in tribute

bring out her best.

STRATHCONA
1. ACEL Awards: Induction of Mrs Hughes as a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders by Jeremy Beard, Victorian President and National Director.

2. Last day of term: Mr and Mrs Hughes enjoy a horse and carriage ride around the School.

3. & 4. Board Dinner: Present and past Board members and Deputy Principals to Mrs Hughes gathered at Tay Creggan to celebrate Mrs Hughes’s 14 years as Principal. 3. Mrs Judy McMaster (past Chaplain and current Board member), Mrs Lyn Wheat (past Deputy Principal), Mrs Jocelyn Furlan (Board member) and Mr Adrian Furlan. 4. Mrs Gardner (Board Chair) presenting Mrs Hughes with a gift.

5. Guild Dinner 2014: Mrs Hughes was honoured at the Annual Awards dinner of the Teachers’ Guild of NSW for her contribution to education for over 40 years. A Fellow, Life Member and Past President of the Guild, Mrs Hughes organised many professional development activities for teachers and, in the 1980s, introduced awards for teachers in their early years of teaching.

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Front cover:
Balloon release as part of the Year 12 Valedictory Day

Production:
Elisabeth Chalmers,
Community Relations Office

Editorial Committee:
Elisabeth Chalmers
Helen Hughes
Diana Little

Strathcourier Summer Edition 2014
I consider myself privileged to have had the opportunity to lead Strathcona over the last 14 years. I express sincere appreciation to the late Reverend Angas Holmes and the School Board of 2001 who selected me. When I was appointed Principal, I felt the conviction that Strathcona was the right place for me. Its size, being a girls’ school, its emphasis on pastoral care and its faith base underpinned my sense of being called to this place.

At my very first Staff Day, feeling the mixed emotions of both fear and excitement, I outlined what I believed mattered in the life of a school:

- the pursuit of excellence in every endeavour and the development of resilience in the face of obstacles and setbacks
- to offer learning that encompasses the complete life of a 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
- 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
- to provide outstanding facilities and resources, particularly in information and communications technologies, to create a stimulating learning environment
- being a community of people with a palpable sense of belonging, where all work for the common good.

These convictions were strong at the time, but little did I know that they would remain my ‘manifesto’ and be strengthened again and again as I, the Board and staff navigated our path into the 21st Century. We have always sought the best for our students, their learning, wellbeing and happiness. We understood the responsibility we have to our students’ parents – those who have placed their trust in us to achieve the best outcomes for their daughters.

Drawing on current educational research and the experience and knowledge of our Board and the staff, we have strategically developed the School. We can all feel proud about the strength of our curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning; the impact of our pastoral care approaches and wellbeing programs; the breadth of opportunities and achievements in the co-curricular program; the quality of our buildings; and the calibre of our technology resources and infrastructure.

Our school community has pulled together with exceptional parent involvement and support. The alignment in values, attitudes and goals for the girls between home and school has been critical in building our culture. Our students’ attitudes to their learning, their activities and one another are notable. It has been a delight to be with them in multiple aspects of school life, to oversee their development and to recognise that Strathcona girls are amongst the most responsible, receptive, courteous and committed that I have known in my 43 years in schools. They are a credit to their parents and School.

I pay tribute to Strathcona for the extent to which ‘what matters’ has been considered, debated, agreed upon and enacted. I applaud the staff for their professionalism and their exceptional dedication. As we have progressed the School together, I acknowledge the extent to which they have been open to change. Our staff’s phenomenal commitment to the girls and of course the little boys in the Early Learning Centre is something I will always remember. Giving young people valuable foundations for life has really been a team effort, with each teacher generously playing a crucial part.

Strathy will always remain part of me. I will cherish the relationships and experiences I have had and I will hold on to many precious memories.

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Strathy will always remain part of me. I will cherish the relationships and experiences I have had and I will hold on to many precious memories.

My love, best wishes and prayers for future happiness and success go out to everyone in the school community, past, present and future, and to Mrs McConaghy and the School Board as they take Strathcona into the next exciting phase.

May God bless you richly.

Helen Hughes, Principal
farewell to year 12 students

parting school captain’s message

It is hard to believe how fast time travels when you are not looking. As far as I am concerned, I should still be learning to write an essay, running around at lunchtime with unending energy and working tirelessly to master the nuisance of fractions. Yet somehow I am not. Rather, the dresses which were once stiff are now well worn, my t-bars no longer give me aching blisters and somewhere along the line my vigorous passion for Twilight dissipated. Somehow I have become a member of the yearly group of girls being ejected into the fearsome ‘real world’.

The strangeness of life without Strathcona and the girls with whom we have grown so close is quickly unfolding, an inexplicable feeling which I’m sure is similarly held by Mrs Hughes whose year indeed runs parallel to that of the Year 12s. The School will undoubtedly be different in 2015 and beyond, particularly with the building works set to be finished early in the year. However, although Mrs Hughes’ office will be home to a new personality, I believe that the School will never really be absent of her.

The impact that she has made has shaped our relationships with others, the way in which we present ourselves and, most importantly, the way in which we are educated, a factor of our lives and of the School that can neither be forgotten nor substituted for anything less.

As the end of the year sneaks up on us it always does, the feelings held by all of us at Strathcona are mixed. There is the liberating relief that comes with the release of study and stress, the excitement for the months of nothing which stretch ahead and that indescribable warmth that comes as the days grow long and the sun begins to blaze. But all of this is tinged with a strange nostalgia for the past which we are leaving behind. There is some reluctance, some small child in the distance screaming, ‘I don’t want to’. Yet despite our desperation to remain in the routine that we know so well, there are new beginnings awaiting us, different yes, but exciting all the same.

Gabrielle Ebeling, School Captain

“... there are new beginnings awaiting us, different yes, but exciting all the same.”

