

FAHAN IN FOCUS

FAHAN COMMUNITY NEWS

2010





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It has been a remarkable term at Fahan as we have taken the opportunity to reflect on, and to celebrate, the 75 years since Miss Isobel Travers and Miss Audrey Morphet took the bold initiative to establish the School. Gillian Winter, in her book *Sixty Years of Endeavour*, describes the step as both an educational experiment and the embodiment of their teaching philosophies. I trust that today, if they were able, the founders would assess the experiment as a great success and thoroughly approve the supportive, friendly and inclusive ethos that prevails.

The first significant anniversary event for Term Two was the inaugural Travers Morphet Lecture, with the theme Women in Science. Alumna, Dr Margaret Davies, delivered an enlightening and entertaining recount of her career as one of Australia's foremost experts on the topic of frogs.

A special assembly was held at the School on Friday 6 August to mark the achievement of 75 years of excellence in education in Tasmania. It was a privilege to welcome former Chairs of the Fahan School Board Mr Tim Bugg, Mr Brian Benzulla and Mr Eric Hayes, along with our present Chair, Mr Kim Evans, and former Principal, Mrs Gerdy Jevtic.

Also, we were delighted to welcome a number of former students, two of whom, Mrs Alison Shoobridge (Waugh 1935 – 47)

From the Principal

and Mrs Sue Bills (Thompson 1935 – 42), arrived at Fahan on its very first day in 1935. Former student and current Board member, Mrs Keryn Nylander, and Ms Helen Waterworth from the Baby Boomer generation - who delivered an amusing recollection of her time at Fahan - were also valued guests. We were also fortunate to have representatives of the wonderful support bodies that help complete the Fahan Community: the Nateby Club President, Mrs Susan Allison, the Alumni President, Mrs Kathryn Thomas, and the President of the Parents and Friends Association, Mr Simon Barker, with us for the assembly.

The Year 12 girls chose to contribute to the 75th celebrations in conjunction with their community service by holding a Charity Auction and Cocktail Party in the Town Hall on Thursday 19 August. The effort of these socially conscious young ladies was inspirational. The event was very successful and the girls were certainly a credit to themselves, their families and their School. Through their efforts they have been able to raise \$20 000 for their chosen charity, The Ponting Foundation's Hitting Childhood Cancer for 6.

During my time at Fahan, it has been enlightening for me to meet with so many former students and hear of the affection that they have for the School and how it has

helped them to achieve their goals in life. It is my hope that this will also be true for the current students.

We are extremely proud of the achievements of the girls who have passed through these halls, as we are of the achievements and results of our current students. I would like to mention just a few: making the list of the top 100 schools in Australia; consistently achieving one of the highest median scores in the state in TCE examinations; our recent success in the Hobart Eisteddfod, where the Senior Vocal Group won the Rowallan trophy for the most outstanding vocal performance across all classes; and at the Southern Cross Country, where our team won the girls' aggregate trophy for the first time since 1988.

This is a significant year for our School and we are entitled to celebrate it. Occasions like this unite the community and strengthen the bonds that will allow us to move on to achieve 100 and more years of excellence in the education of girls in Tasmania.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the forthcoming events: the Decade Reunions, the Alumni Lunch, and the Fahan Fair, all of which are to be held over the first weekend in October.

Tony Freeman, Principal



At the Year 12 Charity Auction and Cocktail Evening, L-R Deputy Head Girl Caitlin Daley, Head Girl Bianca Johnston, Principal Tony Freeman and Deputy Head Girl Emily Wilson.

Head Girl's Report

Celebrations have continued with vigour this term for the School's 75th Anniversary. We held a birthday assembly, which featured a fashion parade of uniforms through the ages performed by girls from all different grades. I think the highlight of the day for most was the extravagant birthday cake which was shared by the whole school!

One of the major events for the Year 12s, particularly Caitlin Daley, Emily Wilson and I, was the Year 12 Charity Auction and Cocktail Evening on Thursday 19 August. Although the lead up to the event was long, the night itself was a huge success and everyone's hard work definitely paid off. The evening was full of great food, great wine and plenty of great company. Special guests included the leader of the Tasmanian Liberal Party Will Hodgman, Hobart's Lord Mayor Rob Valentine, James Henderson on behalf of the Ponting Foundation, and Hank Petrusma who was our MC and auctioneer for the evening. I would like to sincerely thank all of those people who came along to help support not only Fahan School but more importantly our very special charity of choice, the Ponting Foundation's Hitting Childhood Cancer for Six. All Year 12 girls participated in this fundraising venture and together we raised \$20 000 for our charity.

The youngest girl to sail around the world, Jessica Watson, paid us a visit during Term Two. She first went and met our kindy girls who flattered her with their knowledge of her trip. She then spoke to everyone in the Senior and Middle Schools and made us realise that no matter how old you are you can achieve anything you dream of if you work hard enough. She finished the morning off with a book signing where many of the girls had the opportunity to meet Jessica individually.

