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Nexus

GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INSIDE:

Thoroughly fantastic
theatre

Class reunions

Sporting success





Nexus

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COVER PHOTO:
Year 6 student Imogen Templeton
with some of the One Million Stars
to End Violence.
Photo: *Shepparton News*.

From the Principal

Learning is life

Now more than ever, learning is life. The world our children will inherit is facing major challenges from different sources. Factors such as climate change, digital disruption, and the rise of isolationism are rapidly transforming our world and creating new and complex problems and challenges. Many conventional policies and institutions are struggling to cope in this new paradigm.

Our children will require the lifelong capacity to address multi-faceted problems, identify new career pathways and thrive in diverse teams. It is clear that, for our students, learning will be crucial throughout their lives.

As a school, it is therefore important that we strive to provide learning that will sustain and enrich the lives of our students. Now more than ever, schools must focus on the learning that is likely to matter. We can reliably predict that deep understanding of foundational knowledge such as literacy and numeracy will be timeless. Equally important will be core skills such as collaboration, creativity and critical reasoning. Above all will be a lifelong capacity for, and love of, learning. The achievement of deep understanding allows students to apply their learning to new and unfamiliar situations. In this journey, the role of teachers will be critical.

Goulburn Valley Grammar School (GVGS) has, for some time, been wrestling with these matters. It was therefore timely that the school was invited to participate in an exciting and innovative project titled Learning that Matters (LLtM). This pioneering venture is a partnership between Independent Schools Victoria and Project Zero, based at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Initially it is envisaged the project will have a two-year duration, spanning 2017 and 2018.

There are 11 schools participating including Belgrave Heights Christian School, Camberwell Girls' Grammar School, Christian College Geelong, Girton Grammar School, Luther College, Ruyton Girls' School, St Leonard's College, St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, Wilderness School, Woodleigh School and Goulburn Valley Grammar School.

The central focus of the project is to challenge schools to promote learning that will readily inform and transfer to the lives our students are likely to lead. As part of this program, all participating school principals attended a study tour in the USA during September. Through the program the participants explored learning programs offered by a diverse range of institutions in the USA. Participants were challenged to reflect on each of the learning experiences, in the context of the learning that matters in their schools.

This was one of the most thought-provoking and interesting professional learning activities I have yet experienced. In response to this program, GVGS will aim to develop a framework that identifies the learning that matters at GVGS. This framework will then form the basis for the evaluation of all school learning, including curricular and co-curricular programs. I look forward to working with staff and students in the years ahead as we explore the Learning that Matters at GVGS.

Semper Ulterius

Mr Mark Torriero,
Principal



Top of the state



Education Minister James Merlino presented Abbey Zito (far left) and Chelsea Rathbone with their awards.

Two Goulburn Valley Grammar School (GVGS) students from Year 12, Class of 2016, have been recognised in the prestigious Premier's VCE awards. Both Abbey Zito and Chelsea Rathbone received Study Awards for their subjects of Industry and Enterprise, and Environmental Science, respectively.

The annual awards were presented on April 27, 2017, with more than 1100 guests attending a special ceremony in which the top-performing VCE students from last year were recognised for their outstanding academic results.

A total of 320 awards were presented to 287 students, including 292 Study Awards for achievement in a single subject. Individual Graded Assessment scores are used to determine the order of merit and identify the best students. Students must have a study score of 46 or above to be eligible for an award.

Abbey's teacher Mrs Mary Bayly said Industry and Enterprise is a subject that requires students to investigate the concepts of enterprise, leadership and teamwork in shaping attitudes, skills and behaviours. "Abbey was an exemplary student – very hard working and committed, with flair and the determination to always seek excellence," Mrs Bayly said. "I found her to be one of the most dedicated and generous students I have taught. She was selfless in her determination to help others in the class, sharing her ideas and examples freely. This class is usually made up of mostly Year 11 students who are fast-tracking and a couple of Year 12 students. Abbey was in Year 12 so was able to demonstrate great empathy for her classmates. She was kind and thoughtful and always determined to do her very best, which was, obviously, exceptionally good."

Abbey said it was an honour to receive the award and to know that her hard work paid off. "However, it's difficult because I know so many people who worked tirelessly in Year 12 and deserve to be celebrated," Abbey said. "I feel I owe a lot to, not only Mrs Bayly and Goulburn Valley

Grammar School as a whole, but in particular to my cohort and Industry and Enterprise class, because I would not have come close to getting the results I did without them working equally as hard and supporting me throughout the year."

She described Mrs Bayly as "one of those teachers who has so much faith in you that you just can't help but want to be the best you can to make her proud". "She is so organised and patient, and unbelievably dedicated to her students," Abbey said. "I feel so lucky to have had her constant guidance and can't thank her enough for her support throughout the year."

Abbey is currently studying a double degree of Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Laws at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne and living at St Mary's College. "At this stage I'm not really sure what I want to do with the rest of my life, but I really hope I end up in a career where I can help others," she said. "I'd love to one day join the teaching profession and work with disadvantaged kids, maybe doing my masters through Teach for Australia."

Chelsea Rathbone's teacher Mrs Jacinta Carter said Chelsea demonstrated a passion for her subject, which was illustrated in her work and particularly in the understanding that she displayed in School-Assessed Coursework (SAC) tasks. "This award was well deserved as Chelsea always tried her best and continued to strive to improve her work," Mrs Carter said. "I congratulate Chelsea on her hard work during the entire year, which has been recognised at the highest level."

Chelsea said she was proud to receive the award. "Mrs Carter is a really great teacher who is

passionate about what she teaches and is always willing to help, and I don't think I would have done as well as I did or enjoyed environmental science as much as I did without her," Chelsea said. "Mr Heard was also important to my achievement, because he was my environmental science teacher in Year 11 and first sparked my interest and enjoyment in the subject and helped me learn key things to prepare for Year 12."

Chelsea is now studying a Science/Arts double degree at Monash University. "I'm hoping to major in Environmental Science or Ecology and Conservation Biology in Science, and Human Geography and International Studies in Arts," she said. "So far, I'm having a lot of fun and learning plenty of interesting things, as well as meeting lots of new friends, but it is very different living in Melbourne, away from my family and friends at home. My goals for the future include helping the environment in some way."

Abbey said she had come to realise just how special the tight-knit Goulburn Valley Grammar community is since finishing school. "I've come to realise that our schooling experience is very different to a lot of other people's," Abbey said. "Teachers, support staff, friends, peers and everyone in between, helped me develop skills and make memories that will stay with me well into the future. I'm so proud to be a part of the GVGS community, and I can't thank every member of it enough, not only for providing me with such an amazing schooling experience, but for making me the person I am today. I hope I can make you all proud going forward and can't wait to watch the next generation of Grammarians achieve incredible things."



