

# *the* SOUBEIRAN

*and KOGU newsletter*



KAMBALA

BI-ANNUAL MAGAZINE  
WINTER 2015



*Courage is a virtue of the mind and heart  
and is shown in small ways as well as large.*



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# from the principal

*Debra Kelliher*

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Our theme for this edition of *The Soubeiran* is 'courage'. This theme was chosen as it is one of our Kambala values and also because 2015 marks the centenary of the Anzac landing at Gallipoli. We wanted to salute the courage of those men and women who participated in Anzac and other conflicts, in the defense of Australia and democracy. Kambala contributed to World War I in a number of ways – Old Girls played their part as army nurses and members of the Red Cross, and Kambala school students knitted for soldiers and provided funds to the War Fund instead of hosting their annual picnic.

Courage is demonstrated in our daily lives in peace as well as war. Courage is a virtue of the mind and heart and is shown in small ways as well as large. It takes courage to learn: imagine being four years old in Prep and learning to read – it's a brave thing to do; it takes courage to perform as our students do in Music and Drama, Debating and Speech. It takes courage for staff to try new things – witness our History faculty this term leading History Week with different activities every day, organising a huge range of learning experiences for students across the Senior School. It takes courage for parents to set boundaries for their children – knowing they will face tension and also knowing it is the right thing to do for the sake of the growth of the child. It takes courage to change old habits, to stand up for good and be a 'still small voice' for honesty and reason. Our students show this in their concern for social justice and their actions for the sake of others.



When we chose courage as a Kambala value, we asked students what they thought it was. They said:

- ◆ "It's when you're afraid of something and you believe in yourself that you can do it."
- ◆ "It's when you have that little bit of bravery."
- ◆ "It's when you stand up for what you believe in and what you want and nothing can stand in your way."
- ◆ "It doesn't have to be rock climbing it can just be being at school and trying something new."
- ◆ "It's going into things with an open mind – even if someone says 'that's really boring'."

As the late author Maya Angelou said, "One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest."

Our students seemed to recognise the essential importance of courage as they spoke about it. I enjoyed the freshness and wisdom of their observations.

# kambala parents' association welcome cocktail party 2015

The Kambala Parents' Association (KPA) annual Welcome Cocktail Party was once again a success.

This year the Kambala festivities were a little different with the inclusion of a noodle themed market. After two days of pouring rain, we feared that our best-laid plans for an alfresco celebration may not come to fruition but on the morning of the party the sun came out. In the evening lanterns lit up the historic Tivoli Forecourt and the delicious smells of Asian delicacies wafted from the variety of stands in the marketplace. Trays of noodles, starters, satay, and stir-fry on mobile stalls, weaved amongst the guests offering them opportunities to taste all that was on offer. As parents and staff enjoyed the food and wine and mingled with one another they were also entertained by renowned live gypsy jazz band *George Washingmachine*. This provided a perfect backdrop for the Kambala community to enjoy each other's company and connect.

We extend our thanks to all the parents and staff in attendance who made the 2015 KPA Welcome Cocktail Party such a memorable evening. It was wonderful to welcome you to the new academic year. To all the staff and volunteers behind the scenes who brought this impressive event together, we commend you.

1. Katherine Mar, Sarah Box, Fiona Isaacs and Emma Burgmann.

2. Council member Ian Neal, Yvette and Tony Wassaf, Karen and Greg Plummer.

3. Pooja and Ajay Sahi, Anita and Andrew Chan.

4. Guests enjoying the Cocktail Party.





## the courageous cast of *away*

### *Tahlia Bowen (Gwen)*

*Away* is the story of three families holidaying on the coast of Australia for Christmas in 1968, whilst all battling their own family struggles. As it is a play with emotional depth, the actors were required to step up to the challenge, take these mature themes and transform them into reality on stage ... as well as board the emotional rollercoaster of the play!

Performing in front of such a large audience was a new and nerve-wracking experience for some of us and we required a lot of courage to prepare. However, once our challenges were faced with courage, we ended up having such a great time and learnt so many new things. In turn we have matured in our performance abilities and taken away with us new friends and experiences that will stay with us for all of our school years. I am so grateful for having been able to participate in this production and for getting the opportunity to perform to the Kambala community – it is something I will never forget.

### *Rosanna Scanlan (Meg)*

Every actor who participated in this performance needed courage – courage to perform in front of crowds primarily, but we also needed courage to explore the darker themes of our characters.

The play uses humour to conceal the dark truths that it presents the audience with – for example, mortality and war. We needed

courage to address and utilise these themes in order to create an empathetic performance, whilst also keeping the energy upbeat and positive.

Without the cast's courage and perseverance, this would have been an ordinary school play that dealt with humour and comedy and lighter themes, however, by being courageous in both our performance and research into our characters we produced a play that showcased Gow's darker themes effectively.

### *Beau Greig (Coral)*

*Away*, the play itself, and my experience of being in it was very emotional. It is the story of three families and their journeys and although they are all very different in their characters they all have the common purpose of self discovery. It required emotionally invested acting and also mature embodiments of these characters with such different ages and personalities to our own. I loved every moment of being in this play. With the guidance from Ms Moir (our director) and Dymphna (our choreographer), I hope I achieved the level of emotion and devastation that Coral had. I loved every moment, and I am proud of the achievements of each and every one of us.

It took courage for us as a cast to try to portray the emotion required for each scene, convincing the audience that we were feeling all of the things our characters were. It also took courage, as it always does in productions, to perform in front



of an audience with no repeats or cover-ups and no one to hide behind. It required bravery but also a trust in your fellow actors and all the work we had put into it.

*Anastasia Karageorge (Vic)*

I think the play is about three contrasting families who have two things in common – struggle and secrets. Each of the families work to overcome their troubles and when each of their paths cross, they find comfort in the fact that they’re not alone.

My character’s objective was to make the most of the time she had with her son before he died, all the while trying to make him believe he would live a full life and preventing her husband from being too over protective.

The play was a really good experience and I learnt a lot working with people who were older than me.

I was apprehensive to audition for the senior production because I had already tried out for various other plays, with little success.

I was scared I might fail or not be as good as the older kids. I overcame these thoughts and put on a brave face, giving it my best shot. Ultimately courage is what helped me score a place in the production.



1. Alexander Meades, Hope Murphy and Ruby Tilley as the Campers.

2. George Howard-White as Jim, Tahlia Bowen as Gwen and Rosanna Scanlan as Meg.

3. George Howard-White as Jim, Tahlia Bowen as Gwen and Rosanna Scanlan as Meg.

4. The ensemble plus Beau Grieg as Coral, Charles Rosanove as Tom and Ruby Tilley as the Camper.

5. Beau Grieg as Coral and Richard Frost as Roy.

*Natasha Redhill (Leonie)*

I absolutely loved being in *Away*. I know I only had a small role, but being part of something much bigger was really special to me and I enjoyed every minute!

I think Leonie’s struggle with her husband was a way to show how observant Coral was. Coral eventually managed to drag out Leonie’s deepest, darkest secret, being almost a complete stranger. Though Leonie was upset, I think throughout the play it showed how hard Coral tried to please people, and how she tried to help in her own way. Leonie is one of those people, seemingly polite on the surface, but deeply hurting inside.

I did not think the play was about one specific thing, as it had so many themes – family, love, friendship – but I think it was a deeply moving play. It was about being true to yourself and just accepting life as it comes.

Being in this play meant the world to me, as I have never really been a part of a big production, but have always wanted to. I gained new skills in my acting, proper stage acting experience and also some really amazing friends.

# revitalising the foundation

*Sarah Gregory*

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**The Kambala Foundation has been largely inactive since construction of the Music Centre was completed in 2012. This year the Council determined that the Foundation should be reinvigorated with a view to reinstating a culture of philanthropy at the School.**

We are excited that Andrew McGill has recently been appointed as the new Chairman of the Foundation. Andrew is a current parent of two girls in the Senior School with a third to commence in 2016 in Year 5. Andrew was newly appointed to the Kambala Council last year and brings more than 25 years of financial and business experience with him. His investment and business expertise within the funds management industry will be invaluable to revitalising the Foundation.

Following the development of our new Strategic Vision and commencement of planning for the future needs of the School through a Master Plan, it was only appropriate the future of the Kambala Girl of the 2020s and 2030s is sustainable – not only in an environmental sense but in a financially secure yet transformational way.

We are dedicated to ensuring Kambala is set up for success, not just for the immediate future but for many decades to come.

We are privileged to have a community which is engaged in working together to make Kambala an innovative and cutting-edge independent girls' school in Sydney. Parents, Old Girls, staff and the girls themselves have all had the opportunity to provide ideas and feedback into these plans for the future and to propose what the School should look like for the next phase of its life. These community members have readily offered their time, ideas, and experience. This has resulted in a thoughtful, dynamic plan for the future based on a vision and values that truly reflect the aspirations and ideals of the Kambala community.

