Strathcona says ‘Thank you’
As our 90th Anniversary year draws to a close, we have much to take pride in as our teachers and students have worked together to build on the fine tradition of excellence and care, and our School community has joined together to celebrate.

2014 principal’s perspective

Whilst reflecting upon this 91st Annual Report and ways to introduce it, my thoughts naturally spanned the 14 years that I have been in leadership at Strathcona. I begin with sincere thanks for the privilege given to me to take up the role of Principal by the School Board in 2001. At that time Reverend Angas Holmes, who sadly passed away this year, chaired the Board. In the first six years of my Principalship, coming to know Reverend Holmes was a highlight. I developed both affection for him and respect for his wisdom, insight and deep faith, and his trust in me meant that I was able to mature into the role well guided.

I express gratitude to the Board Chairs who have followed Reverend Holmes, namely Dr Timothy Day and Mrs Laurinda Gardner, and their Boards. Our relationship has always been thoughtful, respectful, open, mutually supportive and constructive, underpinned by a common goal of progressing the School that we hold dear.

In my first address to the staff, I presented my views on ‘what really matters’ in the life of a school:

- the pursuit of excellence by all in every endeavour, through hard work and the development of resilience in the face of obstacles and setbacks
- to offer learning that encompasses the complete life of the student, both academic and co-curricular, in an educational setting that is innovative, interesting, rigorous and collaborative, to provide engagement and purpose
- to ensure complete professionalism in all aspects of work practice and in building collegiate relationships and reputation within both the School and in the wider educational community
- to give the best in pastoral care, built on a strong Christian faith base, to engender in young people the values and attitudes to enable them to become responsible contributors to the community
... it is the children and their wellbeing and development that are at the heart of education.'

The concept of 'expansive education' to cultivate 'powerful learners' has in the last 12 months succinctly expressed what I and the staff recognise as the way of the future for teaching and learning. This encapsulates the creative directions taken by our staff over a number of years to engage our teaching and learning. This encapsulates the creative directions to which students' psychological capacities can be stretched and strengthened. Teachers are increasingly seen as coaches of the capacities to think and learn, more disposed to adapt and change aspects of their teaching methods to ensure that what they are doing is leading to improvements in students' learning. The role of the Advanced Learning Centre in both the Senior School and Junior School, under the leadership of Dr Charlotte Forwood and Caroline King, has been significant in resourcing teachers and students. Similarly, the Information Resource Centre, led by Mary Hall and leadership in Learning Technologies, most recently by Dr Tim Kitchen and Adrian Janson, have ensured the development of a sequential program for technology and research skills. The underpinning of all of this, with the best in IT servicing under the leadership of David Young cannot be underestimated.

Pastoral care has been a passion of mine for the whole of my career and I am pleased that this has remained very strong at Strathcona. Having staff who identify with this has been essential in maintaining the culture of our School. I have greatly appreciated the work of Terri Oprean, Dean of Students, Deputy Principals during my time, Margaret Devlin, Lyn Wheat and Jenni Farmilo, the extensive network of Form Tutors and class teachers, and the role of our School Psychologist, Kerri Rhodes and Chaplains, Rhonda Burns and Bronwyn Arnott in ensuring the wellbeing of our students.

The co-curricular area has been of particular interest. We recognise that this is the area that will build many students' self-confidence, teamwork and leadership capacity, whilst enhancing their talents in sport, music, drama, debating, public speaking and more. Such a program takes a whole school commitment and we have had this with each teacher contributing to and supporting the program. Great satisfaction and enjoyment have come from the various activities. As will be true for me, I imagine the big competitions and performances will remain great memories for many students.

With an increasing global emphasis in education, the International Links Program has been significant in providing opportunities for experiences overseas and increased cultural understanding through opportunities for hosting visiting students. I am greatly appreciative of the long-term commitment of Diana Little to this endeavour and the generosity of our families and staff who have supported the exchanges, tours and hosting. New relationships will develop over time, and I am particularly pleased that new connections with schools in India and Chile are evolving.

The extent to which the design, beauty and aesthetics of a school and the quality of its resources can influence learning is well recognised and has also been a focus for me. I have counted more than ten developments undertaken since 2003. Some have been small, others extensive and this has culminated in the development of the new Learning Centre, perhaps the most exciting project of all. With additional work planned for a new Year 10 Centre, VCE/Careers and Counselling Centre and a new Advanced Learning Centre, every part of the Main Campus will have been reworked.

1 A term used by Lucas, Claxton and Spencer, in their 2013 publication, Expansive Education - teaching learners for the real world. (ACER Press) to reframe the way we see education and use language of expansiveness to help activate new ways of thinking about school.
Each change has been valued and enjoyed and I thank the staff and students who have been the ones to generously accommodate the stages of relocation necessary to enable these developments to occur.

‘Apart from first-rate facilities, it is ultimately the capacities and qualities of individuals which make a school a special place.’

Our staff

Apart from first-rate facilities, it is ultimately the capacities and qualities of individuals which make a school a special place. I express my sincere thanks to all staff, including teachers, teacher assistants, support staff, administration and property staff, past and present, who have worked with dedication. Many have worked alongside me throughout the last 14 years and all their cooperative efforts have helped to make Strathcona the cohesive place that it is. I have worked closely with those in positions of responsibility and I sincerely thank them for their consummate professionalism and their strong sense of team, interacting always with respectfulness, sensitivity and dedication to the development of the students and the advancement of the School. I make particular mention of the following staff who have each worked very closely and productively with me: my Deputy, Jenni Farmilo; our Deans, Terri Opcean and Ross Phillips; our Business Manager, Richard Sallows; our Campus Heads, Chris Phyland and Geoff Wriedt; ELC Coordinator, Heather Henson; our Director of Enrolments and Marketing, Jo Wilson; my Executive Assistant, Irene Weiser; and Property Manager, Adrian Ammerlaan.

The names of those who have assisted us this year and others who are concluding their time at Strathcona this year are also listed. I mention fondly and honour the memory of dearly loved Student Services administration staff member, Joan McPherson, who passed away in June. I also sincerely thank Les Cole, Print Services and Academic Publications, and Janice Peterson, Tay Creggan Receptionist, who are each concluding their time with us at the end of this year after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the School and great care for the staff and students. My thanks go also to Geoff Wriedt and Lucinda Thom, concluding their leadership at Tay Creggan, and Scott Pannam, concluding ten years of service as Year 12 Coordinator.

As you read this Annual Report, the dedication of our staff to the students will be evident. Also apparent will be their commitment to their own learning and professional involvement which in turn influence the calibre of the work undertaken by the students and their achievement.

I highlight with gratitude the following groups of staff:

The School Executive

Deputy Principal, Mrs Jenni Farmilo
Business Manager, Mr Richard Sallows
Dean of Students, Ms Terri Opcean
Dean of Studies, Mr Ross Phillips
Chaplain, Mrs Rhonda Burns
Head of Mellor House, Mr Chris Phyland
Head of Tay Creggan, Mr Geoff Wriedt

Directors of whole school areas

Director of Learning Technologies, Mr Adrian Janson
Director of Information Technology Services, Mr David Young
Director of Information Services, Ms Mary Hall
Director of Enrolments and Marketing, Mrs Jo Wilson

Heads of Departments

Mrs Pam Allan ................................................. Compass Award Coordinator
Ms Sandra Arntz ............................................. Local Primary School Coordinator
Mrs Bronwyn Arnott ..................................... Debating Coordinator
Mrs Diana Little ............................................ International & Interstate Links Coordinator
Mrs Robyn Dunoon ................................. Careers Advisor
Mrs Charlotte Forwood .............. Leader of Advanced Learning
Ms Judy Gough .............................................. Chief of Staff
Ms Katherine Harrington ...................... Assistant Timetable/Daily Organiser
Mrs Heather Henson ................................. ELC Coordinator
Mrs Annette Holtshcke ........................................ Timetable
Mrs Carolyn King ....... Mellor House Leader of Advanced Learning
Mrs Diana Little ......... International & Interstate Links Coordinator
Mr Geoff Little ...................... Deputy Head of Mellor House
Mr Matthew Morrison ...................... Reporting Coordinator

2014 principal’s perspective
In 2014 we welcomed the following new staff to Strathcona:

Ms Sue Hymus — Counsellor/Hearing Impaired Support Teacher
Ms Mirian Kael — Laboratory Technician
Ms Colleen Sosnowski — Laboratory Technician

Staff who have fulfilled contract positions this year for various periods of time:

Ms Penny Allen  Ms Marianne Black
Ms Michelle Connolly  Ms Laura Cutri
Ms Jodie Edwards  Ms Michelle Hodges
Ms Melissa Jones  Ms Eve Jozsa
Ms Jennifer King  Ms Sarah McLean
Ms Jessica Mitton  Ms Cathy Nowland
Ms Melissa Patel  Ms Bianca Privitera
Ms Sarah Quin  Ms Catherine Riley
Ms Dimitra Sanettis  Ms Margaret Sheldon
Miss Helen Sullivan  Mr Arnaud Vendroux
Ms Cathie Waldron  Ms Robyn Westwood
Ms Georgia Wisbey

Staff on maternity/family leave in 2014/2015:

Ms Miranda Gazis — Year 8 Coordinator/English (returned Term 3, 2014)
Ms Yvette Egonidis — French and Italian (returned Term 4, 2014)
Ms Kim Bate — Head of Physical Education (from 1 August 2014)
Mrs Caroline Houl — English (returning January 2015)
Mrs Christy Kertes — Mathematics and Science (returning January 2015)
Mrs Judith Park — ELC (from Term 4 2014)

Staff departing:
Appreciation is expressed to those staff who departed during the year or at the conclusion:

Mrs Lesley Cole — Printing Administrator/Academic Publications (concluding 28 years of dedicated service [with previous involvement back to 1973])
Mrs Janece Peterson — Tay Creggan Receptionist (concluding 28 years of dedicated service)
Mrs Catherine Brotherton — Advanced Learning Teacher
Ms Julie Holzer — Teacher of the Hearing Impaired
Mrs Stef Juchno — Physical Education
Mrs Lynette Martin — Laboratory Technician
Mrs Erin Pandita — Year 8 Coordinator/Psychology/Science
Ms Fiona Schwass — Integration Aide
Ms Danielle Spurling — Mellor House Physical Education Coordinator

The School Board

I sincerely thank Mrs Gardner, Board Chair, and our School Board for their commitment to good governance that ensures that the developments of the School are underpinned by strong financial planning and sound judgment. We are blessed by the integrity, expertise and generosity of the Board members who give of their time for Board meetings, sub-committee meetings and planning discussions. We have always been conscious of the significance of a close alignment between the governance and management of the School and I appreciate the Board’s support of myself and our Business Manager, Richard Sallows, and the trust placed in us.

Parents and Parent Groups

I have on many occasions stressed the importance of community and my heartfelt thanks go to our parent groups: the Family Association and the Friends Groups; to the Brownlow Medal Breakfast Committee; to the Year Level Representatives; those who lead and volunteer for the Canteen, the Swap Shop, the Second-Hand Book Sales; and the many who have attended student events and contributed to major events. Without this support, we would not be able to provide all the activities and resources that we do for our students. I thank our Community Relations Officers, Elisabeth Chalmers and Diana Little, who provide support for a multitude of parent areas of involvement. My thanks go also to all parents for the confidence placed in the School and for the support and feedback you have provided as we have worked together for the benefit of your daughters.

‘I have on many occasions stressed the value of community and my heartfelt thanks go to our parent groups …’

Our Alumni

Many of our Old Strathconians remain strongly connected as friends well into their adult life and many avail themselves of the opportunity to attend reunions at school. Many also contribute to the life of the School through Careers Nights and the Liberal Studies Program for Year 12. I sincerely thank the Old Strathconians Association committee for their work to
encourage ongoing involvement of past students. The initiative of the Mentoring Program should ensure further connections between present and past students into the future. I sincerely thank Libbie Smith (nee Bowe ‘76) for her generous leadership of the committee as President since 2008 and thank and congratulate Laura Loftus (‘04) who became the new President at the September AGM. I also express thanks to Elisabeth Chalmers, who takes responsibility for the communication and organisation of the reunion program.

Year 12

I warmly congratulate our young women of Year 12 who have risen to their responsibility as the leaders of the School with enthusiasm, commitment to being actively involved in school life and cognisant of the influence they would have on the younger students. They have each balanced their demanding schedule of study with many other activities and have been there for one another, a close-knit year group, appreciative of the breadth of their friendships and generous in working with one another.

Our School Captain, Gabrielle Ebeling, and Deputy Captains, Annie Biggins and Michelle Benington, have led with intelligence, warmth and exuberance, encouraging the cohesiveness of their year group and involvement with the younger year levels. My sincere thanks and congratulations go to them and to each girl in Year 12 for the contribution made. I add my thanks also for the wide range of responsibilities fulfilled in House and other leadership roles.

The staff and I wish each of you great happiness and success in your future ventures and we hope that you will maintain your connection with the School, taking up opportunities to contribute through mentoring, coaching, and other ways, by attending reunions and events and enjoying the Stratbcourier when it arrives each year.

Our Students

The happiness and wellbeing of our young people has been a constant preoccupation. As there can be many real and perceived pressures on our children, it is essential that we resource them to pursue their schooling and their personal development with enjoyment, motivation and ambition, but also with resilience for the testing experiences and disappointments that can arise. The input we can have as adults is critical, as is the growing awareness of each child of her own capacities and personal qualities. Providing a wide range of opportunities within and beyond the classroom has been a focus, to encourage balance in the School experience and the chance for each student to find her strengths. It is gratifying that our students take advantage of so many of the opportunities provided.

The Strathcona girls’ care for one another, and their courtesy and responsiveness to their teachers is second to none. Similarly, their desire to grow in their understanding of the needs of others beyond the comfort of their own School and home, to find ways to provide practical support, is a deserved source of great pride.

My warm thanks go to all our girls and our little boys in ELC for what they bring to each day. It has been a joy to be with you, and your happiness and success will be my constant wish.

Providing a wide range of opportunities within and beyond the classroom has been a focus, to encourage balance in the School experience …’

In Conclusion

It is gratifying to look back on the past 14 years and on 2014, our 90th Anniversary year, with so many special events enjoyed, and so thoroughly overseen by our 90th Anniversary Project Officer, past student, Anita Burman (‘91), working closely with our Community Relations team. The publications Stratbcourier, Strathconian and this 91st Annual Report will help to capture the experiences of the year, and acknowledge the achievements and generous contributions of many to the life of the School. They will be significant in keeping our memories alive.

I express my sincere thanks to the Strathcona community and best wishes for the future success of our students and staff and for the happiness of our families. I know you will all join with me in welcoming my successor, Mrs Marise McConaghy, to this wonderful School community. I pray that under her leadership Strathcona will continue to go from strength to strength for the benefit of our young people.

Helen Hughes
Strathcona says ‘Thank you’

Mrs Helen Hughes, Strathcona Principal, 2001 – 2014
The Board is committed to providing a premium educational experience at the lowest feasible investment.

We pay stringent attention to managing the need to provide the best educational service possible and balancing the school budget. Strathcona is in a very sound position. The School is primarily funded through School fees (86%) and recurrent government grants (14%). Our expenditure is directed to providing the best possible educational staff, programs and facilities. For your information, the charts on the next page illustrate the major sources of revenue and both categories of expenditure – recurrent (operating) and capital expenditure.

Capital Expenditure

After five years in the planning we commenced the construction of the new Learning Centre in 2014. Funding of this major project has been possible due to the generous donations from the School community to the Strathcona Building and Maintenance Fund along with use of school investment reserves and through a loan facility with the NAB. We expect the project to be delivered on budget, and I acknowledge the Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr Peter McGregor and the Business Manager, Mr Sallows, for their leadership in ensuring that the parameters the Board agreed to manage the project finances have been strictly followed. We look forward to moving into the new Learning Centre in Term 2 next year.

What a privilege it is for me to Chair the Strathcona Board and be in a position to marvel at the outstanding achievements of the girls across all facets of school life. It is also rewarding to see progress and desired outcomes from the strategies the Board agreed as part of the current School Strategic Plan.

We look forward to moving into the new Learning Centre in Term 2 next year.

Enormous credit goes to my Board colleagues for their commitment to the School and its strategic directions and to the staff, ably led by Mrs Helen Hughes, for their aligned commitment and efforts in implementing actions to achieve the desired outcomes.
2014 by any measure has been a ‘big’ year for Strathcona. The year commenced with the Board acknowledging the fine academic results of the class of 2013, a well-deserved reward for the girls individually and for the Principal and staff for years of planning and action on a day-to-day basis. For most of the year, of course, the Board has focused on the recruitment of the new Principal, the construction of the new Learning Centre and participating in the fine array of 90th Anniversary events.

‘In April, we announced the appointment of Mrs Marise McConaghy as the Principal of Strathcona commencing at the beginning of the 2015 school year.’

Based on the themes derived from the consultation across the entire Strathcona community about what attributes were desired in a new Principal, the Board agreed a set of requirements and appointed a specialist consultant to assist the recruitment and selection process for a new Principal to replace Mrs Hughes upon her retirement at the end of 2014. In April, we announced the appointment of Mrs Marise McConaghy as the Principal of Strathcona commencing at the beginning of the 2015 school year. Mrs McConaghy is an outstanding educator and leader, with a strong commitment to pastoral care, who the Board is confident will continue the proud and successful tradition of Strathcona Principals.

Mrs McConaghy has a high regard for Strathcona’s history, Christian foundations, values and achievements and will bring strong vision and leadership to the next period of the School’s life.

Through the year we have watched the new Learning Centre rise from the ground. The demolition of the old Spicer and Hopkins buildings and the erection of the relocatable classrooms went to plan over the summer break and subsequently the construction has proceeded as scheduled. The management of the project and the continued smooth running of the operation of all the School activities owes much to the detailed planning and constant attention of Mrs Hughes, Mr Richard Sallows, Business Manager, and senior staff, the flexible attitude of all staff and girls, and the specialist skills of the Project Managers, APP, the architects, PMDL, and the builders, CICG. I also would like to acknowledge and thank Board members Mr Ivan Andolfatto and Mr Rob McFee for the considerable time and expertise they have devoted to this pivotal project, the largest in the School’s history.

Significantly, 2014 also marks Strathcona’s 90th Anniversary. The Anniversary has been celebrated with a number of special events, including the Foundation Day Service with an address by Mrs Elizabeth Chernov, a former Strathcona student, married to the current Governor of Victoria, His Excellency, the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, the Vintage Fair at Tay Creggan in March, the Celebration Dinner held in June, and the wonderful Gala Concert at the Recital Centre in August. Many thanks go to the staff in the Community Relations Office, along with many parents, other staff and students for their work in creating such quality and fitting events, which showcased Strathcona’s achievements, strengths and traditions.

‘Significantly, 2014 also marks Strathcona’s 90th Anniversary. The Anniversary has been celebrated with a number of special events …’

During the year we farewelled Gunther Jahnke as a member of the Board and as Chair of the Marketing Committee. Mr Jahnke had been a member of the Board for eight years, and been instrumental in enhancing the School’s visual marketing presence, always encouraging the Board to explore innovations in Strathcona’s approach to marketing and research. In July, we welcomed Mrs Jocelyn Furlan, and in November, Mr Chris O’Farrell, current parents, with considerable experience in finance and governance as members of the Board. We also welcomed back Mrs Sonia
Through the year we have watched the new Learning Centre rise from the ground.

Rendigs after a leave of absence and are very grateful to her for taking on the role of chairing the Marketing Committee. I also acknowledge the contribution of Mrs Libbie Smith, who after eight years is stepping down as President of the Old Strathconians Association (OSA) Committee. Mrs Smith is a passionate supporter of Strathcona, as a past student, parent and Board member and has very ably encouraged younger former students to continue their association with the School.

‘The Reverend Holmes was often quoted as saying that his greatest achievement as Chair was the appointment of Mrs Helen Hughes as Principal.’

In April we were saddened by the news of the death of the Reverend Angas Holmes, Chair of the Strathcona Board from 1998 to 2006. Reverend Holmes was deeply committed to Strathcona, the Baptist faith and to education. We honour him and the legacy of his time as Chair.

The Reverend Holmes was often quoted as saying that his greatest achievement as Chair was the appointment of Mrs Helen Hughes as Principal. There is no doubt that all of us who have been associated with Strathcona over the last 14 years would totally agree. All organisations owe much of their success, performance and culture to their leader. In schools this is even more so, where in the 21st century school Principals must combine strong academic and education credentials, business management, people leadership, community relations and building project management skills.

In Mrs Hughes, Strathcona has had all of these attributes in spades, along with a commitment to excellence in everything she does, a dedication to Christian beliefs and practice, a passion for girls education, staff development and an unwavering care for each individual she engages with. What an amazing role model she has been for every Strathcona student, and what an amazing set of achievements across every facet of Strathcona life. It has required the publication of *Into the 21st Century Strathcona 2001 - 2014*, written by staff member Ms Mary Hall, to document Mrs Hughes’s extraordinary achievements as Principal.

To Mrs Hughes, simply thank you for so much.

To the 2014 Year 12 girls, best wishes for your future. Go forward bravely, faithfully and happily.

*Mrs Laurinda Gardner*
We are proud to foster an inspiring approach to contribution and sharing among the close-knit alumni of Strathcona. Our alumni will always be a valued part of our School family.

Old Strathconians Association

This year many OSA members have enjoyed being involved in the School's celebrations for the 90th Anniversary, especially at the Foundation Day church service. For me personally this was a special experience, and I was honoured to lead the gorgeous Prep girls into St Dominic’s Church. Many past students were delighted to return to Tay Creggan in March to enjoy the Vintage Fair, and also to attend the Celebration Dinner at the Manningham Centre in June. It was a very happy and memorable evening. In August, the Gala Concert held at the Melbourne Recital Centre was remarkable for the superb performances of the girls in such a special venue. We have also all watched with great interest and excitement as the new Learning Centre takes shape.