Sporting events this term began with the Interschool Cross Country where the Fahan team delivered fantastic results and won the Aggregate shield. Next was House Athletics where records were broken and personal bests were being achieved all over the track and field. Although the sun wasn't out, individuals shone through! In the end, Freycinet took the cup, closely followed by Franklin.

Overall it has been an action packed term, and Term Three is looking like it will be just as



Above, the Year 12 Leaders and their mothers at the Year 12 Charity Auction. Photo courtesy of LP Photography, Moonah. Left the Leaders with Ponting Foundation CEO James Henderson.



Above, Year 12s working hard at the Charity Auction. Below, the beautiful Town Hall at the Charity Auction. Both images courtesy of LP Photography, Moonah.



exciting and busy with the Fahan Fair and the usual end of year traditions ahead! For those of us in Year 12, the end of our Fahan School life is approaching so I'd like to encourage everyone to make it a very special Term Three.

Study hard as end of year exams approach and also remember to enjoy our remaining four months as Year 12s.

Bianca Johnston, Head Girl

Fahan Alumni Association Report

"In 1940 the school was old enough to have old scholars. Nine of the fourteen old scholars met on the 22nd September to form the Fahan Old Scholars Association. They decided to have fortnightly meetings to knit garments for the Comfort Fund and as a group they raised money for refugee relief" (Winter).

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Fahan School, our focus has moved on from knitting. We now focus on enabling former students, our Alumni, to connect with each other and with the school.

The Fahan School Alumni Association is delighted to support the School and ensure that our Alumni - former students of either gender - are included in the events that are planned during this, the 75th Anniversary year.

A highlight for us will be the 75th Anniversary Lunch, planned for 12 noon on Saturday 2 October, 2010.

This event will be part of a big weekend of celebration and activities for the School and its wider community. On Friday 1 October, the Reunion Cocktail Party for the "Decadials" will be held. All Alumni who were school leavers in the zero years, 1940, '50, '60, '70, '80, '90, '00, have been invited to a range of get-togethers to reminisce and re-connect across the first weekend in October.

We are exploring the possibility of some sporting re-matches between the past and the present students!

From 12pm on Saturday 2 October, we invite Alumni, males and females, to a "back to school" lunch. We are planning a wonderful event, providing a great opportunity to remember what it is to be part of the Fahan community, share stories, renew relationships with teachers and each other, and experience life at Fahan in 2010. We have worked hard to ensure all Alumni have received invitations, which has proved to be a huge job. If you know anyone who we may not have found, please contact our Events Sub-committee Chair, Lisa Brown, on 0438 254 446. Our 'in demand' Alumni Brooches will be available for purchase at the lunch. We encourage all to wear "a touch of Fahan", so feel free to be brave and come adorned in your favourite piece of Fahan uniform!

To top off a big weekend, the School Fair is being planned for Sunday October 3! We are responsible for the produce stall, so if you can contribute please contact Bec Bailey on (03) 6225 2464.

Our main focus continues to be finding ways to connect to the school. Our other major focus areas in 2010 are:

- Continuing to update our database and communication details for all Alumni, together with the school's new Marketing and Communications team
- Developing a webpage on the school's site that reflects the brand of the FSA



75th ANNIVERSARY

- Building on the mentoring and career counselling programs that have already commenced within the school
- Linking Fahan Alumni with every class in the Junior School, to form special bonds between the past and the future
- Ensuring that we continue to be an important community within the school and that we are recognised as important and vital contributors.

"The symbol of Fahan is a tree – the roots are well established and so long as it has freedom and is not hedged with doubts, fears and mistrust, it will go on seeking the light and grow from strength to strength" ("Editorial").

Our Fahan Alumni community resembles this tree; it too continues to grow from strength to strength.

I look forward to meeting as many of our Fahan Alumni as possible as we celebrate our past, our connections and our future. What better time than the 75th Anniversary year to reconnect!

Kathryn Thomas ('78 Ikin)
President
thomask@fahan.tas.edu.au

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Fahan Alumni at the Year 12 Charity Auction and Cocktail Evening August 19. L-R Elise Archer ('88 Nylander), Kathryn Thomas ('78 Ikin), Lisa Nichols ('78 Gedye) and Kate Bowden ('79 Innes). Photo taken by LP Photography, Moonah, photographer Lambi Pavlides.

Nateby Club Term Two Report

During Fahan's 75 years we have always had some inspirational teachers - none more so than the three guest speakers at the Nateby Club winter lunch, who, with laughter and nostalgia, provided fantastic entertainment.

Marlene Lette was a great drama teacher and we listened, entranced by her beautiful voice. Margaret Cormack as PE teacher was expected to be on the job at all hours (lucky rowing had not yet started at Fahan) and Pam Adams, Geography teacher from Bolton in the UK, among her many amusing anecdotes, described taking a group camping. Miserable

in the rain, they saved the day by starting a fire with the detailed health forms brought by each child.

This winter term we were also invited to the Early Learning Centre for morning tea where we found some more inspirational teachers and some very enthusiastic students. Mrs Stephen helped the children make muffins which they served hot from the oven and we viewed the cooking equipment that was bought with Nateby Club donations. We plan to buy some equipment for the ELC every year.

