

Spring Summer 2019

Nexus

GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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From the Principal

Yakapna Assembly – in the spirit of reconciliation

Nexus

Nexus is a GVGS school community publication largely brought together by members from within our community. It is published twice a year. We welcome submissions to **Nexus** from staff, students, alumni and those connected with the school community.
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COVER PHOTO: Nell Ryan performs as Nancy in the schools production of Oliver! See pages 14-15 for performing arts news.

On Friday 6 September GVGS was proud to commence a new tradition, our first Yakapna Assembly dedicated to celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. The assembly was inspired by our nation's struggle to fully acknowledge the 50,000 year history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In the spirit of reconciliation, the assembly aimed to build our community's understanding of the ancient and continuing culture of our first nations people. This assembly will now become part of our school's annual assembly programme.

The assembly was conceived by our aboriginal student working group who meet regularly with Ms Trish Lawless (Director of Students) to promote awareness and understanding of aboriginal heritage. The vision was for our aboriginal and non-aboriginal students to work in partnership, planning and presenting an assembly. In preparation students learned a great deal about aboriginal heritage and culture including from local aboriginal community members.

The name Yakapna is from the Yorta Yorta language meaning community or family. Some years ago, our school community worked closely with the local Yorta Yorta community to identify an appropriate name for our Year 9 programme. The name Yakapna was selected because it captured much of the essence of our Year 9 programme. Yakapna also seemed a very fitting title for this annual assembly.

We were honoured to welcome many members of the local aboriginal community. Thank you to local Yorta Yorta elder Auntie Julie Best who performed the welcome to country and Jamie Atkinson who performed a smoking ceremony. We were delighted to welcome Justin Mohamed, Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, who spoke powerfully on the theme of reconciliation and the steps our school community can take towards promoting reconciliation in the wider community.

One of the highlights of the assembly was the prefect speech by Cody Mohamed who talked about the injustices experienced by her grandparents and the sacrifices they made to ensure an education for their children. Students also presented a reflection on NAIDOC week and this year's theme of 'Voice, Treaty and Truth'. The student band 'Banthony' performed 'Down City Streets' by Ruby Hunter.

Current students Lillie Walker and Cody Mohamed are members of Deborah Cheetham's Dungala children's choir. Together they taught the school choir the hymn Ngarra Burra Ferra in Yorta Yorta language.

The choir's performance was symbolic of the assembly's broader purpose because it involved non-aboriginal students learning from aboriginal students and working in unison to celebrate culture and heritage. This was such a powerful moment that we will make Ngarra Burra Ferra an annual feature of the assembly. Thank you to our Choir Director Mr David Howells for his support.

Sincere congratulations to all the students involved, particularly Cody Mohamed for her outstanding leadership and wonderful Prefect Speech. On behalf of the school I thank the many students who planned and presented the assembly. Thank you also to Ms Trish Lawless for her tireless planning and organisation of this event.

As Justin Mohamed reminded us, reconciliation starts with people taking small steps forward. This assembly was one of those steps for our school community.

Semper Ulterius

Mark Torriero, Principal

*Mr Justin Mohamed, Ms Katrina Mohamed, Cody Mohamed and Miss Selina Douglas.
FAR RIGHT: Lillie Walker.*



Dr Michael Carr-Gregg visits GVGS

By Liz Mellino.

Mindfulness and positive mental health were on the agenda when Michael Carr-Gregg visited the school in August.

The child adolescent psychologist spoke to staff and parents to offer them strategies to improve their own mental health and that of our young people.

With a respected career in the promotion of mental health for families, children and adolescents, Dr Carr-Gregg held two separate sessions at the school.

“One is to the staff, looking after their mental health and giving them some strategies to look after themselves ... because if the teachers are okay then that’s a great start to the students,” Dr Carr-Gregg said.

“I’ll then talk to the parents about how to build happy and resilient young people which is pretty important in rural and remote Victoria because the

mental health of young people is not flash at the moment.”

Mr Carr-Gregg said statistics showed suicide rates had generally doubled in the last 10 years, with suicide rates three times higher in the country than in the city.

With this in mind he said he hoped to give parents the strategies to build resilience and positivity in their children.

“For the parents I want to give them the skills, the knowledge and the strategies to build resilience in their young people and to understand the principals of well being which are drawn from positive psychology,” Dr Carr-Gregg said.

During his sessions, Mr Carr-Gregg also addressed the occupational stress teachers faced in their roles.

He said by acknowledging this and giving staff a range of apps and websites they can use, he hoped they

could improve their mental health through exercise, diet, relationships and mindfulness.

“I really think they need to look after themselves in terms of their mental health,” Dr Michael Carr Gregg said.

“They basically have to deal with a generation of young people who have probably the worst mental health for a long time in the history of Australians, so I think it’s a tough job.”

Principal Mark Torriero said the school runs seminars each year that address different areas of staff wellbeing.

With this year’s forum focusing on mental health, Mr Torriero said the expertise of Dr Carr-Gregg would be a valuable support for both staff and parents.

“Michael’s a very engaging speaker and obviously he has the academic and professional background so it seemed logical to offer a session to parents.”

Medical pursuits of past students

By Clare Winter-Irving.

Dr Lucas Eastaugh, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

When Dr Lucas Eastaugh started at GVGS in 1987, the school was a very different place to how it looks and functions today. After leaving St. Brendan's primary school in Year 5, he started in Year 6 at GVGS and was one of only 20 students in his year level. Mr Vic Ryall, after whom Ryall House is named, was principal when Dr Eastaugh started at the school and the school mascot had not yet been introduced. The school had only been in operation for a few years and the facilities students enjoy today were beyond comprehension. "All of our school sports had to be done at the Shepparton Stadium because we didn't have many of the facilities that are available at the school now," Dr Eastaugh says when thinking back more than 25 years ago. "There was such a strong community feel though, it was a really different school at the time with really small class sizes and everyone knew each other."

Dr Eastaugh finished Year 12 in 1993 and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne. He started his medical degree at Monash University and graduated in 2000 with aspirations to move into either surgery or paediatrics. In an effort to make time for overseas travel before his career kicked off, he then spent a year working internationally, firstly as a Paediatric Resident in Liverpool, England for 9 months and then for 3 months throughout South America. "I really wanted to get a bit of life experience before coming back [to Australia] and ramping up my career," he says. Upon returning to Australia, he realised his passion for hands-on medicine when completing a cardiology rotation at The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. Working in paediatric cardiology, he then specialised further into paediatric catheterisation procedures.

Dr Eastaugh applied for and was accepted into a role at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. Although at the time The Royal Children's Hospital was, and still

is, the largest children's cardiac centre in Australia - conducting roughly 300 paediatric catheterisation procedures per year - he was able to gain extensive specialist training at The Hospital for Sick Children as they conducted 900 procedures per year. Again furthering his exposure to paediatric catheterisation internationally, Dr Eastaugh spent a year training at Boston Children's Hospital in Massachusetts. He returned to Australia in 2012 and has been working full time at The Royal Children's Hospital as the head of the Angiography Suite since, conducting about 400 paediatric catheterisation procedures per year. "Little people are much more honest about their illnesses... I've always found myself very comfortable working with children and I really enjoy it," he says.

