

# *fahan in focus*

Fahan Community News 2012 | SEMESTER 2 | ISSUE 2

FAHAN  
SCHOOL





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The events and activities of 2012 have been well chronicled in this, and the previous issue, of *Fahan in Focus*. You will read of the wonderful opportunities the girls have been afforded and the challenges that they have accepted. In an exciting time for Fahan, the most recent challenge has been coping with an invasion of contractors undertaking the transformation of the Main Block. This development has provoked much interest and great anticipation amongst the girls, which has more than compensated for the disruption to normal routine.

In a year jam packed with events, a particular highlight was Judith Durham's visit in August to deliver the *Travers Morphet Lecture* at the Theatre Royal. Judith displayed a genuine affection for the School, was delighted to meet many of her contemporaries and was lavish in her praise of Fahan in the media. We were also fortunate to host a visit from the former President of Timor L'Este, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, in October. Dr Horta captured the girls' attention with a moving narrative of life in his country.

The fact that the girls involve themselves so fully in the life of the School, and produce excellent results, is testimony to the spirit of Fahan. As I have mentioned previously, but feel it worth repeating, over the last five years, based on figures from the TQA, our students have achieved the highest percentage of Year 12 students gaining university entrance (i.e. matriculating) of any school in the State and also have achieved the highest mean ATAR (university enter score). In April this year, *The Australian* listed Fahan as the top school in the State based on data from the MySchool website. Fahan

was the only Tasmanian school to be listed in both the Top 100 Primary and Top 100 Secondary schools in the nation.

On the sporting fields the girls have competed with great enthusiasm, taking pride in their performances and achieving a fantastic participation rate. Recent highlights have included the Junior Girls winning the Tasmanian Schools Knock Out Athletics title and the commendable performance of the School team in placing second in the Girls' Aggregate Trophy at the SATIS Carnival in Launceston.

Similarly, the girls' accomplishments in the Arts are further testimony to their dedication and commitment. The combined concerts with The Hutchins School and the exhibitions of art by the girls in Years 9, 10 and TCE were just a few of the recent showcases of talent in this area.

I trust that you have appreciated the new format of *Fahan in Focus* this year. This has been one of the many initiatives of the Marketing Department, which has worked very hard at raising the profile of the School within the community.

The Marketing Department has also provided invaluable support to many other School events including: hosting the Nateby Club morning teas; helping the Year 12s with their Fundraising Cocktail Party; organising the Alumni Association Reunion Weekend and assisting in the promotion and planning for the biannual Parents' and Friends' School Fair.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your wonderful support throughout the year and to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

**Tony Freeman**

## 2012 CAPITAL APPEAL

**Fahan School wishes to formally acknowledge the following contributors for their generous support.**

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# Fostering community spirit

Being Head Girl requires determination, courage, humility and above all, consideration of others.

Georgia Johnston has embraced these qualities of leadership through her many duties as Head Girl. She has held the hot seat a number of times throughout the year including speaking with the media, welcoming very special guests to Fahan, attending after school social events and being the focal point among the student body.

Yet it is perhaps her fundraising efforts that deserve the loudest applause.

"Our charity work is vitally important. The Year 12 students chose to support Colony 47 for their work with disadvantaged girls and The Kidney Dialysis Centre," said Georgia, who has helped raise funds through a number of fundraising events.

A couple of those events are old faithfuls that can always be counted on to bring in money – cake stalls, socials and raffles.

"We raised \$400 selling yummy brownies and cupcakes at the Cake Stall, \$1000 at the sports themed Years 7 and 8 Social and \$1500 in our raffle," said Georgia.

Never one to simply rely on the tried and true, Georgia and her team of leaders came up with new ways to generate funds for their chosen charities.

In August, they held *Walk for Fahan*, raising \$3000. "Some of the girls completed thirty laps of the oval but Hannah Coombe and Olivia Young walked forty-two laps each."

Another new event was the Cocktail and Jazz Evening held on 5 October, with musical duo *Soul Fish* setting the appropriate mood.

"What a great night. We raised more than \$3000 for the evening, with many of the Year 12 parents attending. We also had a great turn out

from staff and some of our treasured alumni," said Georgia.

Twenty-six silent auction items went under the hammer with many items going for more than their actual value, including a signed Geelong guernsey that sold for \$300, fine artwork, a coffee machine and bottles of wine.

Some of the more popular prizes on the night might even be considered priceless.

"Brooke Mason auctioned off her talent, raising \$150 in return for surfing lessons. Sophie van Breda raised \$110 for her offer to cook, clean and babysit for one lucky family. Tom Green and Max Heerey raised \$110 by selling themselves for pure male company," laughed Georgia, keeping quiet on who won that particular bid.

Overall, the Year 12s have raised more than \$13,000 for charity in 2012. A fantastic effort by anyone's standards!



*Photos of the Year 12 Cocktail and Jazz Evening.  
Top photo: Cate Johnston, Anna McMahon and Georgia Johnston*

*Middle right: Lisa Burnell and Elise Archer MP*

*Bottom right: Liz Jack, Keryn Nylander and Georgina Renshaw (Ikin)*



The 2012 Year 12 Chairs with Deputy Principal Kathy Foster (left) and Principal Tony Freeman

# Around the School



## Student Spotlight

I met Emily Ayr at the matinee performance of *The Aristocats* and was fascinated by this Year 6 child who was so urbane and full of confidence.

Emily spends the majority of her time in Monaco with her family but each year, in July and August, she comes 'home' to Tasmania for her summer holidays and attends Fahan School.

"I hate summer and love winter, so it's the perfect solution for me," said Emily.

Emily loved *The Aristocats* and thought the girls were so talented in their roles.

"It's an amazing show. I was supposed to be involved but I came a bit late and it was too complex to get involved," said Emily who was disappointed she couldn't be part of the cast.

In addition to Monaco, Emily has also lived in Bangkok, Phuket, Hobart and France and has already decided she wants to return to Fahan for her final school years.

So what is Emily's favourite things about Fahan?

"In France, I am in a co-ed school. There are only four or five girls and the rest are boys. Here I have 22 girls I can be friends with."



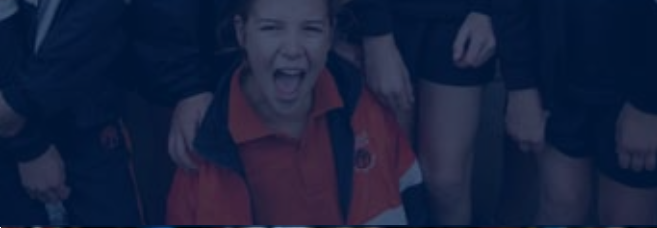
Year 1 students Molly Bradfield and Charlotte Jones enjoying some painting.



*Year 6 students were a great cheer squad at the Junior Cross Country Carnival.*



*Pre-Kinder students Samuel Jones and Zoe Fallscheer*



*Year 12 student Caitlin MacCana - like many of her fellow students spent many hours in the library in preparation for their final exams.*



*Year 1 teacher Mrs Felicity Allison (Reynolds) with students Zoe Logan and Grace Campbell*



*Year 6 students with Maggie Westbrook and her daughter Annie Isabel*



# Earth Guardians



Mikayla Johnson, Sasha Raubicek and Hannah Harding (Year 9)

Fahan School, with its heritage listed trees, beautiful gardens and sweeping vistas, has always been a green haven.

The Junior School has also cultivated green practices with its organic vegetable gardens and chicken coop.

