

# *fahan in focus*

Fahan Community News 2012 | SEMESTER 1 | ISSUE 1

FAHAN  
SCHOOL





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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Marketing & Communications Department had a changing of the guard last year with the departure of Geraldine and Eleanor and the commencement of Edwina and me.

It has been a good fit, with Edwina's strengths being marketing and business development and mine being journalism and communications. Together, we've managed to create a cohesive team environment.

As I am new to both Fahan School and Tasmania, I should probably pause here to tell you a little about myself. My husband Rod and I have three teenage children – Jessykah (19), Natasha (16) and Kieran (15). My family and I spent more than ten years living overseas in Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Papua New Guinea, which means we have a number of colourful (but totally true) tales to tell. Living overseas gave us many opportunities to travel and we have been to every continent with the exception of Antarctica (which means my travel appetite was whetted by John's tales of his trip to the white continent). We returned to Australia in 2010, living for a short while in Brisbane before settling in Hobart (we had definitely had enough of hot weather and wanted to spend time in a cooler climate!).

Our journeys have given me the opportunity to work on some very interesting things. I have worked in journalism for a number of magazines and newspapers, been editor of a property magazine in Dubai, worked in PR and marketing for tourism and dive industry clients and was the pioneering president for the P&F Association in Saudi Arabia. I am also an author with two books about to be released - one from my *Vampire Origins* teen series and the other a standalone book called *Tycoon*.

Hopefully my background gives me suitable experience to take on my next task, as Editor for *Fahan in Focus*. I wanted to use my skills to take *Fahan in Focus* from a 'report' based journal to a more consumer-oriented magazine. Wherever possible, we have written the content like a newspaper interview and hope you will find this new style to be more reader friendly.

Another change Edwina and I have introduced is advertising. You will notice a handful of banner ads inside. By allowing advertising, we have been able to double the size of *Fahan in Focus*. There is still advertising space available for the next edition of *Fahan in Focus*, which will come out in November 2012. If your business is interested, please contact me on 6225 1064 or by email on [byfieldr@fahan.tas.edu.au](mailto:byfieldr@fahan.tas.edu.au)

Continuing on with the changes, we would really like to encourage feedback and contributions

from our readers. We want this to be YOUR magazine, with articles about things YOU want to read. If you know of something newsworthy, we would love to hear about it. It could be an engagement, a wedding, a birth or a death for our Alumni Announcements page. Maybe you – or someone you know – has achieved sporting success or won an award in the workplace or appeared in a stage production. Maybe you have short a story you are dying to tell... We are happy to receive all contributions.

And please, don't feel it only applies to current students at the School. We're interested in featuring staff members (current and past), Fahan families and Alumni – anyone who is involved or has been involved with the Fahan Community.

We also love to receive photographs for *Fahan in Focus*. The only thing that I would ask is that you keep in mind that this is a print publication, which means photographs need to be of a reasonable size to be printable. Generally speaking, the size of the photo should be above 1MB when saved as a jpeg.

Any contributions or information can be sent directly to me on [byfieldr@fahan.tas.edu.au](mailto:byfieldr@fahan.tas.edu.au). If there are any budding journalists out there looking for a writing mentor, I would be happy to act in that role and could definitely utilise your skills on future editions.

From the next edition, we will also feature a **Letters to the Editor** page. If you have something to say about the new look *Fahan in Focus* magazine or just about the School in general, we would love to receive your feedback on [communications@fahan.tas.edu.au](mailto:communications@fahan.tas.edu.au)

You may have noticed over the last few months that we have been ramping up our presence on Social Media. In March, Edwina and I attended a seminar on Social Media Marketing where we learned some great tips we hope to put into practice. We would encourage all of you to connect with us through our Social Media channels.

Our Facebook links are <http://www.facebook.com/FahanTas> and <http://www.facebook.com/FahanSchool>. For Twitter, follow us at <http://www.twitter.com/FahanSchoolTas>. We are also now on LinkedIn <http://au.linkedin.com/pub/fahan-school/51/962/8b5>

Well that's all from me for now. I really hope you enjoy this edition of *Fahan in Focus*.

Cheers

**Rebecca Byfield**  
Editor







# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The first half of 2012 has been a very busy and rewarding time at Fahan. Again, it has been a privilege to witness the fine achievements of a very committed group of students, encouraged by a supportive group of parents and mentored by an excellent staff.

One of the initiatives instigated this year was to conduct a parent satisfaction survey. This was a completely anonymous survey undertaken by the myYardstick Corporation to which an encouraging 70 percent of the parent body responded.

The survey report will be used by the Board to guide ongoing strategic planning and by staff to ensure best practice is maintained.

One of the first questions parents considered was why they had chosen Fahan for their daughter(s). From a list of 23 options the four most important were considered to be:

1. Size of the School and its classes.
2. Academic excellence
3. School reputation
4. School values and culture.

When Year Twelve girls are surveyed on leaving, they invariably refer to the size of the School and the opportunity this affords to establish excellent relationships, not only with their peers but also with members of staff. The survey report would appear to indicate that parents also endorse this. We do have room for a few more students to enable us to develop without compromising this important aspect of the School.

The recognition that our students have received of late for their academic achievement would appear to endorse the argument that the School is fulfilling its role in this area well. As I have written previously, but not to the wider readership of this publication, Fahan was:

- Ranked Top School in Tasmania
- The only Tasmanian school ranked in the
  - Top 100 Primary Schools and
  - Top 100 Secondary Schools in the Nation.
- Ranked in the Top 50 Independent Primary Schools in the Nation.

(source *The Australian* Saturday 7 April 2012)

Also, Fahan has the:

- Highest percentage of students gaining University Entrance Scores in the State over the last five years
- Highest mean Enter Score in the State over the last five years.
- Second highest median Enter Score in the State over the last five years.

(source TQA website <http://www.tqa.tas.gov.au>)

The School's reputation, its values and its culture are harder to explain and assess. I have never ceased to be amazed by the enthusiastic attitude of the girls and their preparedness to 'have a go' at a task or compete against incredible odds.

It is not only this attitude that helps define the culture but the supportive way in which the girls go about it; ensuring that new or less talented participants are included and valued, whether it be in the arts, sport or the classroom.

Fahan's reputation is built on examples like this and the values and culture, which had their genesis in the work of our founders, Isobel Travers and Audrey Morphett, continue to underpin the life of the School. Although not tangible, they are obviously present and are important to the entire School Community.

As you are aware, the Fahan Board has launched a Capital Appeal to fund the renovation of the main classroom block. The Board has committed to the works and we are well in to the planning stage in the hope of commencing the project by the end of the year.

The updating of the facilities to provide a state-of-the-art learning environment for the girls has certainly struck a chord within the Community. I have been astounded at the progress of the Appeal and the positive and encouraging attitude of those members of the Community to whom we have spoken so far. This augurs well for the progress of the Appeal. I look forward to speaking with many more members of the Community as the year progresses to outline our plans for the future.

Already this year, the School has undertaken substantial renovations to Nateby and a wonderful extension to the Early Learning Centre to provide a magnificent facility for our pre-Kinder students.

This *Fahan in Focus* is the first of our new expanded format, which will be published twice a year. The Editor, Rebecca Byfield, has done a remarkable job in putting it together and is to be congratulated on her efforts. We are very grateful to the members of the Fahan Community whose businesses have supported the publication of this magazine and hope that readers might return the favour.

**Tony Freeman**  
Principal



# BUILDING TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

Fahan School has had a wonderful start to the 2012 school year, particularly with the recent rankings in *The Australian* newspaper.

"Being ranked Top School in Tasmania is a remarkable achievement and one all the school community should be proud of," said Board Chair, Liz Jack.

"We also ranked number 49 in Australia for Primary Schools and 98 for secondary," said Liz, adding that Fahan was the only Tasmanian secondary school to make the Top 100.

"Coupled with our consistent rating of having the highest percentage of students with university entrance scores in the State, this has to be seen as a huge feather in our caps," said Liz.

The Fahan School Board has also scheduled 2012 as a big year for rebuilding, with the School's capital campaign beginning in earnest.

"From a Board perspective, this is a major step forward with the main teaching block being our first priority," said Liz.

The Board has chosen Tim Penny Architecture and Interiors to restore the heritage listed main building.

"The plans feature high-tech, interactive classrooms that will provide the girls with the best possible learning environment – now and into the future," Liz said of the long-awaited rebuild, which is expected to cost in the vicinity of a million dollars.

"The Independent Schools Block Grant Authority of Tasmania has provided a significant grant of \$230,000 towards the building work," said Liz. "Thanks to prudent financial management, the

School is able to contribute a significant portion of the funds, which means we only need to raise \$370,000."

Some of Fahan's Alumni and current families have already been approached to support this worthwhile project and special thanks must go to the P&F Association, which generously kicked off the capital appeal with a \$45,000 donation.

"The Board is committed to this project and has already agreed that, should we not raise the funds required through our appeal, we will borrow to achieve the result we seek."

Liz thanked all those families and members of the broader Fahan School Community who have already pledged donations and encouraged everyone else to consider making a contribution.

"I encourage you to join me in investing in the girls' education and future as leaders in Tasmania."

**Liz Jack**  
Chair, Fahan School Board



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# JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



## EARLY LEARNING CENTRE GETS A MAKEOVER

Early 2012 saw the commencement of construction work in the Octagon. The renovations are complete and the new look Fahan Early Learning Centre is now open for business.

"We have upgraded the entrance foyer and undercover areas, extended the child care room and constructed a dedicated outdoor space for the children," said Principal, Mr Freeman, who believes the renovations cater for the increasing student numbers in the Early Learning programs.

On Friday 18 May, the School celebrated this exciting achievement with an official opening day ceremony, where Tony gave a short speech to students, parents and staff.

