

# *the* SOUBEIRAN

*and KOGU magazine*



KAMBALA

BI-ANNUAL MAGAZINE  
SUMMER 2016



*“To have that sense of one’s intrinsic worth which constitutes self-respect is potentially to have everything ...”*



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# from the principal

*Debra Kelliher*

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**Respect is one of Kambala's four values, decided on by staff, students, Old Girls and parents in a consultation process we began in 2014. As a school we try to instil respect as a dynamic behaviour, apparent in the classrooms, staffrooms and sports grounds of Kambala.**

Should we, as parents and teachers, expect respect from our students, just because we are older? Respect doesn't just flow one way. It is a two-way process. We have to show respect to our students and daughters too, as the young also deserve respect. I still remember the adults who treated me with respect when I was a child: an Art teacher in Year 5 who looked at my painting of a blue bowl with serious consideration; and an English teacher in Year 11 who wrote detailed feedback on my William Blake essay. Respect for young people is important and respect means a lot to them.

At Kambala, we respect our students by taking both them, and their learning, seriously.

This means stretching them intellectually in the classroom and taking every opportunity for learning moments. Our Deputy Principal of Academic Growth, Mr Kim Tsolakis, is working with Heads of Department on the latest developments in educational practice. In the Junior School, a number of staff have completed the Growth Mindset online course, based on the work of Carol Dweck from Harvard. Our Dean of Wellbeing, Dr Tamara Lang, is focusing on the benefits of strength-based programs that provide a springboard for student growth and for stretching our existing abilities. What we want to see in our students is a passion for learning rather than a hunger for approval. We know this will strengthen their self-respect.

I want our Kambala students to feel within themselves a deep self-respect. I see it in our graduates. I love the way this self-respect leads them to generous acts of community service and giving back to the world. The writer and essayist, Joan Didion says, "To have that sense of one's intrinsic worth which constitutes self-respect is potentially to have everything: the ability to discriminate, to love and to remain indifferent ... Without it, one eventually discovers the final turn of the screw: one runs away to find oneself, and finds no one at home."



I hope that each student at Kambala finds that sense of intrinsic worth and self-respect within her. We will support her in that quest. There will be someone at home when she goes to find herself.

# appointment of new head of senior school

## Kambala has formally appointed Ms Carolyn Gavel as Head of Senior School.

Ms Gavel is already familiar with this role, having sat in an acting capacity since Mrs Jennifer Crossman's resignation earlier this year. She was also Acting Head of Senior School in 2015 during Mrs Crossman's long service leave. Ms Gavel began her formal appointment as Head of Senior School on Monday 1 August.

"I am delighted that Ms Carolyn Gavel has accepted the position of Head of Senior School. She has already demonstrated that she can excel in this role. Carolyn is a dedicated professional with a commitment to lifelong learning. An experienced education practitioner, she is able to connect with both staff and students to ensure their wellbeing and pursuit of educational excellence. I am always impressed by the respect she shows students and her genuine interest in them," Principal Ms Debra Kelliher said.

The Head of Senior School is responsible for the wellbeing, attendance and academic care of all students from Years 7 to 12 as well as the Senior School staff.

"It is important to me, in my role as Head of Senior School, that both staff and students feel valued," Carolyn commented.

"Providing opportunities for students to feel connected with their learning material and experiences is critical for them to feel they are known and valued, and to thereby build strong connections."

Having earned her teaching qualifications from the University of Sydney in 1988, Ms Gavel has been teaching since 1989. During that time, she has participated in a number of professional development activities and courses, actively promoting the philosophy of lifelong learning and ensuring her educational practice stays abreast of current theory and best practice in education.

Ms Gavel is passionate about girls' education. She believes that girls' schools have key responsibilities in the education of young women to:

- ◇ Espouse key values and an understanding of global context.
- ◇ Encourage and mentor young women in their individual quests for personal excellence.



*Ms Carolyn Gavel has formally been appointed as Head of Senior School.*

- ◇ Facilitate service and leadership experiences to help girls understand their independence, interdependence and the power of their voice in the global community.

"Successful students are those instilled with a sense of curiosity, wonder and a lifelong commitment to learning. Schools must deliver a diverse curriculum that provides learning experiences which command attention, broadening students' outlook and strengthening their resilience," Ms Gavel said.

# from the archives

*Kathryn Hillier*

The May 1928 issue of *The Kambala Chronicle*, a precursor to the School Magazine, announced, “The old order has changed.”

Kambala officially became a Church of England Foundation School in 1926 and had a new governing body, the School Council, in place by early 1927. New Principal, Mrs Flora Stewart, took office in July and made several changes in her first six months. The three Head Girls were replaced with four Prefects and one designated Head Girl. Each class had a Captain, Vice-Captain and Chronicle representative, and Houses were formed. The Senior Houses were named Roseby and Dumaresq and the Junior Houses, Gurney and Wentworth.

The Prefect positions are ones of great honour. The 1930 Chronicle indicates some of the challenges faced by Prefects as written by a Fifth Form girl, “We have the honour of two Prefects amongst us. I’m afraid none of us envy their tasks, for there are members of our Form who are great chatterboxes.”

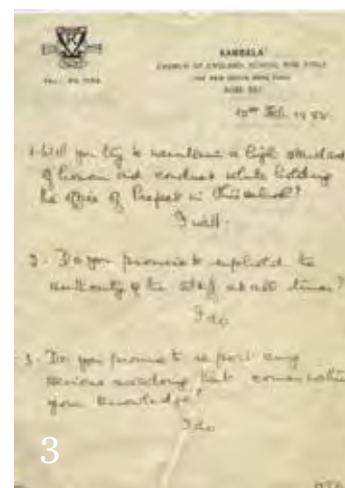
In 1933, structures changed again. Dumaresq was dropped and the Houses competed not only in sports competitions but also a competitive system for class work, examination results and conduct. Three of the Prefects were made House Captains and chose the motto and colours for their Houses. A fourth House, Hawthorne, was added in 1967.

The first record of a Prefect Induction appears in 1933. The Chronicle for that year notes, “On 14 March we held the ceremony of admitting our Prefects for 1933. We thank Mr Barder for the handsome Prefects’ board he presented.” This board can now be seen in the stairwell of the Alexander Building.

In the early years, only teachers chose Prefects. The badges were embroidered and worn on the left side of the uniform tunic. After World War II, an enamel metal replica replaced the material badges.

Prefects were expected to agree to three vows:

- ◇ To maintain a high standard of honour and conduct while holding the office of Prefect.



1. 1938 Prefects Heather Ferguson, Diana Hodgkinson, Peggy Goulston, Margaret Arnold and Sheila Williamson.

2. The first Prefect badges.

3. Miss Hawthorne’s written copy of the three Prefect vows from 1955.

- ◇ To uphold the authority of staff at all times.
- ◇ To promise to report any serious misdoing that comes within knowledge.

In 1964 their duties included monitoring the behaviour of all girls in recreation time, maintaining the tidiness of the grounds, sporting equipment, the neatness of students on their departure from school and their safety when crossing the road. In 1967, the Parents and Friends Association generously paid for a room in the Boarding House to be decorated and furnished for use by the Prefects.

We wish our 2016/2017 Prefects the grace, humility and endurance needed to carry out their duties and respect them for agreeing to serve our School.

# music tour to america

*Peter Corkhill*

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In April this year, 47 Kambala girls, five teachers, two parents and a representative from Hayes Travel Enterprises embarked on Kambala's latest Music Tour to America. The tour had a special band focus designed to learn about Jazz - where it all began.