Photo by Bri Hammond for frankie magazine

A hunger for change

Lyndon Galea (right and above) with Goulburn Valley Grammar School Year 9 volunteer Nicholas Waller.

Lyndon Galea was reading the *Shepparton News* online one day when he came across an article stating that some local children were regularly sent to school without lunch. “I couldn’t believe this was happening in a country as lucky as ours,” Lyndon said. “I thought, if they didn’t have lunch, maybe I could make it for them myself.”

He roped his mother Sandra in, and they made 100 sandwiches, which they then delivered to local primary schools. “All we needed was the extra bread,” he said. “We had the rest of the stuff in the fridge.”

This was the beginning of an initiative that is now a fulltime job for Lyndon (Class of 2005), after he launched the charitable organisation Eat Up. “When I read that story, I wasn’t doing a whole lot of anything. I was a bit lost,” he said. He was publishing street magazines and working in a pub in Bendigo, perhaps looking for something more meaningful. “I was just so confident there would be a solution to this problem,” he said. “It seemed an absurd problem to have. When kids are hungry they can’t concentrate, and if they can’t concentrate, they can’t learn.”

Eat Up works differently in different areas but essentially, members of the community volunteer their time to make sandwiches out of donated ingredients, using donated equipment. Eat Up then delivers freezable lunches to schools with students in need, and teachers dispense the food in a subtle way when necessary. Year 9 students at GVGS have helped out making sandwiches in what Lyndon hopes is an ongoing partnership between the school and Eat Up. A lunch is a basic cheese or vegemite sandwich with perhaps a fruit cup and a drink.

Currently 108 schools in Melbourne are involved and the organisation is also operating regionally with 90 schools in

Bendigo, Ballarat, the La Trobe Valley and Geelong, and including 10 schools in Shepparton, at both the primary and high-school level. The first local volunteers came through Shepparton Foodshare and GO TAFE and SPC is a current product donor. “We’re expanding all the time, as the volunteer support grows,” Lyndon said. The idea is that the various areas will become self-sufficient models, relying on local donations, volunteers and distribution.

“We found that teachers were supporting a lot of kids,” he said. “Teachers were making sandwiches during their own lunchtimes, giving away their own lunches or running secret tabs at the canteen. Our model empowers the teachers.”

Lyndon has very fond memories of his time at Grammar, where he took part in school productions and played soccer. His best friends still today are from school. “We have many volunteers in Melbourne from the Grammar network,” he says.

Lyndon has been extremely encouraged by the feedback he’s receiving from participating schools. “We have no direct interaction with the kids, but we are told it’s improving kids’ engagement in the classroom and that some kids are getting on better with the other kids around them. It’s even improved the attendance rate in some classes.”

He admits there’s an emotional aspect to the program that has nothing to do with filling bellies. The fact that students can see someone cares enough to provide their lunch, can be a game changer for some kids. “Disadvantage can be a cycle and education is the key,” Lyndon said. “I was so fortunate to go to an amazing school like GVGS. If kids are given the chance to perform their best, maybe the cycle can end with them.”

If you’d like to know more about Eat Up go to www.eatup.org.au.

Ms Burns will be missed

The school said goodbye to its longest-serving staff member in November, with the retirement of library manager Ms Jan Burns. “As a school member for the past 34 years and library manager for much of her time here, Ms Burns’ input into the library and the life of the school is almost immeasurable,” library coordinator Mrs Jodie Keady said. “From the early years, when the school was a lot smaller, Ms Burns could be found taking aerobics classes, attending various camps as well as running the much smaller resource centre.”

Her role has grown with the school, with all her responsibilities too numerous to mention. “She was a driving force in seeing that our new library came into fruition 10 years ago, researching and organising a new computer system for the library, seeing e-books being made available for students to borrow and, of course, co-coordinating the archives collection of our school,” Mrs Keady said. “Outside the library, she has been a ‘Jack of all trades’, from helping to prepare our presentation evenings, taking photographs, Christmas card printing ... the list is endless. I suspect we won’t know the full extent of this job list until she is gone.”

Ms Burns began in 1984 as a part-time library technician, coming on fulltime the following year. From 1988–2005 she was library/resource centre co-ordinator, introducing the library computer system in 1988 and ‘89. She has taught primary classes and research classes for other year levels and has been a tutor at several year levels. She has been the school’s principal archivist, including for the 20th anniversary weekend and the book on the school’s history *Something Quite Noble*, published in 2009. She has been the organiser of prizes and certificates for presentation evening for many years and has performed many roles in school productions, including production manager, photographer, make-

up and programs. She also went on many school camps and trips, including those to Indonesia and Europe.

On her final day at the school on November 3, former student and current staff member Mr Glen Edwards, who had worked with Ms Burns since 1993, delivered an entertaining farewell speech recalling many amusing moments. “Janette, there have been plenty of icons that have graced this wonderful school since 1982 and you are one of them,” Mr Edwards said. “For hundreds of students you have been the one constant in their lives. Not every teacher is known to every student but Mrs Norton [former name], Ms Burns or Burnsey will be remembered by everyone. You have been the one that has stamped their books, told them to stop eating in the library, told them to get out of the pit, congratulated them on winning the Joseph Furphy writing competition, read them a story and been a mother to all those who found a safe haven in the library at lunchtimes or before school.

“On behalf of the current staff and past staff you have worked with, we would like to thank you Janette for the huge contribution that you have made to the life of GVGS. I know you have been a magnificent historian and you have been an integral part of the school’s history that has been collated and archived ... You will be sadly missed. To coin a phrase from the library – as one chapter closes another one opens.”

Ms Burns is looking forward to moving to Geelong in her retirement and training her standard poodle as a companion dog in aged-care facilities. “I am feeling very positive that I made the right decision to retire after 34 years at the Grammar,” she said. “I am looking forward to spending more time with my family and to new adventures, and having more time for relaxing.” Appropriately for a retiring librarian, reading a good book is also on Jan’s agenda.



Ms Jan Burns was farewelled at assembly on November 3 by Year 6 students Elizabeth Tivendale and Ashleigh Bitcon.

Making the most of it

“There are so many events and opportunities at GVGS – get involved and it will give you that break. It fosters relationships and skills that we need in life. There is something for everyone.”

School captain Emily Bolton has made the most of the many opportunities available to her at Goulburn Valley Grammar School. “I like to jump into things, even if I’m not that good at it,” Emily says. “For example, with the first girls’ footy team. I had never played before. It was so much fun. We went to Bacchus Marsh for the first game; I didn’t even know the rules. It was such a good group of girls. We won the whole competition!”