In addition to this community in action, we are fortunate to have members who have shown great foresight and faith in the School and have been willing to invest in both current and future students. In May this year we received a significant bequest of nearly \$1 million from Elizabeth (Baillie) Truman '38. Elizabeth was a life member of KOGU and has stayed in touch with the School for many years. She was in the wonderful position to be able to remember

her school in her will and we are grateful for this remarkable gift that Elizabeth has given to the girls of Kambala. This reinforces the maxim "Once a Kambala Girl, always a Kambala Girl."

We have also received a wonderful pledge of support from a grandfather of the School, Mr Brian White. While Brian raised sons only, he is the proud grandfather of granddaughters and he sought out an opportunity to invest in his granddaughters' school.

He sees the critical importance of a nurturing yet challenging environment where not only his granddaughters, but all girls, could be challenged – an environment where girls could fail at times but where they could find the resilience to try again. Brian believes this foundation will prepare girls for a future where they will work beside colleagues of either gender with integrity, intellect and compassion.

Brian has seen fit to make an ongoing commitment to the School and we are extremely grateful for this generous gift. But we see that it comes with great responsibility to honour his faith and conviction in the future plans for the School and to work to ensure that Kambala is indeed a school of the future, which treasures the gifts of the past.

We look forward to the exciting prospects that revitalising the Foundation will bring to the School for now and into the future.



*Brian White, with Debra Kelliher and newly appointed Chair of the Foundation, Andrew McGill, has pledged to support Kambala.*



*Michelena McCann in the Design and Technology studio.*

## a new skate of mind

**Like many action sports, skateboarding is male dominated. It has many functions – mode of transportation, recreational activity, is an art form, and a profession ... especially for boys. It is this last point that fuelled Michelena McCann, ‘skater girl’ and Year 12 Design and Technology student, to pursue designs for female skater-wear as her major Design project.**

Michelena is working on a line of clothing and home accessories for female skateboarders as she feels it is lacking in today’s market. Currently the fastest growing action sport, skateboarding has seen a rise in the number of younger girls skating in recent years. Men, however, still have a wider range of clothing and home accessories available to them. Michelena hopes her passion for skating and design will help bridge this gap.

At Kambala we believe in preparing our girls to defy social conventions that prevent women from doing all that they aspire to. Our girls are strong, courageous and wonderful.

Michelena’s determination is a great example of this. “Skateboarding has been around for over 50 years but it’s only in the past 10 years that the representation of women in the sport has increased slightly,” Michelena said.

Targeting women between the ages of 16 and 22, Michelena incorporates graffiti into her designs as well as using ‘girly’ colours to fuse skater culture with a more feminine feel. “I anticipate that my final designs will be supported by the target market and will help females feel equal to men in the area of skateboarding, therefore helping to break down barriers,” she said.

Current research shows that female skaters often see themselves as participating in an “alternate girlhood” (Kelly, Pomerantz, & Currie, 2005). Michelena is joined by female skaters across the globe, fighting to challenge this view and give a voice to ‘skirtboarders’. By posting their stories and tricks online women are embracing sportsmanship as its own brand of femininity and breaking down the boundaries that make sports masculine.

Michelena has challenged herself to complete a range of designs for her project and hopes to be able to draw from her teachers and her research to complete her task with passion and courage. “I am sure that my passion in design will help me overcome all the problems to produce a successful design solution to the problem,” she said.

It is a testament to Michelena and her deep Kambala values that she courageously uses fashion and her passion for skating to challenge gender norms and inspire other young women to do the same by sporting her designs.

# kambala investigates the bravery of anzac soldiers

Daniella Zarfati

In commemoration of the Anzac Centenary, Year 9 students spent Term 1 investigating the courageous soldiers of World War I. Daniella Zarfati's biography of Arthur Barwick and accompanying artifact, eloquently describes the bravery of the Anzacs.

*Archie Arthur Barwick*

*Service Number: 914*

*Rank: 1st Infantry Battalion*

Archibald Barwick was born in Tasmania and was a farmer of Surveyors Creek, Woolbrook, NSW. He enlisted at the age of 24 in August 1914. He was managing a sheep station at the Rutherglen property when the war broke out and he expected a great adventure. He feared that his height of 5 foot 4 inches would make him ineligible for recruitment, so when he was accepted he was so pleased he did a couple of somersaults.

*Gallipoli*

Barwick landed in the second and third waves in Gallipoli. Initially, there was confusion when men were separated from their companies, but after four days they re-grouped on the beach. The next few weeks after that they mostly spent digging trenches. The 1st Battalion helped fight off the failed Ottoman attack on 19 May, and removed the dead during a ceasefire on 24 May. The men returned to the front line by July.

*Lone Pine (Gallipoli)*

The 1st Battalion fought for four days at Lone Pine, from 6 to 9 August, they were involved in close-quarter trench fighting, with the use of bombs, rifles and bayonets. The narrow trenches were soon filled with troops and there were constant bombings in the trenches, making it almost impossible to get the supplies for the bombs forward. The Battalion lost around 400 men in four days. The 1st Battalion left Gallipoli on 19 November 1915.

*The Western Front: Pozières*

The first major operation for the 1st Battalion was the battle at Pozières in July 1916, it caused their greatest loss of casualties in the war. The tiny village was Germany's greatest defence at the time. Approaching the front line at night, the Battalion was



1. Archibald (Archie) Arthur Barwick, 1st Infantry Battalion.

2. Daniella's artifact.

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attacked with gas shells. The advance began soon after and although it was a difficult feat, the trenches were surrendered with little defiance. The Germans retaliated with heavy artillery fire, at that time, Barwick counted 75 large-caliber shells that landed in a single five-minute period. An attack was decided upon, but on 25 July the German shelling became devastating, the trenches ceased to exist and the losses were horrific.

“The air sounded with one continuous whistle and roar from the big shells that were streaming through it ... One big shell killed no less than 15 men, they were afterwards pulled out in pieces, torn to ribbons ... They say it was one of the fiercest bombardments that has ever taken place on the Western Front.” – A diary entry of Barwick's description of the battle.

The Battalion recorded 107 killed, 375 wounded and 48 missing. In August, they returned to the front line after receiving reinforcements. At a muddy camp at Mametz Woods, on 26 October 1916, Archie Barwick was promoted to Sergeant 'in the field'.

*Gueudecourt, Demicourt, Bullecourt and Hazebrouck*

Barwick continued to fight on the Western Front, in Gueudecourt, Demicourt, Bullecourt and Hazebrouck. Barwick was wounded in Demicourt on 8 April 1917. On 6 May 1917, Barwick was transferred to the 1st Training Battalion in Tidworth, England where he worked as an instructor, training new reinforcements from Australia. He



remained there and rejoined his Battalion mid-October 1917. Later, in Hazebrouck, Barwick received a serious wound during enemy shelling, while protecting the hill of Strazelle and trying to prevent Germany's capture of Hazebrouck.

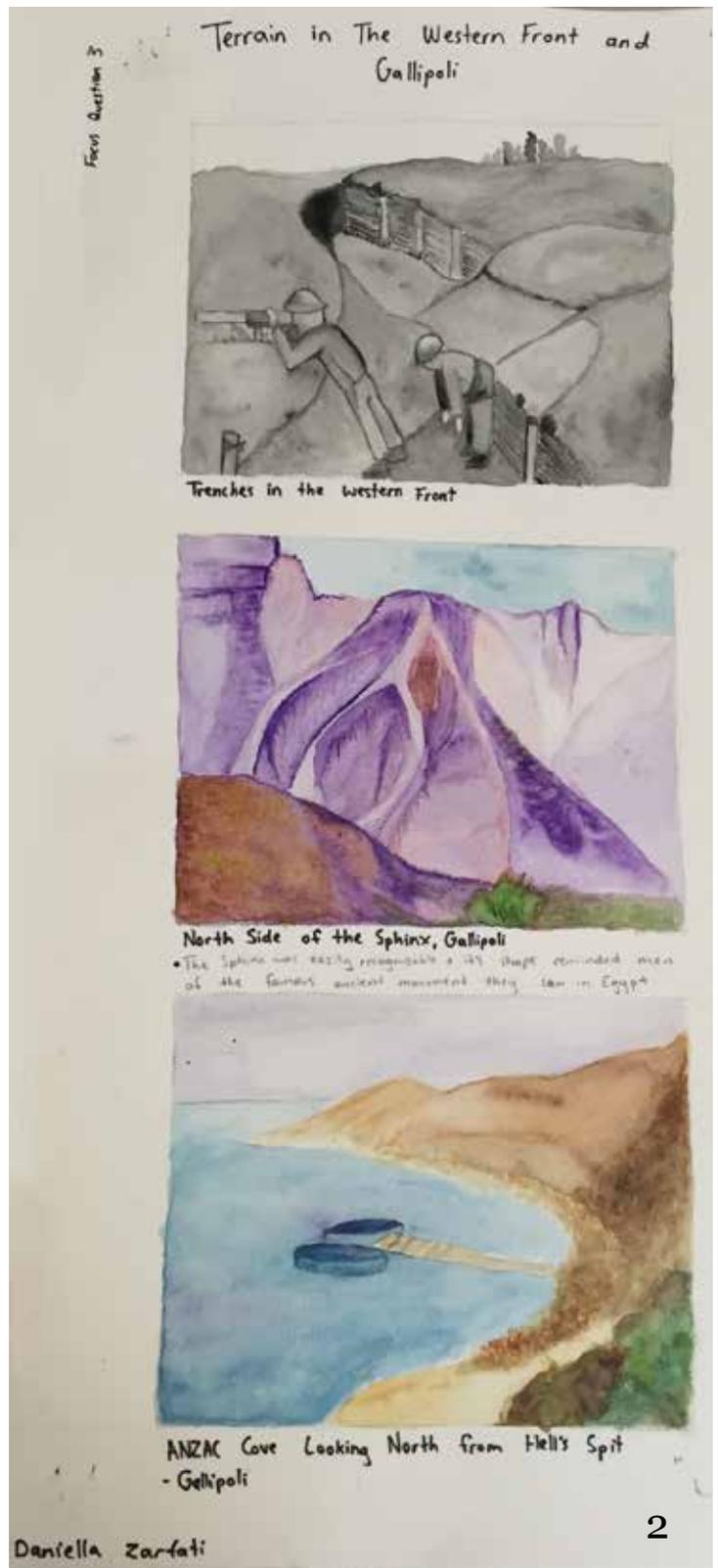
He received the Croix de Guerre while recovering from his injuries and influenza. It was announced in the London Gazette, a battle honour awarded by the King of Belgium for valour in battle. Barwick retired from war and returned to Australia on 3 December 1918.