Our first stop was New Orleans, the birthplace of Jazz. We heard so much authentic Jazz music it was mind-boggling. Sailing down the Mississippi on a paddle steamer listening to Dixieland, we learnt how Jazz is put together at the Preservation Hall, where all the greats have played. Around every corner was more unbelievable music to be heard. We then had an inspiring Gospel workshop, learning singing techniques and even how to move. Later in New York, we had the opportunity to show our skills at a real Sunday Gospel service in the Bronx.

With the opportunity to do non-musical things in New Orleans, we had Leah Chase, the iconic celebrity chef cook for us in her restaurant. We also visited the Whitney Plantation, learning about the difficult and inhumane history of slavery.

From New Orleans we flew to New York for a school exchange with Scarsdale High. They were holding their annual school fair - complete with hot dogs and lemonade. We went to a Broadway show and heard the New York Philharmonic play and following our Jazz trail, had a workshop with a member of the Lincoln Centre Orchestra. He taught us so much about the importance of rhythm. We performed at the top of the Empire State Building and at St Paul's Chapel at Ground Zero. We took in some art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and went on a Harbour Cruise to give the Statue of Liberty our nod of approval.

Then it was off to LA and Disneyland. We took part in a film workshop with a Disney conductor and recorded music for some film clips before enjoying the whole day at Disneyland! San Diego followed, with an amazing workshop with the Navy Band - who play the official events of the US Government - before finishing the day with a concert. After some shopping the next day, we returned exhausted but smiling, to Sydney.



1. A jazz workshop at the Lincoln Centre in New York.
2. The San Diego Navy Band.
3. The group in front of the Metropolitan Opera.

Many thanks to Miss Lewis, Mrs Butcher, Mrs Spencer and Mr Sagar for looking after us and a special thanks to Ivana from Hayes Travel Enterprises and Mr Sagar for organising the tour.

# honouring beautiful words

Kathryn Hillier

The Senior Drama students recently performed *Beautiful Words*, a play by the Australian playwright Sean Riley. The play focuses on the refugee experience and portrays stories of survival through the eyes of children. Staff and students share their highlights from the recent production ...

*Ms Lisa Moir, Director*

This year's Senior production, Sean Riley's *Beautiful Words*, is a play that challenges young people to think about the world we live in. The play deals with the plight of refugees and is an important reminder of the need to respect the power of empathy and friendship to nurture and connect us to each other and our collective humanity.

*Ms Christina Shin, Assistant to the Director*

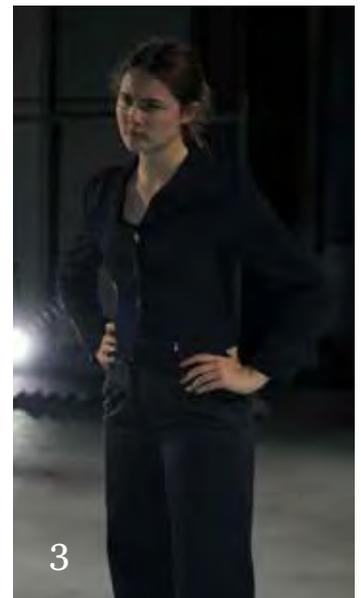
"This was the first time I have ever worked behind the scenes in a stage production and I learned so much. My role definitely called for respect in many aspects of the production. As Director's Assistant I had to be patient, organised and ready to assist the cast and crew in every possible way. Seeing the effort and dedication the cast put into months of rehearsals and the crew's attention to the technical aspects of the show, also gave me a newfound respect for those involved in the production of any play. The collaborative environment from auditions to the closing night was something that can only be experienced in a large-scale production such as this."

*Eliza Ng and Xanthe Mitchell, Drama Prefects 2016/2017*

"Being involved in the Senior production of *Beautiful Words* was possibly the best school experience we have ever had. Being a part of not only an amazing play, but also an incredible cast was rewarding beyond words.

We enjoyed collaborating alongside our fellow actors and also our amazing Director Ms Moir. Through her guidance and dedication we were able to put together an unforgettable experience for both the actors and the audience.

Throughout the time leading up to the opening night, we learnt to respect the work that goes on backstage to encourage the audience to enter the world we created. We appreciated Christina, Ms Moir's Assistant, our guide and best friend



1. Cast and crew of *Beautiful Words*.
2. Eliza Ng (*Old Romany*)
3. Beau Greig (*Shaula Greenberg*)

throughout the show - we couldn't have done it without her. Overall, this was a truly unforgettable experience and we strongly encourage students to join upcoming productions, as actors or crew."

*Anastasia Karageorge, Actor*

"My involvement in *Beautiful Words* allowed me to explore a harrowing episode of history as well as social issues within today's society. It also extended my knowledge of theatrical techniques. Personally, the experience evoked a range of emotions, as I found myself motivated to pay tribute and respect to the victims of the Holocaust and refugees everywhere."

*Jessica Zylstra, Actor*

"My involvement in the production of *Beautiful Words* was an unforgettable experience. It not only helped me improve my confidence and acting skills, but also made me more aware of topical issues in today's society. The horror of the holocaust was used as a reference point to challenge people's perceptions of the current issues surrounding refugees. Ultimately, this play taught me that tolerance and respect for one another are qualities that make our world a better place."

# kambala students participate in nasa tour

*Efion Little*

The Universe is vast, but Kambala students Tara Riley-Goode and Alexandra Bako match it with a sense of adventure and desire to explore the unknown, both in space and within themselves. Over the winter holidays they joined a group of 86 students from seven schools as part of a STEM focused trip coordinated by the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia (AGSA), where I was fortunate enough to accompany them.

The journey began in Houston, Texas, where students engaged in a range of diverse and extraordinary STEM related activities. These included a visit to Texas A&M University in Galveston for an introduction to Marine Biology, a group shark dissection and a tour of Rice University with a foray into Crime Scene Investigation. We explored Johnson Space Center and were inspired by presentations from NASA astronaut Leroy Chiao and NASA engineer Amber Gell. Amber is the ultimate role model for women in STEM, and students and staff alike were amazed by her dedication and perseverance to achieve her goals.

We then travelled to Huntsville, Alabama, to attend Space Camp, a dedicated facility incorporating engaging activities, simulators, accommodation in purpose-built 'Habitats' and a rocket park equipped with a full sized Saturn V rocket. Students experienced the Multi-Axis Trainer, designed to simulate disorientation in space, along with the 1/6th gravity chair and MMU (Manned Manoeuvring Unit) that imitated working in space from the ISS or Space Shuttle. Students also designed and launched rockets that reached heights upwards of 150 metres, and worked as a team to carry out tasks in the facility's pool and at 'Area 51'. However, highlights of Space Camp were the three missions the students undertook. During each they were assigned roles such as Flight Director or Shuttle Commander in one of three areas: Houston Mission Control, onboard the ISS or on the Space Shuttle. The team had a designated time to achieve a mission objective using ingenuity and teamwork, while the Space Camp staff planted obstacles for them to overcome.

At the end of a highly engaging, educational and enjoyable two weeks we returned to Sydney. During our time in America



1. Alexandra Bako and Tara Riley-Goode on the Nasa Tour.

2. Kambala astronauts at Johnson Space Center.

we forged new friendships, deepened an appreciation for the value of STEM education and were motivated to succeed in pursuit of newly realised goals. Space may be the final frontier, but Tara and Alex are one step closer to meeting it.