English and Health were Emily’s favourite subjects in Year 12. She has ambitions to study arts/law at Melbourne University. Her ultimate job is to work as a barrister. “It is all about balance,” she said. “You have really got to be good at organising yourself; to make specific times to do different things. There are so many events and opportunities at GVGS – get involved and it will give you that break. It fosters relationships and skills that we need in life. There is something for everyone.”

Emily started at the school in Year 10 after transferring from Notre Dame College. “As soon as I got to Grammar, I felt like I was supposed to be there,” Emily said. “I was welcomed by these amazing friends and they’re still my friends today. It is such an

amazing group of girls that took me in when I came to Grammar. I’m lucky I came here and met them. I love being in teams or groups; our year level has bonded so much.”

Last year Emily, 18, was involved in the senior aerobics team and coached the junior team. That followed eight years of classical and jazz ballet, dancing up to four nights a week with the GV Academy of Ballet.

She has been a regular in school productions, this year playing sassy dancer Gloria in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, last year bespectacled Penny in *Hairspray* – for which she received a Georgy award nomination – and previously Angel George in *The King and I*.

Emily has a fine educational pedigree. Her mother is Head of Arts at GVGS, Deidre Belleville. Her father, Stephen Bolton, is Principal of Mooroopna Secondary College. Her brother, Patrick Bolton, will soon be finishing Year 10 at GVGS.

“I’m not very arty so I don’t see mum much,” she says to queries about going to the same school her mother teaches at. Stephen was a maths teacher and

Emily claims to have missed out on both gene pools, however in actuality she is a balanced mix of both influences.

She says one of her highlights at GVGS was the Europe trip in July last year when she travelled to Italy, Germany and Austria, the first time overseas without her parents. “It was probably the best time I ever had,” Emily said. The group experienced war museums and art galleries and the Sound of Music tour.

Another highlight was taking a leading role in the 2016 *Eisteddfod*, choreographing House Dunlop’s number – and winning.

Emily relaxes by reading and watching Netflix, especially *Downton Abbey*. Lately short stories by Cate Kennedy have been a favourite as have Seamus Heaney poems, which “the whole class fell in love with”.

This year she also took part in the youth development program *Lady Somers Camp*, and will be a volunteer next year.

She has enjoyed being joint school captain with Nick Marwood. “We have become better friends; we are different in our approaches: I’m more of a stress head, he is very calm so we complement each other.”



Leading by example

Stars to end violence

School Community prefects Molly Ingram and Nicholas Geisler ran lunchtime workshops, teaching students to make stars as part of the One Million Stars to End Violence Project. The project is a peaceful global-weaving project that engages communities in a conversation about ending all forms of violence. Maryann Talia Pau started the project in 2012 as a personal response to the rape and murder of Jill Meagher in Melbourne. Maryann, who was born in Samoa and now lives in Australia, has invited the world to join her in making her vision of one million stars to be created by 2018. The One Million Star installation will be held during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. After two weeks of star-making in the school library, students and staff members surpassed their goal of 1000 stars.

R U OK?

Year 12 students took time out from their busy study schedules to organise recent fundraisers for Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT) and on the national R U OK? Day.

Deputy Principal Leon Mcleod said: "Schools provide an important avenue for young people to become aware of, and contribute to, the needs of a broader community. Often these opportunities can come through simple fundraising or awareness activities."

The Student Representative Council's Football Colours day was held in September in support of ASPECT, Australia's largest service provider for people on the autism spectrum.

In the same month, students and staff enthusiastically threw their support behind R U OK? Day by donating gold coins to wear odd socks to raise funds for Grow, which is an organisation aimed at providing support for people facing mental-health challenges. "Of course, the involvement of students and staff on a day like R U OK? goes beyond the simple raising of funds," Mr McLeod said. "It requires consideration to be given to the mental well-being of those around them. The campaign to get them to "ask", "listen", "encourage action" and then to "check in" is relevant for all of us every day, not just on one day of the year."

Backing Amnesty

The annual Amnesty Sleepout was held at Goulburn Valley Grammar School in June. Mr Mal Widdicombe, GVGs Amnesty International Group co-ordinator, said students braved a cold night that had temperatures as low as 0 degrees Celsius. "Those who thought boxes were just for aesthetics were in for a rough night, but that was the whole point: gaining a small insight into the struggles faced by homeless people," Mr Widdicombe said. "The difference was that we got to go home and snuggle in our warm beds whereas many homeless people will have to endure the entire winter. What helped get us through was the delicious soup made by parents and prepared by Mrs Keady and Ms Belleville. Also, the gym games run by Mr Reynoldson were enjoyed by all. There was some cutting-edge box architecture happening on the night; a particular stand-out were the Year 8 girls who created a box house equipped with lighting, cushioning and plenty of food."

The sleepout, together with the Years 5 and 6 Pyjama Day, was successful in raising \$1035, which will be donated towards homelessness in the Goulburn Valley. The 2017 Social Justice Prefects Lucy Macpherson and Mitchell Collins showed great leadership on the night and in the weeks leading up to the event.

The Amnesty group has been very active this year. Earlier in the year it supported the Knickers for Nairobi project. This involved raising funds to buy women's underwear to send to Kibera, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya. "Many women there don't have access to clean underwear, which means not only do they not feel comfortable going to school, they are also susceptible to many diseases, furthering their disadvantage," Lucy said. "Goulburn Valley Grammar School raised a total of \$500, which bought 500 pairs of underwear. This generosity has found its way to Kibera and there are now 500 girls out there who would be extremely grateful." The group has also signed petitions for a variety of issues, such as child labour on palm-oil plantations.



Year 12 students Bridie Lodge, Lara Spencer and Raelee Jager wear odd socks to raise awareness about mental health issues.



Social Justice Prefects Mitchell Collins and Lucy Macpherson rugged up for the annual student Amnesty Sleepout.

LEFT: School Community Prefects Nicholas Geisler and Molly Ingram, along with fellow students, made over 1000 stars for the One Million Stars to End Violence Project project.



Language-loving musician

Year 11 student Ryan Bhat, (pictured right) is a gifted musician, however a passion for music does not hold him back from excelling in other areas. Ryan has won a prestigious VILTA Indonesian Independence Day Scholarship. VILTA is the Victorian Indonesian Language Teachers Association.

His Indonesian teacher Ms Ruci Dewi encouraged him to apply, and the first step was to write an essay, which was then shortlisted for an interview at the Indonesian Consulate in Melbourne. He was then interviewed by a panel of four people, comprising consulate workers and teachers. He was one of six students selected from Victoria to go to Canberra to attend the Indonesian Independence Day celebrations and meet the Indonesian Ambassador.

