

# *the* SOUBEIRAN

*and KOGU magazine*



KAMBALA

BI-ANNUAL MAGAZINE  
SUMMER 2015



2011 TOUCH  
2011 SOCCER  
2011 KAMBALA CONCERT BAND  
2012 TOUCH  
2012 SOCCER  
2012 NETBALL  
2012 JOYCE GIBBONS  
WIND ORCHESTRA  
2012 MUSIC TOUR

*“Humanitarian work gives me the most amazing feeling of being part of something bigger than myself and working towards making a difference.”*





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Humanity

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# from the principal

*Debra Kelliher*

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**In this summer edition of *The Soubeiran* we focus on one of our Kambala values — Humanity. While we focus on many different aspects of humanity in this edition, I want to take time to acknowledge one person in particular. Nowhere is humanity more typified than in our retiring Head of Junior School, Jenny Holt. Jenny has been with us at Kambala for 35 years. I have only known her for two — yet I have been so impressed by her humanity and goodness in those two years.**

Jenny approaches all she does with humanity. I have seen the care and kindness she has for every girl in the Junior School. She knows and cares for each child — their academic progress, their mental and emotional wellbeing, whether they have their shoes, a clean uniform, lunch and a hat. She insists that every girl says “Good morning” to staff and each other, as they pass during the day. It is a small thing but it makes us all feel good. It is about acknowledgement and connection.

She is concerned about every girl in the Junior School — and every aspect of each girl. She shows respect for each girl, whether they are brave or timid, naughty or nice. She shows humanity to each one of them whether they are loving school or finding it hard going. One of the aspects of Jenny’s humanity is demonstrated by the way in which she really cares about the girls’ friendships. She knows that friendship groups are very important to girls and she insists that



the girls treat each other with humanity. What may seem small hurts to outsiders, Jenny knows the impact that this can have on young people. The children feel safe and secure. For this reason — among others, I believe our Junior School is second to none.

Jenny has taken a keen interest in the smallest details of each girl’s learning. She still teaches Mathematics at Year 6 level. For her girls, they know that Mathematics is simply the best subject! Her passion is to instil confidence in young girls and capacity in Mathematics so that we do not have generations who say, “I could never do Mathematics.”

This year I challenged Jenny — she became Head of Massie House as well as Years 3 to 6. Far from being daunted by the challenge, Jenny has loved it. She has introduced terrific assemblies at Massie, she has walked back and forth across the Tivoli lawn between the two staffrooms to build a team culture. Encouraging of all staff, Jenny is always keen to increase her staff’s capacity for great teaching and learning. She shows great humanity in her leadership. She lives that value. As Jenny retires, we are losing not just a great Junior School Head, but also a dear friend.

Jenny is not the only staff member retiring, I also wish to acknowledge Betsy Lang and her valuable contribution to Kambala. Betsy started at Kambala as a Science Teacher and owing to her innovative ways progressed to the Head of IT. Betsy retires this year and will be truly missed by the community.

# witness to change: a woman for all seasons

*Jenny Holt*

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**Betsy Lang's lasting legacy and major accomplishment at Kambala is that the School has become a leader in the use of technology in education.**

When Betsy's eldest daughter, Kirsty, started at Kambala in Year 3 in 1986, Betsy also went back to school, where she completed a Diploma of Education and further embraced her interest in Science. This complemented her Honours Degree in Psychology. She worked for some years at the Children's Court of New South Wales, conducting assessments with children and their families appearing before the courts and organising placements where needed. Betsy was also a psychologist in private practice.

Betsy is always keen to become involved; joining the Kambala community was no exception. At the time, there were two parent associations: the P&F (Parents and Friends) and the Ladies Auxiliary. Betsy joined the Ladies Auxiliary and helped write the constitution to combine these two parent bodies. Betsy was Secretary of the P&F Association for many years and enjoyed working with a range of Kambala people. But life is not all work for Betsy, who enjoys a good party. Over the years, she generously hosted a number of fundraising cocktail parties at her family home in Coolong Road.

With all three children at school, Kirsty '95, Tamara '01 and Jonathan, Betsy volunteered as a Science Consultant and specialist support for classroom teachers. At the same time Betsy was working for the Association of Independent Schools as a Science and Technology Consultant and she lectured at the Australian Catholic University.

With her passion for promoting Science and Technology, Betsy officially commenced as a Science Teacher at Kambala when Phil Milton had long service leave. Betsy also acted as Head of Technology. Eventually, former Principal Margaret White, appointed Betsy as Head of IT. This began an era of rapid change with implementations abreast of the latest technologies. This integration of technology in learning led to Kambala becoming an Apple Distinguished School. Betsy is especially proud of the fact that the majority of the girls leaving Kambala use technology confidently.



*Betsy Lang will leave a lasting memory for the Kambala community.*

In Betsy's latest role as grandmother she will continue to influence the future at Kambala. Previously, grandchildren, Oliver and Lachlan Berger attended Hampshire House and currently Emily Isaacs is there. She will be joined by Madeleine Berger and Sophie Isaacs and hopefully in the future, most granddaughters will attend Kambala as it is Betsy's firm belief that it is the best school available.

Beneath Betsy's practical scientific and analytic mind beats a warm and generous heart. She is there to help someone in need; sometimes with a quick fix, sometimes giving long-term nurturing. With her many hats: volunteer, parent, Ladies Auxiliary member, Secretary of the P&F Association, Science Teacher, Head of IT, grandmother, Betsy Lang is truly a woman for all seasons!

# the holt years

*Cath Scott and Betsy Lang*

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**From across the ditch to the 'land down under'. Originally from New Zealand, Jenny Holt first arrived at Kambala in 1980 and has been Head of Junior School since 1984.**

Throughout her time at Kambala, Jenny has championed an extraordinarily high standard of teaching within the Junior School. Under her leadership and professional guidance, Junior School staff have worked cohesively to create a safe, harmonious, inspiring and happy environment for learning. Jenny Holt's 'open door policy' for parents, staff and girls alike, means that she has created a positive learning environment in the Junior School, which is safe, exciting and student-centred. Whilst a strong team leader herself, Jenny also values being part of the team, encouraging collaboration and always listening to the Kambala community.

Over 35 years at Kambala, Jenny has introduced a huge number of initiatives and events including Junior School Captains and House Officers in 1985 and annual camps for Years 3 to 6. Although the stand-out initiative would be the use of IT - Kambala Junior School had the first computer lab of any school in New South Wales donated by the Edgley family; the most popular initiative is probably Kosi, the Kambala support dog. Through Jenny's open door, Kosi is always ready for a cuddle with a girl who is a bit upset or just wants a friendly tail wag to say 'hello'.

Jenny's passion for Mathematics is well known. She loves challenging and extending her students, guiding them to think 'outside the box' and come up with solutions to mathematical problems. She has a passion for empowering Kambala girls with self-confidence and the ability to look forward to the future academic years with a positive attitude. She encourages girls to participate in a range of activities and has been a strong supporter of Extra Curricular Debating, Chess and Dance as well as supporting major fundraising initiatives for the School.



*Jenny Holt with Kosi.*

Jenny loves her sport. She is an avid golfer, playing since she was nine years old and has represented New Zealand Juniors. At Kambala, she has coached many netball teams, taught golf as part of clubs, and has been chief cheerleader at Saturday sport and the School Sports Carnivals. Perhaps her greatest sporting love however is the All Blacks! She rarely misses a game and is always keen to take a win against the Wallabies!

A quote from Jenny Holt from Kambala's archives reads:

"What Miss Holt enjoys most about coming to School? Seeing the girls! I get out of my car each morning to be greeted by a huge smile and a 'Good Morning, Miss Holt!' The girls enjoy being here and so do I. I thrive on the variety each day brings - it is never boring and I love each day's challenges!"

We thank Jenny for her dedicated service to Kambala's Junior School and her valued contribution to thousands of Kambala girls over her 35 year tenure. The Holt years will be remembered fondly by the whole Kambala community and her legacy will continue for years to come.





#### Class 4J

A famous Tibetan proverb says "A child without education, is like a bird without wings." Thank you Miss Holt for giving us the courage to open our wings to fly and embrace our future. We will miss you.

#### Class 4S

At one of the Tivoli Wind Ensemble concerts, everyone was really happy and cheering at the end because all the girls had performed so well. Miss Holt was so happy with the performance that she grabbed one of the students' trombones and blew it really loudly, echoing around the room. It was a funny and memorable moment for everyone.

#### Ava Confos

Once my Chess team and I were getting a photo taken by Miss Holt in her office. As Miss Holt was taking the picture Kosi ran in and jumped up to be in the photo! It was very amusing, especially when he started barking and he looked very proud.

#### Katie Porteous

I went to Miss Holt's office for a principal's sticker and was so happy that I could not stop smiling. When Miss Holt saw my smile she gave me another principal's sticker just for being happy.