The Valedictory Dinner provided an enjoyable ending to what was a momentous final day at Strathcona for the Year 12s. Although we were all exhausted from the huge day of celebrations, we mustered up the energy to shake off the final glitter from the morning and commemorate the end of the school year with our parents and teachers. A slideshow with our Prep and Year 12 photos prompted much reminiscing and laughter over a delicious three-course meal as we reflected on our time at Strathcona. Speeches were brief but heartfelt, and it was particularly special to be addressed by Mr Pannam and Mrs Hughes for the last time as Year 12s. Valedictory was a great opportunity for the class of 2014 and their parents to relax and feel a sense of accomplishment for the year’s work before heading into exams, and the night was an excellent way to finish such an important day.

Michelle Benington, Deputy School Captain

The Rose Assembly was an emotional part of our final day for students, parents and teachers. Not only was it a chance for us to share the experience of graduating with our parents, but it was also a chance to reflect and to formally say goodbye to a School that played a significant role in our lives for the past six years. It’s hard to identify one single emotion that was felt by the girls on that day, as there were so many moments that made us either laugh, cry or both. As it was Mrs Hughes’ last Rose Assembly as well, we felt more closely connected to the School than ever, being able to share the joy as well as sadness about leaving a place that has certainly more than once, felt like home to us. Sharing our last year alongside Mrs Hughes has been a privilege and I think I speak for all students when I say that the School, and we as individuals, are better for knowing her and we wish her the best of luck for the future.

Annie Biggins, Deputy School Captain

Strathcourier Summer Edition 2014
reflections from mellor house & elc

Our School’s 90th Anniversary celebrations have prompted us to look back at those who have come before us and pay tribute to their contribution to our great School.

A person who has influenced us all greatly is our Principal, Mrs Helen Hughes. Her keen involvement in wanting the best for every Mellor House student has ensured that our values, curriculum and environment are the best they can be. Mrs Hughes always finds the time to attend our important events and acknowledge the importance of what we are doing. Mrs Hughes was at our Tabloid Sports Day at Tay Creggan recently to present Arnold House Captains, Emily Crowe and Kara McKenzie, with the House Tabloid Sports Cup. At our weekly assemblies, Mrs Hughes presents Principal’s Awards to students who have achieved something special. All recipients feel proud to receive the certificate, recognition and handshake from our inspirational Principal.

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony paid tribute to the sacrifices of those involved in war, particularly those who lost their lives in the service of our country. We gathered near our flag pole to reflect on their sacrifice and to acknowledge our gratitude. Kate Joselend, our Semester 2 School Captain, led the ceremony. Many of the students wore poppies as a sign of remembrance.

The importance of relationships and feeling connected is a central focus in our Early Learning Centre. We celebrate the significance of having special people in our lives: family and friends. Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and our Grandparents’ and Special Friend Day provide us the opportunity to discuss with the children their recollections of memorable shared times. Such memories included ‘My Dad reads stories to me’ and ‘I love my Mum because we go on bike rides together’. We provide opportunities throughout the year for the children to make gifts for loved ones to show appreciation and acknowledgment. Paying tribute to the strong connections forged during these early formative years is embedded in everything we do.

We are grateful for the support and leadership given by Mrs Hughes during her time as Principal at Strathcona. Over the years Mrs Hughes has found time within her busy schedule to join the children over lunch in the Shared Lunch Program, she has read stories to our ELC groups and, this year, celebrated Strathcona’s 90th Anniversary at a morning tea with ELC students.

It has been with much enthusiasm that the children have participated in making a special gift for Mrs Hughes to say thank you.

Christopher Plyland, Head of Mellor House
Heather Henson, Coordinator of the ELC

Photos:
Top row: Encouraging creativity in our Early Learning Centre.
Bottom row (L-R): ELC children enjoy a story read by Mrs Hughes; Mrs Hughes presents the Cup at the House Tabloid Sports Day; Mellor House Remembrance Day Ceremony.
We express our admiration and gratitude to two inspirational people who have been integral to life at Tay Creggan.

Mrs Helen Hughes

Mrs Helen Hughes commenced as Principal of Strathcona in 2001 and since then, has made a profound mark on the unique Year 9 Tay Creggan campus. She continued the steady evolution of its innovative curriculum and teaching, and oversaw the introduction of the visionary I-Learning program, which offers an interactive, inquiry-based, interdisciplinary experience for the students. This involved an active connection with Melbourne’s CBD and saw the students regularly venture to the city, exploring the rich texture of cultural and community resources on offer.

Another innovative addition to student learning at Tay Creggan overseen by Mrs Hughes was the introduction of iPads into the curriculum, initially trialled at Tay Creggan. The staff and students have embraced the multi modal learning opportunities this new technology has offered and the iPads have contributed significantly to the I-Learning program.

Knowing that learning is not just confined to the classroom, Mrs Hughes looked to enhance the outdoor experience of girls at Year 9. After detailed research and planning, the groundbreaking Camp to Campus trek was implemented this year. The experience met with widespread enthusiasm and excitement from the students and involved hiking, cycling and canoeing from the top of Mount Donna Buang, all the way back to the Tay Creggan campus in Hawthorn. The development of the girls’ self-confidence, independence and camaraderie was most evident and the Camp to Campus proved to be a challenging and rewarding experience for all of the Year 9 students.

Every week, Mrs Hughes travelled to Tay Creggan to run an assembly for the year level. Talking to a room full of 15 year old girls is always challenging but Mrs Hughes was able to continually capture their imaginations with a very hands-on approach, discussing essential human qualities interlaced with her own experiences which the students always found enlightening. The girls and staff are incredibly grateful to have had the privilege of having Mrs Hughes as their Principal. She has interacted daily with the girls under her care, attended a never-ending list of evening engagements in Music, Drama, Sport, parent information sessions, council meetings and staff meetings, yet her door has always remained open to both students and staff. The legacy that Mrs Hughes leaves in all facets of the School will endure long into the future and she will be missed greatly.

Mrs Jan’ice Peterson

Mrs Jan’ice Peterson has been part of the fabric of Tay Creggan for over 27 years, but after instilling in generations of girls that they are her ‘cherubs’, Mrs Peterson is retiring at the end of this year. During all of her years of service to the School, Mrs Peterson has been the ‘substitute-mum’ to Tay Creggan girls (and staff). Her calm, sensible and endlessly kind manner, blended with a healthy dose of reality means she has dealt with all imaginable illnesses and lost items. Mrs Peterson has an inventory of every item in the school in her mind and without her we just might spend years trying to locate things. She has been known to wash and dry wet socks and PE uniforms when girls have been caught in the rain or popped out of a canoe into the river, and even supplies lunch to those more forgetful girls.