The scholarship is sponsored by the Embassy and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia. It aims to support and encourage educational and cultural exchange between Australia and Indonesia by providing linguistic and cultural experiences for committed and promising students of Indonesian in Victoria.

“The time I spent in Canberra was an excellent experience; aside from the (surprising) amount of improvement in my Indonesian speaking skills that took place in the space of three days, the overall effect of being surrounded totally by all things Indonesian – not just the people and the activities we did, but the atmosphere itself – was fascinating to say the least,” Ryan said. “It was really a privilege to be able to go on this trip. Naturally, sitting in the drawing room of the ambassador of any



nation is a rarity, that too sipping tea with one – but also to have the opportunity to watch the Independence Day ceremony and be a part of the whole affair. I am glad to have done this, as it makes Indonesian more than just a ‘classroom’ subject, which definitely makes learning it all the more interesting.”

Ryan is also taking part in the John Noble Quartet Program, an innovative method of training young musicians in chamber music across regional and rural Victoria. The program harnesses online technology to deliver tailored music programs to students, giving them a chance to further develop their musical repertoire and skills.

John Noble has been working with four Greater Shepparton students; Liesl Parnell

(violin one), Paige Gullifer (violin two), Isabelle Ford (viola) and Ryan Bhat (cello) for six months. Each month the students participate in a mentoring session with Mr Noble and other professional mentors.

This followed on from Ryan winning the prestigious Shepparton Young Instrumentalist Award last year. He plays percussion in several orchestras including the Goulburn Valley Chamber Orchestra (GVC), where he plays both as percussionist and cellist. Between the two instruments he is in many of the school bands and ensembles and production orchestras. At the GVC annual concert in June, Ryan performed a marimba solo in recognition of his outstanding achievement in winning the 2016 award.

Usaha yang bagus

Goulburn Valley Grammar’s ongoing commitment to the study of Indonesian was rewarded at the 2017 Sayembara Lisan (Indonesian speaking) competition, held by the Victorian Indonesian Language Teachers Association. Students placed in every year level they entered at the Melbourne University event.

Year 6 students Imogen Templeton and Anna Mazur placed first and second, respectively; Year 7 beginning Sharon Anthony was first, while in Year 7 continuing, Ashwath Ragade was first and Anna Howell was second. In Year 8 Beginning Jack Vaivars was first and Hayden Reynolds was second, while in Year 8 Continuing Zoe De Paola was first, Sarah Roberts was second and Akhil Gadde was highly commended. In Year 9 Teagan Menhenett was first and Taryn Cameron was second; while in Year 10 Lucy Asquith was first,

Josh Dillon second and Farhan Islam third. In Year 11 Ryan Bhat was first, Sophie Hool and Jessica Dalton were second and Gemma Collins was third.

“This is a fantastic reward for the above-mentioned students but I reiterate that all students who enter the speaking competition benefit a great deal,” said Mr Grant Findlay, Head of Languages Other Than English. “I would like to acknowledge Bu Ruci for her efforts in assisting students prepare for the competition.”

Making history

Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 received high distinction awards in the 2017 Australian History Competition held under the auspices of the History Teachers' Association of Australia and run in conjunction with The Giant Classroom.

The primary goals of the competition were to provide an interesting and challenging competition for students and to support teachers in the implementation of the history curriculum. In 2017, the competition papers were broadly based on the Australian curriculum. Students were given 45 minutes to complete 50 multiple-choice questions with many of the questions based on source material. The questions were prepared from easy to challenging, in order to cater for a range of abilities and tested knowledge, skills and understandings.

In Year 7, Nicholas von Güttner received a high distinction award, while Sasith De Abrew, Trinity Gullifer, Armand Kruger, Edward Miechel, Samuel Oguntade, Ashwath Ragade, Leo Sharrock and Jack Telford received distinctions. Ashwath is also to be congratulated on getting to the State Finals of the National History Challenge, which he entered with a research project on the Industrial Revolution.

In Year 8, Akhil Gadde and Reily Menhenett received high distinction awards, while Tom Bonanno, Frances Clark, Ewan Dalley, Thomas Ferguson, Dineli Fernando, Sarah Roberts, Adarsh Sivakumar and Jack Vaivars received distinctions.

In Year 9, Thomas Dooley-Heath, James Nethersole and Daniel Sharrock received high distinction awards, while Daniel Dalton, Ryan Coburn, Angus Hatty, Genevieve Lodge, James Nethersole, Sajana Palawela, Will Rohde, Ben Templeton and Merdi Yamfu Bwanga received distinctions.

In Year 10, the following students all received high distinctions: Lucy Asquith, Patrick Bolton, James Cai, Hamish Cross, Hayley Clark, Sarah Davies, Hugh Farrell, Thomas Hamilton, Lynton Hoey, Cameron Humphris, Farhan Islam, Thomas Jackson, Eliza Keady, Isabel Long, Nathan Lon Ho Kee, Lachlan Maskell, Lucinda Murdoch, Hiram Nourazi, Riley Payne, Annabelle Phillips, Grace Sandles, Pratik Sharma, Miya Smith, Rachel Thiel, Sarah Trease, Grady Tyson, Lillieth Ukich, Michael von Güttner, Seth Wilmot, Megan Winzer and Xavier Wittingslow.



Ashwath Ragade, state finalist in the National History Challenge.



James Nethersole and Fraser Ingram achieved a High Distinction (the top 1% of results) in the 2017 Australian Geography Competition.

Geographic excellence

An impressive 30 students have excelled in the 2017 Australian Geography Competition. Year 9 students Fraser Ingram and James Nethersole did amazingly well to score in the top one percent of Australia for their year levels.

The competition is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association. Australian secondary school students compete to have their geographical knowledge and skills assessed. It aims to encourage student interest in geography and to reward student excellence. This year the competition consisted of multiple-choice questions testing geographical knowledge and skills.

More than 200 students from Years 7, 9 and 11 participated in the competition. In Year 7, Angus Giffin, Elly Jeffery, Jack Telford, Liam Trevaskis and Nicholas von Güttner achieved high distinctions, while Mitchell Dodos, Thomas Gorman, Trinity Gullifer, Jane Hatty, Armand Kruger, Lachlan Mackenzie, Nicola Russell, Leo Sharrock, and Emily Waller received distinctions. In Year 9, Angus Hatty, Sajana Palawela and Daniel Sharrock received high distinctions, while Kate Adams, Taryn Cameron, Genevieve Lodge, Kate Lon Ho Kee, Ciaran Mawley, Alice O'Brien, Eloise Schmedje, Niamh Thorn and Charlotte Uniacke received distinctions. In Year 11, both Chloe Hill and Tom Schier received high distinctions.

