

PRIDE OF FAHAN ALUMNI AWARD

Jemima Barker

Studying Music and being involved in performances were highlights of my experience at Fahan. I loved the buzz of being in a production and performing as a member of the Choir. My first musical experience was in Year 2 as part of the annual Early Learning Centre production. It was here that I first developed my passion for performing, and in particular, singing.

As my years at Fahan progressed, I always tried to remain engaged in the performing arts and undertake opportunities when they came about. I found there was always something about singing and performing in front of an audience that made me feel so alive and inspired. Growing up, I felt that having the opportunity to perform gave me a chance to get out of my comfort zone - which in turn greatly nurtured my confidence which I could then apply to other aspects of my life. Being a member of the cast of *Downtown!* in Year 11 was, in my opinion, one of the most rewarding things I ever did at School. Therefore, as my time at Fahan began to come to a close, I was eager to find a way to continue with this passion of mine outside of School!

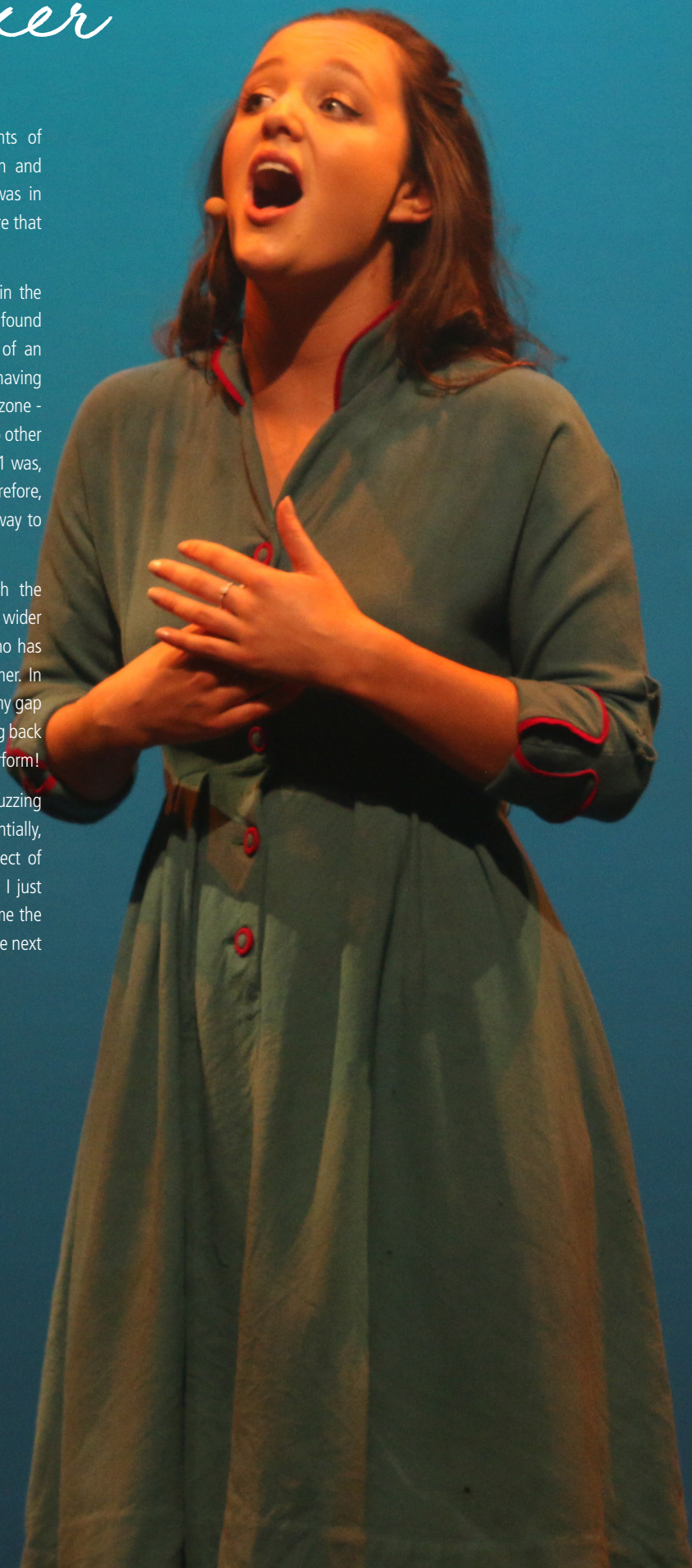
Receiving the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award has provided me with the opportunity to seek outlets for music and performing within the wider community. I have received vocal lessons with a professional coach who has helped me begin reaching my full potential as a vocalist and performer. In recent times, I have had to take a short break from my singing whilst in my gap year. When I return from Europe later this year, I look forward to launching back into my singing, as I am the happiest version of myself when I get to perform!