The OSA committee, on behalf of the wider OSA membership, were very pleased to fund the 90th Anniversary badges, which were presented to each student and staff member at the start of the School year. Additionally, the OSA has made a donation to the Learning Centre Appeal and we encourage all OSA members to contribute to this as part of the 90th Anniversary Appeal.

This year the OSA has also had much to celebrate. In April our very own Best Recipes was featured in The Age Good Food supplement and rated as ‘top school cook book’ in Victoria. Profit from the sale of this book will continue to be added to the OSA Scholarship fund.

Milestone reunions have achieved excellent attendances, peaking at 55 for the Five Year group. This was followed by a special 25 Year reunion where Mr Lyall was welcomed by the women who were his ‘final’ Year 12 student group. A very happy 40 Year reunion at Tay Creggan is also worthy of note.

The contribution from more than 40 past students at the School’s Careers Night in July is an indication of how engagement between past and current students is being fostered by both the OSA and Strathcona. Further, these links are being put to even better use through the OSA Mentoring Program. The inaugural OSA Mentors’ Breakfast held in August has now linked past Strathy girls who are studying...
or working in various disciplines with current Year 11 and 12 girls. Over the coming months these individual links will be supported by the OSA to ensure that the program continues to be of benefit.

This past year has been one of reflection as well as celebration. Always at this time of year there are thanks due to a number of individuals in our Strathcona community. A special thank you to Elisabeth Chalmers for all she does so well on our behalf through the Community Relations Office. To Richard Sallows and Mark Brenner in the Business Office, we are grateful for the work done on behalf of the OSA.

I want to thank all of my fellow committee members: Mel Fookes, Laura Loftus, Karina Skourletos, Julie Craik, Fay Coysh, Desi Fkiaras, Jess Wilson, Georgia Daniel, Stacey McArdle and Demi Papigiotis, for their contribution to the continued success of the OSA during the last 12 months. This is truly a team effort and I have really enjoyed working alongside all of you. My thanks to Desi, in particular, who retired from the Committee at our recent AGM, after almost 20 years of continuous service. This is a wonderful contribution, and we are very grateful to Desi. Her continued involvement as a Mentor to those girls following her path into Engineering is also very much appreciated.

A special thank you on behalf of all of us to Mrs Helen Hughes who has been a constant support to the OSA Committee: from attendance at meetings and functions to the interest she has shown in individuals who have come back to support our work in every sphere. Thanks, in particular, from all of the Strathy girls since 2001 who have worked to achieve their best and found their place in the wider world, and for whom Helen will always be their own, special, Mrs Hughes. We look forward to those occasions in the future when Mrs Hughes will revisit the Strathy community as a very special past Principal.

As I step down from the position of President, I find it very satisfying that there is such a capable group of ‘old’ Strathy girls coming through to keep the OSA relevant to its membership into a very exciting future.

*Libbie Smith, Retiring OSA President*

The OSA is very appreciative of the work undertaken by retiring President, Libbie Smith. During her time in this role (2008 – 2014), the OSA has built stronger links with the School community and provided additional opportunities for current students to tap into the experience and enthusiasm of past students with the mentoring program being a good example. We are very pleased to know Libbie is continuing as a committee member. I am sure this will ensure a smooth transition as a number of committee members take on new responsibilities this year. At the AGM, we welcomed new committee member, Annelie Smith, who completed Year 12 in 2005.

Phillipa Turner, currently in Year 10, has been selected as the recipient of the OSA General Excellence Scholarship for 2015 – 2016. She has consistently maintained a very high standard of academic achievement and has combined this with a wide range of co-curricular and community service activities. We wish her well for Years 11 and 12. The OSA was thrilled to hear that Georgia Chester, recipient of the OSA General Excellence Scholarship for 2014 – 2015, has been selected as School Captain for 2015.

‘I am looking forward to working with the OSA to build on past successes and further encourage our alumni to reconnect with each other and Strathcona.’

Having been a student in Year 9 when Mrs Helen Hughes commenced as Principal, I have enjoyed watching the School develop and grow under her leadership over the last 14 years. Mrs Hughes’s enthusiasm, energy and sense of humour will be greatly missed. We wish her well as she enters retirement and know she has left the School in a wonderful position. The committee is looking forward to meeting Mrs Marise McConaghy and building another excellent working relationship as she leads the School into its next phase.

I am looking forward to working with the OSA to build on past successes and further encourage our alumni to reconnect with each other and Strathcona. We plan to continue to offer a variety of opportunities for all of us to contribute to the ongoing life of the School.

*Laura Loftus, OSA President*
Strathcona Family Association

Under its Rules of Incorporation, the purpose of the Strathcona Family Association (SFA) is defined as being ‘to undertake fundraising activities in order to provide materials, equipment or other services as required in the furtherance of education for the students of Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School.’

While fundraising is important, another key activity for the Family Association is helping to bring together the School community. This is done through a range of events, which are either run or supported by the SFA. They include:

• an Annual Christmas Charity lunch at Tay Creggan
• providing family support through meals to families in time of need
• the Year 7 BBQ
• the Parent Soirée to commence the school year
• BBQs at sporting events
• Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls.

Every year the SFA contributes about $25,000 towards programs and resources that will benefit students across the School. Over the last year, the following have been contributed to:

• new classroom literacy resources for Mellor House
• replacement of lighting in the Main Hall at Tay Creggan
• purchase of Graduation bracelets as gifts for Year 6 and a gift for the Year 12 students
• the Knowledge Exchange infrastructure in the new Learning Centre.

These contributions are made possible by the hard work of the team that makes up the SFA Committee, and the families who provide assistance throughout the year.

I have really appreciated the support and guidance from our Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes, and would like to offer her the best wishes from all of us for the future. Special thanks go to Elisabeth Chalmers (Senior School Class Representative Coordinator) in the Community Relations Office for playing such a key role in ensuring everything runs smoothly and supporting me during my first year as President. I also would like to thank the other committee members:

• Julie Craik (Uniform Shop and Badged Goods)
• Carolyn Gelme (Treasurer)
• Helen Katsoulis (Vice President and Mellor House Class Rep Coordinator)
• Sarah Merrylees (Secretary)
• Sandra Staffieri (Uniform Shop and Badged Goods)
• Carolyn Turner (Family Support Coordinator)

and the many parents who have given up time to help out across the year.

The SFA generates income through the Second Hand Uniform shop, sales of Badged Goods, Second Hand Book Sales, the voluntary levy and through a number of other events, such as the BBQs at sports events.

‘… join us at our monthly meetings and make the most of the opportunities to work with the School.’

The 2014 Annual Christmas Charity lunch has arranged for Caroline Mills, from Cancer Council Victoria, to be the speaker for the School’s nominated charity for the 90th year. As usual, we commit to donate at least $1,000 from the lunch to the charity.

There is an open invitation to all parents to join us at our monthly meetings and make the most of the opportunities to work with the School.

On behalf of the Family Association, I wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to continuing the wonderful working relationship the SFA has with the rest of the School community in 2015.

David Craik, President

Friends Groups

Friends of Kayaking

It was an exciting year for the Kayak Squad, having developed over the past four years with numbers rising and the squad strengthening in skill and confidence. Commencing the year with pool sessions, the squad built upon their friendships and integrated with year levels different from their own to unveil the mysteries of their paddling futures. With 25 Year 7 students trying their arm at paddling, sessions were busy and new coaches were brought on board. Sophie Young, Lauren Watson and Jennifer Stevens are all ex-Strathcona Kayak Team participants, and have each paddled at an advanced level for many years. These young women brought a great deal of experience and support in order to prepare the younger students for the All Schools Championships in March. Sixteen girls represented Strathcona at this event in the sprints and marathon races, with four girls medalling in the Sunday marathon. There was tremendous support from other
competing schools, who have banded together throughout the year to organise smaller events for the girls to compete in and improve their skills. These are currently underway and we look forward to the evolution of these smaller regattas in the development potential of kayaking across the Victorian girls' schools.

‘… with numbers rising and the squad strengthening in skill and confidence.’

This year has also allowed for the larger squad size to mingle in off-water activities. The fitness training sessions have been an exciting component for the younger girls, learning new exercises and exploring their fitness levels whilst learning more about their bodies in preparation for higher performance levels. Off-water activities also involved the more social component of games and a campout at Tay Creggan on the oval, as well as a Winter Warmer DVD night at the Campus by firelight. Small adaptations to the kayak facilities have benefited the paddlers, with further improvements in store for 2015. The squad is looking forward to entering more races in 2015, with the inclusion of the Winter Series events. In the summer of 2014, a collective of local schools has banded together to initiate an alternative schools' component to the Ben Ward Memorial Races, which will be held on a weekend in December as a relay for all schools. As the squad builds in experience at these competitions, we anticipate steep learning curves in the coming years.

Liesl Woods, Coordinator of Outdoor Education

Friends of Music (FOM)

The Friends of Music have quietly continued to provide both practical and financial support during 2014 to enhance the various music programs at Strathcona. The musical highlight of the year was the magnificent 90th Anniversary Gala Concert held at the Melbourne Recital Centre in August, showcasing so many of our talented students in a wide range of music groups. There were also two superb Concerto Nights in May and September, offering an opportunity for solo and orchestral performances by many students. Performers at these two events were presented with gifts provided by FOM. Three ‘Pleasant Sunday Afternoons’ of music were again held at Tay Creggan, and FOM provided refreshments and support for all of these events.

Due to Strathcona's 90th Anniversary celebrations, we did not hold our usual Friends of Music Dinner, but instead hosted a table at the 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. However, the Friends of Music Dinner will certainly return next year!

Funds raised this year were used to support transport to the annual Music Camp for all music students, and for purchases of music equipment for Mellor House and Senior School. In keeping with our aim to also support worthy causes in the wider community, a donation of $500 was made to The Philippines Earthquake Appeal.

Planning has been underway all year toward our next major project, that of raising $25,000-plus to purchase a grand piano to replace the present ageing model in Featherstone Hall, and information about how to contribute to this will be forthcoming early next year.

‘… congratulations to the talented and hard-working students who constantly delight us through their wonderful performances …’

I would like to sincerely thank all the members of the FOM committee this year for their time and support, and welcome enquiries from any new parents who may be interested in joining the Committee or helping out at the various FOM functions during 2015.

Finally, congratulations to the talented and hard-working students who constantly delight us through their wonderful performances, and many thanks to Georgie Nagy and her team of Music staff at Strathcona for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Judy Pietsch, President

Friends of Rhythmic Gymnastics

Rhythmic gymn is a sport which encompasses athletic skills, balance, eye hand co-ordination, musicality, fitness and teamwork. This year some 60 girls from 3 year old kindergarten to VCE age have participated in this sport. They are a mixture of Strathcona students and girls from the wider community.
We have had gymnasts competing from Levels 1 to 8. Two of our senior rhythmic gymnasts (including Ellie Robinson, Year 10 Strathcona student) achieved qualification scores, and hence were able to compete as Victorian team representatives at the Australian National Gymnastics Championships (Level 8) held in Melbourne in May. They very much enjoyed the experience of being part of a Victorian team and competing at such a high level against girls from around Australia. Many of our gymnasts also represented the club at other competitions.

'We very much enjoyed the experience of being part of a Victorian team and competing at such a high level …'

We again hosted the Strathcona Cup in June which, as well as being a major competition on the calendar for Levels 1 to 6, is our major fundraiser. With terrific volunteer support from our senior gymnasts and many dedicated parents, we ran a coffee and cake stall. We raised over $3,000 from the day. With money raised, we were able to purchase much needed new equipment as the sport requires the use of five specialist apparatus.

The girls have enjoyed being trained by a great team of enthusiastic coaches. We thank the coaches for their dedication, energy and drive. I also thank the current committee of the Friends of Rhythmic Gym. Finally, without the work of Tiffany Kelly, the Strathcona Rhythmic Gymnastics club could not continue to run and offer girls the opportunity to participate in this fabulous sport.

Jenny Robinson, Convenor

Friends of Rowing

The purpose of Strathcona Rowing is to provide a program that gives all Strathcona students the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the sport of rowing. The 2013/14 season was Strathcona’s eighth, and the most successful season to date, both in terms of participation and results on the water.

Over 100 girls participated at various stages in the rowing program, culminating in 78 girls representing Strathcona in 17 crews at the Head of School Girls (HOSG) Regatta on Geelong’s Barwon River in March 2014. Seven crews progressed to A finals, with all senior crews participating. Strathcona won two Silver and one Bronze medal, which placed Strathcona 15th out of 53 schools competing.

Strathcona rowers also tasted success at other regattas. Over the course of the season, crews reached 66 A finals (about a quarter of all A finals), winning 15. One junior team won a time trial at the Melbourne Head. Three crews attended the Sydney International Rowing Regatta (incorporating the National Schoolgirls Championships). The Senior Firsts made the A final.

These successes are a credit to the energy and enthusiasm of the rowers, but are also due to the hard work and commitment of Head Coach, Jackson Harrison, and Senior Coordinator, Jordan Smith, and all the coaches. Stuart Alexander has recently joined the senior coaching team, having previously coached at MLC. We look forward to his contribution to Strathcona Rowing.

'The 2013/14 season was Strathcona’s eighth, and the most successful season to date …'

As a result of the growth of the rowing program at Strathcona, in June 2014 Friends of Rowing established a new management structure, comprising a president, secretary and treasurer, who provide support and assist the Director of Rowing. Fundraising and social, operations, merchandise and catering sub-committees have also been established.

An inaugural season launch and information night was held on 30 July and was attended by over 72 rowers, prospective rowers and coxes, as well as their families.

Training for the 2014/15 regatta season is off to a flying start, aided by the acquisition of six single sculls. Work continues on developing the rowing facilities located on the water’s edge at Tay Creggan.

Strathcona Rowing owes a great deal of its success to the substantial commitment and hard work of the Director of Rowing, Michael Cornwall, who gives freely of his time and energy to ensure the continued growth and accomplishments of the program. Strathcona Rowing is also grateful for the continuing support of the Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes.

Jocelyn Furlan, President
Friends of Snowsports

Friends of Snowsports have supported the 2014 Strathcona Ski Team of eight girls from Years 3 to 12 to compete in Alpine and Skier Cross events at the Victorian Interschools Championships held at Mt Buller during August. All girls participated well in their races and the team was congratulated at a small gathering on the Thursday evening at Mt Buller (hosted by Friends of Snowsports). The 2014 Strathcona Ski Team consisted of the following girls – Shannon Griffiths (Team Captain, Year 12), Caitlin Hausler (Year 10), Emily Waters (Year 8), Tara Skelton (Year 7), Kate McKay (Year 7), Abbie Craik (Year 7), Mollie Zacharchuk (Year 7) and Ella Maher (Year 3).

‘All girls participated well in their races …’

During the year, Friends of Snowsports supported the following activities: 2014 Business Directory provided to all Strathcona families, Committee member attendance and/or brochure distribution at Term 1 Parent Information Evenings, Snowsports Information Evening (February), Snow Cones Stall at the 90th Anniversary Strathcona Fair returning a $969 profit, Mount Hotham Family weekend (18 – 20 July), Dry land training for the ski team (5 June – 21 August), 2014 Strathcona Ski Team Breakfast (21 August) and sale of new Snowsports winter blankets and ski ties. Remaining activities for 2014 will include a social gathering for the ski families and the Presentation Night to award the Ski Team with their participation medals and Victorian Interschools certificates. As at 3 September 2014, the Friends of Snowsports GL account balance was $3,566.

Nadine Goldsmith, Co-convenor

Brownlow Committee

On a beautiful crisp sunny September morning at 6.30am, 300 past and present School parents, business people and football supporters from across Melbourne started to filter into the Medallion Club at Etihad Stadium to attend Strathcona's 24th Annual Brownlow Medal Breakfast.

Strathcona's Brownlow Medal Breakfast is widely recognised as the start to the Grand Final week celebrations and enjoys support of the AFL who provided us with the AFL Premiership Cup for display. Once again, past parent and co-founder of the Breakfast, David Parkin, was in attendance. Our Master of Ceremonies was Gerard Whateley, who extracted interesting and lively discussion from the panel consisting of Andrew Demetriou (former AFL CEO), Murray Browne (Past Player Director for the AFL Players Association), Matt Finnis (CEO St Kilda Football Club) and Daisy Pearce (Darebin Falcons player). The morning wouldn’t have been complete without Mike Brady rounding off with ‘Up there Cazaly’ and ‘One Day in September’. Channel Nine was in attendance and a segment was featured on the evening news. We also received coverage in The Age newspaper. This high profile event is a major fundraiser for Strathcona and we were again pleased to support Life Education Victoria by donating $5,000 from the lucky ticket proceeds.

‘Strathcona’s Brownlow Medal Breakfast is widely recognised as the start to the Grand Final week celebrations …’

We are extremely grateful to the sponsors of this event, Budget Rent a Car, CICG, PMDL, WOW! Travel, Capital Finance, NAB Education & Community Business, Grant Day James, Marshall White and Adams Print. Also special thanks to our generous donors, WOW! Travel, Rail Plus, Etihad Stadium, Wheelton Group of Companies, The Sebel Docklands, Coldflow Heating and Cooling, Grossi Fiorentino (Rodriguez Family), Melbourne United Basketball, Knight Sport, Channel Nine, Beauty and the Feast Catering, Swimwear Galore, Guardian Security and the Young and Walsh families.

Sincere thanks are extended to the 2014 Brownlow Breakfast Committee: Brian Walsh, Michael Catlow, Lisa Fekete, Helen Hughes, Richard Sallows, Chris Phyland, Adrian Janson and Diana Little for their networking contacts and commitment to making the event such a success. We also thank our student helpers on the morning who were wonderful representatives of our School.

We look forward to our 25th Breakfast in September 2015 and still marvel at the uniqueness of a girls’ school in Canterbury hosting this very successful and enjoyable morning that originally started at Tay Creggan 24 years ago and has grown in profile.

Elisabeth Chalmers, Community Relations Officer

school associations
The Community Relations Office has continued to be a positive and proactive centre of a diverse range of activities throughout the 90th Anniversary of the School.

Foundation Day Service

Our first event marking this special year was on 12 February 2014, 90 years to the day since the commencement of Strathcona, when the School community gathered inside St Dominic’s Church for the Foundation Day Service. Students present and past participated in the morning.

‘... 90 years to the day since the commencement of Strathcona …’

Commencing with the Bible, signifying Faith, students representing each year level presented symbols of Strathcona including: portraits of founders Mrs Florence Livingstone and Miss Henrietta Hughes, a chain made by the Prep class expressing Community and a candle for Future Hope.

Mrs Hughes conducted an engaging interview with Mrs Shirley Lowthian (nee Ballf ’40) who shared joyful tales; and three generations of Strathcona students from the one family – Mrs Judy Swanton (nee Roberts ’66), Mrs Jennifer Pittendrigh (nee Swanton ’87), Victoria (’15) and Annabel Pittendrigh (’17) – gave praise and thanks through prayer for the life and work of Strathcona.

We were honoured to have Mrs Elizabeth Chernov (nee Hopkins ’60), past student and married to the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, as our speaker. Mrs Chernov spoke to the School motto

- Fortitier, Fideliter, Feliciter (Bravely, Faithfully, Happily).

She encouraged the students to dream bravely, to learn from failures, to steadfastly develop and pursue their beliefs and to learn contentment whatever their circumstances.

The music threaded throughout the service was carefully selected, meticulously conducted and beautifully presented by the String Orchestra, Combined and Mellor House Choirs and Music Staff, heightening the occasion and heralding the start to a wonderful year.

Past students and staff shared a morning tea at the church where Mrs Chernov cut the 90th Anniversary cake made in honour of the occasion by Diana Little.
Parents’ Functions

The Soirée, held on 13 February in the Creative and Performing Arts Centre, was well attended to welcome new parents to the School and introduce them to our current parents. An evening for Class Representatives was also held at the Principal’s home on 27 February and we thank Helen and Keith Hughes for their hospitality over the years in hosting this function. It is always enjoyable to host the end of year Volunteers Cocktail Party held on 18 November to thank the many parents who have given their time to assist the School in so many ways throughout the year.

Vintage Fair

As we approached the end of Term 1, excitement increased as the day of our Vintage Fair at Tay Creggan came closer. Generous contributions flowed in, including: 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 and hundreds signed up for the rosters. 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.

‘… excitement increased as the day of our Vintage Fair at Tay Creggan came closer.’

A highlight of the day was the display of two paintings by artist Constance Stokes. The artworks had both resided at Tay Creggan when it was privately owned in the 1930s and were made available for the Fair by our special guests, Dr Anne Summers and Lucillia d’Abrera, granddaughter of the artist. Our guests’ 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 past student Joan Montgomery, were also a valued historical addition on the day. Haunted cellar tours stole the day for the young!

The energy and hard work of all was appreciated with the additional 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: parents – Ann Balla (Paris 11C), Julie Craik (Abbie 7B), Fiona Crocker (Alex 11B, Jennifer 8D), John Forwood (Eleanor 10B, Kathreen 7C), Carolyn Gelmec (Tara 12D), Nicolette Lucarelly (Olivia 10D), Lee Newcombe (Isabella 10C), Cathy Smith (Gemma 12E), Tania Watson (Caire 11C); and staff – Robert Battey (TC), Anita Burman (90th Anniversary Project Officer), Jenni Farmilo (Deputy Principal) and Diana Little (Fair Convenor). Thanks too to all Stall coordinators, parents, students and staff who contributed goods or helped on the day. Perfect weather also added to the harmonious village green atmosphere and a most successful Vintage Fair.
Annual Charity Partnership

Strathcona aims to give girls a strong sense of their community, promoting well-balanced relationships, a caring attitude towards other people and a willingness to give their best wherever they find themselves. It was natural therefore as we celebrated our 90th Anniversary that we would also turn our thoughts to ‘Giving Our Best’ to the community.