Continuing with his commitment to paediatric cardiology, Dr Eastaugh has recently started working with children who require VADs (ventricular assist devices). A ventricular assist device is an electromechanical device for assisting cardiac circulation, which is used either to partially or to completely replace the function of a failing heart. Currently, The Royal Children's Hospital is the only hospital in Australia where VAD treatment is available. "Children require these devices that act as an external heart while

they are waiting for a heart transplant, as there are limited organ donations particularly for small children," Dr Eastaugh says. "It's very rewarding work, recently there was a VAD patient of mine who received a heart transplant and she's doing really well."

With decades of experience and knowledge under his belt, Dr Eastaugh often makes the trip back home to Shepparton and holds clinics at GV Health for patients who don't have easy access to Melbourne services. "I come back to Shepparton about four times a year and do an outpatients clinic, seeing patients from as far away as Finley and Echuca," he says. "It saves these patients travelling all the way down to Melbourne, driving hours and hours, so they can come to GV Health and get their tests done and have a catch up."

Although Dr Eastaugh unfortunately could not attend his 25 year reunion last year due to being on call, he does still keep an eye on what happens at GVGS and is very proud of how far the school has come over the years. "I get the Nexus and it's great to see how much the school has developed since I was there and to see how many opportunities are now available to the students," he says.





L-R: Aaron Bhat,
Emily Lawson
and Jessie Cox.

The Class of 2014, Doctor of Medicine Trio

Aaron Bhat, Emily Lawson and Jessie Cox amount to one third of the medical students Goulburn Valley Grammar School produced from the Class of 2014, with an incredible nine alumni from the year level currently undertaking study to become medical professionals.

All three students completed VCE studies together, undertaking similar classes and achieving stellar academic results, but each of their decisions to move away from Shepparton and begin their studies was very personal. “We all decided in our own time that we wanted to do medicine and we all went our separate ways when we moved to Melbourne because we all lived in different colleges,” says Emily. “But now we’re all studying together in Bendigo and living very close to each other, so it’s great to be back altogether – it feels very surreal.”

The surprise of being reunited in Bendigo this year is unanimous among the trio. “I was absolutely sure in high school that I was not going to study medicine and become a doctor,” Aaron says. “So if you’d told me

when I was in Year 5 that all three of us would all be studying medicine together in Bendigo today, I wouldn’t have believed you.”

Aaron, Emily and Jess all completed their undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne and are currently studying their Doctor of Medicine. Together in Bendigo this year, they are exposed to all the opportunities a rural hospital has to offer. “I think I see myself long term working rurally,” Jess says. “It’s nice when you’re walking around a country town and everyone is smiling and relaxed – there is a lot more of a life balance if you get a job rurally as well.”

Since leaving GVGS five years ago, the trio often look back on their time during high school and are grateful for their education and the opportunities that were available to them over the years. “The school really provided us with the foundation to do whatever we wanted, and gave us the skills to do what we are doing now,” Jess says. Emily started at the school in 2012 whereas Aaron and Jess both commenced in Year

5. “Even though I was only at GVGS for two years, I have incredibly fond memories of that time,” says Emily. “If I was offered a job in Shepparton in the future, I know GVGS is where I would want to send my kids.” Aaron, who was both School Captain and Dux, is particularly thankful for the people he was surrounded by during his eight years at the school. “One thing I didn’t realise until after I left GVGS was how academically supported we were during our schooling,” says Aaron. “We were always surrounded by teachers who genuinely cared about us and our success – I really do miss that.”

When asked what their advice for current students considering a career in medicine would be, their responses were unanimous: don’t doubt yourself. “Don’t assume that you can’t do it, because you can,” Jess said. “Try really hard and focus on being a well-rounded student and you’ll get where you need to be,” Emily said. “Live your life and have fun, enjoy the fact that you are at a great school and you’ve got endless opportunities in front of you,” Aaron said.



Alistair Dobson heads up the Big Bash League

By Clare Winter-Irving.

Alistair Dobson was like most country kids while he was growing up in Shepparton; focused on sport and playing as much of it as possible whenever he could. “My upbringing was surrounded by sport - sport and school were the two things that dominated my life,” Alistair says. “When I was younger every spare moment was taken up with footy, tennis and cricket.” Although, starting his schooling at GVGS in 1994 as a Year 7, there weren’t the sporting facilities available to students that there are now. “When I was at Grammar there weren’t as many sporting opportunities as there are now, we didn’t have formal school teams.” But that didn’t stop Alistair from combining his love for sport with his future career plans. Alistair’s passion for sport followed him all through high school and into University, leading him to writing his honours degree thesis on AFL football which focused on how modern day football clubs use symbols and rituals – such as theme songs and mascots - to connect people and create a sense of community.

Alistair then went on to work with the AFL for 14 years, recently working on projects such as modernising the nationwide NAB Auskick program and strategising ways to get youth participation in football. With marketing underpinning his overall role with the AFL, Alistair has worked over the years supporting clubs with their strategy development, stadium experience and ticketing, and maximising fan experience. “The grand final in 2010 is very memorable,” Alistair says. “Dreamtime at the ‘G was really great to be involved in as well.”

Recently making the move to Cricket Australia as the Head of Big Bash Leagues, Alistair is now noticing quite a change in his schedule. “Having been involved in a winter sport for the past 20 years, it’s going to be a change of pace working on a summer sport now,” he says. “I’ve got three young kids and they’re all really engaged with the Big Bash, they love their teams and they love playing cricket – it’s been a great move for the whole family.”

Even though he graduated from GVGS 25 years ago, Alistair never lost his connection with the school as both his parents – Prue and Geoff Dobson – have been heavily involved from the beginning both with the Board and the Parents & Friends Committee respectively. Alistair has attended many school functions over the years and says he is looking forward to his milestone reunion later this year. “I’ve been to every other one of the reunions so I’m hoping to make this one as well,” he says. “It really doesn’t feel like 25 years has passed, I still have such vivid memories, connections and stories from that time in my life...in some ways it really does feel like yesterday.” Looking back on his time at GVGS, Alistair says it has taken him having his own children to make him realise how important quality teachers are in making a school a success. “Now that I’ve got my own kids going to school, it makes me look back and realise how good my own teachers were when I was younger and how the teachers at GVGS really made the school what it was.”

From Congupna to Woodstock

Class of 2004 student Aiden Prewett has been busy following his dreams since his departure from GVGS. The following article by **John Lewis**, printed in the August 6 edition of the *Shepparton News*, gives some insight as to what he has been up to.

An award-winning Congupna-born filmmaker has followed up the success of his 2016 documentary on the legendary rock festival Woodstock with a new book recently released.