#### *Artifact: Gas Masks in World War I*

Gas masks were used to protect soldiers from poison gas attacks from enemies, or sometimes, coincidentally themselves. These attacks were most prominent on the Western Front. Early gas masks were very poorly made as chemical warfare was not expected in World War I. A British small box respirator was first introduced in 1916. Improved, rubberised gas masks, they were the most effective gas masks in the war.

#### *Archie's Diary Entry – 5 May 1917*

“We have had some terrific bombardments and the one today is very severe ... at 7 o'clock it reached a climax. I'm hanged if you could see ten yards in front for the dust and earth raised by the bursting shells and this combined with the fumes, smoke and stinking irritating tear gas, of which they put over huge quantities, and life almost unbearable and almost certainly very precious.”



Tear gas was used to incapacitate soldiers and not used as a fatal weapon during World War I. There were no fatalities due to tear gas alone, but many other gasses caused a great number of deaths. Tear gases were first used in 1914 and were made to irritate membranes in the eyes, mouth, throat and lungs – leading to crying, coughing, breathing difficulties and temporary blindness. Some other gases that were used throughout World War I were chlorine, mustard gas and phosgene, all of which caused profuse deaths, most of them extremely painful.



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## anzac day assembly

On the grounds of Kambala stands a tree, a sapling of the original Lone Pine in Gallipoli, brought back to Australia by our Anzac forefathers. The original Lone Pine was the sole survivor of a group of trees on the battle site in Turkey known as the Battle of Lone Pine. At the Anzac Day Assembly this year, Kambala unveiled a plaque dedicated to the tree. The Anzac tree is a very special part of the School, commemorating those who fought in the Great War.

To mark the Anzac Centenary, students were encouraged to decorate a wall with notes in memory of fallen Anzacs. Not only did the wall demonstrate the historical context of the Anzac Centenary, it also represented generations uniting in honour of those who had served in war.

Mr Jack Bedford, President of Bankstown RSL Club, recited a poem about his own personal reflections. Mrs J. Elaine (Nicolson) Budd '65, an Old Girl of Kambala who served in the Royal Navy, related some thoughts and reflections on Gallipoli and war in general. Mrs Budd's grandfather and her husband's grandfather both served at Gallipoli during World War I.



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1. Bagpipers at the Anzac Day Assembly.

2. Kambala students gathered in front of the Anzac Day commemorative wall.

3. The commemorative wall.

4. Mr Jack Bedford, President of Bankstown RSL Club with Kambala student Murphy Pietranski.

5. Kambala staff member, Mrs Ingrid Holden.

## a matter of courage

Chelsea Gordon



*Allegra McCormack and Madeleine Lockhart.*

### **Congratulations to Madeleine Lockhart and Allegra McCormack who represented Kambala in the Plain English Speaking Award on Thursday 30 April.**

The Award is an inter-school public speaking competition that encourages the use of clear and effective spoken English. Entrants are required to prepare an eight-minute speech on a topic of their choice, and are provided three minutes to prepare a three-minute impromptu speech.

Allegra delivered a thought-provoking prepared speech about the ‘Super Girl Dilemma’. She challenged the audience to consider the pressure placed upon the modern woman to be “good at everything”. “And now we have the Super Girl Dilemma; one of the most dangerous ideals yet,” she said.

“In an attempt to tell our young women that they can do anything, we have set the unrealistically high standard that they must do everything. A survey released in October 2005 by Girls Inc. showed school-age girls reported an overwhelmingly crushing pressure to be ‘perfect’: to not only get straight As and be the student-body president, editor of the newspaper and captain of the swim team but also to be kind and caring, as well as please everyone, be very thin and dress right,” Allegra continued.

Madeleine also challenged the audience to think outside the box and consider the role that consumerist tactics, such as planned obsolescence, play in driving consumer spending. She used the historical example of the Phoebus Cartel:

“In the 1920s, home appliance companies were losing profits because people had no need to replace their light bulbs. So in 1924, the world’s biggest electrical companies created a set of rules called the Phoebus Cartel. The Cartel dictated the maximum lifespan for light bulbs. Before this, they lasted more than 2,000 hours and after, they were reduced to approximately 1,000 hours. It forced people to regularly buy light bulbs and doubled the sales of electrical companies.”

Shortly after presenting their prepared speeches, Madeleine and Allegra were shuffled off to prepare their impromptu speeches on the topic, ‘A new blueprint’. The adjudicator commented that both girls’ speeches were some of the best in the competition.

Congratulations to both Allegra and Madeleine for representing Kambala with such skill and poise.

*‘Everyone has a voice, you just need to find it and the courage to use it.’ – Maya Angelou.*



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# kambala music festival

*Mark Grandison*

**Each year in Term 1, all Kambala students in Years 3 to 12 gather to do something extraordinary – the Kambala Music Festival. Because this event recurs annually it is easy for us to lose sight of its uniqueness and value, and just how impressive the students’ achievements are. The night is a spectacle indeed, where we witness two contrasting attributes of the Kambala student; those of follower and leader.**

The first hour of the Festival features students in numerous staff-directed ensembles – Symphony Orchestra, Joyce Gibbons Wind Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Big Band, and the combined Years 3 to 6 Choir. This reveals an aspect of the disciplined student offering her energies and talents to a large musical venture under the expert guidance of a teacher – where the students are followers and team players. Such music-making is the source of almost all school music concerts, and were it to stop here, the evening would be simply another one of these.

But then we witness the Inter-House Music Competition, in which the girls themselves take control and become the leaders. They deftly apply the skills gleaned from their classes, ensemble rehearsals and performances to the public domain of performing arts. The venue is magnificent, but potentially intimidating. The stakes are high, with hard-won musical outcomes on show before an audience of 2,500 people. Yet it is here that the apprentices become the masters.



The way the students navigate their own internal selection and rehearsal processes leading up to the Festival is very revealing of the mature character of these girls. Most telling is the way the girls can ‘have their cake and eat it’; they can work with self-imposed discipline and rigour whilst remaining creative, engaged and inclusive. This is one of the defining features of music-making at Kambala.

House rehearsals are a robustly competitive yet genuinely cooperative enterprise. Equally importantly, there is a tradition of peer teaching occurring here, as the younger students learn so much from watching their Year 12 leaders in action. And the act of standing on the shoulders of one’s precursors has led to benchmarks lifting from year to year. House leaders and musicians ultimately execute the whole undertaking with maturity, grace and equanimity. Thus, in a nontrivial way, each House has experienced genuine success even before the concert commences.

The Year 12s began this complex and protracted process as girls, a little callow, and filled with trepidation; but they concluded it as young women, a little taller in stature, a little braver and certainly wiser.

The Music Festival is a public manifestation of that which occurs weekly within Kambala’s curricular and co-curricular musical life. For the four bands seen on the Opera House stage, there are



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another 20 ensembles rehearsing for other upcoming concerts. For the four self-directed House instrumental groups on stage, there are another 26 class-based chamber ensembles, each developing its own autonomous rehearsal and performance skills for examinations. In other words, the Music Festival is not just a glossy showpiece; it is a microcosm of the educational reality at large from Years 3 to 12. It exemplifies the heart and soul of music-making at Kambala, throughout the year and in every classroom.

This year, the overall winner was Wentworth, for the third consecutive year. This House also scooped the awards for Best Choral and Instrumental items. Margaux Dagleish won the Best Conductor Award, and Sarah Li the Best Arrangement Award. Wentworth won the Progress Award and Gurney the House Spirit Award. But, as most of the music leaders feel, the awards at the end of the evening can ultimately do little to diminish each House's triumph in so splendidly creating their own music.



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1. Elyssa Chee, Bella Campbell and Florence Lee in the Senior Orchestra.