I was also delighted to be invited to represent

the Nateby Club at the School's 75th Anniversary Assembly on Friday 6 August. It was wonderful to see the current students celebrating the history of the School.

Finally, the Nateby Club received some sad news this Term. Fahan Alumna Valerie Pearce passed away in June and she will be sorely missed. One of Fahan's incredible former teachers, Mavis Fagan, also passed away in June. Mavis is fondly remembered as a staunch member of the Nateby Club and a wonderful teacher at Fahan.

Sue Allison, President Nateby Club



The Nateby Club visits Kinder and Prep in the Octagon in August.



Margaret Cormack, Pam Adams and Marlene Lette as the guest speakers at the Term Two Nateby Club Lunch

Parents and Friends Term Two Report

To become involved in the activities of the Parents and Friends Association is a great way to integrate in the school community. Not only do you get to know other parents within the school, but you also get to know your children's friends and their teachers too. In doing this, you are enlarging the support

network for yourself and your children.

The P&F is actively involved in the development of campus facilities and the provision of new equipment, so the phrase "many hands make light work" was made with school fundraising in mind. If we work as a community and each person gives a little bit of time, it can make fundraising an enjoyable social occasion and, hopefully, a profitable one. The P&F has several fundraising events with this year's major event being the Spring Fair on Sunday 3 October. Money raised will ultimately be used to benefit the students and continue to build the strength of the school.

If you would like to get involved in the fair, or if you struggle for time and would like instead to contribute something that would assist the fair committee like a prize, a generator, some food stuffs, a tent, a financial contribution or anything else you think may be helpful, please

contact Gillian Vosper on 0404 847 530 or Simon Barker on 0408 263 708. The next Fair Update will be sent out via email this week.

P&F meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month during school terms at 7:00pm in the Board Room and our final gathering for this year will be on the 16th November. It will take the form of a casual gathering with light refreshments so interested parents can mingle and meet current committee members to find out more about the P&F. The Principal and Deputy Principal are always present and all parents are very welcome to attend.

Finally, I am proud to represent the P&F during the School's 75th Anniversary and I was thrilled to be invited to the 75th Anniversary Assembly on Friday 6 August to help the students celebrate Fahan's Birthday.

Simon Barker, P&F President



New play equipment donated by the P&F this year.

Staff News: Helen Wright Wins Prestigious Art Grant

Helen Wright has been a practising and exhibiting artist for thirty years and is well represented in the Australian National Gallery and most state gallery collections.

In recognition of her high esteem on the visual art canvas, she was recently named one of only two Tasmanian recipients of the Australian Council for the Arts' "New Work – Established" grant. This level of recognition is something not entirely foreign to Helen – she has previously received two grants of a similar nature, both of which have enabled her to achieve great success in her career. This grant, as well as simply being a means of funding for the experimentation and development of Helen's work, demonstrates her ability to compete (and win!) against some of the finest figures in Australian contemporary art.

Helen has imparted her artistic prowess to many Tasmanian students, having taught both at Fahan School and the Tasmanian School of Art. Helen has been at Fahan for seven years and, alongside Sue Ekins, strives to foster the talent of all the students she engages with whilst providing a stimulating and fun environment in which to express their artistic flair. The girls' work reflects the relationship that both Helen and Sue have with the world of contemporary visual art and the senior girls' end of year exhibition will surely prove the high standard of teaching and experience that Helen brings to Fahan School.

"Fahan is a supportive and creative environment for staff and students alike, a great place to work and a school that supports the creative arts in general. I would like to



Helen Wright is an artistic force to be reckoned with and we all sincerely congratulate her for her incredible achievements.

thank our art technicians, Georgie Vozar, Alex Pitt and Harriet Jones for their great team efforts over the last few years," Helen Wright.

Article written by Jaimi-Lee Kuster who is undertaking work experience in the Fahan Marketing and Communications Office.

Around the Staff Room

In other Staff News we have welcomed back several members of staff in Term Two. Liana Hayes has returned after the birth of her son Callum to teach Year 7 and 8 English and SOSE, Anna Forward has returned after the birth of her son Leo to teach Year 7 and 10 English, Tania Gath has returned from leave to teach Year 1 and Kaz Tonks has resumed her position of Administration Officer following the birth of her son Callum.

Our ever hardworking Deputy Principal, Rosemary Sargison, also took a six-week

sabbatical as she spent time travelling around Australia with her husband Graham. She was warmly welcomed back at the end of July.

The School is also pleased to announce that Simone McBroom has moved into the position of Compliance, Health and Safety Officer where she has already made a significant contribution to the needs of the School.

Cheree Harcourt is due to have a baby in early 2011, Emily Grant is now engaged to her partner Aaron Hogan, getting married in June next year, Tim Dale's partner Terri is pregnant

with their second child and Maggie Westbrook is getting married in January next year. We would like to wish all these members of staff the best for their respective exciting futures.



Recess time in the Senior Staff Room.