#### Matina Theodorou

1. Preparation
2. Elsie Paton, Class 1D
3. Tara Chen, Class TG
4. Mariana Zafirellis, Class TG
5. Laura Halley, Class 1D
6. Amelia Argyrides, Class 2F



The best way to enjoy your retirement is to do lots of swimming

From Tara

3



The best way to enjoy your retirement is to visit Greece and eat lots of Pitas

From Mariana

4



The best way to enjoy your retirement is to go on lots of walks with Kosi.

From Amelia

6

## Class 5B

The girls of 5B would like to say a big 'goodbye' to you,  
From our heart to yours we wish you luck in all that you will do.  
We will miss you so, and Kosi too, we will be sad to see you go,  
You are funny, smart and you mean a lot to us, more than you  
will ever know.

## Class 5M

Miss Holt, thank you for leading our School with selfless  
dedication and endless care and respect for your students.  
Your bright smile and Kosi's happy bark will be missed. Best  
of luck in your journey ahead. Let the sun be your witness!

## Class 5P

One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change  
the world.

**Malala Yousafzai**

1. Class 1K

2. Anna Mavrakis, Class 2F

3. Luisa Morphy, Class 2F

4. Emma Antico, Class 2H

5. Emily Dack, Class 2H

6. Grace Hyder, Class 3S

7. Annie Geissler, Class 3S

8. Zara Bella Kennedy, Class 3S



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8





1

### Class 6B

Miss Holt, you have left a legacy!

Here are some of our most memorable moments:

- ◆ Your favourite quotes and sayings, "If it is not okay, it will be alright in the end."
- ◆ Seeing you in your Tigger and cow onesies
- ◆ Watching your reaction in *So Long, Farewell* during the Music Festival
- ◆ Learning about your life and experiences during our biography talk.

Thank you for your optimism and selflessness towards Kambala girls.

Enjoy your retirement.

### Class 6C

A sense of humour, calm,  
An ear to listen, a smile.  
Selfless and comforting,  
Advice that is worthwhile.

Memorable New Zealand accent,  
Warmly welcoming new girls.  
Peking duck! Computers! Kosi's soft white curls.

Encouraging, trusting of others,  
Happy to both teach and learn.  
Listening, helping, smiling,  
Compassionate and never stern.

Miss Holt is open-minded,  
Trying to make our school days bliss.  
She will be hard to forget,  
With all these things we will miss!



2

1. Mia Richardson, Class 5P
2. Class 4J

### Class 6H

The one and only ... Miss Holt.

She is optimistic and empathetic, she is the one and only Miss Holt.  
She wonders about life beyond Kambala  
She hears the sounds of student laughter  
She sees smiling girls every day, as she walks into the playground  
She wants the best out of everyone  
She is optimistic and empathetic, she is the one and only Miss Holt.

She touches the young hearts of Kambala students  
She says everything will be all right in the end, and if it is not all right it is not the end.

She jokes "A polygon is a dead parrot ... Polly gone!"  
She tries to put a smile on everybody's faces  
She hopes one day there will be world peace  
She is optimistic and empathetic, she is the one and only Miss Holt.

Miss Holt you will be surely and utterly missed!

# vision propels kambala into the future

Maja Andersen

**Kambala Old Girl, Dr Tamara Lang '01 will take up the position of Dean of Wellbeing at the start of 2016. This new executive role has been created to bring to life the School's vision for the future. It embodies Kambala's vision as the School shifts from a reactive to a preventative approach in relation to psychological wellbeing.**

Dr Lang, who holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oxford, a Masters of Clinical Psychology and Bachelor of Psychology with honours from the University of New South Wales, runs her own private practice and has recently been working at The Sydney Children's Hospital.

"In my job I see how much mental health interferes with what children want to achieve," Tamara said.

"It gets in the way of achieving the things they want to do."

"The idea of promoting students' wellbeing from the top was one of the things that attracted me to the role."

"It is an innovative approach and is meant to help academic performance — if you have kids who are stressed, upset, anxious, they are not going to perform well."

With the release of Kambala's *Strategic Vision* earlier this year, the School has implemented initiatives throughout the year to actualise its vision. 'People, values, ethos' comprises one of the pillars under the new vision. Under this pillar, student wellbeing is pivotal.

In the latest edition of *The Educator* magazine, Kambala has been named one of the 40 most innovative schools in Australia through its wellbeing initiatives in 2015 - this included the inaugural Feel Well, Be Well Wellbeing Week and the peer-led support program.

In developing the vision in 2014 Debra Kelliher held comprehensive parent focus groups to discover the critical initiatives which should inform the School's future. This year parents have once again been invited to contribute to bringing the vision to fruition.



*Dr Tamara Lang will commence an exciting new position at Kambala at the beginning of 2016.*

"Overwhelmingly, the consensus among the parent body is the importance of raising girls who are resilient, have a connection with life's journey and a global perspective," Debra said.

"The parents do not want to lose academic success but they see that student support with foundations of wellbeing clears the path for academic excellence."

"There is a huge opportunity for schools to make a difference in the lives of students."

"The greatest gift we can give the younger generation is to equip them for the future," Dr Lang commented.

Ms Kelliher said that she is delighted to welcome Tamara to the role of Dean of Wellbeing.

"I have all the faith in the world that Tamara will drive our vision into the future."

"The appointment of an Old Girl to the role as Dean of Wellbeing is exciting."

"Our vision, and the feedback we have received from our parent body is about raising girls who are empowered to realise their dreams."

"Tamara is an extraordinary example of the path we shape for our students."

# verity bligh is selected for un youth australia's middle east experience tour

*Maja Andersen*

**In 2015, UN Youth Australia introduced its inaugural Middle East Experience tour, empowering a selection of young Australians to explore the realities and challenges (historical and contemporary) of the region.**

Charity Prefect and Year 12 student Verity Bligh was selected as one of 10 young Australians to represent UN Youth Australia on their 2016 Middle East Experience tour. Verity, who has studied the Arab-Israeli conflict and 20th century development in the Middle East in her IB History course, said that she is fascinated by the Middle East's history and how relevant it is to the region's geopolitical fabric today.

With the aim to explore global leadership, the Middle East Experience tour will take the group to Dubai, Amman, Petra and Jerusalem where they will meet with world organisations such as the United Nations' Development Programme and High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and World Vision as well as local activists and grassroots movements. The young Australians will volunteer at a multiethnic school with both Israeli and Palestinian students. The group has been encouraged to bring second-hand English books to donate to the school.

"I am looking forward to meeting the individuals and organisations that are working towards peace in the Middle East," said Verity.



*Year 12 IB student Verity Bligh is looking forward to experiencing the Middle East.*

"Humanitarian work gives me the most amazing feeling of being part of something bigger than myself and working towards making a difference."

Through a comprehensive selection process, the organisers of the UN Youth Australia's Middle East Experience tour were impressed with Verity's passion for international relations and focus on the Middle East.

"The Palestinian refugee issue is one I'm particularly passionate about," Verity said.

"The Middle East features in our news headlines on a daily basis, however it often fails to explain the deep-rooted origins of the conflict or highlight the incredible work of peacekeeping movements in the region."

"This is what interests me about the Middle East Experience - it's an opportunity to meet people making a difference on the ground to resolve these complex issues."

Verity's interest in languages and cultures also influences her passion for the Middle East. Fluent in French and proficient in Latin, and having studied Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish in the past, Verity hopes to learn to speak Arabic over next few years.



# kambala raises funds for cancer research

Maja Andersen

The Kambala community has a rich tradition of raising awareness and funds for charitable causes. 2015 saw this tradition continue with a Cancer Council morning tea which raised over \$30,000 for cancer research. The event saw generations of mothers and daughters unite for a common cause, culminating in one of the largest fundraising efforts in the Sydney metropolitan area for the Cancer Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

Spokesperson from the Cancer Council NSW, Charlotte Raman, said that the amount that Kambala raised was absolutely incredible.

"It is fantastic to see the community get behind Kambala's event and make it such an outstanding success," Charlotte said.

In the two weeks leading up to the event, a group of 12 mothers and staff members from Kambala formed a committee to organise what was the School's first official Cancer Council morning tea.

"Our vision in organising the event was to show our girls that we can make a big difference if we come together as a community," committee member Maggie Babis said.

"It was fantastic to see my daughter and her peers go out of their way to support the cause," she added.

Kambala mother and committee member, Samantha White, spoke about the positive impact that the Cancer Council has had on her life. As a cancer survivor, Samantha said that she would like to express firsthand how initiatives like the morning tea can make a difference.

The venue, which was decorated with 400 yellow and pink roses, had a display of prizes donated by the local community. Maggie and Samantha commented on the generosity of the community. They said the event was a great success due to the donations of local businesses and the help of volunteers.

"One of the four values underpinning Kambala's *Strategic Vision* is humanity. I am incredibly proud that we, through initiatives like the Cancer Council morning tea, actualise our strategic direction," Principal Debra Kelliher said.



