



Newsletter

TERM 1 NO 5

Wednesday 1 April 2015



GRAND CHAMPION RIDER – Elizabeth Taylor, Gib Gate, Year 3



Property and IT Manager over a distinguished 25-year career at Frensham, Mr John Huskisson was formally acknowledged by the School in December 2014, when his impending retirement was announced. John leaves WWS at the end of term and over the past few weeks we have paused to consider and celebrate his service, accomplishment and good humour. John's example to us all has been inspirational...

Acknowledgement to:

- **Paige Wilson, Year 10** has been named in Australia's team for the Youth Commonwealth Games (Samoa in September).
- **Year 10 Parents**, for their constructive feedback via Survey Responses to the School. The Parent Survey closes on Thursday evening of this week and to date we have 55/65 possible responses;
- Phoebe **Cook (2014)** for her award of the 2014 History Teachers' Association 'American Studies' Extension Essay Prize;
- Elizabeth Taylor (Year 3), Grand National Champion Junior Rider 2015;
- The **Show Cattle** team on their outstanding success in Parader Competitions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show;
- The **Equestrian** team, Champion School at the recent Oxley Interschools event [see Equestrian News];
- **Year 10**, for their combined efforts over the Year 10 Parent Weekend;
- Isabella Barber (Year 2) and George Penn (Year 6) for their success at the **IPSHA Cross Country** and for their selection to represent Gib Gate at the CIS Cross Country Carnival at Eastern Creek next term.
- Clementine Tregoning, **Girdle** recipient (French) and Georgina Quinn, **Iris** recipient (All Round Excellence)
- **David Cornwall, Alliance Chef**, who started his professional career as an apprentice chef at Frensham in 1982. Students and Staff farewelled David in a series of special moments over the final weekend of the term, warmly appreciative of his 33 years' dedicated service.

Frensham Planning for Term 2

To assist parents with planning for Term 2: please note the special events for which further details will be sent to parents and posted on Schoolbox between now and the start of term:

- **Year 10 House allocation: Hartfield, Kennedy or Linden** (emailed to parents and posted on Schoolbox by 17 April)
- **Year 8 Latin courses** – information about the two courses offered. (All will commence the term on the core course.)
- **Year 8 Farm Management:** (Jamieson Programme): Roster commences Term 2 - details to follow
- **Year 8 Art Enrichment:** details re Term 2 and Term 3 options (after school programme)
- **Year 8/9 Production Rehearsals:** details to follow (Performance Date in Term 3: Saturday 22 August, Year 9 Weekend)
- **Year 8 Parent Weekend:** all Years 7-12 attend Sunday 10 May School Service
- **Term 2 Swim Squad** (different programme from Term 1) - details to be published this week
- **Term 2 IGSSA** Basketball, Soccer, Cross Country and Athletics – season/event dates already published; Team Selection and IGSSA Draw for Saturday matches due in Week 2 of next term
- **Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN** testing – Week of 11-15 May (See Calendar) – details in this Newsletter
- **Academic Reports for Year 12** were posted Tuesday 31 March. [Assessment Mark Reports are to be posted Monday 25 May, prior to the Year 12 Parent Teacher discussions]
- **WWS and Frensham's Birthday Weekend** (Frensham's 102nd Birthday) - dates published, details to follow re the entire weekend [See Calendar for overview] – includes Friday 29 May Year 12 Family Function
- **Year 10 Work Experience** – all dates published, details to follow
- **Equestrian Training Day and Interschools Competition** – all dates published, details to follow early Term 2
- **Frensham's July Hockey/Netball Tour** (1 x Senior representative team for both Sports) - information published to interested students: full details available from Miss Gray, Acting Head of Sport
- **Years K-11 Academic Reports:** will be completed in the final four weeks of Term 2, for posting to parents

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



Past Student News - Frensham:

- **GRACE MUSGROVE** (2010) has been selected in Australia's Triathlon Squad for the 2018 Commonwealth Games
- **SARAH HAYES** (2008) BMed MD (UNSW) completed her practical experience at Wagga Wagga Hospital. In early 2014, she spent two months at Yale New Haven Hospital (Yale University) attached to the trauma and vascular teams. Sarah is currently completing her internship at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Emergency and studying for her Masters in Medicine in Critical Care (USYD), with a career in Anaesthetics.
- **ANA DE LA VEGA** (1999) provided a magnificent end to Term 1 for students with a performance in Cooper Hall on flute, with fiancé Daniel Röhn (violinist) mid their 8-Concert Australian Tour. For details of their 14 April Concert in Sydney, see: <http://www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/id/1784>



Show Cattle Team:

L-R Ellie Ireson, Emily Ives, Mia Withers (Year 10)
Sydney Royal Easter Show (photo courtesy of Channel 9)

