

FAHAN IN FOCUS

FAHAN COMMUNITY NEWS

2010





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Principal's Message

This most significant and exciting year, in which we have celebrated our 75th Birthday, is drawing to a close. Entering the year, we again learned that one in three of our Year 12 leavers obtained ATAR scores above 95, placing them in the top 5% of the Nation. After obtaining arguably the best scores in the State in Years 9 and 10 in the NAPLAN tests, in May this year we were named in the top 100 secondary schools in the country. This list was published in the *Australian* during May. Fahan was one of only four Tasmanian schools to make the list.

This, then, was a great foundation upon which to build the celebrations of 75 years of excellence in educating girls in Tasmania. As the year progressed we created a number of opportunities at which we could reflect upon, and enjoy, the fruits of the labour of those who worked so tirelessly to create the school that Fahan is today.

These include: the opening of the Fahan Music School, the 75th Birthday Assembly, the Year 12 Cocktail Party and Auction, the Fahan School Alumni Reunion Luncheon and the Fahan School Spring Fair. Each of these events was extremely successful and they certainly helped to strengthen the bonds that unite our community.

As well as the excellent academic results



Above: Tony Freeman unveils the Prep Sundial that has been installed in the playground for everyone to use. Right: Tony Freeman, Bianca Johnston (Head Girl), Ricky Ponting and Deputy Principal Rosemary Sargison at the Assembly where the Year 12 students presented Mr Ponting with a cheque for \$20, 000 for the Ponting Foundation.

mentioned above, this year Fahan girls also won the Rowallan Trophy for the most outstanding choral group at the Hobart Eisteddfod, the Cross Country team won the aggregate trophy for the first time since 1988 and our senior athletes not only won the College Girls Trophy for the first time ever at both the southern and state wide SATIS Carnivals, they were also successful in winning the Athletics Tasmania Knockout Competition against all schools in Tasmania.

Our girls have also excelled in the use of ICT with the Year 9/10 Computing classes demonstrating their mastery of AV Technology to the extent that they achieved success in two Tasmanian competitions run by the Teachers' Registration Board and Crime Stoppers respectively. The *Our Promise* video, in particular, was exceptional and attracted much deserved attention.

A recent highlight on our calendar was the visit of Australian Test Captain, Ricky Ponting to the School. Ricky was here to receive a cheque and to acknowledge the efforts of the Year 12 girls in raising \$20,000 for the Ponting Foundation, which helps fund the fight against childhood cancer. Ricky paid tribute to the work of the girls and was most

generous in his praise. The girls certainly appreciated Ricky taking the time out of such a busy schedule to come to Fahan.

The Parents and Friends Association invited all families to attend a casual end of year BBQ on the evening of 16 November. This was a most pleasant and well-attended evening. The Parents and Friends Association do a great job in supporting the School. This year they purchased a grand piano for the new Music School and playground equipment for the Years 3 to 6 girls. These contributions, totaling \$50 000, are very much appreciated by the girls and we are indebted indeed to the committed and tireless members of the P&F Committee.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. I'd like to thank you all for your wonderful support throughout the year.

Best wishes,

Tony Freeman, Principal

Head Girl's Report

It's been another outstanding term. I would like to thank the Chairs, all of Year 12 and the staff for making it so successful.

A Big Sister/Little Sister activity kicked off the term in style. We met with our families for the last time this year to draw self-portraits and our drawing skills were put to the test. The results were displayed in the TM Hall.

In early October the annual Fahan Fair was held on a perfect Spring day. The Parents and Friends Association really went all out this year, with food, wine, sweets, rides and produce to be enjoyed by all. Girls, parents, friends and visitors were able to enjoy the activities, hype and entertainment.

The international girls got a treat when they were able to have the day off school to ride the Huon jet boat and view the scenery at Cygnet. This was a fun filled day and a good get-away before the serious end of the year. Thank you to Jane, Jake and Caitlin Daley for making the day possible.

Ricky Ponting, the Captain of the Australian Cricket Team with Tasmanian roots, came to Fahan to thank the Year 12s for our efforts in fundraising for his charity, The Ponting Foundation's *Hitting Childhood Cancer For 6* initiative. Year 12 presented him with a cheque for \$20,000, in front of an audience of Middle School and Senior School girls and staff. The Year 9/10 computing class also presented him with the short film *Our Promise*, in which he took part.

Sport this term included the delayed winter sports day. We were fortunate with the weather and all the girls participated with the usual Fahan spirit and sports(wo)manship. After the committed preparation to athletics, the senior team have achieved their goal of qualifying for the national Knockout Carnival. This is held on December 6 in Melbourne and Fahan will be sending eight girls to compete. I wish them the best of luck.