We currently have a well-established Social Service program, serving a wide range of charitable causes. To complement this program we took a new approach and created a 12-month annual partnership concept, allowing us to more deeply understand a charity’s contribution to our community and then expanding our thinking as we adopt a new charity each year.

‘… ‘Giving Our Best’ to the community.’

In 2014 we partnered with Cancer Council Victoria (CCV). Throughout the year CCV and Strathcona have combined to provide strong, educational interactions through a range of activities and, as part of our Annual Charity Weekend, opportunities for supporting a charity whose contribution to the community we know and understand.

CCV provided educational and inspirational speakers for our students throughout the year:

- 16 year old Kieren DeVisser spoke with Years 7 and 8 about his motivation, preparation and inspirational effort to raise funds by riding from Uluru to Melbourne.
- Occupation Therapist, Bernadette Zappa shared with Year 9 on healthy living and lifestyle choices.
- Oncologist and researcher, Annette Lim Ph.D spoke with Years 10, 11 and 12 about her research, helping people with cancer and career opportunities.

The fundraising weekend, 29 – 31 August, was central to Strathcona’s Annual Adopted Charity Program. The Strathcona community united through individual and group initiatives to raise funds for CCV.

Unofficially, the weekend started earlier with ‘Coffee, Chai, Hot Chocolate’ on a Monday morning in early August. Tony Romanella (father of Isabella, 11C) brought his coffee cart and warmed many of the students, staff and parents with hot beverages, donating 50 cents per cup to our 2014 Annual Charity Partner, CCV. The Soshin exchange students joined in, providing delicious hot scones by donation.

We officially launched the weekend with a Japanese Tea Ceremony, hosted in conjunction with our sister school, Soshin Girls School, Japan. This preceded a host of creative fundraising activities including Morning and High Teas, Book Sales, Kids Street Stalls, Movie Nights, Tay Creggan Tours, Wood Fired Pizzas and Olive Oil.
Support for the School Community

Support to Friends Groups, the Strathcona Family Association, Class Representatives, and the organisation of 13 annual reunions for the Old Strathconians Association has also taken place throughout the year. Reunions have been vibrant and joyful occasions where past students have enjoyed reconnecting with each other.

The Feliciter Connection (past staff group) enjoyed an outing on 8 November to view the Stokes Collection at Mount Macedon.

The relationships built through the Community Relations Office with School families have assisted in many areas of School life, including the sourcing of host families for interstate and overseas exchange students.

‘Reunions have been vibrant and joyful occasions where past students have enjoyed reconnecting with each other.’

The Winter and Summer editions of Strathcourier continue to be produced within the Community Relations Office. These publications keep the past and present School community up-to-date with the activities of the School. Very positive feedback and emails of appreciation are regularly received from those who enjoy reading the publication.

Sharing our History

During 2014, Glen Turnbull, School Archivist, shared many special moments from the School Archives. We learned where the names of the School Houses originated, viewed photos from bygone eras and discovered our shared history with the local area, other schools and socialites. Articles are available for reading and comment on the Strathcona website and of course additions to the archives are always welcome.

A special whole School photo to mark the 90th Anniversary was prepared with all members of staff and students from the Early Learning Centre to Year 12 and will be a wonderful addition to the archives to record this special year in Strathcona’s history.

One of the special recordings this year was made of our Year 2 Mellor House students – who will be our Year 12s at our 100th Anniversary. The girls shared their thoughts on ‘Giving Our Best’, the future and their aspirations. We look forward to seeing how they have grown when we celebrate in 2024.

90th Thanks

As one cannot celebrate a 90th birthday without first living the 90 years before, so it was with the 90th Anniversary celebrations, where much discussion, planning and forethought shaped the year into a wonderful reflection of Strathcona ‘Giving Our Best’.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff members who have given their time to this committee, adeptly convened by Board Member Trudy Skilbeck - Helen Hughes, Jenni Farmilo (we must mention the fabulous 90th School Diary), Chris Phyland, Richard Sallows and our office.

Thanks to Glen and Catherine Turnbull for sharing treasures from the archives and to Nick van Ree, Adrian Janson, and the AV students for their assistance documenting the events of the year. We are thankful to our supportive OSA for providing the beautifully designed 90th Anniversary Badge which was distributed to all students and staff. Special thanks to the Strathcona Family Association who helped us celebrate by bringing back our much loved tartan scarf for the 90th Anniversary. Printed in Lord Strathcona’s clan tartan – McInnes – the scarf was launched at the Vintage Fair and has proved popular.

‘… enthusiastically embraced the celebrations to make the 90th Anniversary truly a year of ‘Giving Our Best’.

We extend our grateful thanks to all our volunteers who have contributed to the Community Relations Office in many ways in 2014 and look forward to another successful year in 2015.

We also thank the School community who enthusiastically embraced the celebrations to make the 90th Anniversary truly a year of ‘Giving Our Best’.

We would also like to make special mention of our Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes, who has been a wonderful support to our office over the years. We wish her well in her retirement and extend best wishes to her and Keith as they embark on another chapter in their lives.

Elisabeth Chalmers, Diana Little & Anita Burman (90th Anniversary Project Officer)
We take great pride in our School’s strong reputation. Our students are our finest ambassadors – exemplary in their behaviour and work ethic – always making us proud.

marketing and enrolments

During 2014, six school tours were conducted allowing families to visit the Early Learning Centre, Junior, Year 9 and Senior Campuses. The three Saturday morning tours were extremely popular and provided an excellent opportunity for families to visit, meet both staff and students and tour the facilities. Three School at Work mornings were conducted mid-week in May, July and September with excellent attendance. This was a wonderful opportunity to see Strathcona at work and experience the strong sense of community amongst the staff and students. Preceding the tours, prospective families enjoyed a presentation by the Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes. Scheduled tour mornings, combined with many private tours during the week, contribute to continual strong enrolments.

… provided an excellent opportunity for families to visit, meet both staff and students and tour the facilities.

2013 VCE results were outstanding and have greatly encouraged inquiries to the School for enrolments. These results, combined with many other achievements and successful programs, have significantly enhanced the reputation of the School. In a very competitive environment, strong academic results are essential for enrolments which, in turn, ensure the growth and future of the School. Strathcona students thrive and excel in a very supportive environment with wonderful programs and opportunities.

‘In a very competitive environment, strong academic results are essential for enrolments …’

Marketing within the private school community continues to be extremely competitive. In response, the Marketing Committee has met regularly to consider strategies to promote the School. The marketing of Strathcona continued to be a high priority throughout 2014. Advertisements were
placed in local newspapers, *The Age* and other selected publications and guides. A number of students and staff also appeared in different media stories highlighting their many successes. Online media has become a strong focus of the Marketing Committee and this will continue in 2015. Many parents have commented on the positive image of Strathcona portrayed through the media.

‘Many parents have commented on the positive image of Strathcona portrayed through the media.’

Enrolments at Strathcona are very strong – reflecting the School’s reputation and achievements, with a special emphasis on academic results. Enrolments are the life of any school and while Strathcona’s strong numbers continue, the School can be assured of a very bright and prosperous future. However, there is no room for complacency and the School will continue to place a strong emphasis on enrolment and marketing policies and activities.

*Joanne Wilson, Director of Enrolments and Marketing*

The completion of the new Learning Centre in 2015 will provide an exciting opportunity to showcase Strathcona to the community as well as our current students benefiting from the first class resources.

Marketing campaigns have included press advertising, education supplements, online media, real estate boards and billboards.

Enscolm tours

Please refer to our website for school tours dates and upcoming events.

[www.strathcona.vic.edu.au](http://www.strathcona.vic.edu.au)

[Strathcona](http://www.strathcona.vic.edu.au)

‘Enrolments at Strathcona are very strong – reflecting the School’s reputation and achievements, with a special emphasis on academic results.’
We strive to ensure all facets of our administration and planning support Strathcona’s educational activities, for the benefit of our students.

executive reports

Administration and Planning

This has certainly been a year of change but also one with many constants. The demolition of the Hopkins and Spicer buildings has seen a completely new area of the School arise in the form of the demountables on the previous playing fields. The Year 8 girls, Science staff and the other staff who relocated to these buildings adapted quickly to the new ‘homes’ and 2014 started with all seeming completely normal in this area. We wondered if it had been any other way!

The School has certainly been enveloped in a wonderful sense of celebration with many special events planned for the School’s 90th Anniversary. Amidst these special times much has been done to make sure that the girls and staff felt well supported. The Diary was perhaps the first to herald changes for 2014, with work well underway on this in the latter part of 2013 ensuring that maps were accurately displaying all the new buildings. The bell times changed for 2014 with the introduction of six slightly longer periods. The five days would have the same bell times which was different from previous years.

‘The School has certainly been enveloped in a wonderful sense of celebration with many special events planned for the School’s 90th Anniversary.’

The Strategic Plan has continued to guide our planning and direction and this has been very rewarding once again. We are committed to excellence and providing the best programs for the girls in all areas and it has been personally very gratifying to work with a wonderful team of staff including the Dean of Studies, the Dean of Students, Year Coordinators and the School Psychologist.

The School’s policies have been reviewed and amended as necessary and particular attention has been given to the Privacy Policy including new directives from the Government. We are confident in the policies and practices that are in place for the management of the School.
2014 has seen the School led by a very able group of Year 12 girls and it is always a highlight of our Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes, and myself to meet with the Captains weekly and to share weekly lunches with girls from the year level.

The use of technology continues to assist us in offering the best procedures and processes across the School, including leadership voting, the booking of tickets for events and the website.

This year also saw the introduction of the very successful experience for the Year 9 girls – the Camp to Campus seven-day adventure which included two days each of walking, bike riding and canoeing.

Once again, I would like to thank the girls and the staff for making each and every day such a rewarding and enjoyable experience for me. The staff are inspirational in all they do to help each girl achieve her best in both the curricular and co-curricular programs. The bond between staff and student is very real and meaningful. It is always a delight to spend time with the girls. Their genuine love for their School is displayed in the way they care for each other and their earnest desire to do their best in all things.

Of particular sadness for myself and the staff was the passing of Mrs Joan McPherson, a friend and a colleague to all. Joan was loved by the girls, the staff and the wider Strathcona family and I count it a blessing to have worked so closely with her.

2014 has certainly seen a great deal of change and progress and it heralds, for us, the final year that our Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes, will lead us. It has indeed been a privilege and blessing to have worked closely with Helen for the past five years and I wish her and Keith a very restful and rewarding retirement. They have both been a wonderful gift to our School and we will miss them.

Jennifer Farmilo, Deputy Principal

Business Administration

The work undertaken to ensure the smooth running of the School often goes unnoticed and, in a way, that is the way it should be. The Administration, Facility Management and Business Office staff at Strathcona help to ensure the seamless running of the School each and every day. I thank all team members for their wonderful service and support of the School’s students, teachers, Executive and School Board during 2014.

‘The new Learning Centre building has risen quickly out of the ground …’

2014 Highlights

The new Learning Centre building project commenced in December 2013 with the major logistical relocation of the Scott Street Campus classrooms and offices into the relocated spaces ready for teachers and students at the start of Term 1 2014. All staff involved should be congratulated on ensuring a smooth move with minimal disruption. Special thanks must be given to our Property Manager, Mr Adrian Ammerlaan, and Director of IT Services, Mr David Young, for coordinating the move.

The new Learning Centre building has risen quickly out of...
the ground with our builder CICG assuring us it is on target for the building to be handed over to the School at end of Term 1 2015.

Improvements in the Administration processes and systems continued during 2014 with online payment systems for OSA reunions and the Building and Maintenance Fund being introduced. The planned online parent portal system worked on during the year did not meet our expectations and a new easier to use system is now being configured for a launch by early 2015.

During the year, a long serving and well-loved Administration staff member, Mrs Joan McPherson, passed away. A service for Joan’s family and friends was held at Tay Creggan. We all will miss Joan greatly.

Special thanks must be given to Mrs Lesley Cole who after 28 years of service to Strathcona will be leaving us at the end of 2014.

Richard Sallows, Business Manager

Curriculum Development

Reuven Feuerstein, the great cognitive psychologist, passed away earlier this year after a long life helping students overcome their cognitive difficulties. He was an early proponent of an idea that is now mainstream and backed by substantial scientific research, that intelligence is not fixed but modifiable. Like Feuerstein, at Strathcona we believe that intellectual power is the ends, not the means for education. The focus is on all students improving their cognitive capacity, not on finding out those students who our tests determine to be smart.

‘… we believe that intellectual power is the ends, not the means for education.’

We operate within a culture of the Australian Curriculum, VCE and NAPLAN tests and we work very hard to ensure that our students meet these requirements, but we never forget that these developing aspects of our educational culture are not the ends of a good education but rather just part of the learning journey. The Australian Curriculum ensures that all students undertake an appropriate and contemporary course of study; NAPLAN provides a gauge to ensure that basic standards of literacy and numeracy are attained, and VCE scores provide access to tertiary study. Aiming for high scores may be motivating for some, but the ultimate aim must remain learning.

‘Each department has focused on achieving excellent learning for all students in each subject.’

2014 has been a productive year of learning, both for the staff and the students. Each department has focused on achieving excellent learning for all students in each subject. A major change for 2014 was the transition from a seven period day to a six period day. The amount of time in class has been retained, except for Years 11 and 12 where class time has been increased, but the number of changes within a day has dropped. This has facilitated more focus and less moving to the next class. One outcome of this was the changes to the successful Years 7 and 8 SEED program, resulting in a more interdisciplinary program integrated into the broader curriculum. We have built on our focus on thinking skills across the curriculum, particularly at Years 7 and 8, where each year level has had two or three sessions a term on thinking and study skills and tips. These have been largely centred on the growth mindset of Carol Dweck, the Brain Rules of John Medina and management of effective study routines. Study skills continue to be a focus in all higher year levels, including a focus on developing examination skills at Year 9 and a guest speaker at Year 10 as well as the intensive support provided to the VCE students.

‘We have built on our focus on thinking skills across the curriculum …’

Another big change this year was the implementation of our biggest Year 9 elective program yet. Students were able to choose two electives from a range of arts and technology subjects each semester. This included two electives in ICT, one on Game Design and the other on Robotics. This offering provided more opportunity for the girls to learn some programming skills. Through the electives Music was reintroduced as a discrete subject but in a new exciting format. With the technology of the iPad, the students were able to compose and record their own music, even creating their own pallet of sounds. Other electives included Food Technology, Drama, 3D Art (Jewellery Making), 2D Art, Video Production and Horticulture.

I-Learning in its third year of implementation gained a tighter focus, with just two ‘Channels’ – The History of Melbourne and The Arts. The students’ knowledge of their city was broadened through a range of off-campus explorations and inquiry. Late in Term 2 the girls presented their iMovies and discoveries to a panel of parents and staff, revealing their developing technological and presentation skills, as well as
many fascinating facts enriching the understanding of Melbourne of adults and students alike. In a big year for Year 9 we also saw the introduction of the seven-day Camp to Campus experience. In a week of weather that kept those at home indoors, the Year 9 girls were out walking, cycling and paddling from the mountains where the Yarra River begins, to their Tay Creggan Campus. This certainly was challenging and was a tremendous time of personal and social development for the girls.

In Year 10 we introduced a new ICT elective - iPad App Development, where students dived into the process of designing and programming their own apps. In Years 11 and 12 we have continued to offer a broad range of subjects leading students successfully into a full range of further study and careers. 2013 was another excellent year for Strathcona students in VCE and we wish the class of 2014 well.

Professional Learning

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) sets the standards required of teachers under the headings Professional Knowledge, Professional Practice and Professional Engagement. The seven standards are: know students and how they learn; know the content and how to teach it; plan for and implement effective teaching and learning; create and maintain supportive and safe learning environments; assess, provide feedback and report on student learning; engage in professional learning; engage professionally with colleagues, parents/carers and the community.

As part of registration, teachers are required to engage in a minimum of 20 hours per year of professional learning addressing these standards.

This takes many forms, including guest speakers to Strathcona. This year we had the benefit of Bill Rogers, a renowned expert in classroom management, presenting a refresher course. One of the benefits of this session was to remind us of how wonderful the students in our classrooms are, while helping us to fine tune our practice. A feature was managing students using phones inappropriately in the classroom. We also had trainers come in to update staff in Evacuations, Management of Anaphylaxis, First Aid and CPR.

Teaching also involves a lot of professional reading, keeping up-to-date with our subject areas and developments in pedagogy. As part of our Professional Standards Scheme, our teachers have made reference to a number of influential texts including *Teach Like a Champion* by Doug Lemov, *The Art and Science of Teaching* by Robert Marzano, and *Visible Learning* by Ron Ritchhart among others.

The Professional Standards Scheme this year involved teachers setting goals and working in trios. The members of the trios visited each others’ lessons and shared their observations via a protocol called the ‘ladder of feedback’. We also surveyed our students and analysed samples of their work to inform our teaching. The follow up conversations were rich and collegial, reinforcing our strengths and enabling us to face our limitations with honesty and a way forward.

Staff engaged in over 130 different formal professional learning events. Some of the ones of more general interest were Ross Phillips and Chris Phyland attending a course at the Harvard Graduate School of Education called...
‘Leadership: An Evolving Vision’ (LEV) for seven days in the mid-year break. This remarkable opportunity provided them with a very intense period of lectures and readings from some of the leaders in the field and networking with educational leaders from fifteen countries. They added to the professional learning of the staff with two presentations on the topic of the first session of the LEV, ‘Immunity to Change’, a powerful concept for adult development.

Carol Dweck, famous for her work on what makes students learners or non-learners via growth and fixed mindsets, returned to Melbourne and a number of our staff heard her speak on ‘the Effort Effect’.

Jenni Farmilo, Terri Oprean and Ross Phillips represented Strathcona at the Alliance of Girls’ Schools conference in Wellington, NZ, with the theme, ‘Creative Girls Creative Women’, featuring a range of fascinating leaders from science, business, politics and history telling their stories of life as a squiggly line, rather than a linear progression.

Simone Boland, Tracy Heft and Rhonda Burns attended the Girls and Education National Conference in Sydney featuring high profile speakers like Dr Michael Carr-Gregg and Melinda Tankard Reist speaking on such topics as using apps to help manage mental health and the challenges for young people growing up in today’s society.

The Heads of Departments and the Pastoral Team have begun a series of professional development sessions on leadership in their roles. This is being undertaken from a team perspective under the guidance of Level Consulting Services. This process is funded by a generous grant from the Invergowrie Foundation for professional development.

A number of staff including Helen Hughes, Jennifer Farmilo, Kimberley Moor, Margaret Bowden, Liesl Woods, Edwina Stawell and Kerry Wilson, have continued their postgraduate studies in 2014.

The following teachers are external assessors or revision seminar presenters for the VCE this year, greatly adding to the knowledge of Strathcona staff of the fine details that lead to the success of our senior students:

- Anthea Andrews (Biology)
- Kimberley Bate (Physical Education)
- Simone Boland (English)
- Katherine Harrington (Further Mathematics)
- Tracy Herft (Mathematical Methods)
- Annette Holtschke (Further Mathematics)
- Helen Jackson (Music Performance, Music Investigation)
- Kimberley Moor (VCD)
- Terri Oprean (Health and Human Development)
- Julie Plymin (Chemistry)
- Sarah Quin (Biology)
- Marisa Rowlands (Drama and Theatre Studies)
- Vivian Simoncini (Italian)
- Mary Thornhill (English)
- Geoff Wriedt (Further Mathematics)

Clearly Strathcona is a learning community for those of all ages.
NAPLAN

Our students continue to perform exceptionally well in NAPLAN with our average score being about two years ahead of the average student score in the state. The data also reinforces our focus on differentiation as it details the levels that the students are operating at, supporting the information gleaned by the teachers in their day-to-day work with the students.

We are most interested in the growth of our students from test-to-test, which on average is very strong, but the data can highlight to us students who perhaps could be doing a little better. We believe, as research supports, that a broad curriculum is advantageous in developing literacy and numeracy skills in all students, and that it is not just in English and Mathematics that these skills are learnt and reinforced.

'We are most interested in the growth of our students …'

The graphs (at right) show the results of Strathcona this year compared with the rest of the state. In 16 of the 20 tests Strathcona students scored better than 75% of students in the state, a significant improvement on previous results.

Ross Phillips, Dean of Studies

Pastoral Care

Effective pastoral care is achieved through promoting a positive school environment that supports the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of every student.

At Strathcona we are fortunate to have a wonderful team overseeing Pastoral Care in the School and I am proud of the care and respect that this dedicated team show to our girls. This year we had three new Year Level Coordinators, Michelle Holding at Year 7, Erin Pandita, Year 8 - Semester 1 and Melissa King at Year 10.

One of the challenges that we faced as a team this year with the building works was ensuring that the girls at each year level had classrooms and a space that they could call their own. Year 7 classrooms were created in the library and, under guidance from Mrs Holding and her team of Form Tutors, bright, cheerful, welcoming classrooms have been created. The girls have their spaces which have been conducive to their learning and getting to know the whole year level.

At the beginning of the year, our Year 8 girls were dubious about being housed in demountables, but when they realised how ‘luxurious’ these classrooms actually were, any concerns were dismissed. My office, along with the Year 8 Coordinator, is also part of the demountables and I have thoroughly
enjoyed being geographically close to the Year 8 girls and getting to know them this year.