"We are very interested in introducing sustainability within the School," said Principal, Tony Freeman.

Now Fahan has taken its 'green' philosophy one step further with a number of sustainable developments and programs.

Earlier this year, the School received \$50,000 in federal government funding to install a solar electricity system, which will supplement a portion of the School's electricity consumption.

Teachers are already making use of the system's interactive visual display, with the Year 7 Maths class using it to measure electricity consumption.

"The students are also combining Maths and Sustainability by studying paper and cardboard wastage and rainfall collection capacity," said Gary Gooley.

Adding to its sustainability programs, the School erected a large greenhouse for student use, funded in part by Natural Resource Management (NRM).

## PRESERVING BRAMPTON FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In keeping with the School's sustainability programs, twelve students took part in a volunteer program during the May school holidays on picturesque Brampton Island.

Located in the southern end of the Whitsundays, Brampton Island has long been considered a jewel in Queensland's crown. Scientists are studying the local ecology to explore the effects humans have made on the natural environment.

"The Brampton Island National Park and surrounding reefs support a vast diversity of wildlife, with frequent sightings ranging from green sea turtles to koalas in the gumtrees," said Abbey Studley, one of the Year 11 students who took part in the trip. "However, numerous issues are now threatening the overall health of the area."

Over six days, the volunteers surveyed the surrounding reefs, studied the importance of natural habitat and learned ways to promote reef health.

"We spent a lot of time clearing the beach of rubbish, especially plastics that can damage and kill marine life. We also did a lot of weeding, getting rid of introduced plant species such as woody passionfruit, snake weed, painted spurge, pink periwinkle and the cobbler's peg."

However, it wasn't all work and study. The students still had plenty of time to enjoy the spectacular natural beauty and the pristine seas, sailing across to nearby Mackay and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef.





# House Plays

At the end of Term Two I joined a number of fellow Fahan School community members to be thoroughly entertained at the annual House Plays in the TM Hall. Not only did this provide for an entertaining evening, but the whole undertaking embodied much of what Fahan School represents – its culture, ethos and values.

While the girls' many talents were on display (whether as actors, backstage or Tech Crew), it was their approach to the event that was most impressive. The quality of the scripts, the innovative themes, the high standard of acting and support from the Tech Crew were evidence of the amount of time and effort they had dedicated to this one event – even though they all had many other commitments to juggle at the time. I know the girls dedicated countless weekend hours and after-school and lunch sessions to this (regardless of the size or scope of their roles) and, for some, additional hours were spent memorising lines.

It also speaks volumes for the support they received from the staff, who allowed them to make the most of their skills and show off their creative flair. This was the girls' event and one in which they clearly relished being given the opportunity to invest their time and talents.

While an adjudicator presented awards for the best play and most outstanding performers at the end of the evening, it was obvious the girls were, while undoubtedly aspiring to be their best, just as interested in seeing each other do well.

I was impressed by the level of support they showed for one another; not just for those in their own House, but for their friends and fellow students performing in each of the three

plays. This sense of caring and camaraderie was also evident in the way the students and staff had collaborated in pulling their various performances together, with several brave teachers even taking part in the on-stage activity.

I have always appreciated the wonderful sense of community at Fahan School, particularly on occasions such as House Plays, where its power and value are tangible. Even at the close of the evening, once winners had been announced, the buzz in the TM Hall was evident, with everyone – staff, students, family members and even past students – genuinely congratulating and thanking the participants for their contribution to what was a memorable evening.

This year, my younger daughter, Stephanie, will be leaving Fahan School with the rest of her Year 12 peers. It is my hope evenings like the House Plays are those they will all remember as examples of the importance of cooperation and community, of being given and embracing opportunities, of being supported and supporting others. While Fahan's academic excellence is without question, it is these less tangible strengths that help set this School apart and provide a holistic experience for all our girls.

**Liz Jack**





# Reach for the stars



It comes as no secret that Fahan has produced some remarkable sportswomen over the years, a few even going on to represent Australia at an international level.

In May 2012, Year 9 student, Emma Keleher was recognised by the Tasmanian athletic community as a rising star when she was awarded the title of Under 14 Female Athlete of the Year.

"The other athletes nominated were really good. With such stiff competition, I didn't expect to win," said Emma who was up against girls from a number of different fields and sports. "I train with some very high achievers, some who have competed in the World Youth Championships, so winning was a really great honour."

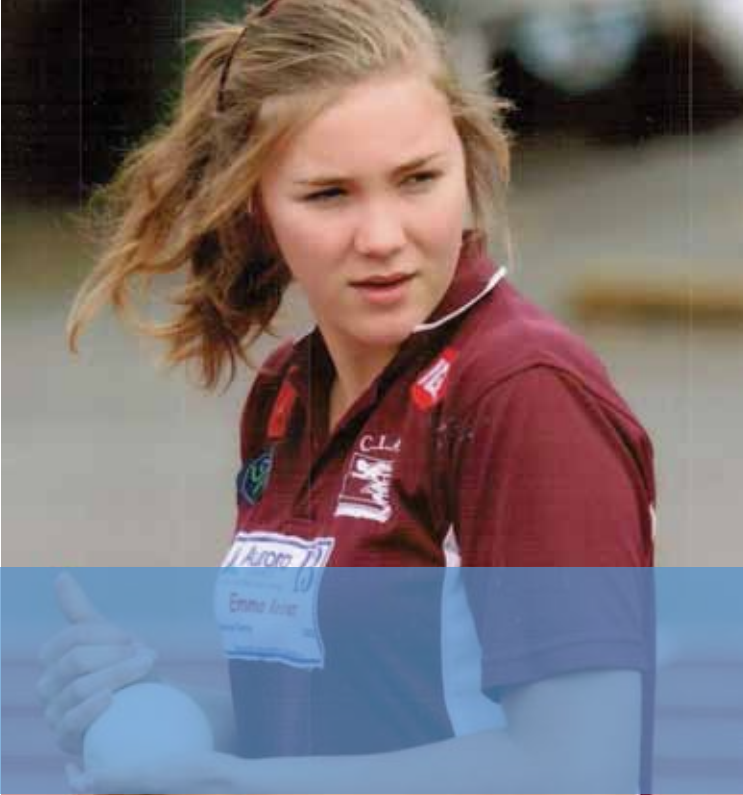
Competing at such a high level takes a lot of commitment and hard work.

"It's six days a week," said Emma. "Monday and Wednesday we practise throwing out in the field, Tuesday and Thursday are spent in the gym doing weights and strengthening exercises. I have Fridays off but very full weekends. In summer, we compete on Saturdays and practise on Sundays and in winter, we practise and compete on Sundays."

With so much time spent on training and competing, when does Emma find time to do anything else?

"It's tough juggling school and training. Most nights, I train from 5 – 7pm. I get home and have dinner. All I want to do is rest but instead, I have to do my homework. Sometimes it can be a lot of pressure."

Emma looks to her coach for inspiration. "He is so dedicated to the sport. It is such a privilege to train under him. I also look up to my training group. Many of them have become really good friends."



In terms of sporting heroes, Emma loves Australian discus thrower Dani Samuels. In 2009, at just 21, Dani became the youngest ever female world champion.

"Emma is performing at such a high level for her age," said Jarrod Gibson, President of the Eastern Suburbs Athletics Club. "She has a real advantage as she is already training with girls competing at the National level. These are the people that can help her take that next step up." Jarrod who watched Emma compete for more than five years now, starting out with her Little Athletics group.