Aidan Prewett, 32, said he saw the influential 1970 documentary Woodstock as a teenager and was inspired to become a filmmaker.

“Woodstock changed my life. After I saw it, I knew I was either going to be a rock star or a documentary maker,” Mr Prewett said.

After attending Congupna Primary School, then Goulburn Valley Grammar School, Mr Prewett studied filmmaking at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne.

“Woodstock was the whole reason I got into documentary making — I said ‘one day I will make my own documentary’. But I never dreamt there would be a book too,” he said.

He said his book *Woodstock at 50: Anatomy of a Revolution* came from material gathered during the making of his documentary *A Venue for the End of The World*.

For his film, Mr Prewett interviewed Woodstock performers, crew, and a host of entertainment industry icons such as Chip Monck, Michael Shrieve (Santana), Joe McDonald (Country Joe and the Fish), filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker (Monterey Pop), and talk show host Dick Cavett.

The documentary went on to be shown at film festivals across the world, collecting several awards.

He said gathering the material was a nerve-racking business.

“It took every fibre of my being to concentrate on the conversation — these were heroes of mine,” he said.

“It was an absolutely other-worldly feeling to knock on their door and meet them. But the spirit of Woodstock is still with these people, they were very giving, and their legacy is still about helping people.”

“We had 35 hours of film with all these people and the transcription came to about 115 000 words. I thought ‘that’s a book!’”

His manuscript was picked up by editors at Canadian publisher Political Animal Press, who helped him draft the content across 11 months into a 330-page book.

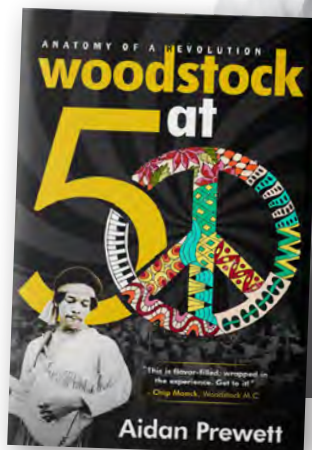
In his book, Mr Prewett uses the series of interviews to explore the wider meaning of the Woodstock festival and its impact

on world culture. He also looks at the connection between music and politics.

“We’re seeing a lot of pushback against the rise of Trump-style politics. The counterculture that we saw at Woodstock is still a force to be recognised with. Woodstock showed what can happen when the world comes together in peace,” he said.

“Society seems to have entered a new political era, and what better time than the 50th anniversary of Woodstock to take a step back and see how these kind of political challenges were met by previous generations.”

Mr Prewett has also made other shorter documentary films including *Selected Works of Uncle Neill*, which won Best Local Film and Audience Choice awards at the Shepparton Short Film Festival in 2016.



Aiden's book *Woodstock at 50* (left) was published in August 2019.



Learning

Student agency

By Mr Tim James, Director of Learning - Middle Years

As part of our school's ongoing pursuit of learning improvement, this year we have continued our work with the University of Melbourne through their Science of Learning Centre's Partner Schools Initiative. The focus of the program has been about 'Using Student Agency to Drive School Improvement' and has involved the four members of our Learning Leadership team (Kathryn D'Elia, Tim James, Brooke McLeod and James Sach) along with Mark Torriero travelling to the University of Melbourne once each term to learn from experts in the field of education, as well as engaging in robust discussion with other schools in the network.

The program has allowed our team to analyse school-wide performance data and identify three focus areas using 'Student Voice and Agency'; including student/teacher relationships, best practice in the classroom and engaging students in activities outside the classroom. Student Voice aims to acknowledge the unique perspectives

that our students have about their school experiences and how they can have a say in shaping their education, while Student Agency refers to the level of autonomy that a student feels in their school. In a democratic society like ours, it is of the utmost importance that schools put in place programmes and curriculum that allow students to have a voice that is heard, whilst developing their ability to self-regulate.

Armed with feedback from the recent Independent Schools Victoria LEAD and EXIT surveys, our Learning Team decided to dig deeper into some of the student responses by running student forums at Years 8, 9 and 10. The forums involved two groups of five students at each year level, with participants randomly selected. The small groups enabled the students to feel comfortable to express their ideas to help shape our learning environment. As expected, each group offered valuable insights into their personal school experiences and have helped to create a clearer picture of our students' perceptions.

Student Agency has already informed projects including the construction of new basketball courts for Year 8 and 10 students, and a table tennis table that is positioned near the Tuckshop, for use by all our students. On the first day of Term 3, all of our teachers also engaged in a whole-staff professional learning day, with one of the sessions aimed at delivering feedback from the forums, as well as a 'Keep, Stop, Start' activity that demonstrated how teachers could seek feedback from their students about their classroom practice.

The school is currently working on embedding these concepts into our 'Model for Effective Teaching', to ensure that the benefits from our University of Melbourne partnership can be felt for many years to come.

As more of the projects related to our student voice forums come to fruition, details will be shared at school assemblies and in our Friday Newsletter.



School Captain profile

Patrick Bolton

By Clare Winter-Irving.

With his mother working as the Year 11 coordinator at GVGS, his father as the principal of Moorpoona Secondary College and his sister one half of the 2017 GVGS School Captain duo it's no surprise that Patrick Bolton naturally gravitated towards applying for a school leadership position for 2019. "When leadership applications opened, I just thought I'd take that opportunity and see what happens," Patrick says. "I definitely looked up to her [sister Emily Bolton] as a role model for sure, but we are very different people and I think we've made each of our roles as school captain our own."

Although, he didn't always see himself as School Captain and he was very surprised when he got the offer of the top job. Patrick's first preference on his leadership application was Leaver's Fund Prefect and, having only been at the school for short time, he wasn't sure if he would get a role at all. "I was really surprised when I was chosen, I thought I knew who it was going to be, and it wasn't me," he says. "Then I got a phone call one night and I just knew." It was a moment in time, but one that has become quite defining for his final year of high school. "I don't know why, but I remember that moment when Mr. Torriero called me so vividly."

After attending St Brendan's Primary School Patrick then completed the first few years of his high school education at Notre Dame College. He moved to GVGS in 2016 half way through Year 9 and immediately enjoyed the extracurricular activities that were on offer.

"It was challenging, but I really loved it... I got to know heaps of people that I otherwise probably wouldn't have," Patrick says of the Year 10 Bogong High Plains camp. "I learnt a lot about my own abilities, I look back on it and it was so much fun; the first time I ever saw snow was during that Year 10 camp on my birthday."

During his final year of schooling, Patrick has narrowed down his options for 2020 and is confident that he will either undertake a Bachelor of Commerce or a Bachelor of Arts at Melbourne University. With VCE subjects of legal studies, accounting, maths methods, further maths, PE and English he sees a career involving economics or business in his future with accounting his favourite school subject to date. "I really enjoy it, it's a lot of logic and I like looking back on the work that I've finished and see that I've accomplished that," Patrick says of his VCE accounting classes. "It has made careers options much easier to decide on."