Afterwards, guests enjoyed a slice of celebration cake in the foyer and admired the children's artwork display.

The Fahan Early Learning Centre runs from Pre-Kinder through to Year 2 and follows the Reggio Emilia philosophy.

"At Fahan we encourage children to explore, enquire and become inquisitive learners," said Tony. "They have endless ways to express themselves in an environment that is rich in learning opportunities."

Ms Cindy Jones, Room Coordinator for the Pre-Kinder program tailors the learning environment to the children's needs and interests.

"Learning begins with play," said Cindy. "Children develop self-help and fine motor skills through water play, picking fresh vegetables from their own garden and feeding the chickens."

## TACKLING TECHNOLOGY IN KINDERGARTEN

Kinder students have been familiarising themselves with technology in the Junior Computer Lab. The use of computers, iPads and laptops in the Early Years is yet another way students learn to express themselves.

"The children now have their own accounts and enjoy exploring resources, often with the assistance of their Year Six buddies," said Kinder teacher, Ms Ursula Dalton.

The Buddy program is an integral part of the Junior School and lessons with buddies are much anticipated.

"The children are learning how to log themselves on and off, and their fine motor skills are improving with each weekly session in the lab," said Ursula.

## A STUDY OF LIVING THINGS

Term One saw the Prep class exploring living things. As part of their study, they investigated what plants need to grow.

"We purchased vegetable and flower seedlings during an excursion to Chandler's Nursery," said Prep teacher, Mrs Helen Stephen. "These were carefully planted in the Early Learning Centre kitchen garden and well-watered by the children."

"When the first head of broccoli started to appear, the children were really excited and proud. They fed the silverbeet to the school hens."

The children also conducted an indoor experiment, keeping a diary to record their results. "We compared what happens when one pot of wheat was not watered," said Helen.

## A POUND OF PUPPIES

Year 1 spent the first term flexing their creative muscles making toy puppies.

"Every child has made her own puppy and we now have thirteen very cute puppies in our classroom," said Year 1 teacher, Mrs Felicity Allison. "Some have patches around their eyes, others have very long eyelashes and some even have a heart!"

Many parents and grandparents volunteered to help sew on fabric and buttons.

"We used large cotton gloves to make the toys, cutting off some fingers and turning them into legs, tails and ears," said Felicity. "With a bit of creative flair every puppy has turned out to be unique and very cuddly."

## A TALE OF TWO RABBITS

Year 2 studied the life cycles of mammals by looking after two Lop-Eared rabbits.

"The students observed the rabbits and learned to care for them," said Year 2 teacher, Ms Liv Dobson. "They drew and sketched the animals and have created some beautiful charcoal portraits."

Liv integrated mathematical concepts into the program by getting the children to weigh and measure the rabbits' growth patterns.

"The rabbits certainly kept the students engaged. They were so excited to come to school just to see if the rabbits had grown."

## LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Year 3 explored the concept of sustainability in Term One, culminating in a visit by Mr Benjamin Dean, a Parks and Wildlife Discovery Ranger who spoke to the class about biodiversity.

"The children enjoyed learning about native birds and what they would need to attract more native birds to Fahan School," said Year 3 teacher, Mrs Kate Bown.

Year 3 also visited Source Community Wholefoods at the University of Tasmania to learn about and explore food sustainability.





"We learned that changing how and what we eat is an important way that people can reduce waste and their impact on the environment," said Kate.

Mrs Nel Smit, a leading school sustainability educator, led the children on an Energy Super Sleuth walk. On entering the TM Hall, Year 3 discovered that there were 108 lights on and nobody using the room.

Year 3 is busily designing programs and actions that might help to make Fahan a more sustainable school and look forward to sharing their ideas with the School Community.

### EXPLORING OUR CONVICT PAST

As part of their inquiry into the founding of Tasmania, Year 4 went on a 'Live History' excursion to the site of the Female Factory in South Hobart.

"The girls learned about transportation to Van Dieman's Land and convicts by re-enacting the life of female convict, Louisa Regan," said Year 4 teacher, Ms Tania Gath.

Students dressed up in simple convict clothing and were included in the dramatisation.

"The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learning about Tasmania's history and the harsh life endured by female convicts two hundred years ago," said Tania.

### YEAR 5 CREATE SOME INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

Year 5 combined their vivid imaginations and creativity with lots of practical, hands-on activities.

"In one activity, the students designed and created an original product to appeal to an 11-year-old girl," said Year 5 teacher, Mr David Hodgman. "We had some really innovative and interesting products such as the Banana Fone, Elk Toothpaste, Time Toucher, Sandwich Bandwich and Dragon Dog."

Using an online survey, the budding advertisers conducted market research, which guided them in producing webpages and newspaper, radio and television advertisements.

In the advertisements they considered persuasive devices including slogans, emotive language and attention-grabbing catch phrases.

Be on the look out for some fantastic new products at all good retailers!

### CHILDREN'S DAY

Language studies are an important aspect of the curriculum at Fahan School and incorporate far more than simply learning some foreign words.

"At Fahan, we try to embrace the culture we are studying just as much as the words," said

Japanese teacher, Ms Clare Enright.

"Every year on 5 May, the Japanese celebrate an important cultural festival known in Japan as Kodomo no Hi – or Children's Day," said Clare.

"It is a day set aside to respect children's personalities and to celebrate their happiness, and was designated as a national holiday by the Japanese government in 1948."

Families celebrate by flying large, colourful carp kites called koinobori, which represent the members in their family. They are attached to poles and placed in the garden to fly in the wind.

"The carp kites look like fish swimming up a stream. They represent strength, determination and courage - all qualities the Japanese wish for their children," said Clare who was proud that the Fahan girls already embraced these qualities.

The girls also made origami kabuto – or Samurai hats.

"We made our kabuto out of newspaper so they would be large enough to fit on our heads."

### JUNIOR LEADERS

Term One saw the Year 6 students attend the Impact Leadership Conference at The Hotel Grand Chancellor, as well as play host to the 2012 IPSHA Leadership Day.

On 14 March, students from Fahan were joined by those from The Hutchins School, Calvin Christian Junior School, Scotch Oakburn College, The Friends' School, St Michael's Collegiate School, Launceston Christian School, Launceston Church Grammar School, Sacred Heart College, St Virgil's Primary School and St Mary's College for the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) Leadership Day.

"More than one hundred students joined us for workshops on effective leadership, team building and communication skills," said Junior School Coordinator, Ms Amanda Beltz.

The Honourable Will Hodgman MP, Leader of the Opposition, delivered an inspiring speech on leadership. "My message to you today is to challenge yourself in education," said Will, who believes it is never too early to start thinking about the future. "Education should be life-long. We should all learn something new every day."

In keeping with the vision of founders, Miss Isobel Travers and Ms Audrey Morphet, Fahan encourages students to excel academically while providing a varied curriculum enriched with creative and cultural activities and a wide co-curricular program.

With the Year 6 performance in the wings, mini courses, Waddamanna Camp and Jogakkan Cultural exchange still to come, it looks like the students will be embracing their vision.







## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Every two years, the entire Middle School heads off to Canberra for a week of science and politics, with plenty of fun thrown in for good measure.

This year, 71 girls and five staff members made the trip to Canberra, staying at the Capital Country Holiday Village 14 kilometres north of the CBD.

"At Questacon, the girls had the chance to soak up scientific inspiration courtesy of a range of interactive exhibits," said Middle School Coordinator, Mrs Sharon Johns.

Excite @ Q bends both mind and muscle and includes a 'death defying' free fall for those brave enough to try. The Imagination Factory allows children to interact with the mechanical world around them, while Q Lab aims to get kids thinking and asking intriguing questions. H2O is all about the world's most precious resource – water. At Awesome Earth, visitors can experience the power and beauty of the world around them through simulated volcanic eruptions, crashing continental plates, tsunamis, cyclones and lightning strikes.

"Stepping the scientific discovery up another notch, we went to discover 'big science' at the CSIRO headquarters in Canberra," said Sharon. "We've really found both Questacon and CSIRO to be invaluable in instilling a love of science in our students."

However, it wouldn't be a trip to Canberra without a bit of political wrangling and the students got to do plenty of that, meeting the 'man of the hour', Independent MP, Federal Member for Denison – Tasmania's very own Andrew Wilkie.

"We went to Parliament House and had the immense privilege of being about to meet with Mr Wilkie," said Sharon. "He was incredibly busy but he took the time out to talk to the girls and to answer their well-thought out questions."

Keeping with the political theme, the girls then visited the Museum of Australian Democracy. Housed in one of Australia's most-loved buildings, the Old Parliament House, the Museum brings our democratic journey to life, presenting the past, present and possible futures of democracy – almost like A Christmas Carol for politics.

However, the highlight of the trip was, without a doubt, the ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

"We gathered on the packed lawn outside the Australian War Memorial. There was 25,000 people present but despite the crowds, there

was a haunting silence in the seconds before the lone bagpiper played from the roof of the Memorial," said Sharon.

What limited free time the girls and teachers had was spent bike riding and night bowling (hopefully not at the same time).

"I was so proud of the girls," said Sharon. "They were a pleasure to take interstate. They coped incredibly well with the early mornings and represented the School in a fine manner."

### ROOTS RUN DEEP AT FAHAN SCHOOL

An integral part of the Year 8 curriculum at Fahan School is researching family trees.

"One of the things we ask the girls to do is conduct an interview with one of their family members," said Sharon.

"I chose to share Kate Vosper's interview with her grandmother, Patricia Ann Hefter (nee Benjafield – Class of 1957) because of its connection to Fahan."

Like many Fahan families, Kate's roots run deep. Her grandmother is not only a Fahan alumna and Nateby Club member; she was also a one-time teacher at the School.