"I have never coached her personally but she has a very bright future ahead of her. She is such a confident athlete and person. She sees what is possible and sets her goals at the highest level.

I love that she is prepared to make the sacrifices to reach her goals."

Emma credits Fahan with helping shape her as an athlete.

"Fahan is a great school," said Emma. "The teachers and staff are so supportive, especially of me in my sport. I think being at Fahan has helped me by giving me so many great opportunities to pursue my sport."

So what does Emma see in her future? Has she got her sights set on Olympic glory? "I'm not specifically aiming for the Olympics. My main goal is just to do my best and get as many personal bests as I can. I want to continue building on my performance. I would love to compete in the Nationals. After that, we'll see what happens."



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## Le belle en France



May was a big month for travel at Fahan with many families heading off on holidays. For most, the school break was a chance to escape the bone-chilling cold of a Hobart winter to unwind in warmer climes. It was also the month of school trips with twelve students travelling to Brampton Island, another nine heading to Vietnam and ten students flying to France.

Accompanied by Ms Lutzow and Mr Williamson, the girls eagerly dove into France's wonderful cultural cornucopia.

"Paris is an amazing city known for its religious sites," said Year 10 student, Lily Westbrook. From Sainte Chapelle and Sacré Coeur to perhaps its most famous cathedral of all, the Notre Dame, it is also a city known for its architectural and cultural triumphs."

"Beautiful grey and white buildings stretch as far as the eye can see," said fellow Year 10 student, Mia Williamson. "We got to see most of them on an hour-long cruise along the River Seine and from the Eiffel Tower."

At night, the group stayed at a youth hostel in Paris, having great fun at the attached disco.

"We were the only ones who went but it was great just to have a dance and talk about our amazing experiences," said Lily.

Those experiences included visiting the Louvre, walking along the Champs-Élysées, climbing the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower, visiting the Musée d'Orsay and L'Eglise Saint-Germain des Pres – the oldest church in Paris, built in 558AD.

From Paris, the group travelled to Albert in the Somme Valley, the scene of so many World War I battles.

"We visited the Australian Cemetery at Pozieres and also the little town of Villers-Bretonneux, famous for the Australians capturing it from the

Germans on Anzac Day, 1918," said Lily.

"For us, these sites gave a real insight into how terrible it must have been for the soldiers," said Mia. "Everyone found these sites so poignant. At the same time, we were very aware of the stark contrast of the horror and bloodshed of the battles with the peace and tranquility that we experienced there."

"The Peace Museum at Caen traces the events that led to World War II and the Holocaust," said Lily, who found the experience quite moving.

At Giverny and nearby Rouen, the girls experienced some of the beauty that inspired artist, Claude Monet. According to legend, Rouen is also the final resting place of Richard the Lionheart (King of England).

While the isolated beauty of Mont St Michel wowed Mia, she was just as impressed by the discovery of Spanish donuts with chocolate sauce.

From the coast, they drove through the stunning Loire Valley and visited Leonardo Da Vinci's house and garden (Le Clos Lucé) as well as the town of Amboise with its delicious chocolates and pastries.

"Château Chenonceau, in the Loire Valley, is a really feminine castle with delicate furnishings and even a mourning room," said Lily. "Chambord, on the other hand, is big, masculine and sparse with its wide, stone staircases and extensive kitchens."

The journey ended at Versailles, the magnificent palace where Marie Antoinette once lived.

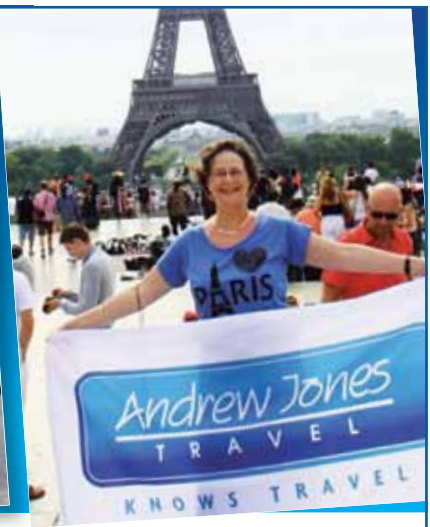
"There was so much gold, grandeur and decoration here that after our fantastic trip ended, and we were heading back to the airport, we were 'guilty' with pleasure!" quipped Mia, bidding la belle France a sad au revoir.



## Thinking of France? We've been there!

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## Challenging world views





On Friday 25 May, nine Fahan students left Tasmania to head to Vietnam for the 2012 World Challenge.

"These programs provide students with a first-hand look at a world that is very different to their own," said Principal, Mr Tony Freeman. "By being exposed to the lives of people who are less fortunate and actively participating in projects that seek to improve their lives, students become better, more compassionate global citizens."

Gary Gooley has been accompanying girls to Vietnam for a number of years and thinks the journey is a remarkable opportunity for Fahan girls to immerse themselves in another culture. They also learn to give back through volunteer work.

"Every time I have taken a trip to Vietnam for World Challenge, I've been delighted to see that the girls get more value out of volunteering than they do out of sight-seeing," said Gary.

The three-week journey started in Ho Chi Minh City before heading into the 73,000-hectare Cat Tien National Park with its tropical swamp forests filled with crocodiles, gibbons and elephants.

"We discovered who we are and found new ways of overcoming obstacles," said Sasha Roubicek.

In Hoi An, the girls spent a week volunteering at the Quang Nam Centre for the Homeless and Disabled, donating a washing machine, walker frames and wheelchairs as well as

vital medicine, food and new clothes.

"The trip really changed my perception of things for the better without my even noticing," said Isobel Dunbabin. "It made me appreciate life even more."

Jordan McGinty was humbled by the Centre's residents.

"They have so little yet are so happy. It was tough at times but at the end of the day, the challenges made it worthwhile," said Jordan.

"The World Challenge is hard work but the girls get a real sense of achievement from seeing the results and the happiness it brings," said Gary.

Elsie Anderson hopes other Fahan girls will take up the challenge and go to Vietnam. "It was one of the best experiences of my life."

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# A confit of Aristocats



Sheath your claws and preen your whiskers, Fahan School has been overrun by a clowder of kittens.

On Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 August, the Stage Crew magically transformed the TM Hall into an idyllic French setting for the Year 6 production of *The Aristocats*.

Rebecca Byfield caught up with Eilish Bremner Wojtowicz (Edgar the Butler), Meg Cazaly (Mad Cat), April Speakman (Marie) and Madeline Hill (Duchess) to ask their thoughts on a life on stage.

## So girls, what did you enjoy most about being in the play?

"I loved playing Edgar," said Eilish. "Playing the villain allowed me to show a huge range of emotions. I liked how much expression I could put into him. One of my favourite scenes was where Edgar laces the cats' milk with sleeping tablets and takes them out into the countryside on a motorbike. It was dark and I was alone on stage being completely evil. While I'm glad I didn't have to be a goody-goody kitten I was also happy to take my makeup off at the end and show people I wasn't really bad."

"I loved the night performances," said Meg who enjoyed having more time to get ready. "It was also exciting performing in front of our parents."

Madeline agrees about the night performances being a great experience. "I loved the makeup. It was so much fun dressing up as these characters. Acting really allows you to get your feelings out."

## Did any of you experience stage fright or nerves?

"I wasn't nervous in my mind but in my tummy, I did have butterflies," said Eilish.

"Not nervous so much but I did get more worried before the night performances," said Madeline.

"I was definitely nervous," said April.

