French. For most classes, this consists of a Listening Task, given this is considered to be the most straightforward of the 'passive' comprehension skills. During the school year, the intensity and challenge progresses through Term 2 with Reading Comprehension tasks (where the French text requires questions to be answered in English). In Term 3, the Writing Assessment focuses on grammar and the ability to write 'freely' and accurately in French and in Term 4 all skills are tested including Speaking (Oral) tests.

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By the time students are tested on their ability to communicate orally, it is hoped that they will have mastered correct grammar and pronunciation leading to competency in expressing themselves correctly, for that which is spoken is retained longer in the memory, than that which is written. That is the theory underpinning the programme of French teaching at Frensham.

### **Mesdames M Kidner and B Micklem, and Mademoiselle V Akins, Teachers of French**

#### **Latin**

Last week, all Latin students sat for the annual National Latin Examination organised by the American Classical League. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of the approximately 140,000 who take the examination are from the United States. However, a small proportion, usually about 1,300, come from the rest of the world, often from countries where one would not expect Latin to be taught - Poland, South Korea, Taiwan, Zimbabwe and Oman on the Persian Gulf. The results will be received early in Term 2.

This week, Year 12 will be undergoing their assessment on their prose text, *Cicero's Pro Sexto Roscio Amerino*, an interesting case where he defends Sextus Roscius from the country town of Ameria against a charge of parricide. The assessment involves questions on translation of the Latin, answering multiple-choice questions on grammar as well as discussing the literary merits of the Latin. Year 11 students' assessment is on the poems of *Catullus* which they have been studying throughout the term and involves similar questions to those in Year 12 - translation, grammar and literary devices, while Years 9 and 10 will be undertaking assessments on the new grammar they have learnt this term.

In Week 9, senior students will travel to St Ignatius College Riverview, Lane Cove, to participate in the annual Senior Classics Dinner. Over one hundred Latin students from Sydney schools attend this dinner each year and it is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Latin students and also take part in a Classical Trivial Pursuit (with the traditional Mars Bars as prizes). The students are also encouraged to wear attire on an Ancient Roman theme and as there are nine students, one of the options is to go as the nine Muses.

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

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

MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) simulates the workings of the UN General Assembly by having teams of students from Australia represent a particular UN country. Topics are debated on matters of world political and social concern. MUNA's aims are to develop an awareness of the United Nations for students as well as current international situations across the world and to encourage students to study topics from another country's perspective.

The overarching objective is to encourage young people to learn respect and tolerance for people of all races, religions and nationalities. Two teams of Year 10 students will be participating in MUNA this year and are representing Israel and Indonesia. In recent weeks, students have been researching these countries and preparing for debates on 15 resolutions (maximum) covering topics such as climate change, refugees, capital punishment and water security. The Southern Highlands MUNA debate will take place this Saturday at Wingecarribee Shire Council Theatre in Moss Vale, where Frensham will debate teams from other local schools.

Year 12: Geography students are currently examining the role of world cities as 'command and control centres' in the global economy, using London as a case study. Economics students are preparing for their assessment task 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 on Stalinism as a totalitarian system. A study on Soviet Foreign Policy will highlight for students Stalin's compromise of Communist ideology. Business Studies students have completed an assessment task which requires them to evaluate the use of marketing strategies by businesses, ie Apple iPhone, to achieve goals.

Year 11: Economics students have commenced an exploration of the role of consumers and business in a market economy while Geography students are investigating Global Development and preparing for an assessment on global population. They have also completed the first stage of the Senior Geography Project. This involved submitting a proposed aim and hypothesis which they will then examine over the remainder of the course. Modern History students are preparing for an assessment on the decline of the Romanovs, focusing on formal essay techniques and question analysis.

Year 10: Geography students have recently completed a unit on geographical issues. As part of this task, students undertook fieldwork at Rose Valley on 17 February. History students are also completing an assessment task on Rights and Freedoms and the influence of Martin Luther King Jr on the issue of human rights. Elective History students are working on 'A Personality Involved in the Holocaust' and examining how these personalities worked within the Nazi regime.

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Year 9: Geography students are continuing their study of 'What Makes Australia Unique', with the current focus being weather and climate. They are also working on a Natural Hazards assessment task; recent weather and climatic conditions have provided numerous events to use as examples. History students have just completed a unit of work on the Industrial Revolution.

Year 8: Geography classes are working on an assessment task on Global Inequalities, focusing on the role of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in dealing with inequalities while History students have completed a unit on Medieval Europe.