# world challenge borneo expedition

Shona Goggin

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During the recent July break, nineteen Year 10 students embarked on a 28 day, student-led expedition to Borneo. Split into two teams, students were confronted with numerous challenges and eye opening cultural experiences. From short boat trips and long bus rides to exhilarating flights in a small Twin Otter plane, our girls witnessed spectacular scenery and explored stunning locations. Whether it was trekking the Kelabit Highlands or exploring limestone caves in the Niah Caves National Park, the girls pushed through the extreme heat and humidity to be rewarded by scenes of the ancient lush green jungle.

Emily Tapper, Year 10

“One of the most rewarding experiences from the trip was hiking. Although it was challenging at times, most of the pain was taken away by the constant laughs of someone falling over in waist deep mud or some terrible singing. Jungle hiking was amazing as it was a completely new experience.”

Jessica Zylstra, Year 10

“We definitely learnt valuable lessons and skills from our knowledgeable local guides. This included setting up camp in the middle of the jungle, mastering the art of sleeping in a hammock and coping with leeches. The squeals of horror when a leech jumped on your hand will resonate with me forever!”

No trip to Borneo would be complete without visiting the orangutans at Semenggoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Both teams took the opportunity to learn about and support the centre’s great conservation work by adopting their own baby orangutans, Ruby and Ganya.

The Community Engagement Phase was a rewarding experience. Teams travelled to Pa’ Lungan, a remote village located in the Kelabit highlands and helped concrete a multi-purpose volleyball court. Students interacted with locals by playing games, attending a church service and learning traditional weaving techniques. Extra funds raised contributed towards improving the village water piping system and buying roofing materials and concrete for a walkway construction at the primary school in Bario.



Team 2 taking a break on day three of their Jungle trek.

Aviya Ronen, Year 10

“My favourite part of World Challenge was spending time in the community. Learning from the locals and helping concrete the volleyball court was really rewarding. Although we worked in extreme humidity, I enjoyed giving back to the local villagers and spending time with them.”

Students completed the journey with some well-earned relaxation in Kota Kinabalu, snorkelling the coastline, shopping and indulging in local food. Everyone had an unforgettable time experiencing Borneo’s diverse Malaysian culture.

Sally Lees, Year 10

“Borneo opened my eyes to the differences of the world - the unique cultures, beliefs and environments. I’ve decided to travel when I’m older, and the trip enhanced my confidence in organising and doing things for myself. I wholly recommend this journey as a life changing, unforgettable experience!”

Meghann Petersen, Year 10

“Borneo made me grateful for the things and opportunities I have. It definitely encouraged me to get more involved with community work and to travel. I now know I can cope with challenging situations and have greater trust in myself.”

# kambala student blows rivals away in national championships

**Kambala student Rhiannon Heath recently won the Tenor Horn Solo (Junior Division) at the Yamaha Australian National Band Championships.**

Rhiannon, 17, has been playing the tenor horn for nine years, moving to Kambala this year from Tamworth, where she studied with the Gunnedah Shire Band. Rhiannon competed against seven others under the age of 19, all of whom performed the same lyrical piece composed specifically for the Tenor Horn, *Variations of a Welsh Theme* by Peter Kneale.

“The pieces chosen for the competition had a high level of difficulty, so that determined who could enter,” Rhiannon said.

Rhiannon, currently studying HSC Music 2, said she feels particularly passionate about the Tenor Horn because it holds significant sentimental value.

“Tenor Horn is an unusual instrument as it’s only played in traditional English brass bands, which are an important part of Australian history, linking back to the Anzac tradition. With the number of brass bands in Australia dwindling, I am passionate about ensuring the culture is not lost. My family has played in brass bands for generations and my cousin and I are continuing this tradition. Kambala has an incredible musical culture and I am thankful I can further myself as a musician in so many ways.” Rhiannon said.



*Rhiannon Heath, winner of the Tenor Horn Solo (Junior Division) at the recent Yamaha Australian National Band Championships.*

# kambala student wins international law prize

**Year 11 Kambala student, Allegra McCormack, has been awarded a prestigious international essay prize for aspiring law students.**

Allegra won the international category in the Robert Walker Prize, a prestigious essay prize established by the esteemed Trinity College in Cambridge, UK.

Allegra’s essay on the topic, ‘Should people be allowed to post offensive, untrue or inflammatory remarks on social networking sites?’ impressed the judging panel. She was announced joint first place with UK student, Ellis Napier. Allegra was invited to Trinity College to meet the judges and Lord Walker himself.

“It is a truly amazing accolade and I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to take part in a competition that encouraged me to question my opinions and engage in detailed research to support them,” Allegra said.

Allegra has ambitions to study Law at university and has participated in the YMCA Youth Parliament Program and in United Nations forums. She is currently taking Legal Studies as an HSC course at Kambala, which has sparked her interest in conflicts within legislation, especially the changing environment of the digital age.



*Allegra McCormack at Cambridge during her visit to the UK.*

# china: a frontier for contemporary art practices

Helen Mitchell

In April, the Visual Arts Department ventured to China to develop a cultural understanding of contemporary Chinese Art, while informing the department's classroom practices and addressing BOSTES cross-curricular learning content. Working with Deputy Principal Kim Tskolakis and Director of Education and Research at the White Rabbit Gallery, Luise Guest, we crafted a unique itinerary that allowed us to understand China's place as one of the frontiers for contemporary art practices.

Starting in one of the world's leading Art Deco cities, Shanghai, we connected with an Australian intern at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Taipei architect Kris Yao's culturally rich and emotive exhibit, *With In-With Out*, included extraordinary models of architectural designs showing links to nature with a sense of humanity, poetry and beauty. We ventured to the water town of Wuzhen to see Yao's remarkable theatre which coincided with the village's inaugural Visual Arts Festival.

Along with museums, art galleries are a fabric of daily lives in the two major cities, Shanghai and Beijing. Shanghai's M50 precinct is home to open studios from over 100 artists and the K11 Art Mall is located in a shopping centre. Beijing's 798 Art District has a similar ambience filled with small galleries.

In Beijing's north east, Cao Chang Di is a village where artists live and work in the compound for extended periods. We visited studios of five prominent artists, learning about their artmaking practices. A unique experience was discussing the documented works of He Yunchang - one of China's premier performance artists - whose controversial yet acclaimed work once involved him chiselling his way out of concrete.

We gained insights into overseas educational institutions while visiting IB Schools. The creative use of space through good architecture at the confined, yet seemingly open Beijing City International School, was inspiring.

Our last engagement was at the Red Gate Gallery - founded by Australian Brian Wallace and housed in one of the few Ming Dynasty towers to survive the destruction of the City Wall. Luise Guest from White Rabbit curated an exhibition of



1. Beijing City International School.

2. Shona Goggin, Drew Bickford, Li Mingzhu, Helen Mitchell and Li's partner.

contemporary Chinese Women Artists who featured in her book *Half the Sky*.

Our trip was engaging and rewarding. We are now inspired to teach about the numerous Contemporary Chinese artists who are desperate to experiment, explore modernist ideals and push the boundaries. Our newfound understanding and knowledge has provided us with wonderful contacts along with the possibility of collaboration with IB Schools and a future trip for students to understand China's colourful, layered culture.

I would like to thank Debra Kelliher and Kim Tsolakis for their support of this professional learning, and my fellow travellers and department members Drew Bickford and Shona Goggin.

# connecting with coding

Samantha Gooch

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While most are bewildered at the very thought of computer coding - or consider it a hobby reserved for the Mark Zuckerbergs of the world - Kambala girls are proving it's easily done. This year, students in Years 3 to 6 participated in coding lessons, a valuable experience for our students of the digital age.