2. Roseby House instrumental performance.

3. Kambala Big Band and Mrs Davy, featuring soloist Rachel Taylor.

4. Lily Edwards, Year 3, in the Junior School Choir.

5. Sarah Li, Year 12, receiving the Best Arrangement Prize.



*Grace McCormick and Mia French, Year 12, collecting the prize for winning the Inter-House Music Competition.*

## *from the year 12 conductors*

### *Margaux Dalgleish (Gurney House)*

The Music Festival is the most remarkable event of our school year, where each girl at Kambala unites with their House, giving their absolute attention, energy, and passion in order for their team to achieve their best.

Although there were emotional pressures, a time constraint, and technical challenges to be faced, embarking on this journey as one of the House conductors, has without a doubt been the most challenging, yet incredible experience of my life. It is an experience that has enabled me to grow as a young woman, and appreciate the opportunities given to us at Kambala that much more.

### *Anlai Wei (Hawthorne House)*

The Music Festival was definitely a highlight of my high school life. Personally, standing in front of the whole House teaching their vocal parts was not something I was really comfortable doing. But my House was extremely understanding and patient, so it hardly took anytime at all before I loved standing in everyone's line of sight.

The entire process was unforgettable. So many friendships grew stronger as we overcame all the hardships. Finally performing on the Opera House stage was definitely an exhilarating and valuable experience that I would recommend to anyone.

### *Sarah Li (Roseby House)*

The Music Festival was an invaluable opportunity to expand my musical boundaries by fostering unique skills outside of the 'curriculum textbook'. Motivated by the student-led nature of the Festival, I learnt to tackle the various challenges of organisation and mentoring, strengthening my peer interaction skills.

Despite several emotional hurdles on the journey, witnessing my House go from strength to strength towards the performance on the Opera House stage was the most cathartic and rewarding experience that I will treasure forever. Thank you Kambala Music!

### *Mia French (Wentworth House)*

I have been looking forward to the 2015 Music Festival since my first one, when I was in Year 3. I remember looking up to the conductors on stage and thinking "One day, I may be one of them."

My final Music Festival at Kambala has been a mix of stress, tears, and joy ... all built upon several months of hard work from both myself and Grace, my fellow conductor. Despite its many challenges, this whole process has pushed me to go beyond my own expectations and revel in the rewards that teamwork, courage and support can give you.

Now, looking back, I understand how special the Kambala Music Festival is, it is truly one of a kind.

# international women's day breakfast

International Women's Day is celebrated globally every year to inspire women and celebrate their achievements. It is also a day to recognise current struggles and learn how we can play a role in creating a brighter future for women and girls.

On March 6, Kambala marked this important day with a special breakfast for staff and students in Years 10 to 12. The girls were invited to bring a significant woman of influence in their lives. Guests were asked to make a donation to Lou's Place, a daytime refuge for women in the heart of Kings Cross. The event raised \$3,000.

Over 240 audience members came together to hear our guest speaker, investigative journalist and author, Kate McClymont. Kate is known for her fearless pursuit of the 'real story' and currently reports on the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. She is also the author of bestselling book *He Who Must be Obeid*, which unearthed the corrupt empire of NSW politician, Eddie Obeid. Kate is a woman who epitomises courage.

Kate entertained the audience with her wit and humour as she recounted some of her experiences as a journalist.

In her blog 'Where angels fear to tread' from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Kate said, "While there are times when I feel like an endangered species – in more ways than one – I take great comfort in the fact that I am merely following in the footsteps of a long line of distinguished journalists who were fiercely independent and courageous in their pursuit of an important story. For democracy to function it is essential that we have a free and fearless press. Members of the press may not be liked for it but if we don't shine a light on serious corruption, who will?"

In line with the 2015 International Women's Day theme 'Make It Happen' – encouraging effective action for advancing and recognising women, Kate also addressed the issue of the existing gender pay gap. She spoke of the fact that men are four times more likely to ask their boss for a pay rise and therefore four times more likely to get one. "Over your working life the gender pay gap means if you do exactly the same job as your brother he is going to earn \$1 million more than you. If you both have university degrees, he is going to earn \$1.5 million more," she said.



1. Kambala girls and their mothers at the International Women's Day Breakfast.

2. Daisy Ryan, Mia Tucker, Zoe Carolan and Alex McGuire at the International Women's Day Breakfast.

Kate addressed the need for women to step up and take action. She also reflected on how her own steely demeanour dissipates when she herself is faced with this exact dilemma. "Women tend to think if we do a good job, it will be recognised and we will be paid accordingly. Sadly, most bosses operate along the lines if you don't ask, you don't get."

Kate believes this is where the next generation has to do better. "I hope that you will be empowered to believe in yourself and have confidence in your abilities and contributions when you ask for a pay rise. If you do, believe me, you will make a difference."

During question time, Kate responded to student and parent queries with intellect and humour and in doing so communicated a clear message: "Whatever career path you choose to pursue, make sure it comes from a place of passion as where there is passion, there will be courage."

# spotlight on service

*Drew Bickford*

**Term 1 saw the Year 11 International Baccalaureate cohort engage in wonderful activities that shone a light on Kambala's continuing commitment to community service.**

Kambala's 12 International Baccalaureate (IB) Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) girls spent the first term developing individual and collaborative programs that generously reached out to persons, groups and causes. Amongst the girls there is a specific interest in environmental awareness and community engagement, with activities that speak to themes of sustainability and conservation. In particular, Natalie Norman, Nyah Willis and Emily Amland worked collaboratively, contributing to a local horticultural project at Vacluse Public School.

Each Tuesday afternoon, the girls travelled to the School's vegetable garden where they worked together with local horticulturalist, Rudi Adlmayer, to maintain the garden by mulching, weeding, planting and digging. The produce grown in the garden is part of the School's Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Project. This is a Government supported initiative where school children learn to grow, harvest, prepare and share the produce harvested to promote healthy environmental attitudes and promote sustainability.

The outdoor work was physical, demanding and certainly an opportunity for the girls to get their hands dirty. As such, the girls enjoyed the journey and the learning experiences which they shared with each other and the community. Enjoying a comfortable suburban existence in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is most definitely a lifestyle that the Kambala girls are able to enjoy. However, the opportunity to become more educated and practised at cultivating the land has seen the IB girls engage with their environment in a new way.

With the collaborative CAS project well under way, the girls are looking to extend their involvement by inviting other Kambala girls as well as other members of the community, young and old to participate. This project forms a part of the CAS Year Long Project, which requires students to look at developing meaningful and sustained relationships with community groups. The service component of the CAS course is rich and rewarding for both the students and the people whose lives they touch.



*Emily Amland, Natalie Norman and Nyah Willis.*



Kambala, as a whole school, believes in environmental awareness. Our dedicated Environment Committee is constantly developing new initiatives that recognise the importance of our natural surroundings. This drive to care for their immediate world, shows a very positive, inspiring and exciting engagement students have for the world's greatest asset.

For more information on the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Project please visit [www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au](http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au).



1. Ellie shaving for a cure.

2. Ellie with her family following her shave.



## shave for a cure

**On Tuesday 24 March Year 9 student, Ellie Burnett made the bold move to shave her long, curly, golden locks in the name of cancer.**

Ellie raised in excess of \$14,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation as part of the World's Greatest Shave. She also donated her hair so that it could be used to make a wig for cancer patients.

Inspired by the story of family friend, Lukas Buchner from her hometown of Kiama, who was diagnosed with leukaemia at age four, Ellie wanted to make a difference in the lives of other cancer patients and their families. "I saw the toll Lukas' illness took on his whole family," Ellie said.

Fortunately, Lukas is now in good health and celebrated his ninth birthday just five days after Ellie's shave. But the impact that Lukas' journey had on Ellie inspired her to find her own bravery and do something that would help other cancer patients.

"I was surprised to discover that every day, 31 Australians are diagnosed with leukaemia, myeloma or a related blood disorder," Ellie said.

Leukaemia and other related blood disorders affect more than 12,000 Australians every year. While survival rates are improving, blood cancers are still the third largest cause of cancer death in Australia.

"More money is required than any government is able to provide to fund research and enable rural people with leukaemia to access the treatment and care that is needed. If I can make a difference, I will," she said.

The money Ellie was able to raise will go towards research, which is needed to find better treatments and cures, as well as provide support to families when they need it most.

Following her decision to participate in the World's Greatest Shave, Ellie was surprised and humbled to hear a number of stories of how cancer had touched the lives of many people she knew. "I'm starting to realise that a lot of people are sharing this journey with me," she said.

## student voice

At Kambala we encourage our students to have a voice. It is important to the ethos of the School that students are empowered to contribute to their community; whether this be through a piece of art or in written communication. We are happy to share the work of two such students who have embraced this ethos. Nyah Willis courageously shares her story with us.

### *Dare to dream*

*Nyah Willis*

Art has always been a personal salvation for me. You can always find me carrying a notebook along with me jotting down ideas, thoughts and doodles wherever I am. When I was younger art it seems, had always been about creating something beautiful, and making myself happy. Yet over the years of art classes and daily doodling habits it has become something more. Each piece means something; an experience translated on paper, the paintbrush or pencil following your journey.