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 Mrs Helen Gooden Mrs Katrina Graves Mr John Hayes Mrs Sam Hickson (Sec) Mr Gavin Martin Mrs Judy Newton Mr Sam Paradise Mr John Penton (Chair) Mrs Tina Scales Mrs Melody Talbot	pipcrichton@bigpond.com jwhgooden@bigpond.com graves@jkg.net.au hayes.it@bigpond.com jshickson@bigpond.com gavin.martin@ap.jll.com judynewton5@bigpond.com sam.paradice@rbsmorgans.com jbpenton@tpg.com.au t.scales@bigpond.com melody@talbotnet.com	Mrs Rachel Arnott (Chair) Mrs Caroline Atra Dr Guy Bashford Mrs Holly de Manincor Mr Gil Downes Mr Stephen Grant Mrs Sarah Lewis (Sec) Mrs Corina Nesci Mrs Helen Pernice Mrs Zoe Suttie (Chair of FOGG)	rachelkarnott@gmail.com caroline.atra@me.com guy.bashford@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au hollydemanincor@hotmail.com gil.downes@neerim.net.au <i>on Leave</i> sarah.lew@me.com corina@ixplode.com dandhpernice@bigpond.com zoeandrobot@bigpond.com
TERM DATES 2015 ~ Gib Gate & Frensham		2015 PARENT WEEKENDS ~ Ahead	
Term 1 Thursday 29 January-Wednesday 1 April, 3pm		REMINDER: all Years 7-12 attend all *Parent Weekend Services	
Term 2 Monday 20 April-Thursday 18 June, 3pm <i>Year 10 Work Experience ends Friday 19 June</i> <i>Boarders return on the evening of Sunday 19 April</i>		Year 8 Saturday 9-*Sunday 10 May	
Term 3 Tuesday 14 July-Thursday 17 September 3pm <i>Boarders return on the evening of Monday 13 July</i>		Year 12 Saturday 30 -*Sunday 31 May WWS Birthday ~ Friday 29 May Frensham's 102 nd Birthday ~ Sunday 21 May	
Term 4 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 12.30pm (departure is after the Carol Service)		Year 11 Saturday 1-*Sunday 2 August Saturday 1 August – Year 10 Senior Studies (with parents)	
		Year 9 Saturday 22-*Sunday 23 August	
Ranier Uniform Shop			
Last trading day for Term 1: Monday 30 March (Normal trading hours – 12noon-5.00pm)		All fittings for uniforms are by appointment: Mondays and Thursdays 12noon-5.00pm	
Additional Trading Day for start of Term 2: Monday 30 April from 10.00am-3.00pm		Shop Manager: Mrs Michelle Wynn To order goods, please call the Shop: (02) 4860 2136 [BH] or email: frensham@ranier.com.au	

WWS FOUNDATION News



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

Book online: www.frensham.nsw.edu.au/wwsf-progressive-dinner

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

The Bell Shakespeare production of *'Just Macbeth'*, enthralled and amused students from Transition to Year 6 on Wednesday, - thereby finishing an eventful and exciting Term 1 on a high note. Students, with the support of their teachers, coaches and tutors have enjoyed a productive nine weeks, achieving many personal goals in the classroom, in specialist subjects and in extra-curricular experiences and sporting endeavours. Year 6 students in particular, have enjoyed a very successful term, supporting the P-5 students and the school through fulfilling their Year 6 Monitor duties with diligence and care.

Term 1 Sporting Events supported by the Sports Monitors and recent events such as the Gib Gate Charity Day, in support of the people of Vanuatu, (which raised \$744.00 for the Red Cross Vanuatu Appeal), organised by the Gib Gate Charity Monitors and this week's assembly presentation by local vet, Emma Mayprice, organised by Equestrian Monitor, Jessica Greig, were very well received and supported by students.

We offer our thanks to all the Year 6 monitors for their daily and weekly support in the Administration Office, the Preschool, the Library, Japanese, Visual Arts, Music and at Performance Assemblies as well as in the computer room. We look forward to enjoying more community events organised by Year 6 next term.

Ms Sally Robson, Head of Gib Gate

Curriculum Highlights 2015

NAPLAN 2015 – Information for Parents

The National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The content of each NAPLAN test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and Mathematics, which underpin State and Territory learning frameworks.

All students in Year 3 and Year 5 at Gib Gate will participate in tests in Reading, Writing (Narrative or Persuasive), Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy on 12, 13 and 14 May (Week 4 of Term 2). The Language Conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation. The Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data. Calculators are not permitted in the Numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a response to a prompt which will be either an aspect of narrative writing or a persuasive text.

The tests will be conducted at Gib Gate in classrooms and administered by classroom teachers in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help prepare my child for the tests?

NAPLAN tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process and do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by staff about each child. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school programme, and to encourage them to simply do the best they can on the day.

For more information about NAPLAN please make a time to talk with your child's class teacher, with Ms Robson or myself. Further detailed information is available at: www.nap.edu.au

NAPLAN 2015 timetable

	Tuesday 12 May	Wednesday 13 May	Thursday 14 May
Year 3	Language Conventions Paper: 40 minutes Writing Task: 40 minutes	Reading Paper: 45 minutes	Numeracy Test: 45 minutes
Year 5	Language Conventions Paper: 40 minutes Writing Task: 40 minutes	Reading Paper: 45 minutes	Numeracy Test: 50 minutes

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

Enrichment/Activities

Orchestra

The Gib Gate Orchestra performed at Friday's Performance Assembly last week. Students were excited to see the Wind section of flutes, clarinets and saxophone which joined the strings, violins, cellos and guitar in the group. The Orchestra rehearses each week and performed the piece, 'Fiddle Tunes'. Thank you to Mrs Zoe Suttie for her support of the Orchestra at rehearsals.

Grandparents' Day Assembly

Year 1 students performed on the violins at the Grandparents' Day Assembly on Friday. They played the *I'm like a Robot* and *Pineapple* Suzuki violin rhythms with confidence and accuracy and have been deriving much enjoyment from their weekly small group sessions. Congratulations to Year 2 musicians who performed on piano, guitar and ukulele at this Assembly.



Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a limited number of places in extra-curricular activities for next term, with many classes currently full. Please contact Mrs Graham if your child is interested in starting an activity. Classes commence in the first week of Term 2. Details of these activities are available on the Weekly Bulletin on the website.

Mrs Anne Graham, Gib Gate Coordinator (Administration)

Sport

Equestrian

This is a busy time of year for our riders with many competing in various Country Shows and State or Interstate events. We congratulate Elizabeth Taylor (Year 3) particularly, for her performances this term, including her recent win as Show Horse, Grand National Under 9 Champion Rider. After winning this event, Elizabeth earned the opportunity to ride against all the other Grand National Age champions. In an amazing feat of riding, Elizabeth as the youngest rider in the field, was crowned Champion of Champions last Saturday night, at the International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park, in a competition with other age champions including adult riders.

Cross Country

Following a very competitive Gib Gate Cross Country Carnival held at the school on 20 March, a large team was selected to represent Gib Gate at the IPSHA Carnival at the Kings School in Sydney last weekend and at the local Southern Highlands SHIPS carnival early next term.