"I love the light Patricia sheds on life in Sandy Bay and Fahan School during the war," said Sharon. "For instance, when she was talking about the air raid siren on the corner of Maning Avenue and Sandy Bay Road, I was thinking that's where Maning Reef Café is now located. And not many people realise that Hobart once had trams or that they were often the only way children could get to school."

Kate chose to do the interview with her grandmother in the first person, which gives a real intimate feel to the interview, almost as if we're peeking a look at her grandmother's diary.

### HERE IS KATE'S INTERVIEW WITH HER GRANDMOTHER.

*I was born just after World War 2 started so I was lucky I did not understand the really scary things that were happening. I do remember going into our air raid shelter in the back garden several times. I always had a favourite toy with me (usually Brown Bunny because he was soft and cuddly). I guess my parents were making it seem a natural thing to do so that I would not be scared if we really did have to take shelter.*

*When the Japanese plane did fly over Hobart, I don't even remember going into the shelter. The local air raid siren was on the flat roof of the service station on the corner of Maning Avenue*







and Sandy Bay Road. It was sounded at noon every day to make sure people would know what it sounded like.

My father used to get up really early on Tuesday mornings to light the fire under the copper in the laundry because that was the day a lady came to do the washing and cleaning. I still use this laundry today. The copper is gone but the chimney is still there. The gas stove was taken apart and scrubbed outside in the back garden and the house would smell of ammonia, velvet soap and fresh ironing when I would arrive home from school.

I remember my first day at Kindergarten at Fahan School. In those days, it was held in the dining room at Nateby. We wore yellow smocked dresses and panama hats. We were taught to say 'grant' to rhyme with 'aunt' not 'grant' to rhyme with 'ant'. My mother put me on the tram and would walk us up the hill to school. To go home, we all went on the tram and the teacher would put each of us off at the right tram stop, where our mothers would meet us to walk us home. No one was ever taken to school in a car.

We had Form 1 at the old school site, where Mt Carmel is now located, and then in Form 2, we moved into our new building next to Nateby. I remember my mother turning to the lady with the little girl in the desk behind me and suggesting we be friends. We still are today! We often go to Nateby Club lunches together with other friends from our class.

We had some property on the East Coast, which had its own surf beach. There was only a very rough track in, which would be very slippery when it was wet. Also, if it rained hard, the creek would flood over the bridge and we could get stuck there. It was very isolated and very beautiful and I loved it. I was very lucky to grow up in a place like that. My father built the house, bit by bit, because it was just after the war and building materials were very hard to get. A farmer told us of an old cottage his Aunt Rosie, who had died, used to live in. He said he was going to pull it down and we could have the tin off the roof. The part of our house that had this tin on it was called 'Aunt Rosie's bit'. We had an American four wheel drive jeep to get in and out of the property. Even that would sometimes have trouble getting up the hills in wet weather, even with chains on the wheels. We called it the Red Terror.

When Queen Elizabeth came on her first visit to Australia in 1953, all the school children went to the North Hobart Oval to see her. There were

thousands of us and it was very exciting. There were newsreels of the event, which we all went to see, hoping we could pick ourselves out in the crowd by our uniforms. But as everything was in black and white, we didn't have a chance.

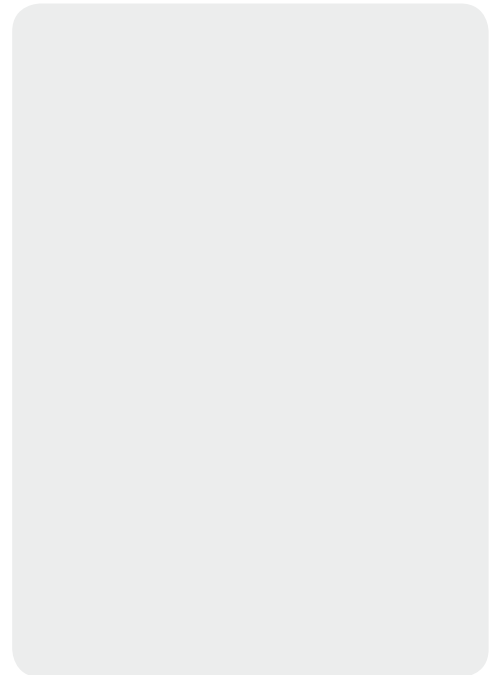
We all had to do our Schools' Board and Matriculation exams in the City Hall – all the schools together. Our teachers gave us practice exams in the weeks before and just as we were about to start one of them, we were told we were to get our polio injections right then. These injections really hurt and lots of people felt quite sick, so we did not do very well with our exams that day. Luckily, we had all recovered by the time we had to do the real exams.

It was really quite hard to leave school as we had all been together for so long and we all seemed to be going to do different things. Once at university, though, we found it was great fun and then suddenly (or so it seemed) I was standing in front of a classroom with forty boys and girls in the class at a country high school, trying to teach them English, history and geography. What I really wanted to teach was mathematics, so after a couple of years, I moved back to Hobart and started teaching at Fahan.

After I was married, we lived in Launceston and then moved with our children to Melbourne, where I taught at a boys' technical college. After that, I taught at a girls' school, which was rather like Fahan, so I enjoyed being there.

A year living in London was very exciting. We lived in Hampstead very near Hampstead Heath. At just over three square kilometres, it's very big and right in the middle of London. I used to travel all over London, visiting places I had read about. Sometimes, if I was reading a book and an interesting place in London was mentioned, I would put on my coat and walk up to the Tube station and just go and see the place right then. We made many trips around England and Scotland, and some to Europe while we were there. We usually stayed in charming little country hotels and visited interesting and historical places.

We lived in Brisbane for some years and then retired to come back to Hobart. Now I have the pleasure of seeing two of my granddaughters loving Fahan as much as I did.





# SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS



"It has been a busy first term for the Senior School, both in academics and co-curricular activities," said Deputy Principal and Head of Curriculum, Mrs Kathy Foster.

On Tuesday 13 March, the Year 9 girls headed off for their annual Curriculum Camp at Fahan School's Outdoor Education Centre at beautiful Kelvedon Beach. Located nine kilometres south of Swansea, Kelvedon Beach offers postcard perfect views back to Coles Bay and Schouten Island and is a popular tourist spot along the East Coast.

"Kelvedon is a really special place," said Kathy. "The girls use the environment and surrounds to complete units of work. In Science, they conducted an ecological survey of the rock pools at the beach, using the information collected to complete their survey once they were back at school."

An historical tour of Swansea yielded an interesting Fahan family connection.

"We found a tombstone for six children who had drowned in the wreck of the Cutter Resolution at Great Swan Port," said Sports Coordinator, Mr Gary Gooley.

From twelve year old Elizabeth all the way down to two year old Frances, all six of the Large family's children perished in the wreck. What made it even more interesting for the girls was that Year 9 student, Eloise Large is a direct descendant of the children's parents, Thomas and Mary-Anne Large.

Another annual event on the Senior School calendar is the Fintona to Fahan program. The exchange program has been running for six years and sees Year 9 students from Fahan visit Fintona School in Melbourne and Year 10 students from Fintona come to Fahan to experience the exquisite beauty of Tasmania.

On Monday 26 March, the Fintona girls arrived from Melbourne.

"The girls walked along the Pipeline Track down Mt Wellington to Fern Tree," said Kathy. "They then met at The Waterworks for a barbecue lunch before heading off for a two day combined camp at Fortescue Bay."

Still with Year 10, the girls attended the Alliance of Girl's School's International Women's Day Breakfast at St Mary's School as well as taking part in the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program. The government-sponsored program is aimed at promoting driver safety awareness.

"Most of the girls had the opportunity to sit in a car in a safe stopping demonstration," said Kathy. "I have heard some very positive comments coming from the girls."

Years 11 and 12 girls started the year with a UCANDO study skills seminar. The UCANDO program is designed to motivate students to work to their full potential and to give them skills to become independent, self-regulated learners.

"Hopefully the session gave the girls some handy study tips for tackling their senior years," said Kathy.

Communication around the Senior School has seen a drastic improvement with the installation of electronic notice boards around the School.

Kathy often sees the girls reading the notices. "What a successful innovation!"

The senior sporting program kicked off with the House Swimming Carnival, which took place at the Glenorchy War Memorial Swimming Pool. It was a successful day all around with Fenton House taking out the overall prize for the competition.

The House Music competition finished with House Chairs, Alice Morris, Sofie Pridgeon and Paula Dobosz choosing songs for the competition.

"This year's theme was Australiana," said Kathy. "The Chairs chose a good selection of Australian themed songs."

On the last day of term, Freycinet was declared the winner of the competition.

In other news, Georgia Morris from Year 10 recently left Australia to take part in her term exchange to St Mary's College in Johannesburg. This exchange program has been highly successful in the past and often sees girls return to the School with a changed outlook on life.

The June school holidays also saw a number of Senior School students depart on trips.

"We have the World Challenge trip to Vietnam, the French language and history trip to France and the biology trip to Brampton Island happening over the holidays," said Kathy. "As I said, a very busy term!"







# SPORTING SUCCESS

With all the talk about Fahan School's academic excellence, you'd be forgiven for thinking Fahan girls spent all their time in the classroom, studying for their next batch of exams.

While the School is exceptionally proud of the girls' academic achievements, it has had just as much reason to celebrate on sporting fields across Tasmania.

"We have a wonderful sporting history," said Principal, Mr Tony Freeman. "Take the 2012 Tasmanian Track and Field Championships held in March, for instance. Fahan girls did exceedingly well in their individual events and did the School proud."

Tessa Johns was placed second in the 1500m and seventh in the 800m. Abigail Rothery demonstrated an outstanding ability to jump, finishing first in the 100m Hurdles, second in the High Jump, first in the Long Jump and second in the Triple Jump. Emma Keleher showed what an outstanding athlete she is becoming in the Hammer and Discus Throw, and the Shot Put.