Year 7: World Studies students have completed an assessment task on World Heritage sites and are continuing to develop their geographical and historical skills.

### **Ms Janene van Gogh, Head of HSIE**

#### Mock Trial

On Thursday 12 March, the Frensham Mock Trial team contested Broughton Anglican College in Round 1 of the NSW State Mock Trial Competition at Moss Vale. Frensham was the prosecution in a criminal matter of murder and had only circumstantial evidence, but needed to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Lee Ward was responsible for the poisoning death of Katie, the Mock Trial co-ordinator.

The team is guided by Mr Chris Jowett, a local solicitor, who has been working with the team for a number of years. The girls have been trained how to raise objections to evidence and the witnesses delivered their statements well. The team comprised: Magistrate's Clerk, Zali Steiner, Solicitor, Lucy Barrett, Witnesses, Mathilda Penton and Emily Newton. There were six additional students who were present to witness the mechanics of the trial and who will have opportunities to participate in future rounds.

The Barristers were well drilled in cross-examination and objections and showcased their skills admirably. First Barrister, Willa Robinson demonstrated her cross-examination skills and the closing statement by Second Barrister, Amelia Vidler, was outstanding in her first attempt. Solicitor, Lucy Barrett's pre-trial notes were exceptional and were acknowledged by the magistrate. Frensham lost the case due to lack of evidence, but won the Mock Trial, by 281 points to 242 - an excellent achievement. The 2014 Mock Trial team is also commended for the support offered.

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

#### **Jamieson Programme**

##### Outdoor Education Week:

All students participated in Outdoor Education Week and Senior Seminars in Week 6. Included below are year group reflections of students in Years 7–10 regarding their camping experiences:

##### Year 7:

*'It presented us with an opportunity to realise how important our local environments are and that we should all try and preserve them as much as we can.'*

*'Camp offers challenges and helps participants believe in themselves and develop more self-confidence.'*

##### Year 8:

*'Camp was a great and fun way to co-operate with others in the group through many things such as hiking, setting up camp, cooking and working in tent groups.'*

*'Year 8 camp was challenging but fun, all in one - climbing mountains, abseiling and adapting to camp life with few amenities.'*

*'I really enjoyed Year 8 camp and can't wait for next year.'*

##### Year 9:

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Practice Expedition was a 40km trek through Kangaroo Valley. It involved a 20km canoe trip along Lake Yarrunga and a 20km walk up to Meryla Pass. Some student comments follow:

*'For me the best part of the camp was getting to know new people...the expedition was great fun, but canoeing was the best part, being on the water was great and I enjoyed shopping for the food for those in our tent.'*

*'I enjoyed the canoeing most of all, as it was both physically and emotionally challenging at the time, but was incredibly rewarding once we reached our destination at Bendeela.'*

*'At camp I really enjoyed canoeing and wading in Yarrunga Creek. Although the hike was challenging, the views from the top of the mountain were amazing. Awesome!'*

Year 10:

*'School camps are experiences which come and go in the blink of an eye, yet can change so much about oneself. This year was no exception.'*

*'Year 10 camp was more challenging than last year's, but more fun. Learning to navigate by compass, we had to back track regularly, but walking at a steady pace we reached camp well before dinner time.'*



**Mr Paul Nash, Jamieson Programme Coordinator**

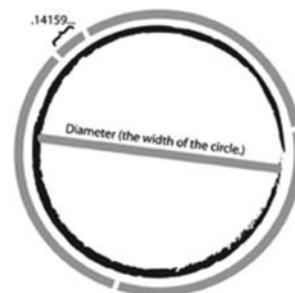
## Mathematics



Saturday 14 March was officially Pi Day. Pi ( $\pi$ ) is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Pi is a constant number, meaning that for all circles of any size, Pi will be the same. The diameter of a circle is the distance from edge to edge, measuring straight through the centre. The circumference of a circle is the distance around.

### History Of Pi

By measuring circular objects, the outcome is that a circle is a little more than three times its width around. In the Old Testament of the Bible (Kings Ch 1 v 7:23), a circular pool is referred to as being 30 cubits around, and 10 cubits across. The mathematician Archimedes used polygons with many sides to approximate circles and determined that Pi was approximately  $22/7$ . The symbol (Greek letter ' $\pi$ ') was first used in 1706 by William Jones. A 'p' was chosen for 'perimeter' of circles, and the use of ' $\pi$ ' became popular after it was adopted by the Swiss mathematician, Leonhard Euler, in 1737. In recent years, Pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits past its decimal. Only 39 digits past the decimal are needed to accurately calculate the spherical volume of our entire universe, but because of Pi's infinite & patternless nature, it is a fun challenge to memorise, and to computationally calculate more and more digits.