Inaugural Travers Morphett Lecture

On June 21 this year, Fahan Alumna, Dr. Margaret Davies, gave the Inaugural Travers Morphett Public Lecture as part of the school's 75th Anniversary.

The first in a new annual tradition, Dr. Davies' lecture exhibited her status as a national leader in her field whilst showcasing the overall success of Fahan Alumni.

Her fascinating lecture introduced the public to the secret world of frogs, a world in which

she has been absorbed over the course of her thirty-year academic career.

Her extensive contribution to the study of amphibians has led to the naming of two species after her, a high honour in the realm of Zoological Science.

Dr. Davies hopes to encourage students and adults alike to pursue studies in Zoology, whilst inspiring the general public to deepen their understanding of the amazing fauna we

have here in Australia.

The Travers Morphett Lecture series will be a rich and insightful one, as the wealth of talent that is available for the School to draw upon from the Fahan Alumni is immense. The School hopes that this new tradition will be celebrated at the next milestone anniversary.

Written by Jaimi-Lee Kuster who is on work experience in the Marketing and Communications Office.



Margaret at home with her stunning bronze sculpture of one of her favourite species of frog, which gives birth to its young from the mouth, that has sadly become extinct during her lifetime.



Margaret and Principal Tony Freeman on stage after Margaret delivered the inaugural TM Lecture.

Fahan Winter Concert

The 2010 Winter Concert once again proved a magnificent showcase for the musical talent at both Fahan School and The Hutchins School.

The evening commenced with The Hutchins School Big Band and the Fahan School Senior Choir performing *Beyond the Sea*. This number set the standard for the night. Solo

performances from Sofie Pridgeon and Lucy Nichols stunned the audience with their power and quality. Instrumental solos from Bec Wood and Anna Fuhr-Evitt were also outstanding.

The presentation of the Junior and Senior Orchestras, The Hutchins School Barber Shop Quartet and the Fahan School Choirs and Vocal Groups maintained an exceptionally high standard throughout the night, leaving the audience wanting more.

It was great to hear recent Fahan Alumna, Tamsin Hilliard, join with the combined Fahan School and The Hutchins School Senior Choirs for the finale.

Every performance was inspiring and the students were a great credit to themselves, their schools and their parents. Congratulations go to Mrs Annie Tremayne and Mrs Stephanie Abercromby along with Scott Cashion and Andrew Bainbridge who, along with their respective staffs, did an exceptional job in preparing the students to such an amazing

standard. Also, a big Thank You goes to the MC for the evening, Fahan Alumna, Anna McMahon and to the Friends of Fahan Music who were essential to the smooth running of a most memorable night.



Fahan Junior Choir and Hutchins Treble Singers.



Fahan School Junior Choir.



MC Anna McMahon enjoying the evening.



Tamsin Hilliard with performers from the Hutchins' Senior Choir.

75th Anniversary Assembly



A selection of models posing for the Mercury photographer, photo courtesy of the Mercury, Hobart.

On Friday August 6, the School held a 75th Anniversary Assembly so that the current student and staff bodies could celebrate this milestone together.

Invited guests were also in attendance to represent the various groups who make up the Fahan Community. They were: the Chairman of the Board, Kim Evans; Past Principal, Gerdy Jevtic; Former Chairs of the Board, Tim Bugg, Brian Bendzulla and Eric Hayes; President of the Nateby Club, Sue Allison; President of the Alumni, Kathryn Thomas; President of the Parents and Friends Association, Simon Barker; Member of the Board, Keryn Nylander; two of Fahan's former students who were at the School when it first opened on February 8 1935, Sue Bills (Thompson '42) and Alison Shoobridge (Waugh '47); and a very special guest speaker, Helen Waterworth ('72).

Students heard from the self-confessed "naughty" Alumna, Helen, who shared with them memories from her time at Fahan. A swell of giggles could be heard as she discussed running around the school as

a means of warming up, weeding as a suitable detention and her unnerving ability to find trouble. Helen also imparted words of wisdom to the girls, saying that they are incredibly privileged to belong to a community like Fahan's, and that she hopes they will remember their time at the school as fondly as she remembers hers.

Students staged a very entertaining fashion parade of the Fahan uniform through the ages, starting in 1935 and working through to the current day. To the tune of Roy Orbison's *Pretty Woman*, Cindy Lauper's *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun* and Ace of Base's *Break My Stride*, girls from Year 3 to Year 12 wowed the audience with their modelling prowess.



Guest speaker Helen Waterworth addresses students and staff.

To conclude the celebrations, Principal Tony Freeman invited the two original 'Fahanies', Sue Bills and Alison Shoobridge, to help two of our youngest students from Kindergarten, Airlie Pyke and Grace Campbell, cut the beautiful 75th Anniversary Cake that was made by one of our own very talented Fahan mothers, Kelly Logan.

With 75 years behind us, Fahan is still going strong and leading the way in girls' education, producing remarkable Alumni who have gone on to have a big impact on the world. Everyone at the School is extremely proud of the achievements of the girls who have passed through Fahan's halls and we know that there are so many more of them to come in future generations.