Mrs Peterson has also mastered the changes in technology during her time at Strathcona, from the traditional manual typewriter, through to today’s multi-tasking computers and Internet communication. She has overseen incredible changes to the buildings and curriculum at Tay Creggan, in particular the infrastructure from the old dormitory style classrooms complete with wood-fired water heaters, through to today’s dynamic modern facilities. Her ‘office’ has moved at least five times and she has worked seamlessly with six different Heads of Campus – an indication of her patience and dedication. Her job description is nothing short of incredibly broad. On top of the never-ending daily situations that always occur with teenage girls, she has run the craft stall at every School Fair; organised, set up and attended every wedding and function held at Tay Creggan; been the doctor/nurse to staff and students; acted as chief staff birthday party organiser (her chocolate cake is legendary!); cooked for numerous school functions and to top it off, she is an extraordinarily talented quilter. Her involvement, contribution to, but most importantly her loyalty to Tay Creggan, have been unending.

We have had the privilege of sharing the growth of her own children and now grandchildren, watching her devotion to her family in this new phase in life as a grandparent. Throughout all this time Mrs Peterson has always maintained a wonderful sense of humour and has been the matriarch of the Tay Creggan ‘family’. We will definitely miss our ‘cherub’ and wish her well in her new life of retirement.

Geoff Wriedt, Head of Tay Creggan
annual concert – a musical celebration

To celebrate Strathcona’s 90th Anniversary, this year, our Gala Concert was held in the beautiful Melbourne Recital Centre, a fitting venue. On this occasion, we combined with 61 enthusiastic ‘little ones’ from Mellor House, who joined the String Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Choirs. The evening commenced with a rousing rendition of ‘With a Voice of Singing’, an old standard that was sung many years ago by Strathcona’s choirs. This was followed by the up-tempo ‘Rhythm of Life’, which the girls sing with much enthusiasm. The String Orchestra performed the incredibly moving and mesmerising Australian work, ‘Reclaiming the Spirit’. This sonic tapestry celebrates the music of indigenous Australia, incorporating unusual techniques from our string players, percussion instruments and harmonic whirlys. What a delight to see and hear our Mellor House students performing this work alongside the Senior students, as they created a soul-enriching atmosphere that reflects our vast and timeless country.

The Combined Bands, Symphonic Band and Stage Band all lent much energy and vibrancy to this celebratory evening, as did the young voices of the Mellor House Singers, the Massed Year 7 Choir, Glee and the more mature sounds of Cantabile Choir. It was incredibly heart-warming and exciting, to see the 200 choristers from Years 3 to 12 on stage, singing ‘You Raise Me Up’ behind an orchestra comprising 75 instrumentalists from both Mellor House and the Senior School. As a fitting finale to the concert, we dedicated the performance of this song to Mrs Hughes as she concludes her time as our Principal.

The many hours of rehearsing, the incredible anticipation and excitement, all culminated in this Gala Evening, celebrating 90 years of educating girls at Strathcona. But the evening also held much emotion. For our Year 12s, their last music concert – for our Principal, Mrs Hughes, her last music concert also. On behalf of the girls and music staff, our thanks and heartfelt gratitude go to Mrs Hughes for her unbelievable support of all things music at Strathcona. Her presence at every performance, big and small, over the last 14 years and words of encouragement to girls and staff will be cherished in all our memories for many years to come. As Heinrich Heine said, ‘When words leave off, music begins.’

Georgina Nagy, Director of Music

“The many hours of rehearsing, the incredible anticipation and excitement, all culminated in this Gala Evening, celebrating 90 years of educating girls at Strathcona.”
the arts report

artistic talents on show

In 2014 our Art Captains suggested we pay tribute to our Principal through a portrait competition, based on the Archibald Prize. This led to touching responses submitted by students from the ELC right through to our senior girls, in what became affectionately known as the Hughesy Prize.

The Hughesy Prize saw our young artists strive to create a true likeness of our Principal. Many explored how to best represent Mrs Hughes through a variety of art materials suitable for their skill level. Other students, particularly from Years 8 to 10, wrote artist statements that also demonstrated the great depth of thought that our girls put into their portraits. We thank Mrs Hughes for her grace and good humour during this whole school art project.

The Hughesy Prize was exhibited in the Shirley Bourne Gallery in CPAC at the end of Term 3 and led into our Art Show that opened on 15 October.

It is always a challenge deciding how best to display such a colourful and dynamic selection of artwork. Therefore, as an Art Department we work together with the philosophy of making sure each of our students are represented in themes or classes, celebrating individual learning through the visual arts as a whole. Some highlights include:

- Mrs Susan Clarke challenged our youngest learners to use line, shape and colour to creatively represent trucks and tractors, tulips and swimming sea turtles. Our older primary school students also explored stories of our bush heroes, trees and the landscape.
- Mrs Ginetta Ito-Cannon reflected on the environment at Tay Creggan with Year 9. The result was detailed etchings that were then lovingly made into handmade books, creating a visual memory of the students’ time at TC.
- At the Main Campus, Ms Eve Close’s Year 10 3D class also showed diversity and inventiveness, creating ceramic sculptures exploring surface qualities and expressing emotion through the human form.
- Ms Kimberly Moor, leading our popular Design classes, displayed Year 11 VCD models of art galleries. The creativity and detail of these designs were impressive and wonderful to share with Jacqui Alexander, an architect and past student, who opened the Art Show this year.
- Finally, our always impressive Year 12 art folios. The artwork at this level is challenging and thought provoking and is the result of a final year of intensive and heartfelt creative exploration. This year it also highlighted the great skill and mastery that our girls have achieved through sculpture and works on paper.