Coding lessons in the Junior School are met with enthusiasm and excitement as students work with their peers and teachers to understand the emerging and ever-expanding world of Computer Science. A new and somewhat foreign language, coding has become an important aspect of the curriculum and is now integrated into key learning areas.

Coding in the classroom does not simply refer to children glued to computer programs and apps, such as the much-loved Minecraft. In fact, the Junior School's coding lessons focus primarily around the concept of computational thinking, whereby students engage in problem decomposition, pattern recognition, solution abstraction and algorithm generation. Too complex for primary school-aged students? Not for Kambala girls!

In the context of our Junior School, this translates as computer programming. Students in Years 3 and 4 practise computational thinking by instructing their iPads to carry out a task or command and then observing its success or failure. These students have particularly enjoyed using Tynker and Scratch Junior, and programming our resident mini robots 'Dash-and-Dot'. Such applications and activities have encouraged students to create, collaborate, problem solve and think critically.

Our Year 6 students have been fortunate enough to learn from Kambala Old Girl and entrepreneur, Nikki Durkin '09. Nikki is currently developing software to teach students about computer programming in a way that is both relevant and engaging. Nikki guides the students through website design, developing their understanding and competencies with HTML and CSS. The students have enjoyed the opportunity to work with someone who is clearly passionate and knowledgeable in this field.

One eager Year 6 student, Caitie Remen, reports, "I really like coding class. It is very interesting being able to create a website and will be very handy in the future."



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2



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1. Annaliese Lakis and Phoebe Then (Year 6) learn how to create a website.
2. Olivia Thoma, Matilda Guymer-Lightbody and Victoria Tsoi (Year 6) enjoy their lesson with Kambala Old Girl, Nikki Durkin '09.
3. Edie Christopher and Lily Edwards (Year 4) use their iPads to code.

"Learning to code is important because it is the language of the future, or at least one of them!" said Year 6 student, Lily Tucker.

We continue to find meaningful and engaging ways to integrate coding into our curriculum to prepare our students for the digitally-driven world. By focusing on computational thinking and problem solving, we offer them the opportunity to innovate and think - arguably the most valuable and necessary skills of today.

# emily su's concerto competition success

*Peter Corkill*

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**Year 8 student Emily Su was selected as a finalist in the Junior Section of the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition hosted by the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra (KPO).**

The competition has been running for 32 years and its stature as a major event for aspiring soloists has grown, particularly since the demise of the national ABC Young Performers' Competition. Previous winners of the Senior Section of the KPO competition have forged successful careers as soloists and leading musicians in Australia and abroad.

From the eight performers who competed in the semi-final round, Emily was one of just two soloists selected to progress to the finals. The finals of the competition provide a rare opportunity for young musicians to perform as a soloist with full orchestral accompaniment provided by the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra. This is truly an invaluable experience.

During the competition, Emily performed the first movement of Lalo's Symphony Espagnole as the violin soloist. This concerto is one of the most challenging pieces in the violin repertoire and demands extraordinary technical and musical skills. It also requires incredible power to project and balance with the sixty-piece orchestra.

Emily's brilliant performance enthralled the audience with her captivating stage presence and gifted musicianship, and earned her commendation from the distinguished international



*Emily Su, Year 8, was selected as a finalist in the Junior Section of the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition.*

adjudicators. Her interpretation of the concerto was sophisticated and mature, drawing out the spanish character of the work with its fiery, rhythmic passages and contrasting passionate, lyrical episodes.

Throughout her young career, Emily has established herself as one of the most gifted young musicians in Australia. In both 2015 and 2016 Emily was selected to participate in the prestigious Australian Chamber Orchestra's (ACO) Academy. At the ACO Academy, Emily has rehearsed and performed with the orchestra, receiving mentoring from their world-class musicians.

Emily's success brings great credit to Kambala and we are very proud of her achievements.

# respecting every student's right to literacy ... the great book swap 2016

Sally-Anne Tilley

**“Literacy, broadly conceived as the basic knowledge and skills needed by all in a rapidly changing world, is a fundamental human right.”  
UNESCO, 2006**

What would it be like to be unable to read road signs or the instructions on a bottle of medication? Sadly, this is a reality for some students in remote communities of Australia, partly due to their lack of access to resources and books - something often taken for granted at other schools around the country. The personal benefits, along with those of the greater community, when high levels of literacy are achieved are enormous. Every child should have the opportunity to realise this.

There is currently a significant gap between our Indigenous children living in remote communities and our non-Indigenous children. National testing results from 2013 indicted that by Year 3, the gap is significant. Kambala students are committed to doing something about this and are joining the effort to help meet the 2016 target of raising \$200,000 for 20,000 new books to be delivered to communities across Australia.

Our Kambala girls have been part of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's (ILF) Book Supply program since 2009, and have helped deliver more than 150,000 new books to over 250 communities nationally. The ILF's main aim is to improve the literacy levels and opportunities for Indigenous children who live in isolated, remote areas of Australia. We have been supporting the ILF annually through fundraising with book swaps, sausage sizzles and sales of the 'rainbow serpent bookmark scales'.

This year, we are taking it one step further - a school-wide Great Book Swap. Girls from Year 1 through to Year 11 are able to bring in one of their favourite books, and for a gold coin donation, swap it for a book donated by another student.

Our ambassadors for the event are Senior School girls, Monique Laurie, Taleyah Hippi and Tekishea Murrungun. They will be leading the fundraising and speaking to our girls to encourage their involvement through hosting assembly promotions and helping coordinate the half hour frenzy of literature trading in our Bain Library. The funds raised will be used to assist programs currently put in place by the ILF.



1. Kambala students enjoying getting behind a worthy cause at The Great Book Swap.

2. Monique Laurie and Tekishea Murrungun participating in The Great Book Swap.

# wellbeing week 2016

*Natasha Redhil*  
*Wellbeing Prefect*

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At Kambala, we want girls to feel safe, happy and healthy at school. We promoted Wellbeing Week throughout the second week of Term 3, for the second year running, where each day brought a different theme along with a range of fun activities.

The successful first day was 'Mindful Monday'. Mental wellbeing is vital at school, so the daily challenge was to focus on the present moment. The girls were guided through mindful exercises at the start of each lesson. To allow students to mingle with different year groups throughout the week, we introduced mixed tutorial groups, combining Year 7 and 8, 9 and 10, and 11 and 12. At lunch we had yoga and pilates classes around the School to promote mindfulness.

The second day was 'Teamwork Tuesday', promoting working together and asking for help. A pop-up dance square near the canteen - in which the girls had to dance instead of walk - spread a sense of unity and happiness. Recess saw a hugely entertaining tug-of-war between the Year 12s and teachers and at lunch, bingo games where the girls had to find people who fit certain criteria provided a fantastic opportunity for the Junior and Senior girls to socialise.

'Wacky Wednesday' was up next - the challenge being to get out of your comfort zone. The girls came to school with wacky ties on and crazy hair, making for a great topic of conversation. We held a Wellbeing Assembly in which Headspace, an organisation that supports young people with mental health difficulties, came to talk to us. The Senior School teachers also performed a flash mob dance, which had the students in stitches. However, the highlight was the giant inflatable slide on the oval which even the staff enjoyed.

On 'Thinking of You Thursday', the girls practised being thankful and thoughtful. There was a gratitude wall in each year group area, in which everyone could write a note about what they were thankful for. In mixed tutorial groups, we all wrote thank you letters to someone who meant a lot to us in our lives. At lunch, there was hula-hooping in the courtyard, which was a lot of fun for everyone.