My works are highly inspired by my experiences, dreams and other young illustrators. Lately I have been immersed in creating works about the natural world, from the earth to the sea and all the creatures in between. I feel that we experience so many wonderful places; see so many wonderful things. How could we not share it with others?

The painting featuring two whales (pictured top left) was created recently, and is inspired by my love for the ocean. This painting possesses a certain dreamlike and imaginative quality to it as I often spend afternoons dreaming of the sea, the waves and rich aroma of salt in the air. The sea represents a place of happiness – from the laughter of little children running away from incoming waves to people lying relaxed on the sand. The whale within the work possesses a transient quality as if it's moving, and also emphasises my passion for conservation of marine life.

The girl unknown to me, also bears this imaginative quality. I often paint in blue, I don't fully understand the reason why. Although blue is usually a sad colour, to me it embodies a certain happiness within my works.



1



2

1. *Untitled I (from the 'Sea Series')*

2. *Untitled II (from the 'Sea Series')*

# the musical journey of three violinists

**Playing an instrument of any kind takes dedication, discipline and courage. Three Kambala Old Girls, Danielle (Patkin) Voyagis '03, Sophia (Cassimatis) Conomos '03 and Patricia (Cassimatis) Kastanias '04 share their journey.**

Danielle was just four years old when she started to play the violin while sisters Sophia and Patricia were aged five and three respectively. Each of them went on to receive Music scholarships and served as Prefects at Kambala.

Danielle's commitment to the violin and music itself only grew as she did. Guided by Music teachers, Mr Peter Corkill and Mr Mark Grandison, Danielle played in the Senior and the Chamber Orchestras as well as many other Kambala ensembles.

"Music at Kambala really enriched my school experience. It was such a big part of my school life and allowed me to form long lasting friendships," Danielle said.

During Sophia's music career at Kambala she had the honour of playing at the Valedictory Church Service, leading the Senior and Chamber Orchestras.

"Music has had an enormous impact on my life. Music has taught me discipline and routine, drive and motivation, patience, commitment and dedication, attention to detail, time management, leadership and team work, creativity, passion and confidence," Sophia said. "Music and Kambala have shaped who I am."

Patricia has fond memories of her musical experiences at Kambala and credits music with allowing her to develop the skills of patience, dedication, perseverance and determination.

"I found a music education to be enriching on many levels. It was an avenue to delve into history, different cultures, social attitudes across times and continents, and provided me a platform through which I could learn about and appreciate the arts more broadly," Patricia said.

"Playing music is challenging – it is intellectually and physically demanding. Playing music in front of an audience is even more challenging," she added.

For most musicians early morning rehearsals and stage fright are common hurdles to be overcome but for Danielle the obstacles were much greater. In Year 10 on the night before the Music Festival,



1. Danielle, Patricia and Sophia at a Music Recital in 1995.



2. The girls at a Soiree in 2003.

Danielle suffered a traumatic injury to her left hand, which resulted in microsurgery and a lengthy physiotherapy program to regain movement in her finger. With perseverance, Danielle overcame this obstacle and learned to play the violin again, completing three Music units in the HSC. Testament to their friendship, Sophia (a member of Hawthorne) stepped in at the last moment and played Danielle's part for Gurney House at the Music Festival.

Upon graduation, Mr Corkill arranged for Danielle, Sophia and Patricia to play at concertos and weddings together and all three joined the University of Sydney Orchestra while completing their tertiary studies there. Danielle completed an Economics degree and currently works for Telstra in Marketing. Both Sophia and Patricia are practising lawyers, having completed Arts/Law degrees at the University of Sydney and studied language and history together at the University of Athens.

Today, the girls remain close – having bonded through their shared music and school experiences.



*Mikayla and a Youth Committee member with signs for the first Genext event.*

## museum of contemporary art youth committee

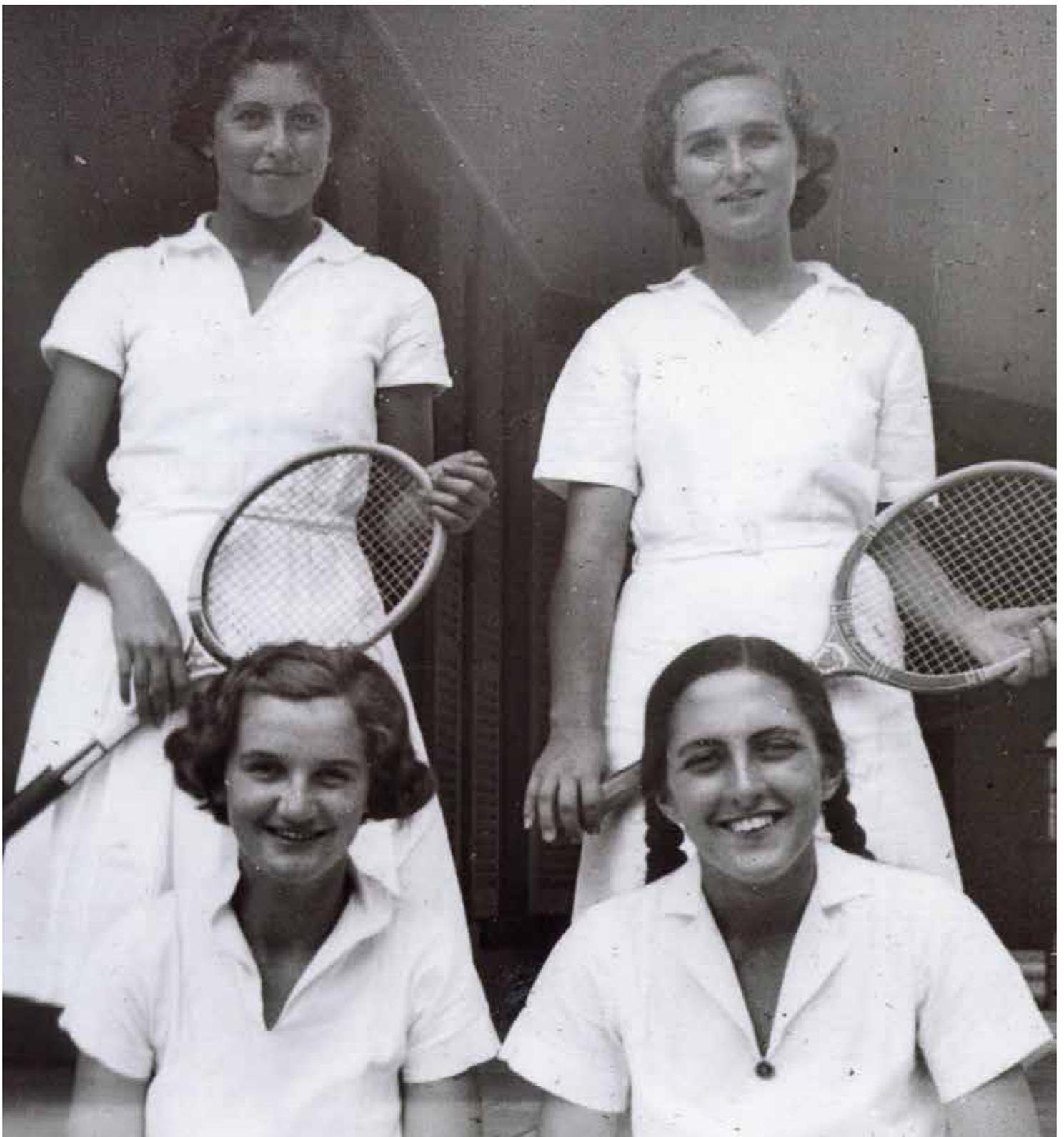
**When Year 11 student, Mikayla Chung-Gosse first heard about the opportunity to apply for a position on the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Youth Committee, her interest was instantly ignited. This presented a chance for Mikayla to connect with students who shared her passion for art and gain experience in event management.**

Each year the MCA seeks a small, yet diverse, number of students aged between 13 and 17, to join the Youth Committee. Their role is to plan, develop and coordinate activities and Genext events, for young people at the Museum. Mikayla reflects on the opportunity; “I believed I had the creativity and enthusiasm to join the committee but it still took courage to apply. Many doubts plagued me as I filled in my application. Was my event organisation experience too limited? What would the other committee members be like and would I have enough time to truly commit to the role?”

Regardless of these doubts, Mikayla pushed herself to complete the application and was soon notified that she had been shortlisted and selected for an interview. After a successful meeting, Mikayla was formally offered a position and began attending monthly committee meetings.

“Being part of the Youth Committee has been such an exciting opportunity for me. I recommend that everyone finds the courage to try out new experiences as you never know where it may lead you!” Mikayla said.

“I have met some amazing people, and now look forward to monthly meetings at the MCA. So far one successful Genext event has passed, with an attendance of over 500 people – the largest amount of people to ever attend.”



# KAMBALA OLD GIRLS' UNION

## *newsletter*

*Black and white photograph of Kambala tennis team in 1939 with Captain Diana (Hodgkinson) Page '39, Norma (Lazarus) Goldstein '41, Shirley (Biggs) Porter '41 and Pauline (Zimmer) Brown '39.*

# meet the kogu committee



**Melinda (Thew) Hudson**  
President

**Background:** HR/Recruitment, Not-for-Profits.

**KOG history:** Left in '80.

Joined KOGU in '06. Daughters Sophie '08, Emily '10 and Paige '12.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** To assist Kambala Old Girls to engage and connect and build a stronger Kambala community.