Congratulations go to Isabella Barber (Year 2) 3rd place in the 8/9s Girls' event and George Penn (Year 6) 8th in the 12s Boys' event at the IPSHA Cross country. Both these students will represent Gib Gate at the CIS Cross Country Carnival at Eastern Creek next term.

Summer Sports

Summer Sports have concluded with the Basketball, Water Polo and Under 10 Cricket team all having enjoyable and successful seasons. Several of the Under 12 Cricketers playing in the Bowral Haddins team won the Grand Final of the Highlands District Cricket competition. Congratulations to Arlo Berry, Frankie Nesci, James Martin-Weber and Henry Rofe (Year 6) who have all contributed strongly to the team's success this season. Also, thank you to all parents, teachers and coaches associated with these teams for their dedication in developing the skills and attitudes required in these competitions.

Winter sports in Netball, Hockey and Soccer will commence over the next few weeks.

Mr Michael Standen, Co-ordinator of PDHPE and Sport

Preschool

Reception

Meet the Doctors - The Environment

The Preschool room was rearranged to promote and provoke an interest into dramatic doctor's office play. The children helped to set up their own doctor's office, stocked with a variety of materials such as x-rays, thermometers, a hospital bed, bandages, stethoscopes and plastic syringes. They used clipboards and pens to keep charts, while further developing their pre-handwriting skills. To add to their vocabulary, the words stethoscope, sling, bandages, needle, doctor's bag, blood pressure, Band-Aid, medicine, white coat and ice-pack were introduced.

Doctor Aliyah was investigating 'what is wrong with Madeline' so she can decide on the best treatment.



Transition



Gib Gate Reading Picnic

To celebrate the love of reading and to launch this year's NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, a school-wide reading picnic for staff and students from Transition to Year 6 took place. The children were encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and their favourite book to share with their friends during lunch on the playground area.

Thomas Castleman: *'I brought in my favourite book. It is a Garfield book. It is funny.'*

John Shadbolt: *'I love books about animals, especially spiders.'*

Matilda Spong: *'My favourite book is 'Where's the Green Sheep? I really like the wind sheep because it is holding a kite.'*



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

Special News

New weekly ceramics class

Due to a significant increase in demand, commencing Term 2 (from 24 April), Sturt will be offering a Friday morning ceramics class for adults, 9.00am to 12.00 noon. This new class will join the existing weekly classes on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and Thursday evening. As places are limited, we are encouraging early enrolment.

Clay for Kids

Places are still available for Sturt's weekly Ceramics Class for Kids with Julie Pennington, on Tuesday afternoons in Term 2. Please contact Sturt Shop for details.

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

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

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

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 and the printed brochure are now available at:

www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/winter-school

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



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.



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 or to make a booking or enrolment:

- call Sturt Shop on +61 2 4860 2083
- or email shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au

Mr Mark Viner, Head of Sturt

Deputy Head

Term 2 Extra-Curricular forms are now available on Schoolbox. Please note that we assume your daughter will continue with her Term 1 Music and Tennis lessons unless the School is advised of any changes. All other extra-curricular activities require a new form to be completed. If you wish to enrol your daughter in a new activity in Term 2, please complete an enrolment form on Schoolbox. Please note that there are options for swimming training in Term 2. Any changes to extra-curricular involvement need to be made in writing.

The Term 2 Calendar is also available on Schoolbox. Students were taken through the calendar on the last day of Term 1. The term includes the Year 8 Parent Weekend, the Year 12 Parent Weekend and the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday Weekend. Frensham also hosts the IGSSA Cross Country in Week 4. Years 7 and 9 will participate in the NAPLAN Tests in Week 4, Year 8 will attend a Drug Forum and Year 10 will undertake their chosen Work Experience in Week 9.

With over 350 private mobile devices now connected to the internet through the School's servers, the BYOD programme continues to expand and provide valuable learning tools for students and teachers. Responsible and efficient use of the devices continues to be the focus for Years 7 to 9. Years 10 to 12, as well of making the most of subject specific software, are increasingly relying on their device as a management and information communication tool for all their classes and organisations beyond the school.

Mr Geoff Marsh, Deputy Head

Boarding News

Three weeks of learning the names of staff and students, familiarising myself with the layout of the boarding houses and the school, meeting parents at the Year 10 Parent Weekend and generally immersing myself into life here at Frensham, have been both challenging and rewarding. I am enjoying getting to know your daughters, where they come from and where their interests lie, as they go about their busy lives here at school. I have been impressed with their friendliness, their genuine goodwill and their helpfulness.

Weekend activities over the final weeks of term have included a trip to the Moss Vale Show, swimming activities in the impressive new pool facility, evening games on the Games Field, a Clubbe Hall movie and Ville shopping trips to provide treats for the tradition of 'Bunnies' in the Houses.

On a quiet weekend in Week 7, we gathered for Sunday Evening Prayers to reflect on forgiveness and letting go:

Forgiveness

Take all our worries out to sea
To the watery depths and set them free
Imprisoned fears that quickly flee
When courage grants them Clemency.
And in the call of the waves ... I hear, I see
The white-tipped tongue of Possibility
Exploring the shores of Creativity
As the voice of Comfort pardons me,
Pardons you,
And sets us free.

Sharon Sinclair ~

We look forward to the return of your daughters next term and wish you a safe and enjoyable Easter vacation.

Driza Bone

All girls in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 have had the opportunity to pre-order a Driza Bone 'Camden' raincoat. We anticipate the garments will be available from the end of Week 2. Girls in Years 7 and 8 who would like to order will have the opportunity to do so once the first order has been received. The cost is \$195.00



Important NSW TrainLink Travel Information

If your daughter changes her return transport arrangements please call the NSW TrainLink Centre on 132232 to cancel her travel arrangements. Quote her name, school name and her pass number. All the information is on her ticket.