It is important to see these successful VCE Art and Design folios as a culmination of a whole school lifetime of arts education. Many years of drawing, colouring, modelling, reflecting and creating under the guidance of Art teachers led to this point. This is why we proudly display all our students’ achievements together as one large colourful picture for our School community to celebrate and enjoy.

Erin-Maree Horsley, Head of Art

vce drama examination solos

Once again the VCAA selected a varied, interesting and exceptionally challenging collection of characters and stimulus material for the Drama Performance examination.

The range was exceptionally diverse this year and included an eclectic blend of performance styles including Cabaret Voltaire, Kabuki Theatre, German Expressionism, Physical Theatre, Epic Theatre, Comedy and Caricature. The VCE Drama class rose admirably to this challenge and worked creatively and with outstanding commitment and vigour to research, create, rehearse and refine their non naturalistic solo performances. The task required the girls to be play writers, directors, performers, designers and rigorous researchers. The students all created their own unique response to the material through remarkably astute, thought provoking and stimulating theatrical statements. We are exceptionally proud of our VCE Drama class. The girls have worked with admirable commitment all year and have displayed commendable initiative, passion and drive.

Marisa Rowlands, Head of Drama

Erin-Maree Horsley, Head of Art
the icing on the cake

As part of the Year 10 Food Technology course, students are given the opportunity to create their own decorated fruit cake. This exciting challenge begins with the students researching a variety of cake designs, and then developing a draft sketch on which to base their own individual creation.

Whilst undertaking this task, students were able to learn some useful cake decorating skills, such as modelling and colouring of fondant icing, the use of royal icing – including piping patterns and shapes with icing bags and nozzles – and flower making. It was particularly pleasing to see so much enthusiasm and energy applied to their projects. Many of the students were keen to enhance their learning using their iPads, researching not just images of cake designs, but also a range of tutorials demonstrating specific cake decorating skills. Some students challenged themselves by constructing a two or three tier cake. Overall, there was a wide range of cake designs, each one representative of that student’s individual style and creativity.

The standard of work was particularly high this year and we were able to enter 30 cakes into the Royal Melbourne Show. We were delighted that Strathcona students received a large number of awards in their category, and we congratulate them on their achievements.

Claire Chambers, Head of Food Technology

Royal Melbourne Show awards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Prize</td>
<td>Delia McKeon</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Prize</td>
<td>Madison Sorrenti</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Prize</td>
<td>Alex Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td>Madeleine Grimsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td>Charlotte Pannier</td>
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<td>Commended</td>
<td>Maggie Treppo</td>
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Award winning cakes included these masterpieces by Charlotte Pannier (top), Madeleine Grimsey (above left) and Maggie Treppo (above right).
social service

with a generous spirit

The contributions offered to our Social Service program were accompanied by generosity, creativity and sincerity. What follows is a short commentary on a few selected activities during the year.

Operation Christmas Child

A great many ‘shoeboxes’ were filled with items kindly donated by Strathcona families for ‘Operation Christmas Child’. Distributed internationally by Samaritan’s Purse, these gifts help create a brighter Christmas for children in need.

The Birdie Project

To assist in the raising of funds and awareness about Breast Cancer, ‘The Birdie Project’ (Eve Close) also provided an opportunity for personal reflection, whilst artistry was explored by the creation of petite white doves.

World’s Greatest Shave

For several years, a special event at Mellor House has been the ‘World’s Greatest Shave’ where several staff fearlessly volunteer to have their head shaved or hair restyled to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation.

5cent Campaign

Year 11 student Julia Tanton’s personal desire to promote the work of Y Generation Against Poverty’s ‘5cent Campaign’ saw participants collect five cent coins throughout the School, which led to a substantial amount being raised for its charitable work.

We Can’t Wait

When Strathcona parent, Mr Mark Balla, visited our assemblies he informed students about education in India and particularly the challenges girls face when trying to attend school regularly. It was encouraging to observe our girls’ willingness to get behind the ‘We Can’t Wait’ campaign and raise sufficient funds for the building of toilets for the first toilet project in Maharashtra.

All activities were always entered into with a fine spirit of philanthropy.

Strathcona Social Service Donations

- Alfred Hospital
- Asylum Seekers
- Baptist World Aid
- Buddhist World Aid
- Sponsorship – Lanka, Monica and Girly Anne
- BCNA
- Berry Street Child Institute
- Breast Cancer
- Cambodian Orphans
- Cancer Council
- Canteen
- Cerebral Palsy
- Clown Doctors
- Collins Street Baptist Church – Urban Seed
- Good Friday Appeal
- Heart Foundation
- IDFA
- International Needs
- Leukaemia Foundation – World’s Greatest Shave
- Lions Club
- Light House Foundation
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- One Girl Foundation
- Operation Christmas Child
- Philippines Disaster Appeal
- Red Cross
- RSL
- RSPCA
- Salvation Army
- School of St Jude
- Scope
- Solomon Islands
- Smith Family
- Starlight Foundation
- Tasmanian Devils
- UNICEF
- We Can’t Wait
- White Ribbon
- Word Vision Sponsorship – Martha
- YGAP Scent Campaign
- Yooraalia
- Zimele
As Strathcona closes the chapter of its 90th Anniversary, it is most appropriate that a tribute of appreciation is given to all in our School community who have engaged in Social Service activities throughout the year.

At the conclusion of this year, Mrs Les Cole and Mrs Jan’ice Peterson retire. As a school, we have valued and appreciated so much from the many years of their personal involvement with our Social Services program.

A very special word of appreciation is also extended to our Principal, Mrs Hughes, who has consistently supported our Social Service campaigns and encouraged all participants in the art of giving, as well as welcoming the numerous array of guest speakers from various charities to speak in our assemblies.

Charles Dickens, in his famed novel, *A Christmas Carol*, uses his literary talent to explore the theme of selfishness. As a Christian writer, his story is based upon Mark 8:36 – ‘What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?’ Dickens wants the reader to see the foolishness in selfish living by his characterisation of Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean-spirited, miserly old man who sits in his counting-house on Christmas Eve, refusing to contribute to charity. At the conclusion of the story, when Scrooge has been made aware of the folly of his ways, he says, ‘I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.’ So too at Strathcona, the outstanding charitable offerings of the girls throughout this year will not just be fleeting, but rather something so engrained within each of them that the true spirit of giving will last a lifetime.