Currently working part time at Officeworks, Patrick intends to work hard over the summer to earn money before making the big move to Melbourne early next year. Although Patrick has lived in Shepparton his whole life, he is looking forward to moving down to Melbourne and intends on living at University College in Parkville. With football and cricket taking a backseat during Year 12, Patrick is keen to participate again in team sports once high school is finished. "Every college sport I can get involved in I'll be putting my hand up for."

When asked if he could sum up his school captain experience in one word, Patrick believes "rewarding" encapsulates the experience well. "I learnt a lot about my own leadership style during this year and it's been really cool to be able to put that into use," he says. "My confidence has gone through the roof because I used to get quite nervous doing public speaking, but I've had to do so much of it this year that now it doesn't bother me at all." As for the most powerful moments during his time as School Captain, Patrick reflects on how his position has provided him with a platform to connect with the other students - particularly the younger year levels - in ways he never considered in previous years. "I've learnt more about the impact I can have on other people as well," he says. "The younger students look up to you a lot, they see you as a role model - it's been a very eye opening experience."

Patrick speaks very highly of his School Captain partner, Olivia Bolton, as well as the rest of the wider senior student leadership team at the school. "Olivia has been fantastic, we collaborate really well with our ideas," he says. "Everyone has contributed massively in making this year a success." When asked what advice he would give to the GVGS school captains of 2020, his response is clear and concise. "Get involved in everything and take it head on, if you commit yourself to it you'll have no issues."



Academic achievements

ABOVE: Deputy Premier, The Hon James Merlino, Minister for Education presenting the Premier's VCE Awards to (L to R) Aditya Bhat, Farhan Islam and Paige Nelson.

Premier league

Each year the Victorian Department of Education and Training recognises excellence in learning achievement demonstrated by students undertaking the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

Premier's Awards are presented to the students achieving the highest results in each VCE study in a given year. Approximately 80,000 students complete a VCE Unit 3/4 subject each year. Premier's Awards are offered to the highest achieving students in each study. Typically 300 awards are presented each year reflecting the exceptional nature of these awards. Over the years a substantial number of GVGS students have achieved this outstanding distinction. This year was a particularly significant one for our school with a total of three students recognised with Premier's Awards.

Aditya was recognised for his achievement in Music Performance during Year 12. Both Farhan Islam and Paige Nelson undertook acceleration studies during Year 11. Farhan received his award for Indonesian Second Language while Paige received her award for Industry and Enterprise.

2019 Premier's Award recipient	VCE Study Unit 3&4	Teacher
Aditya Bhat	Music Performance	Mrs Bihun
Farhan Islam	Indonesian Second Language	Ibu Ruci Dewi
Paige Nelson	Industry and Enterprise	Mrs Mary Bayly

We are particularly pleased that each of these students was actively involved in the school's co-curricular programme. They were all engaged in student leadership and representing the school in regular weekend team sport. Aditya and Farhan were also heavily involved in the school's Public Speaking and Performing Arts programmes.

We congratulate each of these students on their dedication to learning and the organisation and discipline they demonstrated throughout their studies. They have seized the opportunities presented and made the very most of them. I am sure they can take confidence from this recognition in their continuing

efforts in 2019 and beyond. Their examples are certainly ones that inspire students and staff alike.

These exceptional achievements reflect both the school's culture of learning and the outstanding quality of teaching provided by our staff. The school community, congratulates teachers Mrs Bihun, Ibu Ruci and Mrs Bayly. Their hard work, encouragement and commitment to learning were clearly inspirational for our students.

The 2019 Premier's VCE Awards were presented on June 3, at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.



Outstanding achievers

The Australian Geography Competition is a contest for Australian secondary school students, assessing their geographical knowledge and skills. The competition aims to encourage student interest in geography and to reward student excellence. 220 students from GVGS competed in the 2019 Australian Geography Competition in May, along with more than 70,000 students from almost 800 schools across Australia. This year three GVGS students were in the top 1% for their year level. Well done to Adarsh Sivakumar (Year 10), Leo Sharrock (Year 9), and Robert Thomas (Year 7). A further 16 GVGS students received high distinctions and 15 received a distinction.

LEFT: (L-R) Adarsh Sivakumar, Leo Sharrock, and Robert Thomas.

Soccer champ from the Country

By Jodie Fleming.

It seems that James Nieuwenhuizen was kicking a soccer (football) around the backyard with his Dad from the time he could walk. And his love for the game has only grown stronger as the 15 year old Goulburn Valley Suns player admits to eating, breathing and sleeping soccer.

James has recently returned from Vietnam where he represented Australia's Under 16 football side. The team was playing to qualify for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-16 Championships, and had to play Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Mongolia and Macau having to finish first in its group or finish as one of the best second-ranked sides across 11 groups to be eligible to qualify for next year's AFC Under-16 Championships. He was the only player to be selected from a country club.

The AFC Championships are also the qualifiers for the 2021 FIFA Under-17 World Cup.

During the year, James also debuted for the national side at the ASEAN Football Federation Under 15 championships in Thailand where they took on Malaysia.

"It was a good experience...different. The climate was different, pitches were different... just everything," he explained.

The Arsenal fan has also been recognised by Melbourne talent scouts, having been offered a spot in both Melbourne City and Melbourne Victory's teams, giving him a hard decision to make for someone so young.

"I was pretty excited when they contacted me and I have gone down and trained with them a couple of times. So now I have to make a decision between which one," he said.



Photo: Shepparton News

With three training sessions a week, plus a game, it's no wonder that soccer dominates his thoughts. He has also had to travel to Melbourne once a week for the past year to attend training sessions and specialised camps, so it is lucky his parents are on board with this goal keepers aspirations.

"They are both pretty proud I think. Mum makes more of a fuss than Dad, but it has been a pretty big commitment from them," James said.

While James has had a go at playing other sports such as Aussie Rules, cricket and tennis there is nothing like his beloved soccer or the goal keeper position he holds so dearly.

"There's nothing really like it on the pitch. You get to use your hands. Like when you go to save...you're kind of carrying 10 people when they shoot. It's a big responsibility".

"When I was younger the responsibility of having to stop goalies from scoring used to stress me

out because I used to feel like the reason they scored, but as you get older you kind of learn to deal with it a bit better," he added.

The big question on everyone's mind is does he want to play professionally one day?

"Yes, I think it would be a good job. I would like to go to Europe, but playing professionally anywhere would be pretty good. And if I got to play for Australia on top of that it would be a bonus. I would love to play a World Cup!"

But is there a back-up plan for this rising star?

"Go to Uni, but I don't really know what I want to do yet."

"I like some of the legal work we do at school and some of the math and geography, but I don't really have a set idea yet."

"I know Mum wants me to go to Uni, even if I am playing professionally," he smiled.