1. Mothers Victoria Adkin and Mehves Arya attending Kambala's Cancer Council morning tea.

2. Julie Callaghan from the Cancer Council and Samantha White with Debra Kelliher at the Cancer Council morning tea.

3. Amy Hyder, Kate Fairfax, Felicity Bugden and Misia Duchon at the Cancer Council morning tea.



# kambala students commit to sustainable change in world challenge expedition

Maja Andersen

**In June this year, a group of 27 Kambala students embarked on a World Challenge expedition to Peru. The 28 day, student-led expedition brought the students to rural communities in the developing world where, after splitting into two teams, they assisted local residents with the development of sustainable community projects.**

In the 18 months leading up to the expedition, the students planned and coordinated the logistics of the trip themselves whilst raising funds for the community projects.

Jessica Attenborough, Year 10, travelled to Llachón in Capachica District to help improve educational facilities.

“The World Challenge expedition was a massive learning experience for me,” Jessica said.

“I have never had to completely take control over all types of situations myself.”

“In our teams we had to manage the budgets, organise the transport and plan everything else ourselves in the time leading up to the expedition and during the trip.”

World Challenge Coordinator and Kambala staff member, Shona Goggin, explained that the students are given an opportunity to give back to communities in need by committing themselves and their time to the project.

“We want the students to immerse themselves in the experience of living as a part of a community and undertaking hard physical work to benefit the locals,” Shona said.

“The World Challenge is not just about handing money over.”

Jessica mentioned that she had always wanted to do something for someone else. After the trip, however, she feels that she wants to commit herself to charity in a way that allows her to be up close and personal.

“I would love to do something similar again where I can help out by physically taking part in a community project,” Jessica said.

“The expedition was defining. Doing something like the World Challenge at our age, really makes us.”

Sasha Wynne, Year 10, and World Challenge Team 2 assisted with the improvement of the Textiles Interpretation Centre in the indigenous community of Chari, 95 kilometres from the city of Cusco. This was a project intended to generate tourism to the region by enabling demonstrations of traditional crafts.

“The expedition gave me a huge sense of fulfilment. We finished the project and got to experience the result of 18 months of hard work,” Sasha said.

*1. Team 1 at their project site in Llachón, Peru.*

*2. Team 1 dressed in traditional clothing while on project in Peru.*

*3. Grace Purcell and Grace McClintock from Team 2 with some local primary school children in Chari.*

*4. Team 2 at camp two of the Ausangate Circuit.*





## casak

*Anthony George*

**In Year 9 CASaK (Community Adventure and Service at Kambala) lessons complement the curriculum. An opportunity to engage in service learning, the subject requires students to look beyond their own lives. CASaK provides important learning experiences outside of Kambala's academic life and walls, taking the girls into the wider community to directly experience the challenge and rewards of service learning.**

In 2015, Kambala's Year 9 cohort gained a clear understanding of what 'purpose' means by researching eminent women of the past such as Helen Keller, Dr Catherine Hamlin or Gemma Sisia. Students learned how these women had a strong sense of direction, which guided them in their lives and led them to give back to their communities and contribute to changing the world. From this focused work on the topics 'purpose', 'empathy', and 'altruism', the CASaK students also had the opportunity to visit and volunteer in community-based projects around Sydney for the duration of two terms.

Each Wednesday the students gave up their lunch breaks to travel to different organisations in the local area to gain hands-on service experience in the community. Kambala has developed a close connection with a number of aged care facilities, particularly Advantaged Care at Bondi Waters and Edina Nursing Home in Waverley. The girls volunteered at these organisations where they developed a rapport with residents, worked together with them on



artistic programs and most importantly, made a connection with the older generation. Many girls were moved by their interactions with the residents. The students learned valuable life lessons and the residents enjoyed reminiscing and giving advice whilst developing meaningful relationships.

Students also volunteered their time at Our Big Kitchen in Bondi, a community kitchen that provides food for underprivileged people. At Our Big Kitchen, the girls rolled up their sleeves and kneaded dough, baked cookies and stirred soups. They also organised clothing which had been donated to Thread Together, a wonderful initiative that supplies the homeless with brand new clothes to enable them to seek gainful employment.

CASaK is a demanding but enriching part of the curriculum and each year the Year 9 students reap rich rewards from giving to others and gaining an understanding of the world beyond Kambala's gates and their comfortable lives. CASaK aims to instil a lifelong sense of empathy and understanding of others in our students. It also highlights the importance of acknowledging our privileged positions by giving back to the community.

*1. Emma Grandison and Hannah Keogh enjoy chatting with one of the residents at an aged care facility.*

*2. CASaK students Emily Tapper and Annabelle Happ volunteering at an aged care facility.*



# christian ethos at kambala

*Kirsten Philips*

The words of the now famous Aussie battler, Dale Kerrigan from *The Castle*, “It’s just the vibe of it ...” accurately sums up the spirit of service and faith at Kambala. While we possess a significant Anglican heritage and connection with our local parish of St Michael’s Anglican Church Vaucluse, it is our flavour of living out the Christlike characteristics of grace and service in action that gently permeate through our School, giving it a distinctive air of a community who looks out for others.

The Bible speaks of “Doing nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4) This is something of a clarion call for the way in which we aim to demonstrate an inclusive faith at Kambala which is practically motivated to make a difference in the lives of others in need.

Our faith is expressed in a myriad of ways as we genuinely seek ways to give back to others in the community. Our girls have an infectious spirit when it comes to volunteering their time as they model the selfless example of Christ. This year, their individual efforts with collecting money and selling merchandise were exemplary. Dach MacLeod who coordinated the Red Shield Appeal for The Salvation Army in the Eastern Suburbs remarked, “This year, the Kambala girls excelled in their attitude, positivity and willingness to go beyond what was expected.”

It is very exciting to note that Kambala has raised over \$141,000 over our 40 year partnership with World Vision in the context of the 40 Hour Famine. The fundraising efforts of many girls and their families have made a significant difference to the lives of people around the world and we trust this will continue in the coming years as we become even more creative and global in our efforts.



Within the School, the Christian message is lived out through our spirit of service and in other smaller gatherings of students who meet together regularly to learn more about their faith. There is a growing group of girls, both in the Junior and Senior Schools, who profess a strong Christian commitment and want to share the love of Christ in meaningful ways with their friends. Touchingly, they arranged a prayer time for students experiencing exam stress and offered free hot chocolates to their friends in Years 7 and 8. “Being able to meet with other Christians at School and share our faith with others in practical ways is a significant experience for me,” Year 8 student Mary Khoury said.

*1. Rachael Chan, Annese Lingafelter and Mary Khoury, Year 8, in the Kambala Christian group.*

*2. Kirsten Philips teaching Kambala Christian group members Mary Khoury and Annese Lingafelter, Year 8.*

# saif samaan's story

*Maja Andersen*

**Deputy Director of ICT, Saif Samaan is a treasured member of the community. Saif is a humble, kind and friendly individual who has used his past experiences to motivate him. As a refugee from Iraq, Saif's story is a reminder of the privileged life we live in Australia and our freedom.**

Saif was born in Iraq in 1981 at the peak of the Iran-Iraq war which lasted from 1980 to 1988. Saif, does not remember much of his early childhood.

"I remember the first time the street lights turned on since the war started – I was five years old at the time," Saif said.

Not long after the end of the war with Iran in 1988, Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait for seven months. This was essentially the starting point for a national crisis between Iraq and the rest of the world. Consequently, war broke out again. It started when Saif was nine years old in 1990 and lasted until 2003.

The war significantly impacted Saif's life growing up. Particularly as a teenager, he was affected by his environment. Saif did not grow up as carefree teenagers do in Australia. He said his main concerns as a teenager were making sure that his family had enough food to eat, water to drink and petrol for the generator which would fuel essentials such as the stove and oven.

"Heating in winter and cooling in summer were my secondary interests," he said.

"This might sound hard but I didn't mind it much, we used to live happily in difficult times and we learned how to feel safe in an unsafe environment."

The darkest time for Saif was during the period 2003 to 2008 when random killings and kidnappings started to take place in Iraq. The war turned its attention to target groups of Iraqi people. Suddenly, females were not allowed to leave their homes, even to attend school, and religious minorities were targeted.



*Saif Samaan, Deputy Director of ICT in Kambala's IT Help Centre.*

Saif and his immediate family decided to leave Iraq in 2005.

"We decided to leave as we could feel the danger all around us," Saif said.

"We went to Jordan where we stayed without a valid visa for three years until we arrived in Australia in July 2008."

Today, Saif lives happily in Sydney with his wife and children. The rest of his family live in Canada, North America and Australia. Saif said that he feels blessed that his family is safe and out of Iraq.

# diversity within kambala

*Judy Duffy*

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A boarding house is a genuine melting pot of personalities, so diverse is their backgrounds, their culture and life experiences. Girls travel from the far reaches of rural New South Wales, from overseas locations such as Hong Kong, Malaysia and Vanuatu, and from interstate to become a Kambala girl and embrace the offerings this education provides.