"Emma finished third in her Under 18 events and took out two seconds and a first in the Under 15s category," said Sport and Outdoor Education Coordinator, Mr Gary Gooley.

"Emily Canham also had a very busy day on the track. Of the seven events she competed in, she finished with a first, four seconds and two sevenths," said Gary of Emily's successes in the Javelin and Discus Throw, 100m, 200m, Triple Jump and Long Jump events.

Rounding off the Fahan entries in the Championships was Jessica Robinson, who finished with an impressive four firsts in her 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m races.

So impressive were the girls' achievements at the Championships that four of them were nominated for awards at the Athletics Tasmania Dinner in May.

"That's more than any other school," said Sharon Johns of Jessica Robinson, Tess Johns, Abbie Rothery and Emma Keleher's nominations. "These awards are an important acknowledgment in the world of athletics."

Emma won the Under 14 Athlete of the Year, an

outstanding achievement for someone so young.

Fahan School has always performed admirably in rowing and it was no exception at the recent Head of the River, with Fahan placing third in the Open Eight.

"Considering three of the eight girl crew had never rowed before, it was a really good effort by all involved," said PE & Health teacher, Ms Emily Hogan.

At the Tasmanian All Schools Rowing Championships, Fahan's Under 14 team won every heat they entered.

"Unfortunately, the girls couldn't compete in the finals as they were in Canberra for the Middle School trip. The Under 15 girls' quad did win their event," said Emily.

Still on the water, Emma Barton attended the *OAMPS Insurance Brokers Australian Youth Sailing Team and Squad* National Training Camp at the Sorrento Sailing and Couta Boat Club in Victoria.

Emma's selection in the training camp was a direct result of her number three ranking as a female and is a wonderful opportunity for her to train and have access to intensive, elite coaching.

Fahan does not have a large equestrian team but those riders who do represent the school, always do so well. In April, Rebecca Wood competed in the Interschool One Day Equestrian Event at Huntingfield Pony Club.

"Bec began the day with a very accurate dressage test and a score of 62.73%," said equestrian team manager, Mrs Felicity Allison.

Rebecca rode clear in the cross country and finished the show jumping with only one pole down, giving her an overall finish of second place in her age group – 0.20 penalties off first place.

The Junior girls have risen to the challenge, as well, with Year 2 student, Samantha Tomes-Park coming second in the Tasmanian Figure Skating Championships in the Basic 2 Category.

With so much sporting prowess rising to the surface, we're sure to see more Fahan School girls in the news headlines.





# MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK



## IMPORTANT DATES

P&F Raffle drawn	Friday 24 August
Fahan School Fair	Sunday 14 October

### P&F Association Meetings

Meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Board Room, located in the Nateby Boarding House, on the third Tuesday of each school term month.

Scheduled meetings during 2012 are;

Tuesday March 20  
 Tuesday April 17  
 Tuesday May 15  
 Tuesday June 26  
 Tuesday July 17  
 Tuesday August 21  
 Tuesday September 25  
 Tuesday October 16  
 Tuesday November 20

If you would like to get involved with the P&F Association please contact Carl Cazaly on 0417 596 619 or email [Carl.cazaly@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:Carl.cazaly@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

If you would like to provide support the School Fair please contact Gillian Vosper [m.g.vosper@gmail.com](mailto:m.g.vosper@gmail.com)

"The Parents' and Friends' Association plays a twofold role in the school community," said P&F President, Mr Carl Cazaly. "Traditionally the main focus of the P&F has been on raising funds on behalf of the School. However, it also plays a vital role in providing a social avenue through which parents can engage with the broader School Community."

A great example of this is the *Sunset Under the Sails* evening, which has become a key social event on the P&F's calendar. This year, more than 150 people attended the event, enjoying the delights of good company, good food, a few quiet beverages and the soulful music of jazz duo, Soul Fish.

Carl's introduction to the Fahan community was over ten years ago at the *Sunset Under the Sails*.

"It reinforced to Emma and me why we chose to send our children to this wonderful school."

In April, the P&F held its AGM, which resulted in a few changes to the executive committee.

"I couldn't go past recognising the contribution of our out-going members," said Carl.

"Ian Hamilton worked tirelessly as the P&F Secretary and Birgitta Browning maintained the accounts beautifully as Treasurer. Simon Barker also stepped down late last year after almost six years of strong leadership as President."

Simon was a leading force with respect to improving the processes and procedures of the P&F by clearly documenting the actions, roles and responsibilities, making the job easier and clearer for future members.

"Big shoes to fill - well maybe not that big for those who know the vertical challenges Simon and I are blessed with," quipped Carl.

"Fortunately, we have been lucky enough to have picked up a couple of highly rated draft picks with Karen Baddiley taking on the role of Treasurer and Nicole Spence picking up the prize position as Secretary."

The Clothing Pool is also an instrument of the P&F and could not operate without the dedication and enthusiasm of Sally Ferguson, who ensures parents have the opportunity to access some great pre-loved uniforms.

"It's not only an environmentally friendly option but it makes great economic sense as well, especially when you consider that all the funds raised go straight back into supporting the girls' education and experiences," said Carl.

The P&F works with the Principal and teacher representatives to come up with a wish list of things that the School needs. That wish list becomes the catalyst for the year's fundraising efforts.

This year there are a number of fantastic fundraising and social events coming up.

Perhaps the biggest of them all is the School Fair, which will be held on Sunday 14 October.

"Make sure to lock it in your diaries now as it is going to be huge," said Carl. "There's no better way to spend the day with family and friends."

However, an event of this magnitude wouldn't be possible without the tireless efforts of the many volunteers.

Gillian Vosper, in particular, has been the driving force behind coordinating past fairs and in rallying together the troops.

"Many hands make light work," said Carl, who encouraged all parents and friends to volunteer. "Just 30 minutes of your time would make a massive difference."

The P&F's fundraising efforts mean it has been able to contribute some much-needed items and facilities to further the student learning and social experience.

"We have contributed a new set of swings for the Junior School, new toilets at Kelvedon, equipment for our rowers and a microscope for the science lab," said Carl. "We are very proud to be the first to pledge support to the School's Capital Appeal with a \$45,000 contribution. I don't think it's a secret to anyone that the new designs for the Main Building will significantly enhance the learning environment for the girls."

As is often the case with P&F associations, the majority of the work is often left to a handful of dedicated parents.

"Our regular stalwarts provide invaluable input into new ideas and how we best disburse all the funds raised," said Carl. "I would like to thank Susan Hodgman, Clare McCulloch and Andrew Mitchell, along with the other members already mentioned, who always make an effort to come along to our meetings. Tony Freeman and Kathy Foster can always be relied upon to represent the teaching staff, while Edwina and Rebecca provide support from the Communications and Marketing team."

P&F meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month and everyone is welcome to attend.

"We keep the meetings as informal as possible and even provide a glass of wine and some nibbles on occasions," said Carl. "Most importantly there is absolutely no pressure to get too involved if you don't want to. What we really want are your ideas. For the P&F to continue to play a crucial role in engaging the parents and community, we need to hear what it is YOU want for YOUR school."





# NATIONAL BUDDY DAY

Friday 1 June marked National Buddy Day in Australia with primary school children taking part by learning the Buddy Handshake.

*The Mercury* newspaper approached Fahan School to help it promote National Buddy Day in Tasmania.

Year 12 student, Amy Burnell and Year 5 student, Eva Polikretis demonstrated the Buddy Handshake, which the Foundation has earmarked as a positive way for schools and children to participate in the National Buddy Day.

"The handshake represents the values the Better Buddies program aims to inspire," said teacher Ms Jane Macrossan who has been invaluable in establishing the Better Buddies program at Fahan School. "Values include caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing differences in each other, including others and taking on responsibility."

The Better Buddies program is run by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, which was established in 1997 to honour the memory of two sisters, aged six and three, who died in the Port Arthur massacre, along with their mother.

The girls' father, Walter Mikac started the Foundation to protect children from violence and its devastating effects. Together with a group of dedicated volunteers – some survivors of Port Arthur themselves – they have worked hard to get both the Foundation and the Better Buddies program recognised nationally.

Fahan School is one of more than a thousand schools that have adopted the Better Buddies program and introduced Buddy Bear as their

mascot – and the message is finally getting through.

Research shows bullying occurs less often when children are empowered to care for each other, with friendships between older and younger students playing an important part in improving children's self-esteem and feelings of safety.

"Thirty years ago, Fahan School set up the Big Sister, Little Sister program, which matches Middle and Senior School girls with Junior School girls to create families that stay together throughout their school life," said Tony. "We have found the family feel of the Big Sister, Little Sister program works hand in hand with the Better Buddies program to reduce the incidences of bullying."

The proof of the program's success can be seen in eleven year old, Eva Polikretis and her 'big sister', eighteen year old Amy Burnell.

Amy has been both a little sister at Fahan and now relishes her role as a big sister to the younger students, including her 'little sister' Eva.

"When I was younger, I always felt I had a buddy to support me," said Amy. "Now I get to give back and be a mentor to the younger girls."

It is clear that Eva has a lot of respect for her big sister, Amy and the other big sisters in her Fahan family. "I love being with my big sisters. They always make me feel safe."

You can download the instructions for the Buddy Handshake at [http://www.buddyday.org.au/docs/nsm3838\\_297x210\\_handshake-instructions.pdf](http://www.buddyday.org.au/docs/nsm3838_297x210_handshake-instructions.pdf)





# THE NATEBY CLUB TAKES A VISUAL TRIP TO ANTARCTICA



## HELP NEEDED

Emma from the Archiving Committee is looking for donations of uniform items from the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Also, she is requesting donations to help pay for the preservation of clothing, storage racks and an electronic database system.