The Chairs were all treated to an end of year lunch, made by Margo Eckermann, in the Boardroom. The teachers thanked us for our effort throughout the year and we debriefed on the exceptionally busy time we have had during 2010. We all agreed that it has been a



Top: Deputy Head Girl Emily Wilson, Head Girl, Bianca Johnston, Deputy Head Girl, Caitlin Daley and Australian Cricket Captain, Ricky Ponting with the \$20,000 cheque from Year 12. Above: Bianca Johnston faces the media like a pro with Ricky Ponting.

very rewarding and historic year to have been the leaders of the School. A time we will not quickly forget.

The other end-of-year celebrations that take place in December include Speech Night, the Year 12 Formal, the Final Assembly and that infamous Fahan tradition, the Tossing Out Ceremony (as I write this I hope that the Year 11s have been strengthening their arms!). Although the end of the school year means saying farewell to the Year 12s, and for us saying farewell to Fahan, it is a happy occasion and I wish each and every one of you the best for the future.

I would also like to wish the current Year 11

students the best for their final year of Fahan education in 2011. It is such an incredible year. It is busy and has a lot of responsibility, but also a lot of fun. To the new 2011 Chairs, Deputy Head Girl, Elli Hopkins, and Head Girl, Gabby Wake, I encourage you all to enjoy the opportunity that being a leader offers and remember that every Year 12 student is a leader at Fahan. We all have the responsibility of upholding the Fahan values and making our mark on the School.

Happy 75th anniversary Fahan. I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

Bianca Johnston, Head Girl

Alumni Report

What a wonderful day we shared on Saturday, October 2 2010 at our Alumni Celebration Lunch for Fahan's 75th Birthday. With nearly 150 alumni and teachers from across the generations, there was a lot of laughter, connecting and reminiscing.

We went 'back to school', with year groups taking their gourmet lunch boxes to sit and chat in the grounds in friendship groups with a glass of wine in their specially produced 75th Anniversary momento glass.

Helen Waterworth was fabulous as ever as our MC. Alumna Anna McMahon interviewed some of our most memorable teachers including Marlene Lette, Margaret Watson (Causon), Myrna Bedding and John Williamson who all shared their memories of life at Fahan as a teacher. Judy Bignell also proposed a tribute to Mavis Fagan (Miss Smith), who we sadly lost this year.

Some of Fahan's granddaughters and great-granddaughters (daughters of alumni) helped us out on the day and provided a wonderful fashion parade, displaying uniforms throughout the eras. Although we may miss the green, gold and brown, we all agreed that the navy, orange and white of Fahan's new colours are impressive and contemporary and suit today's Fahan girls.

There were even quite a few tears as we sang the School Song and cut the cake. A quiz on all things Fahan inspired cheering for Freycinet, Fenton and Franklin all over again. We ended the day with tours of the grounds and buildings.

Funds raised from the lunch will go towards a gift for the School from the Alumni that will commemorate this 75th Year.

Another highlight of the weekend were the grudge hockey and netball matches: alumni versus current students. Our Alumni were coached and umpired by Corm. Of course we couldn't manage without Corm on the sidelines encouraging and motivating everyone to "lift their game." Unfortunately the Alumni were pipped at the post in both matches by the current students. However, we are planning to make this a regular re-match and a highlight of our future decadal reunion



Above: The FSAA Committee before their wonderful 75th Anniversary lunch in October. Back L-R: Helen Waterworth, Amy Seabrook and Lisa Brown. Middle L-R: Bridget Fuglsang, Lisa Nichols, Caroline Burbury, Kate Langridge and Lia Morris. Front L-R: Bec Bailey, Felicity Allison, Kathryn Thomas and Keryn Nylander.

weekends, so there is still an opportunity for us to redeem ourselves.

This October weekend was also the reunion weekend for the zero years, alumni from 1940, '50, '60, '70, '80, '90 and '00. They celebrated with a Cocktail Party in the Barn on Friday night where the generations combined in familiar surroundings. If the noise level was anything to go by it was another highlight of the weekend.

Photos from the lunch and reunions can be found on page 12 of this publication.

Next year, the '11' "decadal" reunion weekend will be held on the second weekend of October. Please mark 7 – 9 October 2011 in your diaries, especially if you are a 1941 – '45, '51 – '55, '61, '71, '81, '91 or '01 leaver.

Kathryn Thomas (Ikin) & Caroline Burbury
Fahan School Alumni Association

**FAHAN
SCHOOL**



ALUMNI

75th ANNIVERSARY

To view more images from the reunions and the Alumni lunch please turn to page 13.

Parents and Friends Report

As the school year draws to a close I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those parents who have made themselves available to assist with P&F activities through the year. Your contribution is always appreciated, but hopefully you also felt you benefited from your involvement with the P&F as a great way to get involved in the School's activities and meet other parents and teaching staff in a more informal way. Through involvement in the P&F you have enlarged the support network for yourself and your children.