Lastly, 'Fit and Fabulous Friday' focused on positivity. Sports uniforms were worn throughout the day to promote an energetic vibe and the girls wrote positive messages about each other on



1. *Girls enjoying lunchtime yoga.*
2. *Hula hooping fun with an expert.*

letters which were folded into a beautiful fan. Our final activity was hip-hop dancing on the oval at lunch with the entire school. The beautiful sunny weather added to the positive, fun atmosphere on the oval - a great way to end the week.

Overall, Wellbeing Week 2016 was a huge success and we can't wait for next year.

# sea of hands – respect for all peoples

*Stacey Taylor*

*Acting Director of Global Connections*

In celebration of Reconciliation Week, students across the whole school planted a Sea of Hands in the Tivoli lawn to represent Kambala's commitment to equality for all Australians.

The girls wrote messages of reconciliation on hands which they cut out. They then teamed up with a buddy from another part of the School and planted their hand in the Tivoli lawn as a mark of their commitment. This act united students of different ages together in support of an important social issue. As a mark of support to all Aboriginal peoples, the Aboriginal flag was proudly flown at the School.



*Principal Debra Kelliher with students in the Sea of Hands on the Tivoli lawn.*

# kambala students extend awareness of reconciliation with short film win

On Thursday 26 May, the six Indigenous Kambala students behind the short film *One People, One Voice*, took out the first prize in the 2016 Pauline McLeod Youth Award for Reconciliation.

Kayla Baker, Tekishea Murrungun, Taleyah Hippi, Kiara Sutton, Shanelle Smith and Monique Laurie, joined Kambala as part of a partnership between the School and Yalari - an organisation offering scholarships for deserving children from Indigenous communities. Inspired by Reconciliation Week's 25th anniversary since the 1991 establishment of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, the students thought it would be interesting to make a video about Reconciliation and what it means to them. "The message that we wanted to get across is that we are all the same," said Kiara Sutton, 13, whose grandfather was part of the stolen generation.

The concept for the short film came about from the questions the students are often asked about their heritage. As for the film's outcome, the students explained that it is important to them that society is educated about their culture. "Just because of the colour of our skin, it doesn't mean we have a different lifestyle, that we don't live in a proper house," commented Monique Laurie, 14. "We are all the same."

The 2016 Pauline McLeod Youth Award for Reconciliation was open to people aged 12 to 24. Congratulations to the students for their commendable effort and thoughtful vision that led to them taking out first prize.



*Kambala students Kiara Sutton, Kayla Baker, Shanelle Smith, Tekishea Murrungun, Monique Laurie and Taleyah Hippi.*

# the effects of screen-time on wellbeing

Kim Tsolakis

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**As a result of the ever-increasing use and reliance on technology in education, ensuring young people experience a healthy balance between screen time and time spent outside has become more important. The demands on their time - created by pressure to achieve academically and peer pressure to conform to perceived social norms - has resulted in excessive screen use by many young people.**

The latest research indicates that excessive screen use is associated with unfavourable physical, mental and social health characteristics, learning and behavioural disadvantages for children and adolescents. This is in complete contrast with the positive outcomes developed for young people who spend time outside and in contact with nature.

While further research assessing the impact of screen use is required, programs that successfully decrease screen use while increasing time outside may lead to positive learning and behavioural habits, along with physical, mental and social health benefits.

This notion is supported by the research conducted by Dr Karen Martin which identifies "... electronic screen use (such as watching television or DVDs, and using computers, video games and portable devices) as the most common leisure activity of youth in Australia and many other industrialised countries. A large majority of children and adolescents in Australia exceed the recommended maximum of two hours a day of screen use for leisure and that time spent in screen activities is increasing. Corresponding with the expanding screen-use culture of youth there has been a decline in the time children and adolescents spend playing outside and in contact with nature." (Electronic Overload: The Impact of Excessive Screen Use on Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, August 2011).

Martin's research - supported by a number of other studies - indicates that children and adolescents who spend excessive time using screens are overall more likely to:

- ◇ Encounter physical health disadvantages and participate in negative behaviours such as:
  - increased susceptibility to becoming overweight or obese
  - higher cholesterol and fasting insulin
  - increased sedentary time, reduced physical activity and lower cardiovascular fitness
  - poor sleep habits and patterns
  - consuming unhealthy foods
  - increased rates of cigarette smoking
- ◇ Experience adverse mental and social health issues such as:
  - loneliness, depression or depressive symptoms
  - withdrawal and anxiety
  - internet addiction
  - reduced time with parents or siblings
- ◇ Experience behavioural and learning disadvantages (exacerbating the above disadvantages) including:
  - attention and concentration problems
  - less reading time
  - lower academic achievement
  - reduced creative imagination and creative play
  - increasingly aggressive behaviour



*Research indicates that excessive amounts of screen-time can have a negative impact on children.*

# fostering creativity and engagement

*Martine McCarthy*

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It has become a truism to state that we live in a world where continual change is the norm. While we embrace technology when it is appropriate, as educators, we must also guard against the dangers posed by 'digital distraction' that affect persistence and creativity.

To foster persistence, cultural critic Leon Wieseltier suggests the humanities - rooted in slowness - offer "the kind of deliberate education that can be accrued only over a lifetime." English values deep knowledge and persistence over short term gains. The cultivation of such deliberate skills, may seem at odds with the reality of contemporary life, but studying the humanities in general (literature in particular) is vital for the way it teaches us not only how to be human, but also how to persist.

One way in which the English Department fosters student engagement with the wider traditions of our subject is through a wide reading program. Years 7 and 8 are both given regular lessons in the library where they can read. The aim is to teach students the value of reading for its own sake, unaligned to assessment. The ability to lose oneself in a good book is a way of simultaneously resisting the frantic pace of millennial life and promoting the empathy that is so important to a just society.

We also recognise that fostering creativity requires exposure to experiences that are varied and situations in which lateral thinking is rewarded. To that end, this year, the Year 8 cohort completed a documentary unit which utilised the principles of Inquiry Based Learning. During this unit, they made a trailer on an issue in which they personally were concerned, and then 'pitched' their idea at our Documentary Expo. We were fortunate enough to secure the services of award-winning filmmaker Michael Bates as a judge of the trailers where he commented on the high quality of the student work he viewed. Michael's short film *The Projectionist* premiered at the 40th New York Film Festival in 2002 and went on to win a further ten international awards at festivals and screened at over 70 film festivals.



1. Family and friends enjoying the expo.
2. Award-winning filmmaker Michael Bates launches the Year 8 Documentary Expo.
3. Xanthe Christopher, Alexandria Perkins and Zoe McLaren.

Furthermore, Creative Writing is now taught in Years 7 to 12 without exception as we recognise the benefit of accessing the imagination of the whole girl. To inspire the girls' creative writing, we have Yassmin Abdel-Magied visiting the Year 9 group to talk about her experiences as an author.

# paying respect to joyce gibbons

*Anna Messariti*

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**During June 2016, the Joyce Gibbons Festival of Speech and Public Speaking Competition was held to honour a tradition that began almost 30 years ago. Each year since, Kambala's resident debaters, public speakers and dramatists contribute to the Festival's activities and events and pay their respects to Ms Joyce Gibbons, who was the Principal of the School in 1987.**

As a champion of Public Speaking, Ms Gibbons believed that an annual festival would provide the young women of Kambala with the opportunity to showcase their speech skills - thinking, writing, storytelling and of course, oration. An important part of the tradition involves the welcoming of adjudicators from the Kambala Old Girls' Union.