Tekishea Murrungun makes a six hour plane journey from Darwin in the Northern Territory to attend Kambala. She is a Year 7 boarder and encapsulates everything that is wonderful and beneficial in community living.

“I just love everything about my School — I especially love Visual Arts and Sport. Studying Maths, English and Science are also favourite times,” Tekishea said.

“I think I am a good sportswoman, but it is time spent with my friends that is most special to me.”

“I have learnt much about other people and how to live with them happily.”

Tekishea is one of five children and hopes to study nursing or medicine so that she can work in health care for her tribe, the Anindilyakwa people of Groote Eylandt.

Darcy Goddard travels more than eight hours from Inverell in New South Wales each term to take up residence as a Year 8 boarder at Kambala. Darcy has a sister Phoebe who is in Year 11, and her mother Ingrid '88 is an Old Girl.

There is hardly a spare minute in Darcy's life. She plays Touch, Netball, Basketball, Soccer and Water Polo and is a member of the inaugural Kambala Rock Band.

“The Japan Tour was a highlight of my life here at School,” Darcy said.

“Meeting new people and experiencing such a different culture was awesome!”



*Darcy Goddard, Tekishea Murrungun and Emily Law currently board at Kambala and enjoy their home away from home.*

Darcy is committed to social justice and helping the less fortunate in our society. She is therefore very keen to pursue World Challenge in the future.

“I love helping people and would really value making a difference in a country less fortunate than mine,” she said.

Emily Law started at Kambala as the sole Year 6 boarder. She travels from Espiritu Santo, the largest of the islands in Vanuatu, and follows on from her sister Stephanie, Old Girl '13. Having commenced boarding at a very young age, Emily feels that Australia is her second home.

“The atmosphere here is very calm — everyone is nice and supportive and it is great to know so much about this country, especially rural New South Wales where I have spent time over my years at School when visiting my friends' homes.”

“I used to think it snowed in Sydney — that was a bit disappointing,” Emily said.

Life is about experience and the journey to adulthood. These independent girls who have chosen Kambala as their school and second home, personify our four pillars. They are courageous, they experience wonder, they share humanity with their sisters in the boarding house and they demonstrate respect, for themselves, their heritage and their school.





# teaching the humanities

Martine McCarthy

It may seem pretentious but in the Humanities our interests and inspiration are as vast and diverse as humanity itself. For, as is clear from its name, it is we who are at the centre of the Humanities.

Because what it is to be human is the core of our focus, we are inspired in our teaching by those around us: particularly the students we teach. It is a joyous thing to be a teacher and to work with young people who are inquisitive and who want to understand the world in which they live. The student refrain of “But why?” is one that is often heard and it reminds us of the importance of curiosity.

This energises one’s teaching. This is particularly true as teaching has thankfully moved away from providing a simple answer or answers as we know this will be of little use to young women in the 21st Century. Rather, it is important that we move towards a much richer, if more difficult, understanding that acknowledges the complexity of life. For sometimes the big questions, the ones worth asking, have no definitive answer; yet it remains important that we continue to question and interrogate the world, others and ourselves. We understand now, as teachers, that to jump in with the ready answer can destroy the opportunity for much deeper education. Students can be empowered to learn that they have the capacity to puzzle out for themselves that which they seek to understand.

Furthermore, as passionate exponents of our disciplines, it is often the subject itself that informs our teaching. Thus our English teachers are informed and invigorated by reading and this provides a perspective – a window, on people’s lives and emotions, on our complex pasts and possible futures which continue to fascinate and challenge us. The same, I am sure, could be said for the teachers in the other areas of the Humanities.



A study of literature encompasses lessons as various as empathy, consolation and revolt. The study of character teaches us, in the immortal words of Harper Lee, “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view - until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” While a study of the Romantic poets not only teaches you the solace of ‘tranquil restoration’ offered by poetry and memory but also the fire of indignation against oppression and wrong.

Virginia Woolf, in *Mrs Dalloway*, whom some Year 12s are currently studying, suggests that we cannot go on as we always have. Change is vital if we are to move forward and not be endlessly imprisoned in the past. This is a lesson as true for a world traumatised by World War I as it is for those engaged in 21st century education.

1. Year 7 students Charlotte Falkiner and Jemima White studying Charles Dickens’ **A Christmas Carol**, providing learning consolidation catering for exams.
2. Year 7 student Katherine Tsingos studying Charles Dickens’ **A Christmas Carol**, in preparation for exams.
3. Consolidation technique taught in Year 7 English.
4. Year 7 students Olivia Georgas and Catherine Zhu working hard on their study of Charles Dickens’ **A Christmas Carol**.

# bundanon art camp

*Drew Bickford*

In August, the Year 9 Visual Arts, Photography and Digital Media students enjoyed a creative camp experience that involved sustained interaction and collaboration with their peers, their culture and the natural environment in the beautiful region of Bundanon by the Shoalhaven River.

For 30 years, the Shoalhaven was the home and studio of the iconic Australian painter Arthur Boyd. His magnificent sandstone homestead still towers over the sprawling riverside estate at Bundanon. Since Arthur Boyd's passing, the homestead exists as a living gallery space and the surrounding farmlands have become Crown land, purchased by the Keating Government for all to enjoy.

Arthur Boyd's art is an iconic visual expression of humanity and this semester, Year 9 have been studying the themes that famously underpinned his practice. Religion, spirituality, personal mythologies, life, death and the human condition are all trademarks of Arthur Boyd's work.

Surrounded by the Shoalhaven's natural environment, which inspired Arthur Boyd himself, the girls spent three days reflecting upon and sharing their thoughts on their natural world. In pairs or small groups, creative projects were launched on the banks of the Shoalhaven. The girls were involved in a variety of art making activities including photography, installation, drawing and painting. These art making tasks were facilitated by experienced and creative leaders, engaged by the Boyd Education Centre.

The students embraced every opportunity of the shared experience of creativity, showing great respect and care for their environment. The resulting work brought back from the camp is a testament to the effort and positive engagement the Year 9 girls maintained over the three intensive days of creativity.

The annual Visual Arts trip to Bundanon has been a tradition at Kambala for many years and the experiences it affords the girls extend well beyond simply art making opportunities. The joy of communal living in a stunning natural environment provides the girls with occasions for meditative peacefulness. They enthusiastically band together in shared appreciation of each other and their natural world, enjoying a largely technology-free time away. Working within the beauty of the Shoalhaven stimulates the girls in an exciting and regenerative way bringing together their humanity and creativity.



1. Year 9 students at the Bundanon Art Camp by the Shoalhaven River at sunset.
2. Photographer extraordinaire at the Bundanon Art Camp.
3. Idyllic setting at the Bundanon Art Camp.
4. Idyllic Shoalhaven landscape.



# speechmakers as game changers

Chelsea Gordon

Perhaps the true power of the speechmaker lies in her ability to challenge the audience to think differently. Year 10 student Eezu Tan has progressed to the State Final of the 2015 Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award.

Eezu shares the idea she challenges her audience to consider – the game she wants to change:

“Our supermarket shelves are filled with products that are marketed as ‘eco-friendly’, from ‘green’ printer paper to Tupperware. However, environmental marketing firm TerraChoice confirms that 95 percent of so-called ‘green’ products are not telling the whole truth.

The release of Coca-Cola Life this year is one example of the power of ‘green’. Housed in a recyclable bottle made out of 30 percent vegetable fibre, and advertised among lush green leaves with a green label, this drink claims to be good for both you and the environment. However, Coke fails to reveal the whole truth. Each day, Coke’s plantations in India extract the equivalent of more than four years of an average Sydney resident’s water usage. With over 60 Indian villages affected by the company’s high water use, farmers have inadequate water for crops and women are forced to walk miles just to access water – a basic right for all.

So the next time you take a ‘green’ product off the shelf, I challenge you to find out more. Is this product actually good for the environment, or is it just pretending?”

*Eezu Tan, Year 10, with her winning Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award certificate.*



*Grace Franki, Debra Kelliher, Carolyn Gavel and Chelsea Gordon with the Year 7A Archdale Debating team: Emily Su, Olive Tutt, Carina McCormack (standing); Priya Bahra and Jemma Lowinger (seated).*

## debating at kambala – a student’s perspective

Chelsea Gordon

### What is debating? Why do we do it?

Olive Tutt, Year 7 student answers these questions:

“Some would argue that debating is just two teams arguing, but I think it is much more than that. It involves asking, and attempting to answer, big questions like: ‘How could the world be more just?’ or ‘How could our political system better protect the vulnerable?’”