**Julie (Kelly) Reid**  
Vice-President

**Background:** Banking, IT, Project Management, Training and Marketing.

**KOG history:** Left in '77.

Joined KOGU in '02. Have held several positions including the Presidency since '11. Daughter Samui '09.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** I initially joined when Samui started at Kambala in '02 as I wanted to reconnect with the School and other Old Girls, and make the most of our experience as the parents of a day girl and a future Old Girl!



**Anne Crooks**  
Vice-President

**Background:** Law, Finance, Media, Advisory Board, Not-for-Profits.

**KOG history:** Left in '80.

Vice-President since '12. Newsletter Editor and Website/ Online Administrator.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** Reconnecting with old friends, help to change strategy and purpose of KOGU. Make school networking more valid for Kambala women.



**Antonia Murphy**

**Background:** Actor turned Casting Director.

**KOG history:** Left in '80.

Joined KOGU in '14. Daughter, Murphy, in Year 8.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** Persuaded by some friends to come to a meeting and next thing... I was all signed up! These days I like to think I may contribute to the shaping of a future KOGU that may be meaningful to my daughters when they are older.



**Jane Poole**

**Background:** Financial Services, Telecommunications, Customer Experience.

**KOG history:** Left in '79. KOG Mother Patricia (Macedougall) Poole '55, sisters Kate '84, Susie '86.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** Keen to contribute via the Networking sub-committee to strengthen the power of connection amongst Old Girls to provide support and community for career and friendships.



**Cassandra Smiles**

**Background:** Communications/ Health Policy.

**KOG history:** Left in '94.

Joined KOGU in '15. Daughter will be a future student.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** To reconnect with old friends and build new relationships.





**Grace Franki**

**Background:** Studying Arts/Law at the University of Sydney.

**KOG history:** Left in '13. Joined KOGU in '14.

**Reason for joining the**

**Committee:** I want to continue to be involved at Kambala in a way that lets me give back to a community that was, and is, so supportive.



**Annie Handmer**

**Background:** Completing an Arts/Law degree at the University of Sydney, with Honours in History and Philosophy of Science.

**KOG history:** Left in '11. Attended Kambala from Transition to Year 12. Joined KOGU in '14.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** I am deeply grateful to Kambala for giving me such a wonderful education. I enjoy giving back to the School, and I love being part of a strong community of educated and empowered women.



**Carina Martin**

**Background:** Tourism and Hospitality, currently studying Diploma of Counselling.

**KOG history:** Left in '97. Attended Kambala from Transition to Year 12, long family association. Joined KOGU in '14.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** To re-engage with the Kambala community.



**Philippa McGeoch**

**Background:** Banking, Funds Management, Management Consulting, Meat Distribution and more recently Corporate Treasury.

**KOG history:** Left in '83. Joined KOGU in '15. Sub-Committee '10 to '13. Daughter Sophie, Year 9.

**Reason for joining the Committee:** I believe KOGU has an extremely valuable role in enabling Kambala women to connect and utilise the amazing network they develop at School. With my daughter at Kambala I felt that now was the time to step up and support KOGU's ongoing efforts.



**Tracy Yaffa**

**Background:** Marketing, Media, Management.

**KOG history:** Left in '79. KOG Mother June (Hudson) Yaffa '53. Daughters Lucy '10 and Alex, current student in Year 10.

**Reason for joining the**

**Committee:** To assist Kambala build a better networking platform for Old Girls. It's time to give the Old Boys' 'club' a shake-up!



**Emily Smith**

**KOGU Representative on Kambala School Council**

**Background:** Finance, Equities Analyst, Director.

**KOG history:** Left in '96, Joined KOGU in '06. Joined Council in '11. Daughter, sister and niece of Old Girls. Daughter will be a future student.

**Reason for being a Council nominee:** Kambala is a great school, with great memories for me. I think Kambala creates independent thinkers with diverse backgrounds and skills. I believe in these values it represents.



**Patria (Harris) Mann**

**KOGU Representative on Kambala School Council**

**Background:** Former KPMG Partner, Non-Executive Director.

**KOG history:** Left in '80. Joined KOGU in '06. Joined Council in '10. Daughter Sabrina, current student in Year 10.

**Reason for being a Council nominee:** As a country boarder, Kambala helped shape my life path and provided me with many experiences and opportunities, which I otherwise might not have had.

As a Council Representative, I have drawn on my experiences as an Old Girl, parent, and my professional career to give back to the School that offered me so much. My purpose is to support Council in ensuring that Kambala continues to offer an outstanding, well-rounded education to future generations of young women.



*The gym features a modern geometric design. Visiting the gym during sports class are Debra Kelliher, Melinda Hudson and Hannah Tribe.*

## bright and light gym unveiled

Students this year are enjoying a completely refurbished gym as a result of KOGU's donation of \$50,000 towards new lighting and facility modernisation.

Designed by Hannah Tribe '93 of Tribe Studio Architects, the project was completed in March.

KOGU is pleased to be able to contribute to the improvement of the facilities at Kambala with immediate and measurable outcomes.





*Kerry Lin, Olivia Marshall, Sophie Wales, Jaya Jivan, Phil Milton, Michaela Levas, Sabrina Cheung and Lulu Kerslake.*

## year 13 enjoys music festival

Over 25 Year 13 girls rejoined the School community at the Inter-House School Music Festival, as guests of KOGU and Kambala.

Drinks in the northern foyer on a warm Sydney night, hosted by KOGU, were a highlight and the girls were happy to see several of their teachers and, of course, their Year Coordinator, Mr Phil Milton.

## kogu year 12 morning tea

Guest speaker, Olivia Lambert '12 captivated the attention of current Year 12 students at the KOGU Year 12 morning tea at the end of Term 1.

Olivia was a Prefect and House Captain of Gurney. After receiving her ATAR she was awarded a collegiate scholarship to Bond University for a double degree in Law and Property Economics and Sustainable Development. After a year she transferred to University of Technology Sydney where she is currently completing a Bachelor of Property Economics whilst working for the property firm CBRE.

“Now I remember being in the same position as you girls a couple of years ago when someone came in and gave us some tips. I’m going to be honest a lot of them I didn’t relate to because I didn’t relate to the girl giving them out. So just to remind you of how busy my life was when I was in school, I was involved in co-curricular Drama, three different types of Choir, Tildsley Tennis, I was in the 1st Soccer and Tennis teams, senior hurdle champion and private singing lessons. So, yes, I always had something going on but it seriously forced me to do my work otherwise I’d never get around to it.”



1. Cherie Tsingos and Olivia Lambert.

2. Year 12 relaxing after the Morning Tea

Olivia’s golden tips included getting enough sleep, good time management, rewarding a heavy study session with some socialising, essay planning, and the benefits of study groups.

After Olivia’s presentation the Year 12 girls devoured the amazing food, supplied by Year 12 mums Jo Belnick, Cherie Tsingos, Nikki McCathie, Deborah Chadwick and Kristina Coudoumaris.

# reunion information

## **1955**    **60 year reunion**

**When:** Saturday, 24 October 2015  
**Details:** Watsons Bay  
**Contact:** Diana Hampshire  
9371 7728 / 0407 066 109

## **1957**    **58 year reunion**

**When:** Saturday, 12 September 2015  
**Details:** The Drawing Room  
**Contact:** Gabrielle Hewison  
gailhewison@gmail.com

## **1970**    **45 year reunion**

**When:** Wednesday, 28 October 2015  
12.30pm  
**Details:** 18 Foot Sailing Club, 77 Bay Street, Double Bay  
**Contact:** Leigh Ralston  
leigh.ralston@defence.gov.au  
9389 2917 / 0400 435 699

## **1975**    **40 year reunion**

**When:** Saturday, 24 October 2015  
2.00pm to 7.00pm  
**Details:** Tour of the School followed by cocktails and finger food in the Harbour Room  
**Contact:** Sharm Yeldon  
sharm2233@yahoo.com.au

## **1980**    **35 year reunion**

**When:** Saturday, 29 August 2015  
3.00 to 5.00pm  
**Details:** Soubeiran Room, Kambala  
High Tea and for those interested a tour of the School has been organised \$50 per person  
**Contact:** Melinda Hudson  
melindahudson@me.com  
Patria Mann  
smann@bigpond.net.au

## **1995**    **20 year reunion**

**When:** Saturday, 14 November 2015  
12.00 to 5.00pm  
**Details:** Kambala – venue TBC  
**Contact:** vanessa@sequence-events.com.au

## **2000**    **15 year reunion**

**When:** Saturday, 21 November 2015  
7.30pm to 11.30pm  
**Details:** Amora Hotel  
Three course set dinner and beverage package  
**Contact:** alexandra198281@gmail.com

## **2005**    **10 year reunion**

**When:** Saturday, 28 November 2015  
**Details:** Tour of the School followed by drinks and canapes  
**Contact:** Anita Huynh  
anita.huynh@gmail.com

## **2010**    **5 year reunion**

**Details:** TBC  
**Contact:** Emily Hudson  
emhudson92@gmail.com  
Vanessa Liebmann  
vanessaliebmann@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact the KOGU office on **9398 6888** or at [kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au) if you would like to volunteer to assist in organising any of the following reunions:

**1960 55 year reunion**

**1985 30 year reunion**

**1990 25 year reunion**

## **2015 Function Dates**

Wednesday, 14 October, 6.30pm **KOGU Committee Meeting - Tivoli Drawing Room – Term 4**

Wednesday, 28 October **KOGU Vintage Lunch – Term 4**

Wednesday, 25 November, 6.30pm **KOGU Committee Meeting - Tivoli Drawing Room – Term 4**



## **Contact details**

KOGU Inc.  
Kambala  
794 New South Head Road  
Rose Bay NSW 2029  
02 9388 6888  
[kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au)



# kog networking event #6

**On Tuesday 17 March, a gathering of Old Girls was treated to three insightful presentations and a sumptuous lunch provided by Johnson, Winter & Slattery Lawyers.**

First speaker, Jane Poole '79 reflected on what had shaped her career from Finance/Banking to her current role as General Manager Customer Advocacy Implementation at Telstra.