This year, current students were fortunate to have the wisdom and collective skills of Ms Prue Weaver '76, Ms Annie Handmer '11 and Ms Helena Hu '13, to preside over the key decisions and provide feedback. Lawyer, banker and university lecturer Prue Weaver was a keen debater during her years at Kambala and has remained involved with the School as both a former member of the School Council and more recently, as a parent. Annie Handmer, who is soon to graduate with Honours in History and Philosophy of Science, was a Debating Prefect at Kambala and returned to the School as an esteemed Public Speaking tutor and Debating coach. Helena Hu continues to study Arts/Law at the Australian National University and was actively involved in Debating and Public Speaking until her final year of school in 2013. Bringing the past and the present together through the Joyce Gibbons Festival is always very special.

In 2016, we experienced some wonderful speeches, an entertaining debate and a dramatic presentation from our Senior students. We were awed by the sophistication of thought and self-possession of our recently appointed Debating Prefects, Allegra McCormack and Eezu Tan. In the Junior Division, we were treated to 17 thought provoking and often moving speeches by articulate and passionate girls from Years 7 to 9. Encompassing subjects including marriage equality, the death penalty, drugs in sport and Disney princesses, it was exciting to see and hear our future School leaders revealing themselves through their confident orations.

Katherine Tsingos and Eezu Tan took out the prizes on the day, but all of the girls who spoke were winners in our eyes.

This year the entire event was hosted by current students. Darya Moskalenko, Bella Campbell, Jemma Lowinger, Kipling Perkins and Emily Su were excellent presenters who presided over the events of the day with skill and panache.

It is with great admiration that we look back on this event. May there be many more days like it to come.



*1. The Joyce Gibbons Senior Public Speaking Competition winner for 2016, Eezu Tan.*

*2. The Joyce Gibbons Junior Public Speaking Competition winner for 2016, Katherine Tsingos.*



**KAMBALA OLD GIRLS**  
COMMUNICATE | CONNECT | CELEBRATE

| *KOGU's 120 Year Celebration in October 2016.*



*KOGU President  
Melinda Hudson*

## president's report

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80*

A lot can happen in a year! For KOGU, 2016 has been a year of continued development and wonderful achievements as we strive to better communicate, connect and celebrate with you.

There is actually so much to share we don't have space in this edition to include everything, so please log on to the revamped KOGU website for a complete update [kogu.kambala.nsw.edu.au](http://kogu.kambala.nsw.edu.au).

While you are there, why not **celebrate** your 2016 highlights with us via the news section? You might have moved? If so, please help us continue to **connect** with you by updating your contact details. Perhaps you would like to get involved in some of the new initiatives planned for 2017 or join the Committee? If so, please **communicate** your interest through our online community. We look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you health and happiness for the holidays and 2017!

# KOGU events 2017

## term 1

Wednesday 15 February  
Sunday 26 February  
Tuesday 28 February

**KOGU Committee Meeting**  
**Year 13 Music Festival Event**  
**KOGU AGM followed by a  
Committee Meeting**

Thursday 16 March  
Friday 31 March

**Year 12 KOGU Morning Tea**  
**KOG Generations Morning Tea**

## term 2

Wednesday 10 May  
Friday 19 May

**KOGU Committee Meeting**  
**KOGU Tennis Day and  
Hawthorne Cup**

Tuesday 30 May  
Thursday 22 June

**Year 11 KOGU Morning Tea**  
**Joyce Gibbons Public Speaking  
Competition**

## term 3

Wednesday 26 July  
August/September

**KOGU Committee Meeting**  
**Archibald Morning and Evening  
Tours - details TBC**  
**KOGU Careers Evening - details TBC**

## term 4

Wednesday 11 October  
Wednesday 25 October  
Wednesday 22 November

**KOGU Committee Meeting**  
**KOGU Vintage Lunch**  
**KOGU Committee Meeting**



### KOGU contact details

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Join our LinkedIn Group  
[linkedin.com/groups/5118542](https://linkedin.com/groups/5118542)



# annual general meeting notice 2017

**Notice is given to members of the Kambala Old Girls' Union Incorporated that the 120th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 February 2017 at 6.30pm in the Tivoli Drawing Room.**

Nominations are sought for the following positions on the Committee of the Association for 2017: President, Vice President (two), Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members (10). Nominations must be in writing and delivered to the Secretary of the Association or the Chairperson of AGM at any time prior to commencement of voting for election of the committee at the AGM.

Nominations are sought for Kambala School Council Nominees (two). These nominations must be in writing and delivered to the Secretary of the Association at least 14 days before the date of the AGM. Any serving Kambala School Council Nominee who wishes to renominate as a Kambala School Council Nominee must deliver written notice of such intention to the Secretary of the Association at least 28 days before the AGM. Nominations for Kambala School Council Nominees are to be sent to:

Cassandra Smiles, KOGU Secretary, 794 New South Head Rd Rose Bay NSW 2029.

Sub-Committee Positions for the Association for 2017 will also be appointed at the AGM.

Items of business will include:

- ◆ Committee reports on the activities of the Association
- ◆ Election of the 2017 Committee Positions for the Association
- ◆ Election of the 2017 Kambala School Council Nominees
- ◆ Annual financial and other financial reports and statements for the year ending 31 December 2016
- ◆ Any other business matters

**All enquiries should be made to the Secretary Kambala Old Girls' Union Inc. (KOGU Inc.)**

Cassandra Smiles

KOGU Inc.

794 New South Head Road

Rose Bay NSW 2029

kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au

# year 11 kogu morning tea

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80*

**Guest speakers Jess Lasky '15 and Sarah McWilliam '15 returned to the School to offer their insights to the Year 11 students. Unfortunately the IB girls had their half yearly exams and were unable to attend, so a separate morning tea was organised with guest speaker Josie Fenn '15.**

The girls reported the morning teas were very interesting and not what they expected! Staff commented that it was a great opportunity for the girls to step outside the classroom and view their situation from a broader perspective. Our speakers helped them to see that the world is a bigger and much different place than their school environment. Thank you to our Old Girls for the gift of your time and for continuing to be such great KOGU ambassadors. Occasions such as these help cement the links between current students and Old Girls, and establish a continuity of connection to Kambala.



*Former Director of Development and Communications Sarah Gregory, Sarah McWilliam, Jess Lasky and KOGU Committee Member Tracy Yaffa at the Year 11 KOGU Morning Tea in May 2016.*

# KOGU 120 Year Celebration. Connecting Kambala Old Girls since 1896.

Brooke Kathriner

**Hundreds of Kambala Old Girls, family, present students, staff and parents gathered at Kambala on Saturday 8 October 2016 to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the Kambala Old Girls' Union.**

The afternoon event was attended by some of the next generation of Kambala girls as young as two months old up to 96 year old Kambala Old Girl Noreen (Andrews) Halvorsen. Noreen left Kambala in 1936 and served as President of the Kambala Old Girls' Union from 1942 to 1943.

A school assembly in Alexander Hall included a warm welcome by KOGU President Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80, some delightful historical footage provided by the Copp family, a memorabilia donation by Barbara (Mort) Thelander '39 and a special performance by internationally acclaimed pianist Sarah Grunstein '75. Guests also heard from a panel of vibrant Old Girls - Nicole (Gazal) O'Neil '96, Elaine (Nicolson) Budd '65 and Grace Franki '13, facilitated by Marie Claire magazine Editor Nicky Briger '83.