Felix's endeavour

Year 10 student Felix Priestly was part of a challenging voyage up the Queensland coast aboard STS (Sail Training Ship) *Young Endeavour* in September. The ship was a gift from the United Kingdom to the Australian Government and people to mark to country's Bicentenary in 1988. Then Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, pledged the ship – which is a 44-metre long Brigantine with a 34m tall mast – be used for the youth of Australia.

Today the tall ship is used for the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, which the Australian Navy operates to challenge and inspire the youth of Australia through sailing. Felix applied for a berth shortly after turning 16 (the minimum age), and set out on September 3 on a 10-day voyage from Brisbane to Mackay.

"While I was convinced I would be fine, I soon joined a committed effort by the crew to empty our stomachs into the sea," Felix said. "I spent most of each day and night above deck while I was sick, for a less-than-enjoyable two days. In the end, we used 170 vomit bags between the 30 of us!"

The youth crew was divided into three groups (watches), and each group had two four-hour watches over the ship. "It was generally agreed that morning watch, 4–8am, was the best as we could watch the sunrise," Felix said. "During a watch, we would maintain the course at the wheel, navigate and adjust, furl and unfurl sails,

according to the weather as well as take engineering rounds. My favourite task was to set the square-rigged sails, especially the topgallant sail. The higher up the sail you went the more exaggerated the motion of the waves became, until it was like being on a gigantic swing. Sometimes I had to stop working and hold on until a rougher patch of waves passed."

The voyage took in five islands, some so small "you could walk around them in half an hour". "They had white sand, palm trees, and they were surrounded by rich coral reefs," Felix said. "On the way to one island, I saw four sea turtles even though I did not snorkel. Often dolphins would jump about at the bow of the ship; other times whales would breach or jump in and out of the water repeatedly nearby."

"Working with the crew day and night and sharing a small living space, I felt like I had known some of them for a much longer time," Felix said. "In the end, it was a very challenging but beautiful voyage."



FROM TOP: Felix Priestly; the view from the top of the mast.



Eloise Schmedje, Abigail Kuch, Layne Moroney, Caitlin Pogue and Elle Brooks enjoy the Melbourne street art.

City slickers

Year 9 students returned from their two-week Urban Experience in Melbourne in September, extremely confident about navigating around the city. Principal Mr Mark Torriero said for students from a regional area, the development of independence is more relevant and urgent than for most other students across the state. "The reality is that the vast majority of our students leave home after Year 12 in order to pursue further study in other cities," Mr Torriero said. "It is this reality that highlights the fundamental importance of our students participating in school camps."

The camp kicked off with a safety talk from police and included visits to Old Melbourne Gaol, The Watch House, Eureka Tower, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Australian Centre for the

Moving Image, Melbourne Magistrates Court, Hosier Lane street art, Melbourne Zoo, State Parliament, Immigration Museum, Clip N Climb and ArtVo and ended with an Amazing Race around the city.

"Students rose to the challenges and opportunities the program provided and represented the school well as well as adapting to the challenge of managing greater independence," Mr Torriero said. "Students were required to work in groups and make decisions involving time management and transportation to ensure they completed scheduled activities on time."

Students presented hand-knitted scarves to the Salvation Army to support its work with the homeless.

No debate about winner

Goulburn Valley Grammar won four out of six debates in the ICCES debating competition at Bacchus Marsh Grammar School in August, placing first overall on the day, winning the ICCES debating perpetual shield for 2017.

Trainee Miss Kate Turk said the first junior team to debate argued for the negative that sport is no longer fun. Adarsh Sivakumar, Frances Clark and Ayla Jackson performed strongly in their first ICCES debate, unfortunately coming runners up to Hamilton.

Miss Turk said the second junior team of Chloe Harmer, Tegbir Kaur and Taryn Cameron won their debate against Highview College, arguing that social media does more harm than good. All three managed to come away with equal scores, resulting in equal best speaker. "Fortunately, they were not too affected by the strength of their arguments and managed to repair their relationships with their social-media devices immediately after the debate," she said.

The senior team of Grace Sandles, Lucy Asquith and Farhan Islam rose to the challenge of denying that modern western society cares more about animals than people. They managed to defeat Girton Grammar School with Lucy Asquith being named best speaker. The second half of this senior team consisted of veteran debaters,

James Worsfold, Ryan Bhat and Tom Schier, who successfully argued that Australia should embrace nuclear power. "The adjudicator was blown away by poetry and comparisons to kale, and awarded Tom and Ryan with equal best speaker," Miss Turk said.

On the other side of the senior topics, the second senior team of Megan Winzer, Isobel Piercy and Fatima Zahra argued the affirmative that modern western society cares more about animals than people, but unfortunately were defeated by Hamilton. The second half of this team consisted of Brigitte Bertolus, Sophia Sorrenti and Akshat Ragade, who managed to overthrow Bacchus Marsh Grammar, arguing that Australia should not embrace nuclear power. Brigitte Bertolus was awarded best speaker.

Nail-biting finishes

The GVGS chess team brought home the ICCES shield for Chess at Bacchus Marsh Grammar School in August. Mrs Leona Sterling, chess co-ordinator, said a highlight of the day was the way students from all schools hovered around games played by Robert Li, Hiran Norouzi and Scott Giddings, which went to nail-biting finishes and full time. The GVGS senior team of Robert Li (Year 12, who won all 5 games), Linal Amarasinghe (Year 11), Jack Morrissy (Captain, Year 12) and Scott Giddings (Year 12) established a considerable lead of six

points going into the final round. This greatly assisted the intermediate teams of Dinal Amarasinghe (Year 9), Hiran Norouzi, Lachlan Maskell and Nathan Lon Ho Kee (all Year 10) and a new junior team of Shiv Dutta, Hasan Abdullah, Jack Vaivars and Jeffries Jacob (all Year 8) in the final aggregation of scores. GVGS won 39 points to the 37 points of Braemar College, the major competitor on the day. Shiv Dutta was placed equal first on games won in the junior competition, while others gained valuable experience from playing at ICCES level. "Our challenge now is to develop a succession plan at all levels, especially since most of the talented senior team will be leaving GVGS at the end of the year," Ms Sterling said.



Jaxon digs it!

Year 8 student Jaxon McCarty-Walker, (picture left), has received a place in the prestigious 2018 digIT program run by the Information Communications Technology (ICT) Summer Schools initiative funded by the Federal Government. digIT offers just 60 places Australia-wide annually, and Jaxon was given a place based on his high performance in the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition held in March. The program will give Jaxon the opportunity to connect with a successful ICT expert as part of a six-month mentoring plan.

The program also includes a summer camp next January and a winter camp in July, which will explore all aspects of ICT through guest lectures, interactive sessions, practical work and field trips. Central to this will be the development of algorithmic thinking and coding skills.