At Frensham, students will celebrate Pi day during Week 8 by participating in a Mathematical Pi scavenger hunt.

**Ms Sue Wymer, Head of Mathematics**

## Music

Lately, the Glenn Music Centre has been full of activity as students prepare for a succession of performance opportunities. Last week, Concert Practice allowed ensembles and individuals - including some Year 7 students - to perform a piece in front of a supportive audience.

This coming weekend, Year 10 students will be featured in the School Service and Concert as part of their Parent Weekend.

Students from every year group have been rehearsing with friends as they prepare for the annual Pop Concert on the last weekend of Term 1. On the same weekend, the Madrigals will perform at the Park Hyatt in Sydney, providing music at the wedding of Ms Sabine Madden, Coordinator of Music – Extra Subjects at Frensham. The Madrigals are looking forward to this occasion, given Ms Madden's involvement in their musical life at the school.

This week, Year 9 students travel to the Sydney Opera House to hear the Sydney Symphony Orchestra perform in a *Meet the Music* concert. They will be listening to music for 'Song and Dance' by Ravel and Strauss, featuring mezzo-soprano **Daniela Mack**.

**Mr Michael Spencer, Head of Music**

## Science

On Monday 16 March, Years 7-9 students attended an exciting presentation by Ruben Meerman, 'The Surfing Scientist'. Ruben is a surfer with a physics degree and a passion for science and education. He appears on ABC TV's *Catalyst* and as a regular guest on Studio 3. Some students may remember him as being the first ever resident scientist on Play School.

Year 7 Science classes have continued with their study of iScientist, learning how to use a range of measuring equipment in the laboratory such as measuring cylinders, triple beam balances, thermometers and stop watches. These skills have been tested in their first assessment task as well as their observation skills and ability to identify scientific equipment and follow simple procedures to complete an experiment in a limited timeframe.

Year 8 students are currently in the last stage of the 'At the Chemist' topic. They have learned about elements, compounds, mixtures, physical reactions and chemical reactions and are now applying their knowledge to prepare a range of useful chemical products such as hand cream, lipstick and bath bombs. In Week 8, they will be undertaking a practical assessment task to test the laboratory skills they have developed this term.

Year 9 girls are working on a 'Communication' topic where they have completed practical tasks investigating sound in musical instruments and the relationship between pitch and a factor that the girls have changed in building an instrument. The investigation of light, using light boxes to identify the properties of reflection and refraction and the mixing of different colours, is being used to further students' understanding.

Year 10 students are completing the study of 'Chemical Reactions'. In this topic they have been learning about the Periodic Table, writing ionic formulae, balancing equations and writing word equations for a range of chemical reactions conducted in the laboratory. On Monday they completed a Practical Task on Designing an Experiment and Data Analysis.

### Mrs Alison Andrew, Head of Science

## Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

### Robertson Show

The Show Cattle Team and selected Agriculture students had a very successful Robertson Show. On Friday 13 March, 11 Agriculture students from Years 9 to 12 attended the Robertson Show to compete in the Zone Grain and Fruit & Vegetable Junior Judging competitions. Thirty students from High Schools from the coast, Southern Highlands and Sydney region competed. All Frensham students competed in the Grain judging, where they had to judge samples of canola, wheat and barley.

Most of the Frensham representatives reached the second round. This section included an oral presentation which required them to present their findings to the assembled audience. Year 12 students, Sarah Loveridge and Tyler Smith-Mailler, were placed first and second respectively. Both students will now compete at the State Grain Judging Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Thursday 2 April. In the Fruit & Vegetable Judging, Year 9 student, Claudia Guilfoyle, qualified for the second round and was placed a commendable fifth overall.

On the Saturday, the Show Cattle Team also competed at the Robertson Show. The results were as follows:

**Lightweight steers:** 1<sup>st</sup> - *Ted* (limousin) led by Kate Gooden

**Heavyweight steers:** 1<sup>st</sup> - *Ralph* (Charolais) led by Camilla Milne; 2<sup>nd</sup> - *Rango* (limousin) led by Annabel Milling; 3<sup>rd</sup> - *Sailor* (Angus) led by Florance McGufficke

**Champion steer:** *Ted* led by Kate Gooden

**Senior Paraders 16 years and over:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Kate Gooden; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Camilla Milne

**Champion Parader:** Kate Gooden

**Junior Steer Competition:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Mia Withers; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Anna Horton

On the day, Kate Gooden also had the opportunity to practise her beef judging skills in preparation for the State Beef Judging Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Kate was named the Associate Judge during the bull, cow and heifer classes and her voice was often heard across the Showground speakers as she ably judged some of the classes.