Weekend sports going strong

Saturday, September 14 saw the last of the GVGS weekend winter team sports being played. This year 89 students signed up to form 10 GVGS netball teams in the SNA competition, 94 students formed 19 GVGS badminton teams in the SBA competition and 102 students formed 7 GVGS soccer teams in the SJSA competition. In addition, GVGS entered, for the first time, a hockey team of 15 students who competed in the GVHA competition. It is great to see our students getting out and being active including those students who also put up their hand to umpire in these competitions.

The season saw some pleasing results with 3 netball teams, 2 soccer teams and 3 badminton teams taking out premierships. The inaugural Hockey team came 3rd which was a great result considering many students have not played before. We also acknowledge our students who play and umpire for their local and family sports clubs.

LEFT: Teacher and Hockey Coach, Mr James Sach (top right) with the inaugural GVGS Hockey Team.



Alexandra and Zali in gold winning team

In August this year Zali Schelling (Year 10) and Alexandra Treacy (Year 8), travelled to Queensland to compete in the National Aerobic Championships. The girls along with their coach, past GVGS student Emma O’Keeffe (Class of 2006), were part of the 15-strong team. After months of training and four days of competition in front of hundreds of spectators and teams from all across Australia they took out the top accolade and came home with gold. *Nexus* asked Zali (pictured left) to write about their experience.

Winning gold in Australia. It’s almost like you’re in a total daze and when you wake up you’re still in the dream. It’s incredible.

I first began my aerobics journey in primary school, as a shy little girl who didn’t really know why her friends thought this “aerobics thing” was a good idea; I was into ballet, not whatever this sport aerobics stuff was. Well, just how wrong was I. I fell in love, and within a week of being selected for the team, aerobics and I were inseparable. Fast forward to the end of primary school and Alex starts telling me about this thing she’s started at a club called Peak Physique ... sport aerobics. I needed it; so I joined.

Since then, sport aerobics at our club Peak Physique has become part of our lives (yes, I also still do ballet). When people ask what sport aerobics is, I usually find it hard to convey its true essence; how do you define heaven? So I usually say it’s just a super-fast-paced mix of

gymnastics, jazz, push-ups, skills and fitness with a side of blood, sweat, tears and a massive heap of love.

Alex and I have competed in so many competitions, I really don’t remember the exact number. From placing first in Victoria for our duo last year, and sixth and seventh in Victoria for our individual solos earlier this year, we were a little more than over the moon. So a while ago when Emma O’Keeffe, the 2014 world champion, our club’s coach, founder and “club mum” -- who is also a former student of GVGS -- told us she was going to bring in aerobics-inspired cheerleading; we were quick to sign our names.

I’ve never really been good at time management, so it didn’t really occur to me that this would be two-and-a-half hours of training to add to my already nine-and-a-half hours a week of ballet, jazz and sport aerobics (yes, I’m just a little bit dance driven). And yes,

Alex was also adding that to her also already-existing two styles of dance and aerobics.

Over the course of the year, our cheerleading team put in countless hours of laughing, training and crying (yes, it actually happens), and finally; it paid off. After placing first at Regionals and achieving a passing score, we were onto State. State was a crockpot of emotions, but after placing first and achieving yet again another passing score, we were to represent Victoria at Nationals, in Queensland; yes, we were going to Nationals!

On the 16th of August, at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre finally our name was called. Lights on stage were blinding and the smiles on our faces were hiding a little more than they told. After performing and returning to our bodies, we waited; and waited. “And taking gold for Australia is... Peak Physique from Victoria.” Ecstatic doesn’t begin to even cut it.

Bethany's tapping her way through the rhythm of life

By Jodie Fleming.

"Listen to my feet and I'll tell you the story of my life" - these were the infamous words of vaudeville performer and the father of rhythm tap, John Bubbles, and it also sums up Year 10 student Bethany Hutchison's love of dance.

"It's sort of hard to explain why I love dancing so much," contemplates Bethany.

"But, you kind of get to know people's personality by the way they dance. I know that sounds weird, but to me you get to know what someone is like."

The tap dancing champion competed in this year's Commonwealth Cup held in Sun City, South Africa in July where she tapped her way through four events against six other countries.

"I competed in a solo event where I received a Judge's Awards, a duo event where we came fifth, in the small group event we came second and in the large group we got first!"

In her first time competing in the Australian team in the Commonwealth Cup which takes place every two years, she has managed to also qualify for the 2020 World Cup in Mexico.

"I'm not sure if I will take part as yet due to school. I will be in Year 11 and it might all be a bit too hard, but maybe...I'll see," she said.

The amount of work, trials and auditions, together with many dance classes has proven to be gruelling, with five separate weekly trials in Melbourne having taken place just to get into the Commonwealth team.

"Firstly, we all go in as a group to the trials. You learn a bit of choreography over about an hour

and you are expected to know that by the next week and fully be able to do it by yourself."

"Then each week you learn more and more, and each time they cut out more and more people," explained Bethany.

More than 100 aspiring dancers from around Australia trialed for the team, with many providing video entries as travelling to Melbourne every week was not a possibility for some.

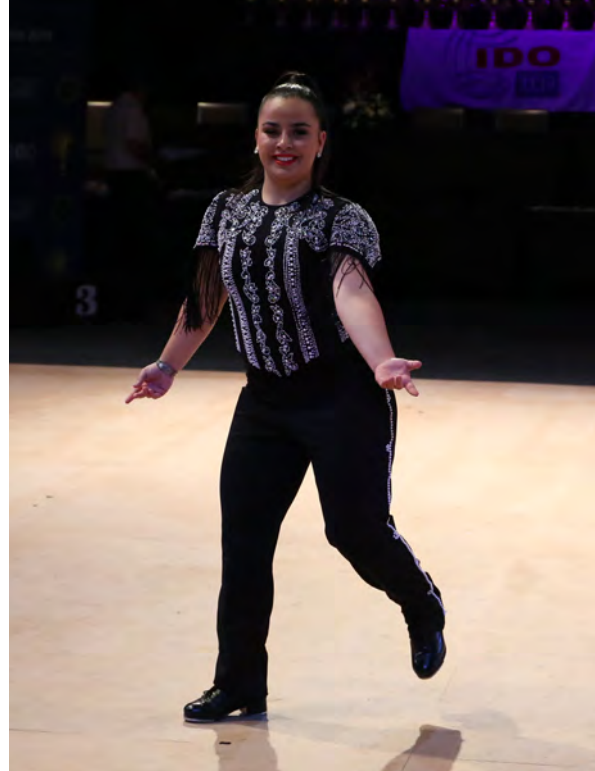
While having competed all over Australia, travelling overseas was "a very exciting" experience for the 16 year old.

"I had never been to South Africa before. It's not somewhere I guess we would really go on a holiday, but it was amazing.

"We had training every day from 8am to 2pm, but after that we had free time. One day we did a cultural village tour, we visited a school and on another day and we went to this place where they gather animals that have been left behind or orphaned. We saw tigers and lions, this organisation would go and collect them and look after them."

