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“Let us look back with appreciation, forward with hope and around us with love.”

With these words, I concluded my welcome to our Foundation Day gathering of former and present students and staff, parents and special guests. Amongst them were Mr and Mrs Lyall and Mrs Bunyan and guest of honour, Mrs Elizabeth Chernov (Hopkins 1960), past student and married to the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC. This event was the first of our 90th Anniversary celebrations.

A procession of symbols by daughters and granddaughters of past students captured important elements in the life of Strathcona: its beginnings, faith, service, learning, creativity, physical activity, global connections, community, the beauty of our environment and hope for the future.

With these symbols beside her, Mrs Chernov drew on the wisdom of her life experience and took inspiration for her speech from the school motto, ‘Bravely, Faithfully, Happily’. Just twenty-five years after the school began, she commenced school at Strathcona as a five year old. During her speech she encouraged our students to move out of their comfort zone, to understand that ‘no experience, even failure, is a waste in the process of the accumulation of knowledge and wisdom’. She emphasised that having the ‘right fundamentals’ and ‘following them faithfully could help achieve goals’. She encouraged the girls’ ‘generosity of spirit’, to ‘understand the responsibilities that go with privilege’ and to seek ways to contribute to their community.

A further highlight of the service was an interview with Mrs Shirley Lowthian (Balfe 1940) who commenced at Strathcona in 1929, a little earlier than was planned. Wandering from home in Wattle Valley Road as a four year old, she would eagerly peer through the fence of the house ‘Strathcona’ to see what her older sister was doing at school. This fascination with and attachment to Strathcona has continued throughout her life. We are grateful to Mrs Lowthian for keeping the history of the early years of the School alive. She has modelled and encouraged the value of keeping lifelong connections between students.

Let us look back with appreciation, forward with hope and around us with love.
from the principal

90 years of giving our best

Our 90th celebrations continued in March with the exceptional Vintage Fair at Tay Creggan to which so many in our School community contributed. We were honoured to have present Dr Anne Summers, author of *The Lost Mother: A Story of Art and Love*. Her work brings alive Tay Creggan before its purchase by Strathcona in 1969. We were pleased to also welcome Mrs Lucilla d’Abrera, daughter of the late Constance Stokes, painter of the missing ‘lost mother’ portrait.

The Celebration Dinner on 14 June at the Manningham Centre brought present and past parents and staff and former students together again. A highlight was the launching of the new publication, *Into the 21st Century – Strathcona 2001 - 2014*, researched and written by Ms Mary Hall, a dedicated member of staff for the last 24 years. She is a highly talented and much loved teacher of Literature and Journalism and our Director of Information Resources.

We were honoured to have present Principals of two of our sister schools; Mrs Setsuko Iijima of Soshin Girls School, Yokohama, and Miss Elizabeth Wilson of Columba College, Dunedin.

As is true within our personal lives, anniversaries are certainly special in the life of any school. We are taking time to celebrate milestones whilst looking back with appreciation at what has gone before. Taking time to enjoy the closeness of relationships within our School and community are important sources of inspiration for the future.

As Principal, I have been inspired by past leaders. I marvel at the bravery of Mrs Livingstone and Miss Hughes who ventured to commence a school of their own to advance the cause of girls’ education back in 1924. What a challenging work they began with no guarantee of success. Bravely, faithfully and happily they gave Strathcona its place in the community.

While clearly far-sighted women, we wonder if they could ever have imagined the future footprint and scope of the school they created. Could they picture the opportunities that would arise with new courses of study, more and more co-curricular activities and the development of state-of-the-art facilities.

Following Mrs Livingstone and Miss Hughes’s modelling, let’s pray that as we look upon a beautiful new Learning Centre, we too can envision and look forward with hope to consider what Strathcona may become as we continue to encourage our girls ‘to be the best they can be’.

Helen Hughes

Sincere thanks are expressed by the School Board and Principal for the generous donations made so far to the 90th Anniversary Appeal.
As we approached the end of Term 1, excitement increased as the day of our Vintage Fair at Tay Creggan came closer. Generous contributions to the Fair flowed in, 700 lolly jars for the Sweet Store Tombola, hundreds of cakes, jams and preserves, pre-loved toys and clothes, silent auction items and more. Months of work by the craft group culminated in a superb array of high quality goods; food stalls were organised; the logistics were carefully planned; hundreds signed up for the rosters; and publicity was organised, including distribution of 25,000 leaflets, a four-page article in *The Age* by special guest at the Fair, Dr Anne Summers, and promotion of the High Tea and tours of Tay Creggan in the *National Trust* magazine.