Kambala’s Year 7A Archdale Debating team competed in the Quarter Final on Friday 25 August. The topic was ‘Should we purchase Australian-made products even if they are more expensive?’. One of the team’s winning points related to sweatshops in Bangladesh. It is common knowledge how poorly the people who work in Bangladeshi factories are treated, but not all of us realise that a lot of our belongings are made there. The team argued that Australian-made products are better than those made overseas because all Australian workers are treated fairly and in consideration of their humanity.





# KAMBALA OLD GIRLS' *magazine*

COMMUNICATE • CONNECT • CELEBRATE

*Kambala Old Girls Suzanne (Dansey) Fallick '32, Joan (Bennett) Gordon '34 and Miriam (Hillier) Throsby '27 during World War II.*

# president's report

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80*

The theme for this summer edition of *The Soubeiran* is Humanity. We hope you enjoy the wonderful stories of acts of kindness and benevolence shared by KOGs. Humbling and inspirational.

In August, the Committee held its first strategic planning session. An outside facilitator was brought in and the result was the creation of a clear strategic vision and framework. Three pillars will guide the Committee and KOGU in our vision, objectives and goals: Communicate, Connect, Celebrate.

The journey starts with a thorough cleanse of the database.

The School demonstrated once again its commitment and support to KOGs by appointing Brooke Kathriner as the KOG Relations Manager. Brooke comes to us with a degree in Public Relations and extensive experience in communications, relationship and event management.

The Committee also extends a warm welcome to the newest members of KOGU — the cohort of 2015. We know you are proud to be part of the KOG community and we look forward to connecting with you in the future through reunions, networking, mentoring, sports events and other opportunities.

As always, the Committee invites feedback. We are committed to providing each and every KOG with the best return on member experience they seek. So, please help us by joining us in the journey to Communicate, Connect and Celebrate.

*KOGU President Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80 on her first day of school and in 2015.*



## 2016 function dates

### term 1

**Networking event — details TBC**

Wednesday 10 February **KOGU Committee Meeting**

Tuesday 23 February **KOGU AGM followed by a Committee Meeting**

Sunday 13 March **Year 13 Music Festival event**

Thursday 17 March **Year 12 KOGU Morning Tea**

Friday 1 April **KOG Grandmothers and Mothers of current students' morning tea**

### term 2

**Networking event — details TBC**

Wednesday 11 May **KOGU Committee Meeting**

Friday 13 May **KOGU Tennis Day and Hawthorne Cup**

Tuesday 24 May **Year 11 KOGU Morning Tea**

Thursday 23 June **Joyce Gibbons Public Speaking Competition**

### term 3

**Networking event — details TBC**

Wednesday 27 July **KOGU Committee Meeting**

August/September (TBC) **Archibald morning and evening tours**

Saturday 8 October **Reunion Day**

### term 4

Wednesday 12 October **KOGU Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 26 October **KOGU Vintage Lunch**

Wednesday 23 November **KOGU Committee Meeting**



### KOGU contact details

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# kambala old girls' union inc. annual general meeting notice 2016

Notice is given pursuant to the constitution of the association of the Kambala Old Girls' Union Incorporated that the 119th Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at 6.30pm in the Tivoli Drawing Room.

Nominations are sought for the following positions on the Committee of the Association for 2016: President, Vice President (two), Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members (ten). Nominations must be in writing and delivered to the Secretary of the Association or the Chairperson of the AGM at any time prior to commencement of voting for election of the Committee at the AGM.

Nominations are also sought for Kambala School Council Nominees (two) and these nominations must be in writing and must be 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 Road, Rose Bay NSW 2029.

Sub-Committee positions for the Association for 2016 will also be appointed at the AGM.

Items of business will include: Committee reports on the activities of the Association, election of the 2016 Committee positions for the Association, election of the 2016 Kambala School Council Nominees, annual financial and other financial reports and statements for year ended 31 December 2015, and any other business.

**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

## a family of 30

*Gia (Sawyer) Jenkins '80*

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We have been caring for children in foster care for the last 18 years. My son Harry was 18 months old and my daughter Elly was four years old when we started.



We started with K, a boy who was three at the time. He still lived with his mother and siblings and we had him for respite care once a month for the weekend.

*Gia (Sawyer) Jenkins '80 has experienced the joy of caring for over 30 children.*

He was with us until he was 12 years old. During this time his mother had many ups and downs, mostly due to a drug habit. As a result K often came to stay with us for longer periods and occasionally his sister accompanied him. We loved having him and he was never a burden.

We have fostered approximately 30 children. From a baby for one night, a seven year old for two years, methadone addicted baby twins for a weekend and a 17 year old for six months - these are just some of the children we have had.

The circumstances of the children are all different. Many of the children have parents with mental illness; some have suffered from violence and neglect. Others have parents who are drug or alcohol addicted, who are very young and live in poverty and some children's parents have committed suicide. Caring for these young people include them having regular visits with their birth parents as well as life story work. Although foster caring can be very distressing, it is also one of the most rewarding experiences.

Many of these children will never recover from their past experiences and will always require ongoing help. Most foster caring is now arranged through agencies such as CatholicCare, Wesley Mission, Anglicare and Barnardos, which all provide very good support. Foster caring has made our family better. My children have never complained and if you are looking to contribute to the community I do not think there is anything more worthwhile.



# joyce gibbons public speaking competition

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80 and Chelsea Gordon*

Each year KOGU sponsors the Joyce Gibbons Public Speaking Competition, providing the adjudication and prizes. The purpose of the Competition is to encourage and provide orators in the Senior School with an opportunity to showcase their verbal skills. This year KOGU donated two cups: the KOGU Senior Joyce Gibbons Cup (Senior Champion) and the KOGU Junior Joyce Gibbons Cup (Junior Champion).

KOGU Committee members Annie Handmer '11 and Grace Franki '13 and Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator Chelsea Gordon prepared the girls for the Competition and offered behind the scenes support to the speakers. The KOG adjudicators were Heather Robson '04, Maria Fidler '14 and Prue Weaver '76. Heather, a longstanding debating coach, now works at the Business Faculty at Sydney University. Maria, a Debating Prefect, is now a successful debater at Sydney University. Prue, a Hawthorne Prefect, and mother of Josephine Ginty '11 worked as lawyer in the banking sector and is currently a law lecturer at the University of New South Wales.

Finalists presented their five-minute prepared speech at the Senior School Assembly on Thursday 18 June. Congratulations to Junior finalists: Bel Guo (Junior Champion, Year 9), Josephine Greenall-Ota (Year 8) and Jemma Lowinger (Year 7); and Senior finalists Allegra McCormack (Senior Champion, Year 10), Yi Xiu (Eezu) Tan (Year 10) and Verity Bligh (Year 12).

Following the event the speakers and their families were invited to join the adjudicators, staff and KOGU Committee members for morning tea.

*KOG adjudicators Heather Robson '04, Maria Fidler '14 and Prue Weaver '76 with the Joyce Gibbons Public Speaking Competition finalists.*



## the annual vintage luncheon

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80*

**Kambala Old Girls from 1939 to 1964 were invited to return to the School for the annual Vintage Luncheon on Wednesday 28 October.**

Commencing with drinks in the Drawing Room in the Tivoli building, attendees then meandered down to Hampshire House and enjoyed a delicious lunch, the harbour view and wonderful company.

Master of Ceremonies, KOGU President Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80 commenced proceedings by introducing Sally Herman '74, Kambala Council President and daughter of Pamela (Chauncy) Herman '47, who welcomed the group.

Principal, Debra Kelliher spoke about the vision for the School, sparking a lot of excitement and enthusiasm.

Mary McCullagh '45 said grace and Catherine (Saywell) Harris '59 proposed a beautiful and heartfelt toast to the School, which had everyone laughing, crying and singing. An emotive rendition of the School song also had many in tears.

The decibels in the room reached fever pitch as the day progressed, and we are wondering if the laughter could be heard across the water in Manly!



We have been overwhelmed by the many messages of congratulations and thanks from KOGs who attended. We also greatly appreciated the lovely notes from those unable to attend and their generous donations to KOGU and the Kambala Foundation.

The day was a huge success, and we extend our thanks to all who helped. In particular our Year 6 ushers who provided such a warm welcome, members of the KOG Committee and School community, the maintenance staff who assisted with parking and transport and Alliance catering who once again provided a delicious lunch.

With such a positive response to the day, we are already looking forward to next year's event.

*1-7. Lunching ladies in the Harbour View Room.*

*8. Old Girls and KOGU Committee members at the Vintage Lunch.*

*9. Catherine (Saywell) Harris '59 speaking at the Vintage Luncheon.*





# how to pass a baton – an open letter to miss couldwell

Heather Brown '80

Dear Miss Couldwell

You taught me a thing or two about humanity, and you also taught me how to pass a baton. Here I share with the School community how the two are related.

Soon after I started at Kambala in 1972, my mother was seriously injured in a pedestrian accident. It was a sad old time and you were kind to the eight year old me. The day mummy came home from hospital, you said to Miss Clarke; "How about giving 'Brown-Legs' here an early mark?" I got out before the bell, and before the Prefect was at the gate. I stuffed my hat in my bag and was so full of happiness that I skipped all the way home. I had beaten the 614 bus ... and beaten that lonely winter. For the remainder of my schooling, you asked after her often.