We are continually evaluating the messages we give to our young people and strive to provide them with positive role models, speakers and experiences to encourage them to feel positive about who they are.

One of the highlights for both Years 7 and 8 was the Enlighten Day program, which we have been running for the last four years. This program helps teenage girls decode the mixed messages they receive and helps them to develop self-esteem and confidence. The day included: critically evaluating media and social messages about having a ‘perfect’ body; reconnecting with core values and self-belief lost in adolescence; feminism; fashion labels and social labelling; managing money; study and workplace skills; personal safety; journal writing; stress management; and having healthy friendships.

At the end of this year there will be significant changes to our team of Year Coordinators. Scott Pannam, Year 12 Coordinator, will have completed ten years in the role and I would like to thank him on behalf of all the girls he has been responsible for during his time as Coordinator. He has been a support for both the girls and their families during their final year at Strathcona, always showing understanding, empathy and care. I would also like to personally thank him for all that he has done to ensure that each year the girls have very special memories of their final year of schooling.

Our staff are committed to the wellbeing of each student and recognise that it is the responsibility of everyone in the School. We will continue to support this whole school commitment into the future.

*Terri Oprean, Dean of Students*

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**Chaplaincy, Christian Education and Liberal Studies**

When Val Johnston (Hutchinson ’47) wrote the petitioning lines of our School hymn ‘Divine Instructor – we desire Thy hand to guide our future way’, she rightly acknowledged our Christian belief in God’s providential care as our Principal, teacher and leader. Today the School’s Mission Statement and Aims are a lasting reminder of Strathcona’s Christian values.

At Strathcona, our Baptist heritage has ensured the freedom to talk about faith and to share in prayer. This is clearly evident in our St Dominic’s Church services, assemblies, Christian Education classes; through guest speakers and lunchtime prayer and Bible study groups. Another spiritual moment is at Presentation Night, when all our departing Year 12 girls are presented with a Bible, and for the last time sing the hymn ‘Seek Ye First’ as Strathcona students. By such occasions our School community has the opportunity to freely share together in worship.

‘Mrs Hughes’s commitment to the Christian faith will be a lasting legacy …’

How privileged staff and girls have been to share the faith journey with our retiring Principal, Mrs Hughes. Her daily life exemplifies Christian faith and practice in leadership, care and vision for Strathcona. Our lives have been deeply enriched by Mrs Hughes’s Assembly talks and personal kind words on so many occasions. I thank her for her support of the Baptist ethic of social service. These opportunities have allowed so many girls to learn about the plight of others and to make a difference in the pursuit of social justice. Mrs Hughes’s commitment to the Christian faith will be a lasting legacy and her example will enable us all to remain steadfast to our Christian foundation in future years.

**Christian Education**

Christian Education staff value the opportunity to think creatively and develop coursework that is both engaging and academic. Our aim is to introduce students to the Christian faith and tradition in order to develop an appreciation for religious belief, practice and values.

Mrs Bronwyn Arnott, our Mellor House Chaplain and Christian Education teacher, resourcefully provided girls with an appreciation for the Biblical narrative, by encouraging an opportunity for open discussion and questioning. In Semester 2, Mrs Arnott implemented the Professional Standards initiative...
into her teaching and encouraged girls to dig deeper in their discourse by answering questions such as ‘What Makes You Say That?’ (Making Thinking Visible R. Ritchhart, et al.) This prompt enabled girls to foster a disposition toward evidential reasoning.

Both the Years 7 and 8 Christian Education classes focused on stories written in the Old Testament and New Testament Biblical narrative, exploring in greater depth the life and teachings of Jesus. Girls particularly enjoyed opportunities to share in prayer, role-plays and to complete journaling exercises.

This year, the Year 8 classes had a special opportunity for reflection during the SEED initiative. As girls reflected upon the topic Communication, they explored the meaning of ‘sacred space’ and created memory stones to recall their spiritual experience.

Religion in Society, a VCE Unit 1 subject, offers to Years 9 and 10 girls an opportunity to examine in greater depth religion in Australia. After an examination of Christian religious history in Australia and significant religious identities, girls examine the eight aspects of religion and compare these with other traditions. The co-curricular Building Bridges Interfaith Dialogue program provided an excellent opportunity for girls to visit other faith based independent schools.

Choosing which values to live by in principle and in practice is fundamental to being human

Choosing which values to live by in principle and in practice is fundamental to being human. The discipline of Ethics, studied at Year 11 provided an opportunity to examine and discuss various methods of ethical decision making at the personal, family, local, community, national and global level. In addition, there was an opportunity to visit The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614 and to hear guest speakers from Baptist World Aid, The Asylum Seeker Refugee Centre and Violence Against Women which were most meaningful and memorable. The Random Acts of Kindness assignment was an important occasion for girls to express gratitude and prepare gifts for the ‘behind the scenes’ faces at Strathcona.

Vicki Triedel, VCE/VET Coordinator

In 2013 Strathcona achieved outstanding VCE results. There were an impressive number of whole school, subject and individual achievements. Strathcona was ranked 12th in the State. A snapshot of the School’s results reveals 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 and one in each of Food Technology, Further Mathematics, Global Politics and Health and Human Development. Recognition of individual achievements also came with the Premier’s VCE Awards 2014. Five girls attained these awards: Cheyenne Bradley (Theatre Studies), Katherine Butler (Food Technology), Chloe Nall (Health and Human Development), Gemma Smith (Further Mathematics) and Claire Stollyer (Global Politics). Claire was also Dux of the School with an ATAR of 99.85. Claire has gone on to study Arts/Law at Monash University. The achievements of individuals were also recognised for those Strathcona girls who were part of ‘Top Designs’ and ‘Top Acts’: Katherine Butler (Food Technology) and Annie Biggins (Theatre Studies).

A number of our students also availed themselves of the opportunity to study a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course. Strathcona is part of the Inner Melbourne Vocational Education and Training cluster (IMVC). Fifteen students undertook studies as diverse as Equine Studies, Applied Fashion and Design and Hospitality with some completing all four VCE units. Other outside providers were Distance Education and the Victorian School of Languages. These opportunities help ensure that our students have ready access to a broad range of educational offerings that complement those already offered.

Rbona Burns, Chaplain
Junior School

2014 has been a wonderful year in so many ways. Every day our students have been encouraged to discover more about themselves and their world. Together, the Strathcona community has given our young children a secure and stimulating environment where strong core values, learning and creativity are a part of each school day.

‘The new plants, furniture and decorations combine to create beautiful spaces to work in and be inspired by.’

The most obvious physical change to our primary school has been to the courtyard gardens on the northern side. Thanks to the vision and hard work of Mrs Pauline Eccleston, the new garden spaces have enhanced the views from inside the classrooms and made it more practical, attractive and comfortable for the children to work outside. The new plants, furniture and decorations combine to create beautiful spaces to work in and be inspired by. Children in ground floor classrooms and special guests officially opened the courtyard gardens in October.

Our students will as easily reach for an iPad or laptop as they would for a pencil case when a job needs to be done. The ability to creatively construct a presentation is made all the more easy with the correct classroom technology tools. This year we have used iPads in five of our seven primary school year levels and laptops at every year level. The iPads are owned by the School and, therefore, content is controlled by the School. The devices are used for classroom learning content only, removing the potential for distraction. Staff meeting time was regularly devoted to the sharing of apps and ideas for learning using iPads and other devices.

Mellor House students are always encouraged to be active. This year saw the creation of the Mellor House Friends of Sport group to encourage, support and promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. Wrist bands were distributed to all students with the message ‘Strathcona - Let’s Get Active’ printed on them. The new group organised and supported initiatives such as a Walk to School morning followed by a healthy breakfast snack, involvement in the children’s three kilometre event in the Run Melbourne Carnival, an afternoon play in a local park, a family walk up the 1,000 Steps Kokoda Track Memorial Walk and a House-based cycle challenge called the Tour de Strathy.

There was a thorough review of the Mellor House Integrated Curriculum to audit and match our content with that of the new Australian Curriculum. This was an opportunity to review the content and sequencing of our Integrated Units and develop an updated and improved curriculum to benefit the learning experiences of our children. Our staff met regularly with a curriculum consultant to plan new Units then review them. Many staff meetings were devoted to curriculum design and the fine tuning of what children need to know and how we can help them learn it. As we have a good number of experienced staff, the professional sharing was most valuable.

There were many opportunities for families to join together in a school-based context over the year. The special 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner was well supported by enthusiastic Mellor House parents, as was the Fundraising Weekend when so many of our families gathered to raise money for Cancer Council Victoria. The ELC picnic was a fun way to start the year and most year levels maintained regular catch-ups to keep everyone in touch.

‘… we have staff who are keen to develop new and better ways to improve the lives and learning opportunities of all children in their care.’

Great schools have great staff. At our school we have staff who are keen to develop new and better ways to improve the lives and learning opportunities of all children in their care. This year, our teachers have been actively engaged in a range of professional learning courses and experiences to develop their skills and understandings about teaching and learning. Professional sharing has been strongly encouraged so that all teachers can benefit from the expertise of others.

Our children have regularly been required to perform in class concerts, School concerts, choral and instrumental competitions, assemblies and public events. Creative ‘products’ have been displayed in all corners of the School, in magazines, newspapers and even in the National Gallery. Being a Mellor House student comes with an expectation to share what you
‘Our students will as easily reach for an iPad or laptop as they would for a pencil case when a job needs to be done.’
do with others. Skills to do so are taught and modelled by adults and enthusiastically encouraged by our supportive community.

In every curriculum area and for every year level, we have provided many high-quality experiences to educate and inspire our children. Visits to the National Gallery of Victoria, The Arts Centre, Melbourne Museum, The Immigration Museum, Melbourne Zoo, Yarrabee - Yesterday's World and Warburton's Habitat Tree have been some of the highlights. We have also brought in puppeteers, geologists, international musicians, elite sports people, opera singers, scientists, artists and magicians to inspire, entertain and educate our students. Our students have been acknowledged in Mathematics, English and Science competitions, eisteddfods (Music and Speech & Drama) and also in community service projects.

I would like to thank our community for the cooperation and commitment given to provide Mellor House students with an educational experience of the highest standard. Our teachers have been creative, caring and thorough. Parents have trusted us to educate their children and, together, we share responsibility for their emotional, social and academic development. I thank the Mellor House students for actively and enthusiastically involving themselves in their education. With such fine examples given by our Year 6 student leaders, our youngest children can learn from high calibre role models. Together, we have had a great year.

Finally, I thank Mrs Helen Hughes for her interest, involvement and leadership in our Junior School over many years. We have such a successful School because of Mrs Hughes’s attention to detail, professional knowledge and genuine care for the education and welfare of each student, family and member of staff.

Christopher Phyland, Head of Junior School

Tay Creggan

The 2014 group has certainly gained much from their time at Tay Creggan. The supportive and caring environment allows the students to explore their personal characteristics and capabilities, identify their learning strengths and recognise areas for continued improvement.

The I-Learning program continues to offer an interactive, inquiry-based and interdisciplinary experience for our students and this year we focused on History and The Arts. Our unique location allowed the I-Learning program to embrace the CBD as part of the students’ learning ‘playground’. Numerous ventures were made into the city, exploiting the rich texture of cultural and community resources on offer ranging from laneway, museum and art gallery tours, to street art workshops, ballet performances and animation workshops.

Another benefit of the I-Learning program was the continued development of personal and inter-personal skills. Students were encouraged to accept responsibility for managing their time and resources effectively to complete set tasks. Working in groups, they have initiated ideas and negotiated appropriate courses of action to achieve their goals. With almost unlimited access to information via their iPads, it has become very important for students to develop skills which enable them to analyse carefully and think critically in order to evaluate information. The Panel Presentation evening, where students presented their research in front of a group of five or six parents, further challenged them to substantiate content in response to parent questions – a challenging and also a rewarding experience.

‘The supportive and caring environment allows the students to explore their personal characteristics and capabilities, identify their learning strengths and recognise areas for continued improvement.’

The iPad now is just another part of a student’s educational tools and the staff have been able to further enhance their lessons to incorporate this innovative technology. The girls certainly enjoyed the ‘hands on’ access to numerous productive ‘apps’ and many subjects benefited from this excellent educational tool.

This year saw the inaugural Camp to Campus trek from the top of Mt Donna Buang back to the Tay Creggan Campus. The journey took seven days and involved three modes of travel - bushwalking, mountain biking and canoeing. The confidence and experience gained by the students over the seven days were most evident as were the closer bonding of friendships and the sharing of success at the end.

A cross-country ski camp at Falls Creek was thoroughly enjoyed by 17 of our students. The girls were incredibly supportive of each other as they experienced Nordic skiing for the first time. All students steadily developed their confidence and skills, which was frequently interspersed with much fun, laughter and the occasional snowball fight.

There were numerous Social Service events run this year, ably led by the Social Service Leaders. These activities have
helped the students gain a better understanding of the contributions they can make to their community. Every student took part in the traditional Daffodil Dash which saw the girls running laps around TC and raising over $2,000 for Cancer Council Victoria. Many stalls were held by forms at lunchtimes and our end of year Social Service Day saw numerous cakes baked, toiletry bags made for a women’s refuge, graffiti removed in the local area and assistance provided at Mission House.

I am continually amazed by the energy and enthusiasm that the Year 9 girls possess. In academic fields they have participated in NAPLAN, Mathematics, Science, Geography, LOTE and Creative Writing competitions. Other activities on the Year 9 calendar have included Debating, Music Evenings, Inter-Form, Inter-house and GSV Sports during each term of the year and a strong commitment to rowing from the girls’ own jetty. We also saw students participating in Study Seminars and experiencing examinations for the first time.

The Year 9 Dancing classes were most successful with the final evening being held at the Box Hill Town Hall. The students – girls and boys displayed their talents across many dance styles and also managed a dance with their parents.

All Year 9 students have endeavoured to complete their Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award this year. The Award offers young people the opportunity to achieve their best through setting goals in a non-competitive program of community service, adventurous, practical and physical activities, embracing the compulsory sections of Service, Expedition, Skill and Physical Recreation. Miss Woods has been overseeing each girl’s progress and we look forward to the Bronze level award ceremony at the end of the year.

This year saw the introduction of the Wellbeing program ably run by Mrs Thom, our Pastoral Coordinator. The students took part in numerous workshops ranging from resilience, conflict resolution and female empowerment to alcohol and drug awareness and many other activities. This subject was highly valued by our students and provides them with essential skills needed in today’s social world. The introduction of the Student Lounge as a social area for the girls to enjoy at recess and lunchtimes added to the relaxed atmosphere and cohesiveness of the Year Level.

‘I am continually amazed by the energy and enthusiasm that the Year 9 girls possess.’

I commend all the House Leaders for their leadership skills, particularly with the Dance and Drama Festival. They bravely faced the challenge of writing, casting and organising numerous rehearsals throughout Term 4 which culminated in a spectacular production on the night.

This is my last year as Head of Tay Creggan. The experience of running the Campus has been rewarding on many fronts, most particularly, because of the outstanding groups of girls I have had the privilege to lead over the years. The staff that are based at Tay Creggan, as well as the ones that commute from main school, together form a very special and most supportive family which I have been lucky to be part of. In many ways, I could not think of a better place or group of people to work with.

Geoffrey Wriedt, Head of Tay Creggan
Combining the best research-based approaches and individual learning support for all students, our School provides advancements in learning for all.

learning support services

Advanced Learning Centre

The Advanced Learning Centre staff work with students, staff and parents at Mellor House, Tay Creggan and Senior School, as part of a multidisciplinary team, to advance the learning of all members of the School community.

In 2014 we farewelled Ms Cathy Brotherton, who worked with Year 8 and 10 students, and welcomed Mrs Margaret Sheldon as her replacement. We also welcomed Ms Jenni Haines as an Integration Aide in Mellor House. Ms Sue Hymus (Hearing Impaired Specialist and Psychologist) joined Strathcona to oversee support for students with hearing impairment. Her role has included the implementation of programs, establishment of support processes, consultation and individual assistance. She is also involved in the transitioning of hearing impaired students into the School. Mrs Julie Holzer retired from her position as Teacher for the Hearing Impaired and Ms Dimitra Sanetsis took over this position in the latter half of 2014.

Mrs Carolyn King and Mrs Elizabeth Wildsmith provide support in Mellor House and in the Early Learning Centre. Mrs Marg Bowden provides support in Year 9 at Tay Creggan. Mrs Margaret Sheldon and Dr Charlotte Forwood support students in the Senior School, with Dr Forwood also providing enrichment and extension support to Years 5 and 6. Students and teachers are assisted by our three integration aides: Mrs Julie Wagner, Ms Jennifer Haynes and Mrs Jane Patrick. Students in Years 11 and 12 this year have also had access to additional English classes provided by Mr Scott Pannam.

‘Interactive devices have been used to engage and stimulate learners working at a higher level.’

Support programs include individual and small group withdrawal classes; in-class support for students and teachers; and assistance with planning for differentiation. A range of intensive programs are run for Mellor House students in
Years 3 to 6, including FastWord (auditory processing, language and literacy), Elementary Maths Mastery (numeracy), Toe By Toe (reading decoding), Stride Ahead (reading decoding and comprehension), Expressive Writing, Stareway to Spelling and Spelling Mastery (literacy).

This year students in Mellor House have been involved in a number of formal extension activities, including the Science Talent Search and the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad (also run in the Senior School). Other extension activities have included maths problem solving, run by Dr Charlotte Forwood and a wide range of activities coordinated and run by Ms Nicole Kapiniaris. These activities have included a celebrations research project in Prep using Book Creator on the iPad, writing and spatial awareness tasks in Year 1, an exploration of Charlotte's Web and Medieval Maths in Year 2, Investigative Maths in Year 3, including the use of BrainPop and Maths Mansion, and an exploration of Morris Gleitzman's texts Blabber Mouth and Sticky Beak in Year 4, which included an iPad element. Students have predominantly been withdrawn from class to work in small groups with like-minded students to work on activities which extend the classroom curriculum. Interactive devices have been used to engage and stimulate learners working at a higher level.

Students in the Senior School have been involved in competitions and activities run within individual departments as well as activities provided through the Boroondara Gifted Network, such as the ‘da Vinci Decathlon’, in which Strathcona finished 3rd and 7th in the Regional Finals. Mrs Marg Bowden ran an enrichment unit on change for a group of Tay Creggan students. Senior School students also participated in ‘Mission to Mars’ and ‘Human Biosciences’ programs at the Victorian Space Science Education Centre and workshops covering a diverse range of concepts, including energy, individuality and connections. Year 8 students competed in the United Nations Diplomacy Challenge, held at Camberwell Grammar School. Mrs Melissa King organised and trained a group of Year 9 to 12 students to compete in the Evatt Competition (debating) run by UN Youth Australia, with one team qualifying for the state Final. She also trained a group of Year 9 students to compete in the UN Security Council Moot at Camberwell Grammar School. Dr Charlotte Forwood ran an interdisciplinary workshop, ‘Illuminating Identity’, in which Year 8 students from five schools explored adolescent identity development before creating individual working lamps to illuminate their identity. Strathcona will continue to develop its involvement in the Boroondara Gifted Network in 2015.

Advanced Learning staff continue to engage in professional learning both within and beyond the School environment. In 2014, professional development has included attendance at the first Asia Pacific Conference on Inclusive Education in Sydney, at which Dr Charlotte Forwood and Mrs Carolyn King presented a detailed overview of inclusive education at Strathcona. Dr Forwood gave a presentation titled ‘Beaker or flask: what’s in a word? Differences in understanding of secondary science vocabulary and attitude to science for students with specific language impairments’ at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists’ Mind the Gap Conference in Leeds, UK. Advanced Learning staff have also been involved in professional development focusing on leadership, specific learning difficulties, dyslexia, formative assessment, instructional and strategic intervention, digital technology for the hearing impaired, emotion-based interventions and emotion-focused parenting. Involvement in professional development and sharing is essential for staff to build their knowledge of pedagogical issues in order to continue to assist students, teachers and parents.

Charlotte Forwood and Carolyn King, Leaders of Advanced Learning

SEED Program

SEED, the interdisciplinary program for Years 7 and 8, has continued to evolve following its implementation in 2011. Changes to the timetable meant that in 2014 SEED did not have regular time allocation in the timetable. Instead SEED operated across the curriculum, with all subjects contributing to the inquiry within their period allocations making SEED truly interdisciplinary. As a result the program ran within individual year levels, with teams of teachers running a unit, rather than individual teachers, and a SEED reflection was included in the school report.

SEED in 2014 has focused on the broad themes of communication at Year 8 and relationships at Year 7. In Year 8, students were ‘tuned in’ by subject teachers to some ways that the concept of communication was relevant to their discipline. For example, in English, students explored the
changes in slang words over time, and in Science, students considered how facial expressions are used to communicate thoughts and feelings. Following the tune-in sessions, students worked under the guidance of their Mathematics, Science and English teachers as they inquired into an aspect of communication that interested them. Year 7 SEED explored the theme of relationships through an excursion to the National Gallery, followed by an investigation into an aspect of relationships which was of personal interest.

‘SEED will continue to focus on the development of thinking skills, creativity, information literacy skills and ICT skills …’

SEED continues to evolve in terms of its implementation. In 2015, SEED will continue to explore avenues for interdisciplinary teaching, including the way in which incursions and excursions can be used to foster interdisciplinary learning. SEED will continue to focus on the development of thinking skills, creativity, information literacy skills and ICT skills, with the aim of embedding these within the regular classroom. It will be important to maintain the foci of inquiry (seeking), engagement, elaboration and diversity.