## Describe your favourite scene and character.

"I loved sneaking up on Roquefort the mouse but my favourite characters were Duchess and Thomas O'Malley, the Alley Cat," said Meg.

Madeline's favourite scene was where she woke up in the woods. "I was like, 'Oh where am I? I'm not at home at all.' As for my favourite characters, well, I have two.



Duchess because she is so typically me and Cederic because he was such a funny character."

"Cederic was my favourite character too," said April. "Phoebe was really funny. My favourite scene, though, was where I fell into the river and had to be rescued by the geese."

"I know I've already said it but I really loved playing Edgar," said Eilish. "Also, most of the others were in groups but Madame, Cederic and Edgar were separate characters. A lot of times they had to be on stage alone. I also liked that people came up to me afterwards and told me that I did a great job as Edgar."

While a lot of the focus was on the action happening on stage, the girls were quick to point out the contribution made behind the scenes.

"The backstage people really knew what they were doing," said Meg. "They knew exactly where we had to stand and what we were supposed to do next."

"I think it is great that Will came and helped out with the play, especially when he lives in Melbourne," said Madeline.

"It wouldn't have been a play without the props and scenery. They really set the scene and made the play," said Eilish.

"I loved the costumes," said April. "Seeing them all together for the first time was really cool. The people who made them did such a good job. Miss Hamilton-Foster and Mrs Tremayne were really good too. They put on such a good production."

#### **So hands up who wants to be an actress when they leave school.**

Two hands instantly go up.

"I do," said Madeline. "I take drama classes after school."

"I love acting," said Eilish. "It's what I do best."

#### **Cast:**

Eilish Bremner Wojtowicz – Edgar  
Emma Brodribb – Napoleon  
Madelaine Brown – Hep Cat  
Meg Cazaly – Mad Cat  
Lily Chilcott – Scat Cat  
Jessica Cowen – Abigail  
Renee Di Benedetto – Vichy  
Phoebe Edgell – Cederic  
Meg Goodfellow – Scaredy Cat  
Ella Hickey – Lafayette  
Ella House – Slick Cat  
Jane Hickie – Madame  
Isabelle Higgins – Toulouse  
Madeline Hill – Duchess  
Grace Langmaid – Roquefort  
Breeana Maynard – Wacky Cat  
April Speakman – Marie  
Maggie Turner – Copy Cat  
Hannah Vesinger – Berlioz  
Milly Watchorn – Soisse  
Eliza Woodley – O'Malley



## **Pre-Kinder for boys and girls at Fahan School**

*In conjunction with Lady Gowrie Tasmania, Fahan's Pre-Kinder program provides a stimulating introduction to School life within a safe and nurturing environment that encourages each child's natural curiosity and sense of discovery.*

#### **Children may enrol in this program from 3 years of age.**

*Incorporating the Reggio Emilia approach to Early Childhood learning, in keeping with Fahan and Lady Gowrie's Early Childhood learning philosophies, Pre-Kinder at Fahan incorporates fun and educationally sound activities including music, art, storytelling and movement.*

*After School Care and Vacation Care Programs are also available.*

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# A home away from home



## FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE:

Imagine leaving home and travelling half way around the world to attend school in a new country with a new language. This is something Anastasia Lyudenko knows all too well.

Anastasia left her home in Vladivostok on the east coast of Russia to attend school at Fahan at the tender age of 15.

"The hardest thing to get used to was the difference in school system. Australian schools are very different to Russian schools, plus this was my first time at a boarding school. Suddenly, I was thrown into this new country with all these new people. I spoke relatively good English, having studied it since Grade 2, but it was still hard to be immersed straight into it," said Anastasia.

One of the things that Anastasia credits with helping her overcome her culture shock was the friendliness of the School.

"It wasn't just the people," said Anastasia. "The whole environment here is friendly. I was so worried about how it was going to be but people just made me feel so comfortable. The teachers were helpful and understanding when I was struggling with the language barrier, always offering a helping hand. I think that's partially why I am doing so well this year."

However, it wasn't all smooth sailing.

"One of the hardest things to get used to when I first came was having to report to Margo every time I wanted to do something," admits Anastasia. "I did rebel a bit in my first year but then I decided to embrace the restrictions, realising they were there for my protection. Years 11 and 12 are great, too, because you move up to the senior boarding house. You get your own room

and have a lot more freedom to come and go."

Anastasia has taken advantage of the chance to get to know students from other Hobart schools.

"I take a class at Collegiate and have a boyfriend who is in Year 12 at Hutchins. I have also made lots of friends at other schools through my friends at Fahan."

Anastasia has taken plenty of opportunities to explore Tasmania, spending some of her holidays with Fahan friends instead of returning home to Russia.

"One of my best friends has a farm at Bothwell. It's been pretty great going up there and riding the bikes. I've got to do all these things I would never have done in Russia."

Now in Year 12, Anastasia is on track to achieve a number of High Achievements and Outstanding Achievements in her final exams, and plans to use her marks to get into a business degree at the University of Melbourne.

"I'd really like to do a combined degree but The University of Melbourne doesn't allow them in the first year. I'll start out in a business degree and then switch to a combined degree in my second year."

So, after four years in Tasmania, where does Anastasia call home?

"Australia feels like home now. The whole reason my parents sent me here in the first place was to get me out of Russia. They thought I would have a better life here and so far that has definitely been true."



## Holiday Stay Program

One of the issues facing international families is what to do with their children during holiday periods.

"In the past, the only option families had was to fly their children home, or find alternative accommodation locally," said Fahan's Director of Residence, Margo Eckermann.

With only three terms, Tasmania had an advantage over mainland schools but that looks set to change with the introduction of the four-term system for 2013.

"We had to come up with a solution or we would lose the advantage we had," said Margo.

Margo, together with her counterparts at Hobart's other private boarding schools, had

a number of meetings and came up with the solution that works for all.

"We are very pleased to announce a holiday program that will include full accommodation, full Internet access and activities for international students," said Margo. "This will be available for all holidays with the exception of the long summer break."

Students will stay at The Hutchins School and be fully supervised by a roster of staff from across all private boarding schools in Hobart.

"This is an amazing opportunity for international students," said Margo, who believes the vacation program would also offer international students greater opportunities to make friends.

The Holiday Program will begin in 2013. For more information, contact Fahan School.

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## A fair to remember





On Sunday 14 October, the Fahan School Parent's and Friend's Association (P&F) held its biennial School Fair.

As usual, the months leading up to the fair were hectic for all those who had tirelessly dedicated their time to organising the event but P&F President, Carl Cazaly wanted to give special mention to one person in particular.

"I doubt we could have pulled it off without Gillian Vosper's dedication and leadership. She really has the ability to bring it all together," said Carl.

Gillian and her army of volunteers sifted through the piles of donated goods that came in - toys, clothes, food, drinks, arts and crafts, lucky dips, prizes, produce and plants to name just a few. They also organised the entertainment for the day including rides, live music and fashion shows.

Punters at the chocolate wheel walked away with some wonderful prizes, including a fully

catered half day cruise for 12 down the Derwent on Born Free Charters, accommodation at Jackson's Emporium in the old Cauley's Cottage in Hamilton, a Peppermint Bay cruise for two, a Kindle, \$200 in gift vouchers from Yeltuor and Tas Laser Skirmish, and a number of iPods.

However, it doesn't matter how organised people are. At the end of the day, the one thing out of everyone's control is the weather.

"What a corker of a day it turned out to be," said Carl. "One can only fall in love with the weather gods when they put on a day like they did for the Fahan School Fair."