Jaxon is looking forward to the opportunities that will come his way. "I'm looking forward to learning new things and maybe it will give me ideas for a future career path," he said. He has done basic coding in IT at school. "I normally find it pretty fun to program the robots that we use. It's hard at first but once you get the hang of it, it's not too challenging."

Jaxon's strengths and interest lie in maths and science, which helps with coding. The camps take place at Monash University, during which students live in campus, giving them a taste of life as a tertiary student. "I think the mentoring program will be very interesting as you get to meet new people who do this kind of stuff for a living," Jaxon said. "It will be interesting to learn new ways about how a couple of numbers can make a robot do crazy things."



The STEM tour group at Google headquarters in California.

American inspiration

In July, 32 students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and five teachers flew to the United States on a trip designed to inspire continuing interest in STEM-related disciplines. Participant, Year 9 student Teagan Menhenett, said the group arrived in San Jose just in time to experience the July 4 fireworks for American Independence Day, “an incredible explosion of colour, and of notable volume”.

In Oakland, the group visited the Chabot Space and Science Center. “We launched into space and, in teams, navigated our way to Mars, with help from Mission Control,” Teagan said. “We also visited Alcatraz Island and explored the Exploratorium on Pier 15. We also had the opportunity to view one of America’s most notable attractions – the Golden Gate Bridge.”

From San Francisco, the group flew to Seattle, viewing the city from the famous Space Needle as well as enjoying the Pike Place markets, a baseball game and the Boeing Future of Flight Aviation

centre, where they viewed many planes such as the 777, 747 and Dreamliner – many of which were only located in Seattle. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation also provided some insight into the ongoing work carried out by the organisation, helping charitable projects around the world.

It was then on to Los Angeles for possibly the most anticipated attractions – Universal Studios and Disneyland. “We explored the Wizarding World of Harry Potter and quenched our thirst for adventure on the variety of rollercoasters,” Teagan said. “Overall the tour of America’s west coast was very enjoyable and enriching, for both staff and students. We learnt a great deal about many aspects of STEM and also had great fun. We had an amazing time and have made many lifelong memories.”

Trip organiser Mr Steve Bayly said the tour provided a great opportunity for students to experience STEM-related attractions not available in Australia. “Hopefully the trip helped to inspire students to continue their studies in science and mathematics,” he said.

Trip of a lifetime

Fourteen GVGS students from Years 10 and 11 arrived in Paris on July 1 to begin the trip of a lifetime. In what is becoming a biennial tradition, these students immersed themselves in a fortnight of culture and unforgettable experiences as travellers on the France-Belgium Tour. "This wonderful adventure saw students tackling the traditional highlights of Paris including the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral, Palace of Versailles and, of course, its world-class shopping boutiques and dining opportunities including croissants, snails and the delectable and colourful macarons," tour leader Mr Scott Harrison said.

"Our tour then took in Monet's Garden and then the majestic Mont Saint Michel before spending a week touring the Western Front and associated battlefields. Students and staff alike were deeply moved by the cemeteries, museums and monuments and it was touching to see both a teacher and student within the group locate the gravestones of loved ones and connect with family relatives who paid the ultimate price."

It was an honour for the school to be invited to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres, where a ceremony in honour of the fallen allies is held at 6pm every day of the year, a tradition that has continued since the end of

the World War I. "I congratulate Lexie Nolen and Tom Hamilton for representing the school superbly as ambassadors for this moving service," Mr Harrison said. Students toured both the Somme and Flanders regions and a clear highlight of their time in Flanders was the Passchendaele Platoon Experience. "Here, the group was dressed in replica World War I uniforms complete with rifle, helmet, pack and gas mask," Mr Harrison said. "Starting with a Tommy Tucker meal, which consisted of simple stew, the experience saw the group march several kilometres across the countryside, pausing periodically to participate in grenade throwing or stretcher-bearing type exercises and re-enactments."

The group then travelled to the medieval city of Bruges in Belgium, famous for its canals, architecture and chocolate. "The 83-metre tall Bell Tower proved a formidable physical challenge with its 366 steps to the Belfry, however the stunning views of the city were worth it," Mr Harrison said. "I would like to sincerely thank all of the students for their impeccable conduct throughout the trip and thank fellow travellers Mr Leon McLeod and Mrs Rebecca Morris for assisting with staffing responsibilities and duties."



It was an honour for the school to be invited to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate in Ypres, where a ceremony in honour of the fallen allies is held at 6pm every day of the year.

ABOVE: Thomas Hamilton and Lexie Nolen.

BELOW: Students and staff participated in the Passchendaele Platoon Experience.



Thoroughly fantastic

At first glance, the two musical productions staged by Goulburn Valley Grammar School this year, seem poles apart. The first, senior production in May – Thoroughly Modern Millie – is based on a story set in 1920s New York. The second, middle years production – Cinderella – staged in August, is based on an ancient folk tale that most of us grew up knowing through Disney movies. But look closer and you'll see some interesting parallels – both are about women who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances, which they overcome to eventually triumph.

Principal Mr Mark Torriero described Millie as “a triumph from the first notes of the orchestra’s overture”. “From the opening scene, it was hard to believe that this was a school production,” he said. “The cast performed with the sort of energy and polish that would be expected after a season.”

The production introduced a first for the school, with extensive tap-dance scenes throughout. “The combination of beautiful costumes, sets, lighting and makeup also carried the audience back to that roaring and excessive epoch,” Mr Torriero said. “The very carefully composed costumes enhanced the singing, drama and dance on stage. The singing was of a very high standard. The combined voices of the leads and the chorus helped to bring to life the engaging narrative that unfolds throughout. Clearly many hours of rehearsal and private practice were required to achieve this level of clarity and confidence.”

Mr Torriero thanked choreographers Anabelle Webster and Annalise Foott, both past students from the Class of 2016, as well as director Helen Janke and musical director Genevieve Bihun. Students in lead roles included Adam Sizer, Tilly Dalton, Sebastian Mathieson, Sean French, Georgina Hacon and Nell Ryan.

Middle Years students took part in Cinderella, including a dress rehearsal for more than 150 guests including students from local primary schools, Shepparton Access and local Rotary Club representatives.

Mr Torriero said the standard of singing, acting and dancing was outstanding and reflected the many months of hard work and preparation by the students and the staff involved. “The quality of the performances demonstrated by the students, make it difficult to believe that all the cast are in Years 5 to 8,” he said. “We congratulate all our young performers on their efforts. We also thank and acknowledge the efforts of students, parents and staff working behind the scenes.”