Two paintings by Constance Stokes were a highlight of the day, made available by our special guests, Dr Anne Summers and Mrs Lucilla d’Abera, daughter of artist, Constance Stokes. They had both been at Tay Creggan when it was privately owned in the 1930s. Their commentary provided an informative conclusion to tours led by our students and High Tea in the Ballroom. A display of school pockets, hand embroidered by the mother of Joan Gardner (Allan 54), past student, were also a valued historical addition on the day. Haunted cellar tours stole the day for the young!

The energy and hard work of our 90th Anniversary Projects Officer, Anita Burman, was greatly appreciated, preparations including arrangements for the closure of Yarra Street to assist neighbours and for a bus to transport guests from Leonda, kindly donated by Driver Bus Lines.

Sincere thanks and congratulations go to the Fair Committee, the Stall Holders, all who helped with the logistics and all who contributed goods or helped on the day. Perfect weather also added to the harmonious village green atmosphere and a most successful Vintage Fair.

*Diana Little – Fair Convenor*

We celebrated Strathcona’s history with a display of hand embroidered school blazer pockets from the 1920s and 1930s.

Top row (L-R): Miranda Gazis and James; Yvette Egonidis and Georgia; Christie Kertes and Charlitze; Megan Boyd and Jack; Caroline Holly and Nicholas.

Bottom row (L-R): Stef Juchno with Mason, Jacob and Harvey; Judith Park with Hudson and Mitchell; Karla Ellard and Lyla.

We welcomed back from maternity leave Karla Ellard and Judith Park.

Jessica Mitton (2009), Jennifer King, Michelle Connolly, Sarah McLean, Jodie Edwards (2008) and Georgia Wisbey have replaced staff on long service leave. All have brought an array of skills and talents to enrich the teaching and learning at Strathcona.

We welcomed the following staff to the School: Sue Hymus (Hearing Impaired support), Sarah Quin (Biologist), Fiona Schwass (Integration Aid), Miriam Kael and Colleen Sosnowski (Lab Technicians), Margaret Sheldon (Advanced Learning), Jennifer Haynes (Integration Aid), Helen Sullivan (Mellor House teacher Semester 1) and Penelope Allen (Mellor House Semester 2).

We are truly blessed to have a combination of staff who have been at the School for many years and those who are with us for a shorter time or as a new addition, all contributing different strands binding together to form a plaisted weave that gives strength, beauty, consistency and continuity as we move into the next 90 years of ‘giving our best’.

*Jenni Farmilo – Deputy Principal*
the class of 2013 achieved **outstanding VCE results** with the school ranked 12th in the state.

The results reflect the commitment of the girls to their studies and the support of their teachers not only in the VCE but throughout their years at Strathcona.

Claire Stollery was Dux of the School with an ATAR of 99.85. Claire has gone on to study Arts/Law at Monash University. She was also the recipient of a Premier’s VCE Award for her studies in Global Politics.

Five students gained ATARs over 99: Sarah Chancellor-Goddard, Rachael Zhu, Charlotte McKinnon, Gemma Smith and Claire Exinger. Premier’s Awards were also received by four other girls: Katherine Butler (Food Technology), Gemma Smith (Further Mathematics), Chloe Nell (Health and Human Development) and Cheyenne Bradley (Theatre Studies). Once again, we had students represented in Top Designs and Top Acts: Katherine Butler and Annie Biggins, respectively.

A snapshot of the School’s results shows that 8.3% of ATARs were over 99, 25% of ATARs were over 95 and 50% of ATARs were over 90. Eight perfect scores of 50 were achieved, with four in English.

**Vicki Teidel – VCE/NET Coordinator**

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**Claire Chambers – Head of Food Technology**

Katherine Butler’s VCE SAT Folio was selected for display at the Melbourne Museum ‘Season of Excellence – Top Designs’ Exhibition.

The ‘VCE Season of Excellence’ is a four month festival showcasing outstanding senior secondary students work from Victorian schools. Only 14 folios are selected for the Food Technology category, so this is an outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to Katherine, whose folio theme was ‘The Establishment of the First Class menu on board Oceania Airways first Airbus A380’.