Please inform Mrs Amanda Wansey Deputy Head of Boarding, awansey@frensham.nsw.edu.au, so your daughter/s House can be informed.

The emergency number (for serious travel concerns) for Wednesday night (1 April) is the Health Centre: 02 4860 2107.

Mme Deborah Panaretto, Director of Boarding

Director of Teaching and Learning

NAPLAN 2015 – Information for Parents

The National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in Year 7 and Year 9 at Frensham will participate in tests in Reading, Writing (Narrative or Persuasive), Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy on Tuesday 12 Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 May (Week 4 of Term 2). The Language Conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation. The Numeracy test includes number; space algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where the use of a calculator is permitted and one where it is not. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a response to a prompt that will be either an aspect of narrative writing or a persuasive text.

The content of each NAPLAN test is informed by the national *Statements of Learning* for English and Mathematics, which underpin State and Territory learning frameworks.

The tests will be conducted at Frensham in teaching and learning spaces set up for examination purposes and will be administered by classroom teachers in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process and do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments designed and marked by teachers and all other standardised tests used by Winifred West Schools.

Parents often ask how they can support their child for the tests. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills which students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school programme and encourage them to do the best they can on the day.

NAPLAN 2015 Timetable

	Tuesday 12 May	Wednesday 13 May	Thursday 14 May
Year 7	Language Conventions Paper: 45 minutes	Reading Paper: 65 minutes	Numeracy Test: Calculator: 40 minutes Non-Calculator: 40 minutes
Year 9	Writing Task: 40 minutes		

More information about NAPLAN is available from the NAP website www.nap.edu.au

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

Director of Studies

BOSTES (Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards) has in place guidelines relating to requirements for honesty in assessments and submitted works. As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, students in Years 11 and 12 have completed the mandatory programme called *HSC: All My Own Work*.

All students must behave ethically in all aspects of assessment. This includes the following guidelines in which students:

- are responsible for completing their own work.
- are subject to normal school rules throughout the period of an assessment task.
- will follow the instructions for completion set out in the Assessment Notification.
- will not disturb the work of any other student or upset the conduct of the task.
- will not take into an assessment room any books, notes, paper or any equipment other than the aids specified by the

-
- teacher in charge
- will not seek to take unfair advantage through absence from class or school prior to the submission of work or sitting for a test item.
 - are expected to make a serious attempt in all assessment tasks.

Schools are required to prevent malpractice and ensure the authenticity of students' work, particularly with tasks completed away from the classroom. Depending on the nature of the task, this may involve students' maintaining a journal to show how their response has been developed or being required to submit the task at checkpoints along the way.

While most students would understand what cheating in an examination means, there are other types of behaviour that can lead to students gaining unfair advantage over others, sometimes inadvertently, most of which fall under the heading of plagiarism. With such ready access to online materials, plagiarism is an issue for all students when researching materials for tasks. They need to understand that just changing some of the words or the order of sentences in a passage written by someone else does not make the work their own.

Teachers work with students to support them in developing good research skills and an understanding of how to avoid plagiarism. They are encouraged to find ideas from reading and research and to use them to develop their own ideas, acknowledging the original sources. By acknowledging their sources, students show teachers the extent of the reading and research they have done and the way in which they have engaged with other people's ideas in order to develop their own.

Where students in Years 7-10 have difficulty completing assessment work, negotiation with the teacher before the due date is expected. In Years 11-12, BOSTES require, where there is no valid reason for non-completion of an assessment task, a zero mark must be recorded for that task. Failure to hand an assessment in on time will result in a zero mark except in cases of Illness/Misadventure, then the BOSTES' Policy on Illness/Misadventure will be applied. All rules regarding assessment are to be found in the Frensham Assessment Policy documents.

Ms Janene van Gogh, Director of Studies – in Residence

English and Drama

Drama

During the past fortnight, students in Drama have either been assessed on this term's unit of work or preparing for their assessments.

Year 12 has worked in groups to interpret either one of the two texts set for their study of Black Comedy into a short [six to eight minutes] performance, *Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh or Neil La Bute's *The Shape of Things*. As part of the task, students were asked to consolidate their understanding of Black Comedy in an essay, incorporating their experiential and theoretical understanding of the plays.

Year 11 has been exploring the world of Improvisation, Play building and Acting, culminating in an original group-devised performance. While playbuilding is a compulsory component of the Stage 5 syllabus, the Group Performance forms a major component (30%) of the Higher School Certificate. The more experience students have working together with a given stimulus, the more confidence they will develop.

Year 10 has been studying Realism and the work of Constantin Stanislavski which is a system of acting that has been devised for the actor to develop conviction and believability in every role they play on stage. Students have been applying Stanislavski's System to explore and interpret characters from various monologues in preparation for their assessment task in Week 1 of Term 2. Students have gained skills and confidence in this area, especially in their fortnightly sessions at lunch times with Ms Shannon in the Acting Intensive workshops.

Year 9 has investigated the world of Improvisation and Commedia dell'Arte, exploring stock characters, mask, movement and situations appropriate to the performance style. Students worked in pairs to present a collection of scenes from *Flavio's Disgrace* and added their own concetti (monologue) and lazzi (slapstick routine) to the script. Students were also asked to evaluate the performances of others and reflect on the process in their Drama journals.

Year 7 has enjoyed their Introduction to Drama, including Improvisation, Playbuilding, and Performance, and expressed a wish to continue the course for the remainder of the year. After the excitement and enthusiasm shown for the Open Day performances of *Meet the Muggle-Wumps* and *Hooray for Diffendooper Day!* students have explored the elements of drama through their own group adaptations of Shaun Tan's, *The Red Tree*. They have enjoyed working with the elements of production to bring their original creation to life on stage.

Rehearsals for *The Birthday Play, Away* by Michael Gow are in full swing and students who are involved have commented on how much they like the play.