I have plans to study at a university in Melbourne in 2018, where I am buzzing with excitement to become heavily involved with college musicals. Essentially, this Award has allowed me to open my eyes and mind to the prospect of pursuing music and performing in a more serious sense in the future. I just love to sing in both a formal and casual setting. This Award has given me the chance to keep my passion and spark for singing alive as I venture into the next chapter of my post-schooling life!

Jemima Barker

Pride of Fahan Alumni Awards are granted to students to allow them to pursue their dreams, bring knowledge and value back to the School and provide value to the community.

The following students were the recipients of the Award in 2016.



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Claire Ferguson

It had always been my dream to study at Oxford or at Cambridge. From the bare age of five, I remember devoting hours to admiring pamphlets that my mother and I had brought back from England. The ethereal architecture of the university cities ignited something within me; I felt an immediate connection. It was several years later when I discovered that these fairytale-like places were, in fact, universities.

In accordance with my admiration and appreciation of the architecture of Oxford and Cambridge, from a young age, I have always possessed a colossal passion for learning. Appreciation of knowledge has been a constant in my life. It is unknown to me just how this colossal passion came to be, but I do know that my capacity as an individual, to strive to meet the demands of day-to-day education, was born at Fahan School.

Every day, as I made my way to School in rain, hail or shine, I knew that I was going to spend the day ahead in the best way possible, for I was supported by members of staff who not only appreciated my dedication to studies, but also understood that I had, and still have, a passion for learning.

At the beginning of Year 10, a rather difficult year for me, I set myself a goal, a promise and a responsibility; that I would strive to meet excellence at every given opportunity, be it challenging or merely necessary. This was no light-hearted suggestion that I had made to myself, nor was it a passing thought: I was completely serious. First of all, I did not enjoy every subject. Mathematics presented me with a great barrier between achieving my goal and the probable idea of giving in altogether. Never once was I able to make sense of the numbers that danced before my eyes. I loathed it and I needed assistance. For two years, I had a reserved place in the Mathematics support class and I began, for the first time in my life, to invest some time in Mathematics.

I now look back on this time with contempt, for I no longer wish to recognise a time in my life when Mathematics was a burden. Mathematics has become a part of me. I wish to communicate to every Fahan girl that she can achieve greatness, for there ultimately doesn't exist any barrier that prevents her from

overcoming her weaknesses. I wish to explain to Fahan girls that they are blessed by their surroundings, where knowledge grows and where knowledge is a cherished source of freedom. I want Fahan girls to recognise that their lowest weakness can become their greatest strength.

During my Student Directed Inquiry at Fahan, I wrote a novel called *The Mathematicians' Mansion*, which in effect is a history of Mathematics through the ages. From intellectuals of Ancient Greece to the inventors of the computer, the partially fact and fiction story revolves around the meetings of 60 mathematicians who are invited to discuss, prove and argue their mathematical points of view with each other. It was at this point in time, that I applied for the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award and I then published this project for TASC examinations.

Although the novel is not centred around female mathematicians, I would like to carry on the message, as a Fahan girl and as an independent learner, that women can pursue any career that they are able to strive in and through which they are able to make a difference to the community.

I have edited, and am currently looking into publishing requirements for, my book. Aimee Woodward and Gina Mercer are aiding me to this end. I will use the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award funds to assist with publishing fees, with an aim to publish at the end of 2017.

Now, I recognise that bringing Fahan girls into contact with my novel will allow them to recognise that through hard work and dedication, anything can be achieved. Before commencing this lengthy project, I would never have thought that I could achieve the standard I have achieved.

Claire Ferguson

Claire recently received the Ellerton Brown Memorial Prize for Modern History. This prize is awarded to the University of Tasmania student who received the best results in TCE Modern History in the previous year. We are very proud of Claire and congratulate her for this achievement.



PRIDE OF FAHAN ALUMNI AWARD

Matilda Grant

My passion for writing and recording music came about due to my love of music and storytelling. To me, songs are a way to convey feelings which can't be expressed in conversation. When I found out I had received the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award, I was not only ecstatic but also very grateful. The Award enabled me to purchase quality recording equipment, such as a microphone and audio interface, which allowed me to record the songs I had been writing.