I should also mention that not everyone who contributes greatly to the school community through the P&F is a parent. There are many external supporters and sponsors who regularly show great generosity through donations of goods, services or their time and although there are too many to mention individually, I would like to extend my appreciation to you all.

If you would like to get involved in the P&F, or would like to register your willingness to sponsor or donate a prize for P&F fundraising activities, please call Simon Barker on 0408 263 708 or contact the School office.



Above: Year 7 students make sure the BBQ is in working order for the final P&F meeting on Tuesday 16 November.

Following a highly successful fair this year, thanks to the hard work of Gillian Vosper, the final P&F activity of the year was our annual delivery of phone books. The monies raised from these events will go towards the purchasing of equipment and facilities that benefit our children.

P&F meetings are held on the third Tuesday each month during terms at 7:00pm in the Board Room. P&F activities focus on

facilitating social activities for the school community and fundraising. The P&F also provides an avenue for raising parent issues for discussion. The Principal and Deputy Principal are always present and all parents are very welcome to attend.

Thank you to everyone for another fantastic year for the P&F Association and I encourage you all to consider contributing in 2011.

Simon Barker

Nateby Club Report

As a memorable end to the 75th year, 40 Nateby Club members were treated to a lovely Christmas lunch. Principal Tony Freeman and Deputy Principal Rosemary Sargison made us very welcome while Margo Eckerman, the boarding house Director of Residence, created the most delicious food (hard to imagine anything less like a boarding house dinner!) and the School's Communications and Events Coordinator, Eleanor Robb, organised the day's activities with her usual charm and thoroughness.

Miss Travers' nieces the Waugh sisters - Alison Shoobridge, Kate Sainsbury, Christine Dobner and Felicity Langley were our special guests. Three boarding students and budding young pianists, Hannah and Sophie Edgell and Molly Gardner, provided entertainment before lunch. Among the guests was Sophie and Hannah's great grandmother, Pru Hankey.

After lunch we visited the new Music School, which is such a spectacular building, and we



Clockwise from top left: Listening to Sophie playing the piano, lunch is served, a delicious Doon, Justine, Jenny, Barbara and Sue enjoy the food and Sophie and Hannah with their great grandmother, Pru Hankey.

were lucky enough to hear one of the rock bands rehearsing, then back to the dining room for coffee and lemon tart followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Members generously donated over \$1000, which will be spent upgrading equipment for the Early Learning Centre.

If you would like information about the Nateby Club please contact Eleanor Robb. I look forward to seeing many familiar, and some new, faces at the first Nateby Club lunch in 2011.

Sue Allison, Nateby Club President



Above: Year 12s pose for a photo with Ricky; Top Right: Tony Freeman, Emily Wilson, Bianca Johnston, Caitlin Daley and Ricky with the cheque; Right: Ricky signs the cheque.

Ponting Bowled Over By Fahan Generosity

Year 12 students had something other than SWOT VAC and exams to look forward to this term, when Australian Test Cricket Captain, Ricky Ponting, visited to receive a \$20,000 donation for the Ponting Foundation's *Hitting Childhood Cancer For 6* initiative.

As their major fundraiser for 2010, the students held a Charity Auction and Cocktail Evening in the Hobart Town Hall on August 19. While originally aiming to raise \$10,000 the popularity of the event exceeded the girls' expectations and the amount raised from ticket sales and the auction came to \$20,000.

CEO of the Ponting Foundation and Ricky Ponting's Manager, James Henderson, said

that 100% of the monies raised from the event will go towards supporting Tasmanian children who often need to seek treatment for cancer on the mainland.

"What the Year 12 students at Fahan have achieved is phenomenal and is a credit both to themselves and their school. When Ricky and Rianna were informed about the amount of money that a group of students had raised for this cause they were so grateful and inspired by the work of the girls that they wanted to ensure they could thank them personally for their efforts," Mr Henderson said.

Ricky enjoyed meeting students and sharing with them the aims of the Ponting Foundation,



explaining to them the difference it will make to the 20 Tasmanian children who are diagnosed with cancer every year.

The driving forces behind the project, our Head Girl Bianca Johnston and Deputy Head Girls, Caitlin Daley and Emily Wilson, were excited to meet the cricketing legend and to personally hand him the giant cheque that they have worked so hard for this year.

"This is such an important issue and any difference that we can make is well worth the time and effort spent organising the charity event," Bianca said.

Principal, Tony Freeman, said he is incredibly proud of the Year 12 students of 2010.

"Each year we give Year 12s the task of fundraising, to provide them with a sense of assisting the community and the ability to recognise the virtue of helping those in need. For the girls to have taken the initiative to organise something of this magnitude just astounds me and gives me a great sense of pride in the accomplishments of our students."