Mrs Rhonda Burns, Chaplain/Head of Christian Education/Social Service Coordinator

With Our Best Wishes

Since 1924 Strathcona has had a heart for the community, encouraging the girls to develop a well-balanced world view, caring attitude and a willingness to give their best wherever they find themselves. During the 90th Anniversary we sought to build on this tradition with the Annual Charity Program (ACP), a 12-month partnership with a charity to provide educational and fundraising opportunities, facilitating a deeper understanding of their contribution to the community.

During 2014 our inaugural Annual Charity Partner, Cancer Council Victoria (CCV), provided educational and inspirational speakers who talked about riding from Uluru to Melbourne to raise funds, healthy lifestyle choices and career opportunities.

The Annual Charity Weekend, 29 – 31 August was central to the ACP. During this weekend the Strathcona community united through individual and group initiatives to raise funds for CCV. The Soshin Girls School, our Japanese sister school, launched the weekend with a Japanese Tea Ceremony and performed the Cherry Blossom dance ‘Sakura’ and the hymn ‘We Gather Together’. A great variety of activities sprung from the imaginations of students, staff and the OSA including Morning and High Teas, Book Sales, Kids’ Street Stalls, Movie Nights, Tay Creggan Tours, Wood Fired Pizzas and Olive Oil. We are very pleased that from this weekend Tony Romanella (father of Isabella, 11C) now regularly brings his Hot Beverage Cart to the School once a week, with 50 cents per cup sold being donated to our Annual Charity Partner.

Thank you to CCV for their partnership. We thoroughly enjoyed working with them throughout 2014.

Anita Burman, 90th Anniversary Projects Officer

‘… the true spirit of giving will last a lifetime.’
Exchange to Meriden was so much fun! I applied for the Year 8 exchange so that I could see how different it felt living with different people and going to a different school in a different part of Australia for a week.

I noticed some significant differences between Sydney and Melbourne during my stay. I learnt that Sydney has double decker trains, the beautiful Harbour Bridge, Bondi Beach, and is a well-designed city. I also learnt that people can catch the ferry to work, that Luna Park is better in Sydney and that from the top of the pylon on the Harbour Bridge there is an absolutely spectacular view of Sydney.

There were also differences between Strathcona and Meriden such as Meriden has no bells to signal the start or end of class, that Meriden finish school earlier than Strathcona and that Meriden has an outdoor pool. Exchange was an all-round fabulous experience and I would highly recommend the opportunity to do exchange to the future Year 8s.

Natasha Hawkins (8D)

I had an amazing time with fantastic memories at the PLC boarding school. It was a whole new experience for me. My buddy was Jamika and one weekend I went to her home in Coffs Harbour to meet her family.

In Melbourne I took Jamika to see Phillip Island and Strathcona took us to see the Queen Victoria Market, Eureka Skydeck 88 and Melbourne Zoo. I had a wonderful time in Armidale and with Jamika in Melbourne. I made lots of new friends and forg lastingly memories!

Kate Leyden (8A)

During Term 3 we enjoyed hosting many students from overseas and interstate. The photo above was taken during an excursion to the city with the group of Chinese, French (Chloe, Jade, Estelle, Morgane and Mathilde) and Korean students (Hye-ji Cha (10A) and Ha Kyung Yoon (10B)) and host sisters Hayley Doran (10D), Kali Doran (8B), Tayla Eddy (11C), Jess Hamilton (9C), Holly Mitchell (9D), Marilda Murphy (9A), Emelia Wells (9D) and Emma Olorenshaw (9B).

We visited the Queen Victoria Market, Eureka Skydeck 88 and enjoyed a Yum Cha lunch at the Dragon Boat Palace in Chinatown.

Kate Shorland (Deputy School Captain, 2002) is now teaching English in Japan. She has met up with Yoshie Kotoh and family. Yoshie was the student leader of the first Soshin group to visit Strathcona in 1998. Kate travels on the train in Yokohama and sees present Soshin girls on their way to school carrying Strathcona school bags.

Four Rockhampton girls visited Strathcona this year. Emily Lang hosted by Annabelle Cater (8B), Layla Wilson hosted by Katy Perree (8B), Lauren Pacey hosted by Alicia West (8C) and Caitlin Bartlett hosted by Kali Doran (8B).

Strathcona girls on exchange in Rockhampton August 2014 dressed up as part of Book Week celebrations. The girls, with their Rockhampton Girls Grammar sisters decided to dress up as Ninja Turtles. Strathcona students who went to Rockhampton this year – Rebecca Furlan, Jennifer Crocker, Cate Oldham and Caitlin Doyle.

Strathcona around the world

kakadu/central australia

year 8 exchange

Clare Terry (8B) and Natasha Hawkins (8D) took part in the reciprocal exchange and hosted Holly Stein and Sabrina Katay from Meriden in Sydney.

Kate Rowland (8D) and Kate Leyden (8A) took part in the reciprocal exchange and hosted Julia Chambers and Jamika Kelly-Wirth from PLC Armidale, NSW.

international visitors

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news from japan

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rockhampton exchange

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Strathcourier Summer Edition 2014
**new zealand exchange**

Year 9 students Alex Lotric (9C) and Sarah van der Hock (9A) took part in a reciprocal exchange with Columba College, Dunedin, New Zealand and hosted Ruby Edwards and Isabella Lau. Ruby and Isabella joined Year 9 classes at Tay Creggan for the whole term, and participated in the Strathcona Kakadu/Central Australian tour with Year 10 and 11 students from 14 – 24 September.

In 2013, our Principal was contacted by the Deputy Principal of the Neerja Modi School in Jaipur, India, seeking a reciprocal exchange. Gheta Bhutani, the Deputy Principal, had researched schools in Australia and felt that Strathcona was an excellent choice for a mutually beneficial friendship to be established. Neerja Modi School is a very large boarding school offering an excellent education, and is in fact ranked number one of the schools in Rajasthan, India. It was my great pleasure to show Ms Bhutani around our school when she visited Strathcona in 2013.