The live music and fashion parades created a wonderful ambiance for all to enjoy.

"The Pyjama Brothers are some of the best local talent going around, and can often be seen performing down at Salamanca, and I must say, they were quite popular with the teenage girls," said Carl.

Alternating with the Pyjama Brothers was jazz

duet, Soul Fish, who parents might remember from *The Sunset Under the Sails* event at the start of the year.

"I can't think of a better way to spend a sunny, Sunday afternoon than sitting down with some Tassie salmon, a glass of bubbly and the exquisite, relaxing tunes of Soul Fish or watching some future modelling stars showcase the designer clothes from Forget Me Not and Miss Haidee," said Carl.

The day wrapped up with the ever popular Fahan Derby, with some of the School's finest stallions, mares and fillies vying for the cup.

"The one lap sprint saw the first loss ever recorded by Black Caviar but for those familiar with the Fine Cotton Affair, there might just have been something fishy going on. In all the commotion, I couldn't recall who the first place getters were," said Carl. "However, one lucky punter walked away with a few weeks' supply of Tassal salmon."



under the tree



The P&F Association is proud to present *Under The Tree* to the Fahan School Community for a special limited offer of \$30.

*Under the Tree* has been designed to have broad appeal and has evolved into a 200 page hard cover book containing 91 recipes, 186 images plus student art work. It has been professionally designed by Ian Wallace with photography by Alice Bennett.



## Order Form



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☐ Recipe Book @ \$30 ea ☐ Postage @ \$10 for up to 2 books

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Post to: Fahan School, PO Box 2090, Lower Sandy Bay 7005, Tasmania, Australia

\* CSC is a 3 digit number located on the rear of your credit card.



# Have bag, will travel



On Friday 6 July, thirty-five Nateby Club ladies braved the cold conditions to hear Holly Lutzow speak about her year backpacking around South America.

With only a 7kg backpack and her first night's accommodation booked, Holly and her partner, Joel, arrived in Santiago, Chile with very little knowledge of South America and only a handful of Spanish words.

"We took Spanish lessons before our departure, which meant we could count to ten and knew the days of the week but the one sentence we really knew was one we'd picked up from an old movie. El chancho está sobre la cama. It translates to 'The pig is on the bed'. As you can imagine, we didn't have a lot of use for that sentence."

Passing through dusty towns filled with cacti, Holly was reminded of the westerns she'd grown up watching but there were other places – quirky places – completely at odds with her prior imaginings.

"The port city of Valparaiso is colourful, ramshackle and a bit smelly. Built up and across a series of hills, you have to ride ancient, rickety lifts (ascensores) to access various parts of the town."

After Valparaiso, Holly and Joel spent about a month travelling through the lush and volcanic Lake District in the centre of the country where they discovered temperate rainforests that were once joined to Tasmania in the time of Gondwanaland.

"To our surprise, this area has a strong German influence from earlier waves of immigration, and, as sweet lovers, we were delighted to find that cake (kuchen) was a regular component of the breakfast menu."

Swapping the bus for a ferry, Holly and Joel travelled to the island of Chiloe, known for its World Heritage listed wooden houses (palafitos) and churches, as well as its unusual mythology – a mixture of ancestral religions, legends and superstitions brought by the Spanish conquistadors.

"The people of Chiloe believe mermaids, dwarves,



witches, marine monsters, and gods of the sea and earth cause floods, influence fishermen's catches, and enter people's dreams. When the missionaries arrived to convert the population to Catholicism, they found that the only way to convince the people to accept Jesus was to incorporate Him into the existing folklore," said Holly. "You find some very unusual images in the local churches, such as Jesus alongside a unicorn and a ghost ship."

Travellers to South America often remark about the patience of the local people, a trait Holly discovered had evolved out of necessity.

"Before I went to South America, I was an impatient person but now I really know how to wait."

Holly honed the art of patience in Lago Argentino.

"We decided to get off the bus to look at the turquoise water and limestone caves, then discovered all these cemeteries filled with miniature houses for the departed. Inside were curtains and framed pictures to make the afterlife more comfortable. But when it came time to catch the bus on to the next town, it didn't arrive."

The local people's opinions varied from, "Oh yes, it's coming", to "Oh, no it won't come for another week", to "What bus? There is no bus."

There wasn't enough traffic to hitchhike so Holly and Joel had to sit for two days on the gutter at the side of the road.

"A bus did eventually come. It was going in the opposite direction but we took it anyway. Puerto Tranquillo was a little too tranquil to risk missing our chance to get away."

Crossing the border into Argentina, Holly and Joel travelled down the famed Route 40 (Ruta 40), the longest highway in the world.

"We began the first of many long bus rides towards Patagonia, the region that makes up the southern-most tip of the continent. Patagonia is breathtaking - pristine, densely forested, and

dotted with glaciers and glacial lakes."

Hiking in Patagonia was the highlight of the trip.

"In Los Glaciares National Park, we scrambled up rocks to see the most stunning view of Mount Fitz Roy and visited the Perito Moreno glacier, the only one in the world that is not shrinking. We spent a week trekking in Torres del Paine National Park. Every day the scenery became more remarkable. On the final morning we awoke at 5am and hiked uphill for two hours in the dark to see the sun rise on the towers (Torres) after which the park is named."

Tired from three months of long bus trips, the couple caught a plane from the wild south to Buenos Aires, the civilised capital of Argentina. Sick of grimy youth hostels, they decided to rent an apartment.

"We enjoyed the city so much we ended up staying for two months, living in the suburb of San Telmo because we were fascinated by its history and dilapidated charm."

The early citizens of San Telmo were immigrants, mostly Italian, who yearned for far-away Europe. Their melancholy is believed to be the source of the tango, which was originally danced only by men because there were not many women in the settlement.

Today, San Telmo is home to most of the tango venues in the city.

"Joel and I attended a few late night milongas. I learnt that the dance is highly ritualised. Men sit on one side of the room and women on the other. A tiny movement of the head from a man across the room means he is asking you to dance, and all it takes is a tiny flash from the woman's eyes to accept. I must admit, I didn't get to see as much dancing as I had hoped because I was terrified I would make eye contact and inadvertently agree to dance with someone."

"Buenos Aires has the most beautiful architecture and street art but there is a dark side as well. Vast slums, the largest of which is Villa Miseria (Misery Town). The inhabitants are mostly Peruvian and

Bolivian immigrants looking for a better life. They work as cartoneros, searching through the city's rubbish during the night to find things to recycle for money."

Travelling north, Holly was amazed to see the scenery change from dry, flat pampas to lush jungles.

"At the majestic Iguazu Falls we saw capuchin monkeys, the unusual agouti and incredible butterflies."

Heading back into the desert, they passed through the town of La Rioja and came across the extraordinary story of perhaps the only indigenous tribe ever to come to a peaceful land settlement with the Spanish.

"When the indigenous people were told their chief would be replaced by a Spanish mayor, they agreed, provided they could select him. The Indians chose their favourite character from the Spaniards' special book and so it was that baby Jesus came to be the mayor of La Rioja, and that La Rioja became perhaps the only place on the continent where blood was not shed during colonisation."

"Entering into Bolivia was a little like landing on another planet. The scenery was desolate and wind-swept and everything seemed brown, except for the people, who wore such colourful clothing."

Past border wars with Chile mean that Bolivia has lost most of its mineral-rich land and its access to the sea.

"The weather is harsh, the people are very poor and many of the children have to work rather than go to school. Yet the people we met were friendly, kind and happy."