Jane holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance/Banking and attributed her early success to the strong women in her family. She grew up “knowing the women were the smart ones.” Following time at a trading desk and stockbroking in her 20s and seeking a stronger sense of purpose she volunteered at Lifeline as a Councillor. There she learnt the importance of empathy not sympathy.

The skills and mindset from this outside work helped her career as she moved into Customer Advocacy at St George Bank and now her work at Telstra.

Jane also discussed the ‘third act’ of her career as she is currently seeking a job share structure where a better work/life balance is the aim.

Next speaker was host, Ruveni (Bandaranayake ) Kelleher '86, Partner at Johnson, Winter & Slattery Lawyers. Ruveni outlined to the audience the importance of taking risks, and touched upon women who had inspired her. An early influence was Ruveni's Modern History teacher at Kambala, Lyn Won, who inspired and motivated her to develop a love of learning. During her university

years her property lecturer encouraged her to take risks and grab the opportunities. This lesson played out when after 12 years at Minter Ellison she was headhunted. The offer on the table would mean leaving the comfort and security of an established, experienced team to start up her own division within Johnson, Winter & Slattery. Several years on, Ruveni is a partner with her own team of ten lawyers. Her pitch to the audience was “have the courage to take the risk”.

Final presenter was Jac McLaurin-Lloyd '99, Quality Coordinator at Thiess John Holland Dragados JV. Jac grew up in Cambodia and joined Kambala as a boarder. Her career journey amazed the audience. During early years her original plan was to study Pharmacy. In her words, “put on a white coat and you are credible”. Her plans were interrupted when working on a construction site during uni holidays, as this led to a change of degree, Engineering. As the only woman on many sites in her early days she believes what holds people back “are not real, perceptions can hold you back, women can do anything.” Jac has proven this in ‘spades’, managing multi-sites, across enormous road, tunnel and bridge building projects.

The event concluded with a lively discussion amongst attendees on the importance of mentoring.



1. Portia Cerny '94, Debra Kelliher and Patria Mann '80.

2. Guest speakers Ruveni (Bandaranayake ) Kelleher '86, Jane Poole '79 and Jac McLaurin-Lloyd '99.

# kambala's war years

Excerpts from Fifi Hawthorne's *Kambala: A History* paint a sobering picture of the School dealing with the onslaught of World War I.

"The year 1914 was most eventful. Mademoiselle had been very ill at the beginning of the year. Both she and Miss Gurney were advised to take a long rest to recuperate. The 'old' girls wished them a speedy return to health with the deepest affection and gratitude, but they realised that the principals would not be returning. "Wherever they may go, the example of their noble, useful and well-spent lives will always be with us." Could anyone wish for a greater tribute to her work than this?

The girls who were leaving gave a delightful motor picnic to Bayview in June, which was a double farewell as it was the last occasion on which they had the company of Mademoiselle and Miss Gurney.

The Fourth of August 1914. The appalling suddenness of war. All the thoughts and energies of the schoolgirls were diverted into new channels. The women of the nation were called upon to make sacrifices of time, labour and money for the common cause. The girls did sewing and knitting in their spare time, attended Red Cross and home nursing lectures, made contributions to the War Fund and the Belgians. Those leaving willingly forgoing the usual picnic to enable them too do so. They heard of much activity among older members of the union in forwarding the work of the Red Cross and supplying comforts for soldiers as well as sending forth their loved ones to defend our Empire."

The *Kambala Chronicle* of June 1916 further described the effect the war had on the School and its students.

"The weary war still goes on and busy fingers have to work unceasingly during minutes of spare time to keep up with the needs of our brave boys at the front. Socks, caps and mufflers are the order of the day. We are very grateful to the guiding hands which help the less skilful out of difficulties."

*Kambala: A History* noted, "This was part of the editorial after nearly two years of war. How well those who lived in a school during those days realise the implications in the last sentence. The heel of a sock was such a problem and it was the ambition of so many to rise to the heights of mastering it! Present girls and 'old girls' had brothers and husbands at the war. Kitty Sydney Jones and her sister Enid were nurses in Egypt.



1. Miss Clare Roseby, Principal, 1914 - 1927.

2. Mademoiselle Augustine Soubeiran, Joint Founder, 1887 - 1914.

The girls had weekly collections which, together with the money from their concerts, were sent to Mile Soubeiran for the French-Australia League. On Saturdays some of the older girls helped at one of the patriotic depots. On 'drawing days' Signor Rubbo, their Art Master, arrived early and made some sketches of the girls. The money he raised he handed over to Miss Roseby for the AMC fund."

Original articles on war were printed in the magazine and by special request Rupert Brooke's [poem] *The Soldier*, beginning:

"If I should die, think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is forever England."

This voiced the sentiment – the patriotism and idealism that filled the hearts of most and certainly all young people who for the first time in Australia came close to the war through their fathers, husbands and brothers being involved in the long and appalling struggle."



# my journey to a new life

Carina Martin '97

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As a child born with congenital heart disease, I was from the start a little different from other kids. Growing up my parents never allowed me to believe I couldn't do all the things kids did. I enjoyed horse riding, skiing, travelling and at school I participated in drama and sport.

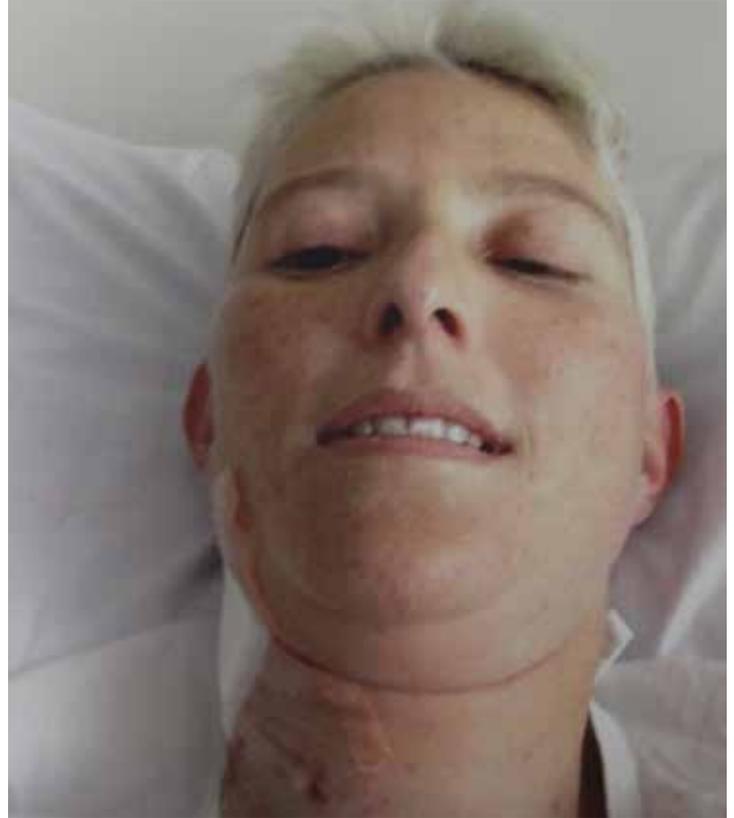


While my illness did slow me down, I made sure I participated in life as much as possible. After completing Year 12, I began a Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality, graduating in 2000. In 2002 I took off to London and Europe to work and travel for a couple of years. My health interfered again and I was admitted to hospital and had a pacemaker implanted.

In 2007 I was diagnosed with a respiratory disease, this diagnosis came with the news that I would eventually need a heart and lung transplant. This news was confronting, and it would be seven years before I was considered for placement on the list. This time was actually valuable as it allowed my family and I to digest the news and get used to the idea. This didn't mean that my life stopped, when I was no longer able to work in the hospitality industry, I began to do volunteer work with a few arts companies.

Around 2013, as my health deteriorated, there were discussions about placement on the transplant list and so began a year long process of having endless tests to prepare for consideration. I went active in August 2014. Four months later the phone call came and I was off to hospital to begin what was the biggest hurdle yet of my life!