Bethany started dancing when she was three years old and has been part of the same Shepparton dancing school - U Can Dance - learning and performing a number of different styles of dance including jazz, classical ballet, hip hop and contemporary, but tap is her favourite and she hopes to pursue a career as a 'tap leader' in the future.

"There is this big program in LA where I could become a tap leader...that would be fantastic.



"I am so grateful for the opportunities I have had so far, but it would be amazing," she said.

However, Bethany does have a back-up plan.

"I'm actually interested in becoming a paediatric nurse."

For now, this tap queen, who has collected more than 300 trophies and ribbons over the years is happy with her busy dancing schedule which includes many more trips to Melbourne where she also takes classes at dance company 'The Forge Tap Project'.

And luckily her Mum is on board with all the travel.

"Mum likes it I think, but I am pretty sure there are times she would just like to stay home," she laughs.

"It's all just part of our routine now."

L-R: Olivia Bolton, Sophie Belcher, Felicity Grant, Miss Laura Pankhurst, Nicholas Grant, Madisyn Tracy and Georgina Belcher.

GVGS Equestrian news

In June this year, seven GVGS students attended the Elmore Interschool Equestrian event where they represent GVGS with 2 teams. The competition is a qualifier for the State Interschools to be held at Werribee in 2020. There were over 180 riders from across Victoria and southern New South Wales with competitors from primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The event, held over three days, included Show Jumping, Dressage, Combined Training, Showing, Games and Novelties.

The first team, which included School Captain Olivia Bolton, Bianca Phillips and Georgina Belcher achieved some great results. Olivia competed in Dressage in two levels. Bianca challenged herself on a young horse in the Dressage, Games and Handymount. Georgina received 4th in the ridden phase of the Show Hunter class.

In the second team, Sophie Belcher won the Games event and received 3rd in the Showing. Madisyn Tracy was awarded 5th overall in the Showing. Felicity Grant received Champion in the Show Jumping. Finally, Nicholas Grant had an incredible weekend with fantastic results in all disciplines including a Champion in the Show Jumping. Nicholas' results saw him awarded the overall Individual



Secondary Championship. The strong results of the second team saw them placing 1st in the team event.

GVGS Equestrian Coordinator Miss Laura Pankhurst assisted the students on the day "I was enormously proud of the student's efforts and the way that they represented the school, they are a talented group of riders", Miss Pankhurst said.

Oliver and Peter Pan

By Jodie Fleming.

Barely had the dust settled from the Christmas school holidays with the students arriving back at school and straight into auditions for the senior production of Lionel Bart's 'Oliver!'

Oliver is a musical stage show steeped in nostalgia and memorable songs that has you singing them on repeat for months after the show's conclusion.

The entire cast was simply outstanding, coupled with fantastic scenery and costumes and choreography that would rival any West End production; to call this show a success is simply underrating just how magnificent it was.

The opening act of 'Food Glorious Food' set the high intensity tone of the show with phenomenal choreography thanks to Robert Baxter and the extremely talented cast.

Perfectly cast for the role, Tom Cucinotta was truly convincing as Oliver, expanding his acting and singing repertoire which is quite extensive for someone so young.

Jack Nevill, who was unrecognisable as Fagin, did a superb job as the "receiver of stolen goods". Described as Charles' Dickens greatest villain, Nevill's version of the leader of a group of children whom he teaches to make their livings by pickpocketing and other criminal activities, in exchange for shelter was exceptionally entertaining to watch.

One of the biggest highlights was Nell Ryan who played Nancy with such conviction and talent that her signature

song, 'As Long as He Needs Me' hardly left a dry eye in the house as the audience showed their appreciation with thunderous applause and a disbelief that someone so young could portray such a complex character so astonishingly.

Djembe Archibald's take on the Artful Dodger was a joy to witness as she gave the show some of its lighter moments, in opposition to Farhan Islam's frightening portrayal of Bill Sykes.

While hard to pick out a favourite song with so many to choose from; Merdi Yamfu Bwanga's haunting 'Boy for Sale' as Mr Bumble is one that springs to mind and the energetic 'Oom-Pah-Pah' made you want to get out of your seat, jump on stage and sing along with the cast, but it was 'Who Will Buy?' that had the audience mesmerized as the Rose Seller (Hannah Bhullar) Strawberry Seller (Madeline Fleming) Milkmaid (Zoe De Paola) and Knife Grinder (Charlotte Uniacke) superbly sang their solo parts before the rest of the cast joined them with such wonderful harmonies, enhanced by the well-designed lighting and amazing talents of the orchestra.

Having the familiar songs performed at such a high level was a credit to not only all the cast, but to Director Helen Janke and Musical Director Genevieve Bihun, who together have once again delivered a production that one finds hard to believe is performed by school students.



CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN PHOTO: Djembe Archibald and Tom Cucinotta in *Oliver!*; Maia Libro as Peter Pan and Phoebe Cross as Tinkerbell; Peter Pan's Captain Hook was played by Tom Cucinotta; Merdi Yamfu Bwanga (*Mr Bumble*) and Moara Smith (*Mrs Corney*); Farhan Islam (*Bill Sykes*) and Jack Nevill (*Fagin*).



This year's Middle Year's production of Peter Pan Jr. is based on the Disney film and J.M. Barrie's enchanting play and is a modern version of the timeless tale about a boy who wouldn't grow up.

The story line is one of pure magic, as Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget.

In the adventure of a lifetime, the travelers come face to face with a group of lost boys, a fierce brave girl tribe, a band of bungling pirates and, of course, the villainous Captain Hook who is petrified of a ticking crocodile.

Terrific choreography by Robert Baxter brought many of the scenes to life as the lost boys, pirates and brave girls sung and danced their way through Neverland across the three nights at Mooroopna's Westside Performing Arts Centre.

Maia Libro's soaring, can-do spirit was infectious as she portrayed the ever-youthful Peter Pan, while Imogen Templeton did a wonderful job displaying the practical and maternal qualities of Wendy.

Olivia Jackson (John) and Ekkam Bhullar (Michael) were energetic and sang with perfect harmonies, while Elizabeth Tivendale managed to delight the audience as the ever-faithful family dog, Nana.

Tom Cuciontta as the leader of the Pirates, Captain Hook had great comedic timing as the 'tiny' villain of the show with the biggest hair.

Superbly directed once again by Helen Janke, together with musical director, Genevieve Bihun the scenery, costumes and make-up brought together this magical tale which took the audience to another world of make believe.

Full of warmth and adventure, Peter Pan Jr. was the perfect show for the child in all of us.



Combined reunions

The Class of 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 reunions were held on Saturday, October 19. Record numbers of Alumni returned to the school for the event which included a school tour, photos from the archives and a lots of talking as past students caught up. It was particularly pleasing to see foundation staff member Mr Ian Darlington who flew down from QLD to attend the evening.