Back in Chile, Holly and Joel travelled through San Pedro de Atacama (the driest desert in the world) and viewed the Valley of the Moon (Valle de la Luna) before coming full circle back to Santiago.

"We didn't intend to end our trip where we had started but somehow we had done a great big loop."



# Happy years I spent in Hobart



On Wednesday 8 August, Judith Durham delivered the 2012 *Travers Morphett Lecture* at Hobart's Theatre Royal.

The *TM Lecture*, as it has become known, is an annual event that showcases the achievements of past Fahan students who have become experts in their fields.

"With a career spanning more than five decades, Judith Durham certainly qualifies as an expert," said Principal, Tony Freeman, who admits he is, himself, a huge fan.

As the lead vocalist of Australia's first global chart-topping band, The Seekers, Judith became Australia's first international Pop Princess, outselling *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones* and *The Who*.

The legendary song *Georgy Girl* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Song in a Movie while *The Carnival is Over* is still statistically No. 30 in the UK's *Top 100 Best Selling Singles of All Time* list.

Perhaps one of The Seekers best known songs, *I'll Never Find Another You*, has received more than 5 million YouTube hits and is still climbing.

Even the World Congress of Music Therapy in the UK recognised something special about Judith's music, acknowledging the healing power of her voice and her compositions back in 2002.

Unlike previous years, when *The TM Lecture* has been held in the TM Hall, this year's event was held at Hobart's Theatre Royal.

"We chose the Theatre Royal for two reasons," said Tony. "First, because we needed a bigger venue and second, as a poignant nod to Judith's career. In a recent media interview, Judith spoke about the first time she sang on stage – in a Fahan School musical at the Theatre Royal."

In 1967, Judith, along with the other members of The Seekers, became Australians of the Year. In 2003, Judith was awarded the Centenary Medal by the Governor General for her service to Australian society.



While Judith has achieved remarkable success in the field of music, she also works tirelessly to promote a number of charities, so much so that Rotary International invested her as a *Paul Harris Fellow* in recognition of her work on behalf of charities.

Judith is Patron of the Injured Nurses Support Group and the Small Miracles Foundation. She also supports Yooralla, International Women's Federation of Commerce & Industry, Kids Under Cover, Variety Club and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

However, one cause that is particularly dear to her heart is the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Australia, of which she is National Patron.

In 1994, Motor Neurone Disease claimed the life of her beloved husband, Ron Edgeworth.

Yet Judith said that she often wished she could give more and felt she wasn't doing enough for charity.

In delivering her speech at *The TM Lecture*, Judith commended Fahan's founders, Ms Travers and Ms Morphett, for their support of the Arts.

"We were very lucky at Fahan. Ms Morphett sang some lovely songs about Australian wildlife," said Judith, who gave an impromptu a capella rendition of the songs she remembered.

Another thing that helped shape Judith's music was her tremendous love of poetry.

Judith read out *Winter in Hobart* and *The Flower*, two poems she wrote during her time at Fahan School and was quite amused by the applause her poems received.

"I don't think I got a round of applause when I read them at Fahan."

While many of Judith's poems have become catalysts for her song lyrics, other events in her life have also helped shape her music.

"In 2003, I was touring at the Royal Festival Hall in London. I was getting packed and was quite worried about how things were going to go. The

email read 'Calm down. Breathe. Everything can wait. Email can be tyranny. Yet another thing in our busy lives. We know you're there. We know we'll hear from you when you can manage it. No worries. No rush. No problem. All in good time. It may be a cliché but it's true. Could be a song title.' She wrote that in brackets and I never like to miss a challenge. I sat with pen and paper and wrote *All in Good Time*."

Sitting at the grand piano on stage, Judith gave a beautiful and moving rendition of *All in Good Time*, along with *Happy Years I Spent in Hobart*, part of her *Suite of Australian Cities* songs.

In 1956, Judith's father took a job in Melbourne, which meant Judith left before she could be officially Tossed Out of Fahan.

After the lecture Tony presented Judith with a beautiful bunch of flowers but perhaps, more importantly, an alumni badge.

It might be fifty-six years late but it is official. Judith Durham has finally been Tossed Out of Fahan.

Top right photo: Judith Durham and Elizabeth Ingles (Daw)

Top centre right photo: Helen Stephen and Judith Durham

Top centre left photo: Georgia Johnston, Judith Durham and Bun Fu Yu

Top left photo: Judith Durham



Head Girl Georgia Johnston with Judith Durham on-stage at the Theatre Royal



# 'Gemma Crisp - Be Careful What You Wish For'



Gemma and MTV VJ Ruby Rose



Gemma and Master Chef winner, Hayden Quinn

When Fahan Alumna Gemma Crisp (Class of 1994) received an email from well-known book publishers Allen & Unwin asking if she'd ever thought about writing a novel, she first thought they'd sent it to the wrong person. "I think I read it at least five times before I realised it was for real," she recalls. "My next thought was, 'When am I going to find the time?' As editor of *CLEO*, my job was full-on, so it was a big commitment. But it was impossible to say no."

Gemma developed her love of books and magazines while growing up on a sheep farm out past Richmond in the prehistoric days before the Internet. It wasn't until she was living in London some years later that she realised she could get paid to write about mascara, relationships and celebrities (not necessarily all at once!).

"While I loved studying English and creative writing at Fahan and received the Dux of English prize at the end of Year 12, it never really occurred to me that I could make it a career. Even when I was the editor of the School magazine, I was still focused on getting a 'proper' job when I left school so I studied International Politics and French at the University of Tasmania. But while I was in London, spending a fortune and many hours devouring magazines, I decided to give it a crack. And the rest is history."

After acing her first magazine internship, Gemma moved to Sydney and has spent more than a decade working for some of Australia's glossiest magazines, including *New Woman*, *Girlfriend*, *OK!*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Bride* and *NW*. Her first editorship was at teen bible *DOLLY* before landing in the editor's chair at *CLEO*, where she spent her days dealing with wannabe Eligible Bachelors, wrangling celebrity publicists and attempting to craft the perfect coverline.



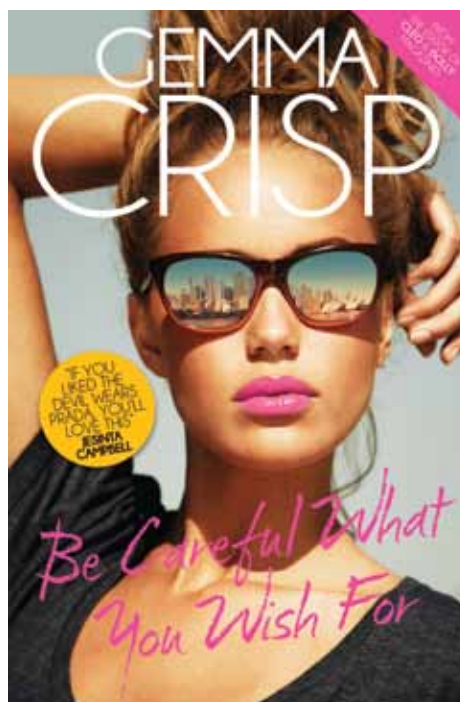
"If someone had told me back in my Fahan days that I would edit two iconic Australian magazines and publish a novel, I would have thought they were delirious. But it just goes to show that anything is possible!"

Gemma has now given up the *CLEO* editor's chair and is about to move to London again.