People can donate to the Archives Fund through the Senior Library Giving Fund, which enables them to claim a tax deduction. For more information, contact Emma Crawford through the front office.

On Friday 24 February, the Nateby Club deviated from their tradition of meeting for lunch in their namesake Nateby to have a morning tea in the Travers Morphett (TM) Hall.

"When the invitation first went out, there was such an unexpected response that we had to find an alternative location. Edwina approached me with the idea of morning tea in the TM Hall instead. I was doubtful but the only other alternative was to go somewhere else," said Mrs Sue Allison, President of Nateby Club. "Returning to our old school gives a real sense of homecoming to our members."

More than 60 ladies replied, including a group of 1962 leavers and a teacher from that time.

"What an amazing success it was," said Sue. "As I walked into the Hall, I felt I was going to a school dance. The tables were set with white cloths and a real party atmosphere had been created."

Sue welcomed the guests and then went on to give the sad news that Jennifer Elford (Laycock – Class of 1949) had passed away. Sue encouraged all of the ladies to purchase a copy of Jennifer's memoirs *The Snow Girl Story*. The book tells the story of Jennifer's four-day mid-winter ordeal lost in the snow on a Victorian mountain and her battle to overcome the loss of both her legs to frostbite.

Principal, Mr Tony Freeman gave the wonderful news about the girls' academic results and explained the plans for doing up the main school building.

"The Year 2 children came in with their teacher, Felicity Allison, to thank us for our donation of two large, round wooden tables. It was lovely speaking with the children, many of whom asked us about our time at Fahan School," said Sue.

The Nateby Club had invited Fahan School's very own Mr John Williamson to speak to the ladies about his voyage to Antarctica.

In addition to his teaching role at the School, John also teaches Antarctic History at the University of Tasmania. During January and early February 2006, John worked as an historian guide for Quark Expeditions on their voyage to the Ross Sea in Antarctica.

"I know John's talk was appreciated by everyone but especially Rosemary Mallett who had travelled to Antarctica from South America," said Sue.

## HERE IS THE RECAP OF JOHN'S TRIP.

"My job was to deliver lectures on Antarctic history to the passengers," said John who led many of the onshore walks. "I guess you could say another part of my role was to guide the passengers on the ice. You know, make sure they didn't plummet down any ice crevasses."

The vessel sailed from Christchurch to the New Zealand sub-Antarctic islands of Enderby and Campbell.

"We witnessed extraordinary seal colonies, wandering albatross and amazing, rugged coastlines," said John. "Some days later we







reached Cape Adare, the first point of mainland Antarctica, and landed at the site of the first buildings constructed on the Antarctic continent."

John showed some beautiful slides of the buildings that are remarkably still standing after more than one hundred years.

"Inside everything is just as they left it," he said.

Cape Adare has the dubious honour of being the largest penguin colony in the world with over 1 million birds. "What a spectacle and what a smell – they all eat krill and the colony can be detected 3km offshore," said John.

The expedition then landed on the world's largest iceberg, B15A where John served champagne to the passengers and played soccer on the sea-ice. He also visited the US and NZ bases on Ross Island.

"We had long discussions with the scientists about the work they are doing," said John. "Some are researching the effect of global warming and measuring if the polar ice caps are melting. Others are measuring the charged particles that enter our atmosphere when we see an Aurora Australis. Still others are working out how ice fish transport oxygen when their blood contains no haemoglobin. I am still no wiser about this as the answer was delivered in Italian."

Two days stood out for John. The first was when they flew in helicopters to the Dry Valleys.

"These are the largest ice-free areas in the Antarctic and have not had rain for more than a million years."

The second was when he showed people around Captain Scott's hut at Cape Evans.

"I was at the place where Scott had planned and prepared for his doomed trip to the South Pole. I sat in his chair – carefully – and read his diaries at his table. For an historian this was close to heaven. As if that was not enough, on the way back to the ship, our pilot landed on an ice floe so that we could see an Orca. A large male thrust his head out of the water only a few metres from us so that he could see what we were (perhaps to see if we were edible?). We made eye contact and he did not like what he saw."

John's easy speaking style kept the guests and staff glued to their seats, almost disappointed when his tale finally ended.

Perhaps some Nateby ladies went home dreaming of undertaking their own Antarctic voyage.

#### **The next Nateby function is planned for Friday 6 July.**

Any ladies that ordered copies of Jennifer's book can collect them from the main office. If you would like to order a copy, please speak to Edwina Cummings in the Marketing and Communications Department.



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# THE ART OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Being Head Girl is about more than garnering popularity. It's about being part of a sorority with a long, proud tradition. It is joining a sisterhood of one-time leaders who have gone on to do great things in their lives. Women like Dr Margaret Davies (Head Girl 1962) who discovered and named 34 species of frogs or Yasmin Naqvi (Head Girl 1993), an International Lawyer at The Hague.

"Student leadership is about responsibility," said Principal Mr Tony Freeman during his Leadership speech at the start of 2012. "It requires people who can demonstrate essential qualities of leadership – consideration, determination, courage and humility – in order to be effective. It's not a reflection of title or position but rather an opportunity to give selflessly for the benefit of others."

"A person's true character is revealed by what she does when no one is watching," said Tony, quoting from *The Ox is Slow but the Earth is Patient* by Mick Malthouse and David Buttifant. "Let us all be well rounded people all of the time, not only when on show."

These are qualities Georgia Johnston hopes to personify in her role as the 2012 Head Girl. Georgia has already thrown herself into her responsibilities with great gusto, overseeing her fellow leaders and organising a number of events including selling chocolates and running the annual Football Margin Competition. Another wonderful fundraising activity was the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day.

"Mr Broomhall donated all the ingredients and his time," said Georgia. "Thanks to his generous support, we raised more than \$360."

Then there were the social events, which always bring a lot of fun and laughter to the school. The theme for the Free Dress Day was 'A Touch of Green' to help celebrate St Patrick's Day.

"Many students got into the theme with Brooke Mason dressing entirely in green," said Georgia. Another annual event is the Year 5/6 Social, held in conjunction with students from Hutchins and Collegiate. Glow sticks sold out faster than pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

"The Year 12 students organise the event but I think they had as much fun as the younger kids," said Georgia.

Georgia was quick to thank fellow leader, Amy Burnell (Junior School Chair) for her hard work and kind donations.

This year, the girls have introduced a Cheer Captain who is responsible for supporting and cheering teams and individuals at sporting and co-curricular activities.

"Congratulations to Grace Reid, our first ever Fahan Cheer Captain," said Georgia. "The atmosphere at the Head of the River has greatly improved due to the high spirits and cheering led by Grace – and she has plenty of cheering still to come."

On 21 March, the School held its first Leadership Breakfast with students from Hutchins, Collegiate, Guildford Young, Friends and St Mary's taking part.

Georgia thanked Mr Williamson for his kind words of wisdom and for teaching the importance and purpose of Harmony Day. "A big thank you to Margo also for supplying yummy egg and bacon rolls and gourmet fruit platters to the guests."

Perhaps one of the most important roles of Head Girl is finding ways to give back to the community.

The Years 11 and 12 students fielded a team in the Relay for Life, with Anna Kudor walking 1.5 marathons – or 168 laps – and Steph Franks raising just over \$1200.

"Charity work is vitally important," said Georgia. Together the Year 12 students have chosen Colony 47 and The Kidney Dialysis Centre as their charities.

"Colony 47 provides supported accommodation for women aged 13-18. Our funds go towards Mara House, which goes towards creating programs to benefit children and improve facilities," said Georgia. "Helping girls our own age makes this a perfect charity for us."

The girls' donations to The Kidney Dialysis Centre have largely been artwork from the 2011 Years 11 and 12 Art Exhibition, which Georgia hopes to continue in 2012.

"Six Year 12 girls carried the 2/8th Field Regiment, 2nd AIF banner at the ANZAC Day Parade," said Georgia. "I know I speak for all the girls involved when I say they were honoured to give a little back for the commitment and bravery shown by our soldiers."

Looking forward, Fahan will be hosting a bike/run/walkathon on Sunday 29 July for Walk for Health Day. The event is being held at Risdon Brook Dam.

"All proceeds will go to Colony 47 and the Kidney Dialysis Centre," said Georgia. "I hope to see a great show of support from the Fahan Community for this important event."

For more information, contact [johnstong@student.fahan.tas.edu.au](mailto:johnstong@student.fahan.tas.edu.au)







# WHERE RHODES ARE PAVED

The Fahan School Community has had a lot of reasons to celebrate over the last twelve months, with excellent achievements in both co-curricular and academic fields.

Principal, Mr Tony Freeman believes one of the major advantages that Fahan School has is its size.

"We have found, over the years, that our girls achieve consistently high results," said Tony. "One of the major reasons for this is our smaller size, which provides a better opportunity for our students to receive individual attention from the teaching staff."

Alumna Rhea Longley agrees with Tony's assessment. "Smaller classes allow students to learn and mature. I had such great, supportive, inspirational teachers who believed in every one of us and made sure we were equipped to achieve what we wanted in later life."

Rhea developed an interest for health sciences at Fahan School. "I enjoyed all the sciences but found the study of human health the most interesting. I knew this was the area I wanted to study but I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do. One of my teachers encouraged me to enrol in the Bachelor of Medical Research at the University of Tasmania as it would give me greater exposure to different ways I could work in the health sciences."

That decision led to Rhea receiving the coveted Rhodes Scholarship in 2010 and gave her the opportunity to study at the prestigious Oxford University.

Rhea is in her second year of her PhD (or DPhil as it is known at Oxford), studying malaria immunology and vaccine development.

"My project involves developing new pre-clinical malarial vaccines, as well as developing a new assay to test their effectiveness before going into clinical trials."