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**Megan Ha, recipient of the Inaugural Joy Buxton Award for Music, with her parents, Mrs Helen Hughes and Mr Ivor Buxton.**

**Jane Merryflees, recipient of the Barbara Green Memorial Art Award, with her parents and Mrs Helen Hughes.**

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2014 **top class**

**VCE Theatre Studies**

Three students in last year’s Units 3/4 Theatre Studies class achieved exemplary full scores for their end of year Performance Examination. Those outstanding students were Annie Biggins, Cheyenne Bradley and Madison Fairlie. Consequently, the three girls were invited to audition for Top Class, which showcases the top VCE performances in Victoria for the benefit of the current VCE cohort.

Annie’s performance piece was a pantomime with strong political clout. Annie played the character of the panto dame, which in fact is a man playing a woman. The cheekiness and allegorical nature of the piece really appealed to Annie and she worked with praiseworthy commitment and fervour on analysing the many layers of her performance. The result was an astute satirical reflection on Australian politics today.

Cheyenne chose a Greek Tragedy from the list of examination monologues. She was committed to bringing an innovative interpretation to the classic text of *King Oedipus* and recontextualised her performance into Syria 2013 when the world was first aware of the chemical warfare waged within its borders. The result was a powerful and pertinent portrayal of powerlessness and grief.

Madison Fairlie selected a famous American text *The Skin of Our Teeth* as her examination piece. This non-naturalistic play lends itself to quirky slapstick humour, which Madison relished. She comically portrayed mankind’s tendency to repeat the same mistakes.

I congratulate all three girls on their awesome achievement and particularly commend Annie who was chosen to perform her monologue at this year’s Top Class performances. In fact, Annie commenced the Theatre Studies Top Class showcase, which was a daunting but enormously exciting prospect.

**Marisa Rowlands – Head of Drama**
praise for *pippin*
the strathcona musical – a decade of bringing out their best

For the past decade the Strathcona students in Years 8 to 12 have worked incredibly hard to create the magic of the Broadway musical for the Strathcona community. From *Bye Bye Birdie* in 2005 to *Pippin* this year, the cast has raised the bar of excellence every year.

*Pippin*, staged in Strathcona’s Featherstone Hall, featured a cast of 43 Strathcona girls and six young men from schools such as Carey Baptist Grammar, Camberwell Grammar and Melbourne University. Year 12 student, Amy Cubit, was cast as the Leading Player and she reflected on *Pippin* by saying: ‘The process was so well organised and so much fun. I was lucky enough to have Mary Poppins (Verity Hunt-Ballard) come and do a one on one workshop with me. We also had Stephen Wheat from *Legally Blonde: The Musical* assist with the choreography’.

*Pippin* played to full houses each performance and was widely praised as another amazing achievement by the Strathcona girls.

Jason Parker – Director
**tay creggan’s journey**

As the Canterbury campus of Strathcona celebrates its 90th year, its Year 9 campus, Tay Creggan, has been there for just over half that time. Purchased in 1969, it was a pioneering decision by the School Board to recognise the importance of the challenges faced by adolescents in today’s diverse world. The Year 9 campus provides a dynamic setting for learning and was one of the first single year campuses for Year 9 girls in Australia.

Rich in history hailing from 19th century Melbourne, and sensitively updated with advanced facilities, Tay Creggan has always been an innovative leader in education. Its unique location allows the girls to embrace the City of Melbourne as part of their learning ‘playground’. The newly created I-Learning program utilises this with a stimulating interactive, inquiry-based and interdisciplinary experience that reaches beyond the curricular and physical constraints of the classroom.

Strathcona’s holistic educational outlook also enables the girls to understand that with their choices comes responsibility. The continued development of empathy and positive self-belief are important attributes to assist the girls to recognise the importance of the challenges faced by adolescents in today’s diverse world.

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Mr Wriedt, Mr Hamilton, Mr Kemp, Mr Morrison, Miss Hodges, and Mr Cole were the never-ending songs!), while supporting the Outdoor Education Leaders and outstanding support in designing and running the program. This experience was a droplet in a pool of reflection that we hope will ripple for years to come.

Liesl Wiedel – Outdoor Education Coordinator

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**camp to campus**

When you see tears in their eyes as they depart their friends; when you see groups with their arms around each other, listening intently to each individual; when you hear songs they’ve created together as a form of identity … this is when you know it was not just a camp.

There are no awards in such a journey, but there are rewards. There are no best players, but there is a sense of achievement that will light up your life and make you want to celebrate with those around you.