Her first novel, *Be Careful What You Wish For*, hits bookstore shelves on 19 December, just in time for Christmas.

Fahan School has a few copies of *Be Careful What You Wish For* to give away. To secure a copy, simply tell us with which teacher did Gemma study Twentieth Century History.

Send your answers to [communications@fahan.tas.edu.au](mailto:communications@fahan.tas.edu.au)



When Nina Morey gets her perfectly pedicured toe on the first rung of the highly-competitive magazine publishing ladder, she can't believe her luck. Then she lands the hottest man in town AND her best friend relocates from the other side of the world to help her paint the town neon pink. Nina's life has suddenly turned from dull to dream come true. Soon she's scaling the magazine ladder faster than you can say 'Anna Wintour', securing dream job after dream job, while schmoozing her way around Sydney's hottest spots. Life is good. What could possibly go wrong? Strap on your highest heels for a fast-paced peek inside the glossy world of the Australian magazine industry.



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## Catching up with old friends



"It was fabulous to be reunited with my own class, many of whom I have not seen for 20 years. They haven't changed one bit! It was also lovely seeing the girls in the year groups above me, many of whom were at Fahan around my big sisters' time. The funniest part about that was I still view them as the 'big girls' now. Being a Fahan Alumna gives you membership into a unique club – a club filled with amazing women who have filled their lives with diverse experiences. It would be difficult to find a room across Australia or the world that could lay claim to so many successes, all stemming from the same educational foundation. Whether you loved or disliked school, returning to Fahan is an uplifting experience, even if the smell of the science labs still makes your stomach churn!" Phillipa Tziolis nee Hay (Class of 1992)

"The most emotional moment was walking into the science labs and smelling that unique smell, which hasn't changed in 30 years. We took a group photo in the lab where my mum taught us biology all those years ago! I came home feeling a wonderful sense of peace that came from reconnecting with, and reflecting about, my past." Juliet Behrens nee Bedding (Class of 1982)

"Some people have stayed friends over the years but others of us have had little or not contact for a very long time. I was one of those who'd had little or no contact in that time, so it was a revelation to find out easily we all mingled, exchanged 'news', laughed and remembered stories. We encouraged people to send in their autobiographies with an up-to-date photo so we can put together a little booklet to send out." Robyn Colman nee Flux (Class of 1972)



Members of the Class of 2002 enjoying their welcome back to Fahan

Middle left photo, L to R: Sama Colquhoun (Johnson), Tamar Karakulahian, Jane Dillon, Eliza Tierney, Hannah Hopper (Pavitt), Nina Dickson, Chloe Edgell, Rachel Brown (Walker), Elizabeth Wood, Claire Hebbard, Rebecca Fullerton, Nicola Challen (Beauchamp), Nikki Breheny, Phillipa Tziolis (Hay), Martine Voss (Siltman), Anna Farmery (Griggs), Alison Voss (Grace)



"Honestly, the highlight for me was sharing a table at the High Tea with the leavers from 1952. Heidi and I were amazed at how these ladies had managed to keep in contact and stay such close friends for 60 years. It was fascinating to hear their school experiences, and to share our own stories with them. It was a perfect example of how the friendships you form at school can last a lifetime, and I certainly hope mine do! Obviously, everyone has very busy lives, with study, travel, work and

family commitments. This means we rarely get to see each other, and often don't keep in contact at all. The annual reunion is a chance for everyone to get together and catch up as a group, and is also one of the events that emphasises Fahan's traditional values." Alison Graver (Class of 2007)



## Pride of Fahan Alumni Awards

Fahan School Alumni Association President, Ms Kathryn Thomas, recently presented the second Pride of Fahan Alumni Awards at a Senior School assembly.

The Pride of Fahan Alumni Award replaces the Fahan Alumni Bursary program and grants students in Years 7-12 up to \$500 to pursue their dreams.

Year 9 student, Samantha Bailey, has been sailing for more than seven years at state, national and even international events, representing Australia at the World Championships in Holland, Argentina and Germany.

Samantha plans to use the award money to attend more interstate training camps and regattas.

Year 11 student, Emily Renshaw, was the other recipient. Emily, who would like to become a pilot with the Australian Defence Force, plans to use the \$500 to assist with training, both with a flight simulator and an instructor.

Emily wants to show the wider community that younger generations are able to show respect to the institution of defending one's country and that younger generations are still inspired by acts and roles Australia has played in history. Emily hopes to continue Australia's tradition of great sacrifice and bravery.



Class of 2007 leavers Alison Graver and Heidi May



# Catching up with old friends



Members of the Alumni hockey team at the Alumni vs Student hockey match



Alumni vs Student hockey match

## *'Just do it and have a go.'*

Kate Newton (Balfour-Ogilvy), 1982

"The highlight for me was the Sports afternoon. I arrived at the gym, having just discovered a speech thanking Margaret Causon, a guest speaker at my last Speech Night, in the inside pocket of my blazer. The hockey game against the Year 12s brought back all those wonderful Fahan memories that I have about sport and participation that I still hold onto now, and encourage my children to do the same. 'Just do it and have a go.' It was peculiar to think I could wear my old green tracksuit after 30 years and play alongside my dear friend, Jane Barker, and feel I was 17 all over again, although the photos do show we have aged, just a little. I just loved chanting the old School war cry and singing the Fahan School song, after all those years. The reunion is important to connect. Just do it and enjoy everyone and everything." Kate Newton nee Balfour-Ogilvy (Class of 1982)

## 2013 Fahan School Alumni Reunion

The 2013 Reunion Weekend will be held in October. The following Class groups will be invited to come back to Fahan School and celebrate:

1943 - 1947, 1953 - 1957, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993, 2003, 2008, 2012



*Class of 2011:  
L to R: Rosie Battaglene,  
Courtney Micklejohn,  
Louisa Illingworth,  
Grace Ellis,  
Maggie Saunders,  
Stella Weston-Smith,  
Elli Hopkins*



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# 30 years of Gerdy Jevtic Awards

## Gerdy Jevtic

The Gerdy Jevtic Medal is presented to an Alumni or member of teaching staff who has brought honour to Fahan. In 2012, we recognise 30 years of Gerdy Jevtic winners. To celebrate, we will look back over past winners and see what they are doing now.

If you are a previous winner, or know someone who is, and would like to be featured in *Fahan In Focus*, please contact us on [communications@fahan.tas.edu.au](mailto:communications@fahan.tas.edu.au) or 03 6225 1064.



### 1993 Winner – Peri Buckley Class of 1978

Peri received her Gerdy Jevtic Award in recognition of her career as an International Hockey Umpire, in particular, her umpiring of the women's hockey final at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"Being recognised with this prestigious award was a huge honour," said Peri, who credits Fahan with instilling the belief in herself to be confident on the big stage.

In 2006, Peri retired from hockey umpiring, having officiated 163 international games over twenty years, moving into the role of Technical Official for the sport.

"I was one of the ten International Technical Officials appointed to the Women's Hockey at the London Olympics," said Peri.

Peri encouraged current Fahan students to grasp opportunities when they are present.

"Be prepared to ride the highs and lows. Remain focused to achieve your best every day."



### 1989 Winner – Diana Nettlefold (Hood) Class of 1952

When Diana left Fahan, she had no idea she'd be back within eighteen months teaching art to the students she had previously sat alongside in class.

"It was strange teaching people the same age as me but I did love teaching," Diana said. "I had complete control in the art room."