SEED has provided students and teachers with opportunities to engage in learning tasks which include explicit teaching of skills, the provision of choice, and activities which encourage the development of collaborative working skills between students, students and teachers, and teachers.

Charlotte Forwood

Information Resources

In an age driven by digital technologies of ever increasing sophistication and portability which provide access to virtually unlimited amounts of information at the tap of a button, the fate of ‘The Library’ is often under debate. Is it now an anachronism, a relic of the past, motivated by some quaint notion that it is possible and desirable, to collect and store the accumulated knowledge of a society in one place?

Recent trends, both international and national, would belie that view. In 2013, the Library of Birmingham was opened. Said to be the largest public library in Britain and the largest cultural space in Europe, the spectacular new building acts as focus ‘for knowledge, learning and culture’ in the heart of the city. This year, the Toronto Public Library opened its 99th branch, a space described as ‘a community hub’ offering both the full range of traditional materials and the latest in digital innovation. And our own city has seen the opening of the Library at the Dock where community meeting rooms, multimedia recording and editing facilities, as well as reading, writing and study spaces, mean that, as the architect has said, the Library acts as ‘a hub that fosters a sense of community’.

What is common across these visions of the library in the 21st century is the conviction that a great library sits at the heart of a community, acting as a shared physical and virtual space for social and collaborative interactions, be they academic, artistic, cultural, technological, formal or informal. It is this sense of building and contributing to a vibrant, synergistic learning community that underpins the vision and endeavour of the Information Resource Centre at Strathcona – in Senior School, Mellor House and at Tay Creggan. As a Centre committed to the goal of lifelong learning for all stakeholders, the SIRC sees itself as a place of inquiry, discovery, creativity and critical engagement, where a combination of innovative teaching pedagogy and practice and up-to-date technology guides and assists students in transforming information into deep knowledge and understanding. Believing that a balance of print, audio visual and digital resources is needed to support both the academic curriculum and personal and personalised learning; that information and digital media literacy skills and understandings are essential to effective learning; and that inquiry, problem solving activities are key learning strategies in the development of higher order thinking skills, the SIRC plays an integral role in the learning networks of the School.

As such, the SIRC provides a variety of flexible, multi-use physical spaces across the three libraries, spaces which provide for large, medium and small group and individual work; allow for the production of outcomes in a wide range of formats; and offer recreational, social, informal areas for different age groups. Seamless access to the wireless network, to digital sources of information via the SIRC Learning Space in Blackboard, to electronic books (both fiction and non-fiction), to video streaming and audio visual materials, means that, in a blend of a physical space with a virtual digital space, staff and students are well supported in their teaching and learning.

It is in such spaces as these that the year has seen such entertaining activities as the Strathcona Short Film Festival in Term 2, regular meetings of the Bronte Literature Club, and Book Week, during which time a spirited celebration of all things steampunk took place, complete with costumes featuring the mandatory lace and googlees. Mellor House students also participated enthusiastically in Book Week celebrations, dressing up as characters from favourite books for the Book Week Parade, while students read more than 6,000 books in the Premier’s Reading Challenge for this year.

We thank our Year 12 Student Leader of Information Services, Keely Kontaxis, for her most thoughtful and generous
leadership in the Library, and especially for her encouragement of the younger students in the Bronte Club. The SIRC staff - Mrs Dunoon, Mr van Ree, Mrs Joyce, Ms McAuliffe, Mrs Breuer and Ms Spasov - have all worked tirelessly to realise the learning centred vision and goals of the SIRC and the School and we thank them for their invaluable contributions throughout the year.

‘... the new Knowledge Centre ... will enable the Library to expand and develop ... its role as a heart space in the learning community that is Strathcona.’

When the Library team moved into the current Library space in 2003, it was with great pride and optimism in what the facility would offer the Strathcona learning community and, as we look back at what has been achieved in the last 11 years, it will be with some sadness that we will leave it behind in 2015. However, the new Knowledge Centre that awaits us will enable the Library to expand and develop, in many exciting ways, its role as a heart space in the learning community that is Strathcona.

In her first staff meeting in 2001, Mrs Hughes spoke of the library as ‘the hub of the school’. As the final year of leadership by our Principal draws to a close, we thank Mrs Hughes for her strong endorsement and constant encouragement of the libraries’ endeavours to support the intellectual, cultural, social and ethical lives of all learners in the School. It has been said that a great library ‘is enmeshed in the life of a community in a way that makes it indispensable’.4 We hope we have been able to live up to this ideal.

Mary Hall, Director of Information Resources

Information Technology

I am constantly amazed by the frequency with which changes occur in IT and their impact on the educational tools available to staff and students. Technology innovation and efficiency are key to assisting our staff gain the best out of our students. During the course of the year we have been building the framework for our new Learning Centre to include innovative ‘hidden’ technology that staff and students will use now and in the coming years. This is very exciting to see all the hard work beginning to take shape.

‘... there are 1,500 – 2,000 different devices connecting to the School’s wireless network over the course of a day.’

Strathcona continues to maintain a dual boot environment for school owned notebooks and desktops allowing staff and students to choose either Microsoft Windows (V8.1) or Apple OSX (V10.9 Mavericks) as their preferred operating environment. We have also seen a significant increase in use of iOS devices including iPads and iPhones. The networking infrastructure is supporting the BYOD realm and we are seeing more variety of devices being used throughout the School. On occasions there are 1,500 – 2,000 different devices connecting to the School’s wireless network over the course of a day. Primarily we have iOS devices (iPads and iPhones) but complementing this are Chrome Books, tablets including Windows Surface, Android Tablets and various flavours of notebooks - all able to seamlessly connect to the School infrastructure. While the wireless system is currently connecting such a wide array of devices, plans are already in place to further improve to newer faster standards.

This year also saw the introduction of Apple MacBook Airs for all staff (as these replaced the end of life leased computers) as well as a number for senior student class sets addressing the need to provide lighter and faster equipment. MacBook Airs and iPads were also introduced into the Junior School in preparation for a 1:1 program throughout Mellor House next year. Overall, the MacBook Airs and iPads have proved a resounding success in terms of performance, ease of use, and in particular their physical attributes - robust and lightweight.

The core functionality of the School-owned white MacBooks (provided through the Funding Initiative Scheme for Computers in School) including screen display, processor speed, keyboard/trackpad functionality, battery life, etc. were all tested as still being appropriate for student use even though the computers were three years old. Overall performance, however, was diminished significantly by the poor hard drive speed and the time taken for the computer to be ready from fully off to fully on/operational. As government funding has now ceased, the School is planning carefully to continue providing high quality equipment for student use. The fleet of the School-owned MacBooks were all upgraded to include additional RAM along with replacing the mechanical hard drive with a solid state drive (SSD). This initiative improved the performance of these computers such that it is expected they

will be suitable for an additional two years after which they will need to be replaced. Benchmark tests showed that once upgraded these MacBooks were comparable to the new MacBook Airs. By implementing this upgrade strategy, significant cost savings to the School were achieved.

To ensure the educational demands and continued growth and accessibility of internet based resources are always improved, negotiations with the School’s current Internet Service Provider (ISP) has resulted in much faster and newer technology links at both the Canterbury and Hawthorn Campuses. Canterbury now supports a 250 Mbps link and Hawthorn was recently upgraded to 100 Mbps. Looking back just three years ago to the links at Canterbury (10 Mbps) and Hawthorn (4 Mbps), we can see how this aspect of the infrastructure has continued to grow as mobile device demands, number of devices and cloud based requirements have increased. Plans are also in progress to configure these two links to be fail-over for one another so that if there is an issue with Internet connection at either site, then the other site is to be used to keep access ongoing. The network infrastructure has a high degree of redundancy with fail-over process in place and now we are ensuring our Internet connection can also have this same level of redundancy.

Over the past few years the resources available at Strathcona have undergone significant changes. This year has been no different but with the added responsibility of planning for our new Learning Centre and formulating infrastructure standards to follow for the years to come. Anticipating what new devices (mobile or otherwise) will be available for use by our staff and students is always difficult but by implementing best practice and adhering to these standards Strathcona is in the best possible position to cope with these challenges.

David Young, Director of Information Technology Services

Careers

Career planning is an ongoing process that begins at school and continues throughout life. The initial stages can be characterised by uncertainty and difficulty accessing information about what is possible, as well as by a person’s limited understanding of themselves. The Careers Program at Strathcona aims to address these issues by assisting the girls to identify their talents and give them access to information about pathways into further study and work. They should then be aiming to do all they can to develop their skills and talents, particularly in their relevant areas of interest.

I am always keen for our girls to seek current information directly from those ‘at the coal face’. Past students are great role models and potential mentors for our students. They have no vested interest in promoting a particular option and can provide a real service in demystifying the world of further education and work. This year there were two particular opportunities for our girls to access this help and advice:

• The Strathcona/OSA Careers Night was held in late July. More than forty past students attended the event and spoke with our girls of their pathways from school to this point in their lives. Many of them were keen to be involved as they had benefited by a similar opportunity when they had been at the School – and others were motivated by recent experiences, and from these, were keen to be able to pass on advice to our girls. Current students who attended were inspired and energised by the conversations they had, and many left with a clearer picture of how the subjects and co-curricular activities they are doing now and in the near future might relate to a future pathway.

• Term 3 also saw the launch of the OSA Mentor Program which was initiated by two past students, Karina Skourletos and Jess Wilson. A breakfast was held at Tay Creggan at which a number of past and present students became acquainted, with the aim being to establish relationships in which the Old Strathconians will be available to provide ongoing advice and support to our girls who are exploring their career options.

Another opportunity to hear from past students about their lives since leaving Strathcona is provided within the ‘Liberal Studies’ program, organised by the Year 12 Coordinator, Scott Pannam, which runs most weeks for the Year 12 students.

2014 has seen the continuation of the Morrisby Test within the Year 10 Careers program. A report is generated for each student that combines a measure of abilities and preferences to provide suggestions and recommendations in terms of subject choices and general areas of study. This is timed to lead into the VCE subject selection period. I think it is a very worthwhile exercise and the report has given the girls and their families some important guidance in their decisions and provides me with valuable information for my ongoing work through the VCE years with the girls. This year I also introduced an online vocational test, ‘My Career Match’, which is designed to look at the importance of generic skills and how these can relate to general areas of work. I am looking to introduce this to the Year 9 girls towards the end of their year at Tay Creggan.

Resume writing and interview skills training continue to
be important components of the Year 10 careers program. The mock interview night was again a great success and I continue to be impressed by the way our girls present themselves and are so capable in articulating their skills, hopes and ambitions in this forum. I very much value the involvement of a number of parents acting as the interviewers.

The Year 10 Work Experience program is another way our students can access advice and direction from the ‘real world’. The program is very rewarding for the girls, and it gives them the chance to be treated as adults with real work expectations. The feedback from both staff who visited the girls, and from the employers in their reports, was very positive and the School is grateful to the many employers who continue to provide these opportunities for our students. I have spoken to our current Year 9 girls about the importance of putting the time into gaining a meaningful placement for 2015 in an area of interest to them.

Other careers related events during the year included the VCE Careers Expo, a ‘Transition to University’ session in July, with three members of our 2013 Year 12 group, seminars at universities, information sessions here at school, and Open Days in August. These were all well attended by our girls and continue to be crucial to the information gathering process.

Graduating students from 2013 found placements in a range of tertiary courses including Science and Health Sciences, Arts (Humanities), Business and Commerce and Creative Arts. Choices of Institution vary according to areas of interest but Monash, Melbourne and Deakin Universities continue to attract the majority of our girls. Generalist courses are still popular. Whether to do a double degree over four years or alternatively a single degree plus honours over the same time is a question coming up more frequently as post-graduate studies become more and more important in securing employment. Internships and any other work experience opportunities within a degree are also of great value. There is an interest in overseas study and most of our institutions provide the opportunities for one or two semesters of study in other countries. Not only is this cost effective but it also enables students to gain a cultural education as well as pursuing their academic interests. Deferral is also considered by some although with the uncertainty about fee increases in 2016, this option may not be taken up by as many next year.

We are all eagerly awaiting our Year 12 results in December and wish our girls all the best as they embark on the next stage of their lives.

Mark Duncan, Careers Advisor

International Students

International students make a significant contribution to Australian society, diversifying and enriching communities, and strengthening Australia’s global networks. The decision to study in Australia also offers many benefits to international students, allowing them to gain a high quality, internationally recognised education, as well as the opportunity to experience life in Australia.

However, Australia’s international education sector is undergoing a period of change. This change is driven by adjustments to Australia’s migration policy, as well as changing perceptions of the Australian education market, the increased value of the Australian dollar, and the growth of Australia’s overseas competitors.

Despite recent declines in the Australian international education sector, it continues to be an important sector, both in Australia and internationally. Recent years have seen China continue as the largest single nation contributing to the international student population in Australia. Eliza Chui, the Austrade Education Commissioner for North Asia, presented strategies at a recent Austrade seminar to specifically promote the Australian school sector. Growing Australia’s market share in the school segment is considered of strategic importance, and recent visa changes allowing Chinese students to commence Australian studies at Year 7 level offer further potential for the sector. At Strathcona, we continue to enrol international students from China and this year we have had students join us in Year 10 and Year 11 (four students). Currently we have 16 international students from China.

Vision International is an organisation for international education. Throughout the year, I attend committee meetings and seminars with a focus on welfare issues, homestay, visa compliance and recent visa changes. This helps to inform our service at Strathcona.

This year, Strathcona agreed to take part in the Australian Government Survey, The International Students Survey 2014. This survey, run by Sweeney Research Pty Ltd, asked for...
Our international students from China shared aspects of their culture through dance at a Senior School Assembly during Cultural Diversity Week.

International students make a significant contribution to Australian society, diversifying and enriching communities, and strengthening Australia’s global networks.

During Cultural Diversity Week in March, the international students came together to share aspects of their culture through dance at a Senior School Assembly, coordinated by Student Leaders, Junyan Huang and ZiWei Peng. This was presented by the international students from China, and the exchange students from Ewha Girls High School in Korea and Soshin Girls School in Japan.

The Welcome Reception at Government House (19 March) is an annual event to officially welcome international students to our state and celebrate the diversity international education brings to Victoria. Our Year 12 students are always excited to attend this event as it is an opportunity for them to visit Government House and to meet the Governor. The ceremony was held in the State Ballroom where His Excellency, The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria, welcomed the international students. After the formalities, the students were able to tour the State Rooms which was a highlight. The students were accompanied by Mrs Dunoon, the International Student Coordinator, and Ms Petsinis, the ESL teacher.

The international students have been supported by a group from the Hosanna Church of Christ, Glen Waverley who meet the students at lunchtime and offer a mentoring program with a variety of activities to help build friendships and relationships. To celebrate Mid Autumn Festival, a Chinese and Korean special holiday, The Hosanna Church group organised a lunch and cultural performance for the international students and their local student friends.

To assist the students in the VTAC selection system, options for further study and visa renewal processes, Smart Choice Education invited our Year 11 and 12 international students to participate in Smart Expo 2014 as well as on-campus seminars. Each year the international students find this a most valuable information session.

I would like to acknowledge this year’s International Student Leaders, Junyan Huang and ZiWei Peng, for their support and organisation of the Cultural Diversity Week activities and their support of the international students.

I thank also Ms Petsinis, known as ‘Miss Mary’ for her dedicated support, commitment to her ESL students from Years 10 to 12 and for her professionalism in her role as ESL teacher.

Robyn Dunoon, International Student Coordinator
Through the combination of dedicated work by our staff and our students’ commitment to doing their best, 2014 has witnessed multiple achievements across the disciplines.

senior school faculty areas

Art

In 2014 our Art teachers have supported our students' learning of the Visual Arts through exploring art making skills and developing an aesthetic awareness.

The Art Department continued to work with the re-structured Year 7 and 8 Art programs, giving greater access to a range of media, including Printmaking, Textiles and Ceramics. At Year 9, students have the choice through elective units to specialise in Printmaking or Metal and Jewellery work. We have also been planning for a change of program for Year 10 in 2015, with new choices of Photography and Textiles being offered, to run alongside options of Painting, Sculpture and Design.

In each semester these materials and techniques are linked by developing our students drawing skills, encouraging them to observe, think, analyse, make aesthetic decisions, implement and refine their ideas. To enhance this learning we have organised an exciting program of guest speakers, increasing our students' awareness of the role of a range of artists and designers in our community.

We are also looking forward to extending our Year 7 and 8 Art programs with a whole year level excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria during our end of year program. We hope this will become a regular part of our curriculum.

Once again, the highlight of the year was the annual ELC to Year 12 Strathcona Art Exhibition. Opened in early October by Architect and past student, Jacqui Alexander, the exhibition showcased the artistic achievements and the skill development of our students from ELC to Year 12.

The Barbara Green award for 2014 was awarded to Jane Merrylees in recognition of her achievements, dedication and enthusiasm for all aspects of her Art studies. During Year 12, Jane has worked with diligence and has produced an outstanding folio and written work in both Art and Visual Communication Design. We acknowledge and give thanks to the Green family for making such an award available for our students.
The 2014 Art Captains, Maddison Hopkins and Jane Merrylees, are to be commended for their leadership. Their assistance was instrumental in the success of many of the department initiatives such as the annual Arts Week and the Art Exhibition. We also thank them for the idea to run the very successful, Hughesy Prize, our version of the Archibald Portrait prize for ELC to Year 12 students in honour of our Principal, Mrs Hughes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Art Department staff and the broader School community for their support. This has enabled the Art Department to play such an important part in the education of Strathcona students.

Erin Horsley, Head of Visual Arts

Commerce

This has been another eventful year for our Commerce students. In the world of Economics we have seen the repeal of the Carbon Tax, interest rates reaching their lowest calendar year average since 1959, and efforts by the Government to shift the budget towards surplus. For Legal Studies students, a raft of legislation has been enacted at both state and federal level, including tougher parole conditions and new laws concerning jury directions. The Black Saturday bushfire class action was also of interest.

A particular highlight of the year for our Year 11 Legal Studies students was the opportunity to observe a day at the Melbourne Magistrates’ Court in August. We saw first-hand how the Magistrate deals with bail applications, and the causes of delays in our court system.

Two guest speakers addressed our Legal Studies students during 2014. In April, Senior Sergeant Warren Ladgrove from the Victoria Police Counter Terrorism Coordination Unit, spoke to the girls about current counter terrorism legislation, and the challenges facing both state and federal police in the detection and prevention of terrorist activity. Then in August, Old Strathconian, Eliza Foley, from the Dispute Resolution Centre of Victoria, spoke to the girls about her role as a civil mediator. The girls gained a great deal from the experience and insight of each of these speakers.

A highlight for the Year 11 Economics course was to investigate the viability of the Australian wine industry, looking specifically into the demand-supply dynamics affecting grape growers, the wine production process, and factors affecting the performance of Australian wine exports. This culminated in a trip to the Yarra Valley wine region, and a tour of the De Bortoli winery.

In the Year 10 Commerce elective, Dollars and Sense, students were introduced to economic, finance, accounting and marketing concepts, which were further explored in a cupcake competition towards the end of Semester 1. The students created mock businesses and, in some cases, franchises, and competed to make the highest profit. All funds raised were donated to World Vision, Beyond Blue and Cancer Council Australia.

Our Year 11 and 12 Accounting students have been working with Quickbooks software this year, which we hope gives them a taste of the increasingly computerised world of accounting.

We look forward to the continued engagement of our students in the Commerce subject offerings in 2015.

David Bradshaw, Head of Commerce
Drama

2014 has once again been a dynamic and exciting year for Drama at Strathcona. The annual Performing Arts Festival heralded the drama activities with an outstanding display of Drama, Dance and Music all written, directed and choreographed by the House Dance, Drama and Music Captains. Their imagination, creativity and passion were clearly evident and commendable. Olivia Lowrey and Penelope Shaw, the School Dance and Drama Captains, compered the evening and displayed inventiveness in their choice of theme, *An Evening with Jane Austen*. All the students involved demonstrated commendable House spirit and captivated their audience with joy-filled and enchanting performances.

'It is extremely uplifting to witness our past students working collaboratively with the younger students and imparting their skills, passion and love for theatre.'

Our musical, this year, *Pippin*, was once again a thrilling and exuberant spectacle that showcased the singing, dancing and acting talents of our students and their love for Musical Theatre. Audiences flocked to the shows and spoke effusively about the calibre of the production and the inspiring talent of the cast. Praise must once again be given to Jason Parker and his dedicated and passionate team who come back to Strathcona year after year to help with the production. It is extremely uplifting to witness our past students working collaboratively with the younger students and imparting their skills, passion and love for theatre.

Once again this year, we received the outstanding news that one of our students received a Premier's Award in Theatre Studies. Cheyenne Bradley was one of three students in the entire state to achieve this impressive accolade in Theatre Studies and we congratulate her wholeheartedly. Annie Biggins was also chosen by the VCAA to perform her Theatre Studies monologue at the Top Class performances. This is also an extremely remarkable achievement and we congratulate Annie.

In May, the Year 12 Drama class presented beautifully crafted ensemble performances to the School community. The girls worked collaboratively to research, write and create their own non-naturalistic theatre. The work was extremely thought-provoking, highly engaging and a tribute to the girls' commendable intelligence, commitment and work ethic.

In June, the Year 10 Drama students worked with outstanding passion and dedication to stage Brian Friel's *Freedom of the City*. Their work displayed exceptional acting prowess and maturity. They brought their audience to tears and totally held their attention throughout the performance. High praise was given to the girls after each show. The audience was quite overwhelmed by the calibre of their acting and their outstanding comprehension and focus.