In the fresh Autumn air, among the colourful leaves and dense fog, with the occasional rain shower and the miraculous starry night skies, the Year 9 cohort ventured on a 7-day journey following the Yarra River. Beginning at Upper Yarra Reservoir and returning to the Year 9 campus, Tay Creggan, the route covered 130km of hiking, biking and canoeing along aqueduct trails, rail-trails, rapids on the Yarra, and bike paths when closer to the city.

The girls not only experienced some wonderful scenery, but took on personal discoveries, and worked together to form close ties with their group. It was more than just travel that was a challenge just in being outdoors; those who learnt how to ride a bike. There are girls who set their own bar to soar over, using their independence to lead their group and take on further responsibility. Some surprised themselves with their initiative – one group making a cheese sandwich and setting it in the cold waters of a stream! Others beat their personal best packing time in the morning, or simply stayed dry and comfortable. No matter whom you speak to, they have made some small achievement – something that they are proud of, and will take with them to remind them in the future that they might just be able to reach beyond what they can imagine.

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Congratulations to all the Year 9s who undertook the Camp to Campus, as well as the staff who volunteered their time to endure the miles (and the never-ending songs!), while supporting the girls – Mr Wriedt, Mr Hamilton, Mr Kemp, Mr Morrison, Miss Hodges, and Mr Cole were among the stoic few. We extend our gratitude to Halls Outdoors who provided excellent outdoor education leaders and outstanding support in designing and running the program.

This experience was a droplet in a pool of reflection that we hope will ripple for years to come.

Liesl Wiedel – Outdoor Education Coordinator
Our School’s 90th Anniversary was well celebrated in the Early Learning Centre when Mrs Hughes was guest of honour at a special morning tea. Many of the children were wearing their special 90th Anniversary badges as they enjoyed cupcakes with the Principal.

Mellor House girls love to give their best and the month of May provided a number of opportunities for our girls to do just that. Our auditioned choir, the Mellor House Singers, and our Junior Orchestra both entered the Boroondara Eisteddfod. Mellor House Singers progressed through to the final of the competition and gained second place. In their heat, they performed two songs; both complex and challenging and demonstrating contrast of style. The girls were extremely well presented, wearing their uniforms beautifully and looking every inch confident Strathcona performers.

Our Junior Orchestra also presented as a well prepared and highly skilled unit. To play at the level they did, they had obviously devoted a lot of time and focus into their preparation at school and at home. When learning to play an instrument, so much time is spent alone or just with the instrumental teacher. When the girls gather together to rehearse and perform as an orchestra they enjoy all of the benefits of being in a team of people, sharing common experiences and a love of music.

The top ten finishers at each age level of our House Cross-Country Carnival were invited to represent Strathcona at the Divisional Championship. Once again, our girls demonstrated great spirit as they competed against the best runners from a number of other schools in our district. Congratulations to Rianna Thiele and Rebekah Rome for finishing in the top ten of their events and receiving an invitation to run at the next Carnival.

Our playground gained five boxes of splendid Strathcona-inspired colour thanks to Pauline Eccleston and Wendy, who planted dozens of vivid yellow tulips with contrasting blue flowers underneath. The girls loved the splash of colour and watching the gradual changes the flowers progressed through over a number of weeks. Art classes made the most of the blooms, with many girls creating their own version of the flowers on paper with pencils, paints and inks.

Sitting alongside the tulips was a crowd of ‘Hairy Harrys’. These soil-filled, seeded and decorated Harrys were creations of the Prep girls with a bit of help from their Year 5 buddies. Starting off as bald, the Harrys gradually grew green hair thanks to the sunshine and regular sprinkles of rain. The Preps compared the hair growth to other Harrys that were starved of light, water or soil as part of their science experiment and learning.

Chris Phyland – Head of Mellor House
The swimming season started strongly and momentum in training was maintained leading to great results. On 28 February, the Strathcona Swim Team placed third overall with some tough competition against MLC and Korowa in the Preliminary Carnival. This placed Strathcona in Division 2 for the Championship Carnival held on 18 March. A selective group of swimmers also represented Strathcona in the All Schools Championships where some great results were achieved by all. Many girls competed in the Girls Sport Victoria Finals night on 23 March, successfully achieving personal bests. The Year 12 Freestyle Relay team placed 2nd and 3rd in the Medley Relay, the Year 11 Freestyle Relay team placed 2nd in their Medley Relay, and the Year 8 and Year 9 Freestyle Relay teams placed 2nd. Strathcona finished the night with 15 medals placing 4th out of the 20 schools competing.