In June this year, Melissa King (Year 10 Coordinator) and I went on the tour that we, with the staff of Neerja Modi School, had planned as the possible tour for our girls. We visited what is known as the Golden triangle: Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. We had the opportunity to see many of India’s most renowned sights such as the Taj Mahal and the Agra Red Fort. Riding elephants to the beautiful Amber Fort was a highlight of the trip.

The second part of the trip was spent at the Neerja Modi school doing many of the things the girls will do when they visit. We stayed in the boarding house, enjoyed lots of curry and attended classes with the students of the school.

One of the attractions of building an ongoing relationship with the Neerja Modi School is the fact that they also have a school on their site for girls from extremely poor situations where they learn reading, writing and basic skills. Our girls would have the opportunity to assist these girls with their learning and socialisation.

In addition to all these wonderful opportunities, we had the experiences that only India provides – exotic aromas, the busyness of all the people, the sounds, the heat, and the vibe that is India.

Melissa and I can’t wait to take the first group of Strathy girls to India in 2015, and to share Strathy with the students who will come and experience Australia with us.

**our oriental pearls**

An unlikely partnership of immeasurable value has evolved from the championing of the China Tour by Mrs Hughes and Ms Mo. The exchange, offered to Strathcona students over the past eight years, has steadily developed a bond between Strathcona and Wuxi No. 1 Girls’ School. After Chinese classes were initiated at Strathcona in 2007, Mrs Hughes showed determination to build an exchange program with a school in China. After visiting various schools in Shanghai, Nanjing and Wuxi, one school stood out for its similarity to Strathcona and enthusiasm for the program.

Chinese teacher, Ms Mo, assisted in arranging correspondence between the Principals of the schools, and the sister-school relationship was founded in 2010 with the first group of staff and students from Wuxi visiting Strathcona, and Strathcona students reciprocating later in the same year. Since this time, three subsequent tours from each school have been organised in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Thank you to Mrs Hughes and Ms Mo who have made this exciting tour possible for our students.
a great year for **snowsports**

2014 was another amazing year for the Strathcona Friends of Snowsports, with a growing group of girls from Years 3 to 12 dedicated to representing our School on the slopes. Our eight girls participated in Alpine and Skier Cross events at the Victorian Interschools Championships in August, performing exceptionally well in all their races. From the beginning of the year, Friends of Snowsports have contributed to various school events such as the production of the 2014 Business Directory, the snow cone stall held at the 90th Anniversary Strathcona Fair, the Mount Hotam Family weekend held in July, and the Ski Team Breakfast held in August to get together and wish each other the best of luck before the racing season.

The amount of work and dedication by the Friends of Snowsports to allow us girls to race and have fun is greatly appreciated by the whole team. However, we would not have been as successful without Mrs Hughes’ input and support throughout the years. We are thankful for the immense contribution of her time in attending our team breakfast and end of season presentation night, and offering her best wishes to our success and enjoyment. Thank you for helping us to grow our team into the wonderful community it is today. Your dedication to our passion will always be remembered, and you will be greatly missed.

Best wishes for the future!

Shannon Griffiths, Snowsports Captain

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**brownlow medal breakfast**

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 the support of the AFL who provided us with the AFL Premiership Cup for display. Once again past parent and original founder of the event, David Parkin was in attendance. Our Master of Ceremonies was Gerard Whatley, who managed an interesting and lively panel discussion with 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 fund raiser for Strathcona and we were again pleased to support Life Education Victoria by donating $5,000 of the lucky ticket proceeds.

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 Florentino (Rodriguez Family), Melbourne United Basketball, Knight Sport, Channel Nine, Beauty and the Beast Catering, Swimwear Galore, Guardian Security and the Young and Walsh families.

Sincere thanks are extended to the 2014 Brownlow Breakfast Committee: Brian Walsh, Michael Carlow, Lisa Fekete, Helen Hughes, Richard Sallows, Chris Phylard, 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 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. The event has grown greatly in profile and we look forward to our 25th breakfast in September 2015.

Elisabeth Chalmers, Community Relations

Liesl Woods, Outdoor Education Coordinator
Aerobics and Rhythmic Gym performances were enjoyed at the Vintage Fair.

**Rhythmic gymnastics**

Rhythmic Gymnastics is an activity in which individuals or teams manipulate one or two pieces of apparatus, ropes, hoops, balls, clubs, ribbons and freehand (no apparatus). Skills with these apparatus are learnt and are then combined to form routines with music. Rhythmic Gymnastics is a sport that combines elements of ballet, gymnastics, dance and apparatus manipulation. We work from the National Levels Manual and cover skills including leaps, pivots, balances and flexibilities. Participating in Rhythmic Gymnastics classes improves your strength, power, flexibility, agility, dexterity, endurance and hand-eye coordination.

In 2014, Strathcona has had Rhythmic Gymnasts fill the gym five times per week, busily training for various displays and competitions. The girls are aged between four and 18 years of age, training between one and 12 hours per week. Congratulations to the following students for representing Strathcona at state level: Tristen Angarano, Isabella Tremenven, Lauren Joyce, Monique Thomson, Kate Forwood, Anna Zeng and Ellie Robinson. As a result of this competition Ellie was selected to represent Victoria at the National Championships in Melbourne where she was part of the team that placed 4th.

Thank you to the Friends of Rhythmic Gymnastics (FORG) who support all of our gymnasts, coaches and judges. In conjunction with the FORG, we successfully hosted two competitions this year where more than 200 gymnasts from competing clubs attended. In 2015, the Strathcona Rhythmic Gymnastics Club looks forward to welcoming more gymnasts and continuing our work with our current gymnasts.

*Tiffany Kelly, Rhythmic Gymnastics*

**A tribute to experience**

To tribute is to show gratitude, respect and admiration. Here is a tribute to those who have been involved in the Outdoor Education programs of Strathcona.