The Year 10 Drama and Dance Captains commenced Term 3 with three enormously busy weeks of feverish and gratifying rehearsals for the Year 7 House Dance and Drama Festival. This year each House was given the theme, 'a Disney character', and an enriching experience was created for the younger girls. The Year 7 girls enjoyed every moment of working with the 'big' girls and commanded the stage with confidence and pleasure. The girls relished the opportunity of performing in such a supportive and encouraging environment. A big thank you to our Year 10 Captains for looking after the girls so well and for once again modelling an exceptional love for theatre.

Year 8 students, under the guidance of Jason Parker, showcased their acting prowess in their co-curricular play in Term 3. The girls portrayed wonderful ensemble theatre and performed with confidence and flair. Congratulations to the Year 8 girls and Mr Parker. The girls' excitement was palpable on the evening and a pleasure to behold.

'The girls relished the opportunity of performing in such a supportive and encouraging environment.'

The Year 10 students also performed in a Shakespearean Duologue Evening and created their own ensemble performances in the second semester. Both evenings were extremely enjoyable and high praise given to the talent, motivation and dedication to excellence shown on both...
evenings. The ensemble performances incorporated beautifully crafted images to create thought provoking and alluring theatre.

Finally, a huge thank you to our wonderful School Drama and Dance Captains, Olivia Lowrey and Penelope Shaw. Your love for Drama is a pleasure to behold. You have modelled passion for theatre in all its different guises and we wish you both a wonderfully happy and rewarding future. We will miss you and thank you!

Marisa Rowlands, Head of Drama

**English**

There has been much change facing the English teaching profession in recent years. The Australian Curriculum and its Victorian counterpart of AusVELS has been a keen focus over the last couple of years, while there were alterations and modifications to the VCE Study Designs in 2008. These have now been reviewed and the outcomes redesigned which sees us gearing up to meet these new challenges. The proposed changes to VCE English, Literature and English as an Additional Language (EAL) were released in July and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is awaiting final feedback before implementation in 2016. Naturally, this has stimulated professional discussion and planning as it has implications for the classroom in Years 7 to 10.

‘We must engage with new ideas and embrace change as the end result aids students in their learning and enhances their understanding of the world.’

All this debate and lively interchange of ideas and perspectives serve to move English and the teaching of the subject forward. We must engage with new ideas and embrace change as the end result aids students in their learning and enhances their understanding of the world. Senior staff attended professional development seminars and conferences, while the Heads of English in Independent Schools network hosted Sean Box (VCAA Manager of English curriculum) to provide more clarity on what the proposed changes mean for VCE content, teaching and assessment in all the English courses.

We have continued to innovate with our curriculum and text choices. AusVELS has provided the clear framework to deliver an explicit teaching and learning English program that identifies what is important for students to achieve at different stages of their schooling and sets standards for those achievements. Its overarching aim is to build on the educational goals of the Melbourne Declaration which identified three key areas that need to be addressed for the benefit of both individuals and Australia as a whole. As such, the cross-curriculum priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia and sustainability are still being woven into our courses to offer opportunities to add depth and richness to student learning depending on the unit and text being studied. Similarly, teachers are expected to teach and assess general capabilities such as Literacy, Information and Communication (ICT) capability, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical and intercultural understandings. But work continues to be done on how to best incorporate them into the curriculum and we also await the Donnelly-Wiltshire Review of the Australian Curriculum for further information.

We also continue to offer other authentic experiences. The Year 8 students set off for Hanging Rock in Mount Macedon on St Valentine’s Day, an excursion which has become an annual event. As always there was a flurry of excitement as staff and students gathered in Victorian garb and listened to the address given by ‘Mrs Appleyard’, otherwise known as Mrs Hughes, in her last performance. Vale Mrs Hughes! Similarly, students gain access to texts through viewing live performance. The Complete Works Theatre Company performed Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth to Years 10 and 11, while the Bell Shakespeare Company performed Hamlet and The Eagles Nest Theatre Company conducted workshops on the play Twelve Angry Men. These opportunities to see the play come alive, provided students with different readings of key scenes and an invaluable resource to determine their own interpretations. The Years 11 and 12 Literature classes also stepped out for the evening to see Ibsen’s Ghosts at the Sumner Theatre.

‘… provided a variety of strategies for students to stimulate more effective, descriptive and original creative writing …’

The Year 8 Writers’ Workshop continues to go from strength to strength. It again ran for a full day with published Australian authors and poets. These interactive classes provided a variety of strategies for students to stimulate more effective, descriptive and original creative writing to aid them in producing a folio of three pieces of work for different audiences and purposes.

The annual Margaret Fendley Writing Competition was this year judged by the author, Daniel Decrou, whose first novel was shortlisted for the Australian Vogel Literary Award and a Victorian Premier’s Literary Award. His writing has appeared in The Age, The Big Issue and The Review of Australian...
This competition remains a highlight of the English academic calendar and all students are encouraged to submit a piece of work of which they are most proud. Decrou stated in his report that he was ‘impressed by the intelligence, wit, creativity and inventiveness of all writers’ where the writing ‘moved or surprised me as a reader and established emotional and psychological complexity in characters and their relationships’. Congratulations to the Winners in the three divisions, Gabriella Ebeling (Year 12), Lily Yuan (Year 10) and Isabella Thom (Year 8) and to all the Runners-Up and Highly Commended entries. Isabella Thom, Claire Boland (Year 9) and Elisia Killick (Year 12) were also Highly Commended and won prizes in the Boroondara Literary Awards.

NAPLAN saw us achieving outstanding results from Years 7 and 9. Our students have continued to perform on average better than the state average for students two years older. We have made use of the data each year to inform our teaching to ensure that our students, of all levels of achievement, attain high standards of literacy and language acquisition. We are also extremely proud of our outstanding 2013 Year 12 results with four perfect results of 50 again and 75.4% achieving a study score of 40 or above. Our median result was 40 with the top 10% of our students attaining a study score of 48.6 and 52.3% with an overall ‘A+’ grade. This provides further evidence of the solid language and literature foundations being laid and consolidated in the department. It is also a testament to the team orientated approach, hard work and commitment of all English staff. It is this group of wonderful professionals who enable students to experience confidence in their learning, irrespective of the changes in the curriculum.

Simone Boland, Head of English

Food & Technology

This year has been a busy and successful one for the Food Technology Department at Strathcona. We have continued to focus on ‘hands-on’ learning to teach the importance of healthy eating and its influence on wellbeing, whilst developing practical skills and encouraging independent thinking and creativity.

‘We have continued to focus on ‘hands-on’ learning to teach the importance of healthy eating and its influence on wellbeing …’

2014 began on a very positive note for the Food Technology Faculty, with an excellent set of 2013 VCE results. A study score of 40 and above was attained by 85.7 % of the class and Katherine Butler achieved a perfect study score of 50. Given that in 2013 only ten students in Victoria achieved a score of 50 in Food Technology, this is a commendable achievement for Katherine. She achieved further success when her Food Technology SAT Folio was selected for exhibit at the Top Designs Exhibition at Melbourne Museum – just one of 11 folios chosen from many entries around Victoria. Congratulations also to Sarah Pannam for being shortlisted for the exhibition. Later in the year, Katherine was presented with a Premier’s Award for her outstanding achievements in VCE. Only three other Food Technology students in Victoria received this prestigious award and we congratulate Katherine on her relentless dedication and effort throughout 2013.
In Year 8 Food Technology, the students have worked with enthusiasm throughout the year to learn a variety of practical skills. This year we joined with other faculties to incorporate a SEED project, focusing on Communication. Their Random Act of Kindness assignment required them to make and present a small batch of chocolate brownies as a gift to a special person, together with a message written by themselves, and this task received much positive feedback from both students and parents.

In Year 9, Mrs Cameron and the students have been undertaking the new updated Food Technology course, which now incorporates a variety of exciting topics such as International Foods, Hospitality and Chocolate Mud Cake Decoration. The inaugural excursion to Queen Victoria Market to experience the tastes and flavours from around the world was well received.

Year 10 Food Technology continues to be very popular, with the Nutrition Focused Practical Skills course in Semester 1 and the Decorated Cake/Practical Skills course in Semester 2. In Term 2, the students competed in the Home Economics Victoria Food Design Challenge for which they had to design and present their own risotto, and the standard was excellent. Ruby-Jane Meers achieved 3rd place with her ‘Forbidden Black Risotto’.

The Year 10 Food Technology students demonstrated amazing interest, creativity and enthusiasm to produce a fabulous array of decorated iced cakes. We entered over 30 cakes this year for the Royal Melbourne Show and Strathcona students performed exceptionally well. Congratulations to the following students on being awarded certificates as follows:

- 1st Prize Delia McKeon
- 2nd Prize Madison Sorrenti
- 3rd Prize Alexandra Morris

With regard to professional development, the Food Technology staff have continued to update their knowledge and experience, attending a variety of courses, including the Home Economics Victoria Practical Day Out, Canapés and Hors d’Oeuvres Masterclass Webinar, Australian Curriculum Update Courses and Home Economics Annual Conference. Claire Chambers presented on the topic of ‘VCE Examination Preparation’ at the Home Economics Victoria ‘Student Day Out’ in September.

I am also most grateful to Narelle Cameron, Kerry Wilson and Terri Oprean, for their dedication and much valued contribution to the department this year. Thanks must also go to our industrious and talented Food Technology Assistant, Noelle Boyd, who has continued to make all things possible!

Finally, to the Food Technology students - we congratulate you all for your outstanding enthusiasm, creativity and achievement in Food Technology this year and we look forward to a most successful 2015.

Claire Chambers, Head of Food Technology

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Humanities

Geography, International Studies and Global Politics

2014 has been a most interesting and stimulating year. All Geography courses from Years 7 to 10 have been reviewed, as we trial new content and structures, as part of a systematic transition towards implementing the new Australian Curriculum in Geography in 2015. This has provided a rich and exciting opportunity to develop different learning materials and approaches on a broad scale.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 the courses have been completely re-vamped to reflect the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. At Year 10 we will continue to offer our students a choice from the current courses. Next year they may select either People and Places or Global Citizen. These options have been updated to incorporate the elements of ‘Geographical Inquiry and Skills’ that the Australian Curriculum identifies as appropriate to Year 10.

Students wishing to continue with their studies in Years 11 or 12 have had both Geography and Global Politics available as VCE Unit 3 and 4 studies. It is very pleasing to note the level of interest in these studies and that the results have remained strong over the years. We congratulate Claire Stollery on her score of 50 for Global Politics in 2013.

All Year 9 students participate in the Australian Geography Competition which is a national competition held in April. The results this year were outstanding. Seven students received High Distinctions: Kelly Bradley, Clare Duyker, Lucinda Garnham, Clare McLean, Phillipa Mitchell, Tess Plowman and Amelia Wells. A further 16 students were awarded Distinctions.

Fieldwork remains an important aspect of inquiry learning.

One significant feature of geographical education is fieldwork. This remains an important aspect of inquiry learning. Year 8 students have visited the Toolangi State Forest to investigate Mountain Ash forest management issues. Year 9 students visited a dairy farm to support their studies of Biomes and Food Security. Year 10 students in the People and Places
Senior School Faculty Areas

Year 9 Horticulture

Elective observed urban environments in the Camberwell area. The VCE students joined students from PLC at the end of Term 1 for residential fieldwork in the Murray River region.

All of our students are encouraged to take an active interest in global issues. Participation in the United Nations (UN) debating competition has provided a rewarding opportunity to enrich the classroom learning experience, with students from Years 9 to 12 participating enthusiastically again this year. In preparation for UN Youth Australia's Evatt Competition, an in-house training afternoon was run with past students generously giving their time to chair the debates and provide feedback to the current students. This ongoing support is crucial to the continued success that Strathcona has achieved in UN debating.

Nine teams then participated in the state-wide Evatt Competition. Each team of two students represented a member nation at a mock session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The students independently researched their assigned country before expressing their nation's foreign policy in debate sessions, which were run almost entirely by the real Security Council's rules of procedure. All teams are to be congratulated on their efforts and the positive feedback they received from the judges.

From the Semi-final rounds, the 15 teams to compete in the state Grand Final were chosen, with the Strathcona team of Michelle Benington and Madeline Hallett being selected, for the third year running. The Grand Final was held at Parliament House in the Legislative Council and involved a full day of debate, including two impromptu resolutions. Four Year 9 students were also introduced to the UN debating through a full day event run through the Boroondara Gifted Cluster.

All students involved were enthusiastic. They developed important research, public speaking and negotiation skills, and are to be commended on their passion for debating a range of global issues. The success of this program owes a great deal to the generous support and encouragement of Mrs Melissa King who has organised and mentored the students involved in this competition.

It has been a pleasure to see the initiative and creativity that our students have been able to bring to their learning over the year. The Geography Department has been fortunate in having highly professional and committed teachers who have been so supportive of our students.

History

History continues to make an important academic contribution to promoting the systematic development of analytical, evaluative and creative thinking in our students. A particular attribute of History is that it offers so many opportunities for students to consider motives, values and attitudes from a range of perspectives and make judgments about difficult ethical and moral issues. It actively supports informed decision-making.

Our courses from Years 7 to 10 reflect the Australian Curriculum. At each of these year levels, the two inter-related strands of Historical Knowledge and Understanding and Historical Skills are taught together. In Year 7 the context is ‘The Ancient World’. At Year 8 the focus of study is ‘The Ancient to the Modern World’. Year 9 students study a range of topics within ‘The Making of the Modern World (1750 – 1918)’. The Year 10 course is based on ‘The Modern World and Australia (1918 to the Present)’. In each of these courses the students consider events and issues within a range of different societies and contexts. As part of our commitment to maintaining an on-going review of our curriculum, a completely new elective course on History in Film has been developed and will be available to Year 10 students next year. The VCE courses that have run this year are
‘Twentieth Century History’ in Year 11 and ‘Revolutions’ in Year 12. It is pleasing to note that the VCE results were quite outstanding in 2013 and that they have remained consistently strong over the years. The current Victorian VCE History courses are undergoing a state-wide review but will remain in place in their current form for next year.

The History Department has maintained its commitment to offering a broad range of historical activities to enrich the classroom experience. Our Year 8 students enjoy participating in the annual Medieval Day held at Tay Creggan. This is run by a specialist organisation and offers authentic medieval experiences. All Year 10 History students had the moving experience of visiting the Holocaust Museum and hearing directly from a survivor of these events. Year 11 History students again hosted representatives of the Vietnam Veterans Association. This year, both Year 9 and 10 students have been able to see engaging historical theatrical presentations by performer Brett Hunt. Year 9 students saw Fightin’ the Kaiser and Year 10 and Year 11 students saw his World War II presentation Fighting for It. Both performances gave the students much to think about.

In Semester 1, the two classes of History students in Year 8 and the two classes in Year 10 competed in the annual Australian History Competition, which attracted 20,000 entries nationwide. The 12 students who received High Distinctions and the 15 students who were awarded Distinctions are to be particularly congratulated, but the results were very pleasing across both year levels. The National History Challenge has been incorporated into the curriculum at Year 9 and this, as always, produced some fine teamwork and interesting creative responses. Particular congratulations are due to Kelly Bradley, Isabella Hunt and Raffaella Skourletos, whose entries were selected by the Challenge organisers for the state finals. The theme this year was Changing Perspectives.

We are very proud of the achievements of our students and of the enthusiasm, interest and imagination shown by so many of them as they engage with the learning experiences that History offers. We also acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of the History teachers who have so effectively guided and supported our students along the way.

Pat Menke, Head of Humanities

Health & Human Development

We began the year on a very positive note with an excellent set of VCE results for 2013, with 40% of the students receiving a study score of 40 or above. We congratulate Chloe Nall for a perfect score (50) and for receiving a Premier’s Award.

This year saw the implementation of the new Study Design and our team remain committed to their professional development with all three staff attending sessions during the previous year to ensure we were up-to-date with any changes that the new course entailed. The changes have been minor to the course, but provide us with the opportunity to reassess the most appropriate text for our students. I also undertook training for and assessing of the end of year examination which gives great insight and understanding into what the examiners are looking for.

‘… providing students with ‘real life’ lessons about homelessness and disadvantage, as experienced by thousands of Australians every night.’

Ms Kerry Wilson has once again taken on the teaching of Unit 1 and 2 Health and Human Development, with two classes this year. The health and development of Australia’s youth was the focus of Unit 1. Students investigated a range of topics relevant to youth. Some of the highlights included an excursion to The Big Issue Classroom, which provides a unique educational experience providing students with ‘real life’ lessons about homelessness and disadvantage, as experienced by thousands of Australians every night.

In Semester 2 students examined health and development in the lifespan. As part of the unit on prenatal development, the class visited the Mercy Maternity Hospital. A midwife facilitated a three hour session on prenatal development. This was a unique educational experience providing students with the opportunity to see a placenta, a new born baby and to see first-hand birth variations, infant screening, and women’s health screening.

Other highlights of Semester 2 included having Mrs Boyd and her new born baby Jack visit the class. Mrs Boyd gave an insight into the changes experienced during pregnancy as well as the physical, social, cognitive and emotional development of an infant. Our visit to The Early Learning Centre helped consolidate our understanding of development and our guest speaker on HIV/AIDS further improved our knowledge in this area.

We also have had two Unit 3 and 4 classes this year and the girls have been very engaged by the course content. Australians generally enjoy good health and are among the healthiest people in the world. Unit 3 provides the opportunity to develop an understanding of the health status of Australians and, in particular, focuses on diet and health. One of the areas of study of Unit 3 is the National Health Priority Areas and, with the recent inclusion of obesity, there were plenty
A focus of Unit 4 is looking at the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and evaluating our progress towards meeting these goals. Our strong Social Service program at the School raises our awareness and, with World Vision being one of the largest NGOs offering support to developing countries, many girls took the opportunity to take part in the ‘40 Hour Famine’ to gain a better understanding of what it is like to go without something they take for granted. We also had the benefit of having Kaitrin Cameron, Programs Operation Manager of World Vision, speak to the students about the work they do in developing countries particularly in working to reach the targets of the MDGs by 2015.

Thank you to all the health students for their persistence and dedication to make this a very rewarding year.

Terri Oprean, Head of Health & Human Development

Learning Technologies

This year, three new IT electives have been introduced. Year 9 iPad Development began in Semester 1 with students first learning how to create apps by working through a number of tutorials, before forming small groups and each developing an app of their own. Semester 2 for Year 9 saw the re-introduction of Robotics as an elective. Students first learned how to construct and program robots to perform a number of simple tasks. For their major project, students formed groups and were challenged to build a more complex robot that would be able to problem solve and interact with its environment. The iPad Development elective was also offered to Year 10 students and has proved to be a popular choice, with 22 students enrolled.

‘... students formed groups and were challenged to build a more complex robot that would be able to problem solve and interact with its environment.’

Once again there has been strong interest in the Web and Animation Design subject this year from Year 10 students who have been able to learn some of the online publishing skills that have become a vital 21st century literacy skill.

The Year 10 Lights, Camera, Action course also continues to be very popular with students. In Semester 2, students developed their expertise in the use of the STV studio and skills in video production. New equipment purchased this year has included three new professional quality video cameras as well as two GoPro cameras which have proved very popular.

The Year 11 and 12 VET/VCE Media class has been conducted on Thursday evenings with seven Year 11 and four Year 12 students enrolled. The content of this course, though it has served the needs of Strathcona students well for many years, may not be suitable to meet the needs of the current Middle School students as they advance through the school. An audit of the course will be conducted early in 2015 to determine this.

iPads @ Strathcona

2014 saw the use of iPads at Strathcona go from strength to strength. With the use of iPads at Years 9 and 10 and the ‘BYOD’ (Bring Your Own Device) program at Years 11 and 12, the number of students using iPads has grown. This year is the second year of the iPad program at Mellor House. Preps and Year 1 students have had access to iPads in a 1:2 ratio. Years 3, 4 and 5 have had access to iPads in a 1:1 ratio. Next year will see the program grow once more so that both Year 2 and Year 6 students have access.

Professional Learning

Professional learning in the use of Learning Technologies takes place regularly both through informal sharing of knowledge and skills and through the provision of professional development sessions outside of school hours. The ICT Professional Learning program encompasses a wide range of both skills and technologies and is delivered by the ICT staff as well as those that have an innovative experience to share.

STV Studio

The STV Studio and Multimedia classroom have had extensive use this year for STV content generated by our senior Media students as well as groups of students throughout the School.
It has been great to see the exciting teamwork, thinking skills and problem solving that go hand in hand with TV production. We are very fortunate to have such good TV recording facilities within the School.

In addition to the use of the studio and recording facilities within the School, Strathcona has a long standing relationship with the production company, Wilkar Productions, that not only provides support with the recording of School events, but gives interested girls the opportunity to gain valuable industry experience.

**STV**

Senior Media students continue to produce content for STV that the School community can access via Blackboard. STV now has over 500 videos online. Most of these clips are stories about Strathcona events, but a number are training videos to help students and staff with the vast array of Strathcona hardware and software.

**Media Crew**

The official Strathcona Media Crew consists of girls from Years 7 to 12 under the guidance of the Director of Learning Technologies and the Media Captain. The Media Crew worked to produce content for STV covering special events within the School as well as special features. Having a mix of year levels provides an excellent opportunity for junior students who have an interest in media production to not only get involved but also to have the opportunity to develop leadership roles within the group.

**Blackboard**

The Strathcona Blackboard LMS (Learning Management System) has been a vital communication tool between teachers and students for over ten years. It has provided Strathcona students with access to important curriculum material from anywhere they can access the internet and at any time.

Presently, parents can access parts of the system via a generic login. There are plans to introduce individual logins that will allow parents to communicate with class teachers as well as monitor student requirements and achievements.