Our Promise — To Fight Cyberbullying

Year 9 and 10 Computing students launched their powerful anti-cyberbullying campaign *Our Promise*, the winning entry in the 2010 Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge, to peers, parents and invited guests, including a special guest speaker, Ali Halkic, at a Cyberbullying Awareness Assembly on Tuesday 19 October.

Our Promise is a short filmclip featuring students, teachers and Australian identities holding signs saying 'I care' or 'it hurts', edited over Kate Miller Heidke's song *Caught in the Crowd*. The process of creating the short film showed students that they have support not only from the students and staff at Fahan School but also from the wider community. The fact that well known identities took the time to assist the girls has really driven home to them that everyone is part of the solution.

Having lost his only son because of

cyberbullying, Ali Halkic told the girls that he was proud of what they have started, saying that they had given him and his wife, Dina, the hope that not only will the anti-cyberbullying message spread but that it will be spread by those people most involved in the issue.

Following the emotional talk from Ali and the screening of the video created by their peers, students from Years 5 to 12 sat in a contemplative silence as one-by-one they each signed a solemn promise not to join in, to seek help and to protect each other.

Year 9 and 10 Computing teacher, Jane Macrossan, said that both Ali's and the girls' messages about the issue were spot on. Ali stressed to the girls that while they may show respect for their parents and teachers this issue is about showing respect for each other. He told the parents of these amazing Fahan



girls that they should be so proud of what their daughters have started.

The girls attended the awards ceremony on 19 November and were announced the winners. View the filmclip at www.fahan.tas.edu.au/ourpromise



Many of our teaching staff who have worked incredibly hard throughout 2010 to ensure this was one of our students' best years at the School. Congratulations to each of them.

Staff News At Fahan

In this, Fahan's 75th Anniversary year, the dedicated team of staff at the School have worked together to ensure that Fahan is in the best possible position to lead the field in girls' education for the next 75 years.

Next year there will be some changes to the staff team at Fahan. We are farewelling four of our members of staff, Graham Broomhall, Maggie Westbrook, William Lelong and Simone McBroom. In addition to this, Felicity Allison, will be taking long service leave during Term One; our Japanese

language teacher, Cheree Harcourt, will be away on maternity leave and our French and ESL teacher, Holly Lutzow will be taking a year's Leave of Absence. There have been interviews conducted during this Term to find passionate educators to fill these positions in 2011. From a wealth of talent the new additions of staff will be announced to the broader community in the first edition of *Fahan in Focus* next year.

The School would like to wish all members of staff a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



Holly Lutzow is taken on a "mystery" farewell lunch by her Year 10 students — a testament to her rapport with students.



Farewell Simone McBroom

Simone McBroom began working at Fahan in February this year as a temporary receptionist to fill a maternity leave position. However, Simone's enthusiasm and dedication saw her quickly progress to the position of Fahan's Compliance Health and Safety officer where, over the last couple of months, she has moved the School forward with important safety and regulation measures.

Simone has been offered a position in her field of interest — finance and so sadly from November she left Fahan to work in the area of personal finance. Her enthusiasm and willingness to be involved will be greatly

missed at the School, particularly by the administration staff. She provided a friendly face on the front desk for parents, students and staff alike and was even given the award of "Trendiest Member of Staff" from the exiting Year 12s of 2010 at their final Year 12 led assembly.

Everyone in the Fahan community would like to wish Simone all the best for the future. We will miss her willingness to involve herself in School activities above and beyond her regular duties, such as travelling to Agfest or organising a student fashion parade, and her kindness shown towards members of staff.

Farewell Graham Broomhall

Graham Broomhall started at Fahan on January 1, 2004. This year Graham has decided the time has come for him to "pick up his brick" and head off for retirement where he will have the time to watch the full length of *The Karate Kid* rather than just watching his very favourite scene as part of the Year 9 Maths curriculum.

Yes, the students will remember *The Karate Kid* long after they have forgotten the quadratic equation (sadly) just as the staff will remember Broomy's Friday morning teas where he produced sausage rolls and homemade tomato sauce made by his own fair hands (author's note: Why is that he could never produce these when his wife, Freya, was away?).

During his time at Fahan, Mr Broomhall has taught Science, Physical Science and Maths to

many hundreds of girls. Whilst they may have trembled outside the door of his classroom before their first lesson, it didn't take very long for the tough façade to be seen right though as the girls discovered a dedicated teacher with a heart of gold. Many staff, and I am sure girls, have benefited from his support when going through a tough time – always done without any accolade or expectation of thanks.

His contribution to the camp programme at Fahan has benefited many girls – it is oh so character building being tipped out of a kayak on a freezing day and then going to a nice cool tent for the night.