RIGHT: Richard Coates, David Blencowe, Mr Ian Darlington

Class of 1989 - Salli Graham (Makin), Wendy Leffler, John Uren, Sally Holder (Dyde), Nick McHugh, Chris Holder, Andrea James, Narelle Watters, Jim Bill-Thompson, Amy DePaola (Hill), Heath Mitchell, Neil Gunn, Aaron Lukies, Craig Taberner, Garry Broadwood, Tania Mitchell (Mounsey), Kirsty Sutch-Taylor (Binnie) and Joanne Ball (Jeffery).

Class of 1994 - Alexandra Griffith (O'Toole) Natasha O'Callaghan (Lenne) Courtney Simpson (Bugg), Anna Walta (Pogue) Jodie Rose, Kathryn Fleming, Melanie Collett (McMaster)
Class of 2004 - Jesse Zanker, Rachel Schroder, Sarah Florisson (Hay), Bridgette O'Kane, Samantha Trevaskis, Prue Jones (Waterson).



Class of 1989



Class of 1994



Class of 2004



Class of 1999



Class of 2009



Class of 1999 - BACK ROW: Angus Mason, Sarah Oram, Susan Orr, Johanna Adam, Joshua Hunter, Caroline Aldous, Kurt Reimanis, Leticia Sabic (Themilis), David Cleary, Yukari Aoki, Jaclyn McCarty, Rachel Taverna (Pearce), John Cronin, David Blencowe. FRONT ROW: Eliza Bates (Garrett), Kate Osborne (Fitzgerald) Jana Cronin (Sidebottom), Jessica Beer (Earle), Megan Churchill, Lauren Hendy, Joanna Sleeth (Gaylard) Richard Coates.

Class of 2009 - BACK ROW: Ashley Cooper-Verhagen, Isaiah Hay, Oliver Evans, Jack Massey, Tim Heal, Rohan Sali, Anna McLaurin, Wes Shellie, Madeleine Wines, Jack Davey, Paul Bugoss, Nadije Barolli, Annie House, Robert Jamison, Tess Lawley, Patrick Rose, Hannah O'Brien, Elise Gill (Nevill), Jenna Mitropoulos, Samantha Petersen. MIDDLE ROW: Matthew Lawless, Emma Corcoran, Marni Thomson, Kate Weller, Amy Harper, Harry Downing, Will Taig. FRONT ROW: Daniel Wright (McLeod), Holly Pringle, Callie Morgan, Lisa Marke, Tristan Morey.

RIGHT: Mr John Lancaster and Mr Roger Ball.

Vale - Dr Nicholas Aaron Thomas Miller

The school community was deeply saddened following the death of former student Nicholas Miller in May this year.

Nicholas commenced at the school in 1990 at Year 5 and completed Year 8 in 1993 before continuing his school education at Melbourne Grammar School where he completed Year 12 in 1997. Following that at RMIT Nicholas completed a Bachelor of Science (Nanotechnology), a Bachelor of Science (Physics) (Honours) Honours First Class and a PhD in Physics (Nanotechnology). He received a Vice-Chancellor's List Award for Academic Excellence in 2008 which recognised Nicholas' talent and dedication towards academic research.

He married in 2012 and together he and his wife lived between South Korea and Switzerland. While living in Switzerland he was employed to carry out specialist research work closely aligned with his Doctorate studies. Nicholas returned to Australia in 2018 to work at the University of Tasmania in Hobart as a business intelligence analyst.

Nicholas is remembered as a thoughtful, generous person with a smile that touched those around him. His family recall both his



L-R: Nicholas Miller, Ann Brady, Rodney Miller and Lisa Miller (1993).

kindness and deep personal struggles. Past students attended the ceremony to celebrate his life and share memories.

The family have a deep connection with the school with both Nicholas and his sister Lisa (Class of 1992) attending the school. Nicholas' father Rod served on the first interim School Board in 1980, was Chair of the Finance Committee and served as Board Chair from 1984 to 1991. The School Board recognized

the scale of the family's contribution naming Miller Drive in their honour.

The Goulburn Valley Grammar School community extends our deepest sympathies to the Miller family particularly Nicholas' parents Ann Brady and Rodney Miller, sister Lisa, brother-in-law Matt, his nephew Taj and niece Lani, grandparents Pamela Miller and Andy Nemeth.

Vale - Christopher Ronald Powell

The school community was shocked and deeply saddened by the tragic death of Christopher Powell (Class of 2014, pictured right). Christopher graduated with Honours in Engineering (Naval Architecture) at UTAS in 2018. He received a Scholarship to study at Masters level in 2019.

Christopher commenced as a student in Year 9, 2011 and completed Year 12 in 2014. Christopher was a very popular and widely respected member of the school community. His ever charming, friendly and buoyant manner endeared him to staff and students alike. He was a particularly caring and thoughtful person always considering the welfare of others. Christopher was a motivated student who demonstrated diligence and a genuine commitment to learning. He was a mature and motivated learner who approached studies with interest and enthusiasm. He developed very positive relationships with his teachers.

Christopher was involved in a wide range of

co-curricular activities both at and outside School. He was a participant in a school exchange programme attending Hutchesons Grammar School in Glasgow Scotland in 2012. He also thoroughly enjoyed the history and culture Tour of France and was a participant in the Presentation Ball. He was a keen House sport representative in all carnivals. His love of Studio Art saw his works being exhibited at the Shepparton Art Museum.

Christopher was heavily involved in the House Eisteddfod and was a keen supporter of the various Year 12 initiatives including the Concert under the Stars, Valentine's day and various fundraising initiatives. Beyond school he demonstrated his strong concern for social justice volunteering at local soup kitchens. Christopher also trained weekly as goalie and played inline hockey at a local and national level for Bendigo. Christopher will always be remembered for his ever-cheerful manner.

The Goulburn Valley Grammar School community extends our deepest sympathies to the Powell family, particularly parents David



and Heather, brother David and sister Kate. We also extend our sympathies to the Class of 2014 and Christopher's many friends from university in Tasmania.

We remind our community that mental illness is likely to affect us all either indirectly or directly. If you feel you are struggling and don't have someone to talk to please contact **Beyond Blue 1300 22 46 36** or **Lifeline 13 11 14**

Pam Pogue inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

By Sam Schelling

GVGS Director of Development, Mrs Pamela Pogue, has been inducted into the Greater Shepparton (GS) Sports Hall of Fame.

The induction recognises Mrs Pogue's many decades of dedicated service and high-level involvement with a variety of sports across the Goulburn Valley and Victoria, as well as representing Australia.

Goulburn Valley Grammar School Principal, Mr Mark Torriero, said, "Mrs Pogue's outstanding achievements and selfless contribution to community sporting organisations makes her an excellent role model for all – particularly our GVGS students."