Studying at Oxford has exposed Rhea to some remarkable opportunities. In the last two years, Rhea has helped out on her first clinical trial and has made and done initial testing on nine new vaccines targeting the liver stage of malaria infection.

"The assay I am developing involves culturing malaria parasites (*Plasmodium* species) in liver cells in the laboratory, adding in 'immune' cells from the vaccinations and seeing if these cells can kill the malaria parasites. Malaria is a fascinating disease. The parasite is so smart and has such a complex life cycle."

## SO WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR RHEA?

"While I still love science, I want to move away from basic scientific research and into the realm of public health and public policy," said Rhea, who is considering doing a Masters in Public Health next. "I hope to be involved in fieldwork, meeting the people these diseases are affecting. I could also get involved in epidemiology and various research programs. I suppose I'll see what develops once I have completed my PhD."

Whatever direction Rhea's career takes her in, one thing is sure – we have definitely not heard the last of Rhea Longley.



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# NURTURING AND SHAPING YOUNG ARTISTS

Fahan School students participated in "The Sandy Bay Regatta Artery School Art Competition" earlier this year with more than 80 entries from nearby primary schools. Renée Di Benedetto won the Year 5 category for her inspired piece.

From William Charles Piguenit to contemporary artists such as Philip Wolfhagen, Raymond Arnold and David Keeling, Tasmania has inspired artists for generations.

So what is it about Tasmania that arouses and awakens artistic yearning in its inhabitants?

For starters, there is an abundance of natural beauty to whet creative appetites - from the brilliant colours and coastal beauty of the Bay of Fires and Freycinet on the East Coast to the untamed splendour of Tasmania's wild West; from the soaring heights of the rugged Central Highlands to the tall trees of our primeval forests. Everywhere you look, there is natural beauty to behold - beauty that almost demands artistic veneration.

For Ms Alex Pitt, however, her love of art was nurtured and cultivated at a more organic level – at Fahan School where she is both an alumna and the Coordinator of Art, teaching students from Years 7 – 12.

"The Art Department at Fahan has always been an inspiring place to be," said Alex. "It's a privilege to be teaching students in an environment that inspired me so profoundly."

The School has a long standing Artist in Residence program, established in the 1980s, that allows both primary and secondary students the opportunity to work with practicing artists.

"These artists stimulate and extend the students skills, encouraging them to gain an appreciation and understanding of contemporary art practice," said Alex.

The program begins in the Early Learning Centre with projects that support enquiry based learning.

"The children gain skills in a variety of techniques and media, which enable them to communicate their ideas and thoughts on classroom projects," said former Artist in Residence, Jane Burrell.

Jane believes art enables children to express their creative thinking beyond words and into a shared visual language. "This authentically reflects the guiding principles of the Reggio Emilia philosophy."

Alex believes the stimulation Fahan students are given has a positive flow-on effect on student engagement. "Inspired teachers produce inspired students."

If teacher accolades are anything to go by, the students at Fahan must be truly inspired.

Jane started her career at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, creating scientific illustrations of insects and animals. She has also illustrated a number of children's books including *Wombat's Can't Fly* and *Wombats Don't Have Christmas*.

Nicolas Goodwolf, who is Junior School Art teacher for Years 3 - 6, is both a dynamic, practicing artist and an experienced educator.

"Nic has worked in public and community arts, and as an Art Director for Arts Tasmania," said Alex. "He also founded the Tapir Printmaking Studio and was the core founder of Art Goods, an art leasing company promoting Tasmanian artists."







Nicolas's evocative prints are represented at both Handmark Gallery and Port Jackson Press.

"Fahan helped shape me as an artist," said Alex who has previously taught Art at Launceston Church Grammar School and Scotch Oakburn College.

The Artist in Residence for the senior students in Years 11 and 12 is Helen Wright, a well-known contemporary Tasmanian artist who combines her role as lecturer in Printmaking at the University of Tasmania with her teaching responsibilities at Fahan.

"Helen has exhibited her work in galleries and museums across Australia and internationally," said Alex. "She currently features in an exhibition of Australian Drawing which is touring London, New York and Berlin. Helen has also won a number of prestigious art awards, including the *Hutchins Art Prize* and the *Burnie Print Prize*. It is a privilege to work alongside such an esteemed artist."

"As Artist in Residence at Fahan, the great thing about teaching art is the capacity we have to help students produce distinctive and challenging art work, which reflects their individual characters. This is helped by the opportunity to work one on one with each student," said Helen.

Another of the School's Artists in Residence was David Keeling. "I feel proud to work as part of a tradition of professional artists employed to teach art that includes Jack Carrington-Smith and Ann-Marie Reaney," said David, who also believes that the teaching

environment at Fahan was conducive to fostering creativity.

No acknowledgement of teacher contributions would be complete without recognising the work of Sue Ekins, who retired last year after investing 23 years into nurturing and shaping the Art Department.

"Sue played a major part in my becoming both an artist and a teacher," said Alex. "It was her contribution to the School which has ensured our TCE Art students have scored consistently high results and have a strong reputation around the State. The TQA examiners' feedback often reflects on the strength of traditional skills being taught at Fahan School."

Another unique program is the annual acquisition of student work, which forms an outstanding and varied collection representing the ideas, mediums and explored techniques of the times.

"This archive of work is an essential reference for students to access," said Alex. "It also provides a stimulus for the production of work."

"The student collection is a public acknowledgement of the support and importance of the creative arts at Fahan," said Tony Freeman.

"The Arts have always been an integral part of our program," said Tony of Fahan School's brand new Fine Arts Scholarship – the first of its kind in the State. "We are now able to offer more students the opportunity to participate in such an engaging program."





# STAFF NEWS



## SUSTAINABILITY

Fahan School made a successful application under the Australian Government's National Solar Schools Program as part of the 2011-2012 funding round.

The School received \$50,000 in funding for the purchase and installation of a solar electricity system, which will be installed later this year.

The system will generate a part of the School's power needs from a renewable energy source.

"The teachers will be able to use the interactive visual display to provide learning opportunities for the students in relation to energy consumption and sustainability as a whole," said Business Manager, Mr Duncan Macgill, who hoped it would be the first of many sustainability programs to be introduced at the School.

### ARRIVALS

We have welcomed a number of new staff this year including Communications Officer Rebecca Byfield, Marketing and Communications Manager Edwina Cummings, Japanese teacher Clare Enright, Mathematics and Science teachers Belinda Tyrell and Felicity Jacobs, Year 3 teacher Kate Bown (nee Snowball), and Junior School Art teacher Nic Goodwolf.

We also welcomed back Holly Lutzow returning as French and ESL teacher. Holly returns from a wonderful year of travels through South America.

We had the privilege of working with some visiting student teachers including Danielle James and Amy Treanor.

Danielle holds a Bachelor of Music and is currently in her second year of a teaching degree. Danielle made significant contributions to the instrumental and choral showcases as well as teaching Japanese to Years 7 and 8.

Amy Treanor has been undertaking her Professional Experience 3 (PE3 Master of Teaching) in the Kindergarten class for four weeks. The children have grown under Amy's conscientious care and they have enjoyed the many experiences that she has guided them through.

### FAREWELLS

It is with mixed feelings that Fahan School bids farewell to Jane Burrell, who left at the end of Term One to 'follow her art' and focus full time on her art career. Jane's graphic art is based on natural science with a generous dose of whimsy and has really taken off this year, so much so that she now feels it is time to pursue it full time.

"I have loved working as the Artist in Residence for the Fahan Early Learning Centre because the School, as a whole, acknowledges art as a voice for young children," said Jane, who believes art can take classroom learning to a deeper level.

"It is a truly inspired position and the children's enthusiasm and creativity have been a constant revelation."

### MARRIAGES

Year 3 teacher, Miss Kate Snowball, married Anders Bown at Cullenswood House in St Marys on 7 April, officially becoming Mrs Kate Bown. Kate's younger sister, Hannah, who is a Year 10 student at Fahan, was a bridesmaid at the wedding. Congratulations to both Kate and Anders.

### BIRTHS

Exciting news for Rowena and Mike Conacher who welcomed their son Harry Edward Conacher on 25 May at 9:07am weighing 2.99kgs (6.6lbs). Rowie is a valued member of the Middle School teaching staff and we wish her all the best during this very special time ahead. Congratulations, Rowena and Mike!

French teacher, Suzie Smith and her husband Des welcomed their son Daniel Rory Charlton Smith on 3 May 2012, weighing in at a healthy 4.20kgs (9lb 4 oz).

"I wanted to say a big thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent Des and me on the arrival of young Daniel," Suzie said in a message to the School via Mrs Foster. "They are gorgeous. All going kind of smoothly for the time being although being consistently awake at 2-3am is not fun. We're loving looking after this beautiful little bundle that God has blessed us with."

### DEATH

Former English teacher Gill Wyatt lost her brave battle with cancer in April. She was loved and admired by both students and staff and will be remembered as a fantastic teacher and a wonderful, caring lady. Gill is survived by her husband, Tony and her son, Alistair.





# BOARDING LIFE

Anastasia found life in Australia very different to her home in Russia, especially learning a new language. However, she found the girls to be so friendly and the atmosphere so comfortable that she now feels completely at home.

Sophie loves the wide, grassy spaces and country feel of Fahan's campus but thinks the best thing by far is the afternoon tea in Nateby's boarding house.

Ruby comes from Hong Kong and loves being so close to nature in Tasmania, especially seeing all the unique animals that live here. Ruby also loves the food at Fahan and thinks it is a lot better than at her previous boarding school in Queensland.

Phoebe loves the desserts that Rhonda makes.

Priyanka, from Singapore, finds the environment at Fahan to be very positive. It is now her second home.