With swimming training taking place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, the girls trained hard. Relay training in the morning has also taken place where girls have been able to learn new skills in order to improve efficiency when relay changing. Focused on each upcoming competition, the girls were able to bond as a team and support each other across the year levels. With all the effort and enthusiasm contributed by the girls they were able to finish the swim season with outstanding individual and team results.

All girls are congratulated on another competitive and successful season!

Laura Seddon & Lauren Dubar – Swimming Captains 2014

March provided stunning weather for the Kayaking All Schools Championships. Held at Essendon Canoe Club, the event welcomed schools from around Victoria to compete in various boat classes in either the Sprints or Marathon Races. Following a dry spell in competition from Strathcona, this year did the Kayak Team proud with its 16 entered students, and its four medal winners.

All of our entrants were new to racing but took on board many tips from our new coach, Sophie Young, as well as helping each other throughout the weekend, to ensure it was a fun and memorable experience for all.

In the 200m Sprints, two doubles made the finals: Getta Napier and Audrey Tandiokusuma, and Louise Blair-West and Eliza McPhee. The Marathon event on the Sunday provided a new level of competition and endurance for the girls, particularly in windy conditions! In the TK2 class, Audrey and Getta raced together again and won Gold in the 8km race, while in the 6km race, Emily Clegg and Kate Leyden paired up to win Bronze.

It was a wonderful achievement for the girls, and sparked a new-found concentration and drive in the following training sessions. Thank you to the new coaches, Sophie Young and Jen Stevens, who have been dedicated and enthusiastic members of the squad. The team is looking forward to entering some of the Winter Series, and participating in the Ben Ward Memorial race over a weekend towards the end of the year.

Liesel Woods – Outdoor Education Coordinator
interest in the sport continues to rise, with over 100 girls participating in the rowing program over the season. We have come a long way from our inaugural season in 2007 where just two crews competed at the Head of School Girls Regatta. This year, there were 17 crews competing and the results were the best ever with 15 crews reaching the semi-finals and seven crews competing in A Finals. Special mention must go to the Senior Squad with all of their crews making it through to the A Finals. Strathcona walked away from the HOSG with two Silver medals and one Bronze medal. There was also great success in the lead up regattas with our squad winning 15 Gold medals.

In late March three crews competed at the Sydney International Rowing Regatta, featuring the National Championships for schoolgirls. All crews performed exceptionally well, with the Senior Blacks making the A Final against the best 28 schoolgirl quads in the country.

This success can be attributed to our outstanding coaching team led by Jackson Harrison and Jordan Smith, as well as the support of Mrs Hughes and the School Board and the wonderful work of the Friends of Rowing Group.

Thanks to our Captains, Isabel Duyker and Annie Biggins, for their leadership and support of the squad over the season, for bringing all of the girls together as one and for their part in making rowing an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all. Thanks also to the parent group who volunteered for tasks and most importantly provided wonderful support at the regattas.

The great feature of Strathcona Rowing is the team spirit that has been created across all levels. The girls have enjoyed their rowing experience on a number of levels – the great friends that they have made, being fitter than ever before, as well as pushing themselves to new heights, developing self-discipline, building resilience and giving their best in what is a very challenging but extremely rewarding sport.

During 2014 there will be opportunities for girls to join the rowing program, with an entry point in Term 3 for Year 7 girls to cox and for girls Year 8 and up to row. There is also an opportunity for parents to learn to row. If you are interested in getting involved in the Strathcona Rowing Experience, please send an email to mcornwell@dealcorp.com.au for more details.

Michael Cornwell – Director of Rowing

On 14 February 2014, the Year 7s traded their summer dresses for their bathers, and headed down to Phillip Island by bus for an early start. It was the very first Year 7 Surf Day. The excitement in the air could be felt by each and every one of the squealing students as they disembarked the vehicle. As soon as the safety rules were stipulated, the girls suited up and slopped on some sunscreen before venturing down to Phillip Island’s churning waves, hoisting their surfboards up onto their shoulders.

No-one could wait to run into the water, but of course, you can’t surf if you have no idea how to, which was the case for some, so the students took a crash course on the sand. When they finally ran into the waves, they certainly made the most of their blissful time in the surf, catching countless rides. There were thrills and spills, but they all thoroughly enjoyed their surfing experience.