Fast forward 40 years and we had been neighbours in Centennial Park for a decade, exchanging a laugh from time to time. Wonderful to have such a vibrant part of my past in my present. You sure livened up those boring body corporate meetings with your straight talking good cheer. Then one day earlier this year I was parking in the basement and there you were handing over your precious golf clubs to another custodian - the end was very near. Ma, now 84, was with me and it was so moving to watch the way she paid her last respects. She leant down to you in your wheelchair, took your hand, and thanked you for looking after me when she was unable to all those years ago. Her gesture, and yours with the golf clubs, left me crying like a schoolgirl.



Heather Brown '80 (left and right) during her years at Kambala and Kay Couldwell (centre).

I was not talented or spectacular at school but was a sporty sort of kid. You recognised my enthusiasm and rewarded it now and then with a prize or a 'pocket'. This was the currency of the competitor and the motivator of the 'mini me'.

At 16 I was Senior Champion at the Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool. A surprise to everyone, including me! All of a sudden I was not invisible or insignificant and felt I could do anything. It was life-changing and gave me a confidence that took me into the world. I can still hear you saying as you coiled up the lane ropes: "You've had a good day, haven't you Brown-Legs?" ... and my neighbour, Morna Playfair, on presenting the trophy: "It's good to see Kent Road doing so well!"

Those close to you must have known your value too. Team Kay did a grand job caring for you in life and death. You would have been proud of the send-off that Marg and the McIvors put on. It was standing room only in the chapel and I wanted to shout "Bravo!" or "Onya!" after your nephew Andrew delivered one of the eulogies. "Alas, you can take the girl out of Kambala but not the Kambala out of the girl! A pity" - he spoke from the heart. The roller-coaster that is grief has room for laughs and highs alongside the tears and lows. The shindig at the golf club afterwards was quite a party. I enjoyed it with Cook Road neighbours and Kambala cronies from the dark ages. A positive side effect of your passing has been the little flurry of fellowship and communication with these mobs.

Illness and death give us all the opportunity to demonstrate humanity. It is a time to throw away any rubbish; literal and metaphorical, and savour the memories. I am so glad that I shared my silly, but personally significant, stories with you by writing to you in time. I am just one of thousands of Old Girls who remember your contribution.

The Class of 1980 got together recently in the Soubeiran Room. It is always a pleasure because there is an intimacy that comes with having been children together. It makes me reflect on the extraordinary environment in which we grew up. They were happy days for me. I was not one of the clever, cool or pretty ones, but left School empowered, partly thanks to your subtle acknowledgement.

Enjoy that great golf course in the sky Kay and know that the baton you passed me is stuffed with humanity ... and humour. (How did you get that golf ball inside it?)

"Don't drop the baton Brown-Legs!"

"No, Miss Couldwell, I won't. I'll be sure to pass it on."





# an enduring partnership

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80 and Anne-Marie Byrne,  
The Infants' Home*

**A special relationship was established in 1902 when members of the Kambala Old Girls' Union decided to support the babies and children who lived at The Infants' Home. Since then, for more than a century, the two institutions have grown and developed in tandem with an enduring connection.**

The Infants' Home began in 1874 as the Sydney Foundling Institution in Darlinghurst. It was founded by a group of visionary women who fought the church, the press and prominent citizens of the day to establish Australia's first home for abandoned babies and their unmarried mothers. They knew providing a home for orphans would save lives, and offering shelter and employment options for women would create hope and opportunity for their future.

The organisation moved to its present site in Ashfield in 1876, back then considered 'the countryside', where the children had space to run and the fertile land supported farming.

KOGU was founded in 1896 "with the object of uniting in working for some good purpose" \* and in 1902 the Union's report noted, "14 frocks had been made for The Infants' Home".\* Until the 1920s little dresses were still sewn by hand for the Home, and were apparently made of red flannel. The childrens' uniforms were "red frocks and white pinafores" \* for boys as well as girls, as these were the traditional colours of charity.

In 1925, the Home's jubilee year, KOGU decided to endow a cot in perpetuity named the Gurney - Soubeiran Cot, as a token of the love and esteem of the Old Girls of Kambala. KOGU is named on the Honour Board in the foyer of the administration building in Ashfield.

Since then support for the Home has taken many forms - clothes, cot covers, toys, equipment, annual cash donations and parties for the children. In Miss Hawthorne's day, dances were held at the School to raise money for the endowment of the cot. These parties were reported in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, giving lavish descriptions of the decorations and what everyone wore, "Miss Hawthorne wore a gown of wine coloured, crushed velvet" \*. In the 1950s children's parties were hosted at Massie House in Coolong Road, and Kambala girls contributed their own toys for the children from the Home who attended.



*Gorton House, the original 10-bedroom Gothic house and how it looks today with the new Early Learning and Care Centre.*

In the 1970s KOGU donated \$1,000 to the Home's Centenary Appeal and as a major benefactor KOGU is honoured with a brick in the new wing. In later years, members of KOGU provided the fare of "fairy bread, chocolate crackles and animal biscuits" \* for 40 children in the preschool section, and donated a cassette player as part of KOGU's annual gift.

The Infants' Home is now a leading provider of integrated early childhood education and care, with services used by over 2,500 children and families annually. The core of their work is protecting children at risk and 30 percent of their services are targeted to support children and families living with complex needs or physical, mental, social or financial vulnerabilities. In 2013 The Infants' Home opened a new Early Learning and Care Centre to house integrated services in early education, early intervention, health services, together with research and training, under one roof. This year, on 8 April the Home proudly celebrated its 140th anniversary with a reception at Government House.

KOGU is very proud of the long-term partnership it enjoys with The Infants' Home. We look forward to our continued association and being able to support the work of its dedicated team in providing "each child every opportunity" \* to develop their abilities to fulfil their unique potential.

\* Source: *A Visual Journey, Kambala: 125 Years*

# 1965 50 year reunion

*Sue (Woo) Bayliss '65 and Elaine (Nicolson) Budd '65*

After many months of planning, the 50 Year Reunion of the leaving certificate Class of '65 was held on Saturday 16 May at Kambala.

We met in the Drawing Room in the Tivoli building and were taken in two groups on a tour of the School. Many girls had not been back for 50 years and, of course, were amazed at the many changes. Photos were taken on the boarding house steps. Firstly, 62 girls lined up for the 1965 group photo, followed by numerous other photos - those who attended Massie House, separate class groups, and the boarders.

We wandered down to Hampshire House for lunch, which was a selection of hot and cold finger food.

Sue (Woo) Bayliss welcomed the girls and introduced the Principal, Debra Kelliher. She was touched by our photographic display of the 17 girls from our year who had died, but who were all still so much of our school years. Janet (Dunne) Fricke then spoke about the boarders and their experiences, accompanied by peals of laughter. Elaine (Nicolson) Budd had organised a grey and gold cake which was cut by Louise (Mathieson) Kaye who had been Head Girl.



*Old Girls gathered for the 1965 50 Year Reunion.*

A PowerPoint presentation, put together by Elaine and Madeline (Varvaressos) Lester AM, was shown continuously during the afternoon and there was a display of memorabilia which included an embroidered sandshoe bag complete with sandshoes, Massie House reports, exercise books and even a brown sandwich bag complete with an overripe banana! These certainly did bring back memories and it is hoped that they will be kept in the School archives to be brought out for future reunions. There was also a display board with pictures of earlier reunions and messages from those unable to attend.

Each Old Girl was given a bag containing a book of memories which had been prepared chiefly by Sue. Jane Waddy acknowledged Sue's contribution by presenting her with a medal engraved: 'Thank you for keeping us together 1953-1965.' Many people contributed to making the day so successful and we thank you all. It was truly a fabulous day.

# 2016 reunions

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80*

Does your cohort appear in this list? Then it is time to start planning your reunion for 2016! As part of KOGU's drive to Communicate, Connect and Celebrate with the KOG community, a new annual event has been created on the KOGU calendar - Reunion Day. The inaugural Reunion Day will be held on Saturday 8 October 2016. The School will be open and all KOGs are invited to join in an array of events as well as offering individual cohort years the opportunity to catch-up independently. So please help us make Reunion Day the ultimate day for KOGs to Communicate, Connect and Celebrate by organising your reunion on this date.

For further information, please contact KOG Relations Manager, Brooke Kathriner on 02 9388 6888 or at [kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kogu@kambala.nsw.edu.au).