Boarding Director, Margo has worked at a number of other boarding houses but has never found anything else that comes as close to feeling like family. She thinks the Fahan boarding house is a great place to be.



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# FROM OLD SCHOLARS TO ALUMNI



When the Fahan Old Scholars Association (FOSA) became the Fahan School Alumni Association (FSAA) in 2009, its goal was to better connect the Alumni to each other and strengthen the bonds with the School.

Members recognised the need to leverage current thinking and contemporary technologies to instigate change but there were a number of issues they had to address.

"We were reliant on a small number of active members and we knew we had to use social media to connect with our Alumni," said FSAA President, Kathryn Thomas.

"We needed to appeal to a wide generation of Fahan women if we were to achieve our goal of helping Alumni connect with each other and the School," said Kathryn, who together with a new team worked through exciting challenges in transforming the Alumni towards new ways of working and connecting.

"We had to ask ourselves, did we have the commitment of the School to help us to drive the new Alumni Community? Could we merge the old into the new? Would we be able to maintain momentum while still managing to re-engage old scholars who had lost contact with the School? Would we have funding and resources to ensure excellence in all that we did? Could we manage big events? Would we achieve our goal of keeping it simple and achievable?"

Three years on and the Alumni Association is delighted with the success of their transformation.

Today, the FSAA is recognised as an important stakeholder group within the School community; a vehicle to connect former students with each other and with the School.

"We maintain traditions and consistently promote Fahan, its people and its values," said Kathryn.

The FSAA have been working with the School's Marketing and Communications Department to expand and improve their connection, communication and participation with current and prospective members of the Fahan Alumni.

"We often say if you want a job done well, with enthusiasm, laughter, expertise and care, then give it to a group of Fahan girls."

Kathryn and the FSAA Executive have worked tirelessly to foster connections, promote activities and source news stories within the Alumni community. Over the last twelve months, they have identified class coordinators to become the focal point of communications and activities for each year group, and have worked out a system that allows the easy and effective updating of

contact details for Alumni located throughout the world.

"One of our biggest challenges has been in finding new ways for the Alumni to engage and interact with each other and with the School," said Kathryn.

FSAA Executive member, and teacher, Felicity Allison, has implemented an exciting initiative - The Junior School 'Adopt an Alumni' program.

This year they have also transformed the Fahan Alumni Bursary into the brand new Pride of Fahan Alumni Award. Plans are also underway for the Alumni to act as career coaches and advisors to current students.

An important aspect in moving forward is strengthening the links the Alumni Association is building with the School Board and with the Nateby Club.

"By working with Nateby and the Board, we're able to ensure important School values and traditions are always part of our forward planning," said Kathryn.

Those forward plans include the highly successful Reunion Weekend, with its welcome cocktail party and High Tea Under the Sails.

"It is also a great chance for the Alumni to tour the School grounds and see how much has changed since their time at Fahan," said Kathryn.

This year's Reunion Weekend will be held from 12 – 13 October, which is great timing as the Biennial School Fair will be held on Sunday 14 October.

A major feature of the Reunion Weekend calendar is the hotly contested hockey and netball matches between the Alumni and the current Fahan First teams.

"Last year, the hockey match resulted in a draw and the Alumni got pipped at the post by one point in the netball match," said Kathryn.

The Alumni Association's focus for 2012 and beyond is to improve its web presence with a dedicated website and Facebook page, and to support the School in its Capital Appeal.

"We also want to continue to make The Pride of Alumni Awards a priority and find ways to enhance the Gerdy Jevtic Award nomination process," said Kathryn.

"I want to express my absolute and deepest appreciation to the FSAA Executive," said Kathryn. "It is the relationships we have built that have enabled us to achieve so much together. We deserve to be proud, excited and inspired. Thank you for making our combined hope for the Fahan Alumni a reality."







# UTAS HIGH ACHIEVER PROGRAM

Fahan School Years 11 and 12 students have access to a range of resources to help with their studies but there are two programs that offer students a real head start in their final years - the UTAS Language Program and the High Achiever Program, which are part of the UTAS College Program.

"We have about nine students taking part in the College Language Program," said Deputy Principal and Head of Curriculum, Mrs Kathy Foster. "Three are studying Japanese and six are studying French."

"The UTAS programs offer secondary students the opportunity to undertake university subjects while studying for their TCE," said Laura Chatwin from the University. "There are a wide range of study areas on offer that include creative arts, music and languages such as French, Japanese and Chinese."

The students work with their language teacher at school as well as with UTAS lecturers to extend their pre-tertiary Level 3 language studies and gain a result in a first year university level language.

Students who then wish to progress their language studies in Year 12 can apply for admission to the UTAS High Achiever Program.

"It really is a remarkable program that allows students to continue their language studies at the second year university level during Year 12," said Laura.

Students' performance in these units may also contribute to the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

As well as providing students with an academic challenge, these programs offer a number of other benefits.

"There are no course costs for Australian and permanent resident students and each successfully completed unit may be credited towards a relevant university degree," said Laura.

Another advantage is the early introduction to university study, which helps facilitate an easier, less stressful transition to university as students already have access to, and are familiar with, the facilities, resources and support services available to students.

UTAS student, Barb studied Japanese through the College Program in 2008. "It was a fun, simple way for those already doing a pre-tertiary language course to gain course credit for the first year university studies. It lets those planning to continue their language studies meet their potential lecturers."

For more information on either the Language Program or the High Achiever Program, speak with Kathy or contact the university directly on 1300 363 864.

"It would be great to see more of our girls taking advantage of these programs," said Kathy. "In my experience, the students who do take advantage end up scoring very well on their Year 12 exams."



## OPEN THE DOOR TO A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES...

Collect a copy of the 2013 UTAS course guide from your school career office, or view it online at [www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents](http://www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents)



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# PRIDE OF FAHAN ALUMNI AWARDS



On Monday 14 May, the Fahan School Alumni Association President, Ms Kathryn Thomas, presented the inaugural *Pride of Fahan Alumni Award* at a Senior School assembly.

The *Pride of Fahan Alumni Awards* replace the *Fahan Alumni Bursary* program and is open to current Fahan students in Years 7-12 seeking financial assistance to pursue their dreams.

"Twice a year, the Alumni Association will award grants of up to \$500," said Kathryn, who hopes to encourage Fahan girls to bring knowledge back to the School and provide value to the community.

The Alumni Association received nine applications. With the help of John Williamson, a panel of Fahan School Alumni Association members deliberated over the applications.

"We were very impressed with the thought and consideration each of the girls put into her application," said Kathryn. "It made choosing one winner so much harder."

Eventually the panel decided on two winners - Freja Heather in Year 10 and Nikki Goodard in Year 12.

"I am eager to broaden my knowledge of Japanese culture, society and language," said Freja who intends to use her Award to fund a cultural trip to Japan.

Freja hopes to self-fund the \$5000 trip through part-time work but is happy to receive \$500 towards her goal.

Having studied Japanese for seven years, Freja hopes to one day pursue a career in linguistics. "I would love to either teach English to

Japanese students or Japanese to English students," she said.

Freja's home stay host is an experienced language teacher and was very impressed by her enthusiasm for Japanese culture and language.

"I think everyone should experience travelling to a country that has a different culture and way of life," said Freja who hopes to inspire other Fahan students to travel.

Freja will attend Yanagawa High School during her stay and is keen to establish a connection between Fahan and Yanagawa that could see an organised exchange program set up to benefit other students.

In keeping with her commitment to bring knowledge back to the community, Freja will also produce a PowerPoint presentation that will show the differences in language, lifestyle and culture.

Year 12 student, Nikki Goodard, plans to use her Award to do volunteer work in a third world country.

"Last year I discovered a passion for volunteering and helping disadvantaged people," said Nikki. "I now volunteer for Amnesty International, The Footpath Library and am a Youth Ambassador for the Australian Red Cross Blood Service."

Like many other students, Nikki wants to take a Gap Year between Year 12 and starting university but where Nikki differs is that she wants to spend much of her time working with disadvantaged children.







"I would like to spend three to six months volunteering in either an orphanage or a kindergarten," said Nikki.

Nikki plans to fund most of the \$6000 trip herself by working for the first six months after she completes Year 12 but is grateful to the Alumni Association for the \$500 Award.

By going alone to a third world country, Nikki hopes to challenge herself while at the same time, helping others to change their lives.

"Fahan School helped shape the person I am today," said Nikki. "It taught me to appreciate all that I have in life."

Nikki would like to make volunteering more accessible to girls at Fahan. "There are so many simple things the girls can do to help others," she said. "I would love to see as many girls who play sport or participate in choir also participate in actively helping the community. It would help them be more aware of the world they live in and feel happier and more fulfilled with their own lives."

After her Gap Year, Nikki wants to study either social work or psychology at university, and also hopes to bring her experiences back to Fahan School.

"I definitely plan to continue volunteering throughout my life," said Nikki. "My ultimate goal would be to run my own Not For Profit organisation."

The next *Pride of Fahan Alumni Award* will run later in 2012 so now is the time to start thinking about your application.

"I encourage all of the girls to use Freja and Nikki's example and dream big," said Kathryn.

## VOLUNTEERING ABROAD

Projects Abroad is a leading volunteer organisation that can arrange volunteer trips to 29 developing countries.

They are looking for volunteers with energy and compassion who can make a real difference to the lives of others.

"We are always looking for volunteers," said Lucy Wells, Program Advisor at Projects Abroad. "Our projects are based around caring, teaching, conservation, sports, community service, medicine, nursing and physiotherapy, and most projects don't require prior experience or qualifications."

If you would like to find out more about Projects Abroad's volunteer program, go to <http://www.projects-abroad.com.au> or [info@projects-abroad.com.au](mailto:info@projects-abroad.com.au) or 1300 132 831.