After the students were all in their navy and yellow sports uniforms again, they headed off to Phillip Island’s environmental park, where they put their woodwork skills to the test by building wooden bird boxes. The girls were then given a brief tour of the park. Though time was short, they did get up close and personal with an adorable koala. At the end of the day, the students were exhausted but they could not wipe the smiles off their faces. Herding back onto the bus, the girls made their way back to Strathcona with sand in their hair and memories to treasure in their minds.

Juliette Milne – 7A

Early this year, Year 7 girls spent a day appreciating nature at its best and bonding with their new classmates and teachers. Part of the day was spent either learning or brushing up on our surfing techniques whilst enjoying the challenge nature put to us. The second activity involved giving back to nature by helping out with eradicating weeds from the environment and building bird boxes. This day encapsulated both being and giving our best, as noted by one of the Year 7 girls, Juliette Milne …

Michelle Holding – Year 7 Coordinator

Year 7 ‘hang ten’
Our Social Service Captains, Jessica Stewart, Hilary Farmer, Phoebe Stewart and Molly Young, enthusiastically commenced this year with an earnest desire to raise awareness about the United Nations Eight Millennium Development Goals (www.un.org/millenniumgoals) and to associate these with several charities supported by our fundraising efforts.

Early in Term 1, Joyce Odame, Program Manager for Child Rights at International Needs (pictured below centre), spoke at Main Campus and Tay Creggan to enlighten girls about the work of International Needs in the alleviation of the sexual exploitation of children in Ghana. Joyce is particularly involved in providing counselling, STI/HIV testing, education and social support, and the education of children.

Strathcona has held an annual Helptathlon to raise funds for the School of St Jude, in Tanzania, since it first opened over ten years ago. The School of St Jude's objective is to provide free, high-quality education to children who due to poverty and social pressures often do not have an opportunity to receive an education. As this year was our 90th year, the Social Service Captains organised a fundraising event that featured a vintage theme. Traditional games such as sack races, egg and spoon races, hopscotch, passing the orange, quoits and skipping were organised for girls from Years 4 to 8. This year the girls began the Helptathlon with a sausage sizzle and picnic enjoying hundreds of sandwiches and cordial. Many girls wore a colourful array of vintage hats. Following the Helptathlon, Alice Daniels was presented with the 2014 trophy for her substantial individual fundraising effort.

This year the Social Service Captains creatively organised a stall for the 90th Anniversary Fair. Several senior girls donated their pre-loved clothing to raise funds for the Solomon Islands. This benevolent effort was personally and financially worthwhile and many buyers were delighted by their purchase. Other fundraising efforts during Semester 1 have been the casual dress day for the Berry Street Child Institute, the Easter Service offering for the Good Friday Appeal, the Year 9 Daffodil Dash for Cancer Council Victoria and contributions to ‘We Can’t Wait’, a venture to improve sanitation in schools in India.

Rhonda Burns – Chaplain

Nicole Hahn at Zaatari Refugee Camp, Jordan.

Nicole Hahn
BEng (Honours)

Nicole graduated with Honours from Monash University as a Dean's Scholar in the Faculty of Engineering. After graduating, Nicole worked with indigenous communities in the Northern Territory for five years, managing programs to improve welfare, education and health.

After providing volunteer aid work beyond Australian shores, it was a natural progression for Nicole to embark on a full-time career in Emergency Engineer Relief work through RedR, Unicef and Red Cross. She has been involved in many of the immediate aid responses to natural disasters or man-made crises in the last decade. This work has taken her to East Timor, Swaziland, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Haiti, Liberia, The Philippines, Samoa, Fiji and, most recently, Syria to work as a water and sanitation officer.

Nicole is currently working for RedR as the UNHCR Site Planner and Technical Officer for the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan. She is responsible for site planning, engineering services and coordination of infrastructure delivery within the refugee camp housing over 120,000 refugees.

