From the Principal

It is my pleasure to commend to you this first edition of Veritas for 2019. The year has begun well and we have welcomed even more students this year than last.

In 2019 we continue to think about the future of our School and start imagining Gippsland Grammar in 2030. What will our School look like? How will our culture continue to thrive through the next decade?

What changes could be implemented and what should the School never change? In particular the School is eager for families to articulate why they chose Gippsland Grammar and what was important to them. Former Principal of Hamilton and Alexandra College Bruce Simons will help with this process and facilitate discussions during a visit in May. Information and ideas gathered will be collated and as such will begin harvesting our thoughts for Gippsland Grammar’s next strategic plan.

During this process there will be an opportunity to reassess the School values - compassion, leadership, excellence, responsibility and respect. It will also give us a chance to look at our mission and vision for the future.

I encourage all members of our community to engage with our upcoming strategic planning and hope you attend one of our sessions.

David Baker
Principal
Leadership

Leadership has been identified as a quality we value at our School in many different contexts. We often speak to our students and staff about leadership and how we can encourage all members of our community to be leaders. For our students, leadership is often visualised in the form of leadership positions such as Junior School leaders, Year 10 Peer Support leaders or School Prefects; however, leadership at Gippsland Grammar transcends a badge and describes a mindset that is determined to do the right thing, to be an upstander and to be a person of purpose and vision.

Gippsland Grammar inducted its 2019 Prefects at a special ceremony in the first week of term. The 14 student leaders then enjoyed a weekend of leadership training and fellowship with representatives from South Eastern Independent Schools Association at Phillip Island.

These students bring a broad range of interests and skills to the leadership roles within the School. They live throughout the region, some taking advantage of Gippsland Grammar’s boarding facilities for the year to alleviate the travel burdens in their final year at secondary school.

Pictured are (Back) Principal David Baker, Prefects Will Johnson, Cameron Mekken, Jack White, Tom Finlay, (middle) Head of Garnsey Campus Jan Henry, Simone Clamp, Anna Brougham, Isabelle Condron, Ben Harms, (front) Susannah Keily, School Captains Erika Allen and George Lancaster, Vice Captains Charlie Sargant and Grace Mackie, and Georgia Cheney.
New building officially open

The new state of the art learning centre at St Anne’s Campus was officially opened on 13 March by The Hon Jane Garrett, MP, and Acting Chair of Gippsland Grammar Board Vicki McLeod.

Built to cater for Year 3 and 4 students, the $1.97 million project features four classrooms, as well as common learning spaces including an amphitheatre.

It was funded by the School’s ongoing capital works fund, Gippsland Grammar Foundation and Victorian State Government. Architect was Ted Adams from Smith and Tracey Architects and Brooker Builders won the building contract via a blind tender process.

During the opening, the building was named Kukun Kalak, Gunaikurai for grandmother tree. Pronounced cook-arn cull-luck, the tree represents a place of gathering and learning.

A smoking ceremony was part of the official cerebrations.

Inspecting the amphitheatre area of the new building are Principal David Baker, RAAF Group Captain Dennis Tan, Member for Eastern Victoria, Hon. Jane Garrett, MP, Deputy Principal Jan Henry, Head of St Anne’s Campus Jie Van Berkel and builder Ross Brooker.

Former Head of St Anne’s Campus Garry Gray (1996-2008) with his wife Vere and Old Scholar Joy Brand (1961) enjoying a catch up and morning tea.
The roots symbolise connection, the branches are the families and the leaves are the children reaching out for knowledge.

The building features spaces for contemporary teaching and learning as well as interactive whiteboards and super high-speed internet access with full wireless projection capabilities. Each room has state of the art climate control and there is a centralised high air flow fan to move air around the common area. It also has a 20kw solar system designed to reduce more than 80 percent of the buildings power consumption.

The building sits overlooking Sale’s McMillan Street where there was once a row of cottages. Held by the Anglican Church since white settlement in the 1850s, the cottages were utilised in many ways. Archivist Tim Gibson recalled they were once home to senior boarders, the School Chaplain, overseas rowing coaches and during the 1980s and 1990s one was used as the Early Learning Centre.

Elizabeth Board was guest speaker. Liz was Head of St Anne’s Campus for five years (1987-1991) before moving to Garnsey Campus. She has been passionate about education for more than 50 years. She is the current Chair of the Board of Governance of Into Work Australia, a National organisation employing 700 staff, and trains 2000 students annually.
Old Scholar Stories
Past students building future careers for today’s learners

A collaboration between Gippsland Grammar Old Scholars, Hugh Williams and Martin Bean, has a new DigiTech subject for Year 7 students piloted in eight schools in Victoria.