Projects Abroad kindly donated the photographs of their orphanage programs to be used in Fahan in Focus. Japanese photographs courtesy of the Japanese Tourism Board.



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## FEATURED ALUMNI

### ELIZABETH RETTIG NEE HOLMES - CLASS OF 1950

Born in Hong Kong in 1934, Elizabeth Holmes lived the charmed life of an expatriate child.

"My father was a fourth generation Tasmanian from Launceston while my Spanish mother had never lived anywhere but Hong Kong."

Elizabeth and her younger sister, Victoria, were brought up under the care of their Chinese amah. "All children in Hong Kong were attended to by an amah in their early years."

Neither Elizabeth nor Victoria had any idea of the changes unfolding in the world around them. Japan was at war with China while, across the Atlantic, Germany was amassing its forces to take on Poland and the rest of Europe.

In 1940, at the tender age of six, politics and war came crashing in to Elizabeth's young life. "The Hong Kong government advised all women and children to leave the colony because of the expected invasion by the Japanese," said Elizabeth.

"My father was a Master Mariner (sea captain) in the Merchant Navy. He arranged for my mother, Victoria and I to get berths on the SS *Nanking*. It was the last ship to leave Hong Kong. There were no ships after it."

"The *Nanking* headed to Australia via Malaya, Singapore and New Guinea, finally docking in Brisbane. My father arranged for my uncle, Jim Coogan (of Coogan's Furniture Stores) to take us in. Uncle Jim met us in Brisbane and then took us to Hobart to stay with him."

Elizabeth's cousin, Marjorie, was a senior student at Fahan School. "I started in Kindergarten and remember Miss Morphett and Miss Travers introducing me to the school as a little girl from Hong Kong. They asked the girls to look after me but Tasmania was a long way from my life in Hong Kong."

"My amah had done everything for me. I was six but had to be taught how to dress myself, do my shoelaces up and even how to use a knife and fork to eat."

Two years later, Elizabeth became a boarder at Fahan. "I still recall the cold shower we had each morning. Once a week we had a hot bath and had to wash our hair. Miss Morphett took us little ones into the Study on Sunday night where she would brush our hair out in front of the log fire."

The world was in the grips of World War II and its effects could be felt as far away as Tasmania. "Whenever the siren went off in the air raid

shelters, we would have to run and get into the trenches, which had been dug in the school grounds. As the war progressed, the school decided to send all students to Interlaken, just in case the Japanese invaded Hobart. We only had class in the mornings and would then spend the afternoons bushwalking and catching tadpoles in tins in the lake. What a life. I loved it."

Elizabeth played tennis and hockey, and went on to play against Fintona in 1950, showing just how long the ties between the two schools have been established. She had a great love for learning and strove to come top of her class.

"In 1949, Miss Travers told all of our class that only girls who passed the end of year exams would be promoted to Year 11. True to her word, only seven students passed and only seven were promoted. I was so thankful I was one of them."

At the time, all school plays were performed at the Theatre Royal. "Miss Morphett produced the plays and all the students took part in them. It didn't matter how small the part, we all felt very important."

Elizabeth excelled at languages, possibly due to her early exposure to them. After leaving school, she initially intended to study medicine but after completing Miss Hales' Business College in Sydney, she returned to Hong Kong in 1957 and applied for a position with the Hong Kong government.

"I became the Secretary to the Political Adviser to the Governor, Sir Robert Black. It was an extremely satisfying and rewarding position. I met many world leaders and helped organise a luncheon on board "*Britannia*" for the Duke of Edinburgh, who wanted to meet Hong Kong residents under 25. I was given the task of selecting young people from various sections of the community."

Now 77, Elizabeth remembers the days of her youth as if they had happened only yesterday. She married in Hong Kong and went on to have two daughters of her own. Sadly, two years ago, her elder daughter, Carolyn, passed away, having battled to overcome cancer of the lungs and brain.

Elizabeth now lives in Brisbane, travelling each year to visit her Swiss half-brother's family in Switzerland. "They are descended from the Holmes family in Tasmania."

"Fahan School played such an important part in my early life. It is such a special school. I don't think there has ever been a school quite like it."





# ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ENGAGEMENTS

Emma Morton (Class of 2004) to Marcus Johnston

## MARRIAGES

Sophie Edwards (Class of 1995) to Cameron Baxter

Fleur Lewis (Class of 1998) to Anthony Weston

Rachael Foster (Class of 1995 and former Head Girl) to Ahmad Mohamad

Bridget Fuglsang (Class of 1997) to Mick Belcher

## BIRTHS

Sophie Edwards (Class of 1995) and Cameron Baxter welcomed daughter Eleanor

Alice Bennett (Class of 1995) and Tom Gray welcomed son James

Wilhamena Gould nee Rae (Class of 2001) and David Gould welcomed son Orlando

Sophie Underwood (Class of 1989) and Matt Dell welcomed daughter Gypsy Kate

Claire Fuglsang (Class of 1992) and David McQuillen welcomed son Archie

Amy Senkbeil nee Bendzulla (Class of 2004) and Cliff Senkbeil welcomed daughter Caroline (see photo)

Sama Colquhoun nee Johnson (Class of 1992) and Richard Colquhoun welcomed son Archer

Julie-Anne McBride nee Coombs (Class of 1998) and husband Stuart McBride welcomed daughter Jessica

## DEATHS

Lisa Roberts nee Bowden (Class of 1968)

Jennifer Elford nee Laycock (Class of 1948)

Linda McRae (Class of 2003)

Alicia Johnson nee Miller (Class of 1950)

Catherine Vosloo nee Armstrong (Class of 1986)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Friday 6 July

Nateby Club Morning Tea

### Friday 12 - Sunday 14 October

Fahan Reunions for leavers of:  
2011, 2007, 2002, 1992, 1987, 1982,  
1972, 1962, 1952-1956 and 1942-1946

### Friday 12 October

Alumni V Students hockey and  
netball matches (Reunion)

### Saturday 13 October

High Tea (Reunion)



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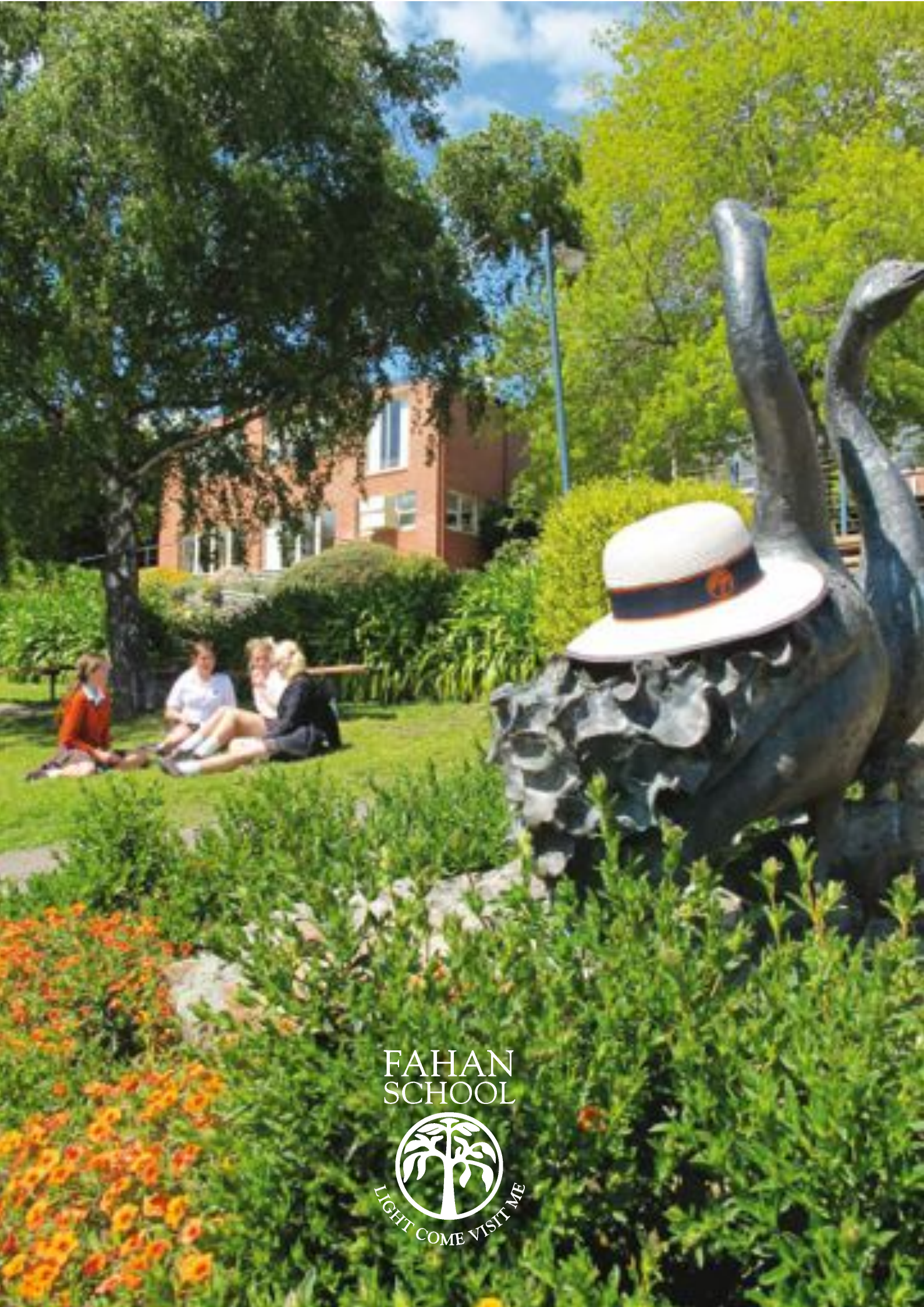
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