It will be a quieter staff room next year as the input to the roundtable discussions from a point of view slightly to the right of Genghis Khan will be missed.

We wish Graham all the best for a long and



"Wax on, wax off" - Graham Broomhall

happy retirement – don't forget to wax on, wax off and perhaps you will even learn to cook the odd sausage roll, for Freya!!

Rosemary Sargison



Farewell Maggie Westbrook

Maggie Westbrook's connections and contributions to Fahan are significant. Maggie first came to know the school as a student in 1995 and returned to us with her Master of Teaching degree gained in New South Wales. After a successful teaching practicum at Fahan in 2008 Maggie joined the academic staff in Term Two, 2009 as the Year 3 teacher.

Maggie's classroom is always a buzz of engaged conversation. She has carefully supported and challenged her students and encouraged them to love learning and strive

for excellence. Maggie's students say that she "makes hard things fun and exciting, that she is very good at handwriting and drawing and is not strict at all."

As an A grade Hockey and Softball player herself, Maggie has been able to mentor and coach many of our students in both the Junior and Senior Schools. Her enthusiasm and energy will be greatly missed in the Junior School as well as in the wider School community and we all wish Maggie the very best for her wedding next year and for her move interstate in 2011.



Farewell William Lelong

William Lelong has always had a connection with Fahan School, ever since he was six years of age and spent time assisting his dad, Peter Lelong, with setting up network cables and labs on weekends. Since then William has taken on the role of bringing Fahan into the future by implementing state-of-the-art technology throughout the School.

While officially William worked as the School's ICT technician, his skills in graphic design, editing, stage production, photography and his incredible work ethic meant that he spent a lot of time helping out with School musicals, show programs, creating films, running events,

assisting with the Fair and teaching the Tech Crew as well as fixing any network, server or technology issue around the School.

William's talent, patience and dedication will ensure he will succeed in which ever future path he chooses. In 2011, he will start a Film and Television degree at Swinburne University and it is without a doubt that we know we will be seeing his name in the forefront of the industry before too long. He will be sorely missed by the staff at Fahan. We will be reminded of him every time we shake our fists at a computer. We all wish William the very best for his bright future.

SOUTH AFRICA EXCHANGE STUDENT GINA FROST

Our exchange student from St Mary's School in South Africa this year is Gina Frost who has dived headfirst into the role of being a Year 9 Fahan girl. Gina has immersed herself in all that the program has to offer.

"I had the chance during my visit to attend the Year 9 camp to Kelvedon where we canoed for six hours on Moulting Lagoon. It was an exhilarating few days with views that would take your breath away. I was able to bond a lot more with the girls and teachers and I am so grateful to have been able to have that experience. I have made a lot of friends from all different years and enjoy being around them at school."

I love to play sport and am taking in the Fahan spirit by playing tennis, touch football and rowing for the school."

Gina says that she is enjoying all her subjects, especially Sport Science and is thoroughly enjoying the Fahan School experience. Gina has been a terrific addition to Fahan during Term Three.



Gina had the opportunity to meet the Captain of the Australian Cricket Team, Ricky Ponting, during her stay in Tasmania.



Above: Preps enjoy the unveiling of their beautiful sundial.

PREP SUNDIAL

In October the Prep class held an unveiling ceremony where they revealed their stunning sundial that they have been working on this year. Brought about by an interest in shadows, the Preps researched and then built and decorated their time-piece throughout the year. Tony Freeman enjoyed the honour of the unveiling. The sundial has been installed near the Octagon building so that everyone can make sure they arrive to class on time!



Above: Sofanit Woldemichael's, Year 12, incredible art display.

SENIOR ART SHOW

As always, the calibre of the work on display at the Senior Art Exhibition this year was outstanding. The talented artists in Years 11 and 12 produced work of the highest quality and from November 18-26 their work was displayed to the public. The pieces ranged from photographs, to paintings, to sculpture, to prints and drawings. Congratulations to Sue Ekins and Helen Wright for encouraging our talented students to produce this work.



Above: Dr Anu Verma visits the children at Daisoli Primary.

EAST TIMOR

Each year Fahan raises funds for the Daisoli Primary School in East Timor. This year Mr Graham Broomhall's tutor group raised the most amount of money by running pancake stalls and holding a Bikeathon during November. Thank you to all classes who have raised money and sent letters (in the Tetum dialect) to our sister school. The money raised provides much-needed facilities for the Daisoli Primary School.

MUSIC SOIREE

The Music Department's annual soiree was held on October 29 in the new Music School. Students studying Year 9/10 music performed

as part of their end-of-year assessment along with Anna Fuhr-Evitt who has just completed her Year 12 studies in Solo Performance. Other students were included in this wonderful

opportunity to perform as a lead-up to their AMEB examinations. The audience was treated to a variety of beautifully performed solos: violin, cello, flute, voice, piano and bassoon.