**Years 7 and 8 ICT/IL**

This year, an ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) and IL (Information Literacy) program was delivered to all students in Years 7 and 8 using special times during the year as well as being integrated into their normal class times. These sessions were designed to give students the core skills that they need to not only use technology effectively but to be critical and ethical consumers of information.

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**Languages**

In the Languages Department this year, we have pursued the use of digital devices at various levels, particularly in Year 9 to produce iMovies and in Years 7 to 9 through interactive programs to improve vocabulary learning. Senior students have been able to record themselves easily, allowing them to improve their accents and prepare more thoroughly for oral examinations.

Our overseas tour program offered participants the chance to experience a host of linguistic, cultural and personal challenges and they returned with added motivation as well as a broader view of their world. Nine Strathcona girls, together with three Scotch College boys and their teachers, visited Italy in April, accompanied by Ms Plymin and Mrs Andrews. Highlights included hiking in the Cinque Terre and, especially, their homestay in the hilltop village of Mondavio, where they appreciated the opportunity to spend ten days with their host families. In September, Ms Mo, Mrs Goldsmith and Ms Woods accompanied 14 girls on a two and a half week tour to China. They enjoyed a homestay experience with their host sisters from Wuxi No. 1 Girls School, and their visits to Shanghai, Beijing and Xi’an offered them the chance to explore the cultural heritage of China.

Our recently introduced six-week exchange program to Lyon in France is developing well, with six French host sisters visiting the School in July and staying with their Strathcona counterparts in Years 10 and 11.

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‘Our overseas tour program offered participants the chance to experience a host of linguistic, cultural and personal challenges …’

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‘… equipping students with the skills and the readiness to communicate with the wider world …’

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Participation in the Italian and Chinese poetry competitions again brought success. In the Società Dante Alighieri Italian Discorso competition, Sophie Brugliera (Year 11) won 2nd prize. Briana Pappalardo (Year 10) won 2nd prize in the Italian section. Claudia Piva (Year 9) was a Finalist in the Italian section and Tess Plowman (Year 9) won 3rd prize in the non-Italian section of the Dante Alighieri Poetry Recitation Competition. Emma Brown (Year 9) won a Medallion Prize in
the Reading Awards competition organised by Chinese Languages Teachers Association of Victoria.

Through a variety of opportunities to experience the language and culture of countries where French, Italian and Mandarin Chinese are spoken, both within the School and overseas, our department is focused on equipping students with the skills and the readiness to communicate with the wider world, thereby opening their minds to other ways of perceiving the world and developing greater understanding, appreciation and tolerance of other cultures.

Veronica Swayne, Head of Languages

Mathematics

Mathematics is crucial in our understanding of the world in which we live. It is important in our daily lives and in predicting what is happening around us in areas such as health, manufacturing and the economy and, importantly, in what will happen in these, and other industries, in the future. As teachers at Strathcona, we recognise this and consider it critical that our teaching prepares our students for their future where mathematics will underpin their career or life, whether it be using mathematics directly or, more likely, applying the skills they have learnt, such as problem solving and logical thinking, in their work.

This year we introduced Revision Lectures, run at the end of Term 3, for students undertaking Mathematical Methods and Further Mathematics. A select group of students at Years 7 and 8 have participated in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad, which provides an opportunity to develop strategies and problem solving and to enjoy meeting mathematical challenges.

There is a strong enrolment in Mathematics at Strathcona, with nearly all students completing at least one Unit 3 and Unit 4 study. The 2013 Year 12 results were of a very good standard with 38% of assessment grades being an ‘A+’ or ‘A’. In Further Mathematics, the median ATAR result was 33. In Mathematical Methods, the median ATAR score was 38. In Specialist Mathematics, ten of the 14 students achieved an ATAR result of 40 or above. Congratulations to the students completing a Unit 3 and Unit 4 Mathematics in 2013.

This year, the Mathematics Department has focused on the development of our teaching through professional learning activities. We have been regularly sharing teaching experiences and honing our teaching practice in the classroom. Staff have also attended a variety of professional development sessions specifically focusing on teaching strategies for mathematics. These have included looking at the language of mathematics, a session with Dan Meyer, VCE Meet the Examiners and Maths Mastery (a program aimed at students who struggle with numeracy). A number of staff also undertake VCE Examination marking at the end of each year which is crucial to our depth of understanding of what is required in terms of students’ performances in the examinations. One significant focus of the Mathematics Department for next year will be developing and providing Extension Programs which will run out of class time across various year levels.

Our students continue to demonstrate resilience and persistence in their learning and a desire to challenge themselves, with all students across the year levels achieving outstandingly.'

Thank you to all staff in the Mathematics Department. They have provided excellent teaching for all students in their classrooms, continuing to care for the mathematical experiences of each individual student. Our students continue to demonstrate resilience and persistence in their learning and a desire to challenge themselves, with all students across the year levels achieving outstandingly. In particular, I would like to thank Melissa Patel and Catherine Riley who joined us for this year and whose contributions were invaluable and much appreciated.

Tracy Herft, Head of Mathematics
Physical Education

The Physical Education Department recognises that the link between physical activity and academic achievement is of increasing interest in the field of education. Regular physical activity at Strathcona aims to promote a positive impact on our young people's physical and mental health. Increased participation in meaningful forms of physical activity are thought to lead to enhancement of cognitive functioning, memory, concentration, behaviour and academic achievement.

‘Regular physical activity at Strathcona aims to promote a positive impact on our young people’s physical and mental health.’

Strathcona implements regular physical activity each week and the focus is on developing physical skills across the years. The Physical Education curriculum plans for the development of stroke technique; waterpolo and survival skills during aquatics; hand-eye coordination in throwing, catching and hitting for games such as cricket and hockey; developing game awareness and the skills of catching, throwing, bouncing and kicking for games such as football, basketball, and netball; artistic performance through dance, rhythmic gymnastics and apparatus. At Year 9, canoeing, recreation and fitness are a major focus.

A continuing emphasis in Physical Education in 2015 will be to enhance this broad skills base. This year has seen many Physical Education students participate to a high standard, which has improved skill levels and enabled them to be highly competitive, winning interschool competitions. Skill development has also helped to foster greater confidence and keen participation by more students throughout the School.

Kim Bate and Michelle Hodges, Heads of Physical Education

Science

2014 has been a time of decision making for the finer details of fittings and furnishings for the new purpose-built Science laboratories and preparation space in the new Learning Centre, due to be ready for use in Term 2 next year. Science staff have visited laboratories at other schools and researched the latest in science resources. The department is very much looking forward to working in these spaces with new equipment next year.

In readiness for use of the temporary Science laboratories, December 2013 was very busy. Four laboratories and the preparation room in the Hopkins extension had to be packed up ready for unpacking in January or placing in long-term storage. We were very aware of the limitations of having less easily accessible storage space in the demountables. Term 1 began as usual with lots of practical work. Though there were some teething issues, we settled into the temporary buildings and continued to deliver high quality science courses. Additional considerations in delivering the planned courses for 2014 included adapting to new textbooks for Year 7 and making the most of the skills of new teaching and laboratory staff.

‘… the new purpose-built Science laboratories and preparation space in the new Learning Centre, due to be ready for use in Term 2 next year.’

Student motivation to learn Science has again been extremely high. In the classroom, this has been displayed by the high quality of communication tasks including practical reports and assignments submitted for assessment, and the commitment to achieve in test situations. Horticulture was reintroduced into the Year 9 elective program with unprecedented numbers of students taking the subject. Year 10 Sports Science elective continues to be a popular extension science course. The Year 7 Science Club again attracted girls after school. This year psychology activities were included in the program. An additional co-curricular activity for Year 7 to 9 students has been the introduction of environment-based projects for each form group that they have implemented with the assistance of their Environment Captains. Projects have included maintaining the worm farm and organising Safely Walk to School Day. Year 9 students have attended a Climate Change Summit with the aim of making energy saving changes at Tay Creggan.
Student Successes

The 2013 VCE results were again strong with many girls again undertaking more than one Science subject and choosing to undertake Science-based courses at university. Congratulations to Olivia Witts and Sarah Chancellor-Goddard for gaining Engineering scholarships at Monash University.

This year, students chose to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools Science competition. Congratulations to Kathreen Forwood, Tamsyn Lovass and Anna Zeng (Year 7) for achieving High Distinctions.

Seven Year 8 students and one Year 10 student gained a major bursary in the Science Talent Search Competition. This is our most successful result in this competition. Congratulations to Eloise Bryce, Bianca D’Anna, Krystal Ha, Stephanie Hayes, Jessica Humphrey, Carmen Lim, Isabella Thom, Eleanor Forwood (Year 10).

Five Year 11 students entered the Australian Physics Olympiad Competition, a national extension program for top performing secondary Science students. Jamie Olorenshaw was rewarded with a Distinction in this challenging competition, and Morgan McLeod-Finke a Credit.

Paris Balla and Anna Terry have each been selected by a participating Rotary club to take part in the National Youth Science Forum in January 2015.

Science Staff

The Science Department staff have regularly attended professional development programs. A key undertaking this year has been peer observation. This has involved trios working together and reviewing a specific aspect of a peer’s lesson as part of the School’s Professional Standards Scheme.

Every year there is a changeover of staff with new staff bringing fresh ideas. Catherine Riley has worked with us in 2014, bringing a strong interest in developing curriculum for Junior Science and Sarah Quin is a keen and experienced Biology teacher. The Science Department now has two laboratory technicians, Miriam Kael and Colleen Sosnowski. Having two laboratory technicians has been extremely valuable in the establishment and functioning of the new temporary laboratory spaces. Lyn Martin who had been the laboratory technician for the past two years was farewelled at the end of Term 1. Teaching staff departing this year are Catherine Riley and Erin Pandita. Over the past three years Erin Pandita has been an active member of the Science Department teaching VCE Psychology and General Science. She is leaving to accompany her husband to the United States. We wish her well.

Pam Welsford, Science Coordinator
With multiple talents to explore and develop amongst our students, **we have taken learning beyond the core curriculum** to deliver vital elements of the school experience.

### co-curricular areas

**Community Service**

Paul writing to the church in Corinth states, ‘Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.’ *(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

In this verse Paul affirms that the giver is not the poorer, when he has parted with his gift; rather he is the richer, in that he has been able to bring about God's blessing to others.

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 eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals and to associate these with several charities supported by our fundraising efforts. [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

During the year, special guests were featured at several assemblies from charities such as, International Needs, We Can’t Wait, YGAP, Cancer Council and World Vision.

The 90th Anniversary Fair featured a Solomon Islands stall. Several senior girls donated their preloved clothing to raise funds. The Compass Award girls very much appreciated the opportunity to also collect craft items throughout the year to send to our friends in the Solomons.

This year’s Helptathlon featured a vintage theme where 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. Many girls wore a colourful array of vintage hats. Following the Helptathlon, Alice Daniels was presented with the 2014 trophy for her substantial fundraising effort.

Casual dress days supported Berry Street Child Institute, The Red Cross, We Can’t Wait and The Oak Tree Foundation. This year, the Easter Service offering was for the Good Friday Appeal and the Christmas Services offerings will be directed to our three Baptist World Aid sponsorship children and Urban Seed.

When Mark Balla, school parent and founder of We Can’t Wait, shared in an Assembly his experiences of education...
in Mumbai, he informed our girls that there are very few teenage girls attending school, as there were no toilets. Strathy girls compassionately responded by raising $2,000 to build toilets for the New English School, Nasik, India. Soretti Kadir, from World Vision, also volunteered her time to assist our Social Service Captains to enlighten our girls about poverty in Rwanda. Enthusiastically, the girls responded to the need and raised $4,545 for the ‘40 Hour Famine’.

A special feature this year was the 90th Anniversary fundraising for Cancer Council Victoria. Across the whole School, individuals and groups met to reflect and share in a wide variety of fundraising activities. The imagination and creativity of girls made this event very meaningful, many participating in morning teas, sleepovers and a movie night.

Once again Strathcona’s Community Service endeavours have brought blessing not only to those in great need, but also to those who have contributed. Apart from practical assistance provided, $24,500 has been raised this year, which includes all donations we received for the Cancer Council Victoria. It has indeed been an opportunity to share our Christian belief through service.

Rhonda Burns, Chaplain

Compass Award

Learning new skills, discovering new activities, setting goals, taking on initiative and showing commitment are strengths seen by Compass Award participants. The program is both fun and challenging and provides an introduction to the frameworks of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards. This year Strathcona had 42 new students enrolled in this co-curricular activity, from Years 5 to 8, with many from the Year 5 level. They keenly volunteered to participate in the program of discovery and adventure.

Some of the examples of what students chose to do to achieve their Award are: bike riding to the city, sewing together a hoodie, assisting at a nursing home, exploring Scienceworks, understanding the operations of Diabetes Australia, preparing and cooking a three course family meal, taking part in a fun run to raise money for a charity, learning the art of knitting and producing a scarf, helping the young and elderly, learning the positions in netball and playing a game for the first time.

In early April, our Year 8 Award Captains were given the opportunity to undertake the Youth Award Leaders Training day. This provided an insight into leadership skills, a comprehensive look at the Awards program, as well as providing support and guidance.

Again, the Compass students took up the challenge to fundraise for the community and schools in the Solomon Islands. This year, with the help of the Year 8 leaders, they collected craft items that will be sent to remote areas that do not have these resources.

‘The program is both fun and challenging and provides an introduction to the frameworks of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards.’

It has been pleasing to note that students often complete more than one level over the four years. We congratulate Jessica Hamilton (Year 9) who successfully achieved Level 4 early this year.

Pam Allan, Compass Awards Coordinator

Debating and Public Speaking

Strathcona has always fielded capable Debating teams and 2014 proved no exception with another strong set of results. Across Years 9 to 12 we had seven teams participate in the Camberwell Draw with many serious and topical issues debated. All teams without exception were well prepared and researched their topics thoroughly, which enabled them all to gain a respectable ranking on their respective ladders for the Grade.

In particular, the A Grade (Year 12) team is highly commended for its efforts and oratory skill. They moved through their debating rounds and the play-offs with unblemished records, to score a place in the coveted Octo-finals series. These finals placements are sought after, as the DAV (Debaters Association of Victoria) is the largest competition in the world and, as such, is a widely acknowledged and respected body. The Year 12 team made up of Madeline Hallett, Joyce Lim, Lucy Brusamarello, Elisia Killick and Phoebe Stewart, made it through all the way to the top 16 teams in the state. A wonderful achievement! Similarly, Michelle Benington and Madeline Hallett reached the state finals of UN Youth Australia’s Evatt Competition for the third year in a row, competing against the top 15 teams in Victoria.
The Junior Secondary Program also saw 30 Year 7 and 8 students entering into the Strathcona Debating spirit with many successes. This is in the main due to the efforts of the Year 11 students who coached the teams. Acknowledgement is due to Katherine Holloway, Amelia McKay, Lauren Mohammed, Isabella Romanella, Rebecca Gill, Olivia Newman, Emily-Rose Blake, Julia Tanton, Hannah Brown, Sophie Homes-Smith, Ella Hunter and Anna Terry for their excellent team management, mentoring and advice. Topics such as ‘That Australian students should be required to stay at school until the end of Year 12’ and ‘That we should ban the use of animals in sport’ were strongly and articulately argued. Congratulations to those who were nominated as ‘Best Speaker’ – Kate Forwood, Florence Tang, Sophie Altman, Olivia Gazeas, Krystal Ha and Laura Jarrett.

Our Inter-House debating competition was kicked off again by the debate with Scotch College in the Senior Assembly. This has become a firm fixture in our calendar due to the ‘mirth and merriment’ it produces! Spurred on by this display, many students came along to support their respective Houses. This competition took place over two rounds, concluding with the Grand Final between Gilbert and Grenfell with the topic ‘That Beyoncé is a good role model’. Grenfell won the debate through popular vote by the audience, after presenting spirited and humorous arguments.

There was also much success in the sphere of public speaking as we encourage students to present articulately and eloquently to an audience, believing this to be an essential leadership and life skill. The School’s Public Speaking Competition has all students from Years 7 to 12 present a prepared speech. Finals are held in year level assemblies or, for the Year 11 and 12 finalists, in front of a whole School Assembly. Congratulations to Bianca Vains, Clare Duyker and Joyce Lim who won the Middle, Intermediate and Senior Divisions, respectively.

Finally, the Debating Program has been administered in outstanding fashion by the Debating Captains, Joyce Lim and Madeline Hallett, who have at all times modelled leadership and effective public speaking skills.

*Simone Boland, Debating Coordinator*

**Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards Scheme**

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award has taken a step up again this year, with an additional 20 students completing their Bronze Awards from 2013, four completing their Silver, and four ready to receive their Gold Awards at Government House in December. Students have found new ways of meeting the criteria for the Award, with some choosing Trapeze, Driving Lessons, Coaching, Skateboarding or Knitting. Small groups have formed in Year 9 to support various community organisations such as Servants Community Housing, and the 5,000 Poppies project for the ANZAC commemoration in 2015. Some students have initiated a Fitness Club at the Campus, while others have maintained the student-run canteen (an initiative of a 2013 Bronze awardee).

The new Camp to Campus fulfilled the requirements of the Adventurous Journey component of the Award, with Year 9 students progressing quickly in their Bronze Award throughout the year. The Wilsons Promontory bushwalks demonstrated vertical learning as students in their Gold Award led the younger girls with great support and wisdom.

‘The program has facilitated links within the community, and helped many students to become more informed citizens.’

Various activities such as a Youth Award Leader training day and Fun Runs were held for the leaders of the Duke and Compass Awards. Students were able to learn more about the purpose of the Awards as well as network with students from around Victoria. Awards Victoria has been a great support to staff and students in creating an exciting journey for the awardees. There are currently 16 girls completing their Silver Award and five working on their Gold Award. The program has facilitated links within the community, and helped many students to become more informed citizens. We look forward to the initiatives and continued relationships that next year’s participants will bring to the program.

*Liesl Woods, Coordinator of Outdoor Education*
International and Interstate Links Program

Enjoyment in many new experiences, development of independence, appreciation of cultural differences and taking up different opportunities and challenges have been stated as benefits by students involved in the wide variety of tours and exchanges offered this year. Lifelong friends have been made and some of the best times of life so far have been experienced by Strathcona girls from Years 8 to 11 who participated in the 2014 exchanges and tours. Most of our exchanges are reciprocal, with participating students hosting visiting students as well as travelling to experience school life in another location.

The hospitality of many Strathcona families has been appreciated by visiting students from our sister schools, Soshin Girls School (Yokohama, Japan) and Ewha Girls High School (Seoul, Korea), as well as Columba College (New Zealand), Meriden (Sydney), PLC Armidale (NSW) and Rockhampton Girls Grammar (Queensland).

Host sisters developed friendships and participated in many excursions exploring Melbourne and surrounds with visiting students. Students from France and China were hosted during Term 3. Hye-ji Cha (10A) and Ha-Kyung Yoon (10B) from Ewha Girls High School, Korea spent the whole year at Strathcona, hosted by the Downie, Szemeti and Odgers families.

During Term 1, Soshin students, Hanna Koseki (10A) and Shiori Abe (10B), were hosted by the Doran and King families. In August, 21 Soshin students willingly shared Japanese culture by presenting Tea Ceremonies for a number of classes as well as for the launch of the Annual Charity Weekend. They joined in numerous classes as well as developing friendships with their host sisters and enjoying family life. The Soshin presentation of a Cherry Blossom Dance at the 90th Anniversary Gala Concert, assemblies, Church and Chapel services will long be remembered.

Study tours to Italy and China were held for language students and the memorable Kakadu/Central Australia Tour for Years 10 and 11 also included students from Columba College, New Zealand and was again a highlight of the year for those who participated.

Students representing Strathcona on Exchange 2014:

To PLC Armidale, NSW (14 – 28 August)
Kate Leyden (8A), Kate Rowland (8D)

To Meriden, Sydney (23 – 30 August)
Natasha Hawkins (8D), Claire Terry (8B)

To Rockhampton, Queensland (28 August – 9 September)
Jennifer Crocker (8D), Rebecca Furlan (8C), Cate Oldham (8A), Caitlin Doyle (8B)

Host sisters for visiting Rockhampton students were Annabelle Cater (8B), Katye Perreec (8B), Kali Doran (8B) and Alicia West (8C).

To Columba College, New Zealand (10 – 29 August)
Alex Lotric (9C), Sarah van der Hock (9A)

To France (December 2014 – January 2015)
Sophia Harrison (11D), Alexandra Morris (10A), Mabry Simpson-Bull (10A), Hannah Murphy (10B), Julia Rowland (10A)

‘We have been proud of the wonderful ambassadors who have represented Strathcona this year.’

Participating in exchanges and tours and hosting visiting students has been a wonderful opportunity for many Strathcona students. We have been proud of the wonderful ambassadors who have represented Strathcona this year.

Our Principal for the past 14 years, Mrs Helen Hughes, has been a passionate supporter of all exchange and tours. She has generously opened her home to entertain many visitors and has even offered homestay for visiting students at times.

After 17 years and the participation of almost 100 Strathcona students, our annual reciprocal exchange with Durham Academy, North Carolina, USA concluded in January 2014. This long association was greatly valued. Plans are underway to extend the opportunities for overseas study tours and reciprocal exchanges to include India and Chile in 2015.

Diana Little, Programs Coordinator

Music

2014 has been filled with a myriad of performance opportunities for our musicians, which they embraced with much enthusiasm. As always, all our major instrumental and choral ensembles were rehearsing before school officially commenced and this enabled the String Orchestra and the Combined Choirs to perform at our 90th Anniversary Foundation Day Service, a particularly memorable event.