Having seen behind the scenes of this wonderful institute, it is my pleasure to show gratitude to a number of conscientious individuals who have championed programs that instil happiness, resilience and team spirit in the lives of those students lucky enough to be involved in them. Be they remote journeys, incursion overnight stays at the School (e.g. Mellor House), activity-rich basecamps, or international treks, Strathcona offered some outstanding experiences due to the initiative of staff who have taken a lead in change. These include the World Challenge, championed within the school by Tim Kitchen, the S.P.A.M. club, led by Geoffrey Wriedt, which allowed students to venture on remote hikes to enjoy National Parks and complete their Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, or the Solomon Islands Mission Tour, devised by Chaplain Rhonda Burns, who followed a vision of cultural sensitivity and openness towards new international relations. To these people, and to the instructors and specialists who make such events possible, we are grateful.

My respect is extended to those Year Level Coordinators who in addition to their extensive pastoral roles, managed to organise their corresponding Year Level camps over many years. Respect is also offered to the students who have taken a step to become involved in a program. It can be a very daunting prospect to take part in an activity that may challenge oneself. Be it a hesitant or an enthusiastic first step, it is taking the step that matters; taking the step is respected.

Admiration is something of a different nature, a kind of yearning to adopt aspects of an idol, as well as appreciating them for who they are and what they’ve done. I admire the patience of Program Managers at Strathcona’s many activity sites, to whom questions and minor details are seen as valued and welcomed. I admire those students who have completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, for their consistent commitment to honouring a balanced lifestyle. I admire our Principal Helen Hughes, who deserves great credit for supporting the little decisions from which big things grow. And finally, I admire these experiences themselves, the ones that enrich us through healthy living, collaboration, challenge and self-reflection.

We should stop for a moment and pay tribute to our most valued experiences and how they have influenced our lives.

*Liesel Woods, Outdoor Education Coordinator*
award participation on the rise

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 to 2014, 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 Trampoline, 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 which was an initiative of a 2013 Bronze awardee.

The new Camp to Campus program 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.

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 award as well as network with students from around Victoria. Awards Victoria has been a great support to staff and students in creating an exciting voyage for the awardees. There are currently 16 girls completing their Silver award and five working on their Gold award.

Among the initiatives and continued relationships that next year's participants bring to the program is

Liesl Woods, Outdoor Education Coordinator

kayaking

It was an exciting year for the Kayak squad, 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 across year levels to unravel the mysteries of their paddling future. 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 and improve their skills. These are currently underway and we look forward to the evolution of these smaller regattas in the potential development of Kayaking across Victorian girls' schools.

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 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, Outdoor Education Coordinator
a message from the incoming OSA president

Many Old Strathconians Association (OSA) members have enjoyed participating in all the celebratory activities for the School’s 90th Anniversary. The OSA is very happy to have funded the 90th Anniversary badges, which were presented to each student and staff member at the start of the school year.

The OSA has had plenty to celebrate this year.

• Best Recipes was featured in The Age Good Food supplement and rated as ‘top school cook book’ in Victoria.
• We have continued a very successful reunion program with good attendances at all reunions.
• More than 40 past students attended the Careers Night in July which is just one example of the engagement between past and current students that is being fostered by the OSA and the School.
• The links forged at the Careers Night were further supplemented by the establishment of the OSA Mentors Program, launched in August with a breakfast at Tay Creggan. The program aims to link past students to Year 11 and 12 students.

We are 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. We are very pleased to know Libbie is continuing as a committee member, which will ensure a smooth transition as a number of committee members take on new responsibilities this year.

Finally, a special thank you on behalf of all of us to Mrs Helen Hughes, who has been a constant support to the OSA committee during her 14 years as Principal – 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. Having been a student in Year 9 when Helen commenced as Principal, I have enjoyed watching the School develop and grow under her leadership over the last 14 years. Helen'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.

Laura Loftus, OSA President

Feliciter Connection
(Past staff)
annual dinner

7pm, Saturday 11 April 2015
Tay Creggan, 30 Yarra Street, Hawthorn

Registration: to attend please contact Diana Little at Strathcona Community Relations dlittle@strathcona.vic.edu.au or 8779 7517

Strathcona Medal 2015

The Strathcona Medal will be awarded at Presentation Night 2015. It will be presented to an Old Strathconian and will be given in recognition of excellence in a profession and exceptional service to the wider community in the spirit of the School motto, ‘Bravely, Faithfully, Happily’.

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


Births

Miranda Coyle (Binmore ’94) and Martin, a daughter Holly on 23.4.14, a sister for Lachlan and Stephanie.

Stephanie Gear (Mills ’07) and Walter, a daughter Johanna on 22.1.14, a sister for Eliza and Maggie.

Dianne Hancock (Carlile ’93) and Michael, a son Stuart Michael on 27.5.14.

Sarah Hopcraft (Pitman ’97) and Adam, a daughter Kara Jane on 12.10.14.

Hilary McLeod (Prowse ’04) and Tom, a son Patrick Anthony on 13.11.14.

Cathryn Battle (Randles ’95) and Chris, a daughter Matilda Judith on 6.10.14, a sister for Lachie and Zoe.

Marriages

Samantha Barnett (’98) to Leon Kennedy at Yarra Yarra Golf Club, Bendeleigh East on Saturday, 13 September 2014.

Erin Crowden (’01) to Oliver Smith in Hong Kong on Saturday, 12 April 2014.

Olivia Shore (’00) to Andrew Lewis at Little River on Saturday, 29 November 2014.

Vale

Helen Collings (Herbert ’67) passed away on 5 October 2014. Helen was the niece of Merle Herbert (Dunstan ’47). Helen was remembered as a happy Christian lady. She is survived by her husband and four daughters.
Amy Ruffle ('09)

Amy was a valued and responsible student at Strathcona. She held leadership roles, achieved an outstanding VCE result and took the lead in many performing arts activities.

After completing Year 12, Amy studied at a performing arts school. She then auditioned many times until she obtained a lead role in a children’s television series, Mako Mermaids, Island of Secrets. It was aired on Channel 10 and Nickelodeon, and was seen all around the world with great success.