Nicole works in challenging and often extreme conditions, bringing water to those without, providing a safe haven to desperate refugees, reconnecting fragmented and lost families, and creating sanitation for masses of displaced people.
Births
Catherine Bezemer (Lamont ‘95) and Mark, a daughter, Charlotte Holly on 30.10.13. A sister for Grace Ava (4 years) and Jesse Oliver (2 years). Another grandchild for Lyn Bezemer (Osborne ’53).
Merrin Blashki (Cole ’96) and Simon, a son, Toby Simon. A brother for Eliza and Kate.
Lucy Cote (Dear ’03) and Rene, a son, Lachlan Oliver on 11.12.13.
Jacinta Marlborough (Cullum ’95) and Michael, a son Cole Cullum on 03.02.14. A nephew for Alexia Milne (Cullum ’97), a cousin for Zandria and Azalea, and a great-nephew for former staff member Shane Turnley (Hancock).
Sally Sutherland (Tippett ’92) and Ross, a daughter, Liliana Mac on 18.11.13. A sister for Finn and Hunter.
Bronwyn Dunn (Hill ’98) and Evan, a daughter Erica Imogen on 20.04.13. A sister for Freya.
Shannon Percy (’98) and Kim Noakes, a son, Oliver Percy Noakes on 08.07.13.

Engagements
Suzanne Clarke (’92) engaged to Brad Henderson on 30.09.13. Wedding to be held in 2014.

Marriages
Pauline Collins (’94) married John Opie on 12.04.14 at St Ignatius, Richmond and celebrated afterwards at The Pavilion, Fitzroy Gardens.
Hilary Prowse (’04) to Tom McLeod at Xavier Chapel on 09.06.13 and afterwards at Quat Quatta.

Vale
Stephanie Berry, past staff member, passed away in August 2013. Stephanie taught Maths and Science in the 1980s and 1990s. She passed away after a short illness.
Allison Bourke (Bethell ’66) passed away suddenly on 3 December 2013. She attended Strathcona from 1961 until 1965, then went on to study nursing. She leaves behind four children, Anthony, Julia, Nicholas and Sarah, and three grandchildren, Isabella, Amelia and Alexander. She will be greatly missed by all.
Marj Poulton, past Mellor House Teacher, passed away in February 2014. Marj was a much loved Prep Teacher and is remembered for her involvement with the establishment of the Year 12 Rose Ceremony with the Prep girls.

Fiona Owens (Kelly ’85)
It is with deep sadness that we share the news of Fiona’s passing on 17 April 2014. Fiona is very fondly remembered by staff and fellow students. Always cheerful, generous and kindhearted, she participated fully in the life of the School and was elected Deputy Captain in her final year. Fiona attended the University of Melbourne where she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1989, majoring in Criminology and Social Work, and then returned to study, graduating with a Bachelor of Nursing from LaTrobe University in 1998. Amidst her love of family, friends, travel, music, languages, food, wine and great coffee was her deep love of helping others.
She made lifelong friendships at Strathcona and this gift continued throughout her life. Her happy, optimistic and caring nature, plus her wonderful listening skills endeared her to everyone she met. Throughout her illness she lived with remarkable courage, positivity and strength, determined to make every day count. This adversity she accepted with quiet dignity and grace. Her beloved husband, Owen, and her much loved and loving mother and father, Rae and David, and sisters, Jane and twin sister Sally, have our deepest condolences.
Fiona will always be remembered with love and friendship.

Salina Lin (’09)
It is with great sadness that we share the news of Salina’s sudden and tragic death. She was a quiet and unassuming international student within our community. She will be remembered by staff and her Year level as one of our own. Our deepest condolences go to her family and good friends.

Joan McPherson
We have been greatly saddened by the loss of Mrs McPherson. She was a dedicated member of the administration staff, committed to supporting staff and students for 28 years. Her integrity and professionalism, along with her gentle, reassuring manner will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. The Thanksgiving Service for the family, staff past and present, parents and students was held at Tay Creggan on 18 June.

2014 OSA Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 2 September, 7.30 – 8.30pm
Senior Centre Gallery, Canterbury Campus
All Welcome!

Strathcona Medal 2014
The Strathcona Medal will be awarded at Presentation Night 2014. It will be presented to an Old Strathconian and will be given in recognition of excellence in a profession and exceptional service to the wider community in the spirit of the School motto, ‘Bravely, Faithfully, Happily’.

For further information on the process of nomination, please write to:
The Chair of the Strathcona Medal Committee
Strathcona BGGS
34 Scott Street, Canterbury, Vic 3126
OR email admin@strathcona.vic.edu.au
OR visit www.strathcona.vic.edu.au/OSA
by 15 August 2014.

OSA General Excellence Scholarship 2015
A half scholarship (40% of tuition fees) will be offered to a daughter, granddaughter or family member of a past student of Strathcona for tuition in Years 11 and 12.
The scholarship is open to a current or new student to commence in 2015. The recipient will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement and wide co-curricular involvement.
Applications close 5pm on Friday 29 August 2014.
For further information contact Joanne Wilson on 8779 7500.
what are they doing now?