The 75th Anniversary Cake skilfully created by Kelly Logan, mum of Zoe Logan in Kindergarten - it was delicious to eat as well!



Sue Bills, third from the left, and Alison Shoobridge, fourth from the left, cut the cake with Kinder students Grace Campbell, Left and Airlie Pyke, right, while Year 12 students Clio Anderson Garwood, Left, and Eleanor Ransley, Right, watch dressed in the 1930s uniform.

Jessica Watson Sails Into Fahan



Jessica Watson receives a very special book from the 2010 Kindergarten class.

Jessica Watson proved how much of an inspiration she is during a visit to Fahan while on her Australian tour to promote her book *True Spirit*. This 17, then 16, year old Aussie girl took on the world, despite many setbacks and negative feedback from critics, and during her visit to Fahan she displayed the courage, tenacity and spirit that enabled her to sail solo and unassisted around the world for 7 months.

As Jessica walked through the School on August 3, she was met by an enthusiastic guard of honour comprised of Junior School students on her way to the Octagon for a very special visit to the Kindergarten classroom.

Many of the Kindergarten class' projects this year have been inspired by Jessica's voyage, after Airlie Pyke came to class one day and informed everyone that there was a girl in a pink boat and she was sailing around the world. Kindergarten teacher, Jennifer Parsons, saw how much curiosity this sparked amongst the class and decided to develop some of the 2010 curriculum based on Jessica's voyage.

The class explored a globe of the world to track Jessica's journey, marked her arrival date on their calendar, created paintings depicting the now-famous yacht, Ella's Pink Lady, designed and built their own boats, went on an excursion to see the inside and outside of a yacht, went to see a Moth being sailed, met with a boat builder and also visited the Ships' Chandlers!

The Kinders presented their teen idol with a beautifully bound book of paintings of Ella's Pink Lady created by each student.

After visiting Kinder and answering questions from the media, Jessica made her way to the Travers Morphett Hall to give a presentation to students in Years 7 to 12 and to be put in

the hot seat with Fahan's very own Michael Parkinson, Principal Tony Freeman.

During her talk to Middle and Senior School students Jessica spoke about the challenges she faced while at sea, including loneliness, sleep deprivation, homesickness, six knockdowns in Ella's Pink Lady and of course the ever treacherous waters we are so familiar with, the seas surrounding Tasmania.

Jessica also spoke about some of the greatest moments she experienced during her incredible voyage including catching her only fish, the day a protective pod of dolphins swam by her boat as a storm was approaching, being privy to some of the most spectacular sunsets, the day she came home to Sydney Harbour and of course actually achieving her incredible dream to sail solo around the world.

Jessica answered questions from students at the end of her presentation and undoubtedly inspired our own girls to go out and attempt their own dreams. She also highlighted that she would not have been able to achieve so much without the support of her family and the sponsors who believed in her.

Fahan's Sailing Captain, Eleanor Ransley, Year 12, acted as one of Jessica's guides during her visit to the School and commended her for raising the profile of teenage sailors and showing the world what young sailors, especially young women, can do.

After her talk, Jessica signed copies of *True Spirit* and was gracious and generous in posing with fans for photos. The event was a wonderful success made possible by Kate Campbell and the team from Dymocks Bookstore Hobart.



Tony Freeman is star struck, posing with the teen hero.



Deputy Principal Rosemary Sargison also poses with Jessica.

International Sailors

Jessica's visit came at the same time as three of Fahan's own sailing heroes were in Puck in Poland to represent Australia at the International Cadet World Championships.

After 6 months of grueling training around Hobart and also at camps in Victoria and South Australia, the Australian team achieved great success, competing in a light wind regatta of 80 boats from 14 countries. Teamed with brother Alec, [Samantha Bailey](#), Year 7, finished third overall while [Ella Connor](#), Year 9, and [Hannah Chadwick](#), Year 5, finished ninth overall in their very first international regatta.

The three girls should feel exceptionally proud of their achievements at a world level.



Sailing champs L-R, Hannah Chadwick, Samantha Bailey and Ella Connor in their team jackets with Sam's trophy.

Around the School In Brief



Arts Chair and Vocalist, Lucy Nichols, holds the Rowallan Trophy.

Fahan Wins Rowallan Trophy

The ever outstanding Fahan School Senior Vocal Group performed at the Hobart Eisteddfod Highlights Concert on Saturday July 31.

After an exceptional performance, they were awarded the Rowallan Trophy for "the most outstanding vocal performers at the Hobart Eisteddfod".

Congratulations to all those who participated at this event for your remarkable achievement.

The school is looking forward to next year's event



Rosie Downie, Year 12, and Grace Richardson, Year 11, earn important points for Fahan at the Aggregate Cross Country.

On August 2 this year, the **Fahan team won the Girls' Aggregate Trophy at the Southern SATIS Cross Country Carnival** held at the Pontville Equestrian Centre. This is the first time since 1988 that Fahan girls have won the trophy and all participants should feel very

proud of this extraordinary achievement. After months of dedicated training, it is great to see such an outstanding result, particularly from such a small school. Yet again, Fahan girls have set a high standard in 2010. Their excellent team effort is highly commendable.