The rehearsal schedule and script can be found on Schoolbox and all students, including those with smaller parts, are encouraged to read the play to understand the context of their role. *'There are no small parts, (there are) only small actors'* - theatre director, Constantin Stanislavski (1863-1938) of the Moscow Art Theatre.

Mrs Sally Hannah, Senior Teacher in English and Drama

English

- How do we communicate?
- Is the art of writing letters dead?
- What has endured with communication? Why?

These are some of the questions Year 11 are exploring in a unit called *Distinctively Yours*, which comprises a suite of letters from the 14th century to the present. The purpose of this unit is to examine the evolution of the letter as a means of communication/correspondence. Students are evaluating if this form of communication is obsolete in a contemporary context. The range of letters includes fiction and non-fiction personal and political texts. They are examining how the form represents ideas of time, culture and place in an evocative and powerful manner.

One letter, which both students and staff found particularly moving, was a letter written by Major Ballou to his wife Sarah during the American Civil War [1861–1865, with the loss of 750,000 young men, and the abolition of slavery.

What makes Major Ballou's letter so moving is that he is clearly torn between the love of his wife and his young sons and the duty to his country. He feels serving the cause is *the honourable thing to do*. When you read the letter, you can feel that he is reflecting deeply on his reasons. You sense that he would not like to say to his sons when they grew into adulthood – *I decided not to fight because it was too hard to leave you*. He wanted to model for them that choosing the right thing to do is often the hardest decision of all. Below is a brief excerpt.

My Very Dear Wife,

...I cannot describe to you my feelings on this calm summer night, when two thousand men are sleeping around me, many of them enjoying the last, perhaps, before that of death...

I have sought most closely and diligently, and often in my breast for a wrong motive in hazarding the happiness of those I love and could not find one. A pure love of my country and the principles I have often advocated before the people in the name of honour, that 'I love more than I fear death', have called upon me and I have obeyed.

Sarah, my love for you is deathless. It seems to bind me with mighty cables, that nothing can break, yet my love of country comes over me like a strong wind, and bears me irresistibly on with chains to the battlefield. The memories of all the blissful moments I have spent with you come crowding over me and I feel most deeply grateful to God and you that I have enjoyed them for so long. And how hard it is for me to give them up and burn the ashes the hopes of our future years, when God willing we might still have lived and loved together, and seen our boys grow up to honourable manhood around us.

My dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield it will whisper your name...

Sullivan

Major Ballou died a week later at the Battle of Bull Run on 21 July 1861. He was 32 and his wife was 24. She would live until 1917, but never remarried. They are buried together in a cemetery in Providence Rhode Island.

The opportunity to see and experience live performance is considered fundamental to a student's experience of the English curriculum at Frensham. It is through performance that we hear the poet or playwright's real 'voice', and the language and the meaning of the text comes to life in a way that it is impossible to replicate in the classroom.

'To read a poem is to see it with our eyes; to hear it is to see it with our ears' (Octavio Paz).

In Week 8, Year 9 students attended *'Home Grown Poems: The Citizenship Test'* presented by Poetry in Action at Frensham.

The hour long performance traced the evolution of Australian poetry from the bush poetry of Henry Lawson, Banjo Patterson and Les Murray to the heartbreaking suburban elegies of Gwen Harwood and the lyrics of Don Watson's famous song, 'Flame Trees'. While humorously presented around the concept of 'Australian identity', the presentation challenged students to broaden their understanding of 'Australian poetry' and to consider the canon of Indigenous poetry and poetry written by migrants from different cultures and traditions. Extracts from poets such as *Oodgeroo Noonuccal* (Kath Walker), Ania Walwitz, a Polish migrant and Stephen Nguyen, a South Vietnamese refugee, reflected their unique perspectives on Australia and their own experiences in this country. The presentation was part of an introduction to a short poetry unit which the students will commence when they return from vacation.

'We that are young shall never see so much nor live so long' (King Lear)

A performance of *'The Shoe-Horn Sonata'* was attended by Year 12 students of Standard English at NSW University in March. The performance provided girls with the opportunity to see their Module A text performed and to observe the interplay of language and visual features which are critical to their understanding of this elective and its central concept of 'the distinctively visual'. While the play is a harrowing account of the experiences of female POWs in Sumatra during the Second World War, its presentation as a 'double hander' (a play with only two characters) set in the present, and its creative use of humour, sustain the interest of the audience as the characters relive their experiences. It was also quite a surprise for the girls to learn that the actor playing the role of Sheila, the English woman captured by the Japanese as a young 15 year-old, was old girl, Julie Hudspeth [1970].

Ms Lee McGuinness, Head of English/Drama

French

The availability of Booklets/Dossiers for each Unit of work, compiled by the French Department [in PDF format] and issued as consolidation and extension materials to Years 7-12 Extension French, has facilitated the presentation of new grammar and other structures and concepts via the Interactive Whiteboard. It has enhanced the quality of teaching and learning through the increased use of technology and enables a large range of teaching and learning activities to become more interactive and engaging for all students.

Grammar PowerPoints for all year groups are also now being uploaded onto Schoolbox, to be permanently available for girls' use for revision and consolidation purposes. All students are urged to use these resources to improve their knowledge and understanding of French.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to speak with Mme Chabert on the various topics on which they focused in class this term. These range from introducing themselves in Year 7 and talking about themselves and their families in Year 8, to presenting arguments on complex issues such as racism and immigration in Year 12 Extension French.

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

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

Ninety students from Frensham have participated in the 21st annual Australian Geography Competition this week. Approximately 75,000 students Australia-wide have entered the competition, which is organised by the Australian Geography Teachers' Association and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. Geography helps students understand the world around them, and how people and environments are interconnected.