*Qualifiers for the State Grain Judging Final – Sarah Loveridge, 1<sup>st</sup> (right) and Tyler Smith-Mailler, 2<sup>nd</sup> (left)*



## Moss Vale Show

On Saturday 14 March, the Show cattle team attended the last local Show of the season at Moss Vale. The results were as follows:

**Poll Hereford heifer 9 - 12 months:** 1<sup>st</sup> – *Talis Twilight* led by Sophie Currenti

**Poll Hereford Junior Female Reserve Champion:** *Talis Twilight* led by Sophie Currenti

**Junior Steer Competition:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Kate Gooden leading *Ted*; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Florance McGufficke leading *Sailor*; 3<sup>rd</sup> - Emily Ives leading *Condo*

**Lightweight Steers:** 1<sup>st</sup> – *Ted* led by Kate Gooden

**Heavyweight Steers:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - *Ralph* led by Camilla Milne; 3<sup>rd</sup> - *Rango* led by Tyler Smith-Mailler

**Junior Paraders 11 and under 14 years:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Annabelle Seaton-Cooper leading *Ted*; 4<sup>th</sup> – Pip Ireson leading *Kipper*

**Intermediate Paraders - 14 and under 16 years:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mia Withers leading *Juba*; 4<sup>th</sup> - Ellie Ireson leading *Kipper*

**Senior Paraders - 16 and under 19 years:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – Camilla Milne leading *Ralph*; 4<sup>th</sup> – Tyler Smith-Mailler leading *Condo*.

In one week's time, the Senior Team and the steers will spend seven days at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, the final event for the year. All steers will be competing in the following competitions: School Steer, *Ted* (Limousin) and Open Steer *Juba* (Angus); *Max* (Poll Hereford), *Ralph* (Charolais), *Kipper* (Poll Hereford), *Ferg* (Angus), *Rango* (Limousin), *Percy* (Angus), *Sailor* (Angus) and *Condo* (Angus) on Thursday 26 March and then will be auctioned later that day. Sophie Currenti, Serena Mackay, Annabel Milling, Mia Withers and Kate Gooden will be competing in the State Paraders Final on Friday 27 March.

Kate Gooden is also competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in the State Beef Judging Final on Tuesday 31 March and Sarah Loveridge and Tyler Smith-Mailler in the State Grain Judging Final on Thursday 2 April.

We offer our best wishes to all students competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

## Mrs Leonie Harris, Coordinator Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

### Sport

#### Swimming

Congratulations to all members of the Swimming Squad for their conduct and performance at last week's Annual IGSSA Swimming Carnival held in Sydney. All swimmers performed well on the day and all supporters behaved impeccably. Thank you to Swimming Coach, Jenny Balla for preparing the girls so well this season.

#### Softball and Tennis

This weekend is the final round of the Term 1 IGSSA Competition before competing in finals in Sydney. Teams which finish in positions 1-4 in both Softball and Tennis will be participating in these matches with venues to be confirmed.

We are pleased to note the preparation by Tildesley team members, travelling to Sydney for the major two-day tournament. The team is congratulated on selection:

Singles: Chelsea Pernice, Savanah Gillies, Clementine Tregoning;

Doubles: Lucinda Crichton and Nicola Wood; Olivia King and Emily Fisher; Jessica McKenzie and Lucy Widdis;

Lines Girls: Camilla Arnott, Claudia Cruikshank, Giorgi Jardine, Lucy Powell, Anna Ronald. Annabel White.

#### Football and Basketball

Trials for Senior Teams 1 and 2 for both Basketball and Football are ongoing. Trials for all teams (Year 7, Junior and Senior) will be held on Saturday 28 March. These trials will take place in the afternoon once all teams competing in Sydney have returned. Exact times for these trials will be posted on Schoolbox next week.

#### Wet Weather arrangements for Saturday Sport

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.

Means of gaining information concerning play:

**IGSSA WEBSITE:** <http://ahigs.nsw.edu.au/IGSSA.aspx>

For example:

If checking re Softball at Frensham, **TEXT** 'softball'

**SMS Weather Information:** Using your mobile phone, SMS your keyword to **1992 5465**. Messages cost 55c per message sent. Your keyword is the name of the sport and the first initial of the venue. A return SMS will be sent that gives you the status of the venue - open or closed.