In the early 1960s Diana moved from teaching into TV, working as a stringer for Channel 9 News in Launceston and Devonport. In 1967, Diana returned to Hobart and began work on *Outdoor Games*, a series of short films capturing children playing different types of games.

Diana won an ACS Golden Tripod Award for Cinematography for her short film, *Upon Reflection* and in 1974, embarked upon another short film series, *By Hook or By Crook*, starring her two sons, Stuart and Sam.

"The film was about two children accidentally left behind while their parents travel overseas and their efforts to reach their grandmother's house in the country."

Filmed entirely in Tasmania, *By Hook or By Crook* screened nationally and internationally and won a string of awards including the Adelaide Film Festival for Children, the Sydney Greater Union Award for Fiction and the Tehran Film Festival.

In 1989, Fahan awarded Diana the Gerdy Jevtic Award for her services to Tasmania's film industry.

"I had no idea I was winning until they called my name and, even then, I thought I had just won another art award," said Diana. "I'm terribly proud to have won but still a little baffled as to why."

After winning the award, Diana went on to make *de Vil's tas Mania*, her one and only foray into feature films. It was an amazing achievement, given it was one of only a few movies to be made in Tasmania without government funding or influence.

What advice does Diana give to current students?

"Keep some of the old school ethics. They will serve you well in life."



### 1994 Winner – Barbara Fowler (Campbell) Class of 1943

When Barbara talks of wanting world peace, it is much more than empty words. She puts her money where her mouth is, or in Barbara's case, her thread.

In 1977, Barbara founded the International Highland Spin-In. The main aim of the Spin-In is to create a friendship ball from threads donated from around the world.

"We want to create a ball big enough that the fibres will reach around the equator and link all peoples and cultures," said Barbara.

This year's ball was started in June and already has 16325.74 metres of thread from around the world including 12383.62 metres of wool, 2173.80 metres of acrylic and 720.88 metres of cotton.

Some of the more unusual fibres include camel's hair, chair cane, dental floss, dog hair, flax, moorit, possum fur, rami, shoe laces, tent string and wire.

In 1994, Barbara was chosen for the Gerdy Jevtic Award for her work with the Spin-In as well as her fundraising efforts for cancer, for which she received an Order of Australia Medal.

"I was so honoured to receive the Award and felt I couldn't possibly have deserved it as well as an OAM," said Barbara. "I guess many of us feel the same way. Humility was one of the principles about life that Miss Travers and Miss Morphet inducted us with."

Now in its 35th year – and her 87th year – Barbara is still going strong, collecting thread, joining them together and blogging about her experiences online.

"I would encourage future generations of Fahan girls to have a goal to achieve and to never give up."

## Previous Winners

1982 – Margaret Cormack - Past teacher  
1983 – Juliet Behrens (Class of 1982)  
1984 – Antonia Miller – no information  
1985 – Beryl Kimbe Leske (Class of 1945)  
1986 – Robyn Nevin (Class of 1959)  
1987 – no winner  
1988 – Winifred Curtis – Past teacher  
1989 – Diana Nettlefold (Class of 1952)  
1990 – Margaret Davies (Class of 1962)  
1991 – Marlene Lette – Past teacher

1992 – Rachel Young (Class of 1987)  
1993 – Peri Buckley (Class of 1978)  
1994 – Barbara Fowler (Class of 1943)  
1995 – Sally Poncet (Class of 1970)  
1996 – Elizabeth Whitehouse (Class of 1967)  
1997 – Kim Boyer (Class of 1965)  
1998 – Jacqueline Elliot (Class of 1956)  
1999 – Helen Waterworth (Class of 1973)  
2000 – David Keeling – Past teacher  
2001 – Patricia Giles (Class of 1938)

2002 – Posie Graeme-Evans (Class of 1968)  
2003 – Justine Bamford (Class of 1943)  
2004 – Elizabeth Thornton (Class of 1966)  
2005 – Zehra Naqvi (Class of 1991)  
2006 – Neroli Ellis (Class of 1978)  
2007 – Kathryn Thomas (Class of 1978)  
2008 – Helen Geard (Class of 1988)  
2009 – Helen Crowley (Class of 1980)  
2010 – Alice Bennett (Class of 1995)  
2011 – Dr Catherine Robinson (Class of 1993)  
2012 – Georgina Renshaw (Class of 1981)



### 1992 Winner – Rachel Young (Miller) Class of 1987

In 1992, Rachel had just started her PhD in Pharmacy at the University of Tasmania when Mrs Alexander, the then Principal at Fahan, nominated her for the Tasmanian Young Achiever Awards.

"I was named winner of the Science and Technology section and then later that year won the Gerdy Jevtic Award. It meant so much to be remembered and recognised by the Fahan Family even after finishing school years earlier," said Rachel.

Rachel completed her PhD, focusing on anaesthetic drug interactions and uptake in cardiac surgery.

In 2003, Rachel started with the Department of Human Services, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Complex Authorities Branch as a Pharmacist Adviser.

"This role involves assessing applications for highly restricted (due to expense) pharmaceuticals prescribed for a range of acute and chronic health conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis and breast cancer," said Rachel.

Rachel turned down a lucrative offer to work in research and development for a large pharmaceutical company in Sydney, preferring the lifestyle in Hobart.

"We made this decision for our family and I'm really glad because now my daughters can attend Fahan and have the same opportunities I had at school."

"I encourage current students (including my girls) to work hard and the rewards and opportunities will follow. Then you are in the fortunate position of choosing what you would like to do."



### 2008 Winner - Helen Geard Class of 1988

Since leaving Fahan, Helen has been actively involved in community programs, something Helen says she learned from her family.

"I began volunteering as a child with my family at different events," said Helen, who was awarded the Gerdy Jevtic Award in 2008, in recognition of her services to the community.

Helen has held a number of important positions in the community including Chief Commissioner (Board Chair) of Girl Guides Australia, Natural Resource Management Facilitator for the Southern Midlands Council Landcare Unit, President of the Tasmanian Landcare Association, Chair of the Agfest Field Days for the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania, Board member for Greening Australia, Councillor for the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, Member of the Midlands Tree Committee, and active member of the Claremont Uniting Church.

"I was both honoured and surprised to win the Award," said Helen, who proudly records the Award on her CV. "Who knows, it may lead to new opportunities in the future."

So what words of wisdom would Helen impart to current girls at Fahan?

"The world is full of overt and subtle ways that try to ensure you conform and spend money on material things. Seek to find what is genuinely important to you and hold on to your values. That knowledge is important and will allow you to make good decisions and pursue your dreams."

## Births

Zoe de Givenchy nee Couper  
(Class of 1994) and Olivier de Givenchy  
welcomed son Louis Alexandre Philippe

Kirsten Maclean  
(Class of 1993)  
and Thomas Hambley  
welcomed daughter Hannah Rachel

Hannah Hopper  
(Class of 1992) and Sam Hopper  
welcomed daughter Sybilla Esther,  
sister to Eleanor and Harriet.

Melita Eames nee Miller  
(Class of 2002)  
and Nigel Eames welcomed son Harry John.

Meg Archer nee Huxley  
(Class of 1999) and Thomas Archer  
welcomed son William McRae Alexander Archer.

## Engagements

Felicity Mulcahy  
(Class of 2005)  
to Brenton West

## Marriages

Kirsten Maclean  
(Class of 1993)  
married Thomas Hambley

Zoe Couper  
(Class of 1994)  
married Olivier de Givenchy

## Deaths

Alison Diprose nee Chappell

Taryn Milinkovic nee Frohmader  
(Class of 1982)

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