Congratulations To Our New Student Leaders For 2011



Back L-R: Grace Richardson (new Freycinet Chair), Rosie Battaglione (new Community Chair), Clare Browne (new Sports Chair), Stella Weston-Smith (new co-Junior Chair), Madelyn Dwight (new Arts Chair) and Gabby Wake (new Head Girl).

Front L-R: Angela Marsland (new co-Magazine Chair), Connor Charles (new Franklin Chair), Courtney Meiklejohn (new Fenton Chair), Elli Hopkins (new Deputy Head Girl), Aimee Baker-Turner (new co-Magazine Chair) and Isabel Bennett (new co-Junior Chair).

Absent: Heather Johns (new Debating Chair).

Congratulations To Emily Meaney

Diving Australia has invited Emily Meaney to trial with the National Talent Identification (NTID) Squad in Brisbane. The trial is conducted at the AIS training centre in Brisbane and is designed to select and train athletes with the potential to compete in future Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

While selection is just a first step to a long period of training, Emily is very excited to have the opportunity to work with Australia's top diving athletes and coaches and further develop her skills.

This experience will give Emily the opportunity to decide if she is keen to train at the top level with all the commitments (and sacrifices) that this might entail. This is a great opportunity for Emily and she has worked really hard to be selected to train at this level during 2011. Emily's family will join her in Brisbane for the year. We wish them all the very best and look forward to their return to Fahan in 2012.



SOUTHERN AND STATE WIDE SATIS SUCCESS

The Senior Athletics Team has concluded an incredible season this year. The team competed at the Southern SATIS Athletics Carnival at the Domain in October. All of the girls worked very hard in the lead up to this event and are to be commended on their achievements. Fahan had some outstanding results across all age groups and our Senior girls won the College Trophy and our team also came third in the Aggregate Girls Trophy.

Girls contributing the win in College Trophy were: Brooke Mason, Holly Mason, Thalia Papadakis, Bianca Johnston, Rosie Downie, Clare Browne, Caitlin Daley, Hannah Squires, Connor Charles and Zabrina Taib. There were up to 16 competitors in each event so finishing in the top four places was a fantastic achievement by the girls in their respective events.

At the State-wide SATIS Athletics Carnival in Launceston our girls once again proved just how strong the Fahan School is by winning the Senior College Trophy. This was a huge achievement against some very strong northern schools and all members of this team are to be commended. The College Trophy winners were Thalia Papadakis, Rosie Downie, Bianca Johnston, Hannah Squires, Heather Johns, Brooke Mason and Clare Browne.

KNOCKOUT ATHLETICS WINNERS OFF TO NATIONALS

In a three round Knockout Athletics championship during Term Three, the Fahan team finished first in the State, convincing winners by over 400 points to Launceston College in 2nd place and Scotch Oakburn in 3rd.

The team travelled to the National Final held in Melbourne on Monday 6 December. Members of this team included: Clare Browne, Rosie Downie, Tessa Johns, Bianca Johnston, Brooke Mason, Thalia Papadakis, Abbie Rothery, Hannah Squires and Helen Browne.

This success on the Athletics field is made even more remarkable due to the size of Fahan compared to many of the much larger schools in the State made even more outstanding due to the fact that the seven girls in the Knockout competition are not even Athletics Club athletes. Emily Grant, Rob Owens and the PE staff must be congratulated for training the girls and ensuring that they were performing to the best of their ability this year.



Board Report 2010

This will be my final report to the Fahan community as I will be stepping down from the Fahan Board at the end of this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to chair the School's Board at a time of great change and development in the School and it is particularly pleasing that 2010 has, from my perspective, been one of our best.

The headline was our 75th anniversary celebrations that were widely embraced by both past and present members of the Fahan family. I must acknowledge the fabulous work of the Alumni and the Parents and Friends in organising a host of events to ensure we celebrated in style.

Down to work, the Board and the School's management have focussed on implementing the Fahan School Strategic Plan 2010-12 making good progress across a range of fronts. One significant highlight was the completion of the Performing Arts Centre, made possible by the generosity of major benefactors and funding from the Commonwealth Government through the BER Program.

The Board has placed a very high priority on marketing and communications this year and achievements include the development of a new prospectus and website and an increased presence in the media.



Above: Kim with his wife Kerry at the Year 12 Charity Auction and Cocktail Evening this year - farewell Kim.