Along with husband Gavin, who was an early president of the GVGS Parents and Friends Association, Mrs Pogue has had a long involvement with GVGS. She began working at school as Assistant to Development Officer Mrs Karin Heinz in 1988, and was appointed Director of Development in 2005. In 2017, she was recognised for 30 years of service to GVGS. The Pogues' eldest three children – Cameron, Julianne and Tara (Class of 1987) – were among the School's Foundation students in 1982, with youngest child Anna (Class of '94) later following. Three of their grandchildren have carried on the tradition – Ashia Pogue (Class of 2017), Milla Pogue (Year 12) and Angus Walta (Year 6).

While she is well-known for her long-standing involvement with the School, Mrs Pogue (née

Teague) is equally as esteemed for her prowess and near-lifetime commitment as a triathlete and on the hockey field.

Growing up at Katandra on the family farm with siblings Kevin, Geoff and Maree, Mrs Pogue played many sports during her school years at Katandra Primary School and Shepparton High School, and it was here she discovered the sport that became her lifetime passion – hockey.

While her children were growing up, Mrs Pogue worked part time and was Secretary of the Toolamba Recreation Reserve for 15 years, also teaching aerobics in the evening at Toolamba and Mooroopna for 14 years. She continued playing hockey and tennis alongside her daughters, and was involved across administration, coaching and umpiring.

A talented hockey player, Mrs Pogue represented the Goulburn Valley and State of Victoria for 40 years. She was formally recognised for her contribution to GV hockey through Life Memberships of the Shepparton Women's Hockey Association and Strikers Hockey Club.

In 1990, Mrs Pogue joined the Shepparton Triathlon Club. She competed in Olympic Distance Triathlons at national level, going on to represent Australia in the 1996 World Triathlon Championships in Cleveland, USA, and later in the World Triathlon Championships in Perth. She enjoyed competing in triathlons across the Goulburn Valley in Shepparton, Benalla and



Echuca, and further afield at Yackandandah, Portarlinton and Melbourne. She has also contributed to the Triathlon Club as a committee member, and was secretary from 1996 to 2002.

In the lead-up to the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000, Mrs Pogue was selected as an official torchbearer, after having been nominated for both her outstanding athletic achievements and selfless contribution to numerous sporting organisations.

Mr and Mrs Pogue, who married in 1966, have lived at Toolamba since 1976, having previously lived at Bunbartha. They both keep fit by regularly swimming, riding their bikes around the countryside and going to the gym.

Mr Torriero said, "The GS Sports Hall of Fame has some well-known faces in Australian and local sport. Mrs Pamela Pogue is a highly deserving new inductee, and we, at GVGS, are delighted by this recognition of her."

Community Announcements

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations to **Alexandra McKenzie** (Class of 2008), for her recent engagement to Ryan Shaw. Allie and Ryan currently live in Perth and are planning a NYE wedding next year in Shepparton.

Congratulations to **Ann Bugoss** (Class of 2008) on her engagement to Zacc Ledin. Ann & Zacc currently live in Melbourne and are in the process of planning their March 2021 wedding

WEDDINGS

Olivia Evans-Smith (nee Childs, Class of 1996) married John Evans.

Congratulations to **Fraser Werner** (Class of 2013) who recently married Nicole Yow on August 24. They will reside in Lower Templestowe when they return from their honeymoon.

BIRTHS

Class of 2009 alumni **Jayne Young** and **Matthew Head** have welcomed their first child Lottie Jayne who was born on August 31.

Annie Carter (nee Thompson, Class of 2008) and husband Shane welcomed Evie on March 18.

Jack Mactier (Class of 2007) and wife Caitlyn welcomed new arrival Max Herbert on October 2, brother for Archie. Jack and his family are living in Bendigo.

Kate White (nee Weaire, Class of 2007) and husband Alex have welcomed their first child Cooper on April 29.

Jamie Werner (Class of 2004) and his wife Ellie became the proud parents of Rose Florence Werner on August 26. She is a sister for Hamish (10) and Dominic (8).

Megan O'Connor (Class of 2000) and husband Tom Yakimoff welcomed Ailish on January 14. Ailish is also a granddaughter for past teacher Kaye O'Connor and husband Jim.

Past teacher **Emma Chua** (nee Hobson) and husband Phil welcomed a son Justin on September 19.

Carolyn Vasey (Class of 2000) and Rob Commons welcomed Archie on 14th of March. A brother for 2 year old Maisie. Grandson for past teacher Libby Vasey and past GVGS Board member James Vasey

Danielle McLeod (nee Wright, Class of 2009) and husband Cory welcomed Charles on March 21. A brother for Scott, Annie and Alistair.

IT staff member **Jessica Benton** and partner Brad have announced the arrival of a baby girl, Darcy Lee Benton, born August 9. Darcy is a sister to Jordyn (3) and Oscar (7)

Teaching staff member **Meg Semmens** and her partner Luke are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their first child Maisie Alexandra McPhillamy born September 16.

On January 28 teaching staff member **Serrin Monk** and husband Haydyn welcomed a daughter Poppie, a sister for Oliver (2).

VALE

The school acknowledges the recent passing of former teaching staff member **Mrs Patricia Guppy** (4.1.1928 - 3.10.2019). Mrs Guppy taught English at GVGS between the years of 1985-6 and was a popular and well respected member of the early GVGS community.

SHARE YOUR NEWS! The school welcomes news of past students and staff. Please feel free to email amy.depaola@gvgs.vic.edu.au



Preston has landed!

In 2017, the school community grew to accommodate some colourful characters. After an extensive search by the Year 12 Leadership Team along with Mr Shane McDonald and Mr Greg Reynoldson, GVGS adopted four House Mascots - Percy the parrot, Rufus the duck, Dash the cat and Lenny the crocodile each representing Fairley, Ryall, Dunlop and McLennan respectively. Since their arrival, these enthusiastic members of our community have been drumming up House spirit at GVGS sporting events and carnivals. However, the family wasn't quite complete so this year a pelican joined the crew to fill the position of School Mascot.

The student body decided Preston would be a fitting name as it honours former Principal Mr David Prest, who passed away in April 2018. Mr Prest

was the school's third Principal serving from 1992 to 1997 and it was under his leadership that the Pelican was introduced as a school symbol and incorporated into the logo.

Co-curricular Coordinator, Mr McDonald, said the new mascots have been well received "The mascots have allowed student leaders to generate enthusiasm and excitement for their House under the guise of a costume. They provide a platform for humour as well as demonstrating confidence, wit and caring for each other. From Usain Bolt type stances to mascots walking arm-in-arm, the mascots are now a firm tradition at all House events where students eagerly anticipate their next move!" said Mr McDonald.

GOULBURN VALLEY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Dates for your **Diary**, visit www.gvgs.vic.edu.au for more information

Grandparents Day
Thursday November 28, 2019

Open Day
Friday March 13, 2020

Class of 2015 – 5 Year Reunion
Saturday November 21, 2020

Combined Reunion
Saturday, October 17, 2020

Includes:

- Class of 1990 – 30 year reunion
- Class of 1995 – 25 year reunion
- Class of 2000 – 20 year reunion
- Class of 2005 – 15 year reunion
- Class of 2010 – 10 year reunion