It’s a philanthropic initiative called CS in Schools auspiced by RMIT University to support teachers to confidently deliver computer science, including coding, to secondary school students. Gippsland Grammar, its teachers and students are already benefitting from the program. It aims to support teachers, developing their confidence and competence through in-class professional development, provided by volunteer industry professionals.

Program Founder and Gippsland Grammar 1986 alumni, Dr Hugh Williams was previously Vice President of Google Maps at Google and has held executive roles at eBay, Microsoft, Tinder, and Pivotal. He is an Adjunct Professor and Distinguished Fellow at the Melbourne Business School and an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University. He addressed Gippsland Grammar’s graduating class of 2018 at last year’s Valedictory dinner.

Vice Chancellor of RMIT University and fellow alumni, 1982 Gippsland Grammar graduate Martin Bean, has given his official support to the project, meaning it becomes part of RMIT’s Policy and Impact Portfolio.

Dr Williams is excited about the potential of the program to create real change and support today’s students in their future careers.

“Many of the important and best paid jobs of this and the next generation will require computational thinking. Even if a student doesn’t study computer science at university, it’s essential they have the basics because just about every job will be changed by technology,” Dr Williams said.

“The pilot program will put volunteer software engineers in the classroom alongside teachers and together they will deliver a coding subject and learn from each other.”
Local helps reshape VCE experience for students

Old Scholar Solomon Jones is helping enhance the VCE learning experience for local students.

As one of Victoria’s brightest young minds, he is also a volunteer who has helped set up the Regional Education Support Network (RESN) - a free, online tutoring service for regional and rural VCE students.

Solomon graduated from Gippsland Grammar in 2016 and after completing a ‘gap year’ at the School soon realised tutoring was a great way to ‘give back’ and help students. He is currently studying Engineering and Commerce as a double degree at the Australian National University, Canberra, and helping Year 12 students in his spare time.

“Education is evolving. So are the services on offer for regional and rural VCE students,” he said.

“Students, parents and teachers should take advantage of this service.”

For more information visit www.resntutoring.com.au

Alumni profile

Natalie O’Connell (2003)

East Gippsland Shire Mayor Natalie O’Connell addressed the Bairnsdale Campus leadership induction encouraging every student to be a leader.

“Before I talk more about my role and leadership, I’d like to tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in Omeo and in Year 9 I went to Gippsland Grammar in Sale and lived at the boarding house. I was a peer support leader, House captain for Tisdall Hotham and I was also a prefect. After I finished school, I moved away to study and among other things, I became a teacher. I actually did my teacher placement here at this Campus with Ms Joy Hay-Smith and did some casual relief teaching as well, so I know what a wonderful school this is. Most recently I have been a teacher at Omeo Primary School. I am not teaching at the moment as I have two little girls, Holly (4) and Chloe (2).

As Mayor some of my responsibilities include chairing or running council meetings, speaking on behalf of council, I support and provide guidance to councilors and meet many members of the community.”
**Angus McKinnon (1974)**

Is the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal. With more than 40 years’ experience in the industry, the equine vet said he found it humbling to be recognised for his work in veterinary sciences.

**Cameron Olsen (1992)**

Has just been awarded ‘General Counsel of the Year’ at the 12th annual Lexology European Counsel Awards. The Awards, at London’s historic One Great George Street, celebrated the achievements of in-house counsel recognised by their peers as excelling in their chosen fields. More than 4000 were nominated for the awards worldwide.

Cameron was born and raised in Sale and after Gippsland Grammar studied Arts/Law at Monash University, graduating with Honours in 1998. He commenced employment with Melbourne law firm Minter Ellison in 1999, and transferred to its London office in 2001. In 2004, he took up a position at Sports Direct, the largest sporting goods retailer in the UK. Cameron specialises in intellectual property law, and as General Counsel manages all legal aspects of Sports Direct’s business.

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**Vale**

**Norm McNess**

The Gippsland Grammar community mourns the passing of former colleague, teacher and mentor, Norman McNess, who passed away in Geelong in February. Norm was Gippsland Grammar Deputy Principal from 1978-1981. Old Scholars’ remember him as a thoroughly decent and compassionate person who loved to laugh, play hockey and sing. (We also remember the grief felt following the death of his son Jeremy when the F111 he was flying crashed.)

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**Heather Stewart (1954)**

Green Grub Heather passed away peacefully on 12 March at Ashleigh House, Sale. She was aged 80. Her life was celebrated with a service at St Paul’s Cathedral.

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**Mark Blandford (1975)**

Was born on 26 October, 1955, died on 23 February, 2019. He enjoyed a Gippsland Grammar education from Year 3.