On Saturday 21 March, two teams comprising Year 10 students participated in a mock Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) event [at the Wingecarribee Shire Council Chambers] where they competed against other local schools, and debated a range of complex international issues of social, economic, strategic and environmental importance. They learnt valuable skills in the art of debate, how to think on their feet and present coherent arguments which reflect a country's contemporary position on an issue (not your own opinion). All agreed it was a positive experience and whilst it required much preparation and research, it was a fun and empowering experience. Overall, students gained a far greater awareness of the role of the United Nations as a forum for dialogue and debate on international issues, which affect us all, regardless of race, politics, wealth or religion.

The 2014 History Teachers' Association presentation for High Achievers was held at the University of Sydney on Tuesday 24 March. **Phoebe Cook [2014]**, whose History Extension topic was on the historiography of economic factors as causes of the American Civil War, was awarded the **2014**

'American Studies' Extension Essay Prize. Other recipients received awards for first and second places in Modern History, Ancient History and the overall History Extension Prize, which was based on the historiography of the representation of Macedonian History. The event was held at the Nicholson Museum and included a small number of recipients, parents and teachers.

Year 11 Ancient History students have just finished their work on the Homeric World with its emphasis on the Trojan War and the excavations at Troy and have commenced their study of New Kingdom Egypt with a Case Study on Tutankhamen's tomb. The Year 12 Ancient History class are completing a unit on the Julio-Claudians and the Roman Empire AD 14 and are looking at the themes connected with it before moving on to our Personality, Agrippina the Younger.

Eleven students of Economics continue their participation in the ASX Sharemarket Game, and their trading in shares listed on the ASX. With a hypothetical \$50,000 to invest, students have been researching public companies and learning the factors which can influence a company's share price. The game runs for 10 weeks and students are eager to see how their share portfolios will perform over this period. Recently, 12 students of Economics have been studying a number of issues, including the balance of payments, exchange rates and the impact of Federal Government trade policy on the motor vehicle industry. Students have conducted extensive analysis of the 'winners and losers' of both domestic and global trade policy.

Ms Janene van Gogh, Head of HSIE

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 life

Year 7: In Frensham Studies, students are using a map drawn by Miss Bryant (the second Headmistress of Frensham) in 1938, to determine what physical changes have been made to the School over the past 75 years.

Year 8: Four groups of Year 8 students have been involved in the Riding for the Disabled programme so far this term. Students travel to the Southern Highlands RDA site located at Fitzroy Falls and spend a morning assisting people with a disability to ride and/or work with horses.

Year 9: On Thursday 27 March, 46 Year 9 students attended the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong as part of their unit on 'Religious Studies'. Girls enjoyed the tour and informative presentations on Buddhism, as evidenced from the following student reflections:

'Today, at the Nan Tien Temple, we experienced and learnt very interesting aspects of Buddhism. The peaceful and calm surroundings were highlighted by beginning with Tai Chi, which gave us an overall insight into how the faith worked.'

'It is hard to learn a new religion... Going to the Nan Tien Temple was very informative. Buddhism is not a religion, but a belief - a belief of peace and tranquillity as well as being content with what you have...'

'From the moment we drove inside the gates, the peaceful and calm atmosphere overwhelmed us...'

Students in the Cambridge IGCSE interdisciplinary course 'Global Perspectives', have finalised their first Individual Research Project (IRP), which was due for submission last Tuesday, 31 March. The girls were given feedback by their teachers on their progress with their IRP at 'Checkpoint 2' two weeks ago. Independent Research Project # 1 will be marked by Dr Tristan Burg over the Easter vacation and students will be provided detailed feedback early in Term 2.

A group of Year 10 and 11 students prepared for a three-day Silver Duke of Edinburgh's expedition in the Royal National Park, 29 to 31 March.

Mr Paul Nash, Jamieson Programme Coordinator

Mathematics

Why do we need Algebra?

Algebra is a unique and abstract discipline. The uniqueness of algebra causes the brain to think in totally new patterns. That thinking process causes the brain to work much like a muscle. The more it works out, the better it performs on other tasks. In simple terms, algebra builds a better brain (as do other disciplines such as learning an instrument, solving puzzles, and playing certain types of games). When the brain is stimulated to think, the hair-like dendrites of the brain grow more extensive and more complex enabling more connections with other brain cells. We often hear that we use only a small percentage of our brain's

capacity; the study of algebra is a way to increase capacity.

Creative minds are usually 'right brain'-dominated people and quite often do not have an affinity for algebra. Those making an attempt to learn algebra bring themselves closer to understanding the mind of a 'left brain' person for whom mathematics, science, and often, languages are more easily understood.

In the future, it is anticipated that there will be many openings in the job market in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and possibly even a shortage of scientists, doctors, software developers and engineers. Given these circumstances, students are encouraged to pursue STEM-related fields. There are other disciplines which will help to build a *better brain*, but curriculum designers have chosen learning algebra as a universal 'brain builder', also preparing students for careers in Mathematics and Science.

'I do not believe there is anything useful which men can know with exactitude that they cannot know by arithmetic and algebra.'
— Nicholas Malebranche

Ms Sue Wymer, Head of Mathematics

Music

There have been a number of special performance opportunities for Frensham musicians in recent weeks including the Year 10 Service and Concert, the Confirmation Service and the annual Pop Concert.

Susannah Watson performed with great composure as the soloist in the anthem for the Year 10 School Service. In the concert which followed, the Year 10 music class performed a selection of ABBA songs, during which every student in the class sang a solo; Charlotte Bernays sang the beautiful song from Showboat, 'Can't Help Lovin' that Man of Mine'; Susan Chen and Shelly Mitchell performed their own improvised version of Pachelbel's Canon on two pianos; the Kennedy Strings performed the stirring theme from the Game of Thrones with Ms Benson conducting and to conclude, all of Year 10 sang and whistled a song called Home.

The Pop Concert is an in-house, Friday Night activity which never fails to delight and surprise. Performances included Year 7 students with powerful vocals or rock riffs on the bass guitar, eccentric yet moving performances from Year 9, and Year 12 students sentimentally reprising a song they performed in Year 10 featuring glockenspiel solos from Olivia Battcock and Julia McGrath.