Our girls immediately launched into rehearsals for the Performing Arts Festival, where they chose, arranged and rehearsed music for the large choir and smaller vocal groups, in support of the drama. The House Music Captains rose to this challenge and produced some clever and effective arrangements. All the girls are to be congratulated for their efforts and great teamwork.

Rehearsals also continued for Symphonic Band and Stage Band, culminating in lively performances at the Vintage Fair. This was followed by the first of our Chamber series of
concerts, held at Tay Creggan. The members of the Senior Flute Quartet, Senior Trio, Senior Duo, Year 9 Trio and the Year 7 String Quartet and Piano Trio are all to be congratulated on their superb performances.

Term 2 commenced with amazing performances by our Scholarship holders, followed by the second Chamber Afternoon Concert, the first of the VCE Advanced Musicians Recitals and the first of our Concerto Evenings. Both Concerto Evenings, the second one held in September, were the culmination of long, often difficult, rehearsals, where our younger orchestral musicians came to grips with unfamiliar art music. Concertos are always a challenge for our musicians, soloists and orchestral members alike. Our congratulations go to You Min Ahn (Year 9), Alexandra Lloyd and Elizabeth Robinson (Year 10) and Mabel Chong and Vivian Chen (Year 11) for their outstanding performances as soloists on these occasions.

It is always inspiring to see these young musicians performing an amazing repertoire that would frequently challenge adult musicians, and yet deliver such accomplished and polished performances. We were all privileged to witness these performances.

‘It is always inspiring to see these young musicians performing an amazing repertoire …’

Our annual trek to Bacchus Marsh for the Music Camp took place in July. It is fascinating to watch and listen to the girls during this weekend as they grapple with so many different styles of music, working through technical issues, with the older girls supporting and mentoring the younger ones.

Once again, it was a joy to spend the weekend with this talented group of 98 students and staff, working together towards a common goal, amidst much laughter and fun.

This, of course, led to the 90th Anniversary Gala Concert that was held in the Recital Centre. On this occasion we combined with our very young musicians from Mellor House to celebrate our 90 years. Sixty-one ‘little ones’ joined the String Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Choirs to perform the moving ‘Reclaiming the Spirit’ with Strings, ‘Spyrscape’ with Band and, of course, the Choirs. It was incredibly heart-warming to see 200 choristers from Year 3 to Year 12 on stage singing ‘You Raise Me Up’ behind a large orchestra.

‘Our musicians throw themselves into all activities with much passion and energy …’

Performances continued into Term 4 with Vocal/Instrumental Soirées, the Rose Assembly, Valedictory Dinner, Carol and Christmas Services and Presentation Night. Our musicians throw themselves into all activities with much passion and energy, consistently giving generously of their time throughout the entire year. They are all to be congratulated.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our two talented Music Captains, Kirsten Fearn-Wannen and Megan Ha. You have been an inspiration to the girls, sharing your knowledge, love and passion for music. It has been a privilege for all of us to be a part of this musical journey with you. May the next phase of your journey be filled with much music. You will be greatly missed.

Georgina Nagy, Director of Music
Outdoor Education Program/Camps

Outdoor Education took on some small and some significant developments this year. Smaller changes included the addition of Wild Action, who visited the Year 7 camp to introduce students to urban native wildlife. The interaction and information were a hit with the juniors! More significant changes were made to our Learn to Surf Day. Previously open to all year groups, it ran in 2014 as an induction activity for Year 7 students and included a visit to the Koala Conservation Centre, where students built possum boxes to be used at the centre.

‘… the girls returned to the Campus singing, dancing and celebrating the completion of their adventure together.’

Also among the greater developments was the introduction of the Camp to Campus journey for Year 9 along the Yarra River. This hike, bike, and canoe trip followed the river from its source at Upper Yarra Reservoir to the Tay Creggan Campus. For many, the highlights were rafting down the white water at Warrandyte and viewing the autumnal scenery. Many enjoyed the campfires and games played with their groups. It was a special occasion when the girls returned to the Campus singing, dancing and celebrating the completion of their adventure together.

The Year 8 Camp Jungai experience was again a highlight for many of the Year 8 girls. Despite some challenging conditions, the girls tried new skills in canoeing, rock scrambling and rafting. They worked together on their overnight campout through initiative games and low ropes activities. The Indigenous information sessions were a personal and interesting incorporation of the camp, with many students appreciating the interaction with Aboriginal elders – hearing their stories, learning to paint and dance and searching for bushtucker. Some girls were lucky enough to design a boomerang to keep.

Other programs included the Learn to Ski Day, which was postponed due to appalling weather, and was moved to a day of perfection during which 25 girls learnt to downhill ski under blue skies and on fresh snow! The Ski Camp at Falls Creek was an optional extra offered to Year 9, also held in stunning conditions with many students returning with a flair for skiing!

Duke of Edinburgh camps hosted Gold and Silver participants in late 2013 and 2014, visiting the scenic sites of Wilsons Promontory to hike the coastal diversity of environments. The leadership evident from senior girls was testament to a growing program that has fostered Outdoor Education development and refined the students’ skills, enabling them to start the cycle of teaching younger participants tricks of the trade in campcraft and bushwalking. Many students went on to prepare their own journey and experience other National Parks.

In 2015 we look forward to a storeroom facility in the new building equipped with clothing and gear ready to support programs and students on their adventures. Programs will largely remain the same, with constant feedback processes ensuring quality development in the content and outcomes of the students’ experiences.

Liesl Woods, Coordinator of Outdoor Education

Speech, Drama and Effective Communication

The Speech and Drama program engages students in developing performance, public presentation and communications skills through the teaching of performance texts. Students study performance texts (play scripts, monologues and poetry), engage in drama games, improvisation, mime, reading skills and public speaking. Speech theory is taught formally alongside performance work with introductory analysis of literature involving rhythm and structural aspects of poetry and character, plot and emotional themes in monologue selections. Breathing and voice care theory is also introduced as appropriate to levels of study.

‘… developing performance, public presentation and communications skills through the teaching of performance texts.’

The program continues to attract students from across a wide range of year levels. This year enrolments have increased by 20% to 45 students. Sixty percent of enrolments currently come from Mellor House; Years 4, 5 and 6.

The program continues to be structured around two specific performance points: The Eisteddfod by the Bay in late May
and Trinity Examinations in early November. For the Eisteddfod by the Bay, 36 students entered a total of 131 solo and group entries. Most popular among students are the solo poetry, solo character, and small group scripts (duo and trio). Strathcona again had a successful eisteddfod experience with a solid number of medals and awards. All students are offered an opportunity to present for examination through Trinity College London. These examinations are performance based and an external examiner visits the School. This year, 24 students (up from 19 in 2013) have listed for examinations ranging from Grades 1 to 6. A small number have chosen alternate syllabi including Shakespeare and Acting in Pairs. Grade levels are structured similarly to music examinations with Grades 7 and 8 considered VCE equivalent. Diplomas are possible. Setting key focal points in external eisteddfods and examinations provides a structure to the year’s teaching. It further provides students with focus and encourages disciplined practice patterns. It remains a common experience that those choosing to participate in eisteddfods and examinations report higher levels of enjoyment, feel they have achieved more, and are significantly more likely to continue tuition the following year.

A Soirée is held for parents in late May. While this does correspond closely with our eisteddfod commitments, all students enrolled are required to prepare a solo script from memory and to present this to an audience. The Mellor House Soirée continues to be well patronised. Mellor House students are similarly keen to perform in the Friday afternoon Assembly. Across the year, the Speech Program contributes over 15 performances. This followed on from an invitation in Term 1 to work with Year 4 in a practical workshop of performance poetry. The students went on to prepare formal small group performance of poems for the Mellor House Assembly.

The program currently sees steady and moderately increasing enrolments, high numbers entering for examinations and even larger numbers participating in eisteddfods. Each semester offers core performance opportunities that focus student attention and ensure the program remains vibrant and engaging for students at all levels.

Fiona Marantelli, Speech & Drama Teacher

Girls Sport Victoria
Sporting Activities

Term 1
The year started with significant interest from the Year 7 students to be involved in GSV sporting pursuits. Strathcona entered two softball, two tennis and one indoor cricket team at the junior section, and one softball, two tennis and one indoor cricket in the intermediate and senior sections. Term 1 is a heavily focused swimming term, with our swimming team doing well in the GSV Prelim day to earn a spot in the Division 1 Championships. The team performed well, finishing in 7th place and 24 girls progressing to the Finals evening. Meghan Parry won two Gold medals on the evening in the Year 12 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly. Strathcona finished 4th in the overall medal tally out of the 23 GSV schools.

The GSV triathlon was also held in Term 1, with 74 girls participating in either team or individual events. The Year 9 team of Jess Walsh, Tess Plowman and Allysha Dyer, placed 1st overall in their teams event.

House Sport was also busy with both the House Swimming and House Cross Country being hotly contested.

Term 2
Term 2 is a busy sporting term as netball and hockey involve a large number of girls. This year there was a hockey team for each section as well as AFL and waterpolo for the seniors. GSV also introduced a Friday afternoon AFL 9’s for the junior age group, which saw one team from Strathcona participating. Netball always has large numbers with eight junior teams, three intermediate and three senior teams. For next year the intermediate section will provide more teams (up to five) as the interest at trials was large.

Two junior, all intermediate and one senior netball team made Finals days with the intermediate B team losing in their Grand Final. The senior waterpolo team also made it to the Finals day – an outstanding effort seeing as they were boosted to the A Division this year.

GSV Cross Country was Term 2’s carnival. The girls performed well in the Prelims to finish in Division 2 for the championship day. Strathcona, in all age groups had a number of top ten finishes - Tamsyn Lovass (Year 7), Tess Plowman (Year 9) and Georgia Chester (Year 11). The results for the day were close, with Strathcona finishing 2nd by five points. Tess Plowman was chosen in her age group as part of the GSV cross country team.

House Athletics took place at the start of the term, with invitations to girls to train as part of the athletics squad in preparation for Term 3.
Term 3

Term 3 brought soccer, badminton and volleyball to the focus of the girls. Junior level had three soccer teams and four volleyball teams. Intermediate had three volleyball, two badminton and two soccer and senior had one volleyball, one soccer and two badminton. Junior badminton club was offered to the juniors to enhance their skills. For next year there should be an aim to enter badminton at the juniors as well as extra teams in volleyball for both intermediates and seniors.

Athletics was the carnival focus with three morning sessions a week throughout the term. The girls finished 3rd in their Prelim, progressing to Division 2 for the championships. A few solid performances from other schools in the championship meant that Strathcona finished 3rd on the day. 23 girls have progressed to Finals evening and Strathcona finished 10th on the overall medal tally. Tamsyn Lovass won a Gold medal in the Year 7 800m Final and Kate Boulter won two Gold medals in the Year 8 400m and Discus.

Term 4

Strathcona entered six basketball teams in the junior section, four in the intermediate and one in seniors. Seniors also had the opportunity to play cricket with their matches fixtured early in the term. Juniors also had one waterpolo team.

The Celebration of Sport Evening on 13 November with special guest speaker, Bianca Chatfield, provided a fitting conclusion to the year with recognition of many outstanding achievements and contributions.

GSV Gold Medallists
Meghan Parry ............... 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly (Year 12)
Kate Boulter .................. 400m and Discus (Year 9)
Tamsyn Lovass ......................... 800m (Year 7)

GSV Silver Medallists
Taegen Coxhill .................. 50m Butterfly and 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 9)
Madeline Wild .................. 50m Butterfly and 4 x 50m Medley Relay (Year 11)
Pippi Mitchell .................. 50m Breaststroke and 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 9)
Meghan Parry .................. 100m Freestyle and 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 12)
Chelsea Newton .................. 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 12)
Lauren Dubar .................. 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 12)
Laura Seddon .................. 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 12)
Anna Terry .................. 4 x 50m Medley Relay (Year 11)
Sarah Martin .................. 4 x 50m Medley Relay (Year 11)
Audrey Tandiokusuma ........ 4 x 50m Medley Relay (Year 11)
Scarlett Chen .................. 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 9)
Estelle Warren .................. 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay (Year 9)
Tess Plowman .................. 1500m and 4 x 100m Relay (Year 9)
Kate Boulter .................. Shot Put and 4 x 100m Relay (Year 9)
Taegen Coxhill .................. 4 x 100m Relay (Year 9)
Alexandra Lotric .................. 4 x 100m Relay (Year 9)

Melissa Jones and Megan Boyd, Heads of Sport
The incredible achievements of our girls this year are cause for celebration. From the classroom to the sporting field, our students have excelled in various fields, always as exemplary representatives of our School.

special achievements

Mellor House

• **Mellor House Singers** achieved 2nd place in the Boroondara Eisteddfod and were selected to perform at ChoralFest 2015 Gondwana Voices and Young Adelaide Voices.

• **Tristen Angarano** and **Isabella Tremewen**, Year 3, **Monique Thomson** and **Lauren Joyce**, Year 4 and **Anna Zeng**, Year 7, competed in the Victorian Rhythmic Gymnastics State Championships.

• **Eva Hamilton**, **Romy Rendigs**, **Rebekah Rome** and **Rianna Thiele**, all in Year 5, **Olivia Ashton**, Year 4, and **Anoushka Baruah**, Year 6, represented Strathcona at the Divisional Track and Field Championships.

• **Caitlin Eccleston**, Year 6, has been awarded a Kooyong Student Prize for all-round excellence.

Senior School Academic Pursuits and The Arts

• **Claire Stollery**, Year 12, 2013, received the Jean Bell Lovegrove Award for Dux of Strathcona. She also received a prestigious Premier’s Award for Global Politics and an Australian Student Prize for outstanding achievement in the VCE, 2013.

• The following Year 12, 2013 students received a Premier’s Award: **Cheyenne Bradley** (Theatre Studies), **Chloe Nall** (Health and Human Development), **Gemma Smith** (Further Mathematics), **Katherine Butler** (Food Technology).

• **Anna Milne**, Year 12, 2012, is now studying at Monash University and has been selected for the prestigious Vice-Chancellor’s Ancora Imparo Student Leadership Program.

• **Monique Fernandez**, Year 12, 2013, has been offered a Bond University scholarship.
• **Olivia Witts**, Year 12, 2013, has become a Monash Young Ambassador and works with secondary students, many of whom have limited access to tertiary study.

• **Jane Merrylees**, Year 12, was awarded the Barbara Green Memorial Art Award.

• **Megan Ha**, Year 12, was awarded the Buxton Award for Contribution to Classical Music.

• **Gabrielle Ebeling**, Year 12, won the Senior Section of the Margaret Fendley Writing Competition.

• **Annie Biggins**, Year 12, was selected for Top Acts – Theatre Studies.

• **Katherine Butler**, Year 12, had her VCE SAT Folio (Food Technology) selected for display at the Melbourne Museum Season of Excellence – Top Designs Exhibition.

• **Amy Cubit**, Year 12, was selected for Top Class Dance.

• **Elisia Killick**, Year 12, was a finalist in the Ainger Public Speaking Award organised by the Richmond Rotary Club.

• **Joyce Lim**, Year 12, won the Senior Section of the School Public Speaking Competition.

• **Jacinta Zhu** and **Jaimie Olorenshaw**, Year 11, have been selected as scholars in the prestigious Kwong Lee Dow Program of The University of Melbourne.

• **Sophie Brugliera**, Year 11, won 2nd prize in the Year 11 Discorso (Discourse) Competition in the Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition.

• **Paris Balla** and **Anna Terry**, Year 11, have been selected by Rotary Australia to take part in the National Youth Science Forum in January 2015.

• **Eleanor Forwood**, **Kiren Sandhu** and **Olivia Lucarelli**, Year 10, were selected for the Monash Young Scholars’ Program.

• **Eleanor Forwood**, **Alex Linehan** and **Alexandra Lloyd**, Year 10, gained High Distinctions in the 2014 Australian History Competition.

• **Eleanor Forwood**, Year 10, has been awarded a Kooyong Student Prize for all-round excellence.

• **Charlotte Pannier**, Year 10, has been selected as a University of Melbourne Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar.

• **Lillian Yuan**, Year 10, won the Intermediate Section of the Margaret Fendley Writing Competition.

• **Briana Pappalardo**, Year 10, won 2nd prize in the Poetry Recitation Competition – Year 10 Italian-Australian category of the Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition.

• **Clare Duyker**, Year 9, won the Intermediate Section of the School Public Speaking Competition.

• **Claudia Piva**, Year 9, was a finalist in the Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition, Year 9 Italian-Australian and **Tess Plowman**, Year 9, won 3rd prize in the Poetry Recitation Competition – Year 9 non-Italian category.

• **Kelly Bradley, Clare Duyker, Lucy Garnham, Alexandra McLeod, Phillipa Mitchell, Tess Plowman** and **Emelia Wells**, Year 9, gained High Distinctions in the 2014 Australian Geography Competition.

• **Emma Brown**, Year 9, won the Medallion Prize at the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Victoria (CLTAV) 2014 Reading Awards.

• **Isabella Thom**, Year 8, won the Junior Section of the Margaret Fendley Writing Competition.

• **Sophie Chan, Rachel Cordeiro, Olivia Evans, Emma Flynn, Callista Gale, Kate Leyden, Madeleine Morrison, Hannah Patience** and **Isabel Zhi**, Year 8, gained High Distinctions in the 2014 Australian History Competition.

• **Victoria Jones**, Year 8, was awarded 1st place in Division C (Years 7 - 10) of the Victorian School of Languages Spanish Language Writing Competition, with her short story ‘El roble de mi abuelo argentino’ translated into English – ‘The Oak of my Grandfather Ron’.

• **Bianca Vains**, Year 7, won the Junior School Section of the School Public Speaking Competition.
Senior School Sport

- **Phoebe Sloane**, Year 12, 2013, has been offered a U.S.A. College Sports Scholarship and will be attending the University of Memphis to study communications.
- Past student, **Ellen Sudholz**, has completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- **Sarah Chancellor-Goddard**, Year 12, 2013, captained the Under 18s Women’s Cricket.
- **Cara Adamopoulos**, Sophie Hulme and **Laura Perree**, Year 12, completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- **Jessica Stewart**, Year 12, participated in the Victorian Acrobatics Championships – Women’s Trio. The trio was placed 1st in Level 5 (National Level).
- **Elizabeth Robinson**, Year 10, competed in the Rhythmic Gymnastics Victorian Championships and placed 4th overall and won a Silver medal in hoop. As a result she was selected to represent Victoria at the Australian Gymnastics Championships where the Victorian Level 8 team placed 4th all around.
- **Bronte Hough**, Year 10, represented Victoria at the National Under 16 Schoolgirls’ Hockey Championships held in Adelaide in August. Victoria finished 4th.
- **Phillipa Mitchell**, Year 9, qualified for the Australian Age Swimming Championships in several individual events and two relays for her Club, Nunawading, achieving a Silver and a Bronze medal.
- **Taegen Coxhill**, Year 9, swam in the Tasmanian State Age Swimming Championships and achieved 1st place in the 200m Individual Medley. She also won two Silver medals at this event. Taegen also swam at the Australian Age Championships in several individual events and four relays for her Club, Nunawading, achieving a Silver and Bronze medal. She won a Bronze medal in the 100m Butterfly at the Victorian Age Short Course Championships. At the start of the year she competed at the Victorian Sprint Championships, achieving Bronze in an individual event and Gold in a relay. Taegen also broke four individual Strathcona records at the House Swimming Sports this year.
- **Tess Plowman**, Year 9, came 1st in the Intermediate Division 2 GSV Cross Country Championships. She also won a Silver medal for the GSV Athletics Final.

Tess Plowman, Jessica Walsh and Allysha Dyer, Year 9, won a Gold medal at the GSV Triathlon in the team’s event.

- **Kate Boulter**, Year 9, competed in the Athletics Victoria State Multi Event Championships held in Bendigo in January 2014, winning a Silver medal. This qualified her to compete in the Australian Multi Event Championships held at Albert Park in April 2014 where she placed 7th in Australia. She also won a Gold medal in the GSV Athletics Final in the discus and 400m.
- **Julianne Kinsella**, Year 9, was selected for the Australian Softball development team, the Aussie Sparks. She travelled to America and Taiwan for a tour and played against international teams.
- **Tamsyn Lovass**, Year 7, her Bronze medal in the U14 1500m at the Victorian Junior Track and Field Championships lead to her selection in the Athletics Victoria Junior Team that competed at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships that were held in March in Sydney, NSW. Tamsyn’s performance at the Victorian All Schools Cross Country Championships lead to her selection in the School Sport Victoria (Team Vic) Team and she competed at the Australian Cross Country Championships that were held in August in Albany, WA.
- Year 7 students Tamsyn Lovass, Georgia Watkins, Sara Stebbins and Emma Orelli, came 4th in the U14 Girls team 3km event at the Victorian Schools Cross Country Championships.
- **Georgia Watkins**, Year 7, came 3rd in the Juniors Division 2 GSV Cross Country Championships. She was also awarded a Bronze medal for 3rd place in the Victorian Open Water 5km swim (13 years age group), Georgia qualified to swim in the National Open Water Championships to be held in Perth next year.
- **Jenna Healy**, Year 7, competed in the Victorian State Diving Championships where she finished 2nd in the 12/13 age group Synchronised Diving. She was selected in the Victorian Team and competed in the National Diving Championships held in Melbourne in April.
- **Louise Johnson**, Year 7, competed in the Australian National Championships for sailing in the Minnow class this year. The Minnow nationals were held in Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron in January.
Let us look back with appreciation, forward with hope and around us with love.

Mrs Helen Hughes, Strathcona Principal, 2001 – 2014