I was lucky that the first phone call was the only one. So I was wheeled into the operating theatre after saying goodbye to the family. A mere six hours later I was in recovery and three days later I woke with a new heart and set of lungs surrounded by family, it was a very surreal feeling. The miracle of modern medicine! The recovery process began, and as the days



*Carina Martin after her surgery.*

progressed I grew stronger and was discharged 12 days later. The hospital really likes to get their patients out of hospital as quickly as possible!

The day I was discharged was the first day of the rest of my life. I am now doing great, slowly getting back to a healthy life. I've started volunteering whilst studying a Diploma of Counselling, swimming, bike riding, travelling and tennis, all the things that are going to make my life full and rich.

Throughout this whole process I prided myself on being positive but realistic – things I know I got from my parents. Friends and family were so supportive and never let me get down. I couldn't have done it without them.

# the courage of conviction

Alexandra Cameron '93

After an awkward experience of being asked to rewrite an English essay on Jane Austen's *Persuasion* Alexandra Cameron embarked on an unlikely journey to become a novelist.

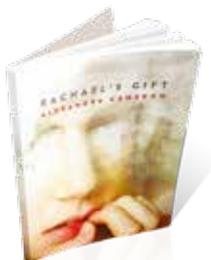


Like most teenage girls, I was desperate to be accepted, suffered from countless (mostly imaginary) insecurities and was crippled by shyness. Naturally, I felt like I was the only person on earth who ever had these feelings. We all talked about what we would do when we 'grew up'. I had a burning ambition. But I was too scared to voice mine. Become a novelist? The idea was delusional. I wasn't good enough, smart enough, I couldn't even write an essay ... I squashed the idea.

At university, I began to drop the shackles of shyness. I tried my hand at acting and learnt to ignore what other people thought. I worked behind the scenes in film and television and travelled and lived abroad. I had fun and met lots of different people, and had many different experiences – some good and some bad. I saw what people could be like. And all this time I was writing. Nothing great, just scribbles. I tried to ignore it and just not do it, but I would always end up the same – in a black hole and I had to write to get out of it. I don't want to sound like one of those people who say that writing is not a choice, it's a need, but I guess that is what it is. Why else would you spend seven years working on a project that may never receive an audience? It's crazy!

I was lucky to have my first novel published, but there's a long road ahead and I have come to realise that there will always be someone who says, 'You can't write an essay'. The trouble starts when you listen to them.

If I could go back to that English class I would have spoken up and said that *Persuasion* is about having the courage to find your voice and overcome the fear of judgment from others.



# seize every opportunity

In 2012, Genevieve George '08 was enjoying a gap year in the south of France when she faced the problem of finding casual work. She noticed that many travellers shared her predicament of how or where to find short-term employment. Her experience sparked an entrepreneurial idea to match businesses with casual workers.



On her return to Australia Genevieve started a blog, *Sneaky Shifts*, to trial her idea and shortly after founded the company, OneShift. OneShift employs an algorithm that uses the same principles of a dating site. Data is collected on preferences, location and skills to match jobseekers to employers seeking staff.

"The idea was to instantly connect candidates with businesses," Genevieve said.

"In the beginning I was employed full-time so I had to do my work after hours. I would finish work and go straight to the university to put up posters to find people seeking casual work and on the weekends I hit the streets with an iPad to sign up businesses."

"We now employ 45 staff, have more than 350,000 jobseekers signed up Australia-wide and over 36,000 businesses using the service," Genevieve said.

"My time as a Kambala student taught me to seize every opportunity you are given as you never know who you will meet, what you will learn and where it will lead you."

You just need the courage to start; to have one conversation, read one article, research one competitor or ask one question. That courage separates you from the million other ideas people have, but never act upon," she said.





## not just for men

**As Head Physiotherapist of the Cornish Pirates, Cornwall's premier professional rugby union club, Fliss (Felicity) Middleton '99 stands courageously in undoubtedly a man's world.**

Fliss attended Kambala as a boarder from 1993 to 1999. She completed her Physiotherapy degree at Charles Sturt University, Albury and then her Master of Sports Physiotherapy at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

Fliss has worked as a physiotherapist in professional UK rugby for the last five years. Two years were in Wales with Newport Gwent Dragons, during which time she travelled with the Welsh under 20s team to two junior Rugby World Cups (Italy and South Africa). In the last three years she has been with the Cornish Pirates (Penzance and Newlyn RFC) as Head Physiotherapist. In November 2014 she was also appointed Physiotherapist for the British RFU Championship XV side to play Canada.

Prior to going to the UK, Fliss worked with women's football travelling with the Matilda's to the World Cup in China and other teams to Myanmar and Malaysia.

As her proud mother Charlotte Middleton noted, "She says she has now stood on the sideline for three countries' national anthems."

"I think her career is quite unique as there are a few, but not many, women working in professional rugby at this level."



*1. Pitch side at the RFU Championship XV match against Canada.*

*2. The Cornish Pirates medical team, Fliss Middleton (centre).*

# births, engagements, marriages and deaths

## births

**Amelia Holliday '98** and her husband David Lakes welcomed their first daughter Aoife Edith Lakes on 1 July 2014. Aoife is registered to attend Kambala, joining cousins Penny (Prep) and Erina Holliday and following in the tradition of her grandmother Kerry (Scandrett) Thorn '72 and great-grandmother Joan Anne (King) Holliday '48 along with numerous aunts and cousins.

**Peita-Maree (Kazacos) Pyne '99** and her husband, Clayton, welcomed their first child, Aiden James Pyne, born on 3 February 2015, weighing 3.54 kilograms.



*Aiden James Pyne*

## engagements

Congratulations to **Katy Slack '99** and Tim Oswin on their engagement, and to their parents Juliana (Blok) '61 and Edward Slack, and Lyn and Steve Oswin, and to sister Celia '94. Katy is based in London and is a Sales Director at Citeline.

## weddings

**Gloria Borkovic '01** married Serge Vegh in July 2014. The wedding took place in Cavtat, south of Dubrovnik, Croatia. The ceremony and reception were held at Hotel Croatia. Ilana Mycock '01 was Maid of Honour. Following the wedding, the couple cruised the Croatian islands with friends, before honeymooning in Spain.

## deaths

**Roy Ellis**, aged 67, passed away in November 2014 after a brave battle with illness. Husband of Marilyn, father of Kylie (Ellis) Peak '88 and Ryan, grandfather of Annabel (Year 4) and Oscar. Roy's positive attitude, good humour and loving nature were an inspiration to all who met him and he will be sadly missed.

**Janet (Wauch) Bell '69** passed away on Sunday night 1 February 2015. She will be deeply missed by her husband Fred and loving family and friends.

**Jolene Cheung ('JoJo')** passed away on 9 March 2015 at the Prince of Wales Private Hospital, Randwick. She is survived by her daughter Daisy, husband Julian, brother Dale, mother Pam and family.

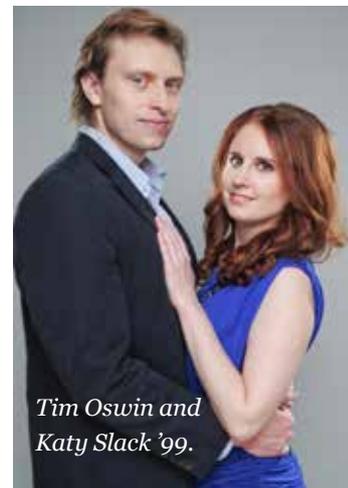
**Kay Couldwell**, devoted and long serving Sports Teacher at Kambala, passed away on 30 April 2015. In her final weeks, messages of love and shared memories flooded the KOGU Facebook page and Ms Couldwell's mailbox. They were greatly appreciated and brought her much joy.

**Patricia (Perry) Alford '45** passed away on 24 May 2015, after a long illness, aged 87. Beloved wife for 65 years of John, mother of Jan '69, Ian and Jill '76 and grandmother and great grandmother of Tracey, Vanessa, Tara, Mark, Natasha and Matthew.

**Claire (Oatley) Brockhoff '46** passed away on 7 July 2015. Dearly beloved wife of David (deceased). Loving mother and mother-in-law of Juliet (Brockhoff) Ovnerud '73 and Tom (deceased); Peter and Kelly; John and Suzanne. Grandmother and grandmother-in-law of Lucinda '01, Charles, Thomas, Camilla, Isabella '07, Jaime-Claire, Pia, William, and great grandmother of Charlotte and Henry.



*Serge Vegh and  
Gloria Borkovic '01.*



*Tim Oswin and  
Katy Slack '99.*

## correction

A correction from the last notices in *The Soubeiran*: Elaine (Patricia) (Hodge) Adair did not pass away. The notice should have read: sadly Elaine Adair late of Rose Bay passed away on 22 June 2014. Dearly beloved wife of John for 57 years, loving mother and mother-in-law of Ian and Gayle, Malcolm and Suellen (Adair) Thompson '81. Cherished Nanny of their children. Please accept our apologies for any distress this may have caused.



*One isn't necessarily born with courage,  
but one is born with potential.*





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