1. Principal Debra Kelliher, Donna (Lavigne) Scali '78, President School Council Sally Herman '74 and KOGU President Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80 enjoy the festivities.
2. Josie (Thomas) Gurney '77, Lisa Sampson '77, KOGU Vice President Julie (Kelly) Reid '77, Alix Verge '77 and Venetia (Lees) Babington-Lees '77.
3. Guests enjoy a high tea on Tivoli Lawn at KOGU's 120 Year Celebration.
4. Sarah Grunstein '75 worked with Kambala students in a piano masterclass.
5. The Kambala Big Band entertained guests.
6. KOGU's 120 Year Celebration was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends.
7. Year 1 student Jaimie Humphrey and Transition student Jasmin Heapes enjoyed the fun.
8. The Class of 1996 held their own 20 Year Reunion at the celebration event.

After the assembly guests enjoyed a high tea on the lawn and enjoyed the sounds of the Kambala Big Band. School tours were led by current students and many Old Girls participated in cohort reunions.

As KOGU mentor in the arts, Sarah Grunstein also worked with three Kambala students from Years 9 and 10 on performance and interpretation in a piano masterclass.

It was truly a wonderful afternoon and provided the opportunity to catch up with old friends, reflect on KOGU's rich history and come together as a community to celebrate this very special occasion.





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# 1956 reunion

*Jann (Melville) Kuner '56*

On 2 June, 16 Old Girls of the Class of '56 celebrated their 60th anniversary at Vaucluse House Tearooms - a choice of venue that was much appreciated as most of us remembered attending birthday parties there while in Junior School.

The reunion was a great success. We enjoyed a delightful lunch and all had a chance to move around and speak to everyone. We all felt it was one of our most enjoyable and happy reunions to date.



*Names from far end of tables.*

*Left side*

*Philipa (Gaden) Mainwaring*

*Alexandra (Ross) Martin*

*Katherine Wentworth*

*Rosemary (Renwick) Winlaw*

*Eleanor (Dunn) Herriott*

*Jann (Melville) Kuner*

*Adrienne (Fountain) Miles*

*Dorothy (Reuter) Danta*

*Right side*

*Joanna (McCathie) Fleming*

*Julie (Macdonald) Sydney-Jones*

*Annette (Nowland) Harding*

*Jill (Castle) Kennard*

*Christine (Dobinson) Tessari*

*Anita (Murany) Ogle*

*Dorinda (Brady) Sullivan*

*Kay (Puckle) Warren*

# suzi wilson writes from wales

*Suzi Wilson '78*

I managed to catch up with a couple of old classmates Hazel (Straw) Francis '78 and Suni (Wimalaratna) Karunaratne '78 when I was in Sydney over New Year - which was great as it was the first time I'd seen them in 41 years. I had also been in touch with Liz (Chin) Chin-Seet '78, however she lives in Perth and was unfortunately not able to make it.

Hazel took the trouble to travel up from Canberra for the day for which I was hugely appreciative. I am grateful that social media is so accessible as it has enabled us to stay connected and come together from all corners of the world.



*Old Girls Suni (Wimalaratna) Karunaratne '78, Hazel (Straw) Francis '78 and Suzi Wilson '78 catch up in Sydney.*

# 2017 reunions

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80*

Does your cohort appear here? Then it is time start planning your reunion for 2017! For further information and assistance, please contact the KOGU Relations Manager, Brooke Kathriner at [kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au).

<b>2012</b> 5 Year Reunion	<b>1982</b> 35 Year Reunion
<b>2007</b> 10 Year Reunion	<b>1977</b> 40 Year Reunion
<b>2002</b> 15 Year Reunion	<b>1972</b> 45 Year Reunion
<b>1997</b> 20 Year Reunion	<b>1967</b> 50 Year Reunion
<b>1992</b> 25 Year Reunion	<b>1962</b> 55 Year Reunion
<b>1987</b> 30 Year Reunion	<b>1957</b> 60 Year Reunion



# penny and john cockbill tackle the camino de santiago

*Penny (Knight) Cockbill '61 and John Cockbill*

When Penny (Knight) '61 and her husband John Cockbill started telling friends they had decided to walk the famous Camino de Santiago trail across Spain, they were asked, "You are going to do what? Why?" Not unreasonable questions considering the walk is approximately 800kms, Penny and John are 72 and 76 respectively, and Penny is an amputee.

Pilgrims have been making this walk for nearly 2,000 years. St James the Apostle and the Patron Saint of Spain, was beheaded in the year 43 by the Romans in Jerusalem and St James' followers transported his remains back to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. So began this great pilgrimage of Christians paying homage at the great Cathedral to their Saint. Today, in the age old steps of their ancestors, the greatest percentage of pilgrims walk for spiritual reasons or the challenge. Many from around the world walk humbly, as Christians do.

And so it was. Penny and John flew out of Sydney with 14kgs of luggage between them in backpacks. Armed with a guide book and their pilgrim's passports, their journey began in France at St Jean Pied de Port, at the foot of the Pyrenees.

Crossing snowy ranges, passing through old stone villages, walking past budding grape vines of the Rioja, enjoying colourful towns and wonderful cool spring weather. Almost daily there were snow capped mountains in the distance. They often walked long distances in silence, savouring the experience and sharing the space. This rewarded their daily perseverance with happiness.

The accommodation for pilgrims is mostly multi-bunkbed albergues (hostels only for pilgrims) where they supply a bed, showers and toilet, and you supply your own sleeping bag. Penny and John started walking westward each morning around 7.00am. With the sunrise on their backs and their long shadows in front, they would look forward to a village breakfast somewhere ahead where they'd enjoy delicious orange juice, toast and jam, and beautiful coffee.

Lunch was often a shared bocadillo and fresh coffee, but not enough to stop the weight loss. Around 4:00pm they would check into an albergue and relax free of their backpacks before searching



1. Penny and John enjoy the famous pilgrim sculptures at the windy Alto de Perdon.
2. Just one foot after the other across the high plains.
3. The final guide stone showing 00.00 km. The finish line!

the local cafes or bar for a pilgrim's dinner - a three course meal with baskets of fresh bread and carafes of wine - then heading to bed and sleep by 8.30pm.

Many saw Penny along the way as the girl with the slightly imperfect walk. Meaning well, they'd comment "I have a pill that will fix that" or "I'm a nurse, do you have polio?" or "I had a knee like that once, but it got better." Penny and John would rest often on a bench or under a tree to prevent damage to Penny's leg.

Quaint stone villages and church spires adorn hilltops and everybody greets and respects the pilgrim as they pass, bidding "Buen Camino" meaning 'good way'. Walking is easy. Just one foot after another for 41 days, however the final kilometres were the longest and hardest they had walked. The pavements were hot, but luckily old folk standing in doorways saw their pain and encouraged them, "Buen Camino".

Finding the pilgrim's office near the Cathedral, they received their final stamp and Compostelas. The girl who received them was warm and welcoming and shed tears with them. Such was the emotion of this walk. It was what they wanted, nothing less.

# kog generations morning tea

It was a beautiful day for the KOG Generations Morning Tea on Friday 1 April.

Kambala Old Girls who are mothers, grandmothers or relatives of current Kambala students enjoyed a lovely morning tea in the Tivoli Drawing Room. Special guest speakers, third generation Kambala student Lily Narev (Year 11) and second generation Kambala student Isla Watson (Year 11), spoke of the strong link they feel to Kambala.



*Josephine (Pilgrim) Falkiner '53, Patria (Harris) Mann '80, Annie (Swan) Macken '83, Sue (Moore) Swan '58, Antonia Murphy '80 and Danielle (Poropat) Duffy '81 enjoy the KOG Generations Morning Tea in April.*

# kog conversation series

Thank you to the amazing Kambala Old Girl and fashion powerhouse Margaret Zhang '10 who presented at KOG Conversations in August.