Mrs Janke and Mrs Bihun again filled the roles of director and musical director, respectively, as did Anabelle Webster and Annalise Foott in choreography. Students undertaking lead roles included Madeline Fleming, Tom Nethersole, Alina Reid, Trinity Gullifer, Lilia Tennant, Phoebe Pate, Sharon Anthony, Nicholas von Güttner, April Sofra and Rohan Newnham.



CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN PHOTO: Tilly Dalton, Ella Sprunt and Sebastian Mathieson; Ella Sprunt and Adam Sizer; Georgina Hacon and Sean French; The Priscilla Girls (L-R) Mia Lawley, Rebecca Francis, Megan Winzer, Tessa Cummins, Emily Bolton, Shannon Chessells and Ellie Nethersole; Madeline Fleming; (L-R) Phoebe Pate, Alina Reid, Lilia Tennant and Trinity Gullifer.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE CAST MEMBERS WHO WERE NOMINATED AND AWARDED IN THE 2017 GEORGY AWARDS.

AWARDS

Ella Sprunt as Milly: Best Junior Performance (Female)
Georgina Hacon as Muzzy von Hossmere: Best Junior Singing (Female)

NOMINATIONS

Adam Sizer as Jimmy: Best Junior Performance (Male) and Best Junior Singing (Male)
Ella Sprunt as Milly: Best Junior Singing (Female)
Sean French as Mrs Meers: Best Junior Supporting Performance (Male)
Sebastian Mathieson as Trevor Graydon: Best Junior Supporting Performance (Male) and Best Junior Singing (Male)
Georgina Hacon as Muzzy von Hossmere: Best Junior Supporting Performance (Female)
Tilly Dalton as Miss Dorothy Brown: Best Junior Singing (Female)



Class of 1986

Class reunions

In the months of October and November, the school welcomes back past students and staff to celebrate their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and now 30 year, reunion. Held in Founders Hall, the night provides the opportunity to connect with the school and old friends. Pictured here are photos from the 2016 and 2017 reunion nights.



Class of 1987



Class of 1997

CLASS OF 1986 30 YEAR REUNION. BACK L-R: Former Principal Mr Vic Ryall, Mark Ryall, Stephen Watters, Chris McNeill, Julie Reed, Narelle Sebastian **MIDDLE L-R:** Melissa Flanders, Jon Phillips, Jillian Allen, Delene Drayton, Former Vice-Principal Mr Alan Humphries. **FRONT L-R:** Craig Warner, Kaye Hose, Nigel Spencer, Leiticia Harmer. **CLASS OF 1987 30 YEAR REUNION. L-R:** Glen Edwards, Cameron Pogue, former staff member Mr Jeff Moran, James Castles. **CLASS OF 1997 20 YEAR REUNION. L-R:** Duncan Crawford, current staff Leona Sterling, Louisa Locke, Kate Pinner, James Rudd, Belinda Steers.



Class of 2007

CLASS OF 2007 10 YEAR REUNION.
BACK L-R: Mitchell Mackenzie, Ben Dyer, Jesse Stevenson, Jack Mactier, Nicholas Mitchell, Jack Kane. **MIDDLE L-R:** Braden Pullen, Tim Kane, Nathan Sali, Rikki Morgan, Letizia Piaser, Ryan Smith, Huw Rodgers. **Front L-R:** Andrew Guppy, Jack Brazel, Ashan Abuzar, Leona Sterling, Daniel Arnold, Marcus Cassidy, Alistair Hamit, Tom Hayes.
CLASS OF 1992 25 YEAR REUNION. Clare Vervaart, Tim Rose, Narelle Crossman, Chris Leffler, Clare Jonker, Andrew Plunkett.
CLASS OF 2002 15 YEAR REUNION: Jeff Moran, Leona Sterling, Duncan Morris, Broderick Floyd, Simon Boundy.
CLASS OF 1996 20 YEAR REUNION. Ashley Carter, Fleur Nurse, former staff member John Lancaster.



Class of 1996



Class of 1992



Class of 2002



Class of 2006

CLASS OF 2006 10 YEAR REUNION. Attended by Rhys Artridge Payne, Jacob Black, Ella Bradshaw, Clementine Brega, Hugh Brown, Aaron Chambers, Ivy Davidson, Georgia Downing, Amanda Felmingham, Xavier Fuller, Jack Hobbs, Angus Masterson, Samantha McGeoch, Emily Mountjoy, Clinton Murdoch, Christopher Murphy, Emma O’Keeffe, Stephanie Pickworth, Katie Pilkington, Sam Prentice, Brinsley Teller, Michael van Dorsser.



Class of 1991

CLASS OF 1991 25 YEAR REUNION. Attended by Matthew Auger, Elicia Boyles, Simon Eastaugh, Nicole Enders, Kirsty Gale, Gaeton Graham, Kane Jarman, Rodney Jashar, Jacque Law, Matthew Lenne, Nicholas Loughhead, Kieran Macnamara, Tavish Makin, Alexandra McCaffrey, Kiley McCorry, Travis Morgan, Leisa Nagy, Lynda Olsen, Matthew Pell, Jenny Cowan, Elissa Pogue, Sally Polidano, Brett Sawyer, Adam Shrivell, Ben Spiller, Donnie Zurcas.

Our Bushrangers

Year 12 student Angus Hicks won the Murray Bushrangers under-18 Best and Fairest for 2017. The tenacious on-baller is a Year 12 student at Goulburn Valley Grammar School and was delighted with his win, hoping the talent scouts take note of this outstanding achievement in his hope to be drafted to an AFL team. In another coup for the school, Year 11 student Jordon Butts was equal runner-up in the same vote count.

The Bushrangers is an Australian Rules football team playing in the TAC Cup, based in Wangaratta. They have produced some of the current elite Australian Football League players through the AFL draft, including former students Ollie Wines (Port Adelaide), Josh Schache (Western Bulldogs) and Clayton Oliver (Melbourne).

Younger students Ed Adams and Mark Marriott are also playing for the Bushrangers, hoping to impress selectors next season.

The school's senior football team competed in the Goulburn Murray Sun Country Cup in May, unfortunately missing out to St Mary of the Angels Secondary College, Nathalia, which retained the cup for third year running.

The team, led by co-Captains Kyle Orchard and Jesse Cucinotta, made it through to the second round at Deakin Reserve in Shepparton with all games played over two 15-minute halves.



L-R: Edward Adams, Jordon Butts, Mark Marriott and Angus Hicks.

GVGS 2.1 (13) lost to St Mary's 4.5 (29) with goal kickers Huw Jones and Jesse Cucinotta booting one each. On the plus side, GVGS 9.5 (59) defeated Broadford Secondary College 2.1 (13) with goal kickers being Matthew Casey 6, Kyle Orchard 1, Nick Davey 1 and Hugh Conway 1.