Jarrah Floyd and Alice Killalea with a Jogakkan student.

Year 6 students enjoyed a visit from 14 students from the Tokyo Jogakkan Primary School this Term.

Students participated in a range of cultural activities such as Ikebana, traditional tea ceremonies, dressing up in kimonos and



A traditional tea ceremony in action.

dancing. In return, our Year 6s hosted jewellery making classes, scavenger hunts, art classes and visiting native animals.

Many students loved the host family experience and we hope the Jogakkan/Fahan relationship will continue in years to come.

A New Girl's Perspective: Cara Swan, Year 12

Cara Swan is from Victoria and only came to Fahan this year as a Year 12 boarding student. While most people would consider the move to a new school during the final year of secondary education difficult, for Cara the transition has been an easy one and has made her wish she had been a Fahan Girl sooner.

"What I find most appealing about Fahan is the variety of subjects you can take and the small class sizes are a big plus. I love the classes I'm taking that are directing me right into my future. The relationship I have with my teachers is like a friendship and the one on

one help is amazing.

Fahan differs from my previous school in the way it is much more family-orientated. The best thing about Fahan is the people who make the school what it is.

Coming from Victoria I have to say that I love Tasmania because I sail and it's a great place to sail. Living in the Boarding House has been so much fun and has given me the ability to look after myself and appreciate what people do for me.

I'm very proud to be a Fahan girl!"



Cara Swan, Year 12

Around the School In Brief

Yokohama Eiwa Visit



Jordan McGinty and a Yokohama sister at Richmond

In July and August students from our sister school in Japan, Yokohama Eiwa, visited us for their summer break. Four girls enjoyed home stays with our Japanese language students.

The team of enthusiastic 'day hosts' made sure their visitors experienced a range of different classes, extra-curricular sports and other activities.

Fahan's decade long relationship with Yokohama Eiwa is a valuable connection for our students. Fahan students have the chance to make life long friends, experience another culture first hand and have opportunities to use their language skills.

We hope to receive Yokohama Eiwa students long into the future.

Athletics Carnival



Bec Wood sails over the high jump at the Athletics Carnival.

On Wednesday August 18, Fahan girls ventured to the Domain athletics centre for the House Athletics Carnival. Despite the true winter bitter cold, everyone performed exceptionally well. Commendably, the girls managed to keep up the Fahan School spirit in the face of the chill, and over the course of the day a number of previous records were broken in a show of outstanding athletic achievement. The carnival ended with Freycinet emerging as the winner, with Franklin claiming second place and Fenton third. Congratulations to all the girls for a fantastic day.

House Debating



An animated student v staff debate during debating week.

House Debating Week was again a successful affair, as topics including Harry Potter and vampires were explored and argued to the highest of standards! The staff exhibited an unconditional love of technology as they took the affirmative side for the argument, "Computers should replace teachers in the classroom" in the student/staff debate. The week resulted in victory for Franklin. However, there were no losers this year, as everyone performed equally well and had as much fun as their peers. This year's success has set a high benchmark for House Debating in 2011.

Junior School Book Week



Year 6 girls in an explosion of characters from beloved books.

The longest-running children's festival in Australia, Children's Book Week, is a much-anticipated event in the Junior School calendar at Fahan. This year's theme, Across the Story Bridge, was celebrated with usual enthusiasm.

Children from Pre-Kinder to Year 6 were invited to celebrate by dressing up as their favourite character from a book or fairy-tale. Characters were carefully researched and costumes patiently planned. Trolls, wizards, fairies and pirates paraded in the T.M Hall before joining together to share a magnificent cake, provided by Birgitta Browning.

The Octagon Musical

This year, the Octagon children performed *A Fairytale Frenzy*, a musical combining classic fairytales and nursery rhymes. Characters like Snow White, The Old Woman who lived in a shoe and Humpty Dumpty ruled the stage as rising stars donned colourful costumes.

The children succeeded in demonstrating the magic of their favourite fairytales after weeks of practice and rehearsals. They also thoroughly enjoyed their time on stage, as Rosie's words will attest: 'it was the best moment of my life!' This level of entertainment is something that the children at Fahan relish, and it is a tradition that will hopefully bring just as much fun and colour to the school's stage in years to come.



Some of our Year 2 stars in *A Fairytale Frenzy*.



Hey nonny, nonny, Year 9 and 10 Drama students rehearsing.

Much Ado About...

On Thursday August 19 the Year 9/10 Drama class presented their production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The matinee performance in the packed South Room Studio, attended by staff and students, was a great success! The cast performed with energy and enthusiasm despite their nerves! Some comments from the show were: "there were some surprising performances," "some of the girls have great voices," "the performers had such great focus". The evening show was just as successful with parents and friends really enjoying the students' performances in the new South Room space. We look forward to presenting more theatre in the future.