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**Dr Ramon Hall (1990)**

Became a Gippsland Grammar student in 1983 and finished Year 12 in 1990. He was a keen rower and valued member of Wellington Binks. He became a nutritionist and food science expert with more than 20 years’ experience working across food industry, academia and government agencies. He had published numerous research papers and presented at many local and international conferences. He died on 28 February.
2018 results

2018 was another outstanding academic year for Gippsland Grammar as the class of 2018 graduated with distinction. Dux was Joshua Strauss, who obtained an ATAR score of 99.85.

Close behind Joshua from Sale were Niamh Van Berkel (Stratford) 98.45, Jessica Lang (Sale) 98.35, Millie Dunnett (Sale) 98.05, Pierce Kidson-Purry (Longford) 96.8, Bella Shelton (Bairnsdale) 96.8, Megan Harrison (Giffard) 95.05, Jeremy Gunther (Bairnsdale) 94.15, Sam Davis (Nungurner) 93.6, Sahas Wijesekara (Traralgon) 93.15 and Isabelle Stanley (Traralgon) 92.65.

The School’s median ATAR score was 77 and 14% of our students achieved a score above 90, placing them in the top 10% of the state. 37% obtained an ATAR score in excess of 80 placing them in the top 20%.

Within our results there are many stories of success and students achieving their own levels of personal excellence.

2018 Tertiary offers

It is pleasing to review our VCE results every year; however the real purpose of the ATAR system is to provide opportunities for our students to continue their studies at university and create exciting and fulfilling careers. In 2018, 60% of our students received their first preference for tertiary placements. Interestingly most of this cohort chose to attend either Monash University or Deakin University but have chosen a diverse range of courses and careers to pursue.
Fellow in Residence

St Anne’s Curriculum Co-ordinator Tracey Grubb with spelling expert Michelle Hutchison and St Anne’s Pathways teacher Michelle Sands after a professional development workshop as part of the Lorna Sparrow Fellow in Residence Program, sponsored by the School’s Foundation. All staff at St Anne’s completed extra training to deliver improved spelling outcomes.

The Idea of North

One of Australia’s most highly awarded and best loved contemporary a cappella groups, The Idea of North, visited us on March 15. All our choirs participated in workshops throughout the day before joining the highly acclaimed artists on stage for a performance in front of more than 300. The Laurie Payne Sports Centre was transformed into a performance space for the occasion.

Sunflowers

Bairnsdale Campus Foundation student Tess Roach keeping a close eye on her class sunflowers. The sunflowers were planted during the students’ transition from the Early Learning Centre Kindergarten program into Foundation late last year. The blooms are a beautiful symbol of student growth at Gippsland Grammar.

Grandparents Day

Deirdre Relph, who was a founding member of Gippsland Grammar Foundation with her cousin the late John Leslie, OBE, was guest speaker at this year’s Grandparents and Special Friends Day at St Anne’s. She is pictured here with her granddaughters Lucy and Milly Dray, Year 3 and 2 respectively.
National Clean Up Australia Day

Year 6 Bairnsdale Campus student Cooper Cameron with his little buddies Logan Dick and Jesse Trewin help clean up their environment. It was part of National Clean Up Australia Day activities.

Music students travel to China

A group of senior music students were fortunate to travel abroad this term to participate in the International Schools Choral Music Society (ISCMS) Festival in Shanghai, China. Accompanied by Music Director Matthew Goss and teacher Laura Evans, they also enjoyed some of the sights in China in the company of students from Ivanhoe Grammar, Shanghai.

Digital Technology

Year 3 and 4 Digital Technology students have been learning to code using the Scratch program. They have been creating analogue clocks and designing a quiz around the times displayed on their clocks. This project integrates with and complements their maths unit on time. Benjamin Reynolds has really loved the work.

Malmo Memorial Scholarship

Margo Carruthers presents Year 12 student Ben Harms the 2019 Malmo Memorial Secondary Scholarship. She described Ben as a self-motivated, dedicated, high-scoring student with strong leadership skills. Ben also won the Public Speaking award at the Lions Club of Victoria Youth of the Year district final on 24 March.
Para Single Scull – Gold, Harrison Singer at the State Championships in Nagambie.

Year 8 girls Joanna and Jessica Board, Brooke Marshall, Tess O’Toole, Lucy Best and Ava Kuch, enjoy the opportunity to ‘have a go’ at clay target shooting as part of weekly sport on Thursday afternoons.

State Champion Lachlan Wilmot, Year 12. At the Victorian rowing titles he won gold medals in School Boys Single Scull Open Division 1, U19 Male Single Scull Open, the Male A Grade Quad Scull, Male B Grade Quad Scull and Male D Grade Coxed Four.