## Miss Erin Gray, Acting Head of Sport

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## Equestrian News

Planning is underway for the Frensham Equestrian Training Day to be held on Sunday 14 June at Camden, prior to the 2015 Interschools Competition.

Students have been surveyed by the Heads of Equestrian about their specific disciplines and the level at which they wish to perform. This information provides an indication of the coaching needs on the Training day.

Before details of the event are finalised, a letter will be sent to parents to ensure that all the required information is to hand before proceeding further. I am foreshadowing that we will also need a team of volunteers to assist with setting up on the day at the venue. Please note that Jump Club will also be operating at Camden on 14 June and those involved with jumping will be able to access for additional practice.

Last week, Year 12 members of the Equestrian team, who competed in the 2014 Interschools Competition, attended the NSW Equestrian Awards Dinner along with Ms Gillick and Mrs Symons. The Interschools Carnival is just one of the events on the overall Equestrian Calendar. Both Gib Gate and Frensham were the Champion Schools for 2014. Madeleine Prell (Year 12) - Senior Jumping Champion; Elizabeth Taylor (Year 3) - Junior Primary Showman Champion and Hunter Taylor (Year 6, 2014) - Senior Primary Showman Champion.

In addition to these school awards, Olivia Barton (Year 10 and a member of the NSW Elite Training Squad along with four other Frensham students) was awarded Junior Athlete of the Year in Eventing.

This year, with new riders joining the school community, the Equestrian team has expanded. Recently, students have been riding at the Canberra Royal Show, local Agricultural shows and a significant number have entered the Oxley College Interschools Carnival to be held on Sunday 29 March at Araluen, Sutton Forest. Phoebe O'Connell (Year 8) will also compete in the Australian Grand National Championships in hacking on the same weekend, having qualified for this after the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2014.

Parents are encouraged to provide results from equestrian events in which students compete, if they would like these to be shared.

### **Mrs Trish Symons, Equestrian Coordinator**

## Visual Arts/Design & Technology

Accompanied by staff, Year 12 students of Visual Arts and Design & Technology visited the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo in Sydney in Week 6 to view *DesignTECH*, *Artexpress* and *Chuck Close: Prints, Process and Collaboration*. The visit provided an opportunity for students to view outstanding Major Design Projects produced by students studying Design & Technology for the 2014 Higher School Certificate. On display were both examples of sections of design portfolios and tangible products, systems or environments created by students.

Students of Visual Arts are well acquainted with the work of American artist, Chuck Close, after studying him in some detail during 2014. Known globally for his paintings, ranging from the hyper-realist large-scale portraits from the late 1960s and early 1970s, to the more expressive and colourful work from the mid-1990s until present, Close has also explored many facets of printmaking during this time. *Chuck Close: Prints, Process and Collaboration*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art, focused on this aspect of his practice. This excursion was an excellent opportunity for students to experience Close's work first-hand. It is worth noting that the experience of viewing artworks first-hand allows students to appreciate the tactile nature of surfaces, the scale of the work and the relationship it has with a space and other works around it. These aspects are not fully experienced when viewing artworks through secondary sources such as websites and books.

In class, as part of Art Criticism & History, students of Year 12 Visual Arts have been exploring the work of a selection of art critics and examining specific strategies which critics use to engage and persuade the reader. The culmination of this unit was the visit to *Chuck Close: Prints, Process and Collaboration*, where the girls made judgements about what they saw in order to produce a written exhibition review.

In the afternoon, the group visited the Art Gallery of NSW to view *Artexpress*. Featuring 39 outstanding Bodies of Work by students studying the subject in 2014, the girls had the opportunity to appreciate and note the scope and variety of themes and ideas explored and the media with which these were conveyed. The group was thrilled to view Isabella Conomos' *Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes* (Year 12, 2014) in the exhibition; having a representative artwork from Frensham in *Artexpress* certainly reminds students that showcase events are well within the range of current Frensham students.

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In addition, I would like to note that Adelaide Arnott's (Year 12, 2014) Body of Work, titled *Order (Up)*, has been part of the *Artexpress* exhibition at Hazelhurst Regional Art Gallery in Gymea. My understanding is that Adelaide delivered an artist talk at the gallery a couple of weeks ago and, impressing staff greatly, was invited to return to discuss her work on several other occasions.

**Mr Phil Alldis, Head of Visual Arts and Design**