Last Sunday, the Madrigals performed at Ms Sabine Madden's wedding at the Park Hyatt in Sydney. The quality of their singing and their sincere delight in the occasion was wonderful and the bride and groom warmly acknowledged the pleasure the Madrigals' presence afforded their special occasion.

One final very positive experience was the Year 9 music class' enjoyment of the recent Meet the Music concert. These excursions to listen to and watch the SSO performing at the Opera House provide students with the opportunity to be exposed to the highest quality art music performances.

Mr Michael Spencer, Head of Music

Science

Year 12 Biology students are completing the Communication topic, which has focused on co-ordination in animals and humans with emphasis in humans on disorders of vision and hearing, and the technologies used to overcome these. After completing a workshop last Sunday afternoon where the girls revisited some practical tasks and refined their thinking about first-hand investigations, they dissected a sheep's brain to identify the parts of a mammalian brain to draw parallels in structure and function with the human brain. The girls are completing their summaries and practising previous examination questions in order to refine their skills in answering questions and consolidate their knowledge of the topic.

Year 11 Biology students are continuing with their study of Patterns in Nature. Recent classroom experiences have included stripping Agapanthus leaves and examining the lower epidermis under the microscope to identify stomates, using celery to discover factors affecting transpiration rate and studying the use of radioisotopes in studying transport in both plants and animals. In week 8, they completed a Practical Assessment looking at organic and inorganic substances found in plant and animal tissues.

The Year 12 Physics class has been looking into the development of our understanding of atomic structure, particularly the use of cathode rays and their applications to communications devices such as television and oscilloscopes. Over the next few

weeks they will be discussing the conflicting views of the classical physicists and the quantum physicists and the eventual resolution of their conceptualisation of EM radiation.

Year 11 Physics students have just completed their assessment for the first unit where they were required to design and perform an experiment to measure the difference in speed of red and violet light as they passed through a Perspex prism. They are starting their new unit 'The Cosmic Engine' which investigates cosmology, from the beginning of the universe to the development of the solar system.

Year 11 students of Chemistry have just completed their assessment on chemical nomenclature and formulae. They are finishing 'The Chemical Earth' topic with a study into how chemical bonding affects physical properties and are starting research into the uses of metals throughout human history.

Students in Year 12 Chemistry are completing a practical assessment task as part of the 'Acidic Environment' topic. They are learning how to conduct titrations and prepare standard solutions in order to calculate the concentration of a range of household acids and bases.

Mrs Alison Andrew, Head of Science

Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

A team of 13 students and 10 steers attended the Sydney Royal Easter Show, 23-29 March. Weighing and fat scanning of all steers took place the following day and the steers were then placed into their judging classes. The Easter Show opened on Thursday, which was also the main day of judging, commencing with the School Steer Competition. Kate Gooden (Year 12) leading 'Ted', a Limousin bred by the Birubi Limousin Stud in Borambola, received a Highly Commended award in this very competitive class. The remainder of the steers then competed in the Open Steer Competitions and were led ably by their handlers. Later that day some of the steers were auctioned.

The Paraders competitions were held on Friday. Tyler Smith-Mailler leading the school steer, 'Ted', in the School Paraders Competition, was placed 4th. Those who qualified at the Kangaroo Valley Show for the State Paraders Competition, then competed in age groups. Mia Withers (Year 10) was placed 5th, Serena Mackay (Year 12) was Highly Commended and Annabel Milling (Year 11) won her age group and qualified to compete in the State Champion Paraders class.



**Kate Gooden (Year 12), with Ted
Highly Commended, School Steer**



**4th Placed School Parader,
Tyler Smith-Mailler (Year 12)
with Ted**

In addition to the individual competitions, students were also required to manage the display for the **Herdsmen Competition**. This is judged on the groomed appearance of the cattle, the tidiness, condition and cleanliness of the cattle bedding, the overall presentation, promotion, knowledge and public relations as well as the handling of the animals.

Sunday saw students loading the steers onto trucks for the next stage – the carcass competition. Results of this competition will be available on 4 April.

Kate Gooden competed in the State Beef Judging Final on 31 March and Sarah Loveridge will be competing in the State Grain Judging Final on 2 April.

Mrs Leonie Harris, Coordinator Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

Sport

Quick reminders: (as published in the Calendar)

- Round 1 of IGSSA Sport is Week 2 of Term 2 (Saturday 2 May)
- No IGSSA matches are scheduled on ANZAC Day
- There are five Rounds and one Finals weekend for IGSSA Basketball and Soccer
- No IGSSA matches played over the Long Weekend in June.

Miss Erin Gray, Acting Head of Sport

Equestrian News

A large team of Frensham riders from all year groups represented the School at the Oxley Interschools event held at Araluen, Sutton Forest on Sunday 29 March.

There were 35 schools and 101 Competitors on the Day. Frensham was the Champion School and individual results awarded from accumulated marks from all disciplines were as follows:

Year 7: Reserve Champion – Clemency Hughes

Year 8: Champion – Charlotte Lalak

Year 9: Champion – Sasha Lavender, Reserve Champion – Antoinette Inglis

Year 10: Champion – Olivia Barton, Reserve Champion – Thea Horsley

Year 11: Reserve Champion – Olivia Lalak

Year 12: Champion – Isabella Lalak

The top four scorers who contributed to the Champion School Award were: Olivia Barton (Year 10), Charlotte Lalak (Year 8), Olivia Lalak (Year 11), and Sasha Lavender (Year 9).

Sport Champion: Elysia Horan (Year 10)

The Show jumping Champions: 90cm – Emily Baldwin (Year 7); 100 cm – Olivia Lalak (Year 11); 110cm Isabella Lalak (Year 12).

The Eventing/ Derby results are still to be confirmed.

The team, led by Year 12 students who supported the event in every possible way by assisting where required, worked cohesively on the day. There was much discussion about the Training Day to be held on Sunday 14 June at Camden in preparation for State Interschools which begins on Friday 19 June. Details about this day will be sent to parents as soon as it is finalised.