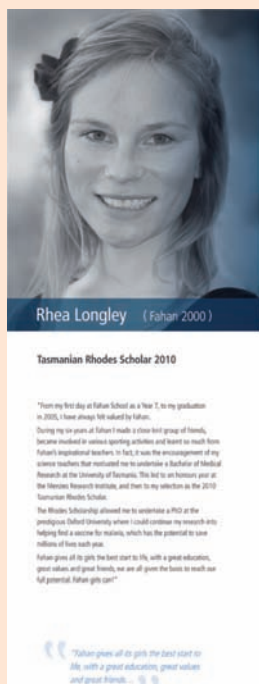
2010 again was a year of wonderful achievements for Fahan's girls, academically, in the arts, on the sporting fields and in the broader community and I offer my sincere congratulations to each of them.

I take this opportunity to thank Tony Freeman and his senior management team for their leadership in the school. I also acknowledge the great support provided by our excellent

teachers and other staff.

Finally I must thank my fellow Board Directors. Elizabeth Jack, David Morris, Keryn Nylander, James Robinson and Andrew Westbrook for their significant contributions to another great year throughout 2010.

Kim Evans, Chairman of the Board



Marketing and Communications Report

2010 has been a big year for the Marketing and Communications team at Fahan School. We have seen an increase in media presence for Fahan that has given us the opportunity to highlight the wonderful work of our students, Alumni and teachers to the wider community.

This year also saw the development of the new Fahan School Prospectus and the launch of the much awaited updated Fahan website. Please take the opportunity to visit us at www.fahan.tas.edu.au. There is something there for everyone in our community, with additional features being rolled out in 2011.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to all the generous donations we received through the Annual Giving campaign, which go towards improving the school facilities for current and future students.

Geraldine Camilleri and Eleanor Robb

Left: A page from the new Fahan Prospectus showcasing some of our exceptional Alumni.



150 former Fahan girls, and boys, mingle with past and present staff at the very successful Alumni 75th Anniversary lunch on Saturday October 2 in the Travers Morphet Hall.

Alumni Lunch and reunion weekend

The reunion evening and Alumni lunch this year were both an enormous success and provided an entertaining weekend for the 200 Fahan Alumni who descended to reminisce and connect with friends.

Alumni came from interstate and overseas and Tasmania turned on exceptional weather for the occasion. On the Friday night the Barn was full of 'girls' who chatted into the evening. The leavers of 1990 were there in force and also held their own celebrations

over the course of the weekend.

The attendance at the Alumni lunch was outstanding and it was wonderful to see so many people wearing 'a touch of Fahan'. Guests were treated to gourmet lunch boxes, a Fahan fashion parade from current daughters and granddaughters of Alumni and a fantastic series of interviews with former and current teachers conducted by Anna McMahon.

On the Sunday many Alumni also came along

to the Fahan School fair where they were able to mingle with current students and staff and enjoy another opportunity to see what the School is like today.

The date for the 2011 reunion weekend has changed slightly so if your reunion is scheduled for next year please pencil the weekend October 7-9 2011 in your diary.

Below is a montage of photos from the events, which aptly display the enjoyment of those who attended.



Featured Alumni: Posie Graeme-Evans ('65)

Posie came to Fahan from a war-zone. Her father, proud Tasmanian Frank Graeme-Evans, had been stationed in Cyprus – a final posting with the Royal Air Force – and as fighting intensified on the island, Posie and her mum, the novelist Eleanor Graeme-Evans, were bundled onto a plane flying to El-Adam in the Arabian desert. As they left, Nicosia airport was in flames and a stop-start journey of six weeks would take the pair to Aden, Singapore, Perth and Melbourne by bus and ship until Posie and Eleanor finally arrived in Hobart and life at Fahan began. Having gone to at least ten other schools before that time, Posie says it felt like coming home at last. In those days, fields surrounded Fahan and she often walked to school across the paddocks arriving soaked well above the gum boots having fended off cows along the way.

The final year in Cyprus had meant living surrounded by barbed wire and men bearing guns. Perhaps it's not remarkable, then, that Posie remembers her years at Fahan as a time of almost surreal peace. It was there, in an atmosphere which valued creativity and with inspired teachers, that she began to write in a concentrated way. And, the many contrasts between the two islands – Cyprus and Tasmania – unlocked something in Posie, and her long love-affair with words began.

Posie's career in film and television got under way properly at the Tasmanian Film Corporation in the late 70s and the ABC in Hobart in the early 1980s. Film editing – she was the assistant editor on John Honey's iconic film, *Manganinnie* – segued into writing, producing and directing everything from education programs to current affairs, sport and gardening shows in Tasmania. Then the big smoke beckoned and since that time, Posie has created and produced some of Australia's best known and loved television programs including *Hi-5* and all 224 hours of the multi-award winning and hugely successful *McLeod's Daughters* through her own production company Millennium Pictures.