**Marlena Ahrens (’09)**

After graduating from Strathcona in 2009, Marlena completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Human Anatomy. She is now in her second year of studies for a Doctor of Physiotherapy degree. Apart from her studies, Marlena has excelled in kayaking. Beginning the sport in Year 9 and participating in the Murray River Marathon, Marlena built on her talents and twice represented Australia at the World Cup and World Canoe Marathon Championships before finishing school. She has now competed five times for Australia overseas and will again travel to the World Championships in Oklahoma City, USA in September this year, the result of placing 1st in the Under 23 event over 27km in the selection trials at Lake Wendouree over Easter.

Sisters Naomi (2007) and Sophie Johnson (2009) also competed at these trials, placing 5th in the Under 23 field and 3rd in the Open, respectively, and then 4th in the Doubles event.

**Panagiota Kakridas (’06)**

I was a Strathy girl from Prep until Year 12, with the exception of a few years in the middle, and I loved every minute of it! Apart from some amazing friendships, the highlight for me was Year 12 which was overwhelming and hectic, but a fantastic year of celebrations. My advice to future students is to try every class or activity until you find what you enjoy, and if you have a dream career or goal, it’s never too late to go for it!

I knew in Year 12 and before that I wanted to study medicine, and the support I received from faculty was overwhelming – from UMAT advice, to assistance with applying to universities interstate, to correcting the multiple practice exams I somehow found the time to do – nothing was too difficult!

One thing I loved about Strathcona was how the school encouraged everyone to get involved and wasn’t too competitive – I always loved Debating, Drama and Food Tech, and there was a chance to try so many different activities that everyone found their niche. There was a strong focus on social service and leadership activities, and I think the values instilled in me from school have helped shape my character today.

Since secondary school I have completed a five year Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery degree at Monash University, and I’m now a second year doctor working at The Alfred Hospital.

Although I was quite set on studying medicine, I still took French and was able to go on the France tour in Year 11 and quickly caught the travel bug! I took a gap year halfway through my university degree, and as well as backpacking around Europe and North America, I also had the opportunity to visit Taiwan on a medical students’ conference, did an elective working in a hospital in Cape Town, and completed a disaster medicine course in Berlin. In Taiwan I visited a community of people with leprosy, and was able to fund some new rehabilitation equipment for them with the help of the Old Strathconians Association!

I do not think I would be where I am today without the well-rounded education I got at Strathcona and I can’t wait until the ten year reunion!

**Rebecca Gumley (’08)**

Flying Officer Rebecca Gumley is part of the 400-strong Australian Defence Force Operation Slipper team stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan. The task force is involved in security as well as training, advising and helping the Afghanistan National Security Forces keep control. Rebecca is part of a 24-hour surveillance of enemy activity.

Rebecca was keen to pursue such a career and gained a place at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra immediately following her VCE.

Once again, Strathcona played in the annual Inter-school Golf Challenge Cup at Woodlands Golf Club. A total of 120 women golfers representing 30 schools competed for the prized trophy.

Strathcona was strongly represented by former students Meredith Doery, Heather Anderson, Prue Moodie and Sue Cudmore.

Special congratulations to Prue, who finished with 40 stableford points and won the prestigious Kitty McEwan trophy for best result in A Grade.

This year’s cup winner was Korowa, with Strathy finishing a creditable midfield. The event raised over $4,000 for the children’s charity Cottage by the Sea.
reunions

upcoming reunions

40 Year Reunion – 1974 Year Group
Saturday 16 August 2014, 7 – 10pm
Venue: Tay Creggan. Price: $50
Enquiries to Elisabeth Chalmers on 8779 7516
important dates

90th Anniversary Gala Concert
Tuesday 12 August 2014 at 7.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre
Price: $25 (full) or $20 (concession)

Soshin Japanese Tea Ceremony
to launch the Annual Charity Weekend
Thursday 21 August 2014 at 4pm
Featherstone Hall
Price: $25

90th Anniversary Strathcona
Annual Charity Event Weekend –
The Cancer Council Victoria
Friday 29 – Sunday 31 August 2014

Farewell to the Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes
Friday 5 December 2014 at 6.30pm
The Garden Room, Leonda by the Yarra
Price: $40 per head (refer flysheet)

Presentation Night
Monday 8 December 2014 at 7.30pm
Hamer Hall