It is wonderful to see Amy reach her dream and strive for a career that is very competitive and demanding.

Lisa Bradley ('94)

‘I discovered a love of legal writing and the power of legal analysis to inform social policy.’

Lisa Bradley’s reflection on her career to date gives little hint of her impressive list of achievements. Awarded the Faculty Prize as the top student in The Administration of Social Justice in her second degree, Lisa’s Honours thesis on juvenile justice was published in the Deakin Law Review. A long list of publications and presentations followed, on topics ranging from ‘Binding Financial Agreements: How safe are they?’ to ‘The Age of Criminal Responsibility Revisited’, to ‘The Title Fight: Conflicts between separated parents in the school environment’. The last of which was reprinted in Independence: Journal of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia.

To the onlooker, those achievements indicate a very full life indeed. Lisa, however, combined it with a four-year internship in State Parliament; administration and research in the Chronic Illness Research Unit at Deakin University; and volunteer advisory work with the Tenants’ Union of Victoria, the Eastern Community Legal Service and the Women’s Legal Service.

Professional recognition followed quickly in a specialist family law firm where she was promoted, first, to Associate (2008) and then to Senior Associate (2009). As such, she mentored, trained and supervised junior lawyers from the commencement of traineeship through to Associate level. Should you think that such a schedule must preclude a rich personal life and interests, Lisa completed, during that time, Grade 7 Speech and Drama Training with Trinity College, London; married; and has had two children (Alana, 7 and Ben, 3). The needs of those children and her love of writing have currently led her out of private practice and back to university, where she is currently completing a Master of Public and International Law.

Lisa pays tribute to her education at Strathcona and ‘the teachers who encouraged my writing and passion for social justice.‘

We salute her!

Margaret Fendley

Clare Warren ('04)

After leaving Strathcona in 2004, Clare undertook an Arts degree at University of Melbourne (2005 – 2007). She majored in History and absolutely loved her time there. She had considered architecture or teaching as career paths whilst at School but found herself still unsure of ‘what next’. In 2008 she went on a backpacking trip and in 2009, while considering her post-graduate options, started work as a Personal Assistant (PA), using skills gained as an undergraduate student.

She started her Masters in Social Science (Environment and Planning) with a Planning major at RMIT in 2010 and completed the course in 2013. This appealed to her interests in architecture, writing, policy, and the future of Melbourne and its growth. She continued to work full-time as a PA whilst studying part-time at night. In the process Clare learnt many useful skills about working in a large organisation and working with different stakeholders on big projects. She left in early 2013 (after four years) and through much networking was lucky to obtain a student/assistant role in a large planning consultancy firm in the CBD. When she graduated she was offered a full-time consulting role, which she finds challenging, interesting and fun.

Clare’s Mum, Anne, a familiar face to many Strathconians past and present, passed away in 2012 after a long battle with leukaemia and strokes. Clare initiated the ‘Run for Anne’ team, participating annually in Run Melbourne and running additional fundraising events. She has since raised over $30,000 for the National Stroke Foundation and over $15,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation. The wider Strathcona community’s heavy involvement and support has been incredibly humbling and she considers herself lucky to be part of the caring Strathy community!

Dr Belinda Campbell (School Captain, ’93)

Belinda is a Radiation Oncologist and clinical researcher, working at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. With the encouragement of Mrs Margaret Fendley and other Strathcona teachers, Belinda embarked upon her medical career. She graduated from medical school at the University of Melbourne in 1999, and completed her specialty training in Radiation Oncology in 2006. In 2007, Belinda successfully completed a Clinical and Research Fellowship in Vancouver, Canada. She stayed on to work at the British Columbia Cancer Agency for three years in a dual clinical and research position where she gained invaluable international experience and launched her research path. Upon her return to Australia, Belinda took up her current position as a Senior Consultant in Radiation Oncology at Peter Mac, and completed a Master of Medicine (Research) in 2011.

Belinda now specialises in the treatment of lung cancers and lymphomas, and has a special interest in the late effects of treatment in long-term survivors of childhood malignancies. Her research has led to international presentations in Europe and North America, and she has been widely published, including in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Oncology.
Elissa Campbell (’96)

Elissa entered the Bachelor of Optometry course at the University of Melbourne after graduating from Strathcona. In her final year, she completed practical optical experience in Nepal, and this fostered her ongoing interest in third world health issues. Subsequently, Elissa has participated in three volunteer health teams to India with the Perth based charity, Equal Health. These multi-disciplinary health teams work in remote villages to dispense desperately needed basic health care services.

Elissa has worked as an Optometrist in Melbourne and Perth, specialising in children’s vision (behavioural optometry). She completed her Behavioural Optometry Fellowship in 2011. Her current professional area of interest is Orthokeratology, which involves prescribing night time wear of special contact lenses to reduce the progression of shortsightedness.

Elissa was recently married to Dan Blackman by Mrs Judy McMaster in Hepburn Springs, Victoria. The wedding was attended by many past Strathcona girls. Together, Elissa and Dan plan to continue living in Perth, pursuing their respective careers, and enjoying the sunshine and outdoor lifestyle.

2015 reunion dates

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Function</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Thursday 19</td>
<td>15 Year Reunion* (2000) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Thursday 5</td>
<td>10 Year Reunion* (2005) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday 12</td>
<td>5 Year Reunion* (2010) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1943 – 1954 Luncheon 12 noon, Senior Centre Gallery, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Thursday 7</td>
<td>25 Year Reunion* (1990) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>30 &amp; 35 Year Reunions* (1985 &amp; 1980) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Thursday 18</td>
<td>20 Year Reunion* (1995) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Thursday 16</td>
<td>40 &amp; 45 Year Reunion* (1970 &amp; 1975) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Friday 23</td>
<td>50 Year Reunion (1965) 10.30am, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Thursday 19</td>
<td>Pre 42 Luncheon 12 noon, CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday 26</td>
<td>1 Year Reunion* (2014) CPAC, Canterbury Campus</td>
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*NB: Evening events – Drinks and Canapés 6.30pm – 8.30pm.
special thanks to our donors