Posie's early work as a producer also included *Sons and Daughters*, *Rafferty's Rules* and seven series of Australian Children's drama. A special favourite for Posie is *Elly & Jools*, which she created after living in a haunted

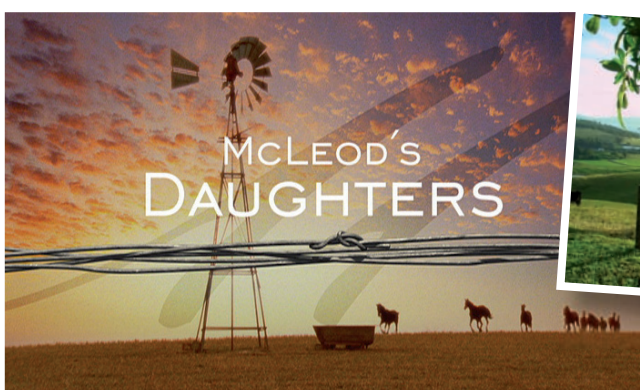
house in Richmond.

A parallel career as a novelist began in 2002 and has resulted in four books so far, all national and international best-sellers. The most recent, *The Dressmaker*, has just been published (October 2010) in Australia and the US with the UK and other territories to follow in 2011. Students and members of staff from Fahan attended her local book launch in Hobart in October at the Dymocks bookstore. Three aspiring writers, Emma Skalicky (Year 9), Isabel Goodfellow (Year 9) and Lana Young (Year 12) enjoyed the opportunity to meet the author and attend a book launch. The fact that this author was a past Fahan student just proved to the girls what they can achieve.

In 2002, *Variety Magazine* named Posie as "one of twenty significant women in international film and television", along with Meryl Streep and Jennifer Aniston and her accolades do not finish there.



Posie has now returned to Tasmania to write full time. She finds the island an inspiration but for her, creative life began at Fahan. As she says, "there was room to breathe, room to explore and people who accepted me for what I was. It's important to dream, and day dream. How lucky I was to have had that time at Fahan. It was formative."



Clockwise from top: Posie, an inspiring view for any author from Posie's house in Cygnet, Posie on the set of *McLeod's Daughters* surrounded by cast and crew and the original title shot from the popular television series.

Announcements

Births

Stephanie (Wilson '93) and Jonas Davidsson - Son Melker, brother for William
Hannah (Pavitt '92) and Sam Hopper - Daughter Harriet Ada, sister for Eleanor
Abi (Roberts '88) and Julian Freeman - Son Ed
Anna Griggs ('92) - Son Lewis
Nina Dickson ('92) - Daughter Isla

Marriages

Katriona Houston ('89) and Shane Morgan

Engagements

Mr and Mrs John H. Couper are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Zoe ('94) to Olivier Taffin de Givenchy. The couple live in London, and are yet to announce a wedding date.

Deaths

Jessica Ottley (Melrose '45)
Felicity Fader (Fitzgerald '58)

These are the Births, Deaths, Engagements and Marriages notices that have come to the attention of the School. However, if you, or someone you know, would like to share news in regards to these events, please email Eleanor Robb at robbe@fahan.tas.edu.au or phone 03 6225 1064 so that we can share your news in the next Fahan in Focus.



Katriona with her new husband Shane - married in January this year.



Katriona Morgan's wedding.

2010 Gerdy Jevtic Recipient: Alice Bennett

At the 2010 Speech Night on Wednesday 8 October, Fahan School Principal, Tony Freeman, announced the recipient of the prestigious Fahan award - the Gerdy Jevtic Prize.

The Gerdy Jevtic Prize, a solid silver medal, engraved with the School's emblem, the tree, and the motto: "Light come visit me", the name of the recipient, and the words "Honour Fahan", is given to someone within the Fahan community who inspires others by her example. Past recipients have achieved in diverse areas: some have been former pupils others have been teachers at the School.

Our 2010 recipient, Alice Bennett ('95), is one of Tasmania's premier photographers. She studied at the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE where she obtained her Diploma of Photography and then at the Australian Institute of Professional Photography where she completed her Masters of Photography. Alice has worked as a professional photographer for the last 12 years and runs her own business, *Photography by Alice*.

Alice has also created several photography



Alice Bennett, photo by Emily Strating.

books including *Africa*, a self-published book about her travels through the continent, *Country Houses of Tasmania*, a coffee table book by Allen and Unwin and the photography for our very familiar recipe book *Under The Tree*. Alice is currently working on another book and continuing to run her successful Tasmanian business.

Important Dates

Tuesday 14 December
Tossing Out Ceremony

Wednesday 15 December
Year 12 Leavers' Dinner

Tuesday 8 February 2011
Term 1 Begins

Friday 27 May 2011
Term 1 Ends

Friday 7 October 2011
Reunion Weekend Begins - for those who left 10, 20, 30, 40 etc years ago

Sunday 9 October 2011
Reunion Weekend Ends

FAHAN
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75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
1935 - 2010

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