2011	5 Years Reunion	1981	35 Years Reunion
2006	10 Years Reunion	1976	40 Years Reunion
2001	15 Years Reunion	1971	45 Years Reunion
1996	20 Years Reunion	1966	50 Years Reunion
1991	25 Years Reunion	1961	55 Years Reunion
1986	30 Years Reunion	1956	60 Years Reunion



# 1957 reunion

*Gail (Waddy) Hewison '57*

On Saturday 12 September, 23 Old Girls from the Class of '57 met in the Tivoli Drawing Room for lunch. 2015 is also the year most of us are turning 75. How could this possibly have happened? That harbour view was just as thrilling as ever it had been, and school day memories came flooding back. Gail (Waddy) Hewison organised the event and was pleased to report that all but two had email addresses, which made her task easy.

Classmates attended from California, Bowral, Coolah, Dubbo, Coonabarabran, Mudgee, Brisbane and more. Messages were read from those who could not attend, and we remembered some dear friends no longer with us, in particular Jenny (Patton) Williams who had died in the past year.

Principal, Debra Kelliher gave us a marvellous talk about Kambala from our days to the present and then answered our questions about the School ... How was it addressing the needs regarding Mathematics and Science? What does the School think about the International Baccalaureate? How does the School handle diversity? What a treat it was to address the Principal as 'Debra'! Of course we had all called Miss Hawthorne 'Fifi' ... but never to her face! All agreed our old School was in very good hands with its new Principal, and meeting Debra was a highlight of an enjoyable afternoon.



*Old Girls at the 1957 Reunion enjoying time together.*

Stories of our many children, grandchildren, and a few great-grandchildren were shared. Some sad stories of loss, and many laughs. Most of us have retired from work in the last few years, although some are still working part-time, and many are volunteers. Physical health was a top priority for all – Yoga, Pilates, the gym – and we were in awe of several friends still playing tennis and golf, although one described it as “standing still tennis”. Stories of broken bones, new hips and knees and, thankfully, some remarkable recoveries from cancer were shared.

We were a happy optimistic class back in the day, some of us had been together since Kindergarten, and the connections and friendships are still there, particularly for those of us who were boarders together. We all agreed we must have another reunion very soon.

# 1980 reunion

*Melinda (Thew) Hudson '80*

On Saturday 29 August, a high tea for the 1980 cohort was held in the Soubeiran Room - known as the Year 6 Common Room back in our day. KOG Ursula Zaoui '85 from Maison d'Ursule provided us with a delicious array of afternoon treats. We toasted present and absent friends on the balcony, reminisced and relished the view so many of us had taken for granted during our school days. In between the stories and laughter we squeezed in a tour of the School. The few hours together flew and everyone left wishing we had more time to share. A group Facebook page - Kambala 1980 - has now been set up so we can stay connected in-between reunions.



*The 35 Year Reunion for the Class of 1980.*



# a compassionate career

*Letitia Lancaster '74*

**This year marks 40 years since commencing my career in nursing at Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital, fulfilling a childhood ambition. The disciplined life as a Kambala boarder ensured a smooth transition into the fairly rigid and hierarchical hospital-based training of the 1970s. I was in good company with Sarah Ousby, Christine Mumford and Ruth Reid (all from my Kambala year of 1974) and my sister Annabelle followed closely in our footsteps a year later.**

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of my accidental career in oncology, a specialty that did not exist in Australia in the 1970s when I began my training. It was not an area I would have chosen to work in, nor did I particularly enjoy it initially. However, I had some great mentors who saw potential in me that I did not see in myself. When I struggled, they firmly nudged me along, and I consider them to be the people ultimately responsible for my career path. I have since worked in both clinical and management positions in oncology units at RPA, the Prince of Wales Hospital and for the last 20 years as the Clinical Nurse Consultant for Gynaecological Oncology at Westmead Hospital.

Many of the career opportunities afforded me have been through membership of professional organisations. My involvement began passively in the 1980s with our local Sydney oncology group. Much of the discussion and debate in those early days was about the possibilities of advancing nurses' contribution to cancer care beyond the bedside or clinic. There were great opportunities to learn more than any classroom or textbook could teach, to participate in developing policy on key issues and to influence the future of our profession. That prompted me to further studies – a Graduate Certificate in Oncology Nursing from the New South Wales College of Nursing and a Bachelor of Health Science from Charles Sturt University.

Nurses form the largest sector of any health workforce and are frequently strong advocates for patients and families. I am passionate about people affected by cancer receiving the best possible treatment and care, regardless of where they live. I have participated in policy development locally, nationally and internationally, given evidence at two Australian Senate enquiries into cancer-related services and am a member of the Westmead Hospital Clinical Board and Cancer Australia's Advisory Group for the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancer.



*Letitia Lancaster '74 has had an extensive career in oncology.*

My other passion is ensuring nurses have access to the latest knowledge and professional development opportunities. I am a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing, recently completed a six year term as a Board Member of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care and have served as a member of the National Executive Committee of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia. I am the Co-Editor of *The Australian Journal of Cancer Nursing*, have authored several book chapters, published in peer-reviewed journals and in 2005 published a textbook on gynaecological cancer. My career highlights were being named the 2012 Westmead Hospital Nurse of the Year and in 2013 when conferred Honorary Life Membership of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia.

Invitations to lecture in India and Turkey nearly 10 years ago were enormous eye-openers to the disparities in health care around the world and made me realise that, despite its shortcomings, we are indeed fortunate to live in a country with a world-class, universal health care system.

Much has changed in the last 40 years, particularly in the nursing workforce, the nature of our work, pay, conditions and education, as well as health care and hospital and community-based services. I have had a blessed career that has afforded me wonderful opportunities to contribute to health care in ways that I could not have imagined as an 18 year old leaving Kambala.



# the river of life

Jane Poole '79

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**Like many Australians I volunteer — after all we are a nation of volunteers. For over 25 years I have had the privilege of being both a telephone counsellor and a mentor to at-risk teenage girls. I have found the experience extremely rewarding, humbling and one of huge personal growth.**

I am often asked “What is it like?” My best analogy is: it is like being a large tree on a river bank, with deep roots ensuring there is no risk of falling into the river, with branches sweeping across the river that can be caught by people as they float past. At times the river is turbulent with large logs and other debris tumbling past. The lives of people in the river at this time are in chaos and can be dangerous, frightening and, at times, life-threatening, with situations such as suicidal thoughts, mental illness and family violence. The tree has branches to offer someone to hold onto for a short while, a moment's respite to gain some calmness before letting go and continuing in the chaos. Or the stability of the tree can provide help to scramble onto the river bank to take time for more reflection and possibly seek assistance to travel a different path. Being there in the moment, without judgement, can be one of the most authentic, intense human interactions one can have.

However, not all interactions are necessarily dangerous or intense, the river can be fast flowing and in flood, but not turbulent. This can be overwhelming for people in it as everyday life just gets too much, whether it be relationship problems with kids, partners, peer groups, parents or work problems, just about anything really. At these times people may choose to grab a branch to scramble onto the riverbank to download how they are feeling and explore their options for ‘what next?’. They may stroll off in another direction or, at times, knowingly jump back into the river. Being there to help provide perspective and asking the right questions to uncover the best options for them at that time is extremely satisfying and can be what a really good friend does — listens without giving advice.

At other times the river may be clear and slowly meandering along but people are still in the river merely wanting to share their joy in a moment of success or share a funny story — some of the most life affirming moments come from hearing the sense of personal achievement from someone who has had to overcome many obstacles for their success.

The tree I refer to has not always been so stable and secure, over the years there has been many a time when the temptation has been to jump right into the river with the person to help ‘save’ them and risk both of us drowning. However with maturity, possibly increasing wisdom and the experience of thousands of shared stories it has become easier to be the stable one to provide the much needed anchor at a time of need — whether that is an anonymous call for 15 minutes or more regularly over 12 months with one of the teenage girls.

The harm we as humans can do to each other can be overwhelming however my overriding insight is the boundless resilience, strength and good humour so many people show in adversity. It has been a privilege to share small moments of so many people's life journey.



*Jane Poole '79 has had the privilege of being a part of many people's lives as a volunteer telephone counsellor and mentor.*

# dignity and discipline s'il vous plait

*Janet (Graham) Williams '63*

## **Mrs Daphne Evans French Teacher 1962-1987**

Daphne Evans arrived to teach French at Kambala from Meriden at the start of 1962. This was the start of a wonderful 25 year tenure.

We first saw her — young, 'twin-setted' and high-heeled — standing ramrod straight in front of our fourth year class. She waited while we scraped out chairs and fidgeted as we slowly stood up. She said nothing until there was total quiet. This took several seconds. She did not flinch. She greeted the class in a soft voice, and we sat down again.

This was a new approach. She had our full attention.

She also maintained discipline with a bird-like stare, which mesmerised her subject. A rhetorical question followed. No need to lash out with order marks! She kept her dignity and our respect.

Mrs Evans taught in a clear, constructive way with an emphasis on grammar. She interposed her teaching with anecdotes, which delighted us, thinking she was going off the topic. These anecdotes, always self-deprecating, simply served to win us over. We were enjoying French because we enjoyed her.