Je T'aime France!

With no Fahan trip to Europe for many years, this May, 12 wonderful French Language and History students from Years 10 and 11 signed on for an unforgettable journey in France.

After an exhausting flight to Dubai and then Paris, we were met by our coach driver at Charles de Gaulle airport and driven to our hostel in the 14th arrondissement, a few kilometres south of the CBD. We defeated jet lag by getting out in the sun and going to see the incredible churches of Sainte Chapelle and Notre Dame.

Over the next 3 days we visited the Place du Tertre and Sacré Coeur in Montmartre, Arc de Triomphe, Seine (via a Bateau Parisien), Tour Eiffel, Louvre, Jardin des Tuileries, Place de la Concorde and Musée d'Orsay. We also caught up with former Fahan student, Clare Mearns, who is working as an Au Pair in Paris, and did a little shopping in Galeries Lafayette and the Forum Les Halles, a huge underground shopping centre of 4 levels. We traveled on the metro (Mlle Lutzow's skills in deciphering the Metro maps were invaluable here), and our last day in Paris was spent out at Versailles Palace. Our feisty but brilliant guide, Marie-Christine, led us through the gorgeous gardens and taught us the code for understanding the thousands of art works inside the palace.

We left Paris and headed south to the Loire Valley. We were based in the very old city of Tours, which allowed us to visit two of the



Intrepid travellers from Fahan explore the French streets.

best examples of royal châteaux – Chambord and Chenonceau. The girls will not forgive us for failing to mention the inspirational young chocolatier, Benoît, who we met in Amboise and who was so passionate about his craft, showing us how to really savour chocolate. Nor could we ignore the beauty of Leonardo Da Vinci's house (Manoir du Clos Lucé).

We went on to Bretagne and the pirate town, St Malo. We loved the walled town with medieval laneways (and macaroons). Our next stop was the fascinating cathedral on a rock just off shore in Normandie – Mont St Michel.

Our next few days were in Normandie and Picardie, exploring France's military heritage. First to the site of the World War II D-Day landings at Omaha Beach and the American cemetery and then on to Caen and the Museum of Peace. We saw where Jeanne

d'Arc was burnt at the stake in Rouen, and Monet's house and gardens in Giverny. Then we moved to Albert in the Somme and the site of the most intense fighting of World War I. We were very interested in Pozières, where more Australians died in battle than any other site in the world, and Villers Bretonneux where the Australian Battalions took the town from the Germans on Anzac Day 1918.

Finally, exhausted but buzzing, we bid a sad farewell to France. Two weeks had felt like four, embracing each full day, knowing how lucky we were to have this opportunity. Our whole-hearted thanks go to the girls for being such marvelous company and such good ambassadors for Fahan. Our next trip to France will be in May 2012 – see you then!

Holly Lutzow and John Williamson (Teachers)

Fintona and Fahan

Fahan enjoys a history of various student exchanges with our sister school, Fintona, stretching back to the 1940s. However, this is only the fourth year that we've held a culture swap program, where Fahan students in Year 9 travel to the big city of Melbourne for a week of art and culture and then the following year, when the girls are in Year 10, their Fintona sisters travel to Tasmania for a week of history and outdoor experience.

So on May 9 this year, 20 of our Year 9 Fahan girls packed their suitcases and crossed the water to stay with Year 9 students from Fintona in the big smoke of Melbourne.

During a week full of new experiences, the Year 9s went up the Eureka Tower, learnt how to handle the tram system, attended parties, visited the Sports Museum, China Town,



Year 9s meet in Melbourne for a week of cultural delight.

Cathedrals, and went to the theatre to see what has been described as the highlight of the trip, FAME the musical live on stage!

Meanwhile, back in Tasmania on May 4, it was our current Year 10 girls' chance to host their sisters from Fintona. The visitors went with their hosts on ice skating expeditions, walked along Tasmanian beaches and of course went to Salamanca Market. The Fintona girls also



Year 10s rekindle friendships in the bush.

enjoyed a Port Arthur visit before bussing to Mt Field to meet their Fahan sisters for a camping extravaganza. The girls learnt about the native flora and fauna, went hiking up the mountain and discovered how difficult it is to erect a tent.

The friendships forged by our Year 9s and rekindled by our Year 10s are a wonderful reminder of the success of this program that we hope to continue in the future.

Featured Alumni: Alice Bennett (Class of 1995)

Alice Bennett's record says that she left Fahan in 1995. However, she has never really left the school, returning time and time again in her capacity as an award-winning photographer to capture various projects for Fahan and members of the School's community.

After graduating from Year 12 Alice went on to further study, first at the Southern Queensland Institute of Tafe (SQIT), where she undertook a Diploma of Photography and then to the Australian Institute of Professional Photography where she completed a Masters of Photography. She now runs her own business, Photography By Alice, where she has worked as a professional photographer for the past 12 years.

The path to success has been paved with hard work. At times Alice worked every weekend in summer and all the week days in between. By continuing to take on personal projects she reminds herself why she fell in love with photography in the first place. She says her favourite part of the job is showing people their wedding or family photographs.