Right: Phoebe O'Connell (Year 8) competed at the Grand Nationals at SIEC in the Child's Hack, riding 'Kolbeach Renaissance'. Horse and rider were placed in the top ten, in a highly competitive field.



A Different Discipline

There are many girls involved in equestrian pursuits while they are at school which showcase different skills and abilities. Julia McGrath, Vice Head of Equestrian is a passionate horsewoman and when asked about her riding shared the following story.

“I have been riding horses competitively since I was 8 years old, when I competed at my first Sydney and Canberra Royal Shows. I have been riding, competing, training, breeding and selling Australian Stock Horses for the past six years, as well as training other people's horses. The Australian Stock Horse, dubbed the 'breed for every need,' is an extremely versatile breed of horse, allowing me to compete in a variety of events. When I attend an Agricultural Show, I compete in several classes - led classes (where the horse is led and their physical attributes are judged); hack classes (specialised to the Stock Horses, and in an age-appropriate class for the horse that I am riding), and working classes (a class where the horse's agility is shown through a range of movements including galloping, flying changes, sliding stops, haunch turns, and roll backs).

At a Brach Show (run by Australian Stock Horses Members from that surrounding area), I compete in those events as well as a number of other classes such as pleasure classes, station classes (similar to an obstacle course, except not timed),

time-trials (timed obstacle courses), challenges, and a campdraft. Challenges at the events I attend are segregated into various categories: Two-Year Old Futurity, Three-Year Old Futurity, Four-Year Old Maturity, Open Challenge (all ages), Junior Challenges, and Juvenile Challenges. The challenge, depending on the age of the horse, encompasses five sections; led, hack, working, time trial, and campdraft. The winner of a challenge is determined by the number of points accumulated over the course of the challenge events. Similar events to the Brach Shows occur in the Australian Stock Horse Nationals, held at Tamworth, which attract a range of top quality horses and riders who compete for prizes and awards.

Throughout the year, I compete in NSW and Victoria from Tamworth to Werribee (one hour from Melbourne), as well as further west. My most recent competitions have been the Melbourne Summer Royal (Werribee) and Canberra Royal. Decisions as to the winners of classes/events are a judge's opinion, unlike some other equestrian events, a rider's performance in events can vary from event to event.

I compete on horses which my father and I have broken in and trained from a young age, and we are breeding a number of quality stock in the next few years to compete and sell. As I compete mostly against adult riders (except in designated under-18's classes) I have to work especially hard to ensure that my horses will perform to a similar standard.

My most recent win of note was 'Champion ANSA Horse' at the Melbourne Summer Royal (ANSA - Australian National Saddle Horse Association). In the near future, I am planning to attend the Australian Stock Horse Nationals in May with five horses, two Two-Year Olds, one Three-Year Old, one Five-Year Old and one Seven-Year old. I plan to campaign some of our home-bred horses from our stud, Snowy Mountains Stock Horses, in the future, after they have been broken in and trained to a suitable level, taking them to Ag Shows, State Shows, and National Events."

Mrs Trish Symons, Equestrian Coordinator

Visual Arts/Design & Technology

On Saturday 21 March, as part of the Year 10 Parent Weekend, artworks by Year 10 students of Visual Arts were exhibited on the stage of Clubbe Hall. As part of the first unit of work for the year, students completed reduction lino-prints based on the people, or natural or built environment of Frensham. On display were 47 prints, uniform in media and scale, but collectively featuring a diversity of colour, tone and specific subject matter. The underlying subject matter of many artists' practices is their own environment, through which they can often find deep personal relevance and connection, hence the development of this unit of work, where the students explore the environment in which they live and work.

To produce these prints, students took photographs initially across the campus. These photographs were taken on their own devices, which were then uploaded to their laptops. Using Adobe Photoshop (which students have been able to download and install onto their laptops as part of a Creative Cloud license), they manipulated imagery using a range of tools and filters to produce a draft design to be transferred to the lino block. Reduction lino-printing is highly process-driven. It requires the printing of colour layers in order, with a colour layer cut away from the lino-block before proceeding to the next colour. It is not possible to reverse the process in order to correct errors, so planning and process are paramount. The girls have been encouraged to reflect upon this process, and to determine whether a strong procedural framework 'over' the development of artworks is of value for them as they move through Stage 5.

In Year 9, Visual Arts students have completed a drawing in which they sought to achieve a sense of realism. The girls used Photoshop as a tool for the development of artworks also, increasing the tonal range of imagery, cropping initial photographic images, and re-sizing images to accommodate a 5 x 4 format grid.

The genre which students explored for this drawing was Still-Life, and specifically, they sought to reflect aspects of *Vanitas* and *Memento Mori* painting.

In the arts, Vanitas is a type of symbolic work of art especially associated with still-life painting in Flanders and the Netherlands in the 16th and 17th centuries, though also common in other places and periods. The Latin word means 'vanity' and loosely translated corresponds to the meaninglessness of earthly life and the transient nature of all earthly goods and pursuits. Paintings executed in the Vanitas style were meant to remind viewers of the transience of life, the futility of pleasure, and the certainty of death. These paintings were heavily symbolic and featured objects such as skulls, guttering candles, decomposing fruit and time-pieces to represent the brevity and transitory nature of life.

Thus, the drawings by the girls are quite dark and dramatic. They feature an image of a skull (a real example, kindly lent to us by Dr Bill Conomos, current parent), and objects such as decomposing flowers and fruit. The girls used a combination of willow and block charcoal, and charcoal pencil to complete these drawings, which increased students' skills in depicting form through tonal modelling across a two-dimensional surface.

During Term 2, examples of both the lino-prints by Year 10 and the Still-Life drawings by Year 9, will be exhibited in the Dining Room.

Mr Phil Alldis, Head of Visual Arts and Design