She also encouraged individual students. One such was Marietta (Swane) Gadd '63 also called Mim, who was averaging a B in French and an A in all her other subjects. As a result of this interest, Mim went on to get First Class Honours in French and was also Dux of the School with Katina (Nicholson) Zines '63.

For those of us who chose to do Honours, never had work been such a pleasure as far as we were concerned. We liked her! She liked us! We worked, she motivated us. As a result, the four of us, Katina, Mim, Ellen (Sherell de Florance) Marshbaum '63 and I achieved First Class Honours.

Twenty years later, I contacted Mrs Evans with a view to studying French at university. She was hesitant, explaining the current emphasis on oral work. Nevertheless, she suggested a program that would bring me up to scratch. I graduated and went on to teach Primary French part-time for 25 years. This work was a joy.



*Janet (Graham) Williams '63 and Pamela (Williams) Smith '64  
at one of their regular catch-ups with Daphne Evans.*

Daphne became a friend, and with others, we met regularly for lunch. Pamela (Williams) Smith '64 and I still do. She told us that when she first came to Kambala, she had been hoping to concentrate on Latin, unaware that this was Miss Hawthorne's unassailable domain. Instead she stayed, teaching French for 26 years. As well, in 1986 she was appointed Director of Curriculum in addition to being Coordinator of Languages and Textiles and Design.

During her time at Kambala, Daphne saw many changes. The Wyndham Reform led to greater emphasis on the spoken word and the School's connection with the Alliance Française, where the students took exams. The formation of the French Society meant lunchtime activities like films, visiting speakers and French Assembly on 14 July. In 1969, 33 students were taken to Noumea — the first of many international excursions.

In Daphne's words: "I very much enjoyed my years at Kambala and look back with fond memories on my years there. I am always interested in hearing news of my past pupils."

Thank you Daphne, for helping to make our time at Kambala a happier one.



# tennis day

*Julie (Kelly) Reid '77*

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This year the KOGU Tennis Day seemed to be blessed – not only was the weather magnificent but we had great representation from current parents, younger Old Girls, older Old Girls and non-playing Old Girls who joined us for lunch to support tennis at Kambala. Kay Couldwell would have been proud! During her time at Kambala Tennis flourished and many Old Girls from her era are still keen tennis players and have encouraged their children to play.

It was especially poignant that after a morning of tennis on our superb courts and lunch in the Tivoli building, we spent the afternoon celebrating the life of our wonderful sports teacher Kay, at her memorial service. Her legacy endures.

# archibald 2015

*Julie (Kelly) Reid '77*

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Our series of Archibald tours continues to gain popularity. This year many attended the evening tour and a lucky few had the Art Gallery of New South Wales to themselves on the morning tour. Our tour guides were excellent and we all enjoyed catching up with each other with drinks or morning tea. We plan to support the Archibald again in 2016 and will advertise the dates as soon as we can confirm them with the Art Gallery.

## births, engagements, marriages and deaths

### *births*

**Emma (Smith) Collet '01** and her husband Anthony welcomed a baby girl, Charlotte Sarah, in October 2014.

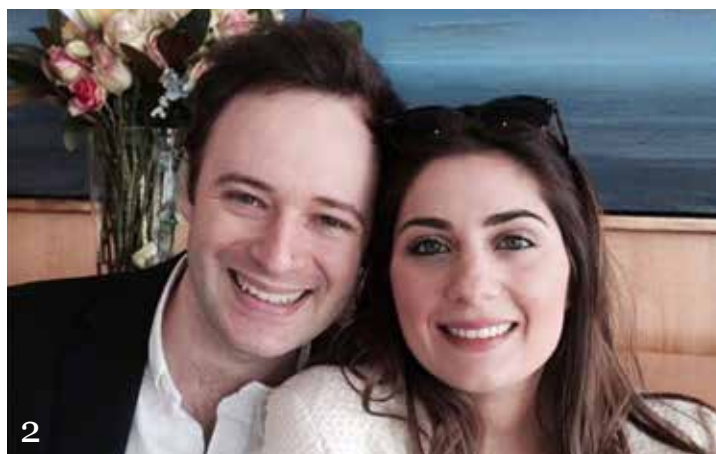
**Kate (Smith) Hay '05** and her husband Leon welcomed a baby boy, Jude Lennox, in September 2015.

### *engagements*

Congratulations to **Holly Lewin '04** and Orazio d'Elia on their engagement, and to her parents Margot Bain '76 and Ross Lewin and sisters Georgina '02, Annabelle '07 and Antonia '12 and Grandmother Janette (King) Bain '54. Holly is currently working as a primary school teacher at Moriah College. Orazio is from Naples and they will be married in Italy, July 2016.

Congratulations to **Alex Cody '07** and Angus Abrahams on their engagement, and to her parents Pierce and Toni Cody, brother Jack and sister Katie '09. Alex is currently based in Sydney working for luxury eco-travel company Wild Bush Luxury. The couple is still enjoying the engagement glow, so no wedding plans are in place just yet but the wedding will take place sometime in 2016!

Congratulations to **Anthea James '08** and Ben Balzer on their engagement, and to her parents Con and Maria James, brothers Alexander and Stephen and sister Amelia '98. Anthea is currently based in Sydney working as a lawyer for international law firm K&L Gates and Ben has recently finished his medical degree at The University of Sydney. They plan to get married early in 2017.



1. Alex Cody '07 and Angus Abrahams.

2. James Balzer and Anthea James '08.

# births, engagements, marriages and deaths

## weddings

**Genevieve Ingham '06** married Lloyd Staszkievicz (United Kingdom) in New York City Hall on 4 December 2014. Gen has been working in New York City for a music focused production company for the past three years. She is returning to Sydney for a few months before relocating to the United Kingdom with her husband.

**Louise Brunninghausen '07** married Luke Redmond on Saturday 28 March 2015. The wedding ceremony took place on Luke's family farm in Quaama, on the South Coast, New South Wales and the wedding reception at the local School of Arts, Quaama Hall. The Maid of Honour was Louise's sister, Sophie Brunninghausen '09 and bridesmaids included Georgina Sawyer, Alex Cody, Lauren Pontey, Brianna Pratt and Olivia Hyde, all Class of '07. Following the wedding, the couple honeymooned in San Francisco, Mexico and Cuba.

## deaths

**Valerie Dawn (Berry) Hendry '32** passed away quietly on Tuesday 18 August 2015 aged 94. Dearly loved wife of John (Don) Hendry, devoted and loving mother to Ian Hendry, Janet (Hendry) McFadzean '65 and Ross Hendry, loved sister of Joan (Berry) Mason, Brenda (Berry) Heithersay and Howard Berry (dec).

**Margaret Cecilia (Love) Mutton '40** passed away in September 2014 aged 90. Widow of Bob Mutton, mother of David and Andrew. Margaret was born in Vacluse, sister of Colin and the youngest granddaughter of James and Kassie Love who had lived at Tivoli from 1900 to 1910. After attending Miss Ham's Primary School at Parsley Bay, she commenced at Kambala in 1933, following her Love cousins Kassie '27, Mink '27, Betty '32 and Judy '39. She joined the Australian Army Medical Women's Service in 1943 and was posted to Concord Hospital where she encountered a former Cranbrook School boy and friend of Colin and their cousins, Bob Mutton. Margaret and Bob were married in 1946. They lived at Bowral, Dundas and later Point Piper. Margaret kept a close interest in Kambala, particularly through her nieces who attended Kambala: Margaret (Larkin) Gall '61, Jenny (Love) Glass '65, Melissa (Love) Greenwood '67 and Dimity (Love) McCartney '71.

**June (Carney) Steglick '42**, passed away on Thursday 12 March 2015 after a short illness. Beloved wife for 43 years of Neill, loving mother of Mark, devoted grandmother of Anders and Claudia.

June spoke fondly of her Kambala years and was a proud Old Girl. After leaving school, she was one of the first students in New South Wales to study and graduate with a Diploma in Interior Design.

1. Genevieve Ingham '06 and Lloyd Staszkievicz.
2. Louise Brunninghausen '07 and Luke Redmond.



Her career in interior design spanned over 60 years and she derived great personal and professional satisfaction from it. Unusual for her era, she successfully managed to combine a full-time career with a family.

**Louise (Grieshaber) Minutillo '65**, died on Monday 29 June 2015 after a long battle with bone cancer. Louise started at Kambala in Massie House and was a Prefect. She was inspired by her French Teacher Daphne Evans and enjoyed many trips to France. She did teaching after leaving school and in later years was a guide working at the Australian Museum and the Australian National Maritime Museum. Louise attended her 50 year School Reunion in May. Nine girls from her year attended Louise's funeral, Sue (Woo) Bayliss '65 gave the eulogy. A picture taken at the reunion was framed and placed on her coffin.





*“Our faith is expressed in a myriad of ways as we genuinely seek ways to give back to others in the community.”*





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