Kyle was named the school's best player for the two games with other best players being Jesse Cucinotta, Matthew Casey, Tim Miles, Alex

Gugliotti and Fraser Hicks. Angus Hicks gave his help and knowledge to the team, which was a great encouragement.

In the first round of the competition in May, the team played two matches at the Mooroopna Recreational Reserve against McGuire College and Mooroopna Secondary College, scoring convincing wins against both teams. Year 11 student Jack Nation was awarded best player.



GVGS Open Girls premiership team-member Natalie Campbell.

Netball wins

A very successful netball season ended with three GVGS teams – the Open Girls and the under-13 Division 1 and 2 teams – winning their grand-final matches. Open Girls defeated Shepparton South 44–24; in under-13 Division 1, GVGS beat CND 44–8; and in under-13 Division 2, GVGS beat WNC Wild Cats 47–28.

Under-13 Division 2 (P) GVGS was runners-up to Bourchier St 25–11, while in under-15 Division 3, GVGS just missed out on the top spot, going down to Tatura 41–39.

Taryn Cameron and Elle Brooks (both Year 9), Georgia Harrison (Year 10) and Emma Cox (Year 11) were all selected for

the Goulburn Region Netball Team in under-15 and under-17. They competed at the Victorian State Netball Titles in October in a two-day competition, playing 17 matches against the state's top netballers in Netball Victoria's premier competition. James Worsfold (Year 11) and Eva Gauci (Year 12) umpired and coached the Goulburn Region's All-Ability team, who also competed at State Titles.

Charlotte Keady and Sophie Kamenjarin (both Year 8) and Taylah Lloyd (Year 9), have been chosen by the Bendigo Academy of Sport to take attend special camps once a month. As well as training and developing their netball skills, they take part in discussions about matters such as nutrition, public speaking, social media and podiatry.



Shepparton News

Kicking goals

Goulburn Valley Grammar School kicked many goals in the 2017 soccer season, and not just literally. The school fielded seven teams in the Shepparton Junior Soccer Association (SJSA) Saturday competition with an impressive 127 players making up our teams. The blue and gold colours were a common sight across the various time slots at McEwen Reserve at all age levels.

With several finalists, the two teams that managed to take out the title of premiers were the Open Girls' Blue team and the Under 12 Trophy team. Open Girls' Blue players were outstanding all year. Best and fairest was Alicia Laffy and the Coach's Award was presented to Mabel Deveny. Lucinda Murdoch was the SJSA Best and Fairest and was also awarded the best player in the final. Soccer organiser Mr Shane McDonald said all girls contributed so well to this successful season.

The Under 12s won the Trophy Division where they were led by Eric Dillon (GVGS Best and Fairest and player of the match in the final), Hamish Ingram (SJSA Best and Fairest) and Kurtis Williamson (Coach's Award).



"This activity forms such an important part of the weekend for students, focusing on fun and life skills such as resilience, skill development, tolerance and community building," Shane said. "With so many families enjoying the company of each other, the success of the season was exemplified with 190 guests at our presentation night held at the Shepparton Golf Club. The season was ultimately the huge success due not only to the players, but also the many coaches and team managers who co-ordinated the teams."

FROM TOP: Ayla Jackson from Open Girls Blue; the Under 12s congratulate Zac Ranson on kicking the winning goal in their final.

Indigenous ballgames

In September, 24 Year 7 and 8 students participated in the annual ASHEfest Buroinjin Challenge at Rumbalara Football and Netball Club. Buroinjin is an energetic, mixed gender Indigenous ballgame that hails from south-east Queensland's Kabi Kabi people. The students had a lot of fun playing against several local secondary school teams. GVGS entered two teams in the junior division and finished 1st and 2nd in their pools. This put the GVGS Blue team, coached by Ms Megan Semmens, into the grand final. Blue played against Wanganui in a tight and competitive match in front of a large crowd of spectators but lost 4-2. Thanks to Mr Greg Reynoldson and the Year 8 sport teachers who prepared and taught the skills of the game in the lead up to the event.

Equestrian success

A Goulburn Valley Grammar equestrian team met with success at the prestigious and highly contested Royal Melbourne Show in September. Nicholas Grant (Year 6) did extremely well with his horse Bimbadeen Bachelor Boy, achieving 2nd Novice Show Hunter saddle pony 12.2-13h, 3rd Open Show Hunter saddle pony 12.2-13h and 4th Pony Turnout 12.2-14h Rider 10 and under 12.

Sophie Belcher (Year 8) achieved success with her horse Koora-Lyn Poitier finishing 4th Novice Show Hunter saddle pony 13-13.2h and 7th Open Show Hunter pony 13-13.2.

To top the performances off, Miss Laura Pankhurst (teacher) finished 5th Childs Hunter Pony 12.2hh-14hh and 6th Large Show Hunter Pony 13.2hh-14hh.

Mrs Maree Arnold, equestrian coordinator, said: "This is a big achievement considering there were 28 classes. A big thanks also goes to Equestrian Captain, Olivia Bolton, who was a great support at the show."

Diary Dates

Presentation Night Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Open Day Friday, March 9, 2018

Presentation Ball Saturday, August 11, 2018

Reunions Saturday, October 20, 2018

Class of 1988 – 30 Year Reunion

Class of 1993 – 25 Year Reunion

Class of 1998 – 20 Year Reunion

Class of 2003 – 15 Year Reunion

Class of 2008 – 10 Year Reunion

Reunion Saturday, November 24, 2018

Class of 2013 – 5 Year Reunion

A social conscience



Goulburn Valley Grammar students are constantly encouraged to have a social conscience and consider the world around them. In October, Year 8 students put the plight of the world's orangutans – who now live only in Sumatra and Borneo – on the agenda at the school's annual Orangutan Day. Students ran a number of activities, which raised \$1350 for the threatened apes, and provided an amazing array of cakes and slices. There was also face painting, ice-cream sales, Fanta spiders, lollies, a coin-throwing competition and a barbeque. In previous years, funds have been used to sponsor abandoned orangutans and to combine with others through The Orangutan Project (TOP) to ensure forest habitat is maintained.

In another initiative, students raised more than \$800 for Cobram marathon runner Adam Hayward and charity River's Gift. The Student Representative Council (SRC) organised a dress-up day with the theme 'My hero' for which students gave a golden-coin donation. Mr Hayward, whose daughter Amy is a student, has raised more than \$22,000 for River's Gift, which raises funds for research into Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). He spoke with students before the SRC judged a best-dressed winner. Year 9 student Tom Dooley-Heath placed first in his Karl Marx costume.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Jefferies Jacob, Sebastian Blackmore and Sinduri Iyengar; Thomas Dooley-Heath; Sophie Kamenjarin and Bethany Hutchison.

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