In the past year, I have been committed to writing music and lyrics for my own songs. The fact I wanted to record some of these songs I had been writing is what prompted me to apply for the Award.

I am currently working on some new music, as well as recording and producing some of my old songs, which I hope I can share with the School and the wider community very soon.

With the help of this Award, I have now advanced my knowledge of recording and I am currently learning to produce and master my own soundtracks. This is knowledge that I hope to bring back to the School once I have mastered it myself. I would love to help girls who want to learn to use the equipment and understand the basics of recording and producing.

I am also planning on starting a YouTube channel where I can share my music with a broader range of people. The Pride of Fahan Alumni Award has given me the opportunity to advance my knowledge and ability in song writing and recording, and for this, I cannot thank the Fahan Alumni Association enough.

Matilda Grant



PRIDE OF FAHAN ALUMNI AWARD

Isabella Pearce

I believe that learning a foreign language plays an important role in a student's education. At Fahan, we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn both French and Japanese languages from an early age, with two dedicated and passionate teachers.

Studies have shown that learning a language improves an individual's memory, increases their attention span, boosts problem solving skills and builds upon, and enhances, an individual's self-confidence. It has even been found that people who are bilingual are less likely to develop dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Learning a language develops many new skills which can be transferred into other areas, not only for studying, but for life.

Learning a language such as French makes students reflect upon the intricacies of French and English which often we take for granted. The mechanics such as grammar, conjugation and sentence structure are focussed upon when learning a foreign language, which increases the understanding of the English language.

The Pride of Fahan Alumni Award has allowed me to test and further my French abilities in many ways. I was fortunate to attend a French course at the Alliance Française House, in 2016, with other college students also wishing to further their French skills.

The Award enabled me to access direct tuition with Murielle Kuczynski, a native French speaker, to improve my conversational skills. It also allowed me to have access to many other resources such as French reading books and magazines, which ultimately enhanced my skills and enabled me to gain a greater understanding of French culture.

The support of the Fahan Alumni has allowed me to develop confidence in my abilities which ultimately assisted my preparation for the final French examination in 2016. This consisted of four parts; a writing exam, a listening exam, a reading exam and a 15 minute conversation with two native French speakers. I was lucky enough to gain a perfect score in French, and to receive the Fahan French Prize in 2016. In that same year, I also participated in my tenth annual Alliance Française Competition, competing against students from all the colleges in Southern Tasmania. I received First Prize for conversation, Second Prize for the poetry section and Third Prize for listening. This year, I assisted other French students in their preparation for the competitions. I was accepted into, and completed, the UTAS University College Program's French course in 2016, where I received a High Distinction at a first-year university level.

Studying French has instilled in me a love of travel and has allowed me to value the importance of understanding different cultures. These skills are becoming increasingly essential in the current global situation. I strongly encourage other Fahan students to apply for the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award so that they can achieve their goals and excel in their chosen areas. The opportunity to reinvest in our School and the wider community is invaluable.

Isabella Pearce



PRIDE OF FAHAN ALUMNI AWARD

Charlotte Young

As well as being enjoyable, playing the violin has taught me a great number of life lessons. I have experienced the benefits of hard work; I have learnt how to break a difficult task into smaller, more achievable goals; and I have learnt the importance of commitment.

After receiving the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award, I was able to attend the Annual Residential Summer String Camp, in Ulverstone. The camp is held over a week and participants play in orchestras and chamber groups, have the opportunity to attend workshops that focus on specific aspects of string playing, and attend performances by other musicians. All these activities provided a very inspiring experience and I left the camp feeling more motivated to improve my playing, as well as being equipped with improved skills and knowledge.

This year I have continued with my studies in the violin and piano, and have just completed my AMEB Grade 8 violin exam. I have also been playing in the Tasmanian Youth Orchestra, which is an excellent opportunity for me to develop my ensemble skills. I play under some extremely talented conductors and take part in several music events around Tasmania, such as the *Festival of Voices* and Hobart's *Light up the Lane* event.

I have also enjoyed playing in the School orchestra and participating in several music assemblies, as well as House Music. I look forward to continuing my music studies and hopefully giving back to Fahan and the outside community in any way I can, be that making up numbers in ensembles, or by sharing my enthusiasm with others.

I would like to thank the Alumni Association for their encouragement of my endeavours in music. I encourage any other Fahan girls to apply for the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award, as I think it can definitely be a wonderful stepping stone to achieving your dreams.

Charlotte Young