KOGU developed the KOG Networking Event and Conversation Series with the aim to provide opportunities for Old Girls to meet, socialise and share experiences in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Margaret gave a wonderful insight into her work as a stylist, photographer and creative director working with some of the world's biggest brands. The 'conversation' style event was facilitated by Natasha (Moulis) Zurnamer '89.



*Natasha Zurnamer '89, Principal Debra Kelliher, Margaret Zhang '10, School Council Member Patria (Harris) Mann '80 and KOGU Vice President Jane Poole '79.*

# old girls mentor year 12 students

Under the guidance of Old Girl and Kambala's Dean of Wellbeing, Dr Tamara Lang '01, nine recent Old Girls from 2013 to 2015 returned to the School for a mentor session with Year 12 girls to assist them with their studies.

The current students certainly respect the skills and knowledge of Old Girls, who shared some valuable advice with the girls in relation to study tips, time management and organisation.

Thank you to our wonderful Old Girls for giving back to Kambala.



*Old Girl Mentors Lucinda Regan '13, Alex Pursehouse '14, Caitlin McAndrew '15, Paula Hitchcock '15, Maddie McCathie '15, Lynn Wong '14, Julia Rawlinson '15, Brooke Wanford '15 and Kerry Lin '14.*



# creating a legacy: in memoriam of emily rose blackwood

*Sarah Muller '13, Lucy Nason '13, Rose Pardey '13,  
Caitlen Penklis '13 and Lauren Taylor '13*

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**Emily Blackwood '13 passed away on 14 June 2016. To all who knew her, this was a devastating loss. Emily was gentle, kind, loyal and brave, and constantly put her family and friends before herself.**

Attending Kambala represented a huge part of Emily's life. She started at Kambala in Year 3 and was joined shortly after by her younger sister Niamh '15. Emily gave her all to everything she did and enjoyed extracurricular Drama classes and played clarinet in the Joyce Gibbons Wind Orchestra for many years.

Emily played netball, soccer and tennis and her perseverance and ever-cheerful attitude made her a well respected and brilliant teammate. Her ambitions knew no bounds; she mistakenly enrolled Rose Pardey and herself in the School Tennis Championships when neither of them could hit a backhand. Emily's diverse interests enabled her to accomplish many things, and in Year 12, she achieved a gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Her Design and Technology major work was a beautiful testament to her creativity; she showcased a dress made of origami, not knowing at the time what the symbol of the paper crane would come to mean to her.

Emily left Kambala eager to embrace new experiences and determined to enjoy the time she had. Her love of alternative and electronic music was well known to her friends and she could often be found at the nearest music festival or concert. Emily travelled and worked overseas before moving to Melbourne where she began a Bachelor of Environments at Melbourne University, making many new friends to add to those who loved her unconditionally in Sydney.

There is no denying that Emily was an extraordinary person. She had a remarkable talent for finding humour in any circumstance and an infectious laugh. Emily's positivity, courage and selflessness prevailed even at the height of her illness and we are all so very fortunate to have known and spent time with her.

To encourage other young women to follow Emily's example and to contribute to the fight against cancer by promoting the study of chemistry, the Blackwood family have established the Emily Blackwood Memorial Prize for Chemistry to be awarded

annually to a Kambala Year 12 student. We hope that the Prize will inspire Kambala girls to grasp life firmly by the hand and be the best person they can be - the most fitting way to celebrate Emily's life. We also hope that future recipients achieve breakthroughs in cancer research that prevent more families from losing loved ones to this terrible illness.

If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact the Director of Development and Communications at Kambala at [development@kambala.nsw.edu.au](mailto:development@kambala.nsw.edu.au).



*Emily Blackwood '13*

# notices

## births

**Alex Cody '07** and Angus Abrahams welcomed their first child, Freddie Prince Timothy Abrahams, on 7 June 2016.

**Caroline (Rakov) Hoad '97** and husband Andrew welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Jimi James Hoad on 9 April 2016.

**Alexandra (Dane) Isaac '01** and husband Jonathon welcomed a baby girl Sophie Alexandra Isaac on 15 July 2015. Arriving three weeks earlier than expected she was a fantastic surprise weighing in at 3.2kg, and 50cms long. The future Kambala girl is now one, and the 'life of the party'.

**Cassandra Smiles-McCabe '94**, husband Martin McCabe and big sister, Francesca, welcomed a baby girl, Allegra Heloise on 5 August 2016, weighing 3.7kg. Another future Kambala girl for KOGU Secretary and Committee Member Cassandra.

**Elizabeth (Lewis) Zahra '94** and husband André welcomed a baby girl, Charlotte Elizabeth, in April 2016. Sister-in-law Michelle (Zahra) Hinchcliffe '93, husband Rod and big sister Olivia, welcomed a baby girl, Chloe Antonia, in February 2016.

## marriages

**Ellen Ehrhardt '07** married David Smith in February 2016. The wedding took place at Church Hill Anglican in Sydney, followed by a reception at Mr Wong. Numerous Kambala Old Girls were in attendance.

Following the wedding, the couple honeymooned in Japan, visiting Tokyo and Kyoto.

## deaths

**Jennifer Long '47** passed away suddenly on 25 October 2015 at her Canberra Home. Jennifer attended Kambala from 1943 to 1945 and latterly was delighted to renew contact with Kambala and school friends.

**Deirdre (Woods) Lockwood '39** passed away on 25 March 2016. Wife of Maxwell Thomas Lockwood (deceased) and mother to David Lockwood and Pennie McGregor, grandmother to their seven children, and great grandmother to 12, all of who are in Western Australia.

**Margaret (Nebenzahl) Gutman '46** passed away on May 2016 aged 87. Margaret is survived by her brother Brian and family, her children Sandy and Michael, her daughter-in-law Karen, and grandchildren Justin, Ellie, Isabella and Tallulah and her partner Ziggy Zieradski.

**Mabel Mycock** passed away in July 2016, aged 89. Dearly loved wife of Edwin (deceased). Loving mother and mother-in-law of Timmy (deceased) and Grace, Wally and Shirley (deceased), Robin and **Catherine (Gauld) Mycock '71**, Gordon, **Doreen (Mycock) Laforest '74** and Christopher. Much loved Nana to Sharon, Diane, Shelton, Andrew, **Jessica (Mycock) dos Remedios '01**, **Ilana Mycock '01**, Caitlin, Sarah and their families.

**Joan Marjorie (Tait) Phillips '54** passed away 18 July 2016, aged 79. Dearly loved wife of Norman John. Loving mother and mother-in-law of Matthew and Rena, Melissa and Ian, Joanne and Adrian (deceased). Loved grandmother of Edward, Hamish, Ben, Alice, Angus and Tait. Loved Nana Joan of William, Riley and Jessica.

**Rella Itin '96** passed away after an incredibly brave fight with

brain cancer on 4 August 2016, surrounded by her family. She is survived by her dear children, Ryan (5) and Cody (2) and her devoted husband, Erez, as well as her father Lazar and her brother Eli.

**John Low**, beloved father of **Jonty Low '89** and **Dani Low '87**, passed away peacefully on 31 May 2016.



1. Alex Cody '07, Angus Abrahams and Freddie Prince Timothy Abrahams.

2. Jimi James Hoad

3. Sophie Alexandra Isaac

4. Allegra Heloise Smiles-McCabe

5. Elizabeth (Lewis) Zahra '94, with baby Charlotte, and Michelle (Zahra) Hinchcliffe '93 with baby Chloe and eldest daughter Olivia.

6. Ellen Ehrhardt '07 and David Smith





*“At Kambala, we respect our students by taking both them, and their learning, seriously.”*



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