"It is easy to forget how much images mean to people and when I show a mother the perfect image of her child, or a couple an image that captures the essence of how they felt on their wedding day... there is simply nothing like it."

Alice has also created a beautiful collection of books including *Africa*, a self published book about her own travels through the continent, *Country Houses of Tasmania*, a coffee table book published by Allen and Unwin featuring the beautiful historic mansions throughout Tasmania and of course the incredibly successful Fahan cookbook, *Under the Tree*.

Alice says she has always loved photography and the passion is certainly a family trait – her father is also a professional photographer. She fondly remembers being at school and helping him capture the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Races from aeroplanes. This was so exciting that she knew no other career could ever be as fun.

Alice credits her time at Fahan, in particular her study of Art, History, Literature and Geography, for shaping her career by developing her love of travel, travel photography and her passion to create books about the history of early Tasmania. However, she says one of her favourite parts of school life was developing a series of incredible friendships amongst the



Above, Alice in a pensive moment, photograph by Emily Strating. Below, a photo by Alice of Fahan rowers demonstrating their skill.



close-knit Fahan Community. Alice is very proud of her friends' accomplishments saying,

"One of my best friends, Jo Clennett, is in finance, Lucy Doerner is in advertising, Misha Johnson is a doctor, Selina Frankcomb has travelled the world and done all sorts of things, Annabel Fowler is a lawyer and Jo Morris and Sophie Edwards are now teachers at Fahan."

Alice's advice to current Fahan Girls is to find what they truly love to do, saying,

"If you love what you do, you will always be good at it."

Alice is now working on a new book, as

well as continuing to photograph countless weddings and portrait shoots. She is also busy with wedding arrangements of her own as she is marrying her fiancé, Tom Gray, in February 2011 and might possibly be looking for a good photographer!

Examples of Alice's stunning work are on display at www.alicebennett.com.au and her images of Fahan School will be found in the new School Prospectus and Website due to be launched at the end of the year.

Contact Information
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Announcements

Births

Phillipa (Hay '92) and Chris Tziolis - Son Alexander

Jacqueline Bennett ('89) and Damien Horth - Daughter Isabel

Claire (Bendzulla '00) and Robert Morgan - Daughter Felicity

Marriages

Amy Bendzulla ('04) and Cliff Senkbell

Deaths

Mavis Fagan

Valerie Pearce (McIntyre '41)



Claire Morgan with sister Amy at Amy's wedding to Cliff Senkbell.

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.

Remembering Mavis Fagan 1911-2010



Mavis aged 21 as most of her students first knew her.

It is with great sadness that the Fahan School Community farewells not only one of its former teachers but also one of its most dedicated members, Mavis Fagan.

Having taught at Fahan in its early years from 1937 to 1946, Mavis provided a sound educational foundation for her students. She was much loved by those she taught, and the friendships she made within the walls at Fahan endured to her passing on June 18, 2010.

An active member of the community, Mavis attended many Nateby Club functions,

supported the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, made considerable contributions to Alzheimer sufferers in Tasmania and assisted greatly in the founding of the ADARDS Nursing home and the Roy Fagan Centre for ADARDS, opened in 1991 and 1999 respectively.

On behalf of the Fahan community, Principal Tony Freeman, Head Girl Bianca Johnston and Deputy Head Girls Emily Wilson and Caitlin Daley all attended the beautiful celebration of Mavis' life at St David's Cathedral on June 22. To say she will be missed is to do her an injustice; her services to both the school and the community are worthy of far higher praise.

Mavis' former student, Judith Bignell (nee Campbell), remained close friends with Mavis until her passing and said,

"I asked many friends about Mavis, our Miss Smith, and so many said that at school she was not just a teacher but a friend. Through her enthusiasm and her original approach to learning she has left us with a lasting love of the English language. She will be missed."

Our thoughts are with her sons, James, Desmond and Peter, her wider family and her wealth of friends. Mavis will not be forgotten.

Written by Jaimi-Lee Kuster who is on work experience in the Marketing and Communications Office.

Important Dates

Tuesday 21 September

Term 3 Begins

Friday 1 October

Reunion Cocktail Evening in the Barn from 6-8pm for "Toss Out" years, 2000, 1990, 1980, 1970... etc

Saturday 2 October

Alumni 75th Anniversary Lunch in the TM Hall from 12pm, RSVP essential

Sunday 3 October

Fahan School Fair 11am-2pm

Wednesday 10 November

Senior Art Exhibition Opening 6.30-7.30pm in the TM Hall

Wednesday 1 December

Year 9 and 10 Art Exhibition 5.30-6.30 in the Art Studio

Wednesday 1 December

Junior School Musical Public Performance 7.00pm in the TM Hall

Wednesday 8 December

Speech Night

Tuesday 14 December

Tossing Out Ceremony

Wednesday 15 December

Year 12 Leavers' Dinner

**FAHAN
SCHOOL**



75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
1935 - 2010

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Image of the Fahan